

Can't Get Something for Nothing

Would you believe your U. S. Senator Pat McNamara if he told you that two plus two equals, say five or six? No doubt you'd only laugh right into his face, but you'd also inform him that you'd never use him as a bookkeeper in your business. Yet this same Pat, in a recent statement, pontificated:

"At the earliest opportunity in January, I will re-introduce my bill which calls for expenditure of \$2 billion over a two-year period to assist the States in schoolroom construction. The Federal share, matched by the States, would produce an estimated 100,000 classrooms over the two-year period, including 6,000 in Michigan. State funds freed by the Federal assistance

could be used to increase teachers' salaries."

SEE WHAT PAT is trying to imply? Naught but that by getting federal aid (free?) for Michigan public schools we'd have more money to pay our teachers.

What this paid public official forgets to include is this: Every cent Michigan (or any other State) gets from Washington, D. C., first comes from every State's own citizens. And, in the case of Michigan, we get back a considerably less number of dollars than we pay in to that bottomless federal treasury.

Yes, Pat's phony figurin' will increase your taxes—and please don't ever forget that!

Happy Birthday, Boy Scouts!

The Boy Scout movement has reached ripe middle age. Boy Scout Week, was observed during the February 7-13th period, marked its 49th anniversary.

But the passage of time has certainly not dimmed Scouting's vigor. It is looking ahead to ever-greater achievements, to an ever-expanding influence. And in this age, with juvenile delinquency rampant, the movement deserves the active support of every decent and responsible citizen.

In its nearly half-century of existence, the organization has touched the lives of more than 28,500,000 Americans. Today there are more than 4,780,000 boys and leaders playing the "game of Scouting". This works out to one of every four boys in the 8 to 16-year old groups, and the hope is that this proportion will be materially increased.

DR. ARTHUR A. SCHUCK, Chief Scout Executive, puts it this way: "Looking ahead for the next five years we must recognize that never has it been so important or imperative that the youth of our nation be trained to high idealism, acquired through unselfish service, by self-reliance, and co-operative effort."

The ideals and objectives of Scouting have remained unchanged since the movement's birth. But changes have been made in organization methods and operating techniques in order to meet the needs of the time. At the moment, if Scouting is to be brought to more of the boys who want it, there must be more trained leaders, and more facilities including camps. Meeting this challenge should be regarded as a pleasure and a privilege.

Meanwhile — Happy Birthday, Boy Scouts!

It's The Last Try That Counts!

One of the important jobs of a business manager is in the nature of a salvage operation. When an ambitious employee goes in an effort where he made a hard try, a critical hour may have come in his life.

But it is just as important to his employer. To meet these crises, one businessman keeps a card in the top drawer of his desk. When an employee comes to report a bad failure, the executive produces this card, and asks the man to read it. Here it is:

Failed in business '31
Defeated for Legislature '32
Again failed in business '33
Elected to Legislature '34
Defeated for Speaker '38
Defeated for Presidential Elector '40

Defeated for Congress '43
Elected to Congress '46
Defeated for Congress '48
Defeated for U. S. Senate '55
Defeated for Vice President '56
Defeated for U. S. Senate '58

"Do you know who that man was?"
The employee, thinking of the recent '30's, '40's and '50's, says, "I'm sorry, sir, but I can't place him."

"Well, you are no worse than millions of others. It stumped me, too, when I first read it. But it is important for you, and millions more, to know who that man was. Turn the card over."

The employee turns the card over. It read:

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

he wants to give away? Also require Congressmen to do likewise.

In response to some pointed criticism by members of his own party, President Eisenhower has replied that he has tried to travel a middle course, favoring neither the extreme right or the extreme left. His critics are still trying to locate his course on the ever-changing political charts.

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

Come Sunday, after enjoying one of my wife's fine Sunday dinners, I shall sit me down and read up a bit more on some American history.

My reading will concern events surrounding the life of a great American whose face is as familiar as a one-dollar bill. (His face has just been replaced on the nation's first class mail by another great American.)

The American I shall be reading about would have been 226 years old on Sunday. He's George Washington.

Sure, I am familiar with George's history about as much as the next American. George never told a lie. He was a surveyor, who later inherited his father's fine plantation in Virginia.

GEORGE VOLUNTEERED TO LEAD the American first army against the Eng-

lish. Through years of hardship, he and his men served the colonial chld. Then an appreciative new nation made him its first president.

