

Maple Avenue Also Is A Shopping Center

Shall parking be eliminated from Maple avenue, between Southfield and Hunter Blvd., between the hours of 7 a. m. to 9:30 a. m. on the south side, and from 4 p. m. to 6:30 p. m. on the north side, to allow through traffic to move through Birmingham?

This important question will be discussed and probably decided at the city commission meeting Monday night, May 7.

For a considerable time such a move has been recommended by Police Chief Ralph Moxley. Local business concerns, acting through the Chamber of Commerce here, have objected.

The city commission, on a split 3-2 vote two weeks ago, determined to re-open the subject, hence the May 7 discussion.

AT A SPECIAL OFF-STREET parking committee meeting last week, the chamber reiterated its opposition to the elimination of on-street parking on Maple, and has forwarded a letter to the commission on the subject. In the letter several suggestions to relieve traffic on Maple were offered.

The committee also approved the circulation of "Shoppers' Survey" questionnaires, to be offered to shoppers at local stores. Chamber members feel that such a survey will, for the first time, reveal the attitude of the shoppers themselves—a statistic felt to be of value to all concerned.

It is difficult for many local citizens to understand why both Moxley and certain commissioners currently want to eliminate parking on Maple. The argument that they desire to keep through traffic moving speedily, with minimum delay, can be made to fit main-state trunk lines—for in such reasoning it is evident they are concerned solely with keeping non-local traffic on the quick move.

TO BE SURE, AS PRESENTLY situated, Maple avenue does get more through traffic than average small town business streets. But the fact remains that, even so, our Maple avenue is one of this community's most concentrated shopping areas. If it is to remain so, and continue to pay an increasing portion of local taxes because of its successful enterprises, then it seems to us that it deserves special consideration.

Certainly, it must be argued, a community's shopping area ought not become a mere arterial highway for through traffic.

It cannot be asserted that Maple avenue is a traffic or pedestrian hazard to date—which, if it were, would be the most weighty argument for removal of on-street parking.

THIS NEWSPAPER DOES NOT believe that anyone concerned with city legislation wants to work an injury upon either the local business concerns or the shoppers who patronize them. There can be room for an honest difference of opinion.

Thus it becomes very important that the shoppers themselves register their judgment on the subject, too. It is to be hoped that, if the vast majority of all concerned oppose the proposed parking elimination, the city commission will refrain from removing parking at this time.

After all is said and done, Birmingham's streets were built and are supported by its own citizens. We agree with those who believe that only the conditions of traffic hazard should bear the most weight on this problem. The convenience of through traffic only should be a secondary consideration, we submit.

Business Has No Guarantee Of Survival

The average new born baby can now expect to live 68 years. What is the "life expectancy" of a new business?

Hold your breath. The mortality is terrific. Half of all the businesses that will be started in 1935 will probably be sold or liquidated in two years. Out of 100 new born businesses, only 19 will survive or remain under the same ownership until they are ten years old.

In 1914, 690,000 firms were started or organized by new owners. Ten years later, only 133,000 were doing business under the same management. 557,000 had either gone on the rocks, or the owners had sold out.

NOT ALL OF THE 557,000 went broke. In some cases, the owners had died, or moved, and the business continued to prosper in other hands.

But of those sold, it is probable that the vast majority lost money. Business mor-

tality is tragic, not only for the owners, but for the employees who have to hunt new jobs.

Alas! many honest and sincere folks go into business, but fail simply because they lack the abilities to make a common-sense approach to practical problems.

Business can succeed only when its goods or services are acceptable to the buying public; when its owners and management refrain from going into too much debt. These are personal controls.

THERE ARE OUTSIDE CONTROLS, of course, that often hurt and put many businesses out of solvency. Such come from war, or its threat, high taxes, or confiscatory demands from labor bosses.

Yes, in any place on earth business faces hazards . . . yet in our own American free enterprise system, such hazards really are part of the climate of freedom!

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

Scientists now say that they have developed, for the U.S. Air Force, a special type of gas-powered "cannon" that creates heat hotter than our sun. It also goes 25 times faster than sound, or 18,000 miles an hour. Now what will they do with it?

From time to time it is revealed that some part of the nation's military establishment is very wasteful of its money—in peace time, of course. Millions and mil-

lions of tax dollars are "slithered down the drain." This happens, too, regardless of the political party in office. The personal vanity, hunger for more power, incompetence, and downright "don't-give-a-damn-attitude" by some few is largely responsible. (This also happens in the purely civil branches of government, too. It can happen in private business, also—but never so large and so often as in big government.)

The Birmingham Eccentric

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

GEORGE R. AVERILL
Editor and Publisher
PAUL NEAL AVERILL
Business Manager
GEORGE W. AVERILL
Managing Editor
GERALD E. JEHLE
Advertising Manager

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 24, MICH.
404 Fifth Avenue
NEW YORK 18, N.Y.

