

Take 2 Votes With You Monday

Too many Birmingham householders wake up in May to find that spring has been here for several weeks, in fact and in temperature.

There is something else these residents also realize weeks, months, or even years late: their city commission membership has changed. They realize they didn't have a hand in the determination of the commission members, thus no direct hand in controlling how the city is going about its business or is spending tax monies.

WE MENTION THIS TODAY because next Monday is the annual Birmingham city election. There's not much glamour to this year's ballot. No bond issues to be voted on. No special questions. No advisory opinions being sought.

Just the election of two members to serve for three years. There are three candidates, all of whom would do a commendable job of serving the city. (See related story on Page 1-A.)

The winners will have a direct say in how \$4 to \$5 million in local and state tax

monies are spent during their three-year term.

IT WOULD BE NICE if more than just one out of five or six voters turned out Monday. Perhaps each of us could interest some disinterested voter in going to the polls. That would be a most noticeable and worthy improvement.

Will you help?

A closing word to those Bloomfield Hills voters, who have a no-contest ballot:

It is these no-contest affairs which worry public officials, and which the professional politician can take advantage of.

IT IS SO EASY TO KEEP a dark horse candidate under wraps, then get his supporters out en masse to "plunk" for the unknown starter on a write-in basis.

Therefore, there is a civic responsibility to get out and vote for the candidates whose names are printed on the ballot. This prevents undesired political upsets.

This is an excellent reason for voting in a no-contest election.

Ingress to Berlin an' Cow Pastures

For many moons we have been looking for the great brain responsible for the fool decisions that wound up the war in Europe.

One of these bloopers was not to demand from "good old Joe" a written guarantee of a right of way in and out of our section of Berlin.

No horny handed farmer would buy a cow pasture without having such a thing in writing.

But some big shot was apparently so anxious to cuddle up to Joe that he just took it for granted that Joe was too much of a gentleman to have such a delicate point brought up.

Hence, we had later to air-lift ourselves in and out of Berlin for eleven months at a cost of millions of dollars.

WHO BLOODED? Some have blamed Eisenhower. But as Rule One of the Army is never to show up the bloopers of the upper brass, this has been an unsolved mystery.

Recently, however, Mr. Harry S. Truman told a reporter that "Eisenhower was a great military commander when he had some one to tell him what to do."

Reporter: "Who told him what to do? Was it you?"

Truman: "The commander-in-chief."

Reporter: "You were commander-in-chief."

Truman: "Yes."

Now that Mr. Truman has assumed responsibility for no right of way, will he now tell who pulled Patton back from Berlin so Joe could take the town and paint it RED?

1958 Could Be Fateful U.S. Year

1958 could be a fatal year, although few on our side expect that. The world will probably sag along, as at present, with friction just short of war slowly heating up the continents.

The Chinese are now almost as big and imponderable as the Russians. If anything, they are even more aggressive. They have the Formosa thorn constantly pricking their ego. Anything can happen!

Within this country it looks as though the future movement is toward the left. More spending, more deficits, bigger debts piling up—and, of course, more labor troubles. Unions are shouting "guaranteed annual wage" and pressing business even closer to the point of fight-or-go-in the red; and further encroachments by the

Federal Government upon free enterprise and the liberties of the citizens.

OUR ECONOMY is resting in part on a quicksand bog of inflation. The \$ slowly shrinks, and the shrinkage slowly hardens and stays hardened. Business, caught between labor trouble and the deep blue sea of rising taxation, is following the course of least resistance, playing along with both labor leaders and officialdom, counting on more inflation and arms spending.

Business isn't doing much in defense of Free Enterprise.

Yes, '58 could be quite an interesting year. It's a little like walking past the cemetery in moonlight.

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

We haven't heard of anybody who is willing to bet—even if given tremendous odds—that any Republican can defeat Gov. Williams this fall. Perhaps that's why no Republican as yet has offered himself on the sacrificial pyre of the forthcoming 1958 election campaign. To win an election one must have something he is fighting for that the people want. It can be more honesty in government, which elected Kim Sigler back in 1946. It can be less tax-

ation. It can be more of the Welfare State. But it must be something besides a comparatively unknown name.

