

Social Security Good Until It Bursts

Some weeks ago we published an editorial titled "Social Security Has a Sand Foundation." In response, Robert W. Peden, 1462 Pierce, Birmingham, wrote us a letter on the subject.

In one paragraph he states: "My own interpretation is that the Social Security Act is, first, a great milestone of humanitarian legislation and, secondly, a defensive stabilization fund contributing to the development of a sound national economy."

We have no argument with Mr. Peden as to the intentioned "humanitarianism" of the act. As long as it possesses money, and pays it out to beneficiaries, it will certainly help a lot of people.

OUR OWN CRITICISM of this act is that basically it is founded on sand . . . in that its beneficiaries, on the average, will receive from it much more than they ever put into it.

In this respect we pointed out the case of the "great Ponzi," an eastern manipulator of money who offered to pay "investors" tremendous returns—and he did, until the law caught up with him. For he was using the monies from his latest victims to pay off prior "investors."

This same parallel, we emphasized, is in the Social Security Act.

MR. PEDEN SENDS ALONG a table of statistics to show how much money Americans have paid into the act's fund, which amounts to over 34 billions of dollars. He reveals that benefits and expenses

have siphoned off about 17½ billions, leaving a current asset balance of approximately 20½ billions.

Then—and this is most important—Mr. Peden's figures show that slightly more than 20 billions of the balance exists in "U.S. Government securities."

There, Mr. Peden, is the rub!

THESE ARE SIMPLY UNCLE SAM'S treasury promises to pay . . . said payments coming only from further taxes upon the American people. For it must not be forgotten that these billions are loaned to Uncle Sam to carry on current budgetary expenses. Social Security Act balances do not exist in cash, or in loans that will be paid outside of tax assessments—as in the case of private loans.

This is why we, together with millions of other informed people, argue that this act is built upon a sand foundation. Remember, Mr. Peden, we are not discussing so-called "humanitarianism" facets of the act at all. We are only discussing its fictitious economic soundness.

SOME DAY, WHEN UNCLE SAM'S cash box is being scraped seriously and the people cannot meet its later exorbitant financial demands to multiplying beneficiaries, the Ponzi status will be revealed for all to see.

It may be years hence, to be sure. But its eventual demise is written into its pattern of compliance with the Welfare State. You cannot take two and two and add it up to be a sum of anything above four!

They Liked Joe - - - Now The Soviet Villain!

Now that all his old buddies and fellow murderers are mauling the corpse of Stalin, our own Harry Truman must be a feelin' kinda lonesome in his praise of the dead gangster.

He said during the '48 election campaign: "I like old Joe. He is a decent fellow but is the prisoner of the Politburo. . . . He is as near like Tom Pendergast as any man I know."

A LOT OF OTHERS, in high places were as wrong as our Harry. For example: Stettinius, Secretary of State; "We have nothing to fear from Russia." F.D.R.: "Yalta was the birth of world order under law."

Mrs. F.D.R.: "Smearing good people like Alger Hiss is unforgivable."

Joe Davies, Ambassador to Old Joe: "The word of honor of the Soviet Government is as safe as the Bible."

General Marshall: "The plan will reduce demands on us to zero in four years." (This was eight years ago, and the demands are increasing.)

Cordell Hull, Secretary of State: "We have seen the end of balances of power."

Harry Hopkins: "It is ridiculous to think of Stalin as a Communist."

J. F. Dulles: "The North Korean army is virtually extinct."

Our Harry: "The world is closer to peace than at any other time in the last five years." He said this just two weeks before the Korean War started — which cost us 136,000 casualties.

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

It was long before the present limited female bathing suits came into existence that fond mothers had their daughters vaccinated on their lower extremities. In those days only bare arms were shown in summertime.

Why all this commotion about a Vice-President? It is said that American business has a quarter million of them on its payrolls.

So many former U.S. Congressmen, when they aren't re-elected to office, become Washington, D. C., lobbyists, or open law offices in the nation's Capitol. Thus, most of them prove that their original intention of running for public office was to earn a living and, of course, what's wrong with that—providing they are and remain honest.

Perhaps what parents need to spend more on their children is time . . . and less money. The companionship of kindly, devoted parents is worth more to a youngster than a multi-million dollar endowment fund.

Even the weather man admits that this has been a more than ordinary cold spring. Which suggests that if we have a hot summer he'll also have to admit it a condition out of the ordinary.

One of the greatest hoaxes ever perpetrated on a gullible public is the promise of a politician to lower taxes and also to extend public services by government. Yet millions of voters accept such promises . . . not always because they believe them, but through partisan prejudice, personal apathy, or just plain ignorance of the civic and economic facts of life.

There are reported to be 25 million dairy cows in the United States. That's why, so say the experts, it requires a lot of pull to get their products on the market.

Somehow, it seems, many motorists accept an amber light that precedes a red one as a personal challenge to increase the car's speed. Maybe two amber lights should be used, thus further accelerating a car in order to avoid an accident.

