

## You Pay Plenty of "Hidden Taxes"

"Let the rich pay the cost of government." How often some politician with a brass voice and a shoe-string tie has told us that.

Worse, how many have believed it as they voted for Senators and Congressmen who dish out the money to "the little fellow."

Somebody once figured it out that there are 51 taxes in the price of a loaf of bread. How wrong he was!

The Tax Foundation says a loaf of bread has 151 taxes in it. The land that grows the wheat is taxed, and the seed, the plows and reapers and trucks, and the gasoline that powers them, down to the fuel that cooks the dough, and the wrapper around the loaf.

AND SO ON, UP TO 151.

Your suit of clothes has 116 taxes hidden in the price, and your new house has about 600 taxes before you sign the mort-

gage. How much do you pay? We don't know, but we'll make a guess that won't be far off first base.

The Tax Foundation estimates that the average family pays in taxes about 34% of its income.

If a family has an income of \$7,500, that's \$2,550. On a 40-hour week, or 2,000 hours a year, the tax is more than a dollar an hour.

If you want your taxes reduced, why don't you tell your Congressman or your State Legislator so?

**TOM PAINE**, a great writer and orator during our nation's Revolutionary War days, declared: "Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom must, like men, undergo the fatigue of supporting it."

How good it would be if more of us committed Paine's words to memory... and then to life!

## Tying Loose Strings



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## Evil Phase of Cultural Exchange

In view of the current promotion of "cultural exchanges" with Russia, a question should be asked:

Who is behind it?  
The Committee on Communism of the American Bar Association, in its report for 1958, has this to say:

"Every single delegate from Russia or a satellite country... is either a member of the Soviet secret police or the Soviet espionage apparatus. The primary activity of every one of Moscow's 'cultural' delegates while in this country is to promote the communist world revolution... Every Soviet football team, every athlete competing at an international sports event, Soviet scientists attending a Congress abroad, the Moscow ballet performing in a western capital or a group of

Soviet artists at a film festival are invariably accompanied by special agents of the Soviet secret police...

"In the past years of the exchange, secret police have passed as farmers, ice-skaters, clergymen, and scientists for the purpose of conducting espionage operations in this country..."

In view of the high ranking of the lawyers who made this report, it deserves attention.

"Cultural exchanges" with the nationals of other countries have great appeal to American idealism and our good neighbor policy. "Peace, friendship and commerce with all nations," has been part of our tradition for a long time.

The Russian people are friendly to America. But the Russian Government is not.

## NATURE NOW Evergreens Vital To State Forests

by Lydia King Frehe  
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Among our Michigan evergreens the white pine has had an enviable career. In the aboriginal forest of eastern North America it was the most beautiful, the most abundant and the most valuable of its kind.

A recent tree biographer quotes a pioneer as saying that a squirrel could travel a squirrel's life-time without ever coming down from the white pine. In our own state during the years 1870-1890, fortunes were made and lost, cities mushroomed and died in its wake.

Today it holds a more modest but not less beloved place in what remains of our climax forest. It is being wisely replanted as the red pine, its less graceful companion which has shared its fate through the years.

**THE JACK PINE** referred to by lumbermen as "the runt" is our least attractive evergreen. However, because of its small size and compact growth, it now populates a large portion of the central part of our state where it has been replanted as ground and game cover. Its tough cones resist the heat of forest fires and it therefore plants itself in many denuded areas.

**THE TAMARAC** is the most unusual of our conifers. In spring-time its misty greenness lights our northern woods. It together with the bald cypress of our southern swamps is the only conifer to use its needles in the autumn.

The balsam fir is another shal-low-rooted and brittle tree of our northern lowlands. Its sharp spires are reflected in the shores of a thousand lakes. Indians used the clear resin of its bark to seal their own wounds as well as to mend the leaks in their canoes. It makes a fragrant Christmas tree.

