

## Buy a Farm an' Take It Easy!

Wanna know how to live without work? It's easy. Just buy a farm and don't farm it.

When you put it out of business, you are in business. Just promise Uncle Sam that you won't grow anything for anybody to eat or wear, and Uncle will rent your whole shebang for 10 years.

If you already have a farm, stop farming. Uncle will probably let you live in your house, just so's you don't work the land. Just work the Government.

Get out your old whittlin' stick, sit on your front stoop and watch Uncle "bring in the sheaves,"—the rent, that is.

No more plowing, hoeing, or fighting grasshoppers, elch bugs or bollweevils.

No crops to fail. No toil or moil from sunrise to moon-up.

**THERE'S STILL MORE.** Uncle will pay 80% of the cost of planting your idle land with trees. So draw up the old rocking-chair, fill up your corn-cob, and watch the days go by. In addition to your cash rent, the trees will grow while you snooze and in time turn into capital gains.

Talk about the life of Riley? Riley never had it that good.

Such is one of the new official plans to solve the farm problem. Just don't farm. Hence, no problem!

This is the **Promised Land!** All you need is for Congress to act. In an election year, how can you fail?

## Can Politicians Apply Integrity?

In the struggle against Communist imperialism, we must maintain confidence in the justice of Government, which depends on the integrity of public officials.

This is lacking too much today. Congressmen beat their bosoms in behalf of "economy," but when it is proposed to abandon some antiquated Federal facility in their own districts, they bleed from every pore in its defense.

This makes "democracy" a hissing and a by-word.

When Little Rock erupted, insistent demands for Federal troops to uphold "the law of the land" came from the Mayor of New York City and the Governor of that State.

New York State has a law making strikes by civil servants a crime. The subways of New York are owned by the City

and its employees are therefore civil servants. They struck and what happened? The Governor of New York said it was "impractical" to enforce the law.

**THIS LAW** was enacted by the law-making body—the Legislature of New York. It has a better claim to being "law" than "the law" at Little Rock which came from a court, which has no law-making authority, and which reversed its own judgments of 70 years' standing.

Hypocrites in public office, who destroy confidence in "equal justice under law," are no friends of the American people.

What are they afraid of? Calvin Coolidge showed that the people will support public officials who have the courage to defend "equal justice for all".

## "Buying Peace" Is Poor Purchase

On the American scene, the wrong way to buy peace is to buy it; to buy off a racketeer because it may prevent strife, is falling to the racketeer's level.

In 1776, Americans believed anything was better than knuckling under to a bully. So the Thirteen Colonies told King George III to take his rough hands off their backs, and permit them to play their own game in their own way.

Today could be America's greatest hour if those who believe in a Free Economy shoulder their full share of responsibility to keep it so for all who wish to play ball, based on Constitutional rules and regulations.

There is no "they"; it's each of us; no "Washington" to decide. You are "Washington"; and on your actions, your courage and ours, will depend success or failure.

## From The Eccentric's Point of View ...

A leading London barber recently loudly declared that most all British politicians have heads of hair (if they have any hair at all) that look like "cornstalks in a gale." Seems, says the barber, their hair sticks out side-ways; seems, too, that those with mustaches cannot call them elegant. That barber, of course, has a solution; politicians should visit their barbers every week. (For tonsorial treatments only . . . or for some hard barbed?)

was referred to an Electoral Commission. The man who cast that deciding Hayes vote was an Indiana lawyer who was elected to Congress by just one vote. That one vote, too, was cast by a client of his who, though very ill, insisted on being taken to the polls to cast his vote. (Which conditions gave rise to the fact that one grain of sand, one straw, one vote . . . when each is added to others you get a hake, a heach, a disabled camel, or an elected official.)

