

Russia Wins in Satellite Race

While it had been theorized that a trip to the moon was something to be realized in the near future, prior to the successful launching of the earth satellite by the Soviet Union, the theorizing now turns into an almost certain prospect.

Since the scientists have solved the problem of creating an earth satellite, the first significant step in solving the problem of space travel and successful travel to the moon has been taken.

It is no exaggeration to say that scientists are now seriously absorbed in solving the problems, and in creating the basic designs of space ships, which will carry man to the moon.

The satellites which the Soviet Union fired into space, and which successfully circled the globe every so many minutes, travelled at about 18,000 miles an hour. That proves that very little energy is needed to propel a rocket or space-ship,

once she leaves the heavy layer of gases and atmosphere which surround the earth.

IN OTHER WORDS, once we break out of the sea of gas which surrounds the earth, we can travel at fantastic speeds, using very little fuel, to other planets around us. Judging from the best estimates available, it might be that man is attempting the flight to the moon in the next ten years.

Progress always seems to come faster than we had expected, and it still seems that the task of travelling to the moon is fantastic and irresponsible.

Events in recent days however, prove that such speculation is no longer wild theory but is an imminent prospect which has suddenly confronted us in the form of an existing satellite, created and fired into space by man.

Here's a Gem of Legal Utterance!

We've heard a lot about the "gobbledegook" language of the bureaucrats on the Potomac. Who knows what they mean?

But listen to the way the learned Supreme Court "lays down the law." We quote from an opinion on June 17. Hold onto your chairs and read this classic sentence:

"The problems that are the respective preoccupations of anthropology, economics, law, psychology, sociology and related areas of scholarship are merely departmentalized divisions of analysis, with interpenetrating aspects of holistic perplexities." Imagine A. Lincoln saying that at Gettysburg!

MAYBE THIS UTTERANCE of a Justice of our greatest Court is as clear to you as a baby hollering for his bottle at 2 A.M. But it didn't "interpenetrate" us an inch.

And yet we are supposed to know the law as laid down by the U. S. Supreme Court!

That word, "holistic," was a stranger to us. So I looked in the American College Dictionary, 1432 pages long. It wasn't there! Then I turned to Webster's Unabridged, 2620 pages long. Webster hadn't heard of it either!

Reminds me of a spellbinder orating on the village green. Two old men had their ears cocked. One asked, "What's he talking about?" The other replied, "He hain't said yet."

Electricity to Drive Our Autos?

In Great Britain plans are going forward to produce a silent car, which does not require gasoline for motivation. H. J. Crawley, of the National Research Department Corporation, was quoted recently as saying that Great Britain is ahead of the United States, Germany and Russia, in this field.

That corporation, it is said, is now working on a prototype automobile, which will be operated by electricity. It is expected that the electric power will equal ten kilowatts.

The Bacon Cell, which is named for Dr. S. T. Bacon (who did the primary research work on the cell), is expected to be the motivating power in the automobile. The electric power will not be similar to that

which was produced by batteries in electric cars of years ago.

THE CELL DOES NOT have to be charged, and is powered by hydrogen-oxygen, which circulates in nickel tubes, the tubes being packed with caustic soda. The resulting chemical reaction produces electricity.

In the more distant future, it is envisioned that a small, atomic power plant will replace gasoline-consuming engines. In both these cases it may be possible to eliminate gears and produce a silent automobile.

Crawley believes that within two years the British will have a satisfactory prototype.

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

Some people miss their individual calling. For example: that Detroit policeman who recently, for the 15th time, delivered a baby. It happened in the patrol wagon. Just think, Sir, how much income you have missed by not going to medical school and emerging as a doctor!

We do not condone the Eisenhower administration's failure to beat Russia to satellite supremacy. Neither did we applaud when, on Dec. 7, 1941, the Roosevelt administration failed to head off the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor . . . or when Harry S. Truman didn't prevent the Communist raid on South Korea.

Claiming that he had discovered a secret method of creating energy far in excess of atomic power, while on a visit to the planet Venus, stopping en route on the moon, a house painter mulct \$12,300 from a gullible Washington, D.C. secretary.

