

## 'Tending My Knitting'—What a Yarn!

Most people, who keep themselves posted on what's going on in this country, are aware of the fact that a number of candidates in both political parties would like to become successors to President Eisenhower. One of them is Michigan's Democratic Governor Williams.

Mr. Williams is spending plenty of time these days away from his job in Lansing, as he goes about the United States making speeches. Of course, they're all for the obvious reason of putting himself before as many leaders of his own party, as well as other American voters.

WHAT HE IS DOING in this respect,

of course, is in line with most candidates for political office do. A few weeks ago, however, Governor Williams was over in Milwaukee, Wis., making a political speech. When asked if he was a Presidential candidate, our Governor replied "No, I'm busy as all good Governors should be—tending my knitting."

Well, considering the financial mess the State of Michigan is in and the failure of both the legislature and the Governor to find a compromise solution, it doesn't look as though the Governor has all the needle and yarn he needs to do a good job of "tending my knitting"; to all of which the general public may exclaim "Darn!"

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

We sympathize with Birmingham resident Carleton C. Patterson, Jr.'s suggestion that the proposed Baldwin public library addition should be in the same architectural mood as the existing building. However, most municipal pocketbooks have little left in them but mothballs. Since the original library's architectural style would cost twice as much to construct today (more than \$300,000) as would a modern, contemporary, yet harmonizing addition—we agree with the city commission that available money is the determining factor. What we are having to settle for is a dry place to keep the books, a well-lighted and quiet place in which to read them. And looking at the moth-lined pocketbook, we should be glad we've found the \$151,000.

The marvelous inventive ability of mankind, resulting in industrial and agricultural technology that has given the American people high standards of living, was only a vision and a hope a hundred years ago. Today we produce more than we can sell, more than we can eat; but the irony of our abilities in this direction is considerably negated by our inability to develop a nation of unselfish God-fearing people. We unrecord our material wealth, yet live in an environment of fear of another war to end all wars; for the first time in human history, we, and Russia, have nuclear weapons capable, really, of ending all wars—because it might wipe most of the human beings off the face of this earth if such a war should come.

If somebody picked your pocket or snatched your purse on the street you'd shout for the police and try to make recovery of your cash. Well, you can't call out the police to stop a state legislator or member of Congress when your taxes are increased, but you certainly can let the public official know how you feel about it and, as a last resort, you can vote against him or her at the next election.

On a recent nationally televised program, U. S. Secretary of Labor, James Mitchell, was asked whether or not he would accept the nomination for Vice-President at the Republican convention in 1960 if it were offered him. Mitchell did him and he did have a bit and then he smilingly replied: "Of course, one is always flattered when one's name is men-

tioned in this connection." So far so good. Mr. Secretary, the public really does like a forthright answer to such questions.

The University of Michigan is one of 13 educational institutions proposing the establishment of a National Institute for Atmospheric Research—as though most people don't already know how smoggy and stinky much of the U.S. civic, political and economic atmospheres are. (Seriously, the educators seek to know more about the weather.)

It is right in the American home where most accidents occur, say the statisticians who keep track of such things. They then go on to admit that plenty of them take place right in the kitchen. (Now, men, don't let your urge say anything about the quality of cooking done there.)

In 1957, the average American family income was \$5,000. About one-tenth of our 44 million families earn over \$10,000 annually, while two-fifths were in the \$5,000-\$10,000 range. (But in considering these figures, don't forget to compare today's 48-cent dollar with 1939's 100-cent dollar.)

It has been suggested that an unrecorded disc be placed in every juke box, just to maintain silence. How good, too, it would be if some ruddy folks were able to pay homage to the quality of silence.

If and when Birmingham should reduce its water rates the suggested 12%, it might result in a more colorful Birmingham. Why? More sprinkling of lawns and garages each summer.

The un-necessary or reckless expenditure of money by the federal government is no more defensible than the reckless and extravagant expenditure of money by an individual who owes his bank a lot of money. Every unnecessary dollar put into the federal budget, or even a state or local unit of government budget, is simply amorally reaching into the pocketbooks of the taxpayers of our country.

It is estimated that another 50 years must pass before the federal government will have topographically mapped the entire United States. Much less time, of course, will be needed to financially tap the entire country.

### The Birmingham Eccentric

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

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## ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

One day in 1904, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Joe Cannon of Illinois went into the Capitol's House restaurant for his usual lunch.

He was a bean soup eater. This means, as all bean soup eaters will attest, that you got to be pretty much off your feed not to want bean soup for lunch.

Well, Joe Cannon that day was in good appetite. He was told that day's menu did not feature bean soup.

