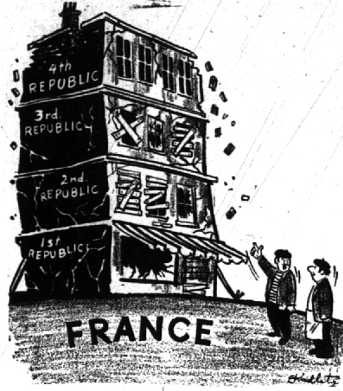


Simple! We'll Add Another Story



NATURE NOW
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eclectic

Kew Gardens in June,
A Naturalist's Dream

It was a perfect day in June when the following notes were written in Kew gardens. At that time, when putting together my London column, I promised I would write more about this garden. Now almost a year has passed, and how I wish I could again "go down to Kew in lilac-time, it isn't far from London!"

For Kew is any naturalist's dream. To be there for a day is only to sample its delights. Out bus from Paddington station rattled through Kensington, Hamersmith, Chiswick, a distance of some seven miles to the point where Kew bridge crosses the Thames. Here we walked a stone's throw to the main gate of the largest botanical garden in the world.

Kew dates back to 1759, when Princess Augusta became a small garden of her own around her private residence, Kew house. More lands were gradually added until, in 1841, the royal family made a gift of some 500 acres to the state, the whole thenceforth to become a Royal Botanic Garden.

NOTHING now remains of the original plants of the famous maiden tree (Ginkgo biloba) which the princess planted in 1762. To our delight we found it growing not far from the entrance. This ancient tree (it's kind of a fossil remnant of those which flourished in the early Paleozoic of some 150 millions of years ago) is now 80 feet tall.

On day in June bloom is rampant at Kew. Strolling there along with the Londoners and English and American tourists one is overwhelmed with the beauty and variety as well as the naturalness of the plantings. But Kew is more than a quiet, recreational garden. It is first of all a scientific institution to which come students and research botanists from all over the world to work in its extensive herbarium, which can boast of more than one million specimens and to study in the 50,000 volumes which make up the richest taxonomic library in the world.

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eclectic

50 YEARS AGO
June 5, 1908
"Mitchell the editor, had a clean shave the other day, and no one knows him since. His dear old Auntie, Mrs. Utter, after looking at him questionably and earnestly for some time asked the mustache-less man if his face pained him. It certainly does."

"A man and his wife separated one day last week and for why do you think? Because she wouldn't let his necktie and we don't blame him if it was a four-in-hand. Other marital troubles in the village southwest have set tongues wagging, but it will all come right in the wash."

30 YEARS AGO
June 2, 1928
"Announcement is made today of the opening of a school of aviation in the Levison building by M. J. McCarthy. The school will carry the name of Jack Stinson. The courses offered extend from six to nine months."

"Public ceremonies for the formal dedication of the new White Chapel Memorial park on east Long Lake road were Sunday afternoon."

15 YEARS AGO
June 2, 1923
"A letter from Western Michigan college says that the college is to be operated on a "three semester" basis starting July 1. This might be a little difficult in a literal sense, because a semester even starts in the buttonhole, but they omit the complementary button which might still be useful. (Copyright 1936, John Emery Est.)"

Asks Rezoning

A rezoning of single residence property at 496 Park, Birmingham, has been requested by owner T. E. Campbell. His petition seeking a multiple dwelling classification has been referred to the city planning board for recommendation.

Student Advisor

Michael C. Weston, son of Mr. and Mrs. Norman B. Weston of Kennesaw avenue, Birmingham, has recently been selected as a student advisor for the coming academic year. A graduate of Birmingham high school, he is a candidate for the Bachelor of Arts degree in 1940 from Brown university.

Completes Training

Larry Mills, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Mills of Ranchwood, Birmingham, recently graduated from recruit training at the naval training center, Great Lakes, Ill.

France's Plight Menaces Freedom

France's civic and economic chaotic condition is eloquent proof of what happens to a nation when a majority of its citizens depart from time-honored paths of righteousness. By this we mean not only on personal moral levels, but also on economically sound business levels—both of which departures finally impact upon a nation's entire life.

With 16 varied political parties in France's National Assembly, running all the way from honest and sincere devotees of private free enterprise, with its Constitutional guarantees of personal freedoms, to the devilish Communists who work every minute for disaster to descend upon their nation's basic affairs—with such a conglomerate mixture of thinking, how can it be expected that any nation will survive as free men and women?

