'Helping Youth To Go Straight'

A comparatively small, but highly important and valuable, voluntary social agency at work in Oakland County is the Scholarship Fund for Juvenile Court Wards. It originated in the mind and actions of Oakland County Probate Judge Arthur E. Moore. Of all our citizens, certainly a man in Judge Moore's position should know of its value, since he also presides over all the County's juvenile court cases in Pontiac.

Started in September of 1956 with a gift of $1,000 from the Women's Auxiliary of Christ Church, Cranbrook, the fund has been supplemented with a few small gifts. Two young girls and one boy, all of them within the jurisdiction of Judge Moore's official duties, have been aided in their educational progress by the Fund.

JUDGE MOORE POINTS out that each year numerous cases come to his attention where some youth, boy or girl, due generally to home social and economic problems, comes to his official attention. Some of these youngsters have high I.Q.s, with special talents and inclinations toward sound vocational pursuits.

A few hundred dollars to help them in their emergency can tide them over the rough spots, can start them toward lives of self-reliance and respectability, asserts the Judge. "To help youth grow up as good members of society is a wise investment," declared Moore. "Unaided, youth can become adult law-breakers, costing the taxpayers thousands of dollars for the machinery of law enforcement."

JUDGE MOORE HAS suggested that contributing to this Scholarship Fund would be a fine project for adult clubs and organizations. He has also acknowledged his willingness to appear before groups, telling them of his observations gathered from years of association with youth and its problems.

Civic Apathy Costs You Plenty!

Tolerated by too much public apathy in demanding lowered taxation, far too many of today's high-up public officials use their powers to tax to make some facets of government a kind of racket.

Suppose you were one of these politicians, and you wanted to, first, get elected to a State Legislature or as a member of Congress; one of your best political themes would be to promise "more public services to more people at less cost in taxes."

Incredibly wrong and dishonest as such a statement is, a surprising number of people get elected by uttering it. Once elected, re-election is comparatively easy, too.

For, during your first term, you will see that your own legislative district gets new projects—even though some of them are not needed. This will please many of your voters, even though, indirectly, they pay part of the cost.

YOU MAY ALSO see that certain governmentally financed projects are made available to certain businesses; some of these businesses will not forget you when election campaign time comes around again.

Thus, aside from the straight forensics of a political campaign, you will be able to use the power to tax and allocate funds for your own personal political benefit.

This condition is more wide-spread than you may think possible. An analysis of numerous items in a governmental budget will reveal it.

All of which is competent proof of an old axiom in civics: "no governmental unit is any more powerful than the amount of money it has to spend."

IN THE GOVERNMENT of the United States, this power is made available to Congress, to the Executive department, and to the "Colossus of Bureaucracy," by the existence of the 16th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution: namely, the income tax.

Until this uncontrolled power to tax, and thus to spend at political caprice and whim, is removed from the U. S. Constitution, and an amendment with limited tax powers is adopted, you may expect your taxes to remain high . . . and high . . . and higher.

All human beings require some controls, some limitations on personal action . . . especially in a unit of government so far removed from intimate, local citizen direction.

U. S. Burghers Like Hamburgers

The American middle class has a "puritanical and bland" culture that is symbolized by hamburgers, peanut butter and tomato soup. So declares Prof. Martin B. Loeb, an anthropologist on the faculty of the University of California at Los Angeles. The Professor asserts that the American middle class "has a packaged way of life, and has become the core of the country's culture."

He even admits that this status is "a very solid culture." Added another ardent professorial investigator of mankind's origin and racial characteristics, "the American puts a high value on energy, progress, ingenuity, efficiency and precise measurements of cleanliness."

THE COLLEGE-CONNECTED gentleman also accused Americans, as a class, of being "conformists" . . . conforming to restricted channels of thought regarding religion, economics, government, recreation, etc., etc. And so forth.

But just what is wrong with hamburgers, peanut butter, and tomato soup was not explained. We do admit, though, that too much of this trio of edibles at one time will result in a cessation of hunger.

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

The winter of 1957-58 will go down in Florida's weather reports as the most severe in 50 years. In spite of this, that state will continue to be the semi-tropical mecca for hundreds of thousands of northern Americans.

