

"Big Three" Tells "Big UAW" NO!

General Motors, Ford and Chrysler corporations have "stood up against" the loped demands of Walter Reuther and his UAW union, and failure of all-sides to agree has resulted in the expiration of all contracts between employers and employees. Both sides say, however, that they will continue to operate within the requirements of the automobile business.

This stalemate is being watched by the entire nation. It is being symbolized as a contest between inflation (the union) and anti-inflation (the corporations) forces at

work within our country's economic system.

FOR 21 YEARS REUTHER and his boys and girls "have had their way"; Reuther rebels against a situation in which, apparently, his opponent has been dealt a fair hand.

Perhaps this opposition may yet have a practical educational value for the UAW. If it has, then the future relations between big industry and big labor may become a more valuable guarantee for the stable continuance of the American high standard of living.

Today Offers Great Challenges!

In fitting solemn ceremonies Memorial Day, the nation placed two more "unknown soldiers" in Arlington National Cemetery. The ceremony, attended by President Eisenhower and many other high military and civilian officials, memorialized the entire nation's love and respect for all who have died in defense of our liberties. Thus, three wars are represented by the tombs of three fighting men: World Wars I and II, and the Korean situation.

Practically all of the ceremony not only paid homage to the Almighty, but each chaplain called upon Him "to bring peace, ever-lasting peace, to the nations of this earth." It was a most moving scene, as we viewed it over TV.

TWO WARS SINCE the one that "made the world safe for democracy" have come and gone. Today our human world is confronted with trouble everywhere... with situations that pit the free world against the ever-growing menace of a slave-dictatorship. Weapons mightier than ever before produced are available to combatants of the next (God forbid) conflict.

Ah, what a grand and tremendous challenge for every good and true moral agency today! What glorious opportunities to

combat the forces of evil are offered to every preacher, priest and rabbi; every educational leader; every editor and writer; indeed, every man and woman who treasures the good rewards that await those who sincerely labor in the vineyards of a free society!

It's a final contest between God and Mammon!

Between worship at the false idol of materialism and the spirit's blessings from the eternal God of All!

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

For nearly a generation, no U.S. Secretary of Agriculture has been able to solve the nation's farm surplus problems. It always has been difficult, if not impossible, to solve an economic problem by using the rules of practical politics.

The federal government uses 270 million pounds of paper annually, enough to fill 6,400 railroad freight cars. We don't pretend to know how far the sheets, if placed end to end, would go—or how much of it gets into heaven-knows-how-many-waste-baskets.

The Birmingham Eccentric

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

Before Saturday noon, the closest we ever come to a ship launching was through the movie newscasts.

Now we've seen one "live", as they say in television.

We bustled the family into the car at 9:30 Saturday morning, and headed for River Rouge via the Southfield expressway. Our destination: the Great Lakes Engineering Works where the Edmund Fitzgerald was scheduled to slide into the Detroit river.

THREE HOURS LATER we started home after witnessing a spectacle we and 9,996 other people never will forget. It was made more impressive because the Fitzgerald's launching was sideways.

While Mom and the two youngsters found a vantage point atop a railroad flat-car on which folding wooden chairs had been placed, Dad went from stern to stern, taking in the new "Queen of the Great Lakes", all 729 feet 3 inches of her. We were looking for and found several good camera shots for the family scrapbook.

A ship launching is a well-timed operation, we learned when we got back to our seat on the flatcar. Behind us was a young college girl who with her sister and mother had come all the way from Monroe for the launching.

THE YOUNG LADY had just passed an exam on naval architecture. She didn't volunteer why she was taking the course. Probably going to be a ship designer, naturally.

Anyway she got an A in the course, and she tried her best to answer our awkward questions as we tried to estimate what was going on during the launching operation.

IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN more'n a minute before the whistles sounded again. Immediately the pounding stopped. A couple of minutes later, the whistles sounded on the side of the Fitzgerald away from the water. The pounding was as rapid, but muffled. A fourth time the whistles sounded.

Now everyone was ready for the cutting of the restraining hawsers that still held several key chocks in place.

But wait! We see a couple of men still pounding away at something almost directly under the keel about a hundred feet from the giant 4-bladed propeller. Noon arrived. Ten after twelve. Twenty after.

The crowd was getting more and more impatient and restless under the hot sun. Twenty-five after twelve.

A SHOUT WENT UP from those workers still at the ways. The stubborn wooden block had been freed!

A few moments later and the hawsers were cut by razor edged axes which fell immediately after Mrs. Fitzgerald had christened the \$8 million, 8,500-ton lady of the lakes.

Into the narrow slip she went with a sound of wood grinding on wood, of wood on steel. She dropped into the water and heeled over sharply, throwing up a tremendous wave that inundated the opposite shore. The backwash wetted the feet of some within 25 feet of the end of the slip.

The shouts of the crowd, the blasts from whistles and horns of boats hovering in the Detroit river saluted the largest ship on the lakes as she righted herself, bobbed a few times, then settled herself in the calming water like the new queen she is.

