

## Birmingham LWV Activities Need Your Support

Three hundred fifty Birmingham area women this week began their annual drive to finance next year's activities of the Birmingham League of Women Voters.

We believe this effort merits your generous support.

This non-partisan organization, performing on national, state, and local levels, perhaps is best known here for its free "voter's guide," a publication which provides valuable information about political candidates and election issues. The an-

nual finance drive, which this year is for \$2,700, goes largely to support the cost of the voter's guide.

The finance campaign committee has tried to contact all interested local citizens for contributions. Some of you may have been inadvertently missed. If that has happened, the committee hopes you will be forgiving enough to mail it to the Birmingham League, care of the Baldwin Public Library.

## 'Going Into Debt' Is U. S. Economic Theme

The "point-with-pride" and "wig-with-alarm" folks will monopolize the headlines, radio and TV for the next six weeks.

The United States, they say, will be in grave peril if the other side (Republican or Democrat) wins. A national magazine estimates each side will spend about \$100,000,000 to keep peril from our doors!

Then, the day after, every campaign headquarters will be as deserted as a lone, lean mule in a sheep corral.

When the binge is over, what then? Well, for one thing, we will all be deeper in debt—the G.O.P.'ers, Dixiecrats, New Dealers.

DEBT PAYS AS LITTLE ATTENTION

## Every American Entitled To Legal Defense

Basic to American justice is the conviction that every man, however odious, is entitled to have a lawyer defend him.

A committee of the New Jersey Legislature refused to confirm the appointment of a lawyer to the board of Rutgers University because he represented a "5th amendment" client.

It will be a sad day in America if, and when, we attribute to a lawyer the race, color, religion, alleged crimes or political views of his clients.

John Adams, one of the great patriots of the Revolution, took the future in his hands when he defended British soldiers on trial for the "Boston Massacre" of 1770. Every dead cat in Boston was thrown at him but he held firm, won his case, and later became President of the United States! There was a man!

## Public vs Private Wrong-Doing

The political influence of former President Harry S. Truman within the Democratic party is on the wane. His recent futile support for Averell Harriman over Adlai Stevenson precipitated much life into the Demo's convention.

Much has been said about graft and corruption in Truman's administration; a book, "The Truman Scandals," has been written about it. Some of Truman's appointments landed in prison. In spite of this

stigma, millions still idolize the Missouri man.

But if an average man were found guilty of stealing another's property, even though it was valued at less than a hundred dollars, he would be ostracized by his neighbors, and not trusted. How paradoxical are human beings in their failure to distinguish between private and political wrong-doing!

Only bigots with the narrowest of alleged minds will forbid any man or woman the right to defend himself in a court of justice. . . . and any lawyer who, in good conscience, defends such defendant is performing a perfectly legal and moral responsibility.

The lawyer said: "I cheerfully submit myself to every odious name for conscience sake."

Along a country lane at the forest's border grows a dense stand of bladder-nut (Straphegia trifolia). Its inflated pods hang bright in the trees, like rosy five-angled balloons. Each contains one to three seeds.

These make a small rattle when they have ripened enough to loosen themselves. This shrub is rare in the up-

## Awfully Close



## NATURE NOW

## Autumn Is Early In North Woods

By LYDIA KING FREHSE

Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

These last weekends in the north woods bring their own nostalgic satisfactions. Mornings are misty gray. The noon-day sun shines warm on head and shoulders but the nights

call for an extra log on the fire.

The brief twilight comes early and the sun drops suddenly below the rim of dark hills. One looks back wistfully to say, "Where has summer gone?"

Now at season's end the cottage has a "lived-in" look. Favorite books and magazines are stacked high. The rooms hold an aroma of wood smoke and drying botanicals. The floors are covered with wilted bouquets. One guest left a surplus of catnip lying on a shelf. Departing suitcases hold a lot, but never enough.

A TURN OVER the ridge shows the forest floor taking on its autumnal air. Red berries of partridge vine and wintergreen, blue berries of cohosh and Clintonia, naked seed heads of wild leek. On the primitive mosses and the late-growing ferns are green and untouched.

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Mrs. Frehse

per half of our lower peninsula and is always a "find." Spurred on by another season's ending, your scribe has just put a sample of it into the plant press for future reference.

BORDERING the same winding road grow two ferns rare in our locality, the narrow-leaved spleenwort and the silvery spleenwort. The former fills the hollow with graceful clumps of deepest green.

"Narrow-leaved" refers to the pinnae. These together make up the frond which in itself is unusually wide. The specimen which I collected for the plant press measured five inches at its broadest point and was 39 inches long. The latter variety shows a rosy stem near its base and at this season the entire plant has a silvery look. On a boat ride into the long west arm of the lake we found the quiet bays filled with floating leaves of birch and poplar. They drift like yellow boats, idle and aimless with no port to reach, no harbor in sight. The dark evergreens at the water's edge are a foil for the reds and corals, the yellows and browns of sugar maple and beech.

SINCE EARLY JULY we have watched a family of mallards "growing up." Now at twilight they float on the still dark water, making a streble group. The mother looks proud and protective.

## ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

Birmingham's citizens have, since July, been getting used to the new taste of their water. We've heard many descriptions of this taste, none of which have been the same. Most do mention the presence of chlorine, however.

City Commissioner Charles Renfrew is trying to get fellow commissioners to push for the city's proposed municipal water treatment plant just as soon as possible.

Renfrew's personal description of our new (?) water is "intolerable!"

Birmingham municipal contemplations for several years now have included the widening of Maple between Hunter and Adams roads.

One of the city's worst bottle-necks, this widening would just about complete a recommendation first proposed in the late 1920's. Still left would be addition of two more lanes at the extreme ends just inside the east and west city limits.



