

Who to Control State Government?

Most important phase of the controversy over the proposed holding of a Michigan constitutional convention lies in this: presently, the constitution requires the election of three delegates for every State Senator. This places the control in the hands of out-state Republican districts.

The Democrats, and some of the urban Republicans, want the delegates chosen on the basis of the State House of Representatives, which would give the heavily populated urban centers control.

If the urban centers control, then it goes without saying that labor union leaders will "sit in the driver's seat"—at least that is the argument of the out-staters.

Would you prefer out-state, non-urban, nonunion control of a State Constitutional Convention? . . . or would you prefer the opposite?

In brief, it's a contest between large-city and labor-controlled Democrats, or smaller rural communities free from labor domination.

Beware of Stock Swindlers

Half a century or so ago swindlers preyed ruthlessly on fresh-off-the-boat immigrants to this country. A great coup was to sell one of these innocents the Brooklyn Bridge.

Times and techniques have changed. Nowadays swindlers have subtler rackets—one of them being fraudulent and worth less stocks. Mounting complaints against unscrupulous stock promoters led the Securities and Exchange Commission and the New York State Attorney General to work out, with the aid of stock exchanges and reputable brokerage houses, a guide to prospective stock buyers. It has now been issued, and it is as sound as it is simple. Here are the basic rules:

Think before buying.

DEAL ONLY WITH a securities firm which you know. Be skeptical of securities offered by telephone by a firm or a salesman you don't know. Guard against high pressure sales methods. Be particularly wary of promises of quick and spectacular price rises. Be sure you understand that there is a risk of loss as well as a prospect of gain when you buy securities. Get all the facts—never buy on tips or rumors. Request the person offering securities over the phone to mail you written information about the corporation, its operations, management, financial position, etc., and save this for future reference. If you don't fully understand the written information, consult someone who does.

Follow this guide—and you won't be buying Brooklyn Bridges!

Rickover: "We Are At War!"

One of the most significant statements made in Washington in recent days was that of Admiral Hyman G. Rickover, the man who built the atomic submarine Nautilus.

Testifying before the Senate Armed Services Committee a few days ago, Rickover revealed some of the things he has learned in heading a development and pioneer research group. And, commenting on the situation confronting the United States and the difficulties of avoiding typical government-mule bureaucracy in research and development projects—now so vital to U. S. security—Rickover said this:

"I think we are kidding ourselves. I think most of our people cannot understand that we are actually at war. They don't understand it. They need to hear shells.

"THEY ARE NOT psychologically prepared for the concept that you can have a war where you don't have actual, literal fighting, and this is the trouble.

"Most people say they see it, but they do not really act that way. I think every-

body today in the military should be acting, should be doing things as if we really were at war. We have got to learn ways of doing things faster. I think it is almost too late. This is what I worry about."

Exploring the difficulty of getting our present-day military organization to carry on successful development work, Rickover says:

"... THE MILITARY organization is not set up to do development work. It is set up mostly to do routine work. So, if anyone comes in with a new idea, the people in the organization naturally tend to make him conform to the organization because conformity is prized.

"There is still too much conformance rather than performance."

Rickover's comments speak for themselves. We thoroughly agree with what he says. Congress, and the military establishment, had better heed his words, and we betide those who do not, and who assume the responsibility for maintaining the present outmoded system.

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

Ever since she became England's Queen some years ago, we figuratively have had our hat off to the present Mother Queen. There is not much of the "stuffy" attitude about her. Again she is proving that, as she outlines her forthcoming world tour, "Please let the tour be informal. I want to meet and talk with people," she asks. It was her mother-in-law, the late Mother Queen Mary, who once said, when her little daughter confided: "When I grow up I want to be a Lady!" . . . "I hope, dear, that when you grow up you'll be a woman!"

President Eisenhower has "been granted" until about March 15 to "shake up the Pentagon." If he and his Secretary of Defense by then fail to make a good start, Senate Democratic leaders declare they'll get into the act and really do something. And this is an election year, by coincidence, too.

A Group of Houston, Texas schoolboys have fired a \$10 rocket two miles skyward. During the same week the U.S. Navy couldn't get a million-dollar rocket off the launching pad. No wonder so many folks exclaim: "Our future is in the hands of the next generation!"