ALL THAT REMAINS is for her pilot house to be installed, fitting out of crew and guest quarters, and adjustment of her navigation equipment. Her shakedown cruise is set for the middle of August.

In a little over a year this Saturday scene at Great Lakes Engineering will be repeated. Keel for the Fitzgerald's 729-foot sister ship will be laid next February.

Sail On, O Ship of State



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

Live Snakes Illustrate Final Science Lecture

Cranbrook Institute of Science recently closed another year of members' lectures with "Snakes Alive" by Karl Kauffeld, associate curator of reptiles at the American Museum of Natural History.

In spite of the wide-spread aversion to snakes, no animal of our North American fauna elicits more fascination and interest. If you wish to prove this, follow the crowd at any carnival, zoo or museum.

The audience at Cranbrook gathered before a stage centered with a table holding what looked like a suitcase fitted with drawers. It was in reality a compact cage filled with closely coiled live snakes.

The demonstrator prefaced his lecture with the assurance that he and his snakes were defanged, that they are friendly unless disturbed or mistreated. Snakes are degenerate reptiles with no legs and arms. They have a keen sense of touch, but cannot hear sounds. They are clean, cool and dry to smell, and, except for the relatively few poisonous species, make excellent pets.

KAUFFELD then proceeded to remove from one of the drawers of the "snake-cage" a handsome patterned box constructor which he draped about his shoulders and arms. This species of snake is not poisonous and kills its food by constriction. The box, together with the pretense, belongs to the family Boidae. They are sluggish when well-fed and spend most of their time basking in the trees and foliage of tropical jungles. Their movable jaws, held together by elastic ligaments, allow them to swallow prey considerably larger than their own dimensions. As he spoke, Kauffeld proceeded to drape the box on a kind of "snake rack" to the right of stage.

Among the other non-poisonous reptiles which was taken from the "snake-cage" were a Carolina pine snake, two red rat snakes, a long thin water snake and the lecturer's pet, a large beautifully marked python named "Golden Boy." The python were added to the "snake rack" where they re-

mained coiled and coiling (with frequent re-draping) throughout the lecture.

Your scribbles' interest began to mount when Kauffeld, with the aid of a herpetologist's stick, removed from their respective "drawers" two large Indian cobras. These reared into the air, spread their patterned hoods, looked and acted ferocious but did not stray from the table. While people in the audience held their breath, each snake was returned to its drawer, entering by a small hole which was then closed.

Our lecturer, having proven the fact that he was in no real danger unless he was within striking distance of the rattler, lowered the snake into a canvas bag in the manner used by herpetologists in the field and returned it to its box.

THE ENTIRE performance was executed with flawless skill. Kauffeld demonstrated, not only his ability to handle snakes, but his gentleness and love for these much maligned reptiles, emphasizing the while their place in nature's economy. We are all predators and we are all preyed upon, whether we be mice or men. To defend the living rights of every creature and to see life "whole," this was the treatise of Kauffeld's lecture.

We have only one poisonous (not deadly) snake in Michigan, the Massasauga, a small three-foot rattler which frequents our bogs and swamps. Your scribbles' met one at Proud Lake grown to its full stature. This word of caution—"Never pick up a snake unless you are sure it is harmless." You are not Karl Kauffeld.

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Glanned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO
June 12, 1908

"Thomas Thurlby, of Maple avenue, has a gang of carpenters, by Theo Bookham, making great improvements on his cozy home. When "de quip" leaves you work, know the place."

"Prohibition" has not only hurt Birmingham, but it has helped it. There is a great deal less crime there now than has been known in years, and the working classes are in much better condition. They are spending their money on their families for clothing and food, instead of in the saloons, and the families of working people are better clothed than they ever were before."

30 YEARS AGO
June 14, 1928

"After more than 25 years of service, first as a hearse, then as a store on wheels for the seniors of Baldwin high school, the "Arlie" a landmark of the village, burned to the ground in the rear of the school where it was to have been stored for the summer."

"Creamed Green Onions—wash and cut off as much green stem as desired, cook in a little salted water as possible. When cool, make cream sauce with one tablespoon butter, one-half tablespoon flour, one cup milk, season with pepper and salt; add onions and boil up."

15 YEARS AGO
June 10, 1943

"This wanderer overheard one boy say: "Gosh, I studied Latin all my life but I think I'll flunk it anyway."
"He might be interested to know

that the City jail has other than human occupants. A recent prisoner there announced that he was annoyed by bedbugs.

"No dog bites last week. (Bites taken of people, we mean).

WHY?



Call It Porterhouse Steak?

On his first visit to America, about the only thing Charles Dickens found worthy of praise was a steaks served him at the Porter House (or a porter house), small hotel in Sandusky, Ohio. In his report to Britain, severely critical otherwise, he gave it that name. During his second tour 25 years later, solely for financial success of his "readings" made him less critical of the American Way. He may even have enjoyed a democratic green vegetable or two with his steak.
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