

Thursday, May 31, 1956

Her Persistence Will Save Someone's Life

During the winter months, Birmingham City Commissioner Florence Willett pushed her fight for regulation of backyard swimming pools. Her objective: prevent some toddler from innocently wandering into a watery death by erecting some barriers in their way (fences around pools and supervision).

Although she came near defeat several times because fellow commissioners felt such an ordinance would be impossible of adequate enforcement, she kept determinedly at her assigned task—and achieved it. Birmingham now has a regulatory swimming pool ordinance.

Its exact effects probably never will be known. But while we admit, too, that it will not be the easiest of ordinances to police, we have the feeling that in the years to come, there will be at least one boy or girl who perhaps unknowingly owes his or her life to the fence that had to be put up, or the gate that was locked, or the adult who was keeping an eye on pool activity.

That makes it worth the time, trouble and expense that the ordinance may require.

Last Three Wars Under Democrats

The Democratic candidates make much of Dulles' foolish statement that we have been on the brink of war three times. But the brink is better than war itself.

Beginning with Woodrow Wilson, three Democratic Presidents have been elected on promises of peace; yet three wars were waged in their administrations.

Wars create extraordinary governmental power. When the wars were over, they retained emergency powers, which in turn entrenched them with more power.

Woodrow Wilson was reelected because he kept us out of war. And then WE WERE IN WAR!

PRESIDENT F. D. ROOSEVELT said: "I shall say again and again and again—your boys are not going to be sent into any foreign wars." Then we were in World War II.

Truman, campaigning for re-election in 1948, said: "I would rather have peace

than be President." Yet, without the consent of Congress, he plunged us into the Korean War, which cost the American people more than 100,000 casualties, and tens of billions of dollars.

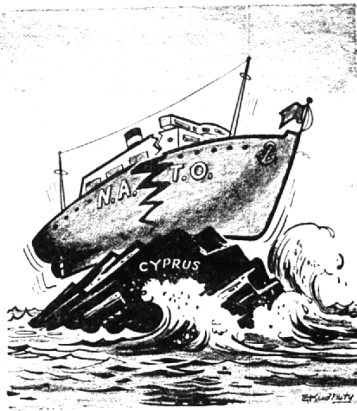
The New Deal-Fair Deal Party has been the political beneficiary of war. The victims have been the American taxpayers! Now, the Democratic candidates are at it again!

PERHAPS MR. DULLES DOES talk too much, and this brink of war statement was a "bomber."

Still the record shows that the last three wars were under Democratic Presidents. The last war under a Republican President was the Spanish American, in which only 345 American soldiers were killed.

History's record proves which political party's war promises are to be believed.

Could Happen



NATURE NOW

Jack-in-the-Pulpit Is Unusual Flower

By LYDIA KING FREISE
Special Writer For The Birmingham Eccentric

For the last hour your scribe has been busy with lens and look over a single bloom of one of spring's most unusual flowers, Jack-in-the-pulpit (Arisaema triphyllum). This bloom was a casualty from my wild flower garden, but it could be seen now on almost any walk in our low rich woodlands.

As is true with all plants, the Jack-in-the-pulpit has a life cycle of its own. It is a perennial, flowering in the middle of the summer and a single plant will produce this one in the same family. In our garden, it is a single plant which has a habit of producing a single plant each year and a single plant each year.

TO SEE THESE, it is necessary to make the trip to the garden. The Jack-in-the-pulpit is a plant which grows in the shade and is not a very common plant. It is a plant which grows in the shade and is not a very common plant.



Mrs. Freise is a resident of Birmingham, Ala. She is a member of the Birmingham Eccentric staff.

THE GALT-FLOWERED in the humid forests of the East Indies where it grows in an ill-smelling bloom similar in structure to our "Jack," but with the edge of its spathe slightly curled and ruffled. It measures 15 feet in height and is as large around as a man's head.

In contrast, the single flowers of our Duckweed family, (Lemna) are so minute that they can be seen only with a lens. Millions of these small, disc-shaped floating plants form the bright green scum which covers our stagnant ponds. Because they are so minute, they are commonly called "duckweed."

"Jack-in-the-pulpit" makes a very satisfactory transplant to the garden with flower garden where the soil is rich and moist.

Happenings of Long Ago

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

50 YEARS AGO
June 1, 1906
When our Village Improvement Society was first organized it was the only one in the state. Now nearly every village has one and we must look to our laurels.

45 YEARS AGO
May 29, 1911
A crowd which overflowed the City Commission chamber attended the annual budget hearing Monday night, calling for economy in city administration. The design, believe it or not, is "The Colonial," and was the winner in an international contest in which 125 architects in 12 countries submitted plans.

30 YEARS AGO
May 27, 1926
The corner stone of Christ church, Cornsboro, will be laid on June 25th. This new church was the first taken place on the 18th of May, but delay in the work due to the late spring, together with certain important changes in plans, made it necessary to select a later date.

20 YEARS AGO
May 27, 1936
Bread was advertised at 7c and 10c for 1 lb. loaves, and coffee at 2 lbs. for 50c.

Another evidence of the growth of Birmingham is shown in the increase in burglaries here. Last week two places were entered, one a store and the other a private home. What a proud day it will be when the Birmingham police department when they arrest a regular burglar. Better clean up the old jail, boys, and get ready to welcome our new prisoners.

ONE THING OR ANOTHER

By George Wm. Averill

According to the Musical America Magazine, an efficiency expert specializing in method engineering was taken to a symphony concert and asked to write a review. He wrote:

"For considerable periods the four oboe players had nothing to do. The number should be reduced and work spread more evenly over the whole of the concert, thus eliminating peaks of activity.