Are you one of those citizens who, frequently or only now and then, fails to vote on election day? Then remember, if you are, how important one vote was when Thomas Jefferson was elected President by just one vote in the Electoral College. So was John Quincy Adams. The same for Rutherford B. Hayes when his election

Since 1913 there have been 19 top-level conferences, in which the chiefs of state or foreign ministers participated. Forty agreements were made—and the Soviet government has kept exactly three of them. No wonder President Eisenhower and Mr. Dulles hesitate about holding another "summit" conference.

## Making It Hot for Him



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

## Catkins Lead List Of Signs of Spring

The flowers of our katkin-bearing trees are among the first harbingers of spring. They have already bloomed and shed their waxy pollen before the earliest hepaticas open their buds on some sunny southern slope.

All of you are familiar with the pussy willow. Some of you know that the little furry "hood" or "bloss" is the male flower of the willow. Watch it grow and it will come elongate into a catkin covered with hundreds of yellow pollen-bearing stamens. Elsewhere, on another tree, you will find a green and less conspicuous female flower spike which when fertilized by the earlier pollen will grow into a seed-filled catkin.

FOR THE MOST PART these early blooming flowers go unrecognized, for they bloom high over our heads and they have no showy petals. The male catkin consists of little more than a group of anthers or individual stamens. The female, of ovaries holding unfertilized eggs. The two sexes usually appear on separate trees where the male flowers are clustered in a dense spike or catkin.

Many of our early blooming flowering plants are the common deciduous trees and shrubs of our forests. Most familiar are the early blooming willow family which includes the willow; the birch family which includes the hazelnut, alder and hornbeam in addition to the birch; the walnut family with its hickories, butternut, alder and hornbeam in addition to which belong our single species each of chestnut and beech as well as our many species of oak.

IT IS INTERESTING to note that the earliest of our catkin-bearing trees, the willow and poplar, were already present in the first broadleaf forest of some one hundred and twenty million years ago. Among the few leaf impressions found in the lower Cretaceous

strata of western Greenland is one of poplar (populus pinax). This fact, this is the oldest fossil leaf to be referred to a living genus of broadleaf trees. Almost as ancient are the willow-like (fossil of the Potomac beds of Maryland, but present-day species of willow and poplar being to a much more recent period.

In this ancient world the more highly developed nectar-loving insects, such as bees, butterflies and moths had not yet come into existence to serve as pollinating agents. Therefore nature invented the catkin, which has no need of insect help. It produces great quantities of buoyant pollen and uses the wind to carry it in golden clouds to the waiting female flowers.

What interests your scribbler most about the catkin is its position in the evolution of the flower. It stands midway between the dark spiral cone (which is the rudimentary bud of the yet more ancient conifer trees) and the highly developed flowers of today with their conspicuous petals, pouches, hoods and trumpets and spurs. All of these plus about 100 million years and nature's ability to accomplish the single purpose of attracting the insect to the flower so that it can set its seed. In this fashion is the future of the species insured.

And so, once more, the catkin-bearing trees open their petal-less and scent-less flowers. Their various species flower in turn from the earliest willows of late March through the last of the oaks and cherubst in June. As it has been for some 200,000,000 million years, so it will be for another 200,000,000 million years.

every \$1,000 worth of land he owns goes to keep the streets lighted.

"Negotiations are under way for the start of the largest hunt club in the middle west on a tract of land in the northeast Oakland County and the southeastern part of Lapeer County. The club to be known as the Metamora Hunt club is understood to have options on 20,000 acres of land and to have already acquired more than 20,000 acres."

"To stretch your supply, one housewife suggests that you remove from the refrigerator that portion of your butter supply which is to be used at the next meal or sandwich making time. When it's soft, it spreads thinner."

"People seem to like to get things off their chests by communicating with this column. One man called to express his surprise that his family doctor now charges for a visit over the telephone, and also for calling the drug store to give a prescription. He did not like this new practice."

**With Marines**  
SANTA ANA, Calif.—Marine Lt. Edwin A. Matus, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kalmann E. Matus, 240 Aspen, Birmingham, is now serving at the El Toro, Calif., air station.

