

A Long Tail from Long Lake

For two years residents adjacent to Lower Long Lake, in Bloomfield Township, were told by one family that a large alligator lived thereabouts.
"Incredible," they said.
But very soon the family declared one or more of its members saw the tropical reptile.
At last it was caught by two brothers who sat all night next to the lake, waiting for its appearance. It was four feet nine inches long and weighed 40 pounds, much less than its normal southern environment would have de-

veloped, or 70 pounds. How it managed to live, from pet stage, through at least several northern winters, is a mystery.

"Maybe it burrowed deeply into the lake's shore mud and hibernated," explained one expert on the subject.

Another added: "Well, ages ago Michigan was a tropical area of the earth's surface, and many warm water mammals lived hereabouts, playing with dinosaurs and other gigantic animals. Maybe this alligator had a long-delayed hatching-out experience from long ago."

Socialism Can Be Forced

Khrushchev tells us, on television, that our grandchildren will choose Socialism. He says it is the wave of the future. It will conquer the world through the superiority of its ideas, without war.

He is just as nutty as Karl Marx 100 years ago when he said that under private capitalism the workers must fall even deeper into poverty.

You know how much better off you are than your grandparents. Is there anything since 1776, up to this hour, that makes you think that our creative forces have lost their power for your grandchildren?

THE MONOLITHIC COMMUNIST PO-

lice can do some things as an army can. It can shoot all who do not carry out orders. It can divert production overnight to heavy industry, or consumer goods, or military hardware without consulting taxpayers, voters, or political parties. It can force all newspapers, radios, etc. to get behind any five-year plan it chooses. It cannot be turned out every two years by election.

It still has fatal weaknesses. One is that people don't like to be kicked around.

The proof is that no people have ever voted, voluntarily, without coercion and compulsion, for Communism. Our grandchildren won't, either!—we hope.

A Nation, Like A Tree, Can Rot

Money is tight. Business needs money to finance the buildings and equipment to provide more and better jobs.

Present high taxes are a slow poison. Like the unseen rot in the heart of a tree, it takes a long time for a tree—or a nation—to die. For this reason, people grow weary of essays on "America at the Cross Roads." On the surface, America still seems sound. But so did Great Britain only 45 short years ago when it was the Number One World Power. So did France.

Gentlemen of the Congress, if you look beneath the surface, you will see signs of internal rot in our own country. The malignant cells of excessive taxation are spreading.

EVERY TAX TELLS SOMEONE not to do something he would otherwise do, or do less of it. Every important business decision must consider the tax angle and either shift or reduce the tax burden, if possible.

These observations, we think, are worth your urgent reflection. Equally important is the control of the purse, which is slipping from your hands into the paws of a vast, invisible bureaucratic State.

The power to tax is the power to destroy. Excessive income taxation is destroying income, property, and retarding growth. This promotes Socialism.

Act now, Gentlemen, before the rot spreads further!

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

To using the sale of liquor and cigarettes to levy a tax in order to get monies to aid Michigan's public schools is evidence of the foolishness of public officialdom's economic thinking. After all, such a tax is obtained just from a segment of our population who use tobacco and liquor; yet the schools help all of us. Back in 1946 the Legislature used cigarette sales to finance the World War II soldier bonus. All of which proves the axiom that "taxes are where you can get 'em with the least amount of squawking."

Grand Trunk Railroad people here are doing their best to keep local children from walking or playing on or near the tracks. They report that frequently one, or more, children are in danger of being hurt, even fatally so, as trains come and go through Birmingham. The real and greatest preventive in this case is for parents to demand, by strict disciplinary methods, to keep their youngsters away from the tracks.

An 80-year-old Tennessee gentleman has built himself a rugged stone house, very large, in which he announces he will "live eternally". The chap is very religious, believes that all but 144,000 earth-beings will be destroyed—he to be among

the survivors. What a faith! A sort of modern Noah.

Secretary of State Dulles has declared that Red's administration will not appreciate this country sending goods for sale into the U.S. market, even though Britain wants us. To this statement, of course, includes U. S. opposition to letting Red China become a member of the United Nations. (It certainly will be a red-letter day if and when the U.S. position on this subject is changed.)

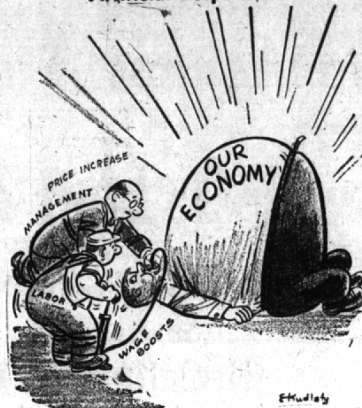
So They Say...