It is said that Alaskans do more talking over the telephone than any other people. A recent annual report shows that they averaged 630 calls each, as against 426 for the continental United States, and 15 for the world as a whole. But nothing is said about total time on the telephone. Maybe Alaskans talk in shorter periods.

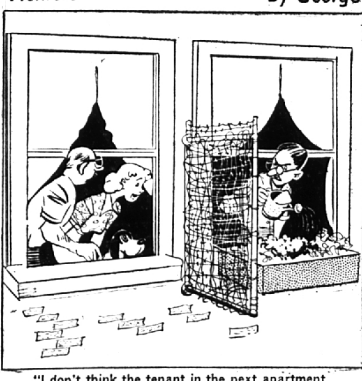
In Vienna, a 20-year-old thief was caught while trying to steal in a store . . . he tried to act like one of the store dummies. That kid was a dummy before he started acting.

Ticklers By George

The Birmingham Eccentric

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"I don't think the tenant in the next apartment likes us!"

Countdown



NATURE NOW by Lydia King Frehse
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Leaf Scars Show Expressive Faces

One way to enjoy the out-of-doors in frosty winter weather is to practice the art of recognizing the trees without their foliage.

On the wing along with the winter buds (discussed in last week's column) are the scars left when the autumn leaves fell. These are important in the identification of a deciduous tree.

When autumn comes, the leaves are prepared to drop. A layer of cork cells grows between the stem of the leaf and the twig which bears it. This is composed of a non-conductive material which gradually shuts off the food supply from the tree. From this time on the leaf is doomed to die.

THIS CORK LAYER not only shuts off the stem but contains a mechanism for pushing off the leaf. The cells in the dividing layer bulge and press against each other, so doing they push apart forcing the leaf from the tree. This may happen on a quiet day. Leaves are not torn away from their stems by the wind.

The red and scar is a cross-section of the stem of the leaf. It is not always round but may be oval, complicated, heart-shaped or triangular.

The arrangement, number, size and shape of these leaf scars are consistent for each species although they vary greatly among different species. Moreover, leaf scars grow during the past season you will find a leaf scar on the twig. Usually these are located just under the winter buds.

IN EACH LEAF scar are a number of small raised dark marks called bundle scars. Sassafras and

Mrs. Frehse

THE HICKORIES bear some amusing designs. The mockernut shows an agonized expression like that of a prize fighter who has just been hit. The bitternut resembles a long oval face with small beady eyes and a mustache, with the winter bud above it furnishing a small hat.

The walnuts could be monkey or camel faces. The hatternut suggests a horse's face topped by a single horn which is the winter bud.

The scars of poplar remind us of solemn, scholarly faces, the silver birch of a smiling face. The elms make designs with oval faces, one eye smaller than the other, suggesting a wink. The alder has a human expression of surprise on a round face with a small nose and big wide-open eyes. A squirrel or bird romping in a tree is indifferent to all this, but one difference between animals and people is a sense of humor. Look at nature's creations with a little imagination and you will find your pleasure in the out-of-doors an ever-growing interest.

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
February 11, 1908
"Now say gentlemen, what about two tickets for our village election? It is time to wake up and have two tickets in the field. Let's have a choice anyway!"

"A citizen of Southfield avenue proposes a new ordinance to the Village Board and that is that the Marshal, after a week's time, be ordered to turn the snow banks over on the principal streets, thus making a cleaner and prettier view of our street. Good idea."

"Some Birmingham children's horse ran away one day last week coming to school. They were tipped out of the horse on the Town Line without being injured and the horse ran clear to the village and bang into Shale's drug store, just by the side of his new east window and dropped there exhausted. The cutter was a week and the horse all in, but not damaged at all, over its mad run."

30 YEARS AGO
February 16, 1928
"Billy Burton will start his five day non-stop drive through the streets of Birmingham at noon Monday from Maple and Woodward avenues after being handcuffed to the wheel of his Whippet sedan."

"With the final bubble of the obstructionists burst by a circuit court decision, contractors are ready today to begin work in earnest on the new municipal building in the first block of the civic center. The commission last night signed the contracts and approved the bonds."

"Recommendations from the city-village committee on retaining the village form of government here are expected to be made next week after committee members have completed their final reports, it was indicated this week."

15 YEARS AGO
February 11, 1913
"The new center war time is scheduled to go into effect throughout most of Michigan at 12 a.m. Monday, but whatever occurs in this area, Birmingham will follow the lead of Detroit."

