

## Jaycees' Parade Was Well Planned

One of the most successfully staged and interestingly comprised parades held here in the past 10 years went through Birmingham's downtown business area some days ago as a climax to Civil Defense Week.

Local Junior Chamber of Commerce officers and members are to be highly commended for their sponsorship of CD week

activities, including the parade.

Appreciation, too, must go to the many military and civil defense organizations who cooperated by sending personnel or equipment to perform here that Friday evening before thousands of Birmingham area citizens.

We hope similar events are as successful and as interesting.

## Will Adlai Stevenson Improve Over 1952?

Now that Adlai Stevenson is the Democratic candidate, will he do better this year than in 1952?

It has been 116 years since a candidate for President, defeated in his first try, was elected in his second attempt. This was William Henry Harrison, who was elected in 1840, after being defeated in 1836.

Before him, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, John Quincy Adams and Andrew Jackson were elected after having been defeated. But elections were made differently in those early days.

**THOMAS PINCKNEY WAS** A candidate four times, Henry Clay three times, Eugene Debs four times, and Norman Thomas five times—but none was ever a winner.

## Absurdity Of U. S. Income Tax Laws Shown

There is an Alice-In-Wonderland quality about our federal income tax laws, with their extremely high upper-bracket rates. U.S. News & World Report gives an example.

The magazine says: "A baseball player's angry gesture during a ball game, may cost the Federal Government \$4200 in income taxes. It also may bring the athlete a personal profit of \$4,200."

Does that sound absurd? Well, here's the true story. The world's highest-salaried ballplayer (\$100,000 a year) was fined \$5,000 by his club for a display of temper toward the fans. This is considered a business expense, for the reason that the fine must be paid if the player is to keep on practicing his profession. Thus, his taxable income is reduced by the \$5,000.

AFTER DEDUCTIONS, THE TOP tax

## Right-to-Work Laws Upheld In Kansas

The Republican gubernatorial primary in Kansas was held last night. A dominant issue was the right-to-work law—the law which provides that a man can join or not join a union if he so chooses, and that he shall have the right to work at his trade in either case.

In this Kansas primary, the incumbent governor opposed the law. He was beaten

rate on this player's income is 84 per cent. So the fine gives him a tax reduction of \$4,200, leaving him only \$800 out of pocket.

But that isn't all. Admirers of the player are reported to be making up a fund to pay the fine.

U.S. News says: "If they give him \$5,000, that amount is not taxable at all. In that case, the ballplayer would stand an \$800 loss and a \$5,000 gain, for a net profit of \$4,200."

Very few of us have any personal experience with either \$100,000 incomes or \$5,000 fines. But this factual illustration indicates just how confused, inequitable, and generally unsound our tax laws are. Like Topsy, they just grew—and grow into a crazy quilt. That's why sentiment for a complete overhaul has been snow-balled.

by a man who supported it.

Long ago, the indefensible practice followed by some employers of blackballing union members was outlawed. The practice of making a man join a union in order to support himself and his family is blackballing in principle and equally indefensible.

## De-Fence-ive Move



## NATURE NOW

### Blue Racer Is Harmless Reptile

By LYDIA KING FREHSE  
Special Writer For The Birmingham Eccentric

If your autumn jaunts to the country take you into low wooded areas or their adjacent terraces, you may come upon one of Michigan's largest snakes, the blue racer (Coluber constrictor).

This encounter is guaranteed to "spark" any nature walk, for there are few people who have outgrown their fascination for these interesting reptiles, whether or not they profess to "like" them.

It is not an accident that so many boys grown tall began their interest in science by carrying a snake in their pocket to be presented to teacher or the girl next door at just the opportune moment.

BECAUSE THE BLUE racer often reaches a length five feet and because it makes a swift dash for freedom when encountered, it has terrified more people than any other snake in Michigan. However, it is perfectly harmless. Even though it is difficult to catch and strikes viciously when cornered, it can do no more damage than to puncture the skin.