The Birmingham Eccentric

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GEORGE R. AVERILL
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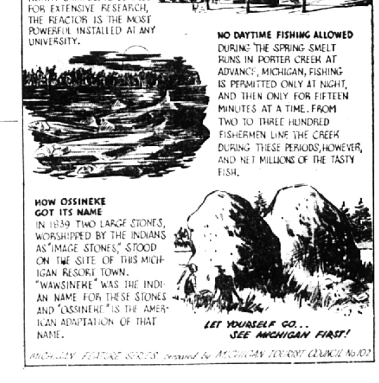

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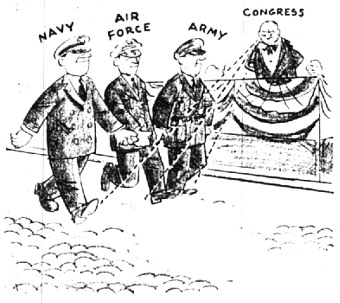
Passing in Review



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

Crow's Reputation, Friend or Enemy?

Now in winter, the crows have gathered in large flocks, roosting in deep woods by night and traveling many miles each day to forage. In April or thereabouts they will separate by pairs to build nests and to rear their 3 to 6 young.

The crow has a bad reputation in the opinion of most people. However, let us consider his interesting habits for he is among the cleverest of birds.

GO INTO the fields on a morning and you will find the flock assembling, discussing and organizing. They have a well regulated group life, posting sentinels for protection of the flock.

Mrs. Frehse

These sentinels seemingly can distinguish between a man carrying a cane and a man with a gun. There is group discipline even to the extent of pecking a culprit to death.

Crows can learn to say words. Contrary to popular belief, splitting the tongue hinders rather than helps in this achievement. They care for their wounded, play games, plan strategies and gain their ends by countless sly maneuvers.

A CORNELL ornithologist recorded the delighted reactions and sounds of a pet crow when a seesaw in the backyard tumbled one of his children to the ground.

A large bird (19 inches) and the largest of all our common black birds, the crow requires a nest which is quite conspicuous in the woods. It is made of sticks, grapevine and thorny twigs with an inner lining of bark, moss, horsehair and grass.

Most of these are from 20 to 40 feet above ground, but occasionally one is found as low as 6 feet. The nest is so sturdily built that it may be used a second season by a crow or by an owl or hawk.

STRANGELY, the crow's nearest relative in this area is the blue jay. Members of the Corvidae family include the raven, magpie, fish crow, and the other jays such as the green jay and Canada jay.

To pass judgment on the crow's character we must study his food habits, for it is in this area that he has earned his bad name.

It must be admitted that he sometimes eats the eggs of other birds and that he pulls up much corn that the farmer has planted.

On the other hand he eats many destructive insects, especially cut worms and grubs which are so damaging to crops. He also destroys mice and other harmful rodents.

IN WINTER he relishes fish which he catches through a hole in the ice. One of his cleverest and most interesting techniques is the carrying of a clam high in the air and then letting it fall on a rock, thus breaking it open for food.

So, as with many another of nature's creatures, including man, the crow may be friendly and helpful in some situations, yet destructive and unfriendly in others.

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 24, 1908

"They don't play poker in Pontiac; it's 'agin' the law. But it's a 'cinch' that one business man in the county seat town considers it easy to get rid of your surplus when taking a hand with professionals. Rumor has it that it cost said business man $900 at one sitting recently."

"This is the last year that the farmer in Michigan will work out his road tax. Hereafter you will pay in cash, to the road repair fund, about one-tenth of one per cent of your valuation, and an officer whom you must elect this spring, just as you elect your township clerk or supervisor, will see to the employment of men and teams to make all repairs. The compensation of this man will be determined by the township board but cannot exceed $3 per day. Hereafter there will be no poll tax assessed."

"NOTICE—The rent for your Safety Deposit box is now due. Kindly call at the Exchange Bank, and pay for 1908."

30 YEARS AGO
January 26, 1928

"Frequent meetings of the various committees concerned with the financing and building of a new Community House in Birmingham are slowly bringing the outlines of the plan into a definite shape and the progress of the plan for financing as well as the tentative plans of the architects for the proposed building will be shown at the annual meeting of the Community House association in the house on Jan. 31, which every member of the association is privileged to attend."

"A book was borrowed from the Birmingham library. The date for its return passed and several attempts were made to recover it. Finally it was about to be given up for lost. Then it arrived from Birmingham, Ala., where it had been returned to the library. How the confusion arose was not explained."

"Motorists on the W. Maple road Monday stopped their cars to watch three of the year's first golfers taking 18 holes on Oakland Hills golf course with ease."