Ticklers



"This is tough on gran'pap. He's just a'feared of a bath as he is of the ba'ri!"

By George

Mighty Tempting



NATURE NOW

Cross-pollination Is Nature's Magic

By LYDIA KING FREHSE

Special Writer for the Birmingham Eccentric

Today we witnessed one of spring's miracles, the pollen-gathering rites of an old box elder which stands guard over its companion, an equally old farm house.

And the cast of the drama is made up of the worker honey bees who come in uncounted hordes, making a gathering sound like a bevy of airplanes flying overhead. Their visit is timed to the one day of the year when the ripened stamens rupture, offering their pollen as food for the bee larvae.

Millions of years ago when plants first fruited their waxy home for a terrestrial existence, they reproduced by spores. This process is still in use by such primitive plants as liverworts, mosses and ferns.

WITH THE INVENTION of the naked seed, perfected by the conifers, a new method of reproduction was found. This development is a turn and marched forward to greater diversity.

Another 50 million years of adaptive growth and the encased seed appeared, born in dicotyledonous plants. This development of the seed, clothing it in a protective coat of many patterns, of bright flowers and fruits.

The emergence of flowering plants ushered in a new reproductive cycle whose center was and is the pollinating process revolving around the flower. Nature accomplishes its fertilization of the plant with the aid of wind and insects. It may also employ self-pollination.

OF THESE AGENTS, wind is the most ancient. It is also the most inefficient and wasteful, as is demonstrated by the conifers. On any day in early May you may shake a branch of Jack Pine and a cloud of pollen from the inconspicuous male flowers on the ends of the branches will fill the air. A few grains will fall upon the

female flower growing farther back on the branch. After fertilization, the latter will give rise to the family pine cone, hiding the naked seeds between its scales.

Our greatest examples of wind-pollination among the broad-leaved trees are to be found among the catkin-bearing willow, walnut, male and hick families. Each separate catkin is made up of dozens of male flowers. These release pollen when whirled by the spring winds.

THE GRASS FAMILY, which includes all our cereals, is also well equipped for wind pollination. On a hot day in mid-July one can see the male flowers or tassels above a rustling field of corn.

Here it will fall upon the silk, a thread-like projection of the ovary. Each waiting stigma of the low-growing female flowers grouped on an axis. When matured, each flower will form a grain of corn on the resulting ear.

Nature does not neglect to decorate wind-pollinated plants with brightly colored or fancy shaped petals. These with their nectar fragrance and convenient landing platforms are lures extended in payment for the insect service which the insect renders.

Man is indebted to the insect for most of his orchards and citrus fruits, for his berries and vegetables and for such field crops as clover, alfalfa, cotton and tobacco. Many of our decorative flowers are also insect pollinated.

THE WHOLE PROCESS of insect pollination involves many complex adaptations on the part of both plants and insects. One could guess, even if it were not backed by the fossil record, that the evolution of the two groups were parallel events with the insects coming first, and the development of seed plants.

Butterflies, moths, many carion flies and the bee are among the throng that hovers over our conspicuous and fragrant flowers.

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

After his first breakfast in his Moscow hotel, Nevil L. Bean was ready to return immediately to Detroit.

It consisted of black caviar, black bread, tea and dill pickles.

"That was how the waiter interpreted our requests, with animated gestures, that we wanted ham and eggs," Benn, a Ford Motor Co. engineer, told a group of Wayne University industrial management center students last week.

He was one of three U. S. engineers selected last winter to tour and inspect Russian industrial plants and engineering and trade schools, while three Russian engineers did the same over here.

MIXED INTO HIS REMARKS on Russia's engineering and industrial progress as he saw it, were these (to me) interesting observations:

"If you want ham and eggs, order bacon and eggs. The Russian ham is equivalent of our salt pork . . .

"In all the plants we went to (and we tried to visit two a day) we saw a great amount of chess playing. . . In a digital calculator plant, we observed a game in progress and suggested that one of the players solve his next move by consulting one of these 'mechanical brains'. The player hesitated, then did exactly that and put his problem into the machine. At once it came up with the next four moves that should be made . . .

"IN RUSSIA, YOU CAN'T HIRE anyone who would make a profit for you. Cooks, chauffeurs, gardeners are approved. But bookkeepers, clerks, and the like are taboo except for the state . . .

"We were not stopped from taking all the pictures we wanted. But at customs, on the way out, our baggage was passed

under a fluoroscope, and that naturally ruined any film that was in a suitcase . . .

"The Russians I saw really were progressive and aggressive . . .

"They always work under an incentive. They even give royalties on patents in an effort to promote invention and production . . .