Another count against the blue racer arises from its habit of climbing trees and shrubs or crawling over old walls and fences. This suggests the tropical constrictors, not a happy thought to most of us. However, the blue racer is not a true constrictor in spite of its species name.

Our Michigan blue racer occurs in the southern half of the lower peninsula. Adults vary in color from bluish green to olive gray above and are whitish or washed with green, blue or yellow underneath. Because the young are olive or grey conspicuously marked with black spots, they are frequently confused with the milk snake.

THE ADULTS ARE often mistaken for the largest of Michigan's reptiles, the pilot black snake, which belongs to another family (Elaphe obsoleta). It is heavier

bodied, duller in color, more sluggish and less abundant. The young of the blue racer are hatched in late summer from eggs deposited in rotting wood or forest debris. After the manner of their kind, they receive no maternal care. Snakes grow in accordance with the available food supply. Adult size is usually reached in two or three years, although slow growth continues throughout life.

Included in the blue racer's bill of fare are such rodents as rats, mice, chipmunks and other small mammals, which it may kill by larger eyes. This he carries in an elevated position as he travels. Your scribbles had several interesting encounters with the blue racer. At Haven Hill a large specimen took refuge in a tree and when further pursued jumped some 20 feet into the water below. Another found on a mycology field trip in a swamp at Pond Lake was estimated to be more than five feet in length, although he also eluded capture.

Now as the autumn days shorten, snakes confine their activity to the brief warmth of noontime. Soon they will seek out some rocky crevice or burrow where they frequently congregate in large numbers. Here, scaly bodies interlocked, they will gradually grow inert. Presently, with the fall of the first snow, they will rest, deep in their hibernating sleep.

Woodward and George, who was to be completed by today, according to the plans of Glen E. Routier, the director. The estimated cost of the structure is \$17,000.

15 YEARS AGO  
September 25, 1941  
Night football will be inaugurated in Birmingham Friday night with dedication of the 90,000 watt night-light system at a game between Birmingham and Cranbrook. A capacity crowd is expected.

Those of you who like to see healthy young Americans acquiring the valuable knowledge that "it doesn't hurt to get hurt," drive out to Bloomfield Hills School on Vaughan road, some afternoon at 3:30 o'clock. There you'll find just about every kid in the school above the sixth grade playing football, finding out the hard knocks aren't so bad after all. It's part of the educational plan at the school.

Now is the time to put in your application for a phone. You can have a phone put into your house, a residence phone, two-party line at the rate of \$15 per year, a reduction of \$5 per year as the rate heretofore was \$18.

30 YEARS AGO  
September 23, 1926  
Excavation has started on the new First Church of Christ, Scientist of Birmingham. The Willets and Chester streets and today laborers are working rapidly toward completion of the structure within an estimated eight months. The building is to cost approximately \$100,000.

The Birmingham branch of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom held its second meeting at the home of Mrs. Henry Riley Puller, 600 North Woodward avenue, Friday, with 15 members present. New members are being sought.

The roof of the new Williams Buick Sales and Service at South

## ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

Although none of them are sailors, Birmingham's seven city commissioners believe they have some idea of the feeling one experiences when the tide turns.

This happened a few weeks ago—Sept. 4 to be exact—when the city won from an Oakland county circuit court a decision which upheld a property zoning here.

On that date, Circuit Judge Clark Adams held that single family residential zoning on the southwest corner of Lincoln and Southfield roads is a reasonable one. Owners had claimed it was unreasonable (the only basis on which zoning is contested).

City officials breathed freely once again when they heard the outcome of this case. It halted a rash of similar cases along that stretch of Southfield that were lurking in the background, just waiting for the city to lose the first one.

There is another case in another circuit court involving some lots on Southfield just above the business-zoned property at 14 Mile road. The owner in this instance also wants to use his property for business, but can't because present zoning permits only single family.

Several other rezoning suits also are pending an outcome.

Attempts to rezone to business certain lots at Coolidge and Maple, and a triangular area south of the Graefeld terraces and between Eton road and the railroad.

The city has been arguing that there is no need for these additional business areas, and that the properties can be profitably developed with residences.

