Revenue Not Chief Reason For Parking Meters

The public presumes that parking meters are installed, basically, to bring about a turn-over in the use of such public space by motorists. A secondary consideration is, of course, the revenues that accrue. In Birmingham, meters originally were installed on a penny-for-12-minutes basis. Presumably, the same formula was used in most other communities.

As time went on it was decided that he use of pennies should be supplanted with a nickel, for one hour. In Birmingham, as in other cities, the public is reconciled to the nickel, even though but a penny or two worth of time is consumed frequently.

a penny or two v sumed frequently.

THIS RESULTS, THEN, in some unexand time for the next motorist who appears on the scene—in which case he gets the parking for free.

However, it must be remembered that on previous occasions this second motorist

Familly Of Five Owes Gov't. \$10,000.00

Directly, or indirectly, it averages out that every man, woman and child in the United states paid out \$608 in taxes toward the support of federal, state and local governments during 1956.

The average family of five owes these governmental units about \$10,000; to be exact, each person owes \$1939.00. Interest alone on the debt amounts to \$206 an-

has provided unexpired time for others, too, So the situation generally evens itself out. There is a turn-over in parking and the city gains money for the time that a nickel buys.

Recently we have read about a new gadget being offered to communities which automatically will cancel out unexpired time when the original paying motorist drives away. It works on an electronic eye principal, Its manufacturers argue that its we will increase revenues, which we do not doubt.

IF, HOWEVER. PARKING METERS are to be used dominantly for revenue purposes, then why not double or triple the parking fee? This could be done without the expense of buying and installing this new gadget.

We join other local citizens in the hope that our city commission will not resort to this covetous method to increase finances in the city treasury.

nually per family of five.

Admittedly, it will be impossible to pare down the military expenses, but considerable savings can be effected in other categories—but only if taxpayers contact their public officials, and also cease, through "pressure groups", to ask for more subsidies, aids and grants

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

People are wonderful! A cat climbed a 60-ft, power line tower down in Scranton, Pa., a few days ago; on her way up she brushed past a wire carrying 23,000 volts. Neighbors who saw the cat, got in touch with the power company. It sent men up to place rubber over nearby wires so the cat, in its descent, would not get electrocuted. The men even sought to entice the cat down with a basket of fish. Finally, the cat came down 10 feet and then jumped to the ground, unburt. Considerable time and money spent to save this cat... even though it's rumored it has nine lives!

When asked: "What was the Mayflower Compact", the pupil confidently answered: "A bunch of flowers that bloom in May."

One of the greatest of literary feats is to write a sentence wherein no word in the sentence has any bearing on the thought presumed to be set forth in it.

Several of us, all past the half century mark, were discussing "those good, old days . . ." (which often were not so good as memory suggests) and some one asked:
"Remember how most of our generation, and certainly those before us, referred to parents as 'Ma' and 'Pa'? Seems that only

in the past score of years or so have 'Daddy' and 'Mommy' come into popular kiddy use." We all agreed that this seems true ... and, so far as the change is concerned, some may think that "Daddy" and "Momy" may sound more affectionate, while others realize that "Pa" and "Ma", though not so euphonious, can express fillal devotion.

So They Say . . .

Ngo Dinh Deim, President of South Viet

"Whether peace will prevail in 1957 depends on how strong and watchful the free world will be in regard to the Communist

Alfred M. Gruenther, General, U. S. Army, "No nation, even the United States, can defend itself unaided."

Lily Dache, glamor expert:
"We have in America today what is truly a golden age for women, and only a woman who is a mule will refuse to make the most of it."

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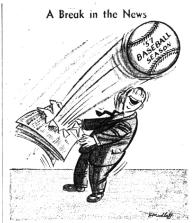
Sidelights On Suburbia

by Neil

Station Break

NEIL McGOWEN NEIL McGOWEN
makes up store window
designs for a living. For
fun he likes to draw,
cartoons especially. His
"studio" usually is the
kitchen table at 2534
Buckingham, Birmingham, where his wife, Ellen, and gons Brian, 8.
Fruce 6, and Michael 8. Bruce, 6, and Michael, 4, like to peer over his shoulder to see what Dad is drawing now. This week The Birmingham Eccentric presents the first of his cartoons in which you probably will "see" a suburban friend or neighbor.





NATURE NOW

By Lydia King Frehse
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Fur-Bearing King Is Lowly Muskrat

Those of you who spent your boyhood in the rural mid-est need no introduction to our number one fur-bearer, the muskrat.

skrat,
hances are that many of you house of grass, cattails and rushes, we him intimately through the isplaced in a marsh or slow moving the frigid darkness of winter morning stream. It may be five distribution of the show to marsh or knowing stream where lusk skill in trap-setting would skill in trap-setting would smine the night's catch.

NEAR IT the muskrat may construct platforms of grass and roots criter platforms of grass and roots carried platforms of grass of grass and grass of gra

SOMETIMES you came back to your waiting breakfast empty handed. On a good morning you might return with a half-dozen rats slung over your shoots—Once or twice——

h-up" for school, ne scent of musk were engaged in adventure in the

THE MUSKRAT is a rodent, a member of that great group of gnawing animals which of all the mammals are most numerous both in species and as individuals. They are characterized by their long incisors which grow continuously at

the water line.

