

Do They Grow, Merely Swell, or Shrink?

Woodrow Wilson is supposed to have remarked that some men grow, while others merely swell. What he might have added was that some also shrink.

The matter of growing and swelling and shrinking is coming to public attention again in these days of preliminaries for the 1956 presidential campaign. It is a time to re-assess leading political figures.

It is also a time, as James Reston points out in the New York Times, when Washington wise pols up disparaging labels to hang on the opposition. They brand Sen. William F. Knowland of California as "the senator from Formosa." They call Adlai Stevenson a wise-cracking Hamlet. They tag New York's Gov. Averell Harriman as Mr. Moneybags for the big city bosses.

and refer to Vice President Nixon as "Tricky Dick."

JUST HOW WITTY such labels are is a moot question. Sometimes the labelers hit upon something apt; other times their efforts are more to be pitied than scorned.

But one thing is certain: No conscientious voter should let the label-makers do his thinking for him. On the contrary, he should examine the record of the presidential possibilities both as to word and deed. He should make up his mind on the basis of what they have said and done—and what they say and do between now and convention time.

He should, in short, seek to decide for himself what has grown, who has merely swelled, and who has shriveled a bit.

They Seek To Destroy Your Country

One of the outfits that wants to open the immigration gates to more aliens is the "American Committee for Protection of the Foreign Born." This crowd is on the Attorney-General's list of subversive organizations.

Its executive secretary, Abraham Greenberg, was asked by the Senate Judiciary Committee: "What is your attitude to those provisions of the McCarran-Walter Law which tightens up the admission of Communists and others to this country, who might attempt to overthrow our Government by force and violence?"

His answer: "I am opposed to those provisions."

ANOTHER QUESTION WAS: "Are

you an organizer in New York for the Communist Party?"

His answer: "I refuse to answer under the Fifth Amendment."

Knowing how the Communist Party works, one can understand how vicious and clever the attack on the McCarran-Walter Law has been carried on. It has fooled a lot of people who have never read the law.

There are already over 3,000,000 aliens illegally in the United States. Of the 5,000 most militant Communists now here, 91% are foreign born, married to one foreign born, or born to foreign parents.

They, like Greenberg, want to overthrow our Government.

Most Congressmen Work Hard On Their Jobs

Visitors to Congress frequently criticize what seems to be absenteeism on the part of the law makers. At times only a small percentage of the members are on the floors of the respective Houses. It is hard to understand how Congress can get any work done if its members are not at the place where they are supposed to work.

There are some things about members of Congress which justify criticism. The comment about absenteeism, however, is not entirely justified. Congress is a large body with many different kinds of jobs to do.

TO MAKE ITS WORK more efficient it works through committees. Thus, when it appears that a member of Congress is neglecting his duty by being away from the Senate or the House he may actually be hard at work on committee business.

As in any job there are members of Congress who do stay away from their work without sufficient reason. But for the most part they work long, hard hours. It is fashionable to be critical of our legislative bodies. It is definitely unfair, however, to accuse all of Congress of loafing.

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

Good, clean sport, be it amateur or professional, is a valuable entertainment for people. Too, it is healthful to its participants, and in many cases of economic interest to the pros. Officially, Birmingham continues to show increasing interest, accompanied by a portion of local taxes, in its recreation program. Let's spend more money on this type of service than we do on rubbish and garbage collection!

existing sewers inadequate to handle heavy rainfalls. There ought to be vested in some county authority the responsibility of seeing that new subdivisions install large enough trunk line sewers (and water) systems, to handle continued population increases. Thousands of new homeowners who come to the unincorporated suburbs later find themselves flooded out during seasonal heavy rains.

Defense Secretary Charles E. Wilson recently "put his foot into his mouth" again when he referred to a proposed billion dollar increase in military spending as a "phony" gesture from the U. S. Senate. Senators from both parties got very mad about this word... madder, indeed, than those dirty Soviets could make 'em by calling Ike a nasty man. Yes, vaunted American democracy might fall over the use of a wrong word, or the use of a wrong slogan.

