Why Play into Soviet's Hands?

Patrick Henry said during an outstanding crisis that: "The question before the House is one of awful moment to the country."

Moscow's spying gangsters in the United States are a matter of "awful moment" to the people.

Russia is in no hurry, but to us time is essential.

The chances are that there will be no shooting war. Russia knows that in this event life would be extinguished and no nation nor peoples left to be communized.

BUT CHINA AND THE KREMLIN believe that a cold war over a period of about 25 years will wipe out the value of our money. The atomic bomb is not so much to be feared as the slow attrition of our Constitutional Free Enterprise System!

Why do we continue diplomatic relations with Moscow and her captive countries? This weakens our moral position all over the world. Why drink with the Red Russians and not with the Red Chinese?

A nation with spies, posing as Diplomats at our Capital, should not be invited to our diplomatic teas. They continue to plot iniquitous deals to destroy our institutions while drinking our wine!

We must realize Communism is a merciless force that is used to destroy the principles of our Republic.

The League of Nations expelled Russia for much less than the Reds are doing now.

Recognition of the Reds is no longer consistent, nor supportable, with our nation's self-respect, we think.

Can Win Against Inflation

Thrifty people still struggle to save for old age and rainy days, and then helplessly watch their savings melt away.

They put their painfully gathered little nest eggs in Government Bonds, insurance, savings banks and loan associations.

Then what?

The First National City Bank of New York has pointed out that since 1946 the dollar has melted away at an average annual compounded rate of 3.4%.

THAT IS MORE THAN government bonds pay. And only recently have some savings banks paid 3%.

These nest eggs, large and small, lose value faster than they gain value from interest. In addition, or rather subtraction, Uncle taxes away from you at least 20% of your interest, even on what Uncle owes you.

That is the stacked hand you are playing against.

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

U.S. Supreme Court's Felix Frankfurter is reported, at age 75, "to be going strong" . . . suggesting that the Justice knows how to take care of his health. He was appointed by FDR, and inaugurated many of the New Deal's ideas. But now he is considered very conservative, quite practical in his application of profound thought to the Court's decisions. In other words: it's been a long mental jump from the Harvard classrooms where he taught to the quiet precincts of the nation's highest court.

If the present U.S. Congress, together with the Eisenhower administration, possesses real courage, the right of union labor to monopoly will be made illegal. Wisely, such limitation long ago was placed upon American business. Labor at that time was not included because unionism was not as well established as it now is. Far-seeing, practical labor leaders realize that uncontrolled monopoly is an evil condition in a democracy. Average citizens, too, have a considerable stake in this problem. They should let their Senators and Representatives know how citizens feel on this subject.

West Germany's ability to re-build its economy to a high point of solvency, attended by Europe's current highest standard of living, is no mere accident. The recent victory of the Adenauer Government proves that most Germans believe in the free, private competitive system. Right next door is poor, weakened France, over-run with Communists and Socialists . . . proof that these shoddy systems do not provide human beings with good living standards.

A U.S. nuclear-powered submarine, the Nautilus, has recently travelled 1,000 miles beneath the polar ice pack. Required five and a half days. Came within 180 miles of North Pole. Acquired much valuable military data, plus what bottom of ice pack looks like and how it behaves. Reminds one of his youthful reading of Jules Vernes' "20,000 Leagues Under The Sea."

FOR THE BIRMINGHAM AREA'S BETTERMENT, THE ECCENTRIC URGES:

- Construct Big Evergreen Interceptor Sewage Outlet for Entire Area
- Make 14 Mile and 16 Mile Roads Improved Trunkline Arteries
- Complete the Landscaping of B'ham's Civic Center Park
- Improvement of Birmingham's Parks and Recreation Facilities
- Development of Necessary Offstreet Parking to Accommodate Shopping Public
- Continuation of Best Possible Types of Area's Subdivision Growth
- Lowest Possible Tax Rate Consistent with Municipal and School Needs
- More Streets Permanently Improved
- Cleaner Birmingham Streets