Those who sow the seeds of war apparently overlook the fact that the only bumper crop they can expect is one of widow's weeds.—Los Angeles Times.

Why is it that when many a modern novelist seeks "atmosphere" for a book, he invariably finds something that smells?—Bristol Herald-Courier.

The cost of everything, almost, has risen markedly in recent years, and the cost of making history probably heads the list.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Artificial Respiration



NATURE NOW

BY LYDIA KING FREHSE

Special Writer for The Birmingham Economic

Finds Copenhagen Fascinating City

COPENHAGEN, DENMARK—In a short fifty minutes we flew across the west arm of the Baltic Sea from Copenhagen to Hamburg, leaving behind many exciting experiences.

Copenhagen is a fascinating city of a million and a quarter people. Here the old stone brick buildings with their red tile roofs vie with modern apartments and business offices.

WE FELT at home when we passed the new General Motors factory. But the farmer and the villager still live in the old stone and timbered houses with their thatched roofs, the latter made from rushes and overgrown with mosses and lichens.

The Danes are friendly, hospitable and generous. They exude a freedom of body and mind which is contagious, whether you see them riding their bicycles through the lanes or the city traffic. This is a means of locomotion. Of the automobiles one sees, many more are of our own make than we found in England.

The sea breaks through the entire history of the Danes from the days of the raiding Vikings to the peaceful ways of today. One senses among the people a kind of inner cohesiveness evolved out of thousands of years of national violence. It is a culture, which has produced many a great figure in art and science and in commerce and industry.

DENMARK has only the soil and the sea. It has no fuel or oil and no metals. There is only sand for cement, clay for porcelain and earthenware and past bogs which furnish a poor substitute for coal.

It has less than one fourth as much land per person as has the United States. Yet due to voluntary cooperation among the farmers, the development of agriculture is without parallel. In exchange for the butter, bacon, eggs, cheese and meat which are exported, they are able to buy food, feed and fertilizer.

Although the soil is somewhat less fertile than in England, Denmark has a lush flora with a wealth of bloom in city and village. A wide variety of broadleaf trees line the streets and parkways.

THERE ARE three lovely lakes within Copenhagen. On the shore of one of these, tourists gather to admire the famous statue, "The Little Mermaid," from Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tale.

The sculptor, Edward Ericson, has immortalized her at that moment when she is "almost" human. Rosenborg, the Rose castle, was for many centuries the home of Denmark's kings. Built by King Christian IV in the rich and ornate style of the Renaissance, it is a great storehouse of royal portraits, souvenirs and treasures of the past.

Here Queen Astrid comes on high occasions to wear for a night the priceless sapphires, pearls and diamonds, which comprise the crown jewels and which we viewed through a strong glass case.

ELEGANT Fredensborg castle with its incomparable gardens is still used by the royal family during the summer months. It was here that Queen Elizabeth rested while on her recent visit to Denmark.

At Fredrikborg castle, which is now a national museum, the Re-

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

One of the nation's youngest major advertising agency presidents, Ernie Jones of MacManus, John & Adams (Bloomfield Hills) speaks from experience in a piece in the current copy of Art Direction magazine.

In one place, Jones comments: "So great is the demand for talent today that—if you have it—you will be sought out even should you select the bottom of a Colorado copper mine as the base of operations."

University of Michigan classes may be likened by some to copper mines but that's where MJA Director WAF John found Jones before the latter's graduation in 1938.

Only thing worse than a bad decision is indecision.

During the month of July, the nation is observing National Hot Dog Month.

This is most fitting and proper, seeing how the hot dog has won such a place of honor on many families' weekly menus in these days of \$1-a-pound steaks and chops.

The hot dog industry figures we'll each eat about 60 of the pups per capita this year. And that's only little better than one a week!

WHAT WE'RE EATING TODAY has changed little from the original wiener produced in Germany 400 years ago by some Frankfurt burger.

About 90 per cent of those sold today are skinless. They are made this way: From a stainless steel tube, the meat is forced into a cellulose casing which may be as long as 55 feet. Then it goes to a linking machine where individual

sausage lives again in a wealth of treasured canvas, tapestry and marble.

