

Charlie Wilson Ought To Tell 'Em Like This:

Our journalistic lid is raised high to our fellow-townsmen Charles E. Wilson, Secretary of Defense. He has been undergoing some rough treatment from a Senate Committee, chaired by Sen. Symington, a Missouri Democrat, himself a former Secretary for Air.

Seems the Democratic members of that committee are "out to get Ike" through Wilson's department.

You remember that Congress gave Ike a billion or so more than he asked for for airplanes. Symington, et al. are mad because Wilson won't rush out and buy more B-52's. Wilson smiles and tells 'em that the airplane factories are turning out the equipment as fast as they can, and that it will be some time before present funds are exhausted and the extra billion gone into.

OUR OWN REACTION to Symington's treatment of one of this nation's top industrialists and businessmen is to hope that some day Wilson will say:

"Listen, you cheap and often penny patriots, when will you act like sensible Americans, and not like demagogic politicians in an election year? Among your

group are some first-class pinheads who, on their own, couldn't keep a hot dog stand solvent.

"I don't want to brag about my own abilities, but I do believe they stack up as successful as anybody you can produce from your political arena. I am just as good an American as any of you, I assure you.

"I AM FOR ADEQUATE DEFENSE for our country, and often lie awake nights thinking how to meet the challenges of our day. I'm also aware of the terrific tax burden being carried by our people, too. I know they are willing to support the proper machinery for defense, and that's what this administration is giving them.

"We in this administration may make some mistakes, of course; but they'll be honest ones, the kind that can come only from sincere planning. . . . not the kinds that come from the minds of cheap and loose and political clap-trap maneuverers of a bunch of snorting and sniveling and snarling otherwise very nice people like you!"

Yes, Sir, that's what we think Secretary Wilson some day should shout.

Civic Rally Here Deserves Greater Support

Birmingham's branch of the League of Women Voters held its biennial primary election rally here the evening of June 28. Preceded by a street parade, consisting mainly of floats sponsored by local business concerns, the public finally congregated at Shain Park, where 54 national, state and county candidates were gathered, to speak briefly.

This year's rally was the largest, both in candidates and audience, ever staged by the local branch of the League.

Although, in our opinion, the time allotted for the candidates to speak was entirely too short to do all concerned a satisfactory civic service, yet it was better than no time at all.

IF THE LOCAL BRANCH of the League continues to stage similar political rallies, and they no doubt will, the affairs should become of greater importance to the entire cause of good government and citizenship.

Which suggests, in our opinion, the dedication of two evenings to the candidates that more time can be given each candidate to present himself and his program to the voters.

Too, the League no doubt could enlist the aid and support of other local and nearby groups and organizations to enlarge the parade's features, and to bring out a larger attendance at the speaking portion of the event.

THANKS OF THE COMMUNITY is extended to the ladies for their efforts to bring to the attention of our citizens the fact that this is an election year. . . . and that on August 7 Michigan voters ballot at a biennial primary election to determine who in the various political parties will be offered to them in November.

Indeed, the civic activities of the Birmingham branch of the League of Women Voters again is a reminder that "Self-Government Is Everybody's Business."

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

One hundred eighty years ago this past July 4th the American colonists hurled their Declaration of Independence across the Atlantic into Britain's King George's tyrannical lap. Much has happened during these nearly two centuries to try the hoped-for wisdom and invulnerability of that precious document. To be sure, the spirit of the Declaration remains locked up in a secure place in the U.S. Library of Congress—would that a counterpart of its spirit still lives in the breasts of most of our citizens, which it hardly does in these zany times.

A nation-wide steel strike is now going on. The impact of this cessation of the production of so necessary a metal will descend upon many millions of psyches not directly connected with the steel industry itself. To be sure, "the laborer is worthy of his hire. . . ." as the Good Book says. . . . but unless this same laborer increases his productive effort in keeping with monetary wage raises, his dollar buys less and less. Labor leaders won't emphasize this economic truth—and thus they fail to bring to workers more of this world's goods at prices that allow workers to live well, yet save a fair share of their earnings, too.

