

Be Your Own Weather Forecaster

Of all the subjects which interest the average individual, the weather is the most universal and one with which practically everyone is concerned.

It is surprising, however, how little most people know about the subject. If you take the time to study for just a few minutes, you will learn some simple rules which will be very valuable in predicting the weather. If you test the knowledge of your friends, in this connection, you will find that few of them know many of these simple rules.

All you need to apply these rules is a barometer and a wind-vane, which will tell you the direction the wind is blowing. Here they are, and you might remember them for use at a later date:

If you have a high and steady barometer, and the wind is coming from the Southwest or the Northwest, the weather will probably be fair and there will be little temperature change for the next day or so.

If your barometer is high and falling rapidly, and the wind is from the South or Southeast, you will probably have increasing wind and rain within from twelve to twenty-four hours. This is true, usually, if

the barometer is falling slowly, under the same conditions.

If you have a high barometer, which is falling rapidly, and the wind is between the Southeast and the Northeast, the wind will increase and rain will come within twelve hours, in most cases.

If you have a low barometer, which is rising slowly, and the wind is from the South to the Southwest, you will soon have clearing weather and it will be clear for several days.

If you have a low barometer and it is falling rapidly, with the wind from the South to the East, you will experience severe weather, very soon, after which it will clear and be cooler in twenty-four hours.

If you have a low barometer, which is rising rapidly, and the wind is from the West, it means the weather will be clearing and colder.

There are many other weather rules which you can learn if you will make the effort. We suggest the weather as a wonderful hobby for all those who are interested in Nature, in predicting the weather or in observing the wonders which occur in the sky.

Says Small Towns Best Environment For Youth

Raising children in small communities, especially removed from large urban centers, is excellent preparation for intelligent adult citizenship. "The atmosphere of friendly closeness prevails in small towns and villages," states Robert S. Fox, U. of M. professor and director of its University School.

"Friendly associations with other members of the community give the children a feeling of belonging and of being important, each with his own place in the life of the school and his community," declares Fox.

Commenting on the advantages to be gained from living in small communities, Professor Fox says, "In small communities, the machinery for solving problems is probably more visible and less complex than in city centers. Thus, the small community provides a laboratory where youngsters growing up can observe and sometimes take a hand in the citizen's important business of working with his fellows to find solutions to problems no one of them could solve alone."

Amen!

From The Eccentric's Point of View ...

The speed of practically all human activities today precludes the ability of mankind to find enduring answers to many of its problems. This especially is true in the areas of state and federal legislation. Laws are passed today for expediency's sake. Often they are either repealed or amended tomorrow. This is another reason why this century has failed to produce great statesmen. The quality of citizenship, too, has deteriorated in many places.

Gravitation is supposed to be that natural force that causes people and things to remain in an upright position on the earth. In altogether too many places, however, the law of gravitation appears not to exist.

Reduction of the work week, unless it be accompanied by great production dur-

ing what hours are worked, will not bring more earning power to labor. Until labor leaders accept and teach this economic truth, labor will continue to be led down a street called Inflation.

So They Say ...

Syngman Rhee, President, South Korea: "The world situation is more dangerous than ever before. The Communists' pressure for expansion is not less but greater."

Notice in a grocer's shop window: "Be Like Robinson Crusoe—Have Most of Your Shopping Done By Friday."—Tit Bits.

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NATURE NOW

By Lydia King Frehse
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Animals Important In Life's Web

In the closely knit web of life, man is irrevocably bound to his fellow-animals.

To assuage his hunger he commonly eats of the flesh of every major group from the mollusks through the chordates, of which latter he is a member. Although some of us prefer to by-pass certain of these as food items there are others who relish a raw snail, a roasted leek or locust or a tin of rattlesnake meat.

MAN'S dependence upon animals for food is variable, for homo sapiens is equipped by nature to be an omnivore. However, by necessity or choice, he may also be either a carnivore or a herbivore. In either case, he is likely to lean heavily upon dairy products which represent one of our most important links with our fellow mammals.

Modern skill with synthetics has greatly reduced our need of animal fiber for clothing and for many another of its former uses in home and industry. However, the weaver cannot yet come to dispense with "that good wool suit" made of the hair of the sheep, which likewise has been replaced in many instances by plastics and rayon. Likewise we are not ready to relinquish that real silk dress or a good pair of leather shoes.

So closely does man's bodily structure resemble that of his fellow mammals that a monkey or a mouse can substitute for him in that battle which is constantly being waged in the laboratory and the classroom, both against disease and toward understanding. Man's indifference must here be written large.

Our dependence upon animals in cultivating the soil and for transportation has been greatly relieved by the invention of the gasoline engine. However a dog team is still a necessity if one travels in the trackless wastes of the Arctic and a small harrow can follow a mountain trail where no jeep could venture.

Less obvious but more independent is man's dependence upon such animals as bees, moths, butterflies and humming birds for the basic operation of pollination. To be sure the wind works at this task and man can laboriously do his small part, but without the above we should be minus much of our supply of fruit and vegetables. We must also give credit to the bee for an annual production of 200,000 pounds of bees wax and 12 million pounds of honey.

Bees must travel if plants are to clothe and reclothe the earth. Birds and mammals carry billions of these to new locations both attached to fur and as undigested seeds.

The importance of aeration in soil maintenance is not always recognized, much less, the part which the earthworm plays in the process. An estimated 50,000 of these are busy in each acre, passing some eighteen wagon loads of dirt through their bodies per year.

CARNIVOROUS animals act as checks upon certain of their kind such as mosquitoes, grasshoppers and rodents which might otherwise become too abundant for man's comfort. Others play the role of scavengers. Evidently the proportion of a garbage pile if one could be made of the carrion eaten each year by gulls, crows, vultures, opossums and yes, by the lowly beetle.

