

## Michael Vettrano: A Good Man!

In the life and works of Michael Vettrano, for more than 50 years chief gardener for the late George S. Bush and later for the entire nearby Cranbrook Institutions, an old Biblical admonition is exemplified: "He who humbleth himself shall be exalted . . ."

For Mr. Vettrano, who passed away at the age of 73 two weeks ago, certainly was respected and loved by a good many Birmingham-Bloomfield Hills people . . . rich and not-so-rich men and women, whose own lives had been brightened because of their beholding of Mr. Vettrano's achievements in the floral world, were deeply moved by his passing.

Few local funeral services ever surpassed, in number of people, and in grateful memories of a passing life's good works, the many who came to pay their last respects at the Vettrano services.

THIS SIMPLE, HOME-LOVING, flow-er-tree-shrub-loving Italian never acquired much of this world's material goods. He and Mrs. Vettrano did raise a devoted family. They earned the friendships of many . . . and he has left the heritage of a good life to all who knew him.

No wonder Cranbrook Institutions dedicated a brick court adjacent to the Brook-side School to him, and called it "Plaza Vettrano."

Another honor bestowed upon the Vettrano family came to Dominick, a son, who last week was selected mayor of Bloomfield Hills. "Papa" Vettrano and "Mama" Vettrano must feel mighty proud of their son who, though born of "richly poor" parents, has been made chief executive of one of the wealthiest communities in America.

## \$150 for Soviet Mama's Shoes

Christmas, Father's — and Mother's Day: "Say it with flowers"; February 2nd, Groundhog Day; or "Valentines on the Volga."

The Russian boys and girls, fathers and mothers, just don't know of these things — and the reason is Communism. Under its bleakness, the Moscow bosses could afford to give their slaves some luxuries. So here's a suggestion for Khrushchev.

Give a really warm coat to papa to protect him from the cold — Russian price, \$500; shoes for mama (she needs sturdy shoes, for many sweep the streets or carry bricks 18 hours per week) — price, \$150; new shirt for Junior (quality so poor that an American Junior wouldn't wear it) — price, \$15.

NO CHOICE of free markets: you take from government-controlled stores, what the government-owned factories manufacture. Families go hungry for months to save enough rubles to buy a few things more than sheer necessities. No luxuries; no frills; no fun! Such is Communism — all of which, in our opinion, is a barrel of moonshine. When you see pictures of Russians — including children — is there a smile or a laugh in sight?

The difference between Communism and the Free Enterprise System is: Americans can purchase their needs in a free market of their choice. In Russia, there is no choice.

## Want Your Taxes Lowered?

A statement worth making is worth repeating. As we have said so often, if you want lower taxes, write your Congressmen and tell them. You are one of the voters who decides whether your representative goes back to Congress.

There seems to be a determined attempt in the House to bury a bill which the Hoover Task Force estimates would save from 5 to 6 billion dollars yearly. That, neighbor, is a carload of \$'s.

President Eisenhower has endorsed the Hoover Plan. It was O.K'd by the Senate, and has the full support of Senator Byrd, an outstanding financial expert and down-to-earth conservative Democrat. So we are in good company, when we say, "Let's go."

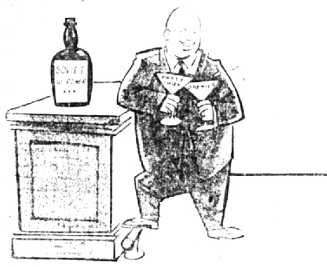
BUT POLITICS BEING what it is, opposition has jumped up in the House, Representative Clarence Cannon, a Missouri Democrat, and Representative John Taber, New York Republican, powerful members of the House Appropriations Committee, and others, fear the bill would weaken the Committee's influence—a heck of a reason.

Our duty is to restore to Congress control of Federal spending.

F.D.R.'s leftwing adviser, Harry Hopkins, said in substance: Control the purse, and you control the country. "People are too damned dumb to understand."

If, and when, the taxpayers write their Congressmen and yell "bloody murder," then we will pay lower taxes. Not until then!

## Hangover Ahead?



### NATURE NOW

By Lydia King Erbe

## Music of Red-Wing Is April Grace Note

Now "spring is in the red-wing's throat" as he mounts his catbird podium. Inexplicable from the marsh in this common bird, whose "O-kay-see-see" mingles with the four chords, lifting April days with nostalgic notes.

The migrant, whose song is heard from the north to the south, is a familiar sight in the marshes of the South. It is a bird of the marsh, and its song is a melody of the marsh.



Mrs. Erbe

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## ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

Although the cost of government — Federal, state and local — has been rising rapidly in recent years, Oakland county taxpayers can draw some consolation from a report issued by the Census Bureau.