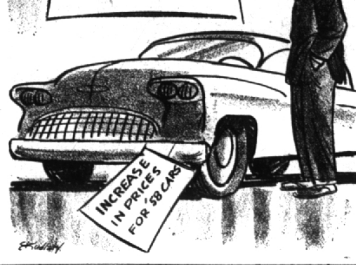
She has had the "terrestrial wanderer" arrested, and wants her money back. If she gets it, maybe she'll hide it in a sugar bowl until her house or apartment burns down to remind her that a bank is the best safeguard for ready cash.

Further efforts by Big Labor to set a national pattern of inflationary wage boosts, next year, will place labor leaders in a vulnerable economic position. Unless and until the labor forces balance wage boosts with increased productivity, the inflation spiral will continue—with nobody—least of all union members—being better off. If tomorrow's wage boost won't buy any more bread than today's wages will, then all that has been done is to increase the cost of bread. That's what happens when the unit cost of a loaf of bread costs more to produce. What is needed for the wage boost is more bread to balance that boost.

Why Not Lower Prices?

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LOWER . . .



NATURE NOW

By Lydia King Frehse
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

"Wasps--The First Paper Makers"

The Chinese are credited with inventing paper. However, long before their time certain wasps used the same principle when they chewed up wood fiber and mixed it with saliva and then shaped it with their mandibles to make their homes.

On our last trip to Wallon Lake we found one of these large paper nests hanging from the old grey birch that lists toward the water. At this time of year the structure is empty and it is safe to examine it. Old nests are not used a second year.

THE QUEEN WASP begins the nest in the spring after finding a suitable location. She only constructs a few cells in each of which she deposits an egg.

These hatch into workers who thereafter take over the duties of the hive and care for the queen. They feed the queen as flies, insects and caterpillars, chewing up the food for their young charges.

Now the only duty of the queen is to lay eggs. The workers are infertile females and are produced through the summer.

Since they have to do all the work of the colony including the enlargement of the nest as the family grows. They live like unmarried daughters doing the work of feeding and caring for the young.

WITH THE APPROACH of autumn, young queens are hatched as well as males or drones. With the advent of the first frosts all the colony dies except the fertilized females. These hibernate in rotted log or in some protected crack or crevice where they spend the winter.

During the first warm days of spring, young queens leave her winter quarters to find a suitable weathered piece of wood. This she chews up into a paste from which the grayish nest is built. It consists of a single row of cells hanging down by a stalk from the selected site.

OUR NEST at Wallon had been enlarged until it was almost eight inches in diameter. The inside was made up of several layers of cells each joined to the one above it.

The structure was then covered with a number of layers of this paper. These fit closely over one another but air can circulate between them thus serving as insulation from heat and cold. The entrance to the nest is a round hole near the bottom.

Thus the breezes sway it as it hangs pendent throughout the summer. Inside the life cycle of the wasp is carried forward. Nests have been known to hold as many as 10,000 wasps.

Wasps follow the usual pattern of their kind, the eggs hatching into pupae and the pupae developing into the winged adult. The species which made our large paper nest is *Vespa maculata*. Their color is black, with red thorax and abdomen each marked with a distinct pattern in yellow.

WASPS FEED upon other insects, meat, fruits or sweets. However they are likely to use only damaged fruit where the skin is already broken.

Everyone has seen these insects together with their relatives, the hornets, swarming over fallen fruit in orchards. Also most of us have grudgingly shared our picnic lunch with these troublesome and inquisitive visitors.

Because the sting is painful, many people regard wasps as harmful insects. However they are not likely to sting unless you go too near their nests. In the end they are valuable as predators of harmful insects such as flies and caterpillars.

Although certain of their kind are "solitary," wasps are up to people regarded wasps as harmful insects. However they are not likely to sting unless you go too near their nests. In the end they are valuable as predators of harmful insects such as flies and caterpillars.

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 Today.

30 YEARS AGO
November 15, 1927

"Now we would speak about but . . . the price sky high, up to 30 and 35 cts. per pound. Now the question comes in like this! We make a bargain with a farmer for butter at 25 cts. a pound, when it is selling, say, at 18 or 20 cts. but you contract for a year at 25 cts. Now these 30 to 35 cent times come along and you naturally wonder, is it a square deal? After taking butter at 25 cts. per lb. for 3 or 4 years and then be charged 35. Wow! Oh! the honest farmer.—A Village Buyer.

