

## Automation Is Challenge to All Leaders

Automation is a new word which has become a part of the vocabulary of millions. It has made headlines and will make many more. For it stands for a process which, sooner or later, will cause vast changes in the arts of industry, with all that this implies.

It presents a human, as well as technological, problem that currently is upon the agenda of the numerous industrial leaders who reside in this Birmingham-Bloomfield Hills area.

Labor leaders, too, obligated to maintain maximum full employment for their union members, are equally concerned about the subject of automation in industry.

**IT HAS BEEN POINTED OUT** that automation is evolutionary, rather than revolutionary. It is just one more step—albeit a particularly tremendous one—in our technological progress, made possible by relatively recent and astonishing developments in electronics and other scientific fields.

What automation is has been well described in a leaflet the General Electric Company distributed to employees: "Mechanization of production has so far been confined all too largely to those operations which changed the shape of materials. Automation represents the broadened hope and effort which, over the last 15 years, has emphasized trying to extend the same sort of mechanization savings into the other and badly lagging manufacturing operations such as inspection,

assembly, test and packaging and then linking one or more of these operations with materials handling equipment so that continuous automatic production in one or more of the areas will result."

Some fear that automation may create a great and permanent employment problem. Yet the historical fact is that all past technological advances—despite the temporary dislocations caused—have resulted in more employment, coupled with higher wages, shorter hours, better working conditions, and increased leisure.

**NEW DEMANDS AND NEW** purchasing power are created—and new jobs with them. To take one example, it could have been logically expected that the automatic dial telephone system would greatly reduce the number of operators employed. The truth is that in the last 10 years the number of operators in this country increased, and in a big way—by 79 per cent.

There is another important point which the GE leaflet also touched on. Young people go to school longer and old people live longer in retirement. Our population has been increasing at a far faster rate than our work force.

So, the output of each worker and each machine will have to increase substantially over the years just to maintain our present living standards—and increase greatly if we are to improve those standards. Automation, to many minds, offers the means of solving that problem, to the ultimate benefit of everyone.

## Can U. S. Legally Extend Foreign Aid?

How come the State Department and Congress continued to lend, grant and give some \$52,000,000,000 to Europe and the balance of the world, during the last 10 years? Do they have authority to do so under the Constitution?

Why doesn't the Treasury Department accept Governor Lee's challenge and cite whatever Constitutional authority it claims to have to pick the people's pockets for foreign handouts?

Secretary of the Treasury Humphrey said he intended to sue Governor Bracken Lee, of Utah, for unpaid taxes for the year 1955. The Governor wants the question decided by the courts, not by the State Department and Congress.

**GOVERNOR LEE HAS OPENED UP** a Constitutional question of great importance to all of us. The government seems reluctant to get into court. Our citizens should be informed wherein the Constitution authorizes such spending.

It's your money, as well as Governor Lee's, that has been given to nations which claim to be our allies in 1945, and also nations which now were our allies!

Governor Bracken Lee is courageously placing before the Supreme Court and the people of America the question whether it is Constitutional or not to tax all of us and take some \$52 billions of our money and give it to all mankind. Is this to go on forever? Apparently, yes, unless the Governor and you do something about it.

## From The Eccentric's Point of View ...

Dreams are the stuff out of which much of this world's progress has been made. He who never gazes skyward seldom lifts his feet off the ground.

Millions of people have lost their lives, their fortunes, their good health because of ignorance of a circumstance or condition. The same causes may result in Americans losing their freedoms ... said conditions being ignorance of civic and economic laws, of the inability of human nature to get along internationally gas they fail to do nationally. Unless you protect your present freedoms as well as you tend to protect what's in your purse at the moment, you will lose them. Always there exist "thieves" who would steal your sacred rights!

It was Plato, centuries ago, who observed that what is honored in a country is cultivated there. Perhaps we adults would do well to remember this when we criticize today's youth for any lack of attention to traditional good behaviorism. Plenty of indictments are preferred against various segments of the newer generation by their elders ... yet if the

elders would remember that example is of greater influence than mere words, these elders would realize their responsibilities more vividly. The footsteps of youth generally follow the trails blazed by others.

Men who occupy high public offices, such as President or Governor, not only have to win and hold enough votes to keep them in office—they also have to seek the co-operation of Congress or a Legislature, and not a little of their time is required to maintain their party organization. Indeed, the operation of self-government and its freedoms is no easy and simple task.

All men, and women, are not clock-watchers. Some of them know by instinct when it's time to quit.

The universal (almost) lure of the female figure is used to advertise a lot more than the gal herself.

Some women find it easier to make-up, with cosmetics, than to right-about-face when they are in a quarrel with someone.

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## NATURE NOW Opossum Related To The Kangaroo

By LYDIA KING FREHSE  
Special Writer For The Birmingham Eccentric

In an old journal which holds impressions of the New World seen by Captain John Smith we read these words: "the opossum hath a head like a swine, a tayle like a rat, is as big as a cat and hath under her belly a bag wherein she carryeth her young."

This description is as appropriate today as it was in early colonial Virginia. But however unique its appearance, the opossum is most noteworthy among mammals as our only North American representative of a group called "marsupials."