Foamy household detergents are frothing up officials of London, Eng., sewers. Government officials fear they may have to control the content mixture of the stuff—else it may rise up onto the streets and create further problems. (Might bring in to British popularity that old song about "... I'm forever chasing bubbles...")

President Ike's recent hospitalization is admitted to be a condition unrelated to his former heart attack. He no doubt will be a candidate... his next malady being the one professionally known as politeness.

Oakland County is only one of several others adjacent to Detroit that is finding

Your average union man and woman is presumed to be proud of his and her personal freedoms, including the right to vote as convictions suggest. He or she does not want labor leaders to dictate how to vote. That's why, we believe, candidates for high offices should speak right to the average rank and file union member. He and she, if given the truth, generally has common sense enough to cast his and her ballot correctly.



NATURE NOW Recognize Rattlers For Safer Summer

By LYDIA KING FRESH, Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Now that another vacation season is in progress, many of us will be exposed to Nature's dangers as well as to her delights. If you plan to leave the beaten path for the more elusive by-way, you need to be aware of some possible pitfalls.

POISON IVY and poison sumac can spoil your vacation. The black widow spider, although rare in our state, delivers a sting which is fatal in five percent of the known cases. To eat any of several poisonous species of the Amanita mushroom (abundant in our state) spells death. If you cannot already do so, train yourself to recognize each of these natural enemies.

In spite of the facts, snakes—not any one species but snakes in general—are most maligned and feared. Thousands of these many of them beneficial because they eat harmful insects and rodents, will be needlessly killed.

THERE IS ONLY one poisonous snake in Michigan and that is the Massasauga rattler. According to herpetologist, Alexander Ruthven, its bite has never been known to be fatal to man in our state.

Nevertheless, the venom, unit for unit, is as virulent as that of the larger rattlers. But, there is a difference in the mechanism for introducing it into the victim.

The Massasauga is a short and thick-bodied reptile whose average length is from two and a half to three feet. Its head is broadly triangular, its snout blunt. It is generally dull gray color relieved by several series of variously shaped and sized blotches of dark brown. These are margined with inner black and outer pale yellow and end in cross bands on the tail.



Mrs. Fresh

Happenings of Long Ago

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

50 YEARS AGO
July 6, 1906
Have you ever noticed Stinchfield's pretty little lake on the Electric railway north of our village? It is a beauty spot sure enough.

15 YEARS AGO
July 3, 1941
Only 117 men who were 21 years old on July 1 signed in the second draft registration held Tuesday in Birmingham. They received official word deferring men 28 and older.

30 YEARS AGO
July 1, 1926
Birmingham Commissioners approved plans for a new fire hall for the village, the estimated cost of which is \$40,000. It is proposed to erect the building at the corner of Bates and Martin streets.

50 YEARS AGO
July 1, 1906
Did you miss getting water from the faucet Sunday night for a while? The big water main past the power house burst, causing trouble. It's all O. K. now and the cause is attributed to electricity, of course.

50 YEARS AGO
July 1, 1906
Eino Saarinen was awarded first prize for a poster illustrating a scene composed and entered in the National Poster Contest during "Better Homes and Communities Week."

50 YEARS AGO
July 1, 1906
W. R. Miller stated that the American car, the world's most colorful maiden, is turning her discerning eyes upon the color of her motor car and if the American

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

The sudden thump! thump! thump! of the car's tire one day last week brought sudden dismay to Mrs. Arthur B. McWood, 5960 Shallow Brook drive, Bloomfield Hills. She was coming down Woodward to take care of a long list of errands in connection with a surprise party for her son Arthur's 30th birthday. The thump's set in just as she reached the Birmingham city limits. She had no more than got out of the car to survey the problem, when an unidentified young man (she estimates he was in his late 20's) stopped and changed the tire for her.

