

Losing Faith In Dollar's Value

An ominous thing is starting to happen in the United States. Many people are voting no confidence in the future value of the dollar. This means a lack of confidence in the Government, whether run by Democrats or Republicans.

Four leading security brokerage firms and a dozen investment trusts indicate that "the fight from the dollar" has started. People have begun to believe that no party or official in office, or in sight after the November elections, will ever have the honesty and courage to stop the spreading rot in the dollar.

For years, people clung to the hope that eventually the dollar would be stabilized. They twice voted for Eisenhower in that hope. It is vanishing. Twenty-five unbalanced budgets in the past 28 years leave little hope. This year will bring the biggest deficit in peace-time history.

How else can the rise in common stock shares be explained in the light of lower earnings, reduced dividends, low operating ratios, the desperate plight of the railroads, rising wages and production costs

and the threat of war?

PEOPLE BUY GOVERNMENT bonds because when they fall due, they are paid at par. They neither rise nor fall.

But when dollars lose purchasing power, Government bonds do, too. As confidence in the dollar vanishes, people put their savings in what they hope will rise in dollar value, common shares, real estate, diamonds, etc.

Profligate spending, unbalanced budgets and rising debt have brought the dollar to the lowest point in 100 years.

If you are on a fixed pension, or receiving insurance annuities, or expecting your life insurance policies to provide for your survivors, you are depending upon a cheapening dollar.

Your one best effort to stem this process is to let your Congressman and Senator know how you feel. Unless Congress ceases to support high and extravagant federal budgets (and the same goes for State budgets) your dollar will continue to be of less and less value.

Books Are Real Knowledge Source

Books from early times have been the source of really thorough knowledge, and this is still true today. And despite the craze of television—and the soap operas which fill the viewer's TV day—books are today still the safest, surest way to knowledge.

A survey not too long ago showed that people in various sections of the country spend a varying degree of their time reading books. The people in the South, for example, spent less of their time reading books than did people of any other section.

Some attribute this to the warmer climate and the tendency of people to get outdoors in the milder climate and "do" more than read. But whatever the reasons, and regardless of the compensations, the

South suffers when its citizens do not read books, as does any other section of a country, or any people.

ANOTHER DEPRESSING thought is the type of book most people read. It should not surprise anyone, for it is the same type of thing that the average moviegoer pays to see. It is something heavily smeared with sex, evil, or scandal.

All of us should read more good books. It would be a good habit to form the routine of reading one good book a month, or a week—or however often your daily life allows. In a short time, the reading of these interesting, educational and fascinating books will pay great dividends.

Social Security Raise Is A Myth

Did the recent changes in Social Security do the old folks any good?

The U.S. Congress raised the benefits about 7 per cent since 1956 when they were last increased. But in 1956 the dollar was worth \$1.16 (of the 1953 \$). It is now worth .84, a shrinkage of 3.1c.

This is a loss of a little over 6%. It shows that the old folks will be only 1% better off—not 7.

An old man or woman in the lowest benefit bracket will get \$33 a month, instead of \$30—a dollar gain of \$3. But measured by the cost of living in today's cheaper dollars, the gain is only 30c!

"All is not gold that glitters!"

IN THE HIGHEST BENEFIT bracket for a retired worker, the dollar gain will be worth only 80c a month.

This margin of 30-80c a month may soon be completely wiped out as the cost of living goes up. The recent wage increases in the automobile and other industries may do so before a year rolls by.

Meantime, 70 million workers annually will pay up to \$25.50 each more into the fund. So they are that much worse off.

Sad to say, the increased benefits add more fuel to the fire of inflation. They increase the dollars to buy goods, but produce no more goods to buy.

When will we elect Congressmen who will stop rotting our dollars away?

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GEORGE R. AVERILL
Editor and Publisher

PAUL NEAL AVERILL
Business Manager

GEORGE WM. AVERILL
Managing Editor

F. S. SYBLEDON
Advertising Manager

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

People seem to fall into three major classifications: the good, the bad, and the majority.

What can be more boring than getting into a conversation with someone who knows the same stories you do?

Sometimes when things are blackest, that's the best way to have them. Like the balcony for the romantic couple, or the balance in your checkbook.

Many people these days do some pray-

ing before they arrive at church. They want a parking place near the front door.

It takes many good actions to build a fine reputation. But it takes only one bad act to ruin it.

Be diplomatic—think twice, then say nothing.

Birmingham's city commission meetings are averaging less of a bite out of Monday evening's time than they used to.

Mayor Carl F. Ingraham owns up to being the reason for this. He explained to his six colleagues that he has been spending additional time during the week with City Manager L. R. Gare and the two of them are trying to spot more of the items that can be handled administratively.

"Do you feel anything is being kept from you, that you feel you are missing, or not informed on?" the Mayor asked.

The others owned up as to how things seem to be proceeding smoothly, suggested he ask the same question in about six months.