"It costs \$5 a month to maintain a street light in Birmingham," Manager James W. Barry pointed out. The total cost of lighting village streets in 1928 will be \$18,000. Fifty cents for every \$15 that the tax payer gets the village on

## ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

Mail costs will go higher by an estimated 30 percent in Birmingham during the next fiscal year if the bill approved by the Senate becomes law.

It calls for an increase in nearly all classifications of service. Postal receipts throughout the nation, by virtue of these hikes, are expected to be \$750 million greater than at present.

Birmingham's portion of that increase is estimated at \$156,900 a year.

**IN THE LAST FISCAL YEAR**, according to figures issued by the post office department, local individuals and business firms spent a total of \$530,061 for postal services. Under the new rates, as passed by the senate, this would rise to \$687,000. Assumed is that average, normal conditions apply in the city.

Specifically, the increases, effective on July 1st, would be: five cents instead of three cents an ounce for letters delivered out-of-town, four cents if delivered locally, eight cents instead of six cents for air mail, an increase of 30 percent, spread over three years, in second class mail and more involved changes in the other categories.

Should the house of representatives refuse to go along with the five cent stamp and insist on four cents, the postal rise nationally would total \$575 million instead

of \$750 million. In that case, Birmingham's mail costs would be only \$121,900 higher than at present.

### WHY SUCH AN INCREASE?

Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield points out that his department is struggling under a mounting load of postal deficits. Although the postal system is handling more mail and is taking in more money than ever before, it is losing ground at an increasing rate, he claims.

It has become necessary to install more equipment such as electronic mail facers, sorters and the like to achieve better efficiency and cut down operational costs. Many foreign countries are considerably ahead of us in this respect, he admits.

Also contemplated is the modernization of a number of obsolete post office buildings and the acquisition of new ones.

**BIRMINGHAM IS TO GET** a new postal annex where parcel post and other bulkier operations can be handled. This would make way at the downtown building for better handling of first class mail, according to Birmingham Postmaster Rollie Reese.

Negotiations now are going on for a suitable annex location. Most recent consideration has been given to property in the industrial district east of Etowah road.

### Acton Europe Bound

FORT BENNING, GA.—Pvt. John C. Acton is scheduled to depart from Fort Benning this month for Europe under Operation Gyrfalco. Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Acton, scope, the army's unit rotation line.

### Students Initiated

Local students recently initiated at Denison University were David Cooper, Phi Gamma Delta; John T. Hart and Stephen E. Pew, Phi Delta Theta; and David B. Theobald, Sigma Chi.

## House Organs ----?

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## Michigan Quizdown

Can you answer these questions about the Water Wonderland State?

1. WHAT MICHIGAN CITY BOASTS A SANDWICH MOUNTAIN NEARLY 1,000 FEET LONG AND FEEL WIDE AND OVER 100 FEET DEEP?
2. THERE'S ONLY ONE VACATION RESORT IN THE UNITED STATES WHERE RECREATIONERS ARE NOT PROVIDED THE HONEY-MOON AND YOU DO YOUR SIGHTSEEING IN A GARAGE. CAN YOU NAME THIS FAMOUS MICHIGAN ISLAND?
3. CAN YOU GUESS THE NUMBER OF ISLANDS IN THE STATE OF MICHIGAN? CAN YOU NAME ANY OF THE MOUTH OF THE DETROIT RIVER? AND ANOTHER NAME OF STEAM TRANSPORTATION?
4. MICHIGAN'S FIRST SHORELINE CHAIRLIFT ROLLS UP THE HIGHEST SAND DUNE IN THE WORLD. DO YOU KNOW WHICH OF THE GREAT LAKES THESE SAND DUNES BORDER?

LET YOURSELF GO... explore Michigan this year!

Quizdown answers: MICHIGAN ISLANDS: 22,000; MICHIGAN ISLANDS: 22,000; MICHIGAN ISLANDS: 22,000; MICHIGAN ISLANDS: 22,000