On Sunday I shall learn more about this enshrined American. My text will be the special 24-page tabloid-section the New York Times published on Washington's 200th birthday anniversary in 1932.

WRITING THE MATERIAL will be such distinguished authors as Samuel Eliot Morison, R. L. Duffus, G. K. Chesterton and Andre Maurois.

When I've finished the Times' special supplement, I shall return it to its owner, a distinguished Birmingham resident, former mayor and city commissioner, former president and member of the Birmingham school board—Ray A. Palmer.

Incidentally, Ray will be observing his own birthday anniversary on Sunday.

We Still Have Pioneers



NATURE NOW Skeletons May Be In Your Bathroom

by Lydia King Frehse
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eclectic

"A sponge is a skeleton in your bathroom." This statement is true only if you happen to be using a natural sponge rather than one made of rubber or plastic. The former will last much longer because of its tough elastic fibers.

A natural sponge is the skeleton of one of a group of primitive animals which live in colonies anchored to the bottom of the ocean. Those of you who vacation on the West Coast of Florida or the Bahamas may have seen a boat festooned with these interesting creatures which are brought up by divers. After a preliminary cleaning, they are hung on the rigging to dry. Sponges are also fished from shallow water by means of a hook fastened to a long pole. The dried catch is brought to an exchange where the sponges are washed, sorted and strung together in large bundles. Further cleaning rid the skeleton of more cellular debris. Next they are pounded with a mallet to break up the shells of various marine creatures which have made a home within their cavities. Finally they are bleached, trimmed with shears, compressed by a baling machine and shipped to market.

A LIVING bath sponge is only one variety of thousands of its kinds. It is covered with a tough membrane and may be yellowish gray in color, or it may vary from brown to black. When cut in half it looks like a slimy piece of raw liver. The animal protoplasm is an aggregate of cells supported by a framework of sponge fibers which make up the skeleton.

A few of the thousands of species of sponges live in fresh water attached to stones, sticks of wood, and other objects. They are elongated mass appearing as if pierced by a stick or twig. Fresh water sponges have no commercial value. But they play their part in nature's economy by simulating certain algae on their surfaces and by harboring various primitive life forms.

Sponges show a great variety of shapes and sizes. Some are as large as a man's head and others may be three feet in diameter. Some are shaped like iron or baskets and others are branched like living corals. One named "stone sponge basket" has a beautifully patterned skeleton like spun glass. It measures a foot in length and is fastened to the end of the stem bottom by thread-like spines.

ALTHOUGH these unusual animals are stationary, certain of their cells are equipped with moving flagella. These work night and day to create currents of water which flow through the body cavities, bringing food and carrying off waste products. It is estimated that forty-five gallons of water pass through an average sized sponge each day.

The sea sponges' creatures have neither mouth nor digestive tract. Nor do they have organs or systems. They are a collection of cells held together by their own cohesion. In certain stages these units can be separated by putting them through a fine cloth and again re-attached to their former shape. Primitive man may have used sponges, such as we do today. They are especially mentioned in Greek literature and were used by Roman soldiers.

The finest of sponges come from the Mediterranean. Since the grounds in both Florida and the Bahamas have been overfished, it is a boon that these useful skeletons are now being replaced by a less expensive synthetic substitute.

"Yes, sir, and it happened right here. The papa is the mamma and the mamma is the papa—on the birth certificate. You may look it up for yourself on the records of Myrtle Carson, the village clerk. Among arrivals of some months ago, the occupation of the father is given as housekeeper and that of the mother as carpenter."

"Are you shocked when you read, or hear, that something isn't worth a tinker's dam? The Wanderer across the ocean in a Malcom Binney's editorial, Sunday, and decided to inform the public that one can use the expression and still be a Christian gentleman. According to the encyclopedia, "tinker's dam" is slang for a worthless thing, so called from the dough or mud with which a tinker or plumber encloses a hole or space before soldering it."

"A quarantine may be placed on village doors, following the request made yesterday by Sheriff Baldwin Library Has Best Seller

Because of the avalanche of requests for Nancy Larrick's "Parent's Guide to Children's Reading," the third shipment of this popular "Best Seller" has been unpacked in the boys and girls department at Baldwin public library.

So that parents may have this valuable guide in their own home libraries, direct their children's reading, the library is selling this paperback edition at 35 cents a copy.

MISS LARRICK, former president of the International Reading Association, answers questions concerning not only how to select books and build home libraries, but also how to encourage reading, how to handle the comics problem,

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