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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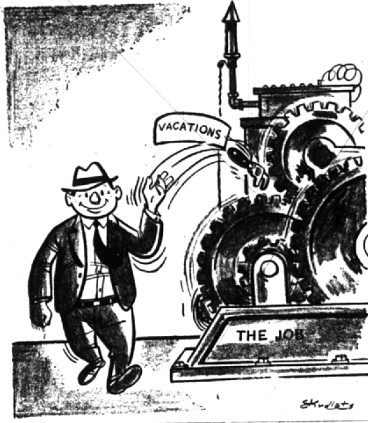
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"I'm afraid Two-gun is starting young to have girl trouble!"

With the Greatest of Pleasure



NATURE NOW

Let Children View Nature First-Hand

By LYDIA KING FRESHSE
Special writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Nature is for children. It is for adults, too, but not in the same sense. For somewhere along the way they have lost a portion of the wonder and imagination and faith which is the essence of childhood. It is these qualities, when coupled with a still unflinching and unbiased mind, which make a child so receptive to each new experience.

There is a first requisite for a child's natural and full acceptance of the world which is his home: this is that he be allowed to experience it first-hand and without undue pressures.

It has been the greatest privilege of my life that for many years I was a happy participant in an education where this happened every day all summer long.

BUT IT CAN HAPPEN ANYWHERE. It happens every day all summer long.

It happens at home, in a museum, on quiet and un-scheduled ramblings, on vacation trips, at scout meetings, at camps, by oneself, alone or in groups. It happens at any place and in any season. Books are fine aids and checks, but for children these should accent something which has already taken place. Nothing can substitute for a first-hand experience in the out-of-doors. For nothing in nature can be viewed singly. Everything is a part of the whole and to be fully appreciated and understood it must be experienced in its natural setting.

A whip-poor-will's song can be heard on a record. But it is something else to hear it as part and parcel of darkness and hushing, of seclusion and deep woods. **AN ORCHID CAN** be purchased in a florist's shop and worn on a lapel. But it is quite another experience to be keeping in sphagnum moss the better to see a beehive find its way out of a delicately veined pouch on a morning when it is alive with all the sights and sounds of early summer.

It is good to read about animals and plants and to see their pictures on page and screen. But this is a second-hand experience with a difference. Writer's or artist's point-of-view prying and pre-paring an experience for us. To meet a butterfly or a beetle, a snake or a skunk, to know intimately any of the wild creatures of earth in a first-hand experience is to grow in comradeship and understanding with life itself.

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 8, 1906

A fascinating young lady of Detroit named Miss Adele Blinn, who drives an anticar with the dash and daring befitting an Oldfield, forgot the speed ordinance and taking advantage of the idea piece of good road along Birmingham cut loose and shot along at a 30 mile clip, so avers a witness.

One of our helpers on duty Saturday evening from 8:15 to 11:15, just three hours, counted 90 women and 2189 men going into one of Detroit's saloons. Do you suppose these 90 women were going after their respective husbands?

M. R. Blair advertised one-pound pails of baking powder for 10c.

30 YEARS AGO
June 3, 1926

A full page ad by a realtor offered about two hundred carefully selected building sites ranging in price from \$1,200 to \$9,000 in Franklin Village, a new suburban district in the most picturesque part of Oakland County.

Redford, now a part of Detroit, is "all hot up" about the possibilities of getting a local telegraph office. After it does get the office, we hope that some means of getting telegrams to the people to whom they are addressed will be found. If this is accomplished then Redford is, indeed, to be congratulated.

A story was headlined: Building

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

How would you like to have a business which in the past 14 years has seen you: Supervisory personnel quadruple in number?

Employees more than triple in number? Plants and their valuation take a corresponding jump upward?

That's about the position of Birmingham School Supt. Dwight B. Ireland, if we may be permitted to compare a school system to a business enterprise.

When Ireland arrived here in the fall of 1942, he had a teaching staff of '99. When school resumes this fall, he will have over 400 on the faculty.

THERE WERE 2,600 PUPILS that day 28 semesters ago. When the 29th semester starts Sept. 5, Ireland expects total enrollment to be between 9,600 and 9,700. When school recesses in a week, there will be over 9,000 students.

The school district's second junior high school will be opened this fall, and just about 1,100 students will attend classes there, Ireland says. The new facility, at Derby and Adams roads, is designed for 900 students. It can hold as many as 1,200.

"So our third junior high school is upon us," the superintendent emphasizes. The site—at 13 Mile and Lahser in Southfield township—already has been acquired.

ANOTHER SENIOR HIGH school is in the offing, Ireland said.

In another year, five new elementary schools will have been constructed. Already, there have been at least a dozen additions to old or new buildings during these 14 years.

A nature-alerted situation, nature found. It has been equal to the Eccentric Classified Ads. So he taught. Two often children are offered and emotional inferior opportunity because they find your poor estimate of their it in the Want Ad section of The something simple where all is pro-powers.

Thousands of people read The Eccentric Classified Ads. So he member if you want to sell that hard-to-get-rid-of article, advertise your poor estimate of their it in the Want Ad section of The Birmingham Eccentric.

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