

## Demand That Your Taxes Be Cut!

If one of your dependents, say a son, given a modest allowance when he went off to college for four years, made continued demands upon you for increased allowance, you probably would say to him:

"Listen, son, I have to work hard for my wages, and still have to provide for your younger brother and sister—each of whom I want to send to college. I've given you as much of an allowance as I can afford. From now on you'll have to cut down on your expenditures by cutting down on your extra wants... remember, son, I said 'wants', not actual needs."

Somehow, that son probably would get along. He'd have to practice more frugality; he'd have to learn to live within his income. Doing thus, he'd develop certain good habits that should stand him in valuable stead during his entire adult life.

**WELL, INSTEAD** of having an expensive son, even a potential spendthrift progeny to syphon away too much of your wages, you do have several such "sons" in the form of units of government. Two of them (the most expensive ones) are State and Federal governments. Especially is the latter your most extravagant and prodigal "offspring."

Unless you demand that Uncle Sam cut down his financial drain on your wages, you'll continue to impoverish yourself and family—indeed, unless you do call a halt to this ever-increasing "looting of your pants' pocket", Uncle Sam will manage to increase your tax load.

All manner of tax panaceas are being presented in Washington, D. C. Most of them, of course, are political in nature,

mere expedients to toss a temporary monetary sedative your way.

**WHAT OUR NATION** (and our State) needs is a complete reform in the tax structure. Most Washington public officials know this, some publicly, others privately, admit this fact.

Yet they do little, or nothing to bring it about.

One thing, and only one thing, will bring about Congressional action to reform the present complex and impractical tax system. That is to **WRITE, TELEPHONE, WIRE, or PERSONALLY CONTACT YOUR CONGRESSMAN!**

If enough American citizens do this, needed action will take place.

After all, Citizen, isn't this part of your duty and responsibility as an American?

Don't overlook the fact, either, that the present complex and burdensome tax load is very much contributory to the present recession; if high taxes remain, further recessions (even an eventual "bust") can take place. Never forget that government, of itself, never produces a dollar's worth of negotiable wealth. Much of its tax levy on you is parasitic in nature.

**HERE ARE THE NAMES** and addresses to contact: U.S. Senators Patrick McNamara and Charles Potter, c/o Senate Office Bldg.; Cong. William S. Broomfield, c/o House Office Bldg.; all in Washington, D.C.

Take a half hour, right now, to write each of them on this subject. Be brief. Tell 'em in a couple of hundred words, or less, that you want them to lend their support to tax reform—that you want them to do EVERYTHING they can to cut down your tax load!



## ONE THING OR ANOTHER

By George Wm. Averill

Ever wonder why automatic turn signals are missing from most municipal fire trucks? When all other types of vehicles including police cars and farm tractors must have them? We asked Birmingham Fire Chief Park Smith 't'other day. "Why, the state law exempts us," he explained. Why? we asked.

"WELL, DON'T KNOW REALLY," he admitted. "Maybe it's because you're not supposed to follow a fire truck closer than 500 feet under any circumstances. And at that distance, no motorist would need warning if we were going to turn."

We acknowledged his argument. But we thought we had the state in a spot regarding the safety of the oncoming motorist. How would he know a fire truck was going to turn?

We answered our own question before Chief Smith could: whenever a motorist sees an emergency vehicle approaching from either front or rear, pull over to the side of the road and halt until the vehicle has passed.

So this is why we don't have blinkin' little red wagons.

A clear, hot day in late summer is the kind many farmers call 'hay-I'.

This mention of warm summer days reminds us that it won't be long now before plenty of city dwellers will be having plenty of play days in the 11,037 lakes in Michigan's Water Wonderland.

Many of these people will be crowded into the 19,216 acres of water in Oakland county.

This volume of water is distributed among 447 lakes. Only 21 of them are larger than 200 acres.

The largest is Cass lake, just west of Pontiac, with 1280 acres. Orchard lake has 788 acres.

There are 469 miles of streams in our county, too.

Our underground water supplies are substantial, but never have been surveyed. Temperature of this ground water is 51 degrees. Average annual precipitation (at Pontiac) is 31.24 inches.

Well, weedy weir shore pond of lake sand water.

## Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

**50 YEARS AGO**  
May 29, 1908

"The Village Improvement society is to hold its annual golf sale Saturday, June 13th, exact hour and place later."

"DONT'S":  
"Please don't sit on the waste baskets."  
"Please don't whittle the seats that have been placed on the streets for your comfort."

"My interest in the fishing boat on the mill pond is for sale cheap. Call at once, Samuel Bortle."

"The red, white and black colors of our fire hydrants are symbolic, says Charles E. Smith, our street commissioner. Black—the reign of the liquor trade before local option; red—the sanguinary period of the bitter campaign; white—the sign of purity since May 1, since when the county has been dry, dryer, drierst."

