

Thursday, November 1, 1956

## Next Tuesday, Nov. 6, Is Your Great Day!

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On this day you, and millions of other favored Americans, will go to your respective voting places and there, in absolute secrecy, cast your votes for candidates of your choice and your President of the United States right down to the humblest of local public offices.

We use the word "favored" because our country is but one of a very few today whose citizens are free to speak, to write, to worship, to seek redress from government of any real or imagined wrongs . . .

**NO THREAT OF PERSONAL** reprisal faces Americans as they affiliate themselves with any particular political party. You may vote for a Republican, a Democrat, a Socialist, or any other candidate whose name appears on your ballot.

When the votes are counted, it is in the American tradition for the entire populace to abide by the will of the majority. This does not preclude, however, the minority from continuing its legal right to oppose the majority—a provision that, indeed, is the very genius of our Constitutional security.

By this time you have read and listened to much from both major political parties. We only trust that you have been able to see through the "fiction and veneer" of some of the claims and some of the criticisms.

**NOT ALL CANDIDATES** in either party are incompetent, or obscenely . . . even though some of them obviously are not completely fitted for offices they seek.

Most voters, being outright to one of the two major parties. However, there is a considerable vote classified as "independent," men and women who at each election do their own thinking about candidates and issues, and then vote accordingly. Both major parties, of course, seek these "independent" votes.

Personally, this newspaper believes that the Eisenhower administration has

done a creditable job; that to elect Adlai Stevenson and his running mate, Estes Kefauver, would be harmful to our present domestic and international status, both economically and militarily.

**THERE SEEMS LITTLE DOUBT** but what the Democrats will control both houses of Congress. This in itself provides a partisan "brake" on the Chief Executive's activities.

As for Michigan, Gov. Williams has proved very little in the way of a well-planned program. He argues that he has been ham-strung by a Republican Legislature. In part, according to his viewpoint, this may be true. On the other hand, with eight years of being governor, he has very little to show in the way of physical progress for this State—and much of which he may boast was possible because of legislative co-operation.

From the standpoint of the whole citizenry, it is too bad that the Democrats have not put forth practical programs that offer a more stimulating challenge to the Republicans.

This is not to say that all Republicans are better than all Democrats . . . a situation that will be determined, we believe, by the "independents" we have referred to above.

**THE ENTIRE STATE** will have before it an amendment to the state constitution that will more clearly define qualifications of state legislators. A "Yes" vote is recommended.

Only one area municipality has a local question before voters. This is Birmingham, where city officials seek voter approval of the sale of the Birmingham sewage disposal plant to the N. Evergreen sewage disposal authority. Voters also will be asked to amend the city charter to permit the city to enter into a disposal contract with the N. Evergreen authority.

We recommend "Yes" votes on both these matters.

See you at the polls!

## We're in the Midst of a New Stampede

Every now and then whole nations stampede off with their tails in the air like a herd of cattle, not knowing where they are going, but certain there is no other place to go.

One of these stampedes was witchcraft. The crusades of the middle ages is another illustration. Then we had the South Sea Bubble, the Mississippi Bubble, the Divine Right of Kings, fever silver, Federal Prohibition, and various wars to end war.

**THEY WERE ALL BUBBLES.** But while they lasted, they were "the party line"; and he was a bold person who challenged them.

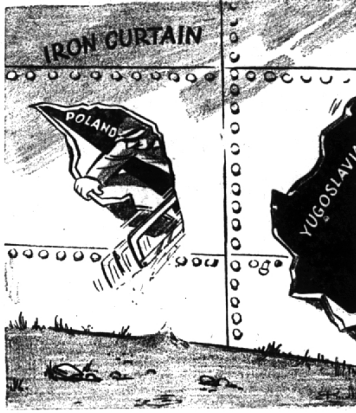
The present stampede is that the world

will go Communist unless we share our wealth with two and a half billion people who are poorer than we. "Poverty builds Communism," is the new "party line."