Speaker Cannon was like his name—loud and deadily when touched off. "Thunderation!" he bellowed.

HE RACED UPSTAIRS to the House door. There he delivered a flaming oration

on the delicate charm of Michigan Navy bean soup.

He railed through a resolution re-quiring it to be served each day. It still is on the menu today.

This is the simple recipe that has withstood the appetites of more than half a century:

Cover two pounds of Michigan Navy (pew) beans with water; soak overnight. Drain, recover with water. Add a smoked ham hock, simmer slowly about four hours until beans are tender. Add salt and pepper to taste. Immediately before serving, use large spoon or ladle to bruise beans, enough to cloud.  
Um-m-m-m good!

## Dear Diary...



## NATURE NOW By Lydia King Frehse

### Birds' Adaptation To Nature Unique

If we could turn back time's pages a million years to walk the earth on a spring morning, we would find a bird population with some 50 per cent of its species very similar to those we enjoy today.

At this time birds were already "old story" in our present culture. Scientists tell us that our feathered friends had their beginning in Bavaria during the Jurassic period some 150 million years ago. The first fossil bird, Archaeopteryx, was about the size of a pigeon, but resembled its reptilian ancestors. It sported a lizard-like tail with feathers growing laterally from the sides. Its short, round wings were equipped with claws, enabling it to climb as well as to make gliding flights.

THEN AS NOW, birds had a body molded to their particular way of life, together with a development of the sense organs which pointed toward security and self preservation. For example, their voices which express a variety of songs and calls, issue from a wind rudimentary larynx which can not produce true consonants. It is a thickening of the lower trachea and is called a syrinx. Envision the hazardous of a nesting pair on a spring morning if birds could talk!

The auricular area which is located behind the eye is a small hole opening to an internal structure equipped with a cochlea, similar to our own. The result is an accurate hearing sense which serves as a protective measure. Can you imagine a bird with terminal ears flying through the air?

Survival depends upon the ability of a creature to find an adequate food supply. Many birds, and especially predators, need to spot their prey from high in the air. They are therefore equipped with a keen sight which spots farther than that of any other animal. Their eyes are constructed to make instant changes of focus so that such birds as hawks, eagles and vultures can see their prey at great distances with startling accuracy. A third eyelid is present which helps to keep the eye moist and serves as a shade in strong light.

## Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

**50 YEARS AGO**  
April 30, 1909  
"The home of W. N. Berger, is made happier by a new piano. Its grand."

"Our people have set a good example in municipal home making by filling in and seeding the grounds around the municipal and library buildings. The fountain has been repaired and painted, and when the storm days come the water will be turned on. As though nothing could be left unharmed, the sprinkler at the depot was broken. This village improvement society has repaired and hopes every one will help in the care of these grounds. Mr. Haines will be glad of shrubs, rose bushes, etc. Help him, won't you?"

**30 YEARS AGO**  
April 25, 1929  
"Two guests in Birmingham this week were 15-year-old Australian boys, entertained by Thomas Neal of Oakland Avenue. They are on a world tour with more than 100 others from their country sounding out education by travel. Both agreed the girls in America have a corner on the beauty market."  
"Ground will be broken today, for the new clubhouse at the Birmingham Golf club. The building, which will be a low, rambling structure of brick and stone of country English architecture will be constructed and equipped at an approximate cost of \$150,000."

**15 YEARS AGO**  
April 27, 1944  
"Gardeners anxious about their plowing will be glad to know that the plowmen have already started in certain parts of the city where the land has been dry enough. Just as soon as other sections dry out gardens will be plowed as fast as possible. Telephone calls to the Victory Garden Committee or the plowman can not hasten the day of planting. Old Man Weather still calls the plays."  
"The Birmingham liquor store stock and fixtures, moved last week to the new location at 150-154 S. Woodward Avenue, are now all in place and the store is again doing business."  
"The heavy fog of last Sunday night certainly slowed automobile traffic in this area—and in some sections almost put the cars off the streets and roads altogether. The fog was reported very bad from Cadillac to Mt. Pleasant and from Brighton to Detroit."

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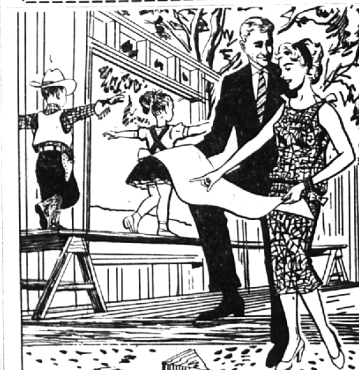
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