"AT MOSCOW UNIVERSITY, college professors are the highest paid in the country. They get 5,500 rubles (\$1,375) a month. A department head gets 6,000 rubles (\$1,500) . . .

"Russia is producing many more university graduates than we are here . . . There are 1,750,000 students in their five-year courses. Over 50 per cent of these are taking engineering and scientific courses. This would mean that in the next five years alone, they would graduate over 150,000 technicians each year . . . If that happens, it won't be long until they surpass us industrially. That is, unless the American youths see the importance of scientific and technical training. On them will depend the future U.S. position . . .

"The Russians already have the technical know-how. And they are training many more in it . . .

"EVERY RUSSIAN PLANT has its own recreation palace . . . A great deal of interest and emphasis centers on athletic recreation and facilities . . . The workers even write, produce and act in their own plays and operas. If these performances are any good, they exchange them with other plants . . .

"In their technical schools, their equipment even surpasses that at MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) . . .

"If a student flunks his courses, he suddenly finds himself in the army . . .

The whole pollination process reaches its climax in such highly specialized families as the orchid or in the oft-told story of the complete interdependence of the Yucca plant and the Pronuba moth.

THERE REMAINS, then, the process of self fertilization which is not too much used by nature because cross-pollination leads to more vitality and variety of species.

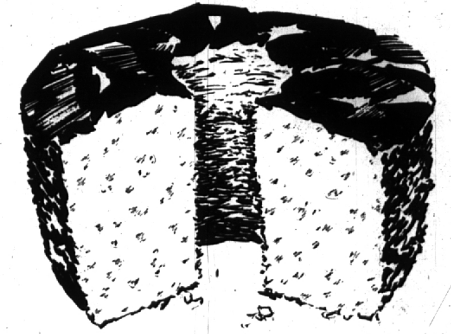
Such then is nature's magical process of pollination. Without it there would be less of misty flowered spring, of summer's glory of autumn's fruitage for man's delight and sustenance.

Three Detroit Salesmen . . . TR 5-2629 . . . Plant MI 6-2000

The AVERILL PRESS INC. of Birmingham

A COMPLETE PRINTING SERVICE—FROM TYPESETTING TO MAILING

FORMERLY THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC PRINTING DEPARTMENT



You can have your cake and eat it, too, with a home food freezer. Bake three, freeze two. They'll stay oven-fresh for months in a home freezer, or a two-in-one refrigerator freezer. No wonder smart homemakers say:

"You can Live Better . . . Electrically"

SEE YOUR DEALER OR DETROIT EDISON

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

May 4, 1906

"Residents on Pierce street, far south, are anxious for a new cement walk, and with the addition of four new homes to be built at the south end, one of them to cost at least \$5000 and over, we don't think that our village dieds will see the new citizens, wade in mud very long."

"It was a good thing for our baseball boys that it rained Tuesday afternoon, and that there was no ball game. Mr. Clemens came over with a nine composed nearly all of old time professional players. He sat on his high school nine and our boys think that they would do it too easy."

"The Fleur de lis club will give another of their popular parties this Friday evening and a fine time is expected. Dancing is to start at 8 o'clock sharp with programs at 9 o'clock."

30 YEARS AGO

April 30, 1926

"Whoever owns a Chandler automobile, license number 184-300, is exceedingly fortunate that its condition does not call for a new body. Monday, April 9, the car, which was parked on the east side of North Woodward avenue, just south of Oakland avenue, started, driverless, toward Pontiac. It only got a half block, however, when it crossed the street, finally coming to a stop in the embrace of a tree. The car was owned by Mrs. L. R. Holton. It escaped with a slight dent in the left front fender. (At that, it did better than

some cars with a driver at the wheel.)"

"A petition asking for a 24-ft. concrete pavement, with curb and gutter, on Elm street, between East Maple avenue and Forest avenue, was received by the village commission Monday night. It was referred to manager Starr for consideration."

15 YEARS AGO

May 1, 1911

"Birmingham's board of review, which every year considers complaints on property tax valuations, will be composed this year of Wilso to eat up the 'tax problem.' Maybe Lloyd S. Linton, real estate man; and city assessor, Elmer W. Haack."

"The Birmingham Eccentric's first place award for job printing in the nationwide contest of the National Editorial Award brought congratulatory comments last week from several high figures in the field."

"A herd of cows pastured and stabled on vacant school property still in charge of Louis M. Bandall, school's business manager, who has been entrusted with the task of solving the 'cow problem.' Maybe Chrysler will let us use their new tank" was the suggestion of Treasurer J. B. Rosso at the board of education meeting Tuesday night."

A hundred products, from fine furniture to corn flakes, reach market fast and economically on Michigan's modern transportation system.