What proof is there of that? Will its advocates please explain why the poverty-stricken settlers at Plymouth and Jamestown abandoned Communism for the private right to own property? The poorer that people are, the tighter they hold on to what they have.

As long as this is "the party line," we Americans are a soft touch for international blackmail by foreign and domestic politicians who need dollars to keep their jobs nailed to the seats of their pants.

## Who's Next?



## NATURE NOW

By Lydia King Freese  
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eclectic

### Praying Mantis Is 'Preying' Cannibal

Now against the backdrop of autumn, the praying mantis mocks the end of life that is so near. Among its fellow insects, many of which live on flower nectar or plant juices and leaves, it stands out as a carnivore and a cannibal.

On a recent trip to northern Ohio we came upon two of the odd insects, one walking along the edge of a meadow, the other dead on the highway.

The praying mantis belongs to the Orthoptera, or straight-winged insects, along with the grasshopper, cricket, katydid and cockroach. It is closely related to the walking stick.

After the manner of her kind, she has already completed her autumn ritual of egg laying. This she accomplishes as she clings head-downward to a stalk of golden rod or a low shrub.

The eggs, 125-200 in number, are laid in a mass of froth which upon exposure to the air hardens into the enlarging form of a walnut. Thus protected, they lie dormant throughout the winter. After a month of warm spring weather the gangling babies emerge and let themselves loose upon the world, beginning their blood-thirsty foraging.

Outfitting the larval stage, the newly born mantis has already assumed the shape of the adult but are smaller, pale green and soft bodied. They grow by the time they reach the adult stage they have attained wings and their front legs have developed into a set of formidable pincers equipped with sharp spines. With these they capture and kill their living prey.

The praying mantis is both protective colored and shaped to blend with its habitat. Although its wings are adequate for flight

it usually prefers to play a waiting game and ambush. Balanced on some flowering bush or tree with its fore-body and strong front legs raised as though in prayer, it is ready to pounce upon any passing insect.

Such of the odd appearance of the mantis is due to the clever way in which it uses its forelegs like hands and the unique way it can turn its triangular head from side to side, peering over its shoulder like any mammal.

Edwin H. Teale, who has made a life-long study of the mantis, reports many unusual facts proving its prowess as a hunter. These include records of its killing a meadow mouse, a humming bird, a bat and a small snake's snake. He has also seen the mantis out-bluff the attack of such birds as the blue jay and the red-winged black bird.

So ferocious is the appetite of the mantis that the female can eat a daddy-long-legs, three grasshoppers and top off the meal with her discarded mate. As autumn advances, reducing the supply of insect food, specimens have been seen gnawing one of their own legs, a kind of suicide to allay their hunger pangs.

Since the mantis eats insects injurious to man and his crops, it is a desirable member of society. It also makes an amusing pet. A woman in Columbus, O., reports that she finds it effective to keep several mantises in her garden to act as foragers.

The genus Mantidae reaches its climax in the fabulous "leaf" insects of the tropics. Several species are common throughout the southeastern portion of the United States. The specimen on my desk represents our northern range for this insect. A check with the Cranbrook Institute of Science shows no record for the Birmingham area. Several reports from the Detroit area are classed as escapes from the classrooms, where they are frequently purchased and hatched for study purposes.

## ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

The nation's first concrete road was built in Michigan. It was part of Woodward below Six Mile road.

For years, Michigan has been in the forefront of highway development. Our roadside parks and tables have been copied by many other states.

And today more people in the Birmingham area know more about roads, highways, expressways, freeways, and toll roads than they ever thought they'd know.

That's because a toll road once was proposed through our area. A freeway now is planned pretty near where that turnpike was supposed to go.

Without attempting to go into the pros and cons of the Michigan situation, it's interesting to note what some other people, some other areas say about the roads they've got.