NEAR IT the muskrat may construct platforms of grass and roots conding or as

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 8, 1907
'Mrs. Frayne has started the st kindergarten school in Royal

"Some genius has invented a new kind of paper that will crum-ble and go to pieces a short time after it has been written on. It is especially recommended to peo-ple with the love letter habit who dread breach of promise suits."

"The ladies of the dancing class will give a 'topsy-turvy assembly,' Friday, March 15, to which all the young men of the dancing class are cordially invited."

30 YEARS AGO
March 3, 1927
"Style Whimsies—Give yourself an original appearance if you would be smart. Study yourself in the glass, then arrange your scarf a different way, wear your flower in a new place, twist chiffon into a bow and attach it to your dressyour shoulder, waist, low on your skirt."

"The bobbed hair craze threw out of work more than 16,000 Chinese women who were formerly employed making hair nets."

\$775 could buy you a oadster, sedan or coupe sty omobile in the new longer, ody lines, with colors ra

from Beverly blue and black to Cherokee gray.

March 5, 1942

The war has not brought to a halt the building of large houses in Birmingham. During February, permits were granted for two homes each averaging \$12,500 in value, and for one home valued at \$5,000...

boulevard at east Maple certainly gets no break, When the lightly is enter the beautiful to be some the beautiful to be senter before it is red again. Then he must wait if he does not wish to jaywalk until more traffic comes on Maple and trips the mechanism. The State controls the timing on these lights."



ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

A grave injustice was done by American servicemen who returned from various World War II theaters of war with stories that the American Red Cross had sold eigarettes and coffee and doughnuts

sold cigarettes and coffee and doughnuts to military personnel.

That ugly distortion of fact for more than 10 years has cropped up at Red Cross fund campaign time to hinder its progress.

The Red Cross repeatedly has tried to explain the real picture:
Cigarettes were marked "Red Cross—Yot to Be Sold" and were designed as gifts to people in foreign lands. These cigarettes would arrive oversess where some were

would arrive overseas, where some were diverted to military PX's in place of service cigarettes which had been delayed or sunk at sea.

LATER ON THE SERVICES gave an

LATER ON THE SERVICES gave an equal number of cartons which were distributed free to the foreigners.

As for the coffee and doughnuts—General of the Army George Marshall asked the Red Cross NOT to give the coffee and futs free to U.S. servicemen. That, Marshall felt, only would aggravate servicemen of other countries who never had the coffee and 'nuts, and were not paid as much as U.S. servicemen, either. So Marshall asked that a nominal charge be made. To U.S. Red Cross headquarters recent-

To U.S. Red Cross headquarters recent-To U.S. Red Cross neadquarters recent-ply came an unsolicited letter from an ex-sailor in Texas. He is Arch Aplin, Jr., who said the veterans who spread these re-ports now should try their best to help right the wrong.

IF YOU HAVEN'T SEEN IT elsewhere, on might like to see what Aplin wrote: "We veterans who were sold eigenettes with Red Cross' stamped on them during World War I, and we veterans who were sold coffee and World War II have done the Red Cross a grave njustice, unknowingly, but now it seems to me it time we assumed this responsibility of carrying the ball in restoring the good will, just as effelt it was our responsibility to come home working the companies of the control of the contr

why these/incidences occurred. It has been explained repeatedly how the cigarettes were plained repeatedly how the cigarettes were insisted that coffee and/doughnute be sold rather than given away. (To better relations between the Allies).

For the company of the transport of the relations between the Allies), we say underlyed these reshores the Allies). We say underlyed these reshores the Allies of the relationship of the

they had abused us?

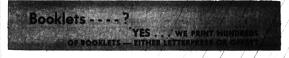
"NOW THAT WE/KNOW these were neither good excused nor good readons for downing this good excused nor good readons for downing this the scale off justice, at Ideast by going back and the scale off justice, at Ideast by going back and telling these people the reasons for these incidences in Europe, We should give them they chance with hothsides of the argument.

"What! You say you can't! You say we don't with the straight thinking of our people in with the straight thinking of our people in "We can give Red Cross the credit it is done in bring an organization made up to help Americants in time of emergencies, whether the emergency be in war or peace. We veterans started flus ury built to rolling and only we can stopylit goin reighbors.

"TM CERTAIN OUR EXEMIES of the world are pleased with the dissension that this been recented. Every timy we are not united, we are "Thinking it over, veterans, we have started, something that his weakened our promite by within them an excuse for not helping their fellow man. The blackers would be a supported by the world within the world within

blas not heard our sweet ee, and doughnuts.
We have done a thorough job. Can we do such worough job in restoring this bad will we have

try!
rech Hartwell Aplin, Jr.
reeport, Toxas
ormer Coxswain, U.S. Navs
reved in the following areas
ring World War II; North Africa,
andaleghal, Okinawa, Aleutians,



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