

Sam Asks Pertinent Questions

Sam is a peculiar cuss. He's one of the few who "thinks it through."

"We were talking about Ike's 72 billion \$ back budget."

"We said: 'They say it's the best possible.'"

"Who's they?" asks Sam.

"Why, Ike. He's one of the 'they' fellers. He says so. Don't you trust Ike?"

"Where does Ike get his dope?" asks Sam.

"Oh, by, from all the fellers who make up the budget. They're all experts," he answers.

"But you have to trust somebody. You ain't fixin' the budget," we argue.

"O.K. But how about some experts on our side—the side that pays the bills? How about the Hoover Commission recommendations?" They know a thing or two. They claim that if Ike and Senator Blimp adopted their plans, our income tax would be 10% less. We could use that 10%.

"So you don't think much of the budget?"

"We think a lot about it. It makes our hair curl. It gives us a feeling of depression, same's it does Humphrey. He ain't caught the 'Potomac fever' yet like them other fellows.

"What are you going to do about it?" we continue.

"I'm gonna write a hair-curling letter or two," says Sam. Hope he does!

"EXPERTS AT WHAT?" demands Sam.

"They're experts at protecting their jobs and expanding their empires, so's they can get bigger pay and pensions when they retire. Why should I trust them?"

How Fast Is It Necessary to Go?

Kraft A. Ehrlicke, German-born scientist who is now an American citizen and one of our country's foremost missile experts, says that within four or five years a manned observation satellite could be circling the earth at an altitude of six hundred miles.

Moreover, Ehrlicke believes that within eight or ten years a manned space ship could circle the moon, making observations, but not a landing, and then fly back.

This manned space ship would be assembled aboard a satellite circling the earth and actually launched from the manned satellite, rather than from the earth itself.

WITHIN TEN to fifteen years, according to the same rocket expert, a manned nuclear interplanetary vehicle could be built to carry men to Venus and Mars. This vehicle, or rocket, would also be assembled aboard a supply satellite and launched from this satellite, and not from the earth's surface.

If these predictions are true, and Ehrlicke says we have both the program and

the scientists to accomplish these goals, the advent of jet aircraft travel—due in 1958 in many parts of the world—will be only a pioneer and initial step in the field of faster transportation.

INSOFAR as the development of space ships is related to the transportation of people, just how fast should one expect to travel, anyway?

For scientific reasons only, wherein mankind is able to determine and thus better control weather, or become acquainted with cosmic rays and other lateral natural laws, space ships have utilitarian values.

But for transporting people—well, why is it so necessary to be able to span an ocean or a continent in a few hours, or even minutes? Why reduce to capsule form so many of the human family's traditional doings?

Why try to accomplish so much in so little time... when we are told that man's true inheritance is Eternity!

Here, Really, Is a Great Man!

Dr. Albert Schweitzer, at age eighty-two, has returned to the jungles of Africa after a three-month vacation in Europe. Although some of his friends suggested that he retire because of his advanced age, he decided to return to Africa, where his work has won him world-wide fame.

Dr. Schweitzer operates a hospital at Lambarene, in French Equatorial Africa. With him on this return trip is a granddaughter, who is eighteen, and who will serve as a nurse in the hospital.

IT WILL BE remembered that Schweitzer abandoned a career as a promising musician, back in 1913, and went to Africa to serve as a medical missionary.

Frequently, in these lines we point out that man is only as old as he feels. Obviously, Dr. Schweitzer is young at age eighty-two. One of the things which has kept him young, and which is the point of this editorial, is the fact that he has followed his conscience and applied himself to a labor of love.

MORE SPECIFICALLY, Dr. Schweitzer has the satisfaction of knowing he is contributing something to mankind, to the uplifting of humanity. With that satisfaction, and the spiritual enthusiasm which results, one manages to stay young. There is, of course, a lesson in the example of this great man for all who care to learn it.

"He's Still Very Young"



NATURE NOW

by Lydia King Frehe

Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Plants Technique For Survival

Last week we considered the many ways by which nature gives security and continuity to the life of animals in winter. Plants too have developed many techniques for survival. The evergreens have small, scale-like leaves or needles which allow little moisture to escape during the winter months while growth is at a standstill.

TREES AND SHRUBS have grown woody trunks and limbs which are impervious to frost, insuring their continued growth. They too protect themselves by a period of inertia which occurs when they drop their leaves thus shutting off their food factories for the winter by and by.

Perennial retreat to root stock or bulb where the life of the plant is preserved and by which the next growth is fed when it is called forth by another spring-time sun.

When a pattern of seasons was established in late Cretaceous time some 60 million years ago, and life no longer basked in perpetual summer, the inefficient spore was superseded by the en-

cased seed, which can lie dormant for one season or many as belts it is needed.

