

50 Years of Daily Journalism

November 25, 1958, marks the fiftieth anniversary of an American daily newspaper that is unique in the history of this nation's journalism.

It is warmly praised by American editors as an example of constructive journalism which they assert serves as a model worthy of their own emulation.

The name of this newspaper is The Christian Science Monitor, an international daily published in Boston, Mass. Its editor, Edwin D. Canham, has chronicled the complete story of The Monitor's birth and operation in his recently released book: "Commitment to Freedom."

ALTHOUGH ORIGINALLY directed by Mary Baker Eddy, the discoverer and founder of the Christian Science movement, The Monitor seeks to carry out the founder's editorial policy: "... to injure no man, but to bless all mankind." The only religious article it prints is a short daily message on its Home Forum page.

With correspondents in many large cities, both in North America and other countries, The Monitor has gained a considerable reputation for its constructive coverage of events and people of world-wide influence.

IN ITS NEWS, business, sports, cultural and other varieties of coverage, its policy is: "Whatever is of public importance or affects the public welfare, even though it be news of what is ordinarily reckoned as crimes or disaster, is printed in The Monitor in completeness sufficient for information, but without unnecessary embellishment or sensational display. The emphasis, however, is reserved for the helpful, the constructive, the encouraging, not for their opposites."

During its 50 years, it has received more than 100 awards and commendations, including eight official honors from foreign countries.

19 Support One Federal Employee

It takes all the U. S. income taxes paid per year by about 19 average private industry employees to pay the annual salary of one average civilian worker employed by the Federal government.

The Federal government employs 2,323,947 civilian workers. That number again is two million, three hundred and twenty-three thousand, nine hundred and forty-seven.

To keep these workers occupied, the government owns 700 substantial corporations and 19,000 small businesses of all kinds, in addition to many service organizations.

These corporations lose about \$10 billion a year, but instead of going out of business they simply chalk up a deficit and continue to operate on tax money.

PAY FOR THE government's 2.3 million civilian employees last year was \$11 billion—equal to about one-third the total tax bill of all Federal individual income tax payers.

That's a lot of employees, and a lot of government, and an awful lot of taxes. We should tell our vote-hunting congressmen it is too much of all three—don't you agree?

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

All is not sweet in sugar-producing Cuba. Its President, Fulgencio Batista, is reported to be planning a full-scale "war" against one rebel chieftain Fidel Castro, who for two years has been plaguing Batista's government. If human lives and property were

not involved to such an extent, the contest would assume the proportions of a large-scale comic opera. Unrest today is world-wide.

We do trust that this inter-service fight between the several U. S. military organizations will cease soon—in case of another conflict, they'll need all their energies to win.

The Birmingham Eccentric

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

Someone somewhere wrote up his (maybe it was her) sort of "oath of loyalty" to the community in which he lived. He entitled it "My Town." Too bad the clipping that came to my attention didn't have the author's name on it. He deserves all the credit he can get.

The Birmingham-Bloomfield communities have a number of people who apparently have their own version of this community creed. They are making it come alive by serving on the committees, boards and commissions busy trying to solve today's pressing community problems.

HOW MUCH FASTER, better, happier would our solutions arrive if the rest of us would adopt this unknown author's attitude:

"My town is the place where I live, where I am employed, where I vote. It is where my children are educated and where my neighbors dwell. It is where my life is chiefly lived. It is my home."

"My town has the right to my civic loyalty. It supports me and I should support it."

"My town wants my citizenship, not my partisanship; my friendliness, not my dissension; my sympathy, not my criticism; my intelligence, not my indifference."

"My town supplies me with protec-

tion, trade, friends, education, schools, churches, and the right to free moral citizenship. It has some things that are better than others; the best things I should seek to make better; the worst things I should help to suppress."

"All in all, it is my town and it is entitled to the best there is in me."

There is a certain type of hunter who goes north for the beer season.

Next time you find somebody who would have you believe that the universe revolves around him, hand him this clipping of a comment which appeared under science notes in the New York Times:

"There are at least 100,000,000 planets in the universe suitable for life, and these are likely to be inhabited by living, thinking beings equal or superior to man, according to Dr. Harlow Shapley, retired director of Harvard College Observatory."

"In his new book, 'Of Stars and Men' (Beacon Press), Dr. Shapley states that conditions that made possible life on earth could occur wherever a planet was located at the right distance from a star to provide the water and moderate temperature required by living organisms."

"THE EARTH, he points out, is planet No. 3 in the family of a run-of-the-mill yellowish star, member of a typical galaxy that contains billions of typical stars. This 'home galaxy', the Milky Way, is only one such star system among many billions in the known universe."

"There is now undeniable evidence that the same laws of physics and chemistry known on this earth also operate throughout the universe of more than one hundred thousand million billion stars. Thus, Dr. Shapley argues, even if only one star system in a million million is suitable for life as we know it, there are at least a hundred million planetary systems similar to our solar system in their suitability for life."