Except for the opossum, all other living species of this unusual family which includes the kangaroo and its relatives make their home in Australia.

**ALTHOUGH THEY ARE NOT** as primitive as the egg-laying mammals, the group dates back to Jurassic times some 150 millions of years ago and represents an early stage in the development of our present mammalian strain.

The den of the opossum is concealed in a hollow tree trunk lined with leaves and grass. Here the babies are born after only a few days of uterine life. They are so small that a litter of sixteen might fit into a single table-spoon.

Naked and blind and with but partially developed hind legs, these immature embryos find their way into the warmth and protection of the mother's abdominal pouch. Here they remain some 35 days, each attached to a nipple. Then growth to maturity comparable to that of an average mammal at birth, they climb to their mother's back, their prehensile tails clinging to her fur.

**THUS THEY TRAVEL FOR** a space of two months. Since several litters of 5-15 young are born each season, the mother opossum presents an interesting sight cowering about the woods and fence rows

with her vari-sized broods some clinging to her back and tail, others following over ditches and fallen logs.

Her prehensile tail and grasping front paws make possible an aerial life almost as agile as that of a monkey.

Opossums lengthen their defenseless lives by foraging for their omnivorous fare under cover of darkness. Insects, frogs, small rabbits, fruit, birds and chicken's eggs, hard leaves and grass; any of these will do. In the South where the opossum is most at home, persimmons are a favorite food.

**THE ENEMIES OF THE** opossum include foxes, owl, wild cats, and most of all, man. This is essentially true of all marsupials, and where sweet "aters and roast "possum are relished by many.

Even though the opossum is considered a very stupid animal, he is clever enough to "play dead" when cornered. But as soon as the danger is past his heaving mouth closes, his shot-button eyes open and his "possum" is off about his business.

Warmer winters in Michigan over fears that he will become a menace to the farmer and to game animals have proven groundless. With his naked tail and ears a good old-fashioned Michigan winter acts as the necessary check.

**BECAUSE HE DOES NOT** hibernate, the opossum often drifts into our suburban areas for protection. Last February one such took up residence under the porch of a neighbor's home.

The opossum has little economic importance in Michigan where his presence is not desired and where few trappers will bother with his pelt. However, he is an interesting remnant of a once prevalent group and as such commands our attention as a "living" fossil.

## ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

This week I want to tell you about the Raccoon Roundup. It took place during the past four weeks in a home in the Telegraph-Long Lake road area. It concluded last week in a 61-1/2 hour session that ended at 2 o'clock in the morning.

The fellow who told me about it asked that his name not be revealed. "After all the time I've spent in this chase, and all the money I've spent on it—I don't want anyone calling me up, whether it's to offer sympathy, to ask or offer advice!" he emphasized.

"But my trials and tribulations may be of some help to other unsuspecting suburbanites who despite the population growth, still are close enough to the country to become involved upon occasion with wild animals."

**AFTER TRYING MANY TYPES** of raccoon routers consisting primarily of strong odors, our 'coon hunter finally found ammonia seemed to work.

It was sprayed in under pressure, brought out Mama 'coon and slowed the babies to almost a stop so they, too, could be brought out.

The mother 'coon had gotten into the 30-inch high attic crawl space through an opening the house builder had not finished off.

The equipment that went into this hunt included eight photofloods, several large batteries, a gas mask and a crow bar to permit the gas-masked owner to crawl in and bring out the baby raccoons.

Cost of this project, in addition to the frayed nerves, was about \$175.

Results: accidental deaths of mother and two babies, two other young 'uns given to the Detroit Zoo.

Moral: (According to our hunter): "Keep those house holes plugged—you'll never know how much grief you've saved yourself!"

Although they don't expect to make

many public speeches, those they do give in the future will be easier for five Birmingham city officials.

Just completing a locally-given Dale Carnegie speech course last week were Police Chief Ralph Mosley, City Engineer Grover Serenbetz, DPW Supt. Bob Kenning, Finance Director Jim Parkins, and City Forester Charles Gak.

Detroit News Writer (and Birmingham resident for many years) Stoddard White knows so much more than most of us about the Great Lakes—their geography, history, economics, and other aspects. He's the News' marine writer, and this means following very closely the progress of the St. Lawrence Seaway project.

"If it weren't for the fact that Great Lakes water transportation of copper, iron and limestone ore to Chicago, Cleveland and Pittsburgh costs only a fraction of a cent a pound, the United States would have no great economy today (based on steel and its uses) and we'd have something like an agricultural economy like Ireland and others," White emphasizes.

**HE SAYS THAT 90 PERCENT** of today's ocean freighters will be able to make the trip into the Lakes once the channels are made or deepened.

"No ocean liners, though," he smiles. "It'll be 1959, he says, before the Seaway will reach the west end of Lake Erie, and another two years to finish deepening the channels past Detroit and Pt. Huron."

"The seaway and the accompanying power projects are estimated to do more for the United States and North America, for that matter, than did the Panama Canal," White adds.

Detroit, Chicago, and Cleveland can become seaports of the first magnitude if they desire, White said.

"By 1980, we in the Detroit area won't recognize it because of the tremendous new growth that is coming," he emphasizes.

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