15 YEARS AGO
January 21, 1943

"Because snow plows are covering up fire hydrants, the Fire department distributed more than 50 small red flags in the central part of the city, sticking them in the snow so that firemen may connect hoses quickly should they be called."

"Funniest sight was a big bus stuck in the snow at Woodward avenue and Oak, Monday afternoon. The bus driver was trying to clear the path with a dustpan—of all things!"

"Bees. A funny time to be thinking of them, but has any Birmingham resident adopted them as a backyard hobby? If so, when and how does one begin and is the technique difficult?"

"Some people seem to think it's unpatriotic to give a party. Why should that be? Now that people are staying home more what harm is there in having your friends in for a social evening around the fireplace? Lavish splurges are something else, of course."

Suburban Sentiment

INFESTED WATERS

I braced myself,
Prepared to die,
But the fin-footed
snorkel-puss
Swam on by!

—Mary Jane Palmer

ONE THING OR ANOTHER *By George Wm. Averill*

Walter Reuther seems to be having trouble convincing industrial and business management that sharing the company profits with labor is a sound and fair idea.

Perhaps he'd have more success if he offered this compromise contract clause:

"In exchange for a share of the company profits, the union and its membership agree to take a corresponding wage cut if profits fall below the agreed upon level."

Sort of a share-and-share-alike plan, Walter.

Being classified as "average" is cause for no satisfaction. That only means you are the best of the failures and the worst of the successes.

As the tourists troop in to see Michigan's new Mackinac Bridge, they'll have the chance to see and learn of other important things about our Water Wonderland, too.

These facts will be discovered on the 48 official state historical markers that tell of Michigan's fabled past and promising present, from Lake Superior on the north to the state's southern boundary.

BY THE END of the coming summer, the state historical commission hopes to have doubled the number of markers. All of them will be placed where the tourist can see them. Plenty of Michiganians also will be learning more as they investigate these monuments.

Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills each should have a historic marker, it seems to us.

In Birmingham, one should be placed along US-10 marking the location of the Old Saginaw Trail. The Trail is not marked at the present time.

BLOOMFIELD HILLS could have one on Woodward near Lone Pine noting the founding of the Cranbrook institutions. Several other educational institutions have been so monumented.

Only other marker in Oakland county is in Bloomer state park No. 2, near Rochester, commemorating the Clinton-Kalamazoo canal.

LEGAL NOTICES

Albert L. Kelly, Atty., 735 Griswold St., Detroit 26
70-672

STATE OF MICHIGAN — The Probate Court for the County of Oakland.
In the Matter of the Estate of WILLIAM F. MUENSINGER, A.L.S.O. KNOWN AS WILLIAM F. MENCHINGER, Deceased.
At a session of said court, held at the Probate Court in the City of Pontiac, in said County, on the 7th day of January A.D. 1958.
Present: Honorable Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate.
Order appointing time for hearing Claims.
Notice is hereby given and it is hereby ordered that the time and place for hearing on claims against the above estate shall be the 5th day of April, 1958, at nine o'clock in the forenoon at the Probate Court in the Court House at the City of Pontiac, Michigan.
All creditors or claimants against the above estate are further notified and ordered to prove their claims at said hearing and prior to said hearing to file written claim therefor, with this Court and with the fiduciary of this estate, under oath, containing sufficient detail reasonably to inform the fiduciary of the nature and amount of the claim.
ARTHUR E. MOORE,
Judge of Probate.
(47, 46, 47)

Wilson, Ingraham & Kavanagh, Attys., 199 Pierce, Birmingham
70-543

STATE OF MICHIGAN — The Probate Court for the County of Oakland.
In the Matter of the Estate of HAROLD M. STOCKWELL, Deceased.
At a session of said court, held at the Probate Court in the City of Pontiac, in said County, on the 6th day of January A.D. 1958.
Present: Honorable Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate.
Order appointing time for hearing Claims.
Notice is hereby given and it is hereby ordered that the time and place for hearing on claims against the above estate shall be the 7th day of April, 1958, at nine o'clock in the forenoon at the Probate Court in the City of Pontiac, Michigan.
All creditors or claimants against the above estate are further notified and ordered to prove their claims at said hearing and prior to said hearing to file written claim therefor, with this Court and with the fiduciary of this estate, under oath, containing sufficient detail reasonably to inform the fiduciary of the nature and amount of the claim.
ARTHUR E. MOORE,
Judge of Probate.
(44-45-46)

Collegiate football attendance record is 120,000 set by Notre Dame vs. Southern California at Soldiers Field, Chicago, in 1927.

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