**THE ARBOR VITAE** or white cedar is called the "tree of life" because of its durable wood and its long life-span which may reach 300 years. It buries its roots in the deep humus of mossy bogs or sends them down through the rocks along streams. The so-called "red" cedar is a variety of juniper; the

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AMPLE PARKING

## Will Vote Down Labor Monopolies

The monopolistic yearnings of most American labor leaders for complete control of state and national governments will eventually result in an open citizen rebellion—and you can be sure that among these citizens will be millions of union members. The utterances of many labor leaders today, as they fight against fair and decent regulation by law, sound as though the end of the world is about

take place. To be sure, there still remain some fair and intelligent labor leaders... but they are in such little evidence that their voices are drowned out by the raucous screaming of those labor Napoleons who want to sit high (and quite comfortable, thank you) on their thrones. After all, just because one may be a labor leader doesn't make him infallible.

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

In 1907, a traffic study conducted in New York City showed that horsedrawn vehicles moved at an average of 11.5 miles per hour through city streets. Today, in congested downtown areas of many cities, including New York, the average motor traffic speed has been clocked as low as six miles per hour. (Now, Dear Reader, don't tell us that the horse and buggy days were so old-fashioned, after all.)

Millions of American citizens believe that money comes from the government—and, sadly, we must admit that a lot of it does... first having been taken from the pockets of the citizens themselves.

An American preacher has said: "Modern progress has made a neighborhood of the world; God has given us the task of making it a brotherhood."

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**GEORGE R. AVERILL**  
Editor and Publisher  
**PAUL NEAL AVERILL**  
Business Manager  
**GEORGE WM. AVERILL**  
Managing Editor  
**DAVID F. GIBB**  
Advertising Manager

## ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

Last summer I wrote an item about the Knob Creek farm where Abraham Lincoln lived for eight years. I reprinted the survey description as contained in the property deed. It ran between "two sugar trees on the north... to a dogwood tree at the corner... to a beech tree... etc., etc."

Robert Kenning, assistant Birmingham city manager, smiled when he read that item. But in recent days he's found himself involved in property descriptions which run "from the south side of an elm tree to the north side of (another) elm tree."

For the city commission, Kenning's tracking down all available information on city property: its description, how acquired, present use, future possibilities, etc. He's been working on the report more

than three months, says it will be another 90 days before he's through.

Some people have big cars, diamonds, furs and yachts. Then there are a few poor families who have nothing but money.

Without advertising, this world would be losing to a creeping crawl. Those who've made advertising really benefit themselves (and thus indirectly their communities) have paid utmost attention to their advertising messages.

Yet the commercial world still is crowded by businessmen who give out with consumer messages almost like this: "We've got on sale what we had yesterday—except at the front counter, where we now have something else than what was there last week."

## Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

**50 YEARS AGO**  
Dec. 17, 1909  
"Ed Harris while tearing down an old shed in the rear of his home at Big Beaver found an old tin box containing \$1,000."  
"The Village Board did a good thing last night for our people, putting us on a plane with our sister villages by voting to give us "more light". By a vote of 4 to 1 electricity was voted in."

**30 YEARS AGO**  
Dec. 19, 1929  
"Birmingham strikes with shovel and plow today digging its way from beneath one of the heaviest snow storms in recent years. Traffic slowed up and Christmas business was reduced to a minimum."  
"Do Birmingham women like the new long dresses? They do—with reservation. For evening and afternoon party wear, but for the street and school—no. At least not too long."

**15 YEARS AGO**  
Dec. 21, 1944  
"Birmingham schools... both public and Holy Name... closed Dec. 21 for the annual Christmas vacation."  
"The Christmas Eve community sing will be held at the Civic Center, Park Sunday at 8 o'clock."  
"Several autoists have reported

that the sanding of some of the street intersections has been greatly appreciated these slippery days."  
**STRICTLY FRESH**  
You know that winter is here when the store windows feature spring fashions...  
The closest some people get to cutting down on cigarettes is moving the ashtrays out of the rooms...  
The Claus most husbands meet at Christmas is the one that reads "payments due on the first of each month."  
You know you're growing old when "I plan to" changes to "I remember."  
It's remarkable how much funnier you become when the boss tells it.

**LAST STRAW**  
By Neva Whitfield  
Just when I find what a product will do... The makers decide to add something new... I long for the day they'll find it expedient... To leave out that last new wonder ingredient!

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