

Our 1957 UF Torch Drive

"Give Once for All" again is the theme being expressed now as more than a thousand volunteers—mostly women—seek Torch Drive contributions for the nearly 200 United Foundation participating organizations.

The Birmingham-Bloomfield-Franklin area always has led the metropolitan area in the speed with which its quota is reached. We also can be proud of the fact that we have exceeded our quota by generous amounts each time.

THERE IS EVERY REASON to believe our area will keep its record intact. This year our goal is \$226,761.

With your generous assistance, it can remain so.

Other people—young and old, of all creeds, races and colors—are much in need of this aid which we provide each year in a single humanitarian financial crusade.

For these in need, give once for all.

Season of Fire Hazards Here

With cold weather approaching, it is well to remind readers that fires—destroying homes and property—will soon be occurring much more frequently than during the summer months.

The loss of life and property from fires in the United States is still a staggering one, and the average reader would be surprised to know how many people who suffer disaster from fire do not have insurance to protect them from loss.

Many fires are started by cigarettes. If you are a smoker, keep this in mind in the coming months. Another major cause of fires consists of faulty chimneys, flues and stoves. Faulty electrical wiring is also the cause of many fires.

THE MAIN THING to remember, in

seeking to avoid a costly fire, is that one should be careful with electricity, matches, stoves and so on. A few thoughts about this matter in the next few months might prevent a domestic tragedy.

And, turning our attention to the forests of the United States, the monetary loss incurred from forest fires is tremendous each year.

These fires are sometimes started by lightning as the reader knows, but more often they are started by the same thing which is responsible for most fires—carelessness.

So, whether you are in your own home or in the woods this fall and winter, exercise great care and save your home, someone's life, or perhaps millions of dollars in natural resources.

TV Can't Replace Good Reading

A prominent educator has warned that the television craze, if it continues "with the present level of programs," will make us "a nation of morons."

The doctor deprecates the lazy shortcuts that fool a student into thinking he is learning when he is not.

"The habit of reading is an indispensable necessity of intelligence," declares the doctor, who thinks that too much dependence on television will make impossible the formation of good reading habits by young people.

THE EDUCATOR HAS SOMETHING to worry about if television will prevent the young people of this nation from de-

veloping the habit of reading.

It is quite possible for a man or woman to pick up a smattering collection of information on television, through the movies or elsewhere, but it is important that our young people understand that a collection of scattered information can be practically useless.

An encyclopedia, or a book of facts, contains many interesting statistics and other things of interest.

Nevertheless, no one would call either book "educated" and the same observation applies to the mind that is burdened with the trivia that often passes for learning in circles that are uneducated.

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

"Liz & Phil Eat Anything," headlines a news story, quoting the former chief chef of Britain's royal train. That's a pretty strong statement to be made by a foreigner who, presumably hasn't tried Mrs. Mulligan's stew.

Michigan Supreme Court Associate Justice George Edwards rightly, we believe, states that a good probation plan will do much to rehabilitate wrong-doers, and also relieve Michigan's over-burdened prisons of congestion. Most students of the problem concur in Edwards' argument. Prisons still are, for the most part, institutions of confinement that teach many inmates how to become better law-breaking repeaters.

"Nikita Khrushchev, Russia's top man, possesses great personality with charming manners, but very authoritative and obviously a strong man who could get angry." So says Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, following her recent visit to Russia. Yes, Mrs. Roosevelt, Nikita can get mad... as millions of the living can testify... and other millions also could, only they are the deceased victims of the hatred and madness of Stalin, Khrushchev, et al.

Citizens of nearby Troy City want their tax mitigation reduced from 20 to 15 mills. They have petitioned for an election to amend their city charter in this respect. Seems as though some of the citizens, far removed from even near-future possibility of receiving public improvement consistent with the tax increase resulting in change from township to city status, favor the lesser limitation.

Oakland county, it seems, is having difficulty in finding a suitable area in and on which to dump its total trash, rubbish, and other unwanted items. Birmingham's former city manager Donald C. Egbert, who heads up Southeastern Oakland County's garbage and rubbish authority, so reports. The problem, of course, typifies the normal waste and extravagance that exists in this land of abundance.