A London man of very modest means recently put up two cents on Britain's soccer pool; he won \$576,878—all tax free. What happens to that chap and his family during the next few years could, maybe, make a good novel and an interesting movie.

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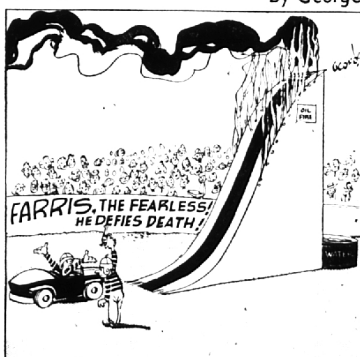
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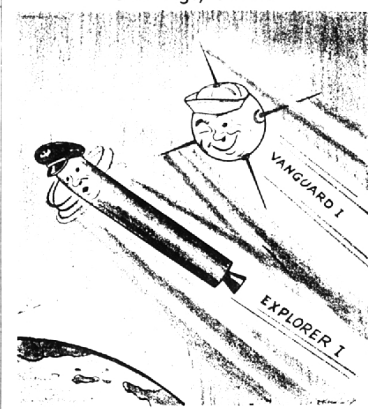
Ticklers

By George



"You never said anything about landing in a tank filled with water! I'm deathly afraid of water!"

Greetings, Chum!



NATURE NOW

by Lydia King Frehe

Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

From Egg to Frog Is Spring Miracle

During my childhood it was a springtime rite to bring home a canful of frog and toad eggs dipped from the edge of a nearby pond.

We soon learned that the former are usually considered to be silent, once they can produce a sweet sustained trill.

Both frogs and toads, show pronounced modification to their environment. Aquatic species have fully webbed feet and tree-living forms, like the spring peeper, have adhesive disks on their toes. Since they are so different many species are not only protectively colored but are able to change their skin pigments to blend with their changing backgrounds.

The adaptive power of these amphibians reaches its climax in the tadpole stage. The young of the Saranac toad (Rana pipera) of the Guinness and Brazil have a unique nursery. As the eggs are laid, the nurse processes them into pits in the soft spongy back of the female. Thus the larvae, when they hatch, are carried to maturity when they break through the skin and hop.



Mrs. Frehe

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THE EUROPEAN "molewife" (Allypops) has her eyes in two strings which she fastens around her legs and carries on her back until the young hatch and are a month old.

An Amazonian tree frog (Hyla) is said to live the life of a friendly hermit. When the bowl fills with rain water, she lays her eggs there. In due time each tadpole is born with an extra body tail which is its food supply until it can hop about and forage for itself.

IN THE HIGH mountain forests of South America where no stagnant water is available, lives the great grey marsupial frog (Eleutherodactylus). Between folds of skin on the lower back of the female is a large cavity which serves as a repository for incubating eggs and tadpoles, all in one. From this the perfectly formed baby toads are delivered.

The term Amphibia means "double life on land and in water. To-day, 2,000 species of this family are a remnant of their kind which first lived the Mesozoic seas 350 million years ago. They reached their climax some 100 million years later as great clumsy "waddlers" in the lush and wet swamps of the carboniferous period.

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

April 3, 1908

"Let us have a neat pretty town this summer. The Village Improvement society is looking out for places to make into beauty spots. Will you help?"

"The Macabees of the World recently sent a very generous contribution toward the payment of the Lincoln bust that was placed in our library. It was very kind and thoughtful and appreciated."

15 YEARS AGO

April 1, 1913

"The American Civic Association says: We hope to make it possible for one to open his eyes along a country road without being assailed by cassettes or ball Durham."

"Smith Bros. & Hagerman will deliver hard coal in the village during April at \$0.80 per ton. If cash is received with an order, a further reduction of 25c per ton will be made."

30 YEARS AGO

April 3, 1928

"Two of the rooms in the new Community House, which are particularly adapted to the use of Birmingham business girls are to be furnished by the Birmingham Business and Professional Women's club according to their present plans."

"Plans are being made today by Hope F. Hargren village commissioner, for the ceremony to accompany the laying of the cornerstone of the new municipal building in the civic center. Commissioner Hargren was authorized by the board to take full charge of the affair, at the meeting Monday night."

