

### Our Economic System Is Most Fruitful Of All

By every material standpoint, we Americans are the luckiest people who ever lived on this planet. Those of us in middle age have experienced a greater advance in our standard of living than took place in all previous centuries of Western history. A strong statement, but true. A look backward to 1900 is awe-inspiring. Since then life expectancy has increased by 18 years, due to modern medicine, nutrition and sanitation, without Government intrusion. That year, 27% of the total energy used in America was furnished by men, women, horses, mules and oxen; today, less than 2%. Thirty-seven per cent of our working forces were farmers; now only 11%.

### Soviet Gas Stations Typify Statism

Taking a trip this summer? How about driving to Moscow, USSR? You get to Moscow; need gas; drive to a filling station. It's lunch time. The attendant is eating lunch. You honk your horn. Does the attendant come a-runnin'? No! He nibbles his lunch. Other cars drive up and honk. Nothing stirs. You look around for another filling station. None across — nor down — the street. THIS IS THE ONLY filling station there is, and the operator will serve you when he gets ready. Better stay where you are. Nowhere else to go. Why? NO COMPETITION. No private property. The lunch eater works for the STATE,—gets his wage and lunch—such

### Some Bureaucracy Is Strangling Red Tape

Down in Alabama there is a filling station run by Joe Killian. Joe thought it would pretty up his station if he grew a bit of cotton on it. Besides, he thought a lot of Yanks, on driving South to hole up for the winter, probably never saw cotton close up, and might stop to look at his, and maybe buy a tankful of gas. It looked to Joe like a swell idea. But then the roof fell in. An army of bureaucrats landed on Joe. He had never thought he had to get an "allotment" to grow a bit of cotton to look at. The fact that his cotton never entered the market made no difference. Joe had

### Shall Congress Become Powerless?

Recent and current opinions of the United States Supreme Court reveal that that august body, supposed only to interpret our laws, is now usurping portions of the legislative branch of our federal government. Charles Evans Hughes observed 50 years ago, that: "We are under a Constitution, but the Constitution is what the Judges say it is." (Hughes later became Chief Justice.) If you, as a private citizen, wish to preserve the jurisdictions of the Congress from trespass by the Supreme Court, you are advised that you can help to do this by writing your Senator and/or Congressman on the subject.

ALREADY BILLS HAVE BEEN INTRO-

duced in both the Senate and the House to accomplish this purpose. Unless you are willing to allow a majority of five among the nine U. S. Supreme Court Justices to make, as well as interpret your laws, you ought to write your Congressman.

Most certainly, insofar as lawmaking itself goes, 170,000,000 Americans need not tolerate five or up to nine black-robed men to reduce the three Constitutional branches of our government down to two—which assuredly appears to be the current drift.

Here's something that our Birmingham branch of the League of Women Voters might hook on to as a current civic informational activity, in our opinion.

as it is—whether he sells gasoline at lunch time, or more. The STATE owns the STATION. Its bureaucrats do not compete with themselves. This is not a four-station street intersection, nor three, nor two. Just one station. They decree it is WASTEFUL to have other stations competing with one another! Most of the drivers work for the STATE also, and get used to such goings-on. Finally, lunch is over. Your tank gets its dose of gas and you pay for it—a price that makes you feel poor. But does the attendant wipe your windshield, check the oil, battery or tires? Oh, no! You do that yourself—in Moscow, USSR! Quite a system they have in Moscow, under the Soviet system!

to pay a fine for making his station look fine. IT WAS A FINE BUSINESS all around. Joe's fine was \$6.37. The taxpayers' fine was much more, because the bureaucrats probably spent three or four hundred dollars to collect six. Meantime, this alert Government of ours has caused a surplus of cotton to be produced—a two years' supply—and has it locked up so cotton prices can't fall so that you can't buy shirts and sheets a bit cheaper. This shows what a "smart" government we have looking after our interests!

Such factors as temperature, soil and moisture control the growth of the plant, preparing it for flowering. But the flowering itself is "triggered" by the length of the sunlit hours. At the Missouri botanical gardens where the season is earlier, strawberries are kept tabling, and the blooming time of some 100 species of native plants. These show about May 1 and another in mid-summer. The record is so constant that botanists

### Going My Way?



### NATURE NOW Length of Day Is Key to Flowering

By LYDIA KING FREHSE  
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

So wrote an ancient English bard. And so writes your scribe, but even you read these lines summer will already have arrived as of June 21, at 5:24 A.M. The summer solstice not only makes the season official, it also means that we have reached that point on the calendar which affords the maximum hours of sunlight for our growing world. December 21 marks the year's shortest day. From this date each successive day is about two minutes longer until we reach June 21, our longest day with 16 hours and 17 minutes of continuous daylight.

IN LIKE MANNER, the days shorten until we again reach December 21, which will be only nine hours and five minutes long. For our location, the frost-free period usually comes between May 11 and October 11. This represents the average length of the growing season. However, Dr. W. W. Garner, plant physiologist of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, has proved that the succession of bloom throughout the season is keyed to the length of the day. Skull cabbage pierces the ground in February, violets come in May, gentians wait for September and witch hazel blooms after the first frosts of October. All this is no accident.

