

Gare Gets Deserved Promotion

Appointment of L. Richard Gare, for the past eight years head of Birmingham's engineering department, to the top office of city manager is, we think, a logical move.

He is 54 years of age, owns his own home here, admits to "being in love with Birmingham", and has spent most of his working life in municipal activities.

A graduate of the University of Michigan, he possesses a background of academic training to balance his practical experi-

ence. Known to most of his friends and acquaintances as "Dick", he is a man of strong personal convictions, though very tolerant of the ideas and opinions of others.

He is liked by others in the city government. He ought to perform quite acceptably in his new role.

Along with many others, we certainly wish him a full measure of vocational success . . . plus enough joy and happiness to tide him over whatever rough spots he may encounter on his official highway.

All Not Fun for Beauty Queens

The pages of our newspapers are filled with the pictures of the various beauty queens, beauty contestants, Miss So-and-So, etc., these days.

However, it should be remembered that exterior beauty is only one of the desirable assets. It is always nice when a girl or woman has a nice face or a good figure, but the real quality of the individual is not measured by a face or figure.

Her quality is measured in terms of unselfishness, integrity, sincerity, kindness and all the things which go to make a good citizen.

We can easily overstress the importance of good looks, or chesecake, in our fight toward worship of the human body.

WE ADMIRE THE STATUE OF VENUS and the beautiful figures of women from that time on as much as anyone, but we have also seen where good looks and great attraction actually proved harmful.

The favors, attention, hurrah and bally-

hood which surround our beauty contestants these days is sometimes enough to produce a false outlook on life.

There are a number of beautiful girls who do not wish to engage in beauty contests, or whose parents would not have them do so, for this very reason.

IT TAKES AN EXCEPTIONAL girl to be elected Miss America, for example, and make the rounds for a year in glamorous and high-powered fashion, and not succumb to the temptation to turn into a cosmopolitan belle, or a high-pressure materialist, so to speak.

Therefore, to all those who do not try, and to those who could not win them if they did try, we say it might be just as well.

The nervous strain, mental stress and various tensions and temptations which surround this blossoming competition are often a heavy price to pay.

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

What will the feature writers in England do for copy when Princess Margaret really gets married?

Ty Cobb, among top greats of baseball, recently revealed that he has set up a million-dollar trust fund to help worthy Georgia boys and girls go through college. That, perhaps, is the best "hit" ever made by the former Tiger star.

A San Diego, Calif., miss came to school with a pink dress and her former blonde hair dyed pink. She was sent home until the pink is become vanished. That school man believes the American classroom is no place for pinkies.

Some day some group of educators is going to agree on how to get more educational return from the public investment in school plants. It does seem illogical to close the schools from 12 to 14 weeks per year, when such a need for classrooms exists.

Compulsory automobile insurance on all cars licensed in Michigan is sought by Secretary of State James M. Hare and many other traffic experts. Personally, we believe that those who destroy property or injure human beings should be made responsible for their acts. This is required when persons are not in motor cars, so why not include the car driver?

A 71-year-old Tennessee chap reveals that he lives for an average cost of 15 cents a day . . . but he admitted two things: that no married man can do it, and that if society in general tried to do it, society "would go kero-tseeo." Indeed, Sir, society in general can go in that direction while living on much, much more than 15 cents a day!

Billy Graham, the noted evangelist, recently informed his New York City audience that the end of the world is in sight. He declared that there is too much sex and related sin among human beings for the human family to enjoy Divinely created life and living on this sphere. Anyhow, somebody is bound to be around when the end comes, Billy.

Secretary of State Dulles finally had to fly to England to discuss the problem of reduction of armaments with other national leaders—since Harold Stassen apparently was unable to achieve success on that assignment. Harold still wants to live in the White House. Imagine what a mess this "stuffy" gent would bring about, were he the nation's Chief Executive.

Southern U.S. Senators, aided by some from the north, have defeated Ike's bill to outlaw jury trials in the administration's proposed Civil Rights Bill. Thus the southerners have won a current victory for their philosophy of "evolution, rather than revolution", in the treatment of southern Negroes. But another session of Congress can change the situation, of course. Those southern Congressmen certainly are adept at parliamentary procedures.

We have just learned that some people, mainly persons engaged in amateur and professional athletics, take "pep-up" pills for stimulation. Medical experts oppose, strongly, the use of this stuff, holding it is both physically and mentally very harmful and dangerous. The stuff bears the name "amphetamines." An effect of the stuff is to make its users very brave, artificially courageous, even to the point of inflicting criminal offenses upon others. Like you, we have known that the use of stimulants is forbidden on race horses . . . it ought to be for humans, too.

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NATURE NOW

Water of the Nile Lifblood of Egypt

Egypt is the Nile. From its source to its sprawling delta its fertilizing waters have spelled-out one of the oldest cultures of the world. The rich black earth, the tender green shoot, the peasant or the fish—these are the trinity of its life. It is the Nile, and always—the water; without it Egypt is an empty desert of sun and sand and barren rock.

