

—And Still Growing

Harry Allen Was A Good Citizen

In the recent passing of Harry Allen, Birmingham lost a life-long citizen who, more than does the average person, gave of his time and talent to aid in the processes of self-government. A lawyer, he leavened his tenures of public office in village, city, and library affairs with much wisdom culled from his professional knowledge.

Always of a quiet nature, yet he brought to the implementation of civic matters the logic of a penetrating and scholarly mind.

During recent years, except for his membership on the Baldwin public library board, he was not associated with local public affairs. However, his son James, also a lawyer, followed his dad's path to

Birmingham's municipal corridors, and served both as commissioner and mayor.

IT IS TO BE RECALLED, too, that Jim's maternal grandfather, Warren D. Clizbe, in the Twenties also served as president of the then village commission, and for years had been a member of the board of education here.

Perhaps a fitting epitaph for the Clizbe-Allen families could read: "They found time to volunteer, practically without financial compensation, their services to their friends and neighbors in the job of helping to make self-government operate better."

Under Any Name Soviet Is Evil

Russia's Molotov was, and is, an evil man, so much so that his name became a household byword with us. He was nicknamed "Stone Bottom" by Boss Stalin because not even tanks in his chair would move him from the Stalinist program. He was the one who always said: "Nyet," meaning "no" to everything, and was bull-headed as a bull!

Then came the assassination program, more politely, the purge. Molotov ("Stone Bottom") played his game to the end. The purge is a legalized method of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, a familiar instrument of tyranny.

Stalin rose to power by assassination. Khrushchev started to climb the ladder of power with the execution of Beria, who

headed the Secret Police.

NOW IT IS NO SURPRISE that Khrushchev, whose dream was to destroy the Stalinist "cult-personality," should be illiquitating the balance of key Stalinists. From the shake-up in the government hierarchy, it would appear that Khrushchev will tolerate only one salutation: "Stalin is dead. Long live Khrushchev!"

Now even Molotov has been all but banished from Party importance.

So goes the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics!

Let's not forget the goals of Khrushchev are identical to Stalin's. He wants to conquer the free world!

How Short Should 'Fuse' Get?

If dynamites put explosives under your house and lighted the fuse, just when can you "constitutionally" cut the fuse and save your home?

When is there "a clear and present danger"? Can you cut the fuse when the sputtering fire is 50 feet away from the dynamite, or do you have to wait until it is only 6 inches away?

Apparently, the latter, according to Chief Justice Earl Warren and a majority on our astonishing Supreme Court.

Now, we are all for former Justice Holmes' remark that freedom of speech is not only for the thought we like, but for the thought we hate.

Any loyal American should be free to advocate a minority point of view, so long as he would change our laws only as the

Constitution permits.

BUT DOES ANY ONE who is part of the International Communist conspiracy to rule the world, have any right at any time to advocate the overthrow of this Government by force?

The Supreme Court says he can as long as the burning fuse is still some distance from the dynamite!

Earl Warren seems to think there is no danger—yet, if so, why are we drafting 3,000,000 men and spending 45 billion \$'s for defense?

He says the F.B.I. must open its files to suspected saboteurs and traitors who take the 5th Amendment.

If this is law, we'll take common sense instead.

From The Eccentric's Point of View ...

It continues to be humanly wonderful that today's rural boys and girls are interested in the variety of things—mostly animals—that comprise farms. We always get a kick from seeing pictures of youngsters with their self-raised animals, for example. There is something fine and wholesome about boys and girls engaged in the fundamental pursuit of providing the human family with the meat, fruit and vegetables that keep its members alive.

Wonder what will be the name of the Michigan Republican candidate who, next year, will be defeated for Governor by G. Mennen Williams?

Hear this! Hear this! All girls, ladies and women: A Los Angeles male designer of feminine clothing says that a \$39.95 dress is just as good as one costing \$3,995. The cheaper dress, he points out, may be the same pattern, often consist of the same material, but is one of a thousand made on a production line—while the ex-

pensive garment was custom-made, and the only one thus fashioned. (Whaddayuthink about that, girls?)

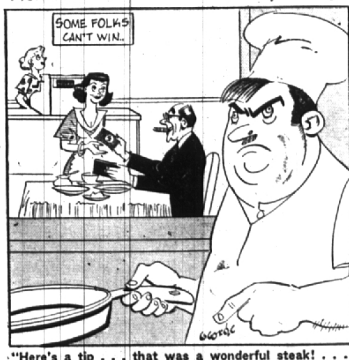
You may recall, during the Republican campaign in 1952 when Taft, Eisenhower and Stassen were vying for the nomination, that Childe Harold (Stassen) expressed complete confidence that he would win. His latest expression of confidence follows the collapse of the London disarmament talks. He asserts that "... we shall not give up ... I believe we are nearer disarmament ... etc., etc." What a terrible calamity it would be, we join many in thinking, if Stassen ever did sit in the White House. (Which, of course, he never will.) Yet he personally believes he was divinely ordained to preside over the U.S.A., and about every move he makes seems, to us, surrounded by his self-made aura of Messianic grandeur. Why Ike doesn't appoint him ambassador to Panama, Guatemala, or even Luxemborg, we'll never know.