She tried to pay him for the job, but he steadfastly refused.

"Just do a good turn for someone today yourself!" he asked.

"That just made my own day a bright one!" Mrs. McWood exclaimed later.

come from the block on top.

A little over half of Birmingham's streets are paved. The city's got much more to do before its unimproved street maintenance costs are reduced to a minimum.

So it's a bit bewildering to see the city commission—which admits to a dedicated program for street improvement—refuse to arbitrate the normal dispute between property owners on two recent proposed pavings—Holland and Eton.

In both, the "sides" naturally couldn't agree over how the EXACT costs were to be divided. Each property owner was interested in the plan which would mean the least cost to him.

So, as in many other hearings, it was up to the city to actually decide what was most equitable to all parties.

But the city commission as a group, in my opinion, ducked out. It abandoned the Eton pavement just because it couldn't agree on whether it would be 33 feet wide or 43 feet wide.

And the Holland pavement may not go in because the commission decided the three benefited property owners must come to terms among themselves.

The Eton decision brings to mind a mother and father who can't agree whether to take hamburgers or hot dogs on the picnic—so the kids don't have a picnic.

And the Holland project reminds me of the mother who settles the nursery room argument by telling the kids to decide among themselves who should run the electric train.

Task! task!

What better way to teach children the value of money than to borrow some from them?

There's more justice than meets the eye in Don Egbert's recent appointment as engineer-manager of those two South Oakland authorities—water and rubbish and garbage.

For years, he has been one of the prime movers of these projects (and others). He's kept steady pressure on the SOC cities (and his own city commission, too) to form these answers to mutual community problems.

He refused to let local politics or dis-interest bog down the proposals.

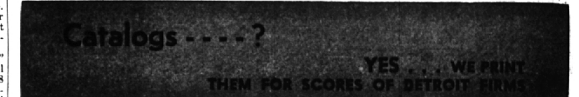
A chip on the shoulder may have

MSU Society Honors Seven From B'ham

When Phi Kappa Phi, top scholastic honorary at Michigan State A. Farquhar, Jr., son of Mrs. Mary Holmes Davidson, daughter of Mr. Louis A. Farquhar, 706 Graefeld court, and John Henry Greve, son of Mrs. J. W. Greve, son and Mrs. Max B. Tunall, 20790 Kenworthy circle, all of Birmingham.

Initiated were: Mary Nell Adams, daughter of Mrs. W. L. Adams, 1336 Cranbrook, Bloomfield township.

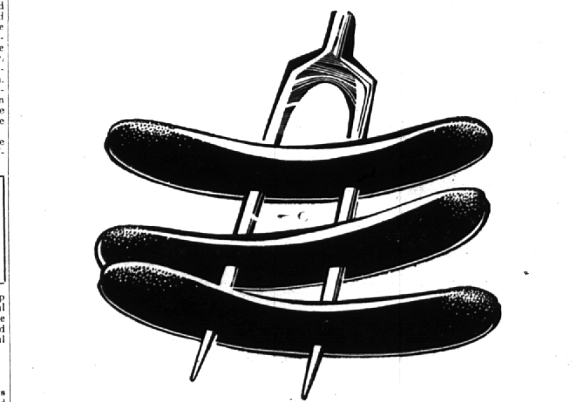
Others were John D. Holmes, townships.



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The Birmingham Eccentric

Published every Thursday, at Birmingham, Mich., in the Eccentric Building, 220-222 North Woodward Avenue Telephone Midwest 4-1100

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The Eccentric is a member of National Editorial Association, Michigan Press Association and University Press Club

National Advertising Representatives, Inc.
Weekly Newspaper Representatives, Inc.
1728 Guardian Bldg., DETROIT 26, MICH.
404 Fifth Avenue, NEW YORK 18, N.Y.

Ticklers By George



"She enjoys this part of the ceremony! She's a member of a temperance society!"