**IN CALIFORNIA**, the manager of the Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce reported: "The businessmen in Santa Rosa, in general, feel the freeway has been a distinct advantage in bringing shoppers to our downtown district, particularly those from adjacent counties. Local business would never want to go back to the old system of heavy trucks and tourists whizzing through our main streets."

In New York, a Buffalo Chamber of Commerce official has said: "Immediately after the thruway road became known, the chamber succeeded in interesting several firms in locations near it and these companies have invested, or plan to invest, more than \$25 million for the construction of industrial, commercial, sales and distributive establishments. This will be followed by proportionately larger housing and residential developments."

**IN TEXAS, A LOCAL STUDY** shows: "The Gulf Freeway, connecting Houston and Galveston, has been credited with adding 65 per cent to the value of adjacent properties. . . one section along the Freeway could be bought at 19 cents a foot but now, since the new road is in, it is worth \$1.30 a foot."

In California, in New York, in Texas—and everywhere where modern highways have been built—better roads have brought better business, better housing, higher land values and more jobs (with easier accessibility to them), among their other benefits.

Small merchants realized that by-passes made their local streets available once more to local shoppers. Big business found good highways make it possible to move plants into suburban and rural areas. Workers found to highways make it possible for them to get to their jobs more quickly,

more easily and more safely.

**A PLANT TWO MINUTES' DRIVE** from a thruway, for instance, can attract workers from 15 to 20 miles away—and it takes them no longer to get to their jobs than if they lived five miles away from a plant in the city.

Proposed by-passes, belt-highways or circumferential arteries around communities—how would these affect the small businessman, the merchant? What is there to show him he is helped by detouring through traffic around his city or town?

In the large city of Wilmington, Del., the chamber of commerce manager reports on the new Governor Printz Boulevard thus: "Should this by-pass not have been built, the tremendous volume of through-traffic that has developed since its opening would have made traffic congestion in our central business district so serious that it would have a paralyzing effect on business generally."

**IN THE TOWN OF VACAVILLE**, California: "The merchants were much opposed to the by-passing of Vacaville by Highway 40. The stores most affected were eating places, drug stores and service stations. Now, after a number of years, the same merchants would not want the highway to go through the town as the traffic is too great."

In the Los Angeles suburb of Highland Park, the chamber of commerce has characterized the new Arroyo Seco Parkway as its "greatest single asset."

The city engineer says: "A direct benefit is derived from the fact that some 50,000 vehicles a day now use the parkway, leaving the surface streets relatively free of through traffic and, therefore, suitable for their proper use by the local traffic from which the business district draws its customers."

"IT IS ALSO INTERESTING" to note extensive residential development of a high order going forward in the immediate vicinity of this existing, heavily used parkway.

President Eisenhower said in a recent economic report: ". . . history shows that private investment motions when new arteries of commerce develop. New factories and shopping centers would be constructed; service facilities for food, lodging and automobiles would be provided along the new highways."

"Markets for new cars and many associated goods and services would be lifted to a higher level. Above all this, immense savings would accrue to the public from reduced accidents and lower transportation costs."

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

An Ionia, Mich., school principal was jailed the other day, charged with spanking a seven-year-old boy. Police said the youth was "paddled roughly," which was denied by the school man. The boy was suspected of throwing stones through a window of the principal's car. Such paddling, if necessary, it seems to us, should have been manifested at home some time ago by the parents.

When and where the state highway department will locate the proposed new

"freeway highway" within Oakland county is a current question. Now that the plan of building a toll road between Flat Rock and Saginaw is shelved for the time being, the "freeway" is all that is left. So far, suggested locations for it have aroused plenty of opposition in the areas of Southfield and Bloomfield townships where surveys thus far have placed them. It is no easy solution to the problem that confronts the highway commissioner, to be sure.

