

Hart Out-State, Who for Detroit?

Michigan's junior Senator, newly-elected Philip A. Hart, will spend at least the next six years down in Washington, D. C. as a member of the United States Congress. He remains, of course, a citizen of the State of Michigan, his last voting residence being in Lansing. But now the junior Senator faces the problem of establishing a new residence, and the latest reports reveal that he and Mrs. Hart plan to locate in Traverse City.

You may recall that Mr. Hart and his family lived in Detroit before moving to Birmingham where they lived for a number of years. "Why Traverse City?", you may ask. Well, the answer must necessarily be a political one.

EVERY STATE IN the union is entitled to two United States Senators and more often than not the Senators come from

different geographical areas in the states they represent. Since the senior Michigan U. S. Senator is Pat McNamara from Detroit, and since, if he is not re-elected, his successor may be another Detroit (no other than Governor G. Mennen Williams, in the event he does not win the 1960 Democratic Presidential nomination) it naturally follows that the other U. S. Senator from Michigan must come from some out state area.

In establishing his new residence in Traverse City, Senator Hart, of course, is being politically smart—as well as preparing himself and his family to enjoy the natural beauty of the Traverse City region. Anyway, it looks to us as though the next United States Senator to run for reelection will either be Pat McNamara or Governor Williams.

Word Meaning Changes With Time

We assume that the meanings of words are fixed—that they said the same thing yesterday as today, and that they will continue to say the same thing tomorrow.

But that is not always the case. Words—and very important words—can apparently mean one thing in one era and an entirely different thing in another.

Take, for instance, the honored old word "liberal". For centuries, a liberal was a man who fought for the rights, the dignity and the independence of the individual against the monolithic power of the state. But now the so-called liberal is a man who seeks to place more and more power in the hands of the state, and to ever-broaden its authority over the lives and fortunes of the people.

Good News for Water Users

In these days of rising governmental costs, it's great to get word that a governmental cost is going DOWNward.

That's what Birmingham residents learned last week. Their city commissioners formally approved an 11 per cent reduction in quarterly water bills. And the new lower rates are to begin with your March billing. This means the water you have been using since the first of the year has been costing you less.

CITY MANAGER L. R. GARE and Fi-

OR TAKE THE equally honored word "federalism". Classically, as understood by this nation's founders, it meant a principle providing for a division of powers between a central government and the state governments. Neither was subordinate to the other, and the combination of the central and state governments constituted the federal government.

But nowadays federalism, as preached and practiced, simply means stripping the state governments of right after right and duty after duty and turning them over to the central government.

It's time—high time—we stopped perverting the meanings of words such as these and used them honestly and accurately—don't you think?

nance Director James Purkiss have been watching carefully the water department's revenue. Now they report there are about \$500,000 in reserves to provide for contingencies and two large transmission mains the city will install to bolster its system. "Now we should pass the savings back to our residents through a reduction in rates," Gare commented.

Birmingham city officials are to be commended for keeping a sharp eye on governmental costs and forwarding savings to taxpayers without being asked.

diverse workmanship, and on numerous occasions dangerous consequences to life and property have followed. We are reminded of this when we read warnings by Better Business Bureau, who suggest that homeowners be certain of the journeyman-qualifications of people they employ, especially heating and plumbing men, and electricians. In both latter cases faulty or inexperienced workmanship can result in explosions, fires, and other forms of damage. After all, "an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure," argues the old axiom.

FORCED FEEDING



NATURE NOW by Lydia King Frehse
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eclectic

Old Books Feature Medieval Europe

Anyone who is interested in old books will find the "herbals" of medieval Europe an exciting adventure.

Their ragged leather bindings embossed in gold, their quaint print and obsolete spelling, their words and often fanciful descriptions, their woodcuts and drawings of plants with human faces or bodies, their two-dimensional men; all this adds up to a child-like but poignant appeal.

If you are not fortunate enough to find an old book—the library carries copies and translations. These early books also portray some of the curiosity and delight that lie at the root of science. Many were based on the classical "The Materia Medica," written in 77 A.D. and mentioned in last week's column.

Its contents became a kind of classical authority which the old herbalists regarded with awe and reverence. Flooding home from the fields with some small wilder plant, they would compare it with the classical record. If its counterpart was not found, they were inclined to throw it away as a heretic, a freak with which the devil might tempt an honest man.

SOME of the material in the oldest herbals is so superstitious as to be ludicrous. In one of them, the plantain John Gerard describes the "dark red flower" of the "blossoming once a year at midnight after which the petals fall immediately to the earth and are swallowed by it."

