

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.

As time went on it was decided that the use of pennies should be supplanted with a nickel, for one hour.

THIS RESULTS, THEN, in some unexpired 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

has provided unexpired time for others, too. So the situation generally even itself out.

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.

IF, HOWEVER, PARKING METERS are to be used dominantly for revenue purposes, then why not double or triple the parking fee?

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

Family 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.

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.

in the past score of years or so have "Daddy" and "Mommy" come into popular kiddie use.

So They Say...

Ngo Dinh Deim, President of South Viet Nam:

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

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

Lily Dache, glamour 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 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 sons Brian, 8, Bruce, 6, and Michael, 4, like to peer over his shoulder to see what Dad is drawing now.



NATURE NOW Fur-Bearing King Is Lowly Muskrat

By Lydia King Frehse Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

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

Chances are that many of you knew him intimately through the business and the thrill of running your own trap-line. You arose in the frigid darkness of winter mornings to make your own trail through the snow to marsh or slow-moving stream where lurk and wait for their prey.

SOMETIMES you came back to find your traps empty handed. On a good morning you might return with a half dozen muskrats slung over your shoulder.

WITH SUCH fecundity each state regulates its own trapping laws to produce a maximum harvest of the best quality of fur and yet maintain the highest population level in accordance with the food supply.

THE MUSKRAT is a rodent, a member of that great group of gnawing mammals which of all the mammals are most numerous both in species and as individuals.

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. Frehse has started the first kindergarten school in Royal Oak and we wish her success. Character is formed in the child before the age of 10. Good training in the early years bears good fruit at maturity or before."

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 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.

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 nuts free to U.S. servicemen.

IF YOU HAVEN'T SEEN IT elsewhere, you might like to see what Apin wrote: "We veterans who were sold cigarettes with 'Red Cross' stamped on them during World War II, and we veterans who were sold coffee and doughnuts in the Red Cross canteens during World War II have done the Red Cross a grave injustice, unknowingly, but now it seems to me it is time we assumed this responsibility of carrying the blame in restoring the good will which we felt it was our responsibility to come home at the end of the war and spread the news about having the cigarettes and doughnuts."

Arch Apin, Jr., Freeport, Texas Former Coxswain, U.S. Navy Served in the following areas during World War II: North Africa, Guadalcanal, Okinawa, Iwojima, and Philippines.

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