"Advertisements — The Eccentric 25¢ for 3 months; Pierre Buckley's Cafe (for a first class regular dinner) for 25¢.

30 YEARS AGO
November 14, 1927
"Thousands of persons are expected from other cities to attend Prosperity Week celebrations in Birmingham which start today. Commence chairman who have been at work on the program for several weeks are enthusiastic today over the prospects."

"A barbecue is held on Woodward avenue south of Maple, beginning Tuesday night and remaining open every night following that, will be the offering of the Birmingham Business and Professional Women's club to Prosperity Week."

"Pre-opening of the new Kinsky-Birmingham theater Monday night under the auspices of the Community House was accompanied in a dazzling blaze of glory. Approximately 1,500 persons

attended the performance, dressed in their very finest, and remained until the last flash of film touched the screen at 11:30 p.m."

15 YEARS AGO
November 12, 1942
"Some of these lads who think shooting out street lights is great sport had better get on a uniform and face something that can shoot back. Lights were broken last Thursday evening at Harmon and Woodward, Vinewood and Woodward and Vinewood and Greenwood."

"No doubt some of Birmingham's executives are pretty much rked by the salary limit which will keep them at \$20,000 a year."

The WPA asked that outdoor Christmas decorations be suspended this year. Inside, it's OK."

"Gas rationing should make an interesting change in Birmingham life. People will get acquainted with their neighbors and with local facilities for entertainment. Yes, and in some cases the members of families will get acquainted with each other."

The Old Timer
"First, a man learns to talk. After many years, he learns to keep still!"

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

Two Birmingham Rotarians are wondering why their well-meaning intentions are backfiring.

Club President Dick Fisher and former president (now club sheriff) Art Blakeslee are endeavoring (and rightly so) to enrich the club's "penalty box" proceeds going to the club's fund for aid to Oakland county crippled children.

Early rotations from meetings birthdays, late arrivals, absences, and a number of other activities can result in nominal penalties. Sheriff Art tries to check up on all these violators, and often has an assist from President Dick.

Lately, however, things have gotten to the point where they are fining each other!

In fact, their misfortune is the club's enjoyment. When these two get going at one another, it's like the return of vaudeville. And it's all ad lib, too!

We must be the only mail subscriber to Birmingham high school's semi-monthly publication, The Highlander. Our good-natured complaints about its late arrival each time have gone for naught, it seems. Worst yet is the case

of the Oct. 31 issue. It arrived on my desk exactly one week later. Our local postal service can't be that slow!

A Detroit newspaper recently carried this item:

Want to Keep Bumps in Street
CORAL GABLES, Fla. (AP)—Riviera Drive needs repaving but its residents want it to stay bumpy. They told the city commission the bumps keep buses off their street and slow down other traffic.

The commission agreed to keep its repair crews off Riviera.

That shouldn't have been a new thought to readers of The Birmingham Eccentric, nor to our city commissioners. That's been the argument of too many Birmingham townpeople as the city has gone about trying to reduce DPW maintenance costs (and save tax money thereby) in getting property owners to approve having their streets paved.

Only difference is that Birmingham city commissioners have sent the DPW crews in to patch the street holes.

SPEBSQSA Group To Hold Second Organizational Meet

A second organizational meeting of the proposed Birmingham chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, (SPEBSQSA), has been set tentatively for Nov. 26 at the Birmingham Community House.

An estimated 65 people, including visiting quartets, attended the initial meeting held Oct. 22, according to Gene Oxford who is leading the move to bring an SPEBSQSA chapter here.

Guests were entertained by some of the top notch quartets from area chapters as well as some group singing by the Oakland County Chorus, Oxford said.

All men 21 and older in the Birmingham area are invited to the

next meeting at which guest quartets will perform. If interested, contact Gene Oxford at 788 W. Lincoln.

Noah Webster began writing the dictionary in 1807 and finished in 1828.

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Ticklers
By George

"The boss always has fun with a new man who expects a raise."