Non-Partisan Local Government

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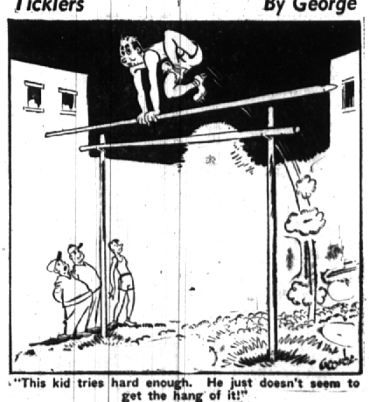
GEORGE R. AVERILL
Editor and Publisher

PAUL NEAL AVERILL
Business Manager

GEORGE WM. AVERILL
Managing Editor

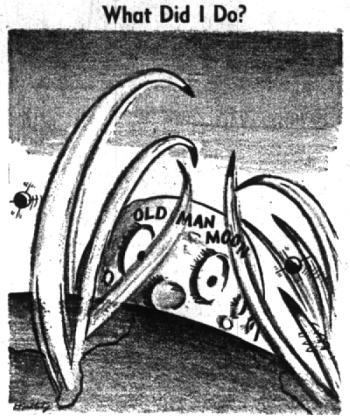
GERALD E. JEHLE
Advertising Manager

Ticklers — **By George**



"This kid tries hard enough. He just doesn't seem to get the hang of it!"

What Did I Do?



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

The Beaver— Animal Engineer

One of Michigan's interesting and valuable mammals is the beaver. He has figured largely in the history of our state for it was he who lured the French trapper to the upper Great Lakes, thus opening the country to settlement and to the founding of fortunes in fur.

As far back as 1798 the beaver was the chief concern of the pioneer trader. He had little care for any other pelt. During this time it was not unusual to take as many as 100,000 per year. The Indians knew little of the value of the fur and readily exchanged it for any trinket that struck their fancy.

AT THAT TIME the beaver was widely dispersed over the state. Now he settles in our northern marshes and lakes. He still produces an approximate 17,500 pelts for the trapper with a value of more than 280,000 dollars. But the beaver hat, once a symbol of pride and affluence, is no more.

Mrs. Frehse

By 1920 it was found necessary to impose a closed season on beaver trapping in Michigan. However by 1934 the species had again reestablished itself so that a regulated open season is now allowed.

The beaver is the largest rodent in North America. An adult weighs from 40-70 pounds and may reach the 100 pound mark. He is a prodigious worker, cutting trees and carrying materials to build the dam which is his home.

IN MANY INSTANCES highways were damaged as were timber and farm crops due to the floods caused by his interference with the natural flow of waters.

The Conservation Department now has a program of live trapping by means of which they transport the animals to areas where there is less likelihood of their doing serious damage.

The beaver is not an attractive animal. He has the usual four strong incisors which continue to grow as they are used. His mouth is so constructed that he can gnaw under water. His eyes and ears are small but his hearing is keen. When he dives, valves keep both nostrils and ears free of water.

THE FORE-FEET are armed with strong claws and can be used almost with the dexterity of hands, manipulating the sticks, stones and mud which he uses to build his dam. The hind feet are webbed for swimming, making him awkward on land.

The tail is scaly and flat and is used chiefly as a rudder and a powerful propeller. When cutting trees it is also used as a prop. When diving he often brings it down with a resounding "whack" as a warning to all intruders.

Beavers live in colonies. In late spring an average of four young are born in the dry chamber of the house. They are able to swim at once but usually remain together as a family for two winters. The number in a colony may vary up to twelve animals.

THE BARK AND TWIGS of aspen compose a favorite vegetarian diet. It is estimated that each beaver "chews-down" from 200-300 trees a year. Some of these are sunk under the lodge to provide winter food when ice prevents foraging.

In the end it is the close underfur of the beaver that makes him the valuable animal which he is. Few pelts can compare with his for both fineness and softness.

