

## Federal Aid Often Is A Big "Con Game"

Federal "aid" is the gimmick by which Federal Bureaucrats justify more jobs for themselves. It consists in paying taxes to Federal collectors rather than local public treasurers.

Uncle Sam has no money. He has to tax before he aids. And the Federalists first subtract their "brokerage." So less comes back than goes in. They subtract more than add. How do you get aid by subtraction?

But it aids the politicians. It helps Congressmen and Senators. They get some political credit for whatever Federal aid comes back to their localities.

It also aids local officials—mayors and county commissioners. They get credit for

local improvements without directly taxing the folks, who aren't told they could have done it cheaper themselves. It "gets them off the hook." At election time, they say: "Look at all these public improvements we got for you without costing you a dime, or no more than a nickel in a dime."

Federal aid is a BIG help to politicians and many contractors.

Don't fail to read the December and January "READER'S DIGEST" articles by former Governor Driscoll, of New Jersey. He says that Federal grants-in-aid projects cost two to ten times more than local governments did them with local taxes.

## "Government Breeds Contempt For Law"

Crime continues to grow. The FBI reports the number of major crimes in 1956 was the highest on record.

Why? We claim to be "peace loving"; don't we? Yet crime is war. Our crime rate is one of the highest in the world.

Who and what is responsible? Many reasons can be given. All contribute, but there's an accessory that is seldom, if ever, mentioned.

It is Government, itself—our Government—local, State and Federal.

In the Supreme Court, the eminent Justice Brandeis once said: "Our Government, for good or ill, teaches the whole people by its example. Crime is contagious. If a government becomes a law breaker (the moral law), it breeds contempt for law and

invites every man to become a law to himself."

Government has ripped the market on its Bonds. It has cut its debt by devaluing the dollar. It continues to refuse to pay its debt during prosperous times.

Government says it is a crime for a single pickpocket to steal. But it says that A, B, and C, by combining their votes, can pick U.S. pocket and go free.

Government buys votes. It weeps over the civil rights of certain minorities, but punishes no one when labor union monopolies deprive cities and States of transportation, light or power, or when gangs terrorize law-abiding citizens and dynamite the homes of working men.

As Brandeis said: "Government breeds contempt for law."

## Defend Our Bill of Rights to Remain Free

Is democracy on trial? We have a republican form of government and a democratic society without caste or class.

The United States of America, the first and most successful venture in limited, political management, after international comparison of its achievements, capital assets and declared dividends, concentrates its 10 million shareholders on the fundamental soundness of their joint property, and continues to stand on its record. Any proposal to compromise it is impractical, or fraudulently designed.

Nothing like a millennium or utopia was ever written into the Constitution. Whoever expects Government to take the place of initiative, ambition and toil and to mislead his franchise and would destroy patriotism by parasitism.

There is no place under our skies for

brutal, godless philosophies. The Magna Charta, Bill of Rights, Declaration of Independence and the Emancipation Proclamation specifically deny them. We have not conspired to wreck the nations of the world; nor ravaged impotent, defenseless races; nor provoked civil war and massed and declared dividends, concentrated its 10 million shareholders on the fundamental soundness of their joint property, and continues to stand on its record. Any proposal to compromise it is impractical, or fraudulently designed.

We have not strangled free speech, nor a free press. Our republican government and democratic society encourage every man to elect his own road and choose his own speed.

After 181 years of the most successful record of any people, it is other forms of government that are on trial—not ours. Let's keep ours free.

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

Police Chief Ralph Moxley reports a 10 per cent increase in Birmingham's major crimes for 1956 over 1955. He does note, however, an 11 per cent reduction in juvenile offenses here. Burglary cases have

jumped 19 per cent; most of these come about from the efforts of non-residents to violate one of the Ten Commandments. Suburbia gradually takes on some of the offensive social fragrance of large cities.

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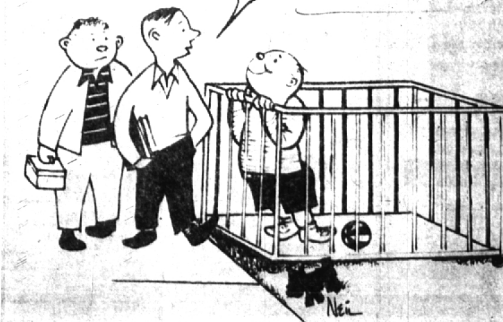
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GEORGE R. AVERILL, Editor and Publisher  
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## Suburban Sidelights by Neil The Grass Is Always Greener

WOULDN'T IT BE GREAT TO BE HIS AGE AND KNOW WHAT HE KNOW NOW!



NATURE NOW by Lydia King Frehse  
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

## Black Willow -- Sprawling Giant

Any one of you who is interested in the current naturalists' project of finding Michigan's largest tree would do well to help himself and his tape measure to Rochester and environs.

Here, along with the ancient oaks and maples, grow the black willows which may not take the prize but which are conspicuous in spring time because of their early greening habit.

That the willow has been with us for a long time is attested by its fossil remains. It was present ninety-five to one hundred million years ago in such widely separated localities as Greenland and Maryland. Even today the willow venture farther north than any other of our hardwoods. In the Arctic some of the species grow only an inch tall to become the tallest trees known.

The black willow (Salix nigra) is the only native Michigan willow with any timber possibilities. Cecil Billington lists 24 species of this family which are of shrubby proportions, most of them difficult to identify. The weeping willow which makes so graceful a point of interest on lawns and parks was introduced from Asia and Europe as an ornamental.