The Danish countryside is gently rolling with well-tended fields. It was harvest time. Pretty girls were selling strawberries and the cherries were ripening. As we drove northward, the noonday sun dappled the shady beech forests which grow taller than any these eyes have ever seen.

THERE WERE restricted areas of spruce and many enormous white oaks. Blue flag, red poppies, Bachelor buttons and great tall elderberry bushes, bloomed in profusion along the highways.

But it was at Kilstrom on the bleak northeast coast at the ancient fortress castle of Kronborg that the pages of the Middle Ages unfolded in the mind's eye. Knights and warriors rode again over moat and drawbridge through the massive archways and finally into the great open stone courtyard around which the castle is built.

No relief of flower or vine marks the grim walls where Chalko, near Hamlet walked, along with many a knight and feudal lord and serf. Here kings and queens languished in prison and here after the chase, the walls of the great

banquet hall resounded with jest and song.

FROM ELINORE, we followed the shoreline back to Copenhagen past summer homes, artists' colonies and fishing villages. It was Sunday afternoon and the beaches were crowded with people. There were many water birds along the shore, ducks, geese, swan and species strange to these eyes.

Intriguing but unfamiliar songs sounded from the tall treetops. We could not resist asking the driver to stop at a village house where a stork was standing guard over her young in a great nest made over a chimney pot on the thatched roof.

Back in Copenhagen at Thorwaldsen Museum, we moved mute among the assembled works of Denmark's greatest sculptor. An unforgettable experience was the group "Christ with the twelve apostles" the artist's great, most compassionate mouth caught at the instant of its saying, "Come unto me all ye that are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

WHEN NEXT you go to Copenhagen, do not miss romantic Tyngol gardens. Here where one may

choose from the most frivolous amusement to a beautiful symphony concert, we mingled with the happy throngs to say goodbye to Denmark.

NEED SOMETHING FOR YOUR HOUSE? Then locate it by reading or using the Classified Ads in the Eccentric each week.

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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

July 28, 1907

"The temperance sermon delivered by Mr. Wiercendyke, the great Kansas orator, at the U. P. church last Sunday forenoon, was largely applauded, the congregation packing the church to the doors. Everybody was pleased with the candid discussion of this important question, by this renowned speaker."

"Next Sunday, July 28, the Grand Trunk Railway System will give an excursion to Jackson, Orchard Lake, and local points. Train leaves Birmingham at 8:10 a.m. Fare for round trip to Jackson \$11 to Orchard Lake, 55¢."

"About twenty men and boys killed a weasel in the center of our village Wednesday noon of this week. This easy killing of weasels lately, goes to show that this sly, agile and wily varmint is losing his name and fame for taking care of himself."

30 YEARS AGO

July 28, 1927

"A brass slide pole, new gongs, telephones and bunks are now in use at the Birmingham fire department, where four firemen are on duty in 24 hour shifts of two each."

"Eighteen graduates of the 1927 class of Baldwin high school have made application to go to college and many more who are undecided are expected soon to enroll in some higher institution of learning. Miss Rachel Peterson, secretary of the high school, announced today."

"Three thousand five hundred new telephone directories are being distributed this week throughout the Birmingham district. The village itself received its quota of 1600 copies."

"New lower prices on all Pontiac passenger car body types, effective July 15:

Coupe \$745
Sport Roadster \$745
Sport Cabriolet \$795
Landau Sedan \$845
Deluxe Landau Sedan \$925"

15 YEARS AGO

July 23, 1922

"Birmingham's streets may be hot in the summer sun but they are frozen as far as the Government is concerned. At least, road oil for new work, repairs and dust-laying is no longer to be bought. City Manager D. C. Egbert told the City Commission Monday night, on receipt of word from the State Highway department."

"The 'Victory' Sing' sponsored by the Birmingham Recreation Commission will be held out of doors on Pines Field tonight at 8 o'clock, the early hour being chosen in order to make full use of the long twilight. All of Birmingham is invited."

"One of the doggiest towns we know—that's Birmingham. Its most common for a newcomer, when asked why he moved here to say enthusiastically, along with other reasons, 'and we can have a dog out here.' And have them they do, for rare is the block in this city that doesn't boast of many dog-owners."



"Nowadays the hand that rocks the cradle usually gets a dollar an hour."

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The Birmingham Eccentric

Published every Thursday, at Birmingham, Mich., in the Eccentric Building, 220-222 North Woodward Avenue Telephone MI 6-1100

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By George

"I should have brought my bifocals!"