Suburban Sentiment

A TRICK THAT'S A TREAT

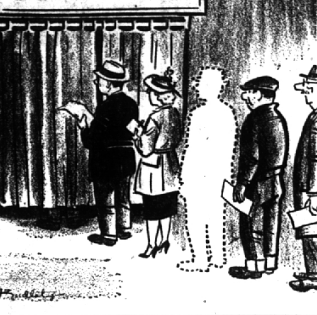
Moms and dads and oldsters to boot Find Hallow-e'en pulls quite a switch, For ghosts become dears and devils are cute

And nothing's as sweet as a witch!

—Dorothy Rockwell McWood

Put Yourself in This Picture

VOTE HERE



NATURE NOW

by Lydia King Frehse
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Fungi Deck Autumn With Myriad Forms

When the first frosts of autumn erase most of our green plants, many species of fungi are yet visible on any walk in woodland or meadow.

In the course of the season my desk has been decorated with host of their kind. They take many sizes, shapes and colors; little saucers, brackets, corals, bracket shelves, spoons, clubs, saddles, all these in addition to the well-known mushrooms whose caps are decorated with gills, pores or tiny spike-like tubes.

All species of fungi reproduce by spores which take the place of seeds in our flowering plants. The fungus plant itself is a loose tangle of thread-like tubes called "mycelium." It lies hidden underground, or under decaying logs or bark of trees. That which we see and collect is the spore-bearing structure of the plant.

Many botanists believe the primitive fungi are degenerate algae. Most are either parasites or saprophytes, but some grow in a symbiotic relationship with other plants. All are without chlorophyll, and therefore cannot make their own food. A few parasitic species draw their sustenance from living insects, while others which cause ringworm and lockjaw are parasites on humans. Some cause animal diseases.

AMONG PLANTS fungi may be harmless (brackets on dead wood) or beneficial (yeast which raises bread) to the host, while others are destructive. Some varieties eat plants, since they draw their nourishment from the living cells of the host plant.

Among the most dangerous and well-known of the rusts is "Puccinia graminis" which destroys corn, wheat, oats, barley and rye. Many of the rusts have a complex life history involving two hosts. Black stem rust on wheat lives its alter-

nate cycle on barley.

The eradication of the latter plant is almost a necessity in wheat growing regions. In the United States and Canada, wheat from this one pest has reached the gigantic total of some three million bushels of grain per year.

BLISTER rust on white pine has been so destructive to our Northern Michigan forests that in infected areas its alternate hosts, which are usually spruce and fir, have been painstakingly destroyed by state authorities, thus breaking the life cycle.

Another rust is that which attacks the leaves and fruits of apple. The unusual brown glutinous masses on cedar are called cedar apples (Gymnosporangium) and are the spore-bearing generation of the fungus.

Anyone who has been in a corn field in autumn has seen one of the most destructive of the smuts, which takes the shape of sooty black malformations on the corn ears. This is the spore-bearing generation which ruptures the husks of spores. Each year the resulting crop loss runs into millions of bushels of corn. Rotation of crops is the best control measure.

ONE OF the tragedies of our generation was the loss of our beautiful chestnut trees, whose lumber was valued at some \$200 million. These fell prey to a microscopic fungus, a blight ("Endothia parasitica") introduced from China.

Out smuts, stinking smut of wheat and covered smut of barley are equally destructive. The spores of these fungi are dusted on the seeds at threshing time. When they are sown, the young seedlings are infected by the disease. Treating the seeds with disinfectants before planting will destroy the smut spores.

For the most part the mushrooms which appear on our American tables are species of the well known "Agaricus" family. Their cultivation in cellars and greenhouses represents a highly profitable industry. However, when one of the fungi markets of Central Europe one sees many wild species offered for sale which have been gathered by country folk. "Boletus granulatus" and "Cantharellus cibarius" (the German "Pfifferling") are favorite varieties. Both of these are gathered in our own woods by people of European background who yet follow their old world cooking customs.



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Autumn is Tasty
Apple Pie Time!

Luscious wedges of fresh-baked apple pie only minutes from the oven... m-m-m-m, can't you just smell it now? An autumn favorite if there ever was one! You can make it an extra special treat by sprinkling grated cheese over the sliced apples before placing top crust on the pie. This little trick brings out a delicious, tangy flavor that empties pie plates like magic! And from apple pie to complete family meals, we recommend the wonderful cooking qualities of a modern Gas range oven. Perfect baking and roasting requires controlled, even heat, the kind you get in a Gas oven. The exact cooking temperature you need is accurately held... your cakes, pies, roasts cook evenly to a golden brown goodness. Gas range ovens are automatic too! You set the controls for the time and temperature then leave for the day if you please. The oven turns off by itself. More good temperature, and turns off quite like a Gas range cooks agree, there's nothing quite like a Gas range oven for perfect cooking and convenience. Your Gas Range Dealer will be happy to tell you today about all the advantages of modern Gas cooking!

"There's one advantage in being married — you can't make a fool of yourself without knowing it!"