So city officials hope the Sept. 4 sign was a turning tide, not merely a pleasant ripple. In spite of what some citizens have been claiming, the commissioners want Birmingham to remain as much as possible a city of fine homes.

The persistent salesman demanded the customer give one good reason he couldn't buy a new car.

"Well," started the customer, drawing a deep breath, "I'm still paying in installments on the car I swapped for the car I traded in as part payment on the car I am two payments behind on now!"

Dr. Ralph L. Lee, 938 Brookside, likes children, thinks their actions and performances would be vastly improved if given better adult direction. Most of this direction, of course, would have to come from parents.

## Peoples Column

### Reader Condemns Ziegler's Work

To the Editor:  
Highway Commissioner Ziegler should be required by our government in Lansing to do one of two things immediately: 1. Finish the highway work on the way to Toledo, making it a four-lane highway, or

2. Resign.

So far as I am concerned Soap don't need to take up the chant against Ziegler just because there is an election coming up because he has been hanging around Lansing as long as Ziegler and neither one has finished the highway work, yet this three-lane stretch kills more people than any other single section in the state.

Ziegler's patch work through Monroe to Toledo still does not solve this three-lane problem. You cannot run two cars going in the opposite direction in the center lane, although that may be new

to Mr. Ziegler because he has been trying it for a long time.

DALE O. MILLER  
444 Waddington  
Bloomfield Village.

Use Classified Ads—They Sell!

Lawrence E. Smith  
Landscape Design and  
Construction  
155 N. WOODWARD  
in the Wilson Building  
Phone MI 4-2656

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

Two Kalamazoo citizens, one a Democrat and the other a Republican, engaged in heated argument over the recent political national conventions. One of the men struck and then shoved the other into a pool, then jumped and tried to keep his head under the water, it is reported. This was changed when the soaked chap's wife got into the fracas and chased her husband's opponent away... the latter got 30 days in jail for his action. Both men, it seems, take their politics too dangerously.

A few years back it appeared that the nation's coal industry was losing plenty of ground, as John L. Lewis imposed his bituminous and anthracite will upon the U.S. economy. Current reports, however, suggest that American industry is returning more and more to the use of coal to manufacture power. In the meantime, of course, Mr. Lewis continues to show his famous tonsorially touselled scowl.

Married or un-married, the successful salesman is one who is willing to take orders wherever he goes.

## 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 21, 1906

It is announced that the lady bathers at Atlantic City now wear socks and show their bare legs from knee to ankle. The doctrine of equal rights appears to be growing some at Atlantic City.

Mark Twain bought a piece of land in Connecticut and will build a \$30,000 house on it. He seems to be almost as prosperous as he might be if he had written one of the six best sellers.

Now is the time to put in your application for a phone. You can have a phone put into your house, a residence phone, two-party line at the rate of \$15 per year, a reduction of \$5 per year as the rate heretofore was \$18.

30 YEARS AGO  
September 23, 1926  
Excavation has started on the new First Church of Christ, Scientist of Birmingham. The Willets and Chester streets and today laborers are working rapidly toward completion of the structure within an estimated eight months. The building is to cost approximately \$100,000.

The Birmingham branch of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom held its second meeting at the home of Mrs. Henry Riley Puller, 600 North Woodward avenue, Friday, with 15 members present. New members are being sought.

The roof of the new Williams Buick Sales and Service at South

## The Birmingham Eccentric

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

GEORGE R. AVERILL  
Editor and Publisher  
PAUL NEAL AVERILL  
Business Manager  
GEORGE WM. 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 26, MICH.  
404 Fifth Avenue  
NEW YORK 18, N. Y.



For the price of this sprinkler\* you can do 2 full loads in your electric dryer. Here's a neat trick. Take out pieces, that have to be ironed, before they're completely dry, thus eliminating sprinkling. Many things come out so soft and fluffy they don't need to be ironed at all. Smart homemakers know how to...

"Live Better... Electrically"

\*Based on an average price of 10¢

SEE YOUR DEALER OR DETROIT EDISON