**30 YEARS AGO**  
May 31, 1928

"Preliminary work toward the paving of Woodward avenue in Birmingham is under way this week, with men from the state highway commission cutting down the trees along the highway."

"Birmingham's tax rate is lower for this year than it has been in five years. A rate of \$12 per \$1,000 was decided upon by the village commission Monday night when Robert McCellan, village assessor, submitted his report."

"A new shoe store, to be called the Birmingham Boot Shop, will open Saturday in the Birmingham theater building, 135 S. Woodward, under the management of Mike Sussman, formerly of Detroit."

**15 YEARS AGO**  
May 27, 1913

"This is salvage week on the city collection routes, and it was estimated that about 5,000 pounds of prepared tin cans would be picked up. A carload of cans will be shipped to the detinning mill near Pittsburgh as soon as the railroad can furnish a loaded gondola car."

"It's now 'George F. Wurster, lieutenant junior grade, USN'; which means that Birmingham school authorities must look for a new football coach."

## Productivity Determines Prices

From the days of hand-weaving to today's highly automatic loom, making seven inches of cloth a minute, every step toward automation has been fought as an enemy of the workman. Yet every such step actually has proved the workman's best friend, enabling him to earn more and more real wages, live better and have greater security.

So what's the squawk about? Would steel workers like to go back to the 10 to 12-hour day, backbreaking work, and \$2.00 a day instead of \$3.00 an hour? Would farmers welcome returning to the hand scythe?

**FARMERS, STEEL WORKERS**, weavers—everyone gets paid out of what he produces. There is no other place for pay to come from. The more a man produces, the more he can be paid. The better his machine and the better he uses it, the lower the price of his product, which means more people will buy it—and the more secure his job becomes.

Don't worry about overproduction. Until every want is filled, we cannot overproduce. The only thing to fear is being overpriced—that causes inflation.

The best workman, with the best ma-

chine, is always in demand. Let's keep it that way.

To have Government manage all business is Socialism, and that's "deodorized" Communism.

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

More and more the basic elements of the UAW-Rewriter fight against American business is being translated into what it actually is, namely: Socialism VS Free Enterprise.

Many observers of U.S. government believe that Uncle Sam's so-called "dollar diplomacy" fails to "make friends and influence people" of other nations because the dollar is depreciated so much in value. It's no longer "dollar diplomacy", instead, "four-bit diplomacy."

To build in every man and woman a solid core of spiritual love, which will resist the attrition of everyday existence in our mechanized world—that is the most difficult and important task of school and university.—(Sir Richard Livingstone.)

## The Birmingham Eccentric

GEORGE R. AVERILL  
Editor and Publisher

PAUL NEAL AVERILL  
Business Manager

Published every Thursday, at Birmingham, Mich., in the Eccentric Building, 220-234 North Woodward Avenue Telephone Midwest 4-1100

GEORGE WM. AVERILL  
Managing Editor

F. S. SYBELDON  
Advertising Manager

## Might-Have-Been Medicine Maker Metamorphoses Into Music Maker

By JULIE CANDLER

He should have known it all the time. But it wasn't until after Victor F. Ulrich was graduated from college that he realized music was for him.

For a long time the 30-year director of choral music at Birmingham high school considered music only a sideline. The fast-talking, personable musician man was preparing himself to become a pharmacist.

Still, when he was only a sixth grader he was playing the tinkling piano accompaniment to silent films in Willow Lake, S. Dakota. That, he admits, was about 1922.

**THE MUSIC STARTED** when he was five years old and began taking piano lessons. By the time he was in high school, he had a small band that played for dances.

But even when he decided to take more piano and organ lessons at college, he still planned to make medicine instead of music.

He hit South Dakota state university first as economic charts hit bottom.

His prescription for depression blossomed more music. He joined a

NOW HE directs 188 students in the choral music program at the high school. In other years, before driver training and other requirements cut into students' time, he has had as many as 288 vocal pupils. Last week he marked the anniversary of his 29th year at the school at a concert of the top-caliber choir he directs.

Ulrich and his wife, Emilee, came to Birmingham in 1933. They now live at 559 Southfield, with their three little musicians, Marjann, a high school junior; Roger, Baldwin school sixth grader, and Victor, Jr., a second grader.

**WHEN ULRICH** isn't making practice music at Birmingham high school or talking about the bass-ball he loves or relaxing at home with his family, he has an outlet for his energies.

He goes several times weekly to Embury Methodist church, to rehearse and direct music in his longtime role as the church's organist and choirmaster.

Just what the doctor ordered for a busy man of music.

## Suburban Sentiment

DOLLARS AND SENSE

I have a simple budget plan,  
And here's the gist of it;  
When I have dough, I freely spend;  
And when I don't, I quit.

—Lynn Carter

Looking for a pet for the children? See the Classified columns under "Pets for Sale."

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