Mrs. J. Rowland Quinn, 451 Park, has resigned from her long-held post as Torch Drive suburban director for the Birmingham-Bloomfield-Franklin area. Her contribution to this community cause has been a large one, leavened not only by her natural abilities of the head, but by an equal quantity and quality of the Good Samaritanism that springs from the heart.

It is heart-warming to read about those Detroit riggers who pitched in to finish the modest home started by one of their union members who was killed in a recent fall from the new Mackinac Straits bridge. It is examples like this that really prove that most men and women, if given the opportunity, will play the part of the Good Samaritan—at least part of the time. In another ten thousand years, man will devote more of his time to this unselfish role.

Out of that tragic airplane crash into the Grand Canyon, when 120 people were killed, will come some needed improvements in flying regulations. Seems as though procrastinating mankind most always has to meet with catastrophe before a correction is made in whatever condition attends the tragedy.



NATURE NOW Man Disregarded In Nature's Laws

By LYDIA KING FREHSE
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

On this day in early summer we have returned once more to a well-loved place; to the fern-bordered path that finds its way through the virgin forest, to the sound of wind and wave, to the study table with its waiting pen and the clean white sheet of paper.

On such a day with all of life at its towering best it would be easy to invest nature and spirit. But no more a force ceaseless and all-encompassing.

The old gray birch that lists toward the water, the drumming of the pileated woodpecker, the back yard tangle of blackberry and every daisy, the running surge of the very trees, each of these follows its well-charted ways regardless of me. That I should be here to see, to know, to enjoy is no concern of theirs.

CONSIDER THE GULL skimming the clear blue surface of the water, the curve of its wing shaped to the wind, every organ of its body molded to its own specific needs and purposes.

Consider the common milkweed, its burning fragrance emanating from a flower platform raised for the benefit of the butterfly. While the insect's tongue probes for the hidden sweetness, its feet will become entangled in a tiny protrusion from the entrance to each waiting nectary.

How flies the bee carrying two neat saddle bags of pollen which it pulls from the flower's center and then leaves at its next stop.

CONSIDER THE OLD HEMLOCK on its gnarled root, encircling the ancient rocks. Here in a crevice on a far-off day a stray seed lodged, its earth-seeking roots

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

Last week the Chesapeake & Ohio railroad retired one of its giant 600-ton Allegheny-type steam locomotives, and placed it in the collection of engines at Greenfield Village.

While it'll be considerably smaller, Birmingham is awaiting the decision on where its locomotive is to go.

"We don't care what type or how big it is, just give us one for our town!" exclaimed local railroad fans.

Ours will be a gift from the Grand Trunk Western RR.

Opportunity knocks only once. If it's more than once, it's relatives.

I don't know who mailed it to me, but I enjoyed looking at the 19 pages in the June '56 bulletin of the Michigan Society of Architects which featured the many beautiful and expressive sculptured works of Birmingham resident Marshall Fredericks.

He is internationally known for his integration of sculpture and architecture, has many important awards to prove it. The photo feature included his work on Detroit's Veterans Memorial, University of Michigan buildings, Beaumont hospital, several schools, Ford Rotunda, several churches, medals, and monuments.

It may be tough to pay 99 cents for a pound of steak, but it'll be tougher if you don't.

Now that Birmingham is tied into the Detroit water supply, the contract calls for us to abide by any sprinkling ban which Detroit feels it necessary to impose.

When that time comes, The Eccentric will remind you on its front page.

Meanwhile, back in this column, we'll give you a preview of Detroit's current regulations, as adopted May 14, 1956, by the Detroit board of water commissioners.

REMEMBER, THIS IS informational only (maybe you'll want to tack it up on the garage wall near your spare hose washers).

"Regulations will not be put into effect until the weather and water use require them.

"When regulations have to be applied, they will be as follows:

"The regulations will apply on the use of water for lawns, gardens, shrubs, and trees.

"They will apply only during the period from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. The odd numbered houses may water on the odd calendar dates, and the even numbered houses on the even calendar dates, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. No limitations will exist from nine o'clock in the evening to eight o'clock in the morning.

