

President Has Gigantic Role

To say that a President of the United States holds the biggest and most awesome responsible job in the world is to say the obvious. Another truism is that the job is incredibly demanding of the President's time and physical and mental resources. Our only two living former Presidents, Herbert Hoover and Harry Truman, have both died with this in their writings. Serious consideration has been given to possibly ways some of the burden might formally be shifted to other officials, but little in the way of tangible result has come of it.

Actually, it is probable that comparatively few people know with any degree of exactness what the President's varied duties are. An unusually clear description is provided in the highly-successful book "The American Presidency" (Harcourt, Brace & Co.) by Clinton Rossiter, a Professor of Government at Cornell. Dr. Rossiter finds that the President plays 10 roles. Some of these are specified by the Constitution, others have been created by statute, and others still are based on custom and tradition. Here, in very brief summary, are those roles as Dr. Rossiter sees them.

THE PRESIDENT IS Chief of State. This means that he is the ceremonial head of the government, and participates in a bewildering list of activities — starting charity drives, bestowing honors and decorations, throwing out the ball to start the baseball season, and laying wreaths on tombs of the dead great.

The President is the Chief Executive. In other words, as Dr. Rossiter puts it, "... he is held primarily and often exclusively accountable for the ethics, loyalty, efficiency, frugality and responsiveness to the public's wishes of the two and a third million Americans in the national administration."

The President is Chief Diplomat. His is the dominant authority in the whole field of international relations, and in many matters he holds exclusive power.

The President is Commander in Chief

of the armed forces. In time of total war, this power can be construed to be almost all-encompassing.

THE PRESIDENT IS Chief Legislator. That is, he assumes leadership in guiding Congress in legislative matters—though, of course, this leadership is not always followed.

The President is Chief of Party. He has both the right and duty to lead whatever political party he belongs to. An anomaly results—in Dr. Rossiter's words, "He is at once the least political and most political of all heads of government."

The President is the Voice of the People. Woodrow Wilson once wrote, "His is the only national voice in affairs... If he rightly interprets the national thought and boldly insists upon it, he is irresistible..."

The President is Protector of the Peace. It is in time that the country turns to act in time of disaster—whether it be great floods, or major strikes, or many other kinds of calamities.

THE PRESIDENT IS Manager of Prosperity. This is a relatively new role, given to him through laws empowering him to take drastic action in times of economic trouble. For example, the Employment Act of 1946 specifically instructs him "... to foster and promote free competitive enterprise, to avoid economic fluctuations or to diminish the effects thereof, and to maintain employment, production, and purchasing power."

The President is Leader of the World's Free Nations. This means that "... his words and deeds in behalf of our own survival as a free nation have a direct bearing upon the freedom and stability of at least a dozen, perhaps even two dozen other countries."

It is said that Harry Truman used to keep a sign on his desk reading: "The buck stops here." Dr. Rossiter writes: "That, in the end, is the essence of the Presidency. It is the one office in all the land whose occupant is forbidden to pass the buck."

You're not home yet, Ike!



NATURE NOW by Lydia King Frehse
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Kirtland Warbler -- State's Own Bird

Many states can boast of unique features in the out-of-doors but few can claim a monopoly on any single bird species. In Michigan, however, we have Kirtland's warbler, a summer resident which has never been found nesting anywhere else and can therefore be claimed as our own.

On May 13, 1851, the first specimen of Kirtland's warbler was taken near Cleveland, Ohio, and was named for an Ohio naturalist. During the next fifty years the bird was observed in several localities in Michigan and its winter quarters were determined to be in the Bahamas Islands.

IT WAS not until 1903 that the first nest of the Kirtland was found near Red Oak in Oscoda County by Norman Wood, who was for many years the curator of Michigan's Museum of Zoology. He was succeeded by the late James Van Tine who continued his interest in the bird.

Mrs. Frehse became an authority on this rare bird. Field observations culminated in the most intensive study ever made of the entire breeding range of a song bird. The project which was shared by 32 qualified field naturalists, including members of our Detroit Audubon Society, was reported by Harold Mayfield and published in the January, 1935, issue of the Auk Magazine.