If and when scientists develop means of getting to the moon, perhaps that dead planet can be used as a sort of French Devil's island, where undesired human beings may be sent and held... or for some other foolish reason that, for the moment, we cannot imagine.

Ticklers

By George

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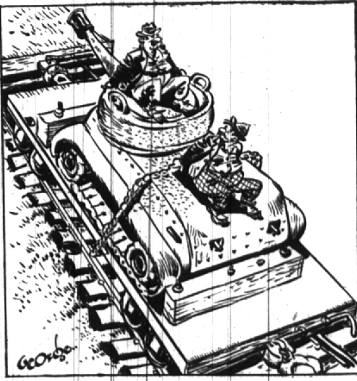
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"And it's important that we protect the American way of life—you know, you can't be a hobo in Russia!"

Depends on the Viewpoint



NATURE NOW

by Lydia King Frehe

Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Fall Reflected By Canada Goose

On a recent visit to Kensington park we found hundreds of Canada geese feeding on the quiet waters of Wilwilling lake.

While the sportsman's gun is booming this game preserve makes a quiet haven for one of the most hunted of our wildfowl. The stagnant water holds an abundance of floating duckweed and an assortment of water plants.

These latter the big birds obtain by diving into the shallows until they are virtually up-ended with only their tails visible.

The Canada goose is the most widely distributed and well known of our wildfowl.

They are more strictly recognized as a waterfowl. No birds are more stately in swimming on the quiet waters.

They take their place as an accustomed part of autumn's flaming pageant. On land, searching for

left-over grain.

They are graceful for their webbed feet and heavy bodies are shaped to their aquatic mode of life.

WHEN FEEDING on land or water they are always guarded by sentinels. Both their sight and hearing are so acute that they quickly recognize any possible threat to their safety. In protest, they seem to sense their privileges and on occasion they can be taught to feed out-of-hand.

An easy field identification mark for these large brownish-grey birds is the long "black-stocking" neck with a white patch meeting under the throat. The characteristic V-flight formation with the long neck outstretched in a slight downward curve is unmistakable. During migration this typical formation sometimes gives way to a long single sloping line or more rarely to an Indian file.

THE OLD GANDERS are unerring in leading their flocks by the straightest and safest route to their winter feeding grounds.

Flying by night and day with safe and frequent stop-overs they make their way from their northernmost breeding grounds on the

Arctic coast to their southernmost winter home on the Gulf of Mexico. In open winters they may remain in some intermediate feeding grounds.

The cry of Canada geese is so characteristic that they are often called "Honkers." However as we saw them resting and feeding they indulged in a number of chatty and intimate sounds reminding one of a contented Sunday afternoon's conversation.

We also watched them take to the air running along for a few steps before clearing the water and alighting again with a graceful settling of their large wings and a quick splash.

THE CANADA GOOSE weighs from 7 to 14 pounds and is second only to the swan in size. A tempting prize for the hunter, he has developed a wary and sagacious nature which is a challenge to the skill and ingenuity of any sportsman. Due to game management laws this bird manages to hold its own.

Canada geese make for life in his journal Audubon notes that the male's devotion to his family. The nest is a depression made in the ground, lined with available vegetable material. The female lays and incubates from 4 to 10 white eggs with the gender standing by to ward off intruders.

IN INLAND REGIONS autumn flocks of geese pick up fallen grain and nibble at pasture grass. Migrating flocks are often damaging to spring grain fields. In our northern marshes wild rice, sedges and aquatic plants together with insects, larvae, small mollusks and crustaceans are preferred foods.

The spring migration reaches its height in March. The autumn migration begins in the far north late August and usually reaches its climax through October and early November.

So it is that the wild geese continue to go on in scattered flocks honking their way across the path of the moon until at last the northern marshes are frozen and empty and winter is at hand.

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

October 25, 1907

"The ladies of the Presbyterian church held their monthly meeting at the home of Mrs. Stearns, which was their experience social also, and which netted them \$30. They expect to raise a mile of pennies, each member seeing how many yards she can collect before next April."

"Clinton College, of Pontiac, has just paid \$50 for the privilege of touching off a bunch of firecrackers under a horse's heels at Rochester on the day we celebrate."

"Tuesday afternoon everybody in town rubbed their necks nearly off looking for one of the St. Louis national contest balloons, reported by the Evening News office as being due to pass over Birmingham about 1 o'clock. It passed over the state fair grounds instead."