TO BE SURE, FRANCE during this century has lived through two World Wars, with their tremendous worrisome impacts. But so have other free nations . . . Germany, for example. Yet today western Germany has recovered from the catastrophic defeat Hitler brought upon it. . . how? Simply by its citizens working hard, being soberly concerned with rebuilding under the flag of private free enterprise, on a democratic basis.

Poor France! Once a great nation. A nation whose illustrious sons and daughters have contributed much in the way of knowledge and culture to our world. Yet, withal, a nation that has internally deteriorated to such a point that (as this is written May 20) it even considers a temporary (?) dictatorship to bring about its revival. Yes, a nation, as well as one individual, can fail!

U.N. Grasping For More Power

Where do you get the right to travel abroad—from the U.S.A. or the U.N.?

Up to now we still get this right from the U.S.A., but we may lose it—and many more presumed Constitutional rights.

The U.N. has drawn up a "Covenant of Rights," which they call the International Bill of Rights. It says:

"Every one has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country."

Up to the present, the U.S.A. has the right to deny a passport, as well as to issue one. That has come in handy many a time. We have kept a lot of American pinkos from going to Russia, or elsewhere, and stirring up trouble for us.

BUT OF WE ARE ever fools enough to adopt this U.N. document, we will surrender the right to deny passports to pinkos and Reds. For a treaty or "executive agreement" becomes the Supreme Law of the land.

Clever little scheme, eh, what? This same U.N. document could also jeopardize our Constitutional rights to a free press, free speech, trial by jury and a lot of things for which our fathers died.

There is a determined group of people who have not seen—or do not wish to see—the folly of surrendering our sovereignty to a "passel" of foreign politicians.

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

When the national chairman of a major political party publicly admits, as did Republican Meade Adcock, that he doesn't expect to win, this fall, enough Senatorial seats to control the U.S. Senate, what is the impact upon party workers all along the organizational line? Negative, of course . . . unless through further plans and actions something is done to stimulate workers at a more feverish rate.

From time to time The Eccentric is contacted by Birmingham school district taxpayers who reveal a not-too-enthusiastic attitude toward further immediate bond issues. One fact that stimulates their op-

position is the entirely too-brief time afforded by the Board of Education between the time of an announced bond issue election and the actual balloting. "Not enough time to study and debate the problem," they assert. It will be recalled that at the last school bond election a significantly greatly increased "NO" vote was registered by the voters.

Do you tire easily? Are you fagged out before half your working day is over? Then, perhaps, you may conserve your energy by developing the habit of speaking less. It is reported that when one speaks he uses 72 separate muscles.

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

Couple of weeks ago, we commented that at many municipal meetings, the regular attenders in the audience find their attention wandering to things which are notorious breakers.

Like our surveying the smoking habits of Birmingham city commissioners.

We said there are five non-smokers among the city's top nine officials.

This week we're revising the score—the smokers now predominate.

We don't know how we missed Commissioner Jack O'Gorman's cigarette smoking. But we did. And we paid particular atten-

tion to him because he's the newest commissioner.

Not all businessmen who "make good" return to their hometown for a visit. The hometowners know too much about how he got to the top of the ladder!

Malcolm Ferguson is principal at Beverly school, where the numberaid system was first tried as a method of teaching arithmetic principles to elementary school children.

The system worked out so well it was introduced in all Birmingham schools last fall.

FERGUSON AND HIS ASSOCIATES are proud of their part in demonstrating the numberaid's value.

He says, "Twelve years ago it was recognized that arithmetic teaching methods needed improvement. Then three years ago our Birmingham school system tried out the numberaid."

"We're proud that the first Russian Sputnik launching last fall had nothing to do with our seeking and adopting new, better methods of teaching scientific principles!"

BIRMINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL Principal Ross Wagner also is pleased over the curriculum available in his building.

"There isn't a college in the United States we cannot prepare a student for," Wagner says. "If a boy or girl is rejected, it is only on the basis of the quality of the work he did in high school."

Suburban Sentiment

JUST IMAGINE

Today I'll take a trip to France—That land of fabulous romance Where streets are filled with warmth of sun

And male cafes all beckon one To lay aside all care and strife And make escape from hum drum life.

I'll rest and have an aperitif Then, after this refreshment brief, I'll make a tour of old Monmarre As glorified in works of art; For, newly hung, in my front hall Are two Urtillos on the wall.

—Lynne Carter

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