The Birmingham Eccentric

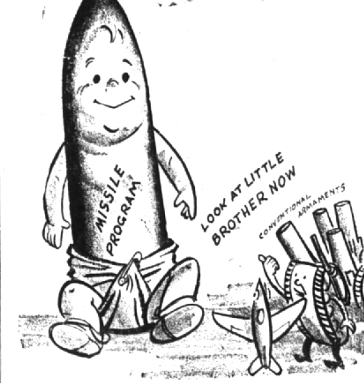
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NATURE NOW

BY LYDIA KING FREHSE
Special Writer for The Birmingham Economist

Foreign Birds—Varied Habitats

If we have sighted the birds through this last exciting summer it is not for lack of interest. Nor is it because we did not seek a goodly representation of our feathered friends both on the European continent and to a lesser degree in the Middle East.

However, all naturalists will agree that plants, well-tended and stationary, are always available while birds are elusive and will not tarry for the hurried traveler who has to be content with chance meetings and brief glimpses.

HE IS FURTHER handicapped in any "naturalizing" by language barriers and lack of reference books.

The visiting professional is in a more favorable position. Two years ago when the British ornithologist James Fisher toured the North American continent in company with Roger Peterson, he added 401 species to his list.

His record at Brownsville, Texas was 152 species for a single day as against Mr. Fisher's previous record of 90 species in Central France. These figures are indicative of the bird population of North America and Europe.

BIRDS LIVE primarily where there is nesting space and adequate food supply. A bird's interest in trees and encouragement is related to the above factors.

Peterson quotes the number of full species of North American birds at 625. (Some authors consider a percentage of these as subspecies.) It can be expected that our own country with its rich and varied habitats should lead these smaller countries both in species and numbers.

However, we found Great Britain undaunted by its size and unusually interested in things both botanical and avian. The influence of such noted naturalists as Gilbert White and W. H. Hudson

James Fisher's studies show that an even hundred of the resident breeding birds of the British Isles are the same as those which live in the neighboring countries of the continent.

The other thirty-three are peculiar to Britain. Since fields are generally larger, woods more abundant and conditions less crowded, the birds of northern and central Europe have more living range.

Yet it would be small in comparison with our own for the villages are generally more together and the large cities numerous.

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
September 27, 1907
"One rash citizen was heard to say on Saturday that it would be a fine thing to pave Woodward avenue. 'Twould be nice—but we need sewers first.'"

15 YEARS AGO
September 24, 1942
"Hoarding of meat has started by some who possess freezer units, this Wanderer has been told. One woman bought \$27 worth of steaks and a lot of bacon. Another grocer said that a customer bought \$37 worth of meat, but became incensed when he refused to sell her more than one pound of a certain brand of coffee."

"A mint of money awaits somebody who can invent bugaboo bloomers for lightning bugs."

"Overnight the term 'zoot' suit has caught the public's fancy. It's a silly word to describe silly clothes."

... reported Sunday morning that someone has stolen silk clothing from her clothes dryer. Speaking of that subject this Wanderer wonders whether it is permissible for teachers to attend classes without rotary. If not, that day may come.

30 YEARS AGO
September 29, 1927
"Birmingham merchants today received a letter from Village President H. T. Ellerby, calling a meeting at the Baldwin high school at 8 p. m. Wednesday to discuss plans for a "Prosperity Week" which is believed will be the biggest event of its kind in the history of the village."

"Street Car Inspector Jack Hartford reports this new passing detected on an interurban: A man matching pennies with himself and plainly showing his disappointment when the left hand won over the right."

ONE THING OR ANOTHER

By George Wm. Averill

Ever since the Straits of Mackinac bridge was considered seriously, there has been a minor behind-the-scenes controversy over what would happen to the tourist interest in that part of the country should the bridge be constructed.

One side has held that time is not the most important aspect of life. Therefore, they declare, let the hour-long highway ferry service continue because it is more interesting and picturesque than simply driving over a bridge.

Bridge proponents argue that tourist interest most likely will be greater because of the man-made, five-mile long steel and concrete ribbon across the windswept straits.

BOTH SIDES SOON will get the opportunity to measure the validity of their arguments. The bridge is scheduled for opening in about a month.

Personally, I feel among the twice-blessed. I've enjoyed several trips across the ferries. And I look forward excitedly to the times I shall drive across the white-fleeced waters.

But by and large, I believe the bridge will be welcomed by more people. These are the ones to whom time is fool's gold. Save-a-minute to wait-a-minute or waste-a-minute.

The bridge also will be appreciated by more people. These are the citizens who like solid "ground" rather than a yawning deck under their feet.

AMONG THE FRUSTRATED CHARACTERS I would like to be a sailor. So from a personal point of view, I shall miss the chance for the boatrips across the straits. But that probably means I just shall bother my boat-owning acquaintances a bit more to make up for the re-jection of the highway department's fleet of five vessels.

[Thus endeth an era of state-supported excursions which began in 1923 with the \$10,000 purchase of the "Ariel". She was a Detroit river boat that needed \$9,000 more in repairs to get her past marine inspection. Another \$10,000 for a dock at St. Ignace, and renting of a slip in Mackinac City and the state was in the ferry business.]

The first year, the "Ariel" carried 10,351 cars across the straits. An all-time record of over 900,000 cars were transported just this past year.

The only thing I sort of regret is that the state highway department couldn't figure out how to put one of its famous roadside parks or scenic turnouts near the middle of the bridge.

crowded and unfriendly to bird life.

IN THE MIDDLE EAST there is so much of heat and arid barrenness that one wonders how birds survive at all. Yet they do, always congregating in tended gardens and what natural valleys and water-ways there are to seek out the plant life upon which many species depend for food and nesting space. Of scavengers such as crows, quita picking up the refuse of man's untidy ways. Pigeons, starlings and sparrows seemed oblivious to the handicaps provided by both men and nature and we followed them into three continents even as we followed the swamowit, the horse chestnut and the Lombardy poplar.

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