"All of the 12 violins were playing identical notes. This seems unnecessary duplication. The staff of this section should be drastically cut. If larger volume of sound is required, it could be obtained by electronic apparatus.

"MUCH EFFORT WAS ABSORBED in playing of demisemiquavers. This seems an unnecessary refinement. It is recommended that all notes should be rounded to the nearest semiquaver. If this were done, it would be possible to use trainees and lower grade operations extensively.

"There seems to be much repetition of some musical passages. Scores should be drastically pruned. No useful purpose is served by repeating on the horns a passage which has already been handled by the strings.

"It is estimated that if the redundant passages were eliminated the whole con-

cert time could be reduced to 20 minutes, and there would be no need for an intermission."

How times have changed! Some years back, a woman had to marry a man to get his money. Now she gets it by divorcing him.

Jokes aren't nearly so humorous as they are numerous.

It's easy to tell when you've come across an uninformed person. He doesn't agree with you.

That life is a game is proven by its participants and its spectators.

How objectionable to mankind are the 10 Commandments is evidenced by the millions of laws we have to enforce them.

Small shots who keep shooting usually find they've become big shots.

Most people will let principle effect a principle.

If your wife is a backseat driver, perhaps you're a dinner table cooker.

Don Currie Fires For Fort Gordon In Georgia Meet

Pfc Donald K. Currie, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lora A. Currie of Pemberton road, Bloomfield Hills, recently fired in the Third Army rifle and pistol matches at the infantry center, Fort Benning, Ga. He fired for Fort Gordon, Ga., in a 15-team meet. The matches' top scores will become members of the Third Army team.

Don entered the Army in 1954 after graduating from Bowling Green state university. His wife, Mary Lou, resides in Rocky River, Ohio.

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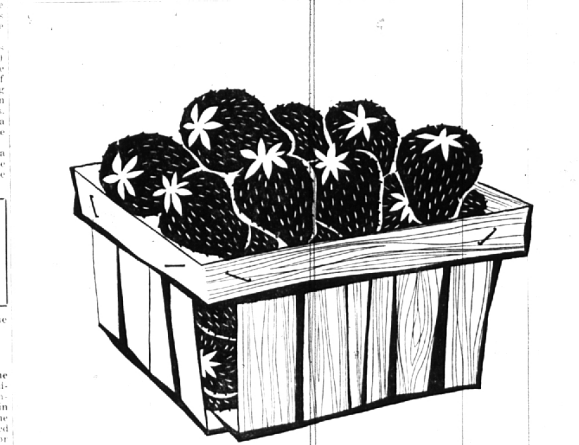
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From The Eccentric's Point of View ...

President Eisenhower is reported to have decided to do most of his political campaigning via radio and television. Think what can happen to the processes of self-government if the Democrats utilize the device of "jamming" the air waves during Ike's electronic appearance. (This jamming, you recall, was a war measure by the enemy—and isn't politics also "war"?)

Labor leader Walter Reuther recently scolded the Democrats and demanded their realignment with all Republicans who are "liberal" and in favor of desegregation. He believes that too many southern political leaders are anti- too much on subjects that Reuther stands for. Reuther, it is reported often, is never satisfied with conditions as they are—unless they agree with his own ideas.

The recent tornadoes that descended upon several Michigan communities two weeks ago killed only as many people, and injured fewer, than is the traffic record every week in this state. So stated State Police Commissioner Joseph A. Childs, to a local audience. Isn't that something to ponder? Instead of the harm coming from the sky, it comes from the motorists themselves.

Michigan's Legislature, which is responsible for its two road building agencies, the State Highway Department and the Turnpike Authority, recently admonished without having straightened out the mess that exists between its two "children". So Highway Commissioner still feuds with Turnpike Higgitts, and vice versa. In the meantime the public is the sufferer. Soon we'll tell you more of current interest on this important subject.

Billy Sunday knew, and no doubt Billy Graham knows, that your average reprobate and sinner is not converted to right

commissary by the amount of swadlow on the trail that leads to the preacher's rostrum. Which causes us to reiterate our belief that the current "reform attitudes" of Social leaders is only by surface appearances. Although their words may excite some of this swadlow, their inner selves are filled with Communist's lust for world power, even if to gain it millions of human beings must die or go to slave labor camps. Until Russia's rulers get into public office via the free and open ballot system, they will be in a pact. They cannot be trusted.

Statistics, we presume, may prove that less than 100 percent of this nation's police officers go wrong. That's why every citizen should respect policemen, as such. One bad apple may spoil a barrel, if left in—but most of 'em are thrown out in time to save the rest. It's equally so with police departments, too. The average policeman is a good, law-abiding, home-loving citizen!

Much warranted criticism has been directed against failure to create and maintain sufficient and efficient civilian defense groups throughout the nation. Equally, of course, it can be asserted that the same weakness exists (and long has existed) relative to the public's failure to measure up to its civic responsibilities. Our nation enjoys freedoms bequeathed to it from past generations... not having suffered to get freedom, it appears that human nature places a cheap value on freedom.

Persons "on the inside" have leaked out the statement that there is not enough academic love existing between the University of Michigan and Michigan State University. What one hears suggests that the Ann Arbor boys & girls are not without some unkindly thoughts about... well, another institution of higher learning.

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Ticklers



"Our cook has been with us for years... Every so often she and Wilbur will have a scrap, but outside of that she's priceless!"

By George



"It takes a magician to get the rabbit out of the hat—but anyone can let the cat out of the bag!"