30 YEARS AGO

October 27, 1927

"All precautions possible are being taken for the purification of the water in south Birmingham today," said Manager James W. Perry. While there is said to be a slight contamination in the water, the bacteria has been found up to date not to be harmful, he said, and no sickness is traceable to the water. Chlorination will continue until the tests show the water is entirely free of contamination, he declared."

"Date for the special election in Birmingham to decide whether the form of government will be changed to that of a city will be decided at the meeting of the village commission Nov. 28 according to a

resolution passed Monday night. The act of the commission was made mandatory with the receipt of a petition signed by 215 persons asking for the election. The election it is expected, will be held sometime in December."

15 YEARS AGO

October 22, 1942

"Sugar stamp No. 9 is good from Nov. 1 to Dec. 15 and is good for three pounds of sugar. Commercial allotments for November and December are 70 per cent of the amount used last year."

"Walter R. Raychel, secretary of the Retail Merchants Association, today appealed to children to forego Halloween window soaping. The merchants are very short of soap and can't spare it to wash windows. However, too, find it difficult to hire anyone to wash windows and hope children will desist this year."

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

Last spring's election of a new state highway commissioner now is beginning to be felt around the Water Wonderland. The new commissioner, John C. Mackie, is making known by degrees his plans for a state-wide road program.

Some of former commissioner Charles Ziegler's pet projects may fall by the roadside. On the other hand, some of Ziegler's indiscretions may be revised.

One of these pending projects is the turnpike vs. freeway situation through Southfield and Bloomfield (as well as other) municipalities. Mackie said he will come up with his plan in the near future.

It's a more minor aspect, but even Birmingham city officials have had to mark time until Mackie's top aides review the policies of the former administration. Birmingham is in the midst of a state-agreed development of Hunter boulevard with access drives.

Birmingham has been assured this policy will be reviewed soon. The city is about ready to put in another phase of the access drive program, this one on the east side of Hunter north of Maple.

Someone said the other day that a native Detroit is a person who has lived there for five consecutive years.

Michigan's state police—already a fine,

efficient, courteous organization in my estimation—is adding something new to its abilities.

It is training some of the troopers in each of the department's eight districts in the art of skin diving. Thus Michigan probably becomes the nation's first state police group to do this.

In addition to the recovery of bodies of drowned persons, many criminal cases have been successfully prosecuted only after important evidence had been recovered from lakes and rivers.

FOR INSTANCE, in 1955 two murderers of a gas station attendant were convicted when members of a Lansing skin diving club cooperated with state police in recovering a shotgun and rifle disposed of in a lake.

That same year, a university student was convicted of attempted rape when a knife he had used as a weapon was found in a river.

Numerous safes and other objects also have been recovered by skin divers.

If I should ever have an underwater meeting with some of these aquatic troopers, I hope they will be as courteous as their landlubber brothers. I have yet to meet an unpleasant Michigan state trooper.

MSU Gets Set for Annual Homecoming

Colorful and amusing student displays will greet Michigan State University alumni from the Birmingham area who return to the campus Friday and Saturday for MSU's 48th annual Homecoming.

Highlight of the weekend will be the Spartans' football game against the University of Illinois, starting at 1:30 p.m. Saturday.

Class reunions are to be staged on the stadium turf immediately following the game, with members of the various classes rallying around placards, according to Starr H. Keeler, director of alumni relations.

DORMITORIES, sorority and fraternity houses will feature outdoor homecoming displays in competition for coveted trophies. Winners will be honored at intermission of the informal Homecoming dance Saturday night at the University Auditorium.

Trophies will be awarded at the same time to the 1957 MSU homecoming queen and her court. The campus beauties also will be presented at the start of the football game.

On Friday night there will be a stag smoker at Lansing's Hotel Old, honoring members of the MSU athletic department. Soccer,

cross country and swimming exhibitions also are scheduled.

Aboard Saratoga

Thomas B. Johnson, navy airman and son of Mr. and Mrs. Willis B. Johnson, 7217 Tratham court, was about the attack aircraft carrier USS Saratoga which took part in NATO exercises in European waters in September.

Thirty person died and more than 200,000 were left homeless by the disastrous 1951 floods of the Po River near Rovigo, Italy.

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