

'Equal Rights' No Guarantee of Equal Talent

Are you a Libertarian?
A Libertarian is a person who has the common sense to conserve all good things while doing away with worn-out things. He doesn't toss everything on the scrap heap. He wants to preserve freedom and limited government. He thinks these should be kept. Hence he is a Conservative.

Let's state it this way. All trees in the forest have equal rights, but they don't grow to equal heights! It would be foolish to cut the tall trees down to the size of the small trees. If so, where are the big timbers for big jobs?

IT IS EQUALLY FOOLISH that "big business" should be reduced to "little business." Nature cannot lift up small trees and make them as high as big trees. Neither can man. Let both small and big grow from their own roots to the size nature intends for each.

Equally, therefore, cannot mean that everybody should be the same size. It means the opportunity for all to rise to the heights their capacity and venture-some spirit entitle them.

All people should have the equal right to grow to unequal size. They you have Big League and Minor League baseball—and business. Our people should be free to solve their own problems within their Constitutional limitations.

TO BE SURE, when "Big Business" acquires the stature of a monopoly, it necessarily should be cut down to legitimate size. There are laws on the books to accomplish this.

There is, however, a difference between so-called "Big Business" and monopoly. Wise leaders, in whatever activity they are engaged, are wise to recognize this difference.

If our boasted "free enterprise system" is to remain a heritage for the future, only wise statesmanship will keep it so. To do so, the raucous voice of the quack and the demagogue should have no weight in the deliberations of those who make our laws.

Labor & Industry Should Fight Tax Inequities

Industry and organized labor seem to take an attitude in common toward the federal income tax as now constituted—they both regard it as discriminatory and unfair.

Speakers at the recent National Tax Association Convention included a tax attorney giving the viewpoints of the National Association of Manufacturers and the chief researcher of the AFL-CIO. Both attacked the income tax in forthright terms.

As was to be expected, their particular criticisms varied materially in nature. However, the Wall Street Journal reports, "Despite their divergent approach to the question, both speakers found common ground in their concern over the middle income taxpayer."

THERE IS EVERY REASON for this concern. We have long since passed the

point where the income tax was of real importance only to the well-to-do. Now the surtaxes start at so low an income level, and progress so swiftly, that the people of moderate means as well as large find it virtually confiscatory. The lower-income groups are hit hard too. The minimum tax, on only \$2,000 of taxable income is 20 per cent and the surtax starts immediately thereafter.

It is widely said that the present world crisis will lead to even greater military spending by this country, and has destroyed whatever chance there was for income tax reductions in 1957. That may very well be true.

But we also need, just as we need ultimate tax reduction, an overhaul of the whole chaotic tax system with its over-lappings and other inequities. The country would be well served by a united drive by labor and industry—whatever their differences over detail—to accomplish this.



NATURE NOW By Lydia King Fréhe
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Birds Must Adapt To City's Ways

It is interesting to note that many of our resident city birds, including the English sparrow and the starling, are species introduced from Europe.

Here crowded living conditions had long since necessitated their greater tolerance of man and his ways. City birds must be hardy, clever and adaptable. They must be able to endure dirt, noise, glare and the destructive hazards of a mechanized world. Their food and shelter, their play and nesting habits must dovetail with those of man.

Insect fare and grain are limited. Frequently the nestings-know only the bareness of roof or crowded gutter. Pressing cats and dogs, traps, poison and guns; all these are constant threats.

IT WAS IN BROOKLYN in 1850 that one Eugene Schieffelin opened a cage of English or "house" sparrows in the hope that they would destroy harmful insects. Not soon the birds themselves earned the reputation of pests.

However, man's protests against their intrusion were lost in the tremendous fecundity of mamma sparrow, who can often be seen with a mouth full of straw as early as February, and who crowds four or five broods into a single season. The descendants of these immigrants have spread in an amazing fashion until today they have reached their living limits in most of the United States and Canada.

The English sparrow belongs to an Old World family of weaver finches, but bears a superficial resemblance to our true sparrows. His untidy feather-lined nest is placed in any available niche.

HIS EQUALLY UNTIDY personal habits and uncourteous manner have not endeared him to either the city or country dweller. Since horse droppings have almost vanished from our streets, he has made a noticeable exodus to rural areas where grains, seeds and in-

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

Did you sense that the Birmingham area this Yule season was more gaily decorated on the outside than in any previous year? From eastside Birmingham to westside Bloomfield Village, from northside Bloomfield township to southside Beverly Hills, more gay colored lights seemed to have appeared. Let's have even more next year!

About the only thing some folks have saved for a rainy day is an umbrella.

An American tourist, returning from a trip to Europe, had several bottles of expensive perfume so customs officials wouldn't find them.