"One snow drift on Lahser road and two on Cranbrook road were so deep Sunday that the Bloomfield Hills plows could not push through them. A Caterpillar tractor and narrow plow were borrowed from the Hills country club in order to start a patch."

"Three pairs of shoes a year won't be any hardship for many second hand shoe buyers. One good pair and one to work in. Small boys are said to be hard on shoes; also the ladies who buy the delicate creations which won't stand a heavy rain."

His under-cover gimmicks.
—Mary Jane Palmer

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

Citizens of Columbus, Montana, show respect for their mayor—or else. Birmingham Police Chief Ralph Moxley has come across the interesting fact that this Montana town has an ordinance which requires passersby to tip their hat to Hizzonner if they encounter him on the street.

They do or else—they are guilty of a misdemeanor.

Do you know of any hazards in your area you think should be eliminated? Trees, bushes, poles, buildings too close to the intersection?

Drop me a line describing the location and I'll see what I can do about getting the authorities to remedy them.

A counterfeiter was the first do-it-yourselfer.

Getting The Eccentric each week is fun. However, it is no picnic.

If we publish jokes, readers say we're being silly.

If we don't, then we are too serious.

If we clip stuff from other periodicals, we are too lazy to write our own material.

If we don't then we're too fond of our own words.

If we don't print contributions, we are unappreciative of true genius.

If we print 'em, our pages are filled with junk.

Now, most likely, someone is going to say somebody else expressed this idea first, and we're just repeating it.

That's right—we are!

TOO OFTEN THAT MANUEVER has caused an accident. The oncoming car wasn't seen until it was felt!

LEGAL NOTICES
Miller, Canfield, Padonck & Stone, Attys., 316 Webster Bldg., Birmingham.

STATE OF MICHIGAN, in the Probate Court for the County of Oakland.

In the Matter of the Estate of ROBERT F. HARRIS, Deceased.

At a session of said Court, held at the Court House in the City of Pontiac, in said County, on the 27th day of January, A.D. 1958.

Present, Honorable Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate.

John M. Tullison, special guardian and general guardian of said estate having filed in said Court a petition praying for the examination and allowance thereof, allowance of fees and the discharge of said special guardian and general guardian. It is ordered, that the 24th day of February, A.D. 1958, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, at said Probate Court in the Court House in the City of Pontiac, Michigan, be and is hereby appointed as the time and place for hearing and action on said petition.

It is further ordered that notice be given to all interested parties as shown by the records in this cause by depositing a copy of the order to each of them by registered mail, or by mailing such copy to each of them by registered mail, to return receipt duly acknowledged to their respective last known addresses as shown by the files and records in this cause.

And it is further ordered that public notice thereof be given by publication of a copy of this order once each week for three successive weeks previous to the day of hearing in the Birmingham Eccentric, a newspaper printed and circulated in said county.

ARTHUR E. MOORE,
Judge of Probate.
(441-1431-150)

ELECTION NOTICE
CITY OF TROY
To the qualified electors of the City of Troy, County of Oakland:

Notice is hereby given that a Primary Election will be held in the City of Troy in the County of Oakland and State of Michigan on Monday, February 17, 1958, from 7:00 a.m. in the forenoon until 5:00 p.m. in the afternoon, Eastern Standard Time, for the purpose of nominating candidates for the following offices:

2 City Commissioners, 5 year term each
J. LAWSON LOCKHART, City Clerk (45-49)

CITY OF TROY
NOTICE TO DOG OWNERS
It is necessary that all dog owners in the City of Troy must produce a certificate that their dog or dogs have been vaccinated against Rabies within the 1958 term.

If such owners do not possess such a certificate, the same may be obtained from their Veterinarian, or at the City operated clinic to be held at City of Troy, Five Hall, 2740 Rochester Road, Sunday, February 23, 1958 from 12:00 noon until 4:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. Fee \$1.00.

1958 License will also be available at the above clinic.

J. Lawson Lockhart
City Clerk 49, 50

Catalogs - - - ?

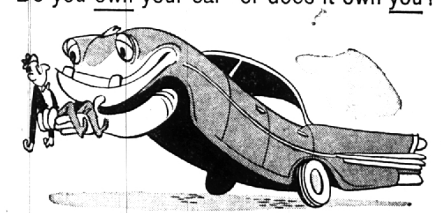
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