

Freedom Has Its Risks!

No economy ever has been devised that will guarantee every potential worker in any nation continued and profitable employment.

This is true, whether the economy be like the free enterprise, competitive system used in the United States, the Labor-Socialist economy in England, or the dictator type exemplified by Communism.

Every such type has been tried before, many times in the history of mankind. The one that has given human beings the greatest personal rewards, freedoms, and

highest standard of living is the one we still have in the U.S.A.

OUR SYSTEM DOES show ups and downs, prosperity and intervals of recession . . . but our people still are free, and none of them suffer the personal discomforts and tragedies that visit Socialist-Communist nations.

We have the best system! We suffer least from economic upsets! Our nation always bounces back!

Lady, Do You Know Your Dishpans?

Dear Housewife:

Do you know what dishpan you should have in your kitchen? The bureaucrats in Washington don't think you do. You probably never wrote for their advice, but they insist that you should have it.

So, at your expense, they have written a book to tell you. It is entitled, "Tools for Food Preparation and Dishwashing." Read it, and learn.

Take dishpans. A dishpan is a pan in which to wash dishes. That is fundamental information.

You will need a dishpan. But it is important to have the right sized dishpan. They have solved that problem.

A DISHPAN, THEY SAY, should be

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

July 1 marked the date when a big dam was blown up in the St. Lawrence waterway, releasing the aqua into and over an area formerly the site of several communities. The water will be used to float ocean-going ships, provide plenty of room for marine life, and finally turn huge hydro-electric turbines to generate power. Here, then, was an explosion a dam site more valuable to human beings than the loosing of anything related to war.

As we write this, (July 2) it appears that real summer weather—92°—arrived yesterday, is with us today, and how long it will last is only a weatherman's guess.

Congress has voted to admit Alaska as our 49th State. That means a new pattern of national flag. In view of the imminence of Congress later admitting Hawaii as the 50th State, why not act now, Congress-

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

America is noted for its material progress, its advancing of frontiers, its optimism, courage, and initiative when confronting the unknown.

How, then, do you account for the negative approach used by so many shoppers—both men and women—when they are making a retail purchase:

"You don't have a green widget about this size that I can buy, do you?"

Bathing beaches quite often have numerous spare tires scattered about. About the middles of the bathers, that is.

Yet there is another type of spare tire that would come in handy around the water. It's the real kind, the kind you keep in your auto trunk.

How would you use it in the water? Like an inner tube, it floats. Not fun to play with, it can be used in an emergency to save someone who's drowning.

Suburban Sentiment

CHEATERS

Two by two the animals went
Into Noah's Ark,
Ten fat fleas on one fat fox
Found a place to park.

—Mary Binkle

Made in Paris, Mademoiselle



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

The Ruby Throat-- Minute Perfection

Now that summer has ushered in our days of longest sunlight hours there is an accompanying peak in the number and variety of plant species in bloom. Nature matches this with the appearance of a corresponding climax of nectar-loving birds and insects. Among these none is more anticipated than is the ruby-throated hummingbird which this morning visited my garden.

The ruby-throat is unique in many ways. Only 3.7 inches in length, he is the smallest of our North American birds and the only hummingbird east of the Rockies. The colors of the male, a symphony of metallic greens, browns and reds are so eye-catching that he is frequently mistaken for a large bright flower which he frequents. This brilliant color is produced both by pigments and by the refraction of light from the feathers. The female is duller and is frequently mistaken for a large spunk or hawk moth.

The hummingbird is the only bird which can fly backward. His wingbeat, estimated at 55 to 75 times per second, is so rapid that his small body makes only a dull blur as he hovers over an open flower. His unique ability to turn over his wing enables him to fly either forward or backward at will.

THE ONLY SOUND made by the hummingbird is a tiny squeak resembling the tone which he uses when he is excited. Because he is fearless beyond his size or strength, he holds a secure position among his kind. With the aid of his sharp bill he has been known to repulse birds as large as the English sparrow and the kingbird. However, if competition is removed, the hummingbird grows to be a gentle and even an affectionate pet. The nest of the hummingbird is a demonstration of well-nigh perfect camouflage. A tiny lichen-covered cup, 1 1/2 inches in diameter, it so mimics the knot or knob on the downward sloping branch upon which it rests as to be almost invisible. It is made of the softest and finest of plant downs, but

encloses and fragments of silky tissue of seed pod and stem. The whole is decorated with bits of moss, lichen and soft bark overlaid and bound together with threadlike plant fibers and the silk of spider's webs. The two white eggs no larger than a navy bean hatch into young as small as honey bees.

BUT IT IS the minuteness of the complex systems of the hummer's body which is most astonishing. Imagine the small perfection of the four chambered heart, the thread-like maze of thousands of blood vessels and the intricate digestive, reproductive and respiratory systems—to say nothing of the complex muscles and skeleton. All this is contained within the body of a creature which was originally confined within a quarter-of-an-inch egg.

Hummingbirds live in open woodland fields, in gardens and parks wherever they can find the small insects, spiders and nectar-producing flowers upon which they live. I have seen them vie with the red squirrel and the sap leech for their share of the insects and sap surrounding a circle of holes made by the sap sucker in an old sugar maple. They feed their young by regurgitation.

THERE are some 750 species of these unusual birds. Most of them are tropical; only 19 occur in North America.

For his "Birds of America," Audubon painted the ruby-throat on a flowering branch of trumpet vine. This flower neatly matches the length of its tubular corolla to that of the hummer's bill. On August 22, 1853, returning to Nova Scotia from a painting and collecting trip to the Labrador coast, the great artist wrote in his journal: "The hummingbirds quite filled my heart with delight. . . . They are glittering fragments of the rainbow."

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO
July 10, 1908

"Watch me grow," has been the shibboleth of the Royal Oak Tire, and since Editor Storz has been in charge, its circulation has been steadily growing. Last week the paper itself got in line—the price is going up to 75 cents per year, and the size increased to a six column folio. Glad to have the Tribune on our exchange list. May it live long and prosper.

30 YEARS AGO
July 12, 1928

"At the stamp window of the post office a young lady purchased 750-two cent stamps one morning this week. Next in line came a young man. He only wanted one stamp and he asked for it sheepishly, after so overwhelming an order, as if he had to make the request at a drug store, for a soda with two straws, after a more affluent brother had ordered a double banana split."

15 YEARS AGO
July 5, 1943

"Did you read the want-ad last week in which someone offered \$25 for information leading to the rental of a house. Things must be really getting acute. They say that rewards are a common practice in certain California cities."

"Where are you going to park YOUR helicopter? Everybody you talk to—almost everybody—is

greatly interested in buying a helicopter after the war, and this new windmill flying machine may become as popular as the automobile; who knows?"

WHY?



Do We Call Them "CANAPES?"

"The titbits of the great American cocktail time, once unfashionably called 'the children's hour,' got their name from the French canapé for couch or sofa (same Latin root for 'canopy,' the covering suspended over bed, throne or person). So it is a trifle of food 'couch' on a small square of fried bread or toast.

Popular coat - of - arms among leaders of Cocktail Society is the anchovy couchant on a bed of Roquefort cheese in a field of chervil toast. (Copyright 1956, John Emery Ent.)

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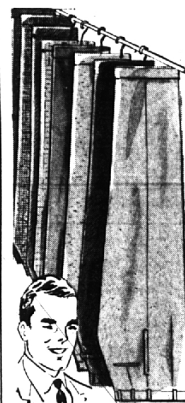
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