No tree is easier to identify than the black willow. Characteristics are the branching habit of its trunk, its deeply furrowed bark, its unusually large, serrated leaves, its long, narrow and pointed catkins.

Because the "pussy" willow (Salix discolor) is low growing and its male catkins are usually large it is frequently forced for early spring bouquets. If one

willow bark contains tannin and from it the early settlers made a bitter substitute for quinine. The twigs furnish food for rabbits, beaver, deer and moose and the buds are eaten by some twenty species of birds.

On lazy summer afternoons it made a cool and enchanting hour where we fished away the hours, thus creating many a humdrum chore. And there, when the frosty air was pungent with drying corn, we sat back to enjoy the sun's end while the pale yellow leaves fell and floated away.

Two Girl Scout troops are organized today at the Adams school. Previous troops have been forced to disband for lack of leadership, as well as an organization of Campfire Girls, leaving Birmingham girls with practically no organizations of this type.

A newcomer in Birmingham politics "clicked" with the voters, and as a result, Howard R. Estes, West Maple avenue merchant, will take his place next Monday night on the City Commission. William E. Moody and Ray A. Palmer were returned to office.

Arrangements with two builders have been made to erect 15 houses on Cole and Webster streets, in the southeast section of Birmingham. The houses, to be known as "Victory Homes," will complete with lot for under \$5,000 each.

The Kruger store on West Maple has closed. It will be a couple of weeks before the new market on North Woodward is open to the public.

A community banquet for 400 persons, the evening of May 9, will be the outstanding event in the celebration next month of the one hundredth anniversary of the founding of the First Methodist church of Birmingham.

"The golf bug, one of the most dangerous of spring insects, is doing his stuff again. The warm weather has brought him out of his cocoon and he is stinging all his old victims and a few new ones besides."

## ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

During the past 52 weeks, Birmingham's seven city commissioners compiled a total of 41 absences from their regular Monday night meetings. As a commission, this is five more than during 1955-56.

As individual commissioners, here is their record from April 4, 1956, through April 1, 1957: ex-mayor and commissioner James Allen, 3 absences; Carl Ingraham and William Roberts, 4 each; Florence Willet, 5; Charles Renfrew, 7; and Harry Denney and ex-commissioner Manley Bailey, 9 each.

We find our own ambitions so slow to be realized, that we must train our children to continue in our footsteps.

When you get your 1957 Birmingham winter tax bill next December, you should notice that it has been restyled. Birmingham city commissioners want their taxpayers to note clearly what taxes

are collected in December. State law requires city and township treasurers to receive school and county taxes, then relay the monies to the spending unit.

No schooling gets the city or township officials' temper up faster than having their residents believe it is the city or township which also is levying these second billings.

Perhaps believing that it may be their own fault after all, Birmingham commissioners are trying to make the December school and county tax bills sufficiently different from the city tax bill.

Dearborn, by the way, has had this problem. City officials there have gone so far as to print the county and board of education's names and phone numbers on the school tax bill, and taxpayers are advised to call them if there is any question!

Listening to a good Sunday sermon sure is a faith-fixer.

**LEGAL NOTICES**

Forbes S. Hascall, Atty., 124 S. Woodward Ave., Birmingham No. 42099

**STATE OF MICHIGAN**—In the Probate Court for the County of Oakland. In the Matter of the Estate of THOMAS L. LUSCOMBE, Deceased.

At a session of said Court, held at the Court House in the City of Pontiac, on said County, on the 27th day of March, A. D. 1957.

Present, Honorable Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate.

Edith Todd, administratrix of said estate, having filed in said Court a petition praying for the examination and allowance thereof, determination of the heirs of said deceased, and the discharge of said administratrix, with Will annexed. It is Ordered, that the 29th day of February, A. D. 1957, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, at said Probate Court in the County of Oakland, in the City of Pontiac, Michigan, be and is hereby appointed as the time and place for hearing and determining said petition.

It is further Ordered that notice be given to all interested parties as shown in the records in this cause by delivering a copy of this order to each of them personally, or by mailing such copy to each of them by registered mail with return receipt demanded and addressed to their respective last known addresses as shown by the files and records in this cause.

And it is further Ordered that public notice thereof be given by publication of a copy of this order once each week for three successive weeks, previous to said day of hearing in the Birmingham Eccentric, a newspaper printed and circulated in said county.

ARTHUR E. MOORE, Judge of Probate. (L.S.-6)

Forbes S. Hascall, Atty., 124 S. Woodward Ave., Birmingham No. 42112

**STATE OF MICHIGAN**—The Probate Court for the County of Oakland. At a session of said Court, held at the Probate Office, in the City of Pontiac in said County, on the 27th day of March, 1957.

Present, Honorable Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate.

In the Matter of the Estate of JOSEPH M. LUSCOMBE, Deceased.

Edith Todd, administratrix of said estate, having filed in said Court a petition, praying for income to be set aside for the benefit of said estate in certain real estate therein described.

It is further Ordered that notice be given to all interested parties as shown in the records in this cause by delivering a copy of this order to each of them personally, or by mailing such copy to each of them by registered mail with return receipt demanded and addressed to their respective last known addresses as shown by the files and records in this cause.

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ARTHUR E. MOORE, Judge of Probate. (L.S.-6)

Britain plans to reduce its total armed forces by 8 per cent (65,000 men). The number left would be 804,500.

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