Her baggage withstood the inspection up to the last case, which the official was about to approve without opening it.

Then the tourist's small daughter said disappointingly, "He was getting so warm, wasn't he?"

Today's fashions are verging on the indecent, claim some girls. Unheard from are those with good figures.

America's noted historian, Dr. Charles A. Beard, once was asked if he could summarize history's lessons in a short book. Dr. Beard said he could do much better than that, that it would take nothing

more than these four sentences:
1) Whom the gods would destroy, they first make mad with power.
2) The mills of the gods grind slowly, yet they grind exceedingly small.
3) The hen fertilizes the flower it robs.
4) When it is dark enough, you can see the stars.

In a dictatorship, the government lets you make a little money; in a democracy, the government lets you keep a little of it.

The kind of news (?) item reporting that has made famous such reporters as Walter Winchell and Dorothy Kilgallen has little interest for me. Maybe it's because I don't care who's gonna divorce whom, or why whatevs wears his spats over his kneecaps.

Except around election times. After listening to so many misrepresentations and impossible promises from candidates, even Walter and Dorothy look good. After all, they do use some facts—however trivial.

Most housewives complain they never have enough time to get the housework done. They might try finding out how it's done from those women who attend so many of those radio and television shows.

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From The Eccentric's Point of View...

First it was Ecorse, then Livonia, something in Macomb county, and the latest comes from Flint. Strange, isn't it, that some people, both in and out of public office, fail to realize that when they keep on breaking the law they eventually will be found out! Plenty of tares among the fields of wheat, as of yore.

California's senior U.S. Senator reveals his intention not to run for re-election in 1958. Asked whether or not he has his eyes on his state's governorship, then maybe the White House in 1960, he smiles and replies that "I only want to spend more time with my family and my newspaper business in Oakland." Our own prediction is that he is not in complete sympathy with Ike's policies, knows that if Nixon succeeds like the nation will continue to drift into more of the Welfare State. Knowland is a conservative Republican, not Ike's "modern" type. So maybe the Golden State will offer two candidates at the 1959 Republican national convention for the Big Chair in the home at 2000 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D.C.

Washington, D.C.'s National Zoo recently acquired a very, very rare Cowbird, whose habitat is South America. This feathered animal will be fed... honestly, we don't know what. From its name, though, maybe it sought and ate little ticks that infest various animals. Well, there's plenty tickling in our nation's capital... so the Cowbird ought to eat well.

More often than not a man who whistles at a girl soon finds that she has arranged for the sounding of wedding bells!

Modern military airplanes cost plenty of money. As we have said before, when you see one of those big ones (some cost as much as eight million) just imagine in its stead several fine school houses... and then realize that the development of good educational standards, in good buildings, plus the ethical and moral teachings found elsewhere in our social order, will do much to civilize people—and thus allow people to exemplify those qualities that do not breed conditions that cause war.

So They Say...

Mary Joe Kennedy, job interviewer for large company:

"You may be beautiful, but unless you are friendly — ready with a smile — you may be admired but you'll have a hard time in really becoming part of a group."

Dr. E. V. Leichty, Michigan State University: English professor, defending slow-reader:

"Because good books not only record thought but also provoke it, justice can seldom be done them in a hurried reading, or even by a single careful reading."

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
January 18, 1907

"Two sports boys liked to have gotten into a serious mix-up with the law last week by carrying away the seat at Lone Pine, that stands just outside the gate there for people waiting for a car or for anyone else who wishes to rest. The smart boys carried the seat away and threw it over on the steam railway's land near John Benedict's. The next thing they threw was a chili when interviewed by Sheriff Groer."

munty chest from which all donations to charity would come."

Practical completion of the new McBride building at 126 south Woodward avenue, south of Maple avenue, today indicates the hardware company owned by J. H. McBride will occupy the building late this week.

15 YEARS AGO
January 15, 1942

"Birmingham's Third Annual Sports Day, sponsored by the Y.M.C.A. will be held Saturday, Jan. 24, at Quarton Lake... The Queen of the Ice, who reigns over the winter carnival, will be chosen today by all students of Baldwin High School."

"Franklyn Whittier, Baldwin High coach and physical education instructor, member of the 28 Army Reserve, scheduled to be called back by Feb. 1, enlisted Wednesday in the Army medical corps."

"Of much interest herewith is the engagement of William Way Merrill, director of the Will-O-Way Summer Theatre and son of Dr. and Mrs. William D. Merrill of West Long Lake road, Bloomfield Hills, to Martha Elizabeth Sutton."



The Old Timer
"Doing nothing is the most tiresome job in the world, because you can't quit and rest!"

The Birmingham Eccentric Ticklers By George

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