IF THE PARENT PLANT is killed by frost, the seed preserves every delicate vein of life, every subtle shape and hint of metal. Within its protective sheath it also packed a litch of starches and sugars which will nourish the new plant embryo until it can establish its own root and leaf system.

Thus the encased seed, an efficient bearer of life, conquered for much of our modern flora the killing hazard of winter.

But primitive life found no obstacles to its single-celled existence, it would have remained forever safely cradled in the warm seas, a mere blob of protoplasm.

BUT IT HAS BEEN beset with one hazard after another in every moment of the millennia which represent its past existence. To surmount these it was forced to achieve the diversity of shapes with which it now populates the earth.

As for animals, so for plants, life's life pattern for survival is a part of it.

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
January 3, 1908
"Miss Olive Bennison, a graduate from the Eccentric office, has accepted a position on the great paper in New Mexico, it is the Albuquerque Citizen, and this bright young Miss has a salary better than \$25 per month."

"If you don't just like everything you see in your home paper, go around the streets and bowl. The editor is never supposed to make mistakes and critics can't do so. Other people can hit the editor is ubiquitous, omniscient, omnipresent, omnipotent, 'omnivorous.' If you can't see a good point, don't fail to see a bad one."

"Finner's little fat man, so popular with the Birmingham young people, will help furnish the music for the dance to be given by the young men at Johnson-Shaw Hall on January 9."

30 YEARS AGO
January 5, 1928
"Establishment of one of the greatest cultural centers in the United States looms today following the filing of papers by George C. Booth, newspaper publisher of Detroit, for the Cranbrook Foundation which will complete the development of the center on the Booth estate in Bloomfield Hills, about two miles south of Birmingham. Five schools and a church will be included on the estate."

"Birmingham today is freeing itself from the grip of a cold spell which caused the mercury to hover in the neighborhood of the zero mark since last Saturday."

"Action is expected to be taken by the village commission next Tuesday night on bills which were received last week on the construction of the proposed municipal building on the civic center property."

15 YEARS AGO
January 7, 1943
"One day soon, Birmingham will be able to greet its first returning war hero, Lt. Kenneth Jones, who was awarded a Distinguished Flying Cross for aiding in a parachute jump from a flying Fortress over England."

Ration stamp No. 28 is good for a pound of coffee until Feb. 7. Stamp No. 10 is good for three pounds of sugar until Jan. 31. We received several calls last week about the new 5 per cent victory tax. Contrary to an earlier misconception the tax applies to 1943 incomes, and not to 1942 incomes."

"Birmingham's newest service club, the High Twelve, which is

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

Today's school teachers have a hard time keeping up with the up-to-dateness of their little charges.

One of The Birmingham Eccentric's composers, Jack Birrell, tells about one of his young son's new classmates. The newcomer immediately had won the teacher's and his class' sympathy because he seemed to be hard of hearing. His physical difficulty was so bad that he wore a hearing aid.

It was two weeks before it was discovered that the hearing aid really was one of those tiny transistor radios with a listening attachment," said Birrell.

There are some people who wait before taking sides on any issue. They wait until you pick your side.

Local feed and seed proprietor Jack Ball has supplied tons of various bird food for local bird feeders. So he's seen and heard about considerable strange bird life which has been seen in Birmingham area back yards.

"He expressed his greatest surprise recently when a good customer called in to report a falcon had just landed."

"The customer didn't believe it at first," Ball explained, "but had to when the bird was positively identified from a reference book."

Sometime soon, Birmingham city-commissioners plan to meet with newly appointed county road coordinator Willis Brewer. Subject: opening of 11 Mile road between Southfield and Evergreen. Meeting date is being arranged.

Smile-A-Minute

During a layover on a recent weekend trip, we overheard the ticket agent make assurances that a certain train would be on time. One man, after pausing the station platform for more than an hour, stalked angrily to the ticket window.

"Why didn't you tell me this train was late when I asked you before?" he fumed.

"Look here, Mister," replied the complacent agent, "I ain't paid to sit here and knock the railroad."

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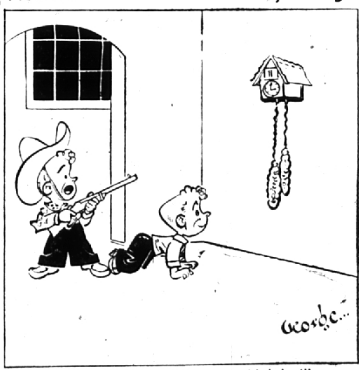
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By George

"Okay! It's your turn to be the bird dog!"