The count showed 432 males with an estimated total number of less than 1000 birds in the entire area. These were found nesting in loose colonies in a territory about 100 miles long and 60 miles wide, embracing Rosecommon, Crawford, Oscoda and Alpena counties with some strays spilling over into adjoining territory. Crawford county led with 142 male birds identified.

For more than twenty summers we camped in the territory of Kirtland's warbler, ears tuned to his song, eyes always searching for his nest. In those days the paths of bird students (which usually begin at the nesting grounds over the Decoration Day holiday) eventually led to Mio and Iron Duckham. Here was a conservation officer whose firsthand knowledge of the Kirtland was

matched only by his sense of personal responsibility for every bird of this species in Michigan's jack pine. Thus with vigilance and devotion many bird students have filled in the records with binoculars, notebooks and cameras.

AMONG THE warblers, the Kirtland is a large bird measuring 5.75 inches. Its size, together with a pronounced tail-wagging habit, are identifying marks. It is colored bluish-grey above, streaked with black, its underparts pale lemon-yellow. A series of broken line markings follows the forked wing which latter bears two light bars. The female lacks the male's black mask and is a duller grey. The young are strongly marked with brown both above and on the sides.

The nest, sunk level with the ground and made of strips of bark, plant roots, dried grass and pine needles, is at one with the forest floor. It holds four white eggs marked at the larger end with a wreath of brown spots. What intrigues the ecologist and the bird student is that the Kirtland's nesting habits are so selective. It demands a homogeneous stand of small jack pine trees between 5-20 feet tall. These are not likely to occur in nature. In planted areas, only thickly grown new plantings were found sufficiently dense.

THIS WARBLER seems to demand the type of cover which follows a fire, where the jack pine seeds, protected by their closely folded cones, survive to produce closely set growth of new trees. In such an association, the sandy soil is covered with primitive mosses and lichens, together with such ground cover shrubs as blueberry bear berry and juniper. This is the home of the Kirtland and so it is that he is commonly called the "jack pine warbler."

Why is it that this rare species does not succumb to available and similar jack pine ranges in Wisconsin, Ontario or our own Upper Peninsula? So far this is a question which puzzles the naturalist and scientist alike.

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

The face that peers back at you from your mirror is known most intimately by yourself. That face reflects what and who you are. Upon it is engraved the inscription that reveals much about your life . . . and some day it will bear the marks of your epitaph. The face that peers at you from your mirror shows more of your inner self than you may think.

Here's a puzzler: it takes 27 singers to sing twice as loud as one singer. (This statement relates only to the facts of decibels, the unit of sound volume—not to the quality of harmony.)

So They Say . . .

Mrs. Ruth Stafford Peale, wife and partner of the Protestant minister, Norman Vincent Peale: "The woman of the family must create a quiet center, an island of serenity, at home."

Lily Dache, glamor expert: "As for me, I never intend to grow old, if I live to be 102."

James R. Hoffa, 9th vice president, International Brotherhood of Teamsters: "We're not just one of those cream puff unions."

FOR THE BIRMINGHAM AREA'S BETTERMENT, THE ECCENTRIC URGES:

- Complete the Landscaping of B'ham's Civic Center Park
- Lowest Possible Tax Rate Consistent with Municipal and School Needs
- Improvement of Birmingham's Parks and Recreation Facilities
- More Streets Permanently Improved
- Cleaner Birmingham Streets
- Make 14 Mile and 16 Mile Roads Improved Trunkline Arteries
- Continuation of Best Possible Types of Area's Subdivision Growth
- Construct Big Evergreen Interceptor Sewage Outlet for Entire Area
- Development of Necessary Offstreet Parking to Accommodate Shopping Public
- Non-Partisan Local Government

The Birmingham Eccentric

Published every Thursday, at Birmingham, Mich., in the Eccentric Building, 220-222 North Woodward Avenue Telephone Midwest 4-1100

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The Eccentric is a member of:
National Editorial Association,
Michigan Press Association
and University Press Club

National Advertising Representatives:
Weekly Newspaper Representatives, Inc.
1725 Guardian Bldg.
DETROIT 28, MICH.
404 Fifth Avenue
NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

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From the (Big) Mouths of Babes . . .