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## Meet Your Michigan

**WATER POPULATION ON DISPLAY:**  
THE CLOSEST MINORITY AGRI-CULTURE IN ANY STATE IS IN MICHIGAN. IN 1950, THE STATE HAD 2,230,000 PEOPLE. OF THESE, 1,500,000 WERE WHITE, 500,000 WERE NEGRO, 100,000 WERE SPANISH OR ITALIAN, WITH ANOTHER 2,000,000 SPECIMENS IN RESERVE.

**TRAIL THIMBER:**  
ONE OF MICHIGAN'S MOST UNIQUE STATE PARKS IS A VIRTUAL ISLAND OF TIMBER CALLED THE GREAT WOODS. IT IS A TRAIL OF 100 MILES OF WOODS, WITH A HOUSE AND LOT IN THE MIDDLE. THE HOUSE IS THE ONLY ONE OF ITS KIND IN THE STATE. THE HOUSE WAS BUILT BY A FINE, BY THE LEADERSHIP COMPANY, AND WAS RETURNED TO THE ORIGINAL OWNERS, WILLIAM AND ALICE, AFTER HIS DEATH.

**A BIRD'S EYE:**  
A BIRD ON RECORD SHOWS THAT KING GEORGE IS A TRAIL OF 100 MILES OF WOODS, WITH A HOUSE AND LOT IN THE MIDDLE. THE HOUSE IS THE ONLY ONE OF ITS KIND IN THE STATE. THE HOUSE WAS BUILT BY A FINE, BY THE LEADERSHIP COMPANY, AND WAS RETURNED TO THE ORIGINAL OWNERS, WILLIAM AND ALICE, AFTER HIS DEATH.

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## Happenings of Long Ago

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

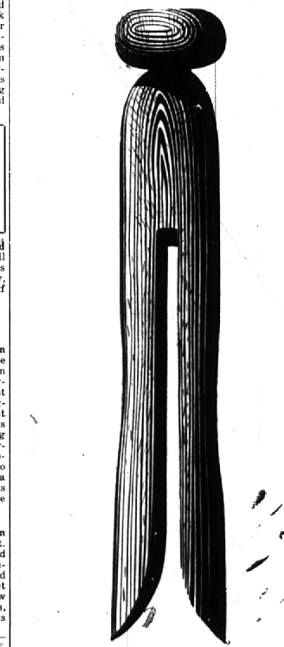
**50 YEARS AGO**  
November 2, 1906  
To satisfy the demand of his patrons, A. R. Parks has just installed a new bone grinder. The machine is what all chickens have wished for years. Austin says to bring on your green bones and have them made ready for your chickens. Nothing is better to feed the poultry than fresh ground bones.

A newspaper despairingly asks: "Can anything be done to prevent our young ladies from being insulted on the streets at night? Yes, let their parents insist upon their precious young daughters remaining at home, instead of roaming the streets at night, and see that they retire to their beds at a reasonable hour."

Fears are entertained for the safety of Wm. F. Cody, "Buffalo Bill," and his party of sixteen, who left Dody, Wyo., on a hunting trip to the Big Horn mountains Oct. 14 and who, it is feared, may have been lost in the blizzard which swept over the Rockies a week ago.

**30 YEARS AGO**  
October 28, 1926

More than 800 parents and students attended the formal opening of the new Adams school building celebrated last night by a open house of the school building, speech making, singing, exercise by the students and dancing until midnight. The original building with its eight rooms has been increased to 25 rooms including a gymnasium at a total cost of \$475,000, the record for this city. This makes it the most expensive school building in Birmingham.



For the price of 36 clothes pins\* you can dry 6 loads of laundry in an electric clothes dryer. And you'll never have to hang heavy wet wash on the line again. No wonder smart homemakers say:

"You can Live Better . . . Electrically"

\*Based on the average price of 30¢

SEE YOUR DEALER OR DETROIT EDISON



**THE OLD TIMER**  
"The way taxes are today, you might as well marry for love!"