The lesser contributions of animals to man's economy include fur, feathers, fertilizers, dyes, perfume, fivings, saris, lacquer, peat, ivory, buttons, pearls—the list could go on for pages.

These practical considerations do not take into account man's companionship with, or delight in, the many facets of his association with animals. If "life is the glory on the earth" who is to say that the soccer, football, basketball, or other sports are to be shared in it?

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
March 15, 1907
"In-so-much as the Woman's Believes in 'Let your light so shine,' that the public may know something of what they are doing, or of what they are capable, we have given to The Eccentric an original paper read before said club."

"The village election passed off quietly and harmoniously, and without any bloodshed at all whatsoever."

"Don't fail to hear Killen, the funny man, at the Methodist church, Friday evening, March 15. Admission 15 cents. Come and hear his Irish songs and funny jokes. He doesn't drive away your blues, nothing will."

30 YEARS AGO
March 10, 1927
A warning was given in an ad placed by Walsh, James & Wasey Co., agents for owners of the property. "No trapping allowed in or around Quanton lake or River Rouge on Quanton lake estate. All offenders will be prosecuted. The owners of this property are trying to protect and save the remaining wild life."

"So intense has the interest in the issues of Monday's elections become that almost 300 new voters have registered in the village clerk's office. The Sunday Blue law which would prevent the showing of motion pictures here on that day is said by many well-informed in politics to be the great reason behind the large registration."

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

For more than 25 years, there were three heavy, dark-stained tables in Birmingham's commission room around which city officials met every Monday night to conduct the affairs of the village, later the city, of Birmingham.

A few weeks ago, these tables gave way to the "modern look"—narrower, lower, white-topped tables that commissioners still are not quite used to.

The new tables—they look more like benches, really—don't have drawers in which the commissioners can keep such meeting necessities as ordinance books, city codes, pencils, maps, Kleenex, rolls of candy, etc.

THE OLD TABLES had such old-fashioned accommodations. In fact, there were drawers on the other side of the table, too. But in the past 10 years this reporter has been covering these regular Monday meetings, he has never seen even one of these "extra" six drawers opened by anyone.

So just before the old tables were removed from the room, our curiosity got the better of us. We looked.

Here's the bulk of what we found (and it all would have made a pile 8 inches high):

Bound copies of the Village of Birmingham charter, and village commission minutes for the year 1928.

A report dated May 31, 1927, concerning properties which had been acquired, and those yet-to-be-acquired, in the three-block "civic center" now occupied by the municipal building, Shain park, and Baldwin public library. (The report showed the city had paid out \$237,967.66, indicating the acquisition was just about completed.)

TWO OFFICIAL REPRINTS of the city's zoning ordinance as published in The Birmingham Eccentric of Feb. 18, 1937, the code's effective date.

A handbook for air raid wardens, issued by the U. S. office of civilian defense.

Village bills by weeks, submitted by Village Manager James M. Parry, starting July 7, 1930, continuing with some exception to Nov. 23, 1931. Total of 61 of the 71 weeks. Also July 31, 1944, and Feb. 2, 1945. Nothing exciting listed, except perhaps 7 7 30 village payroll item was \$27,735.56.

On these old bills were names familiar to oddtimers, names which are here today, some which are gone.

STILL AROUND (and the amount the village paid each): Birmingham Eccentric

ric, \$715.51; Shain's Drugs, \$2.00; Huston Hardware, \$1.32; Taylor Bros. Construction, \$2,377.22; Mike Harabedian, \$624.13. Names not around anymore: R. C. Moulthrop Lumber Co., \$1.06; I. Lee Truax, \$5.24; Miner Grocery, \$3.90; E. W. Osborne, \$225.31.

Organization diagram of village as of March 20, 1930.

March 27, 1930, letter from Village Clerk Myrtle E. Carson to Walter Connolly, notifying him of his election to 2-year term as village commissioner.

Three-pure itemization of Derby well account, started in 1928 with \$140.36 bill from Grand Trunk RR for freight on coal. Ending June 18, 1930, with engineering payroll item of \$13.66. Pencilled total of \$32,656.79.

JAN. 21, 1931, letter from A. W. Ives of Detroit to Manager Parry, permitting Parry to approach commission on the purchase of a one-acre portion of a lot along the Rouge river "at a fair price" for park purposes in a system "Lundestrand is intended to carry through to the Rouge park in Detroit."

Copy of undated resolution closing out \$82,641.35 paving assessment for Lincoln from Southfield to Cranbrook road with property owners paying 70.82% or 29.18% of the cost.

Written down on Jan. 26, 1931, as Parry recommended, of \$85,610 on 14 projects apparently estimated to cost \$235,770.82.

Financial report of current accounts as of June 30, 1930, listing total assets and deferred charges of \$632,066.85, made up of these items:

Cash on-hand and in-banks	\$ 3,587.09
Accounts receivable	45,245.61
Accrued current tax roll	345,798.45
Delinquent taxes in hands of county treasurer	230,143.05
Deferred charges to future operations	7,295.66

THE REPORT ALSO SHOWED that for the six months Jan. 1-June 30, 1930, the city curtailed its operations so it spent only 90.65% of \$209,453.92 of the amount that had been budgeted a year before.

Carbon copy of the resolution asking the Michigan public debt commission to permit Birmingham to refund nearly \$11 million in a new 30-year bond issue effective Oct. 1, 1935.

And fads and crazes like empty envelopes, miscellaneous booklets, a few paper clips, etc., etc.

This look was interesting to me, some of it perhaps to you.

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