An old latin herbal "Herbarium Apulei Platoni" contains a drawing which represents the mandrake or May apple as a man with root-like fingers and toes and a head made of leaves. This plant is suggested as a panacea for all bodily ills.

A little dog is chained to the ankle of the figure to pull out the root, since it was bad luck for humans to touch it while it was under ground. "Das Buch der Natur" by one Konrad Megenberg was published in 1475. Its contents bear a striking

resemblance to the present day flora of northern Europe. Among the plants described is the twin-flower, later named Linnaea in honor of the great Swedish botanist.

YOUR SCRIBE first knew it growing on the north shore of Higgins lake. Two years ago we were delighted to find this plant on the middle slopes of the Swiss Alps, where it made creeping mats of green tipped by pale pink "twin" blossoms on each flower stalk.

Also included in the same herbal is the ragged Robin, a member of the Maine coast and also it again on a memorable day blooming red along the shores of Loch Lomond.

Since there crept into the minds of the wise men of the woods and fields the idea that the knowledge of the past might be incomplete or even erroneous. Certain monks working in their monastery gardens were also zealous in their studies. One of these, Otto Brunfels, left his order to go wandering along the banks of the Rhine. He made botanical history by including nothing from the old authorities and writing a book out of his own knowledge and experience.

AS THE years of the Renaissance passed, herbalists of the 16th and 17th centuries showed increasing accuracy and originality in their writings. When the 18th century was crowned by the work of Linnaeus, botany became a respect of science in universities throughout England and Europe.

We owe much to the old herbals. It is easy to forget that there may come a day when our present achievements in science will be as obsolete to future generations as is medieval knowledge when compared with that of our 20th century.

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eclectic

50 YEARS AGO
February 12, 1909
"Where, oh where, have our sewers gone? If we can't have sewers, let us have something else."

"Has a father any rights at all?" A man named Larkin appealed to the courts of Cleveland demanding the arrest of his daughter Grace. When he stepped into the parlor the night before, he found Grace sitting on her bed's lap, and when he scolded, she laughed at him. "A girl," handed down the judge, "if she is permitted to have callers, has a right to sit on her bed's lap."

30 YEARS AGO
February 7, 1929
"The new lights on Woodward avenue give one the impression, as he enters Birmingham from the north, of a roller coaster. With the dip and incline, one can almost expect to see the usual "Hold Your Hat and Don't Stand Up" sign. Almost, that is, but not quite."

"The Community House reports that it is a common occurrence for very young villagers whose mothers are shopping in the city or who, for a few hours, are homeless, to drop in. And often they use it as a meeting place while waiting for parents to drive to the village for them."

15 YEARS AGO
February 10, 1944
"The humorous side was prevalent in this case: A citizen of our town was having coffee and doughnuts in a restaurant. The custom on these occasions is to josh with the waitress a bit, so this time the customer jokingly complained

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From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .
Ninety-five years ago, President Abraham Lincoln presented his plan for reconstruction of the South. Lincoln's plan is a long way from being achieved, if one is to view the civil strife now going on South of the Mason and Dixon line.
Hiring an inexperienced or unlicensed person to do work about your home may result in being "kynped" by faulty, expen-

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

All of us could make ends meet. All we have to do is find the guy who keeps moving the ends.

To appreciate (?) many of today's jokes, it takes a sick sense.

To those persons who know all the answers, life certainly must be dull.

The difference between "great" and "grate" merely is a matter of ease.

Until recently, I, too, thought this world was getting smaller. Yesterday I looked back over my growing tax contributions, and now am convinced the world is getting bigger!

Your shirt is harder to lose when you wear it with the sleeves rolled up.

All this scientific razzle-dazzle has impacted on our schools to a greater depth

than most of us may realize. Even the first graders know how to count. They go like this:
10 — 9 — 8 — 7 — 6 — 5 — 4 — 3 — 2 — 1 — Hell!"

Those guys who keep making the new autos larger on the inside without affecting the outside would make quicker fortunes in the women's shoe industry.

The man had just witnessed a terrible accident. He went home and ate a teaspoon of cement. He wanted to hold himself together.

Some people complain because things aren't going well. When things are good, they complain they aren't better. When things are at their best, then these people are at their worst.

Some people are free with their advice. There are others who only lend a hand.

My Neighbors
"My husband has to be different—he gets claustrophobic in open spaces!"