"There are no limitations on the use of water on Sundays.

"These rules shall apply to vacant property as such property lies on the odd or even side of the street.

"Properties fronting on two or more streets shall, for the purpose of these rules, be guided by the house number of the main entrance of the property.

"In case none of the above rules seem to apply clearly to a piece of property, the owner of such may apply to the board of water commissioners for definite assignment."

Tours in Far East

Nevy Lt. (jg) George R. Weinhold, son of Mr. and Mrs. George A. Weinhold, 451 Pilgrim, Birmingham, is serving aboard the destroyer USS McDermott which returned to San Diego, Calif., July 1 after a five-month tour of duty in the Far East.

Norton Enters OCS

Francis X. Norton, son of Mr. and Mrs. Francis S. Norton, of 2338 Radnor, Birmingham, entered officers candidate school in Newport, R. I., following a two-week leave at the home of his parents. Norton graduated from naval recruit training in Great Lakes, Ill., June 16.

You will find many bargains in The Eccentric Classified Columns.

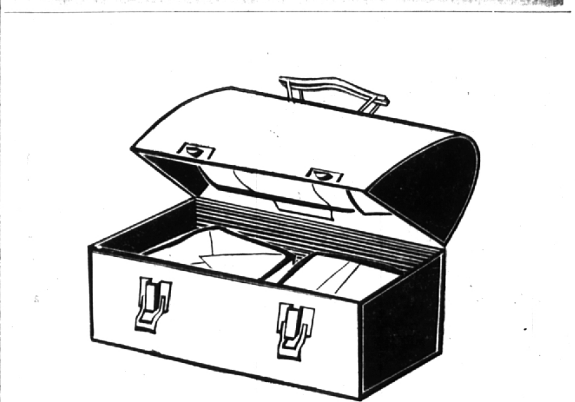
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By George

"Mr. Smith would like a little time! I'm sure he would want to sleep on your proposition!"

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Cleared From Old Files Of The Eccentric—The Items That Make Up The Historical Background Of The Birmingham Of Today.

50 YEARS AGO
July 12, 1906
At a meeting of the school board, some of the estimates for coming school year were: teachers' salaries, \$5,500, janitor, \$576, and coal, \$450. Total budget was \$9,240.

The plan of our Village Improvement society for marking the beautiful elm trees on Adams avenue opposite Mr. Herlison's place, seemed to meet with approval.

Telephone girls are badly wanted in Detroit. They can wear perk-a-waits and open-work stockings, and no questions asked.

30 YEARS AGO
July 8, 1926
Village Players last night discussed plans for a new theater which it is hoped will be completed before the opening of their activities in the fall. The organization has purchased a lot on Chestnut street, 60x110 feet, on which it is their intention to erect a theater.

The thoughtful home maker utilizes window shades as an essential part of the exterior decorating. He achieves with window shades an element that can be obtained in no other way.

Birmingham formally celebrated the Fourth of July last Monday with a regular program beginning in the afternoon with field events and motorcycle polo races at Barum field and later in the evening with fire works.

15 YEARS AGO
July 10, 1941
A grocery store ad read: ground beef 15c a lb; celery 5c a stalk; bananas 4 lbs. for 25c; butter 38c a lb.; oleomargarine 2 lbs. for 25c; cigarettes \$1.10 a carton; and bread 3 loaves for 25c.

Baldwin Public library has been announced that at least at the book counter where borrowers are charged with the volumes they take out. The new device is an automatic book charger which takes only three seconds to operate, and makes it impossible for the wrong person to be charged with a book.

From an invitation from the Recreation Commission to the annual community sing . . . plan to come and join all your neighbors at 8:00 at Pierce Field under the stars and sing, sing sing!

The Manistique river bridge on the outskirts of Manistique goes through instead of over the river. The roadbed is actually several feet below the river's surface, and the bridge forms bulkheads for a huge concrete water tank.

Michigan was the first state in the country to make provision in its earliest constitution for a state library.

The Old Timer
"Seems to me that dieting is a thing of mind over platter!"