## ALMOST GONE FOR ANOTHER YEAR

are the backyard picnics which more and more American families are finding are so enjoyable. We in Michigan are particularly fortunate in that the state highway department "cooperates" with us taxpayers in providing 3,500 picnic spots away from home (as at left). Birmingham's own Murray D. (Pat) Van Wagener, former state highway commissioner, gets credit for the large-scale introduction of roadside tables to the motoring public.

"See what I have to show for my summer!"

Cedar waxwing and purple finch are busy over a harvest of berries and seeds. When early winter lessens the food supply there is always the heavy-headed sumac, dark and velvety, which hangs on its stalk until it is pushed off by a new season's growth.

The chipmunks and red squirrels are chattering in the warmth of noontime. Their dining table—the stump of a great white pine. Their food—the shiny three-cornered nuts of the beech.

These THEY DISLodge from their prickly burrs, using their front paws like hands. No dishes to wash; the remains of the feast are soon incorporated in the humus of the forest floor.

Last night a raccoon came up on a neighbor's porch and stayed long enough to have his picture taken. These inquisitive "ring tails" are multiplying fast in our Michigan forests. Hunters complain that they are threatening the wood ducks, chasing them from their nests in tree holes and hollows and eating their eggs.

An so almost imperceptibly, the season turns. The blue bird's wing is paling and the goldfinch makes his jerky flight.

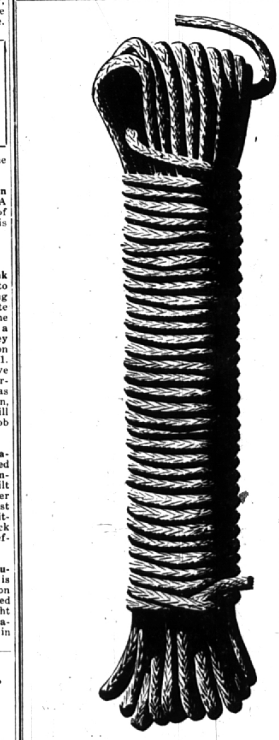
## Booklets . . . ?

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

Harold E. Stassen's defeat in his recent effort to dethrone V-P Richard Nixon as Ike's teammate in the coming campaign is a blow to the Minnesotan's inflated ego. We will not be surprised, early next year, to learn that Childie Harold is left with his present high post in the President's official family. Stassen, alas! is the kind of chap, we think, who firmly believes himself a sort of political Messiah . . . the supreme egoist.

Recently, while up in northern Michigan, we were talking to a friend, native there all his life. We said to him: "Earl, you know you are one of those 'dirty, black Republicans'—you voted for Ike, too. But do you know that he is leading our country into the Welfare State just about as

rapidly as did Roosevelt and Truman?" Earl just smiled and answered: "What you say may be true—but don't overlook the fact that Eisenhower is an honorable man!"

Egyptian ancients built the pyramids and the famed Sphinx. Now along comes modern President Nasser who would build a great dam across the Nile River . . . with monies he expects to get from fees for allowing boats to use the recently expropriated Suez canal. Wonder if the Sphinx still smiles its inscrutable smirk?

Funny thing about folks who are inclined to flatter you before your face—seldom do they say the same things behind your back.

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## 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

September 14, 1906  
Should not our village fathers have printed instructions on the fire alarm telephone box? We are not fishing for a job but have heard no less than six different pieces of news about how the thing worked in case of a fire. It is too high up anyway for "shorties."

Traverse City schools have been temporarily closed on account of the extreme heat.

Improvements on Maple avenue are great. The most important and greatest improvement is the curbing that "lines up" A. Jacob's pleasant home at the west end. It certainly enhances the value of all property within sight and both sides of the street and the expense is no small item to the owner. L. H. Rousseau follows suit and has a beautiful number of running feet of cement curbing. Say it's great.

A citizen of Ann street has a grievance. Someone drives over his curbing which is nicely grown over with sod and it spoils the appearance of the lawn all cut up by buggy wheels. Be popular and "keep in the middle of the road."

### 30 YEARS AGO

September 16, 1926  
Three of the proposed annexations for Birmingham carried in Tuesday's elections. In a sweeping vote Bloomfield township decided on incorporation. Birmingham's area was increased by something over 111 acres when the proposed annexations were approved in a record making vote. Bloomfield Village favored incorporation by a vote of 128 to 22.

Finger cut? Sprain your ankle? Get all spoiled in an automobile accident? See the police. They are ready now to care for anything from cholic to acute dandruff, provide a number of running feet of cement curbing, a fully equipped first aid cabinet and a stretcher that can be used as a cot. Chief James Anderson explained that be-

it was necessary to provide the supplies for emergency cases.

The most dangerous rate for an automobile is 19 miles an hour. A survey reveals that 95 per cent of accidents have occurred at this speed.

### 15 YEARS AGO

September 15, 1941

Just 10 years after the bank closed its doors, depositors are to receive a final dividend, winding up the affairs of the First State Bank. The last dividend brings the total paid to \$6.42 per cent, or a little more than half of the money on deposit when the institution closed its doors on June 15, 1931. All assets of the receivership have been sold, including the office furniture. The bank building was purchased by Ralph A. Wilson, druggist. Most of the records will be burned, that being the final job of the receiver.

The question of architecture along Hunter boulevard has cropped up again. This time it is a hamburger stand which will be built at the northeast corner of Hunter and Forest, a block east of East Maple. The proprietor has submitted a drawing of a cement block structure with a pyramid tower effect in the top.

The question of whether the municipal treasury of Birmingham is to bear a large share of recreation costs in the future was discussed in a limited way Monday night when the secretary of the Recreation Commission asked City aid in the winter program.

## THE OLD TIMER

"Many a live wire would be dead if it weren't for his"