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
December 13, 1907

"And now it's just 12 days to Christmas. Do your shopping early and avoid the rush. We all have so much money that we will not have time to spend it all if everybody should wait until the last few days."

"For sale. J. F. Rundel offers for sale about 100 bushels of two-rowed seed barley, at $1.90 per 100 pounds at his barn in Birmingham. A bargain to all wishing the best seed barley."

"Speaking of collecting pennies by the yard, here is a chance for an extra speculation. Any one having a cent—a bronze penny dated 1872 can get five cents for it and of you have one of the date of 1877 you can get ten cents each by calling on John N. Heth, numismatic collector of this village."

30 YEARS AGO
December 15, 1927

"A contract is in effect between the village and Ray E. Walker for the disposition of rubbish from Birmingham on a dumping ground four miles east of here. The payment is at the rate of $250.00 a year and the contract is valid for three months. The commission here approved the contract Monday."

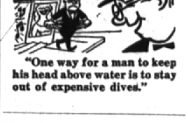
"The duties of those unfortunates who work in a newspaper office are extensive. Persons come in with all kinds of requests. Our semi-annual prize, however, was awarded last week to a man who tried to procure a marriage license from the hierarchy of the classified ad department."

15 YEARS AGO
December 10, 1942

"Dress designers have been told to save materials by cutting out frills and odd sizes. However, "Bathing suit designer Mrs. Caroline Schnurer says that 'bathing suits are pretty scant already. I don't see how we can skimp on them much more without causing a lot of trouble,' says a news story from New York."

"Gas rationing brings its oddities. Tuesday night a high school boy wondered how much gasoline lay in the tank of his car and he lit his cigaret lighter and peered down the pipe. The vapor caught fire but he was able to merely blow it out. That stuff used to explode in the good old days."

"Many of you saw the front page of the Free Press Monday—the one on which the same page of a year ago was reproduced. A friend, Mrs. V., picked up the paper and was greatly shocked to read that Hawaii had been bombed. She was distressed for hours about it until she put on her reading glasses and found out the date was Dec. 7, 1941."



"One way for a man to keep his head above water is to stay out of expensive dives."

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER *By George Wm. Averill*

The current running word battle between State Supreme Court Justice Eugene Black and the Wayne county circuit court bench has aroused much interest.

Judge Black contends that six-week summer vacations, days off in the winter, and short work days should not be part of the Wayne bench's routine. He points to the backlog of court cases as part of the resulting situation.

Championed by former benchmate George Edwards who now sits alongside Black on the high court, the Wayne judges decry Black's charges. The defendants point to the progress they've made in reducing the backlog.

What puzzles me about this ruckus is:

IF SIX-WEEK SUMMER vacations, short work days, a winter vacation, plus $15 to $20,000 salary is a customary and accepted part of a judge's job, then why don't we have more judges so the backlog of cases is eliminated?

On the other hand, if such job conditions are not part of a judgeship, then why does not the bar association see about speeding up or replacing the judges who don't carry their share of the work?

That we are better today than we were several years ago does not solve our problems. It only indicates we have made some progress toward their solutions.

American men, they say, never know what to do with themselves when they retire from business.

As one of them put it: "I get up early, read the obituary column, and if my name isn't there, I go back to bed."

With pleasure I report that my copy of Birmingham high school's semi-monthly publication, The Highlander, once more is arriving with dispatch. What has been a week's trip from printing press to editor's desk apparently has been cut to two days, one of which was a holiday, a non-work day for our mail carriers.

The Nov. 27 Highlander was on my desk first mail Nov. 29, the day after Thanksgiving.

No one could expect better service than that!

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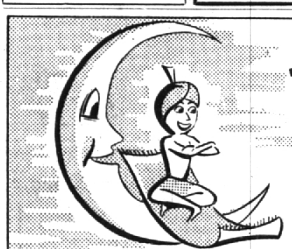

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