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
May 18, 1907
Advertisement read, "The Warburton will sell excursion tickets to Boston, May 31 to June 9, via Niagara Falls and direct line, via Montreal, or via New York, at one fare plus \$1.00 for the round trip."

"People who reside on a rural delivery route should buy all their stamps, postal cards, money orders etc. from their carrier and also send their registered letters through him."

"By order of the village board, on May 20th, 66 ten per cent penalty will be added and the water shut off on all who have not paid their rate."

30 YEARS AGO
May 19, 1927
"Work will begin soon on a four-inch water main on Hazel street to connect with the existing four inch main on Elm street and extend approximately 250 feet, with a four inch hydrant. The cost of the work \$125 will be taken from the water fund."

"Whether shingle roofs on houses in Birmingham will be banned in the future as fire hazards will be decided at a meeting between the village commissioners and the public June 13, it was decided Monday night. The matter was to have been settled Monday but a delay was asked so that Fire Chief William G. Olsen could provide more statistics for the commissioners to consider."

"For the first time in its history, Birmingham has a member of the feminine sex upon its legislative body. Mrs. Hope F. Halgren, who was elected to office last week, enjoys this unique distinction. This young woman, believed to be excellently fitted for her new task, ought to add something to the life of this community."

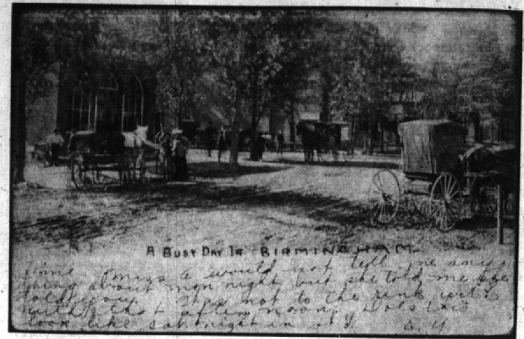
15 YEARS AGO
May 14, 1922
"The Birmingham Land Company has been foreclosed out of two parcels in Section 30 of Troy Township, which is an area near the northeast section of Birmingham. One contract called for payments of \$108,978 for 70 acres and the other \$78,947 for 90 acres. Many folks hereabouts were investors in the company."

"A new public parking lot on Hamilton street, built by the City on lots loaned by The Eccentric with the cooperation of nearby merchants, is now open to the public. It is opposite the National Bank parking lot."



"A good thing to remember is that you can't save face if you lose your head!"

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill



Almost 50 years ago, this post card was mailed from the Birmingham post office (building at left in the picture) to someone in St. Thomas, Ont.

Someone in Birmingham who signed himself simply "E. T." had mailed it to his friend at 10 a.m. on Oct. 23, 1907.

The unknown recipient (or his heir perhaps) decided Birmingham might like to have it back. So on May 6, 1937, at 6 p.m., it was placed in the St. Thomas post-office in a plain envelope addressed to "U.S. Postmaster, Birmingham, Mich."

Postmaster Rollie Reese brought in to The Birmingham Eccentric's editorial office early last week.

"Looks maybe like it ought to be saved — maybe for The Eccentric's 100th anniversary edition," he suggested.

WE VENTURED AS HOW that might be a right good idea, and we agreed to hold onto it and look at it again in 1978.

The card is slightly faded, but perhaps you can make out:

Unpaved Maple avenue looking westward toward the intersection with Pierce street at the photo's center. The post office at that time was on the southeast cor-

ner of that intersection (where the Birmingham Federal Savings & Loan is now). If you look very carefully, you may be able to make out the faint outline of the old First Methodist church steeple in the extreme upper right corner of the picture (now replaced by the S. S. Kresge store).
But don't you just love that old village atmosphere?

Are people glad to see you come—or glad to see you go?

Someone who likes to fiddle with figures must have come up with this mathematical oddity:

0 x 9 + 1 =	1
1 x 9 + 2 =	11
12 x 9 + 3 =	111
123 x 9 + 4 =	1111
1234 x 9 + 5 =	11111
12345 x 9 + 6 =	111111
123456 x 9 + 7 =	1111111
1234567 x 9 + 8 =	11111111
12345678 x 9 + 9 =	111111111
123456789 x 9 + 10 =	1111111111

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