IT IS MORNING. Our caravan of cars has left Cairo to follow the valley of the Kings to the ruins of the ancient city of Mena (Memphis) which in 3500 B.C. was the first capital of the United Kingdoms of the north and south.

A ready roads are filled with people going to the villages on foot, riding in their burros or their small two-wheeled wagons to sell their fruits and vegetables to the towns. Along the wide valleys, the small and well-tended fields are lush and green. Every foot is thickly planted with corn, cotton and wheat, with melon, cucumber, onion, okra and squash.

HEAVY CLUSTERS of fruit ripen overhead on the date palms. Every canal and ditch carries life-giving water. Farming methods vary from the most primitive to the most modern.

In this particular valley we saw water buffalo pulling ancient plows and wheat being trampled and winnowed by the wind as it blows in 4000 B.C.

The fellah and his family live their lives to the rhythm of the river and the sun. His adobe house of dried mud is in the village which has lived for thousands of years. He eats very little meat but his diet of fresh vegetables, sun-dried figs and dates, and a small amount of fish, is very healthy.

AT NOONTIME, we passed long files of his women and children following him to the fields. Here under a tree by the dusty roadside we saw the mother make a small

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
August 16, 1907
"No one can kick on the weather not being hot enough, at least right now; still by the time this appears, snow may be a foot deep. The weather can never surprise us any more."

"If the parties who have been making a practice of turning on the gas of the street lights, after they have been extinguished for the night, does not stop the practice, they will be prosecuted and punished to the fullest extent of the law. Fun is one thing, but this trick is a big damage to the company."

15 YEARS AGO
August 13, 1942
"Well folks, this edition of The Eccentric really will be a sort of father & son affair. Taking the place of vacationing managing editor John H. Harwood last week and this is G. E. A., (ably aided by Miss Kay Umphrey) on the news desk; handling advertising for vacationing (and new Papa) Harold P. Buerge, is son George Wm. (Bill) Averill. Bill has been, for the past four months, advertising manager of the Cadillac Evening News, but came home Thursday of last week, and next day was accepted into the U. S. Army, with two weeks to remain at home before going to Camp Custer."

30 YEARS AGO
August 18, 1927
"Village Manager James W. Parry today is making arrangements to be placed on Woodward avenue within three weeks. The village commission, in approving the purchase of the lights for a total of \$12,000, deemed they had become an absolute necessity because of the constantly increasing traffic. One will be placed at Lincoln one at Oakland and one at Brown

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

Birmingham Recreation Director Bob Girardin was making an early summer inspection tour of the outdoor playground program.

At one field, he asked if any of the youngsters could define the word "recreation".

Only one six-year-old, from the middle of the group, responded.

"Yes, sir," he answered, "I think I know what it is—it is something my mommy doesn't have to tell me to do!"

John O'Hara, of 10 NORTH FREDERICK fame, has a new novel in the making. It's to be called FROM THE TERRACE, will be completed sometime next year.

When it hits the Detroit book stores, there's going to be a race between the police censor and the public to see what O'Hara's got this time.

Jean Day, one of The Eccentric's special correspondents, wonders why Birmingham Postmaster Rollie Reese doesn't put out two more of those nice drop boxes for the public to use.

There's one in front of the post office, and another near the back door on Bates street," Mrs. Day comments. "But only southbound or westbound motorists can use them. It would be so handy for eastbound or northbound drivers in a third drop-box were in front of the public library, and a fourth on the east side of Bates street."

Seems like a good suggestion. Maybe Postmaster Reese will think so, too.

After the Civil War had ended, the great Southern general, Robert E. Lee,

became the president of a college at \$15,000 a year.

This was after he had been approached by an insurance company representative who offered him \$50,000. Lee allowed that while he had to make a living, he didn't think his services were worth that much salary. "Oh, we don't want your services," the man interrupted. "We want your name."

"That", Lee said quietly, "is not for sale."

Some years back, Birmingham's city commission wouldn't think of seeking federal matching funds for some local project.

If a city official hinted at such procedure, the commissioners would affirm in no uncertain words that Birmingham would be better off without the item if the federal government were to share in any of the financing. "If we can't afford it by ourselves, we don't need it or can do without it!" was their rallying cry. Several elections later, the commission had some new members. When purchase of a mobile generator was considered for an emergency power supply for the city's water wells, the commission wavered, finally agreed to let the civil defense administration provide half the funds. Now a training tower is being considered for the Adams fire station. The commission this time did not hesitate. Federal funds were welcome. Only hitch this time may be if the civil defense department wants to let other municipalities use the tower at times or in numbers which would disturb the residential neighborhood.

New commissioners, different commission, changed attitudes.

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