

# The Birmingham Eccentric

Some people spend their lives acquiring physical wealth, in search of satisfaction of the things of life. Perhaps some of these vision the time when a toll granite shaft will rise over them, proclaiming their vain greatness to the world. How much better, while still alive, to build a life with love!



THIS EXPERIMENTAL tractor, with a radically different type engine installed for the first time in a farm tractor, is undergoing tests at the nearby Ford

Tractor and Implement division proving grounds. Turbine-powered, the tractor named the typhoon, is pulling a tow dynamometer which measures power.

## Turbine-Driven Tractor Brings New Concept in Farm Power

A new concept in farm power was unveiled today when an experimental tractor, named the Typhoon, was demonstrated by Ford Motor company's Tractor and Implement division at its research center here.

Powering the revolutionary tractor is a free piston turbine engine. This marks the first known installation of this newly-developed power source in a farm machine.

Merritt D. Hill, general manager of the Tractor and Implement Division, told newsmen "we have high hopes that the experimental Typhoon tractor may be the forerunner of a totally new concept of farm power."

"It brings us to the threshold of power capabilities, which farmers previously could only dream. For their initial test work, the engineers have deliberately held the potential power of the Typhoon down to the useful level of 50 drawbar horsepower," he said.

Tractor and Implement division proving grounds. Turbine-powered, the tractor named the typhoon, is pulling a tow dynamometer which measures power.

tion turbine engine as a safe power source. They point out that it uses less volatile fuels, and that it has no high tension electrical spark ignition.

The gases exhausted from the engine cylinder are collected in a surge tank from which they flow into a six-inch diameter turbine wheel. Like water rotating a water wheel, the action of the gases causes the turbine wheel to spin.

A drive shaft transmits the turbine's power through a gear-reduction system to the tractor's power train. A c.c.e. series such as hydraulic pumps, cooling fan, and fuel pump operate from the gear-reduction system.

A drive shaft transmits the turbine's power to the tractor's transmission for application at the wheels and at the implement-like that of a diesel engine, without

**THE ENGINE** is a result of years of research at Ford's scientific laboratory in Dearborn. Its characteristics especially suit it to installation in a tractor, according to Andrew A. Kuecher, laboratory director.

Capable of running on a wide variety of hydrocarbon fuels including many agricultural products, the engine produces heated gases to drive a turbine, Kuecher explained.

Much of the expense and complexity of the mechanical fuel train used in current internal combustion engines is eliminated. Crankshaft, camshaft, connecting rods, mushroom-type intake and exhaust valves, spark plugs, along with most parts of a reciprocating engine are not required.

The result was colorful and tangible, one which parents could readily appreciate and enjoy.

**ART PROJECTS** LET children express their natural urge to experiment, create and build. They create a new sensitivity to line, color and texture.

Through group work on the art projects, children share experiences and activities.

In Mr. John Kne's sixth grade, for example, students are preparing a huge scroll to illustrate an oral report. The culminating activity of their study of ancient peoples, the scroll is being illustrated with the alphabet, costumes and architecture of the Phoenicians.

For a social studies unit on a region of the United States, Miss Margaret Cameron's fifth graders traced boundary lines on a large mural.

## Art Aids Study at Pierce

By BETTY VIZZINI

EDITOR'S NOTE: In this article written especially for The Birmingham Eccentric, Pierce school art teacher Betty Vizzini describes how the school's art program is coordinated with students' studies lessons.

When parents of Pierce school children gathered in the gymnasium recently, they saw a display which brought to life the classroom work their children had been doing. The display revealed how art projects help students learn social studies lessons.

Lining the gym walls at the teacher-sponsored P.T.A. program were pictures, dramas, maps, models and murals, arranged by grade levels.

The result was colorful and tangible, one which parents could readily appreciate and enjoy.



## Nephrosis 'Walk Week' March 25-30

Mapping out the city of Birmingham for Nephrosis "Walk Week" are (left to right) Mrs. David M. Burnett, local chairman for "Walk Week," Mrs. Frederick J. Crockett, Birmingham area chairman, and Mrs. Philip Detwiler, chairman of Bloomfield Hills Pi Beta Phi alumnae nephrosis program.



TO LEARN LOCATIONS of nation in the world, Mrs. Marie Maggard's fourth graders at Pierce school made and painted globes of paper mache, sticking the wet strips to balloons. From left are "worldmakers" Judy Kieppe, Linda Giles, Donald Clark, David Pyke and Patricia Rifenburg.

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## Income Tax Aids Are Reminder: April 15 Is Filing Deadline

**Medical Deductions and Widow Benefits** **Not All Income is Taxable** **Start Now to Plan Next Year's Tax**

Uncle Sam realizes family doctor bills and dentist bills can add up to be permitted to itemize and deduct all medical expenses beyond 3 percent of your adjusted gross income.

**Medicines Are Also Deductible**  
 Your total deduction is limited to a maximum amount for the year, as explained in the instruction book, and medicines and drugs may be included in your medical expenses only to the extent they exceed 1 percent of your gross income.