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Mrs. Frehse



### ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

Are you a sidewalk superintendent who is going to vacation within a hoot and a holler from the Straits of Mackinac? Well, there have been two special vantage points prepared for you to superintend construction of the gigantic Mackinac bridge. One is in Michillimackinac state park in Mackinaw City, on the south side of the Straits. The other is in Straits state park near St. Ignace, on the upper peninsula side. To help you check the work of your bridge crew, there is a set of statistics and dimensions on a large picture of the bridge as seen from each vantage point. Now if you want to get within rivet-throwing distance of your project, there are special excursion boats to take you. And if you happen to get any good pictures of construction work, bring 'em to The Eccentric editorial department; we very possibly can use them.

One thing the city will not have to worry about if Birmingham gets (and looks like it will) a retired steam locomotive for Eton park is maintenance of the engine. I predict that if the city staged an annual "Keep Our Locomotive Lovely" week, most of the men and boys in town would turn out, each with their own black paint and brush, metal polish, dustclothes and what-have-you to volunteer for the job. Many of us are suppressed railroaders, we would admit under pressure. Then there was the Birmingham young woman who started in working only part time for a sizeable organization. Several months later, two of her mutual

acquaintances met, and the friend's name was mentioned. "Oh, she's working full time now for \*\*\*," explained one. "Oh, I'm so glad of that!" exclaimed the other. "The last time I saw her, she looked so hungry!" Another thing I wouldn't know if it weren't for the public relations industry: That the best-dressed 1956 roofs will be shingled in light, bright colors, with blends of gray and green, and solid white rating most popular.

Way down here in South Oakland county, with all the new buildings packed into each square mile, we may get the feeling that "farmland" is something which we Oaklanders have precious little of. But the U.S. department of agriculture finally has reported on the Oakland county farm products sold during 1954. Even allowing for 18 months more of urbanization, the report is impressive. From the 2,064 farms operated that year, total value of all products sold was \$8,797,863.

The value of all crops sold was \$3,565,893 and included \$1,486,763 for field crops, \$117,700 for vegetables, \$730,465 for fruits and nuts, and \$1,230,965 for horticultural specialties. The value of all livestock and livestock products sold was \$5,199,870 and included \$2,473,524 for dairy products, \$732,115 for poultry and poultry products, and \$1,994,231 for livestock and livestock products. The value of forest products sold from the county's farms was \$32,100. Wonder what the report for 1974 will be?

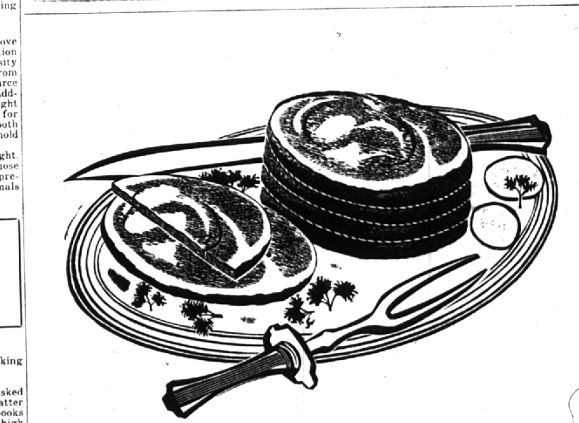
### March of Dimes Fellowship Goes To Local Student

Howard H. Green of 555 Hupp physical sciences related to medicine of the class of 1959 at Dartmouth. The fellowship will finance extra-curricular study for 12 weeks for Mr. Green at his own school, nominated by the dean of his school. The purpose of such awards is to recruit medical students for careers in research by giving them special opportunities early in their schooling. Mr. Green was nominated by the dean of his school.

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

So Marilyn Monroe is going to get married a third time! And her new husband is a playwright, Arthur Miller, said to be quite friendly to Commie-front organizations. Marilyn certainly picks a variety of masculine talent in her matrimonial adventures.

President "like" is an inventive sort of chap. While in the Walter Reed hospital, recuperating from his recent operation, he showed hospital authorities how to place bed sheets so that a sitting patient's feet would not slip downward. For that, alone he ought to get an extra 12 million votes this fall.

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

### Ticklers By George



### 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 June 29, 1906  
Now that congress has finally determined that the Panama canal shall be a lock affair, orders have gone out from the White House that the dirt must fly in real earnest.

The folly of our tax land law may be seen from the fact that Michigan has spent in the past ten years \$47,000 in merely advertising tax lands.

If you want your town to grow and prosper, wake up, rub your eyes, roll up your sleeves and get to work for it.

30 YEARS AGO June 21, 1926  
Birmingham's new library is at last in sight. The village committee's meeting Monday night approved the library building.

It has been necessary for the Village Commission to call attention to the provisions of the Water Ordinance No. 112 concerning the use of water for sprinkling purposes. This ordinance calls for sprinkling for four hours only each day, from June 1st to Oct. 1st. The water level at our present wells has lowered to a point where it is difficult to provide sufficient water for unrestricted sprinkling and still keep a reserve supply in the tank for fire protection.

Another monthly production record for Chevrolet motor cars was shattered in May, when the Chevrolet Motor company produced 74,617 automobiles, the largest single month's production in the history of the company.

15 YEARS AGO June 26, 1941  
The Wabek Building parking lot is now open to the public. Birmingham voters will be asked to pass July 14 on another matter of policy: whether free text books should be abandoned in the high school grades.

The first street dance of the 1941 summer recreation program will be held Friday evening from 8 to 11 o'clock on the terrace in front of Baldwin High School. As in past summers, admission is free.

### We Heard It Said By:

WILLIAM J. MATUS, director, Camp Oakland for boys: "Parents are usually found to be the cause of the problems of boys who get into trouble. But you can't do anything with the parents, so you have to work with the boys."



"Kindness is one thing you can't give away—it always comes back."