"Joe McBride, old resident of Troy; I have seen Bloomfield and Troy townships change since I was born in this section. Few farms are left today; the dozens of stakes to which we used to tie cattle years ago have given way to the thousands of lot stakes in the many subdivisions. The trees are going too. There used to be lots of elm, ash and maple trees in this section."

15 YEARS AGO

April 1, 1913

"Spring, beautiful spring! It was 13 Wednesday."

"With the high price of lettuce, why don't you get out and pick some tender young dandelion leaves as soon as they appear? They make a good salad."

"A Birmingham appliance dealer said this week he could sell 50 washing machines in a couple of days if he could get them. The hope is that two million alarm clocks are to be manufactured which sounds like a good idea, for how can people keep up production unless they can get to work on time?"

"A reader driving into Detroit picked up two Boy Scouts. One of them talking very seriously to the other, related: 'When my father went to donate blood, they took one look at him and gave him a pint.'"

The world's biggest freight car, built by a U. S. railroad in its own shops 124 feet long, has 32 wheels and can handle loads up to 200,000 pounds.

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

There you are, nicely settled in the best fishing spot in the lake. You know that the fish are just waiting for your hook to come below the surface.

Then wh-o-o-o-o-m!

Some hotrod boat pilot sets your boat to rocking and your temper to boiling.

There goes the fishing in this spot? You say as you curse the antics of that nut-head.

WELL, TAKE IT EASY, fellow. All is not as bad as you have believed it to be. Karl Lagler has news for you.

As chairman of the University of Michigan's department of fisheries, the Professor has conducted enough scientific research and had enough personal experience to convince him:

A) Motorboats seldom harm fish, regardless of size (not even the eggs);
B) These motorboats seldom, if ever,

keep fish from spawning;

C) The motor noises apparently do no disturb fish; and

D) Most importantly, noise from nearby motors has not been shown to affect the rate at which fish bite.

THE PROFESSOR'S CONCLUSIONS come after 10 years of research and experience.

He says you only have to see how fish agilely avoid underwater objects to see how easily they avoid propeller shafts.

He says worm fishermen may be responsible for more fish deaths than power boats.

He says scientists have proved that few fish survive being hooked on live bait, the released.

Of course, the fisherman who gets rocked by a power boat and goes home with no fish won't be persuaded by the Professor's arguments. Would you?

sweetly replied the girl.

"Where is your hospital?"

"I'm at Queen Anne's Maternity."

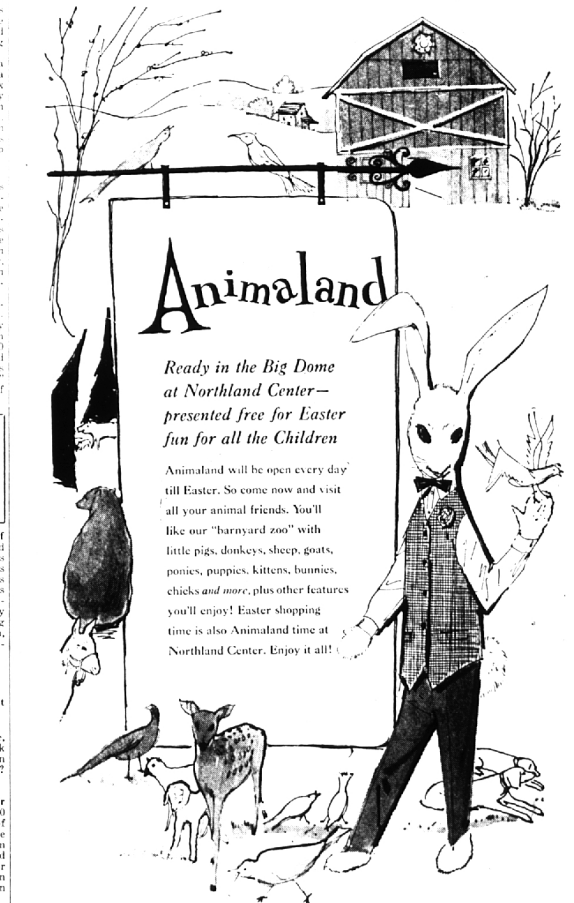
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