It shows that a streamlining of the county's governmental process is being achieved. As a result of consolidations, there now are fewer government units operating locally than five years ago. This reduction is 25 percent.

These facts are found in a special study, covering every United States county, made by the Bureau as part of its 1957 census of governments. It is the first such survey in five years.

IT SHOWS COMMUNITY AFFAIRS throughout the country are only partly in the hands of county and city governments. In most places they are conducted, in addition, through various "district" bodies, which have authority over schools, highways, housing or other community functions.

For Oakland, the survey shows there are now 93 operating units of government.

They consist of the county government itself, 30 municipalities, 24 townships, 32 school districts and 6 special districts.

The total is 35 percent below the 143 units counted in 1952.

THE REDUCTION WAS GREATER than that reported for most other U.S. counties, which had an average drop of 12 percent. In the East North Central States it was 17 percent.

Such consolidations have taken place in many areas in the United States, but have been offset partially by an increase in the number of special districts. The net result is 102,928 units of government throughout the country, nearly half of them school districts.

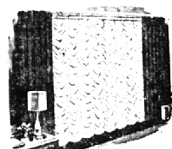
In Oakland, the decline in the number of school districts was from 36 to 32.

As viewed by the publication American City: "While local government still suffers from a complexity of administrative divisions and subdivisions enough to frighten the most ardent jig-saw puzzle fan, some hopeful progress in consolidation has taken place in recent years."

### LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The estate of George Wm. Averill, deceased, is hereby notified that all claims against the estate must be presented to the undersigned within the time specified herein. The undersigned is the executor of the estate of George Wm. Averill, deceased, and is authorized to receive and pay all claims against the estate. The undersigned is also authorized to execute and deliver all necessary documents in connection with the administration of the estate. The undersigned is also authorized to execute and deliver all necessary documents in connection with the administration of the estate.

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## From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

Inflation, or the depreciation of the purchasing power of the American dollar, is the contribution of many segments of our nation. So long as it continues, it is like allowing a penny to reach into your pocket and steal a penny here and another penny there. On a national scale, inflation is the biggest thief of all.

For a least a year or two, it appears, former Teamsters' Boss Dave Beck will have plenty of leisure to review his tempestuous life. From the super-duper luxuries he had grown accustomed to, to the fare and environment of a prison is a considerable come down. Within the plans of Providence, it may be that Mr. Beck may

be reformed, to come forth as an honest citizen of the Good Society of Free Americans.

U.S. airman, Donald Farrell, who put in seven days in a three-by-six foot simulated space ship, said that the only oddity thing he couldn't do in that coop was to whistle. He said he wanted to whistle "just for company". The simulated high altitude within the coop did something to the air within to prevent the whistling. Inhaling gulps of oxygen causes the human voice to rise a couple of octaves or so . . . maybe these gulps would prevent a whistle. Maybe also they'd stop a set of bagpipes.

## 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.

20 YEARS AGO  
April 17, 1938

"A proposition is before the village board to level down most of our trees along our streets, convert them into two wood and sell it. The proceeds to be used in having grade to make our roads much better. The board is to be held on the street very wet, muddy and in the spring of the year, almost impassable. We have heard it said that the street from the steam railroad east to Adams avenue is worse than any other piece of road the same length in Oakland county."

"Last Sunday some of our boys tried to conduct our country into a playground. They were driven out by our police. Independent and saucy, of course. The whole town seems to be at their mercy. Arrests are promised if the thing is repeated."

20 YEARS AGO  
April 19, 1938

"The furnishing and equipping of the new Quanton school was discussed at the board of education meeting. It was voted to buy 31 dozen auditorium chairs from the Grand Rapids Steel Chair Company, at a price amounting to \$1,069.00."

"We Heard It Said By—a waitress: 'Are women easier to wait on than men? Of course not. Men usually are satisfied with the food that is brought to them. Women, however, start telling you about how they would cook the particular dish. They are more inclined to be very picky and cause much trouble. I prefer a table full of men anytime.'"

15 YEARS AGO  
April 14, 1943

An estimated 3,000 people last week saw the Birmingham Road wagon stage at the high school auditorium as the climax to the

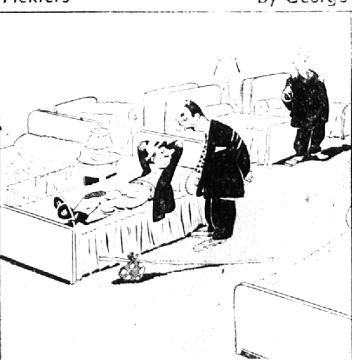
## The Birmingham Eccentric

Published every Thursday, at Birmingham, Mich., in the Eccentric Building, 220-254 North Woodward Avenue Telephone Midwest 4-1100

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### Ticklers

By George



"Browsing?"

## Suburban Sentiment

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—Mary Jane Palmer

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