**Widows and Widowers**  
 The federal tax code contains several provisions of special interest to widows and widowers:  
 (1) You may file a joint return with a husband or wife who died during the year or in a separate return in 1956.  
 (2) If you have not remarried and have in your household a dependent child or stepchild, you are entitled for the next two years to use the same tax computation (with income-splitting privileges) as you would have been entitled to on a joint return.  
 (3) When life insurance proceeds are taken as an annuity or in installments, widows and widowers are allowed to deduct up to \$1000 per year of tax free interest in addition to a pro rata amount of the principal.  
 (4) You may be entitled to a deduction for child-care expenses.

**Sick Pay Benefits**  
 If "sick pay" payments from your employer are included in the wages shown on your withholding slips, you should subtract the proper amount from your income. The plate provides you with the amount of the tax return (Form 1040). Attach an explanation as described in the instruction book. You are entitled to exclude this amount even if you do not itemize deductions.

You are allowed a deduction for medical expenses beyond 3 percent of your adjusted gross income, but if you (or your husband or wife) are 65 or over, the percentage rate does not apply to your own medical expenses. It does apply, however, to any medical expenses you pay for your dependents.

Among the items to include in your list of medical expenses are fees of doctors, dentists, hospitals and nurses. You can also deduct premiums for health, accident, hospitalization and medical insurance, but you must reduce your medical expenses by the amount of any benefits received from insurance.

**Next Article: Not All Income Is Taxable.**

Taxpayers make more mistakes in listing their income than any other type of error on the Federal Income Tax return. It is important to know what to include and what NOT to include. Look at this list and see if you can tell which should be listed on a tax return:

Dividends from an insurance policy  
 Certain Security Benefits  
 Gifts  
 Payments received under Workmen's Compensation laws  
 The answer is that NONE of the above should be listed as taxable income. There are other forms of exempt income, too, which you will find listed in the official instruction book. Some of them are:  
 Inheritances and bequests (the estate may be taxed but not the recipient)  
 Railroad Retirement Act benefits  
 Certain health and accident benefits  
 Damages awarded by a court or paid out of court for personal injuries  
 Government payments and benefits to veterans and their families, except nondisability retirement pay and interest on terminal leave bonds.

**How Prices Are Taxed**  
 If you won a prize, watch this fine instruction: the prize is taxable if you were required to exert even the slightest effort to earn it; on the other hand, if it was made in recognition of scientific, literary or other achievement you would have performed anyway, the prize is considered a gift and you are not taxed on it.

Most scholarships and fellowships are exempt unless they are paid as compensation for services, such as teaching and research. Another point to remember in connection with scholarships is figuring support for a dependent who does not have to count scholarships against a student.

Some income, such as limited amounts of "sick pay" and the first \$50 of certain dividends, must be explained in the tax return, but are not taxed.

Often the greatest tax savings are to be made during the year by planning your decisions with tax considerations in mind, rather than at the end of the year when you have your tax form in hand.

Here are some possibilities for reducing your tax which you can't do anything about after the end of the tax year, but which might reduce next year's tax return:

(1) If you are providing nearly half the support of someone who might qualify as a dependent, consider providing more than half so you will be entitled to the \$600 exemption. The extra amount you contribute may be less than the tax savings.

(2) Remember that unless a dependent is under 19 or a full-time student, you will lose the exemption if his income is \$600 or more. Be sure to check the income of everyone you expect to claim as a dependent.

(3) If you are planning to be married a wedding before midnight December 31, 1957, will give you the privilege of filing a joint return for 1957. This probably would result in substantial tax saving.

(4) A baby born before midnight December 31, qualifies as an exemption for the full year.

(5) If your medical expenses are likely to be over 3% of your income this year and you expect them to be less next year, pay as many medical bills as possible before the end of the year, up to the maximum allowable deduction. If you borrow to do this, remember that you can also deduct the interest.

(6) If your medical expenses are over the maximum deduction, perhaps you can defer part of the payment until after the end of the year.

(7) Borrowing to pay your taxes can sometimes let you take the deduction a year earlier.

(8) If you sell your home at a profit, remember that you do not have to pay a capital gains tax if you pay more for a new home within a year than the price you get for the old one.

(9) When investing money, remember that stock in a domestic corporation offers the possibility of dividend exclusion and credit.

(10) If you sell securities or other "capital assets" at a profit, it is usually better to wait until you have held them at least six months so that the profit will be taxed at the capital gains rate instead of as ordinary income.

(11) When buying bonds, consider not only the interest rate but the fact that interest on state and municipal bonds is exempt from federal income tax.

If any of these points is likely to make a substantial difference in your tax, it will probably pay you to discuss your problems with the Internal Revenue Service, or to seek professional tax advice. Anything you pay for assistance in preparing your tax return is deductible from your taxable income.

"But beware of any 'tax expert' who claims he can cut your tax below the amount you really owe. It's a good idea to pick someone who has had experience in dealing with the Internal Revenue Service, just in case the government should raise some question about your return."

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