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

Autumn Woods Hold An Unbroken Cycle

The naturalist experiences a day to day association with plants and animals in their native haunts which is stimulating and satisfying in any season. If he occasionally sees the unusual and dramatic, it is largely because he is willing to spend hours watching the commonplace.

And so it was that as we walked in a late autumn woodland, we found all about us the superlatives of life in the midst of emptiness and decay. Small patches of moss alone green among the litter of the forest floor. A mat of Catherine (named for a Russian Empress) was in full fruit, its rich red spore cases gleaming in the afternoon sun. Gray and green of lichen marched up the trunks of trees to remind us of the ancient lineage of all plants.

No bird sang; no insect chirped. Much of animal life had already retreated to the security of pupa and cocoon, to the dark recesses of bark, crevice and rotting log; to the protecting warmth of burrow and den. An empty pod, a discarded feather, a broken egg by the wind; all these are part and parcel of life's "seamless continuum."

ON THE slope of the hillside, plants of the aromatic wild ginger lay in a tangled mass. Stopping to examine the large heart-shaped leaves, we found their undersides parasitized by a species of mealy bug. This insect is so named because its body is covered with a powdery wax which makes any surface which it infests look as if it were dipped in flour.

The females are wingless, and feed by sucking the juices from a wide variety of plants. Four scribbles have seen the limbs of trees so infested that the ground underneath looked like a patch of flour spilled on the forest floor. A flock of migrating warblers grows as excited as the mealy bugs, and a young star turned loose in a roomful of lilliputians.

Individual mealy bugs are too small to be seen with the naked eye. However, with the aid of a hand lens we saw for the first

time the white-winged male. It resembles the tiniest of moths, but has only a single pair of wings and no functional mouth parts. Although the mealy bug generally covers the egg-laying pattern common to insects, the female of one species, Pseudococcus adonidum (the long-tailed mealy bug) displays the unusual trait of bearing its young alive in the larval stage.

AS WE made our way through the valley below the hill we overturned a log here and there in search of hibernating salamanders. Although we found none of these interesting amphibians we did come upon such creatures as millipedes, earthworms, beetles and ground snails. One of the latter had already hibernated, sealing itself into its shell with a multi-layered door. Also hidden in the soil under the log were several clumps of small eggs, their tiny pearl-like perfection an unexpected revelation of nature's ways.

On the banks of the river winding through the valley we found a single specimen of the bladder nut, a not-so-common shrub. Clinging to its bare branches were the characteristic fruits: inflated pods, rose-colored and three-celled. Tendrils of wild grape, currant vine and hatter's-weed entwined the trunks of the rich river bottom. Although the latter is on our Michigan list of protected plants its unusually beautiful berries are so often torn from the plant that it is fast becoming extinct.

As we re-climbed the hill, the sky was reminiscent of "October's bright blue weather." But the soundless woods and the biting wind belonged to November and the sky-ways overhead to the honking wild geese winging their way southward from the frozen and empty marshes of the North.

Falling leaf, glowing moss, rotting log, hibernating snail, parasitizing mealy bug, empty pod, migrating bird—these all are indisputable evidence of life's undaunted cycle.

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Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO
November 20, 1908
"The busy stork left with Mrs. I. W. Swell of Brown street. Sunday of this week, an eight pound baby girl. And now the happy couple have a pair."

"It is coming. It has been started at last. A new telephone directory for Birmingham. We are glad and so are 300 subscribers. When the new book is distributed it is expected that all the calls then will be made by number."

30 YEARS AGO
November 15, 1928
"A story is told of little Claire Rose Kean, three year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Kean, of Lincoln avenue, and who has inherited her father's love of music. (Mr. Kean is the Webster tenor broadcasts nightly from WGHF). When Claire Rose was taken to the Kunsky Birmingham theater for the first time a short while ago she stood up in her chair in the front row and said to the organist, "Play something hot, Mr. Mon."

"If you hear considerable noise in Birmingham Monday evening, coming from the fire department, it will mean that the formal dedication of the new municipal building will be at 8 p.m. Plans are considered to have the department blow the fire siren for several minutes at that time to usher the citizens into a flower-banked building."

15 YEARS AGO
November 18, 1943
"By taking away the gasoline ration books of four Birmingham youths for a six-month period because of violations of rationing laws, the Birmingham rationing board Tuesday night indicated that similar measures would be invoked against motorists who might be caught tampering with rationing procedure."

WHY?



Cats Always Land On Their Feet?

Ability of cats to land feet first no matter how dropped is due to muscular coordination and a healthy, but not over-developed, balancing sense. Important is the quickness with which both are brought into play.

Men too could alight feet first were they quick thinking enough. Acrobats, aerialists manage because constant practice in falling makes them react nearly instinctively.

If mammoth cats were to flip men into the air, as thoughtless persons do very young kittens, results would be as scientifically interesting.

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Suburban Sentiment

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