

Michigan to Uncle Sam: 4 Billions

Assuming that Michigan's over-all tax collections for the fiscal year 1959-60 will total 400 millions of dollars, do you realize that for that same period Michigan taxpayers will have to fork over to Uncle Sam taxes amounting to \$3,836,000,000, or about nine and six-tenths times the Michigan total?

It is estimated that the Michigan federal taxes will be allocated as follows: National security, \$2,281,100,000; interest on national debt, \$403,200,000; for Agriculture Dept., \$298,600,000; for Veterans' Affairs, \$253,400,000; for Labor & Welfare depts., \$205,600,000; for Commerce & Housing, \$111,700,000; for Foreign Affairs, \$106,000,000; for General Govt., \$86,400,000; for Natural Resources, \$85,100,000; for contingencies, \$5,000,000.

These figures provide Michigan taxpayers with up-to-date information as to their

costs of supporting the varied programs in the federal budget.

Some of the items, of course, such as Defense, are admittedly beyond current reductions; and take the interest on the federal debt, of \$403,200,000 this is more than Michigan's own tax revenues . . . and don't overlook the fact that most of this Michigan-collected portion is returned to Michigan schools, cities, villages and townships. Back in 1932 the entire federal budget was slightly over four billion.

Perhaps you will take time to look again at the above figures. Like 'em? Think some of them can be lowered? Then your only chance to get them lowered is to contact your U.S. Senators and Congressmen.

Isn't such contact worthwhile . . . and it may save you as much as several days, weeks, even months of your wages.

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

Leaders of some unions, as in the case of the Teamsters, certainly toss their members' money around with considerable looseness. Heaven (or maybe the McClellan Senate Committee) only knows the details of this hard-earned squandering of part of the hard-earned wages of dues-paying teamsters.

Because of the apparent success of Russia's sun-moon rocket, the United States Congress is demanding that the Eisenhower administration speed up our space and missile program. There is no doubt but what our scientists engaged in this program, if given more money and other aids, will accomplish this. Likewise, if only the people of the United States would demand less expenditures in other non-military items, the Federal budget could be cut down considerably. Unfortunately, though, the public really doesn't impact vigorously

ly upon its officials between elections, so we may expect a continuation of a considerable waste of the taxpayers' money. If the people at the next election continue to send more spenders to the halls of Congress they certainly will find less and less in their pay envelopes to spend upon their own families.

Michigan's political histories will never be able to erase the fact that during the first 2 months in the year 1959, the State's Treasury was on the verge of bankruptcy. This history will also record the fact that the State's University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and Michigan State University in East Lansing were faced with the possibility of having to close their doors because they have not been receiving their usual quota of funds from the State Treasurer. Yes, unfortunately, this record will not result in having any medals pinned on the breast of our personable Democratic Governor.

The Birmingham Eccentric

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

You and me, we just showed Dowagiac (Mich.) farmer Stanley Yankus that he can't push you and me around and get away with it!

No, sir-ee!
Through our fine, upstanding, straightforward, honest, civic-minded, patriotic, Washington legislators, we showed Stanley Yankus that he can't flout the safety and welfare of this great country!
Yes, sir-ee—he's been licked.

HE'S JUST SAID he's going to move himself and his family to Australia.
You remember what he did to us, don't you?

He planted some wheat on his western Michigan farm in strict violation of federal quotas!

Can you imagine that?
Planted some extra wheat!
Didn't he realize we've got millions and millions of bushels of government surplus wheat collecting mildew in warehouses all over the country?

OF COURSE, ALL HE was going to do was feed his extra wheat to his chickens. That's what HE said.

Why didn't he buy some of that extra wheat that belongs to you and me (as U.S. taxpayers, see?) from some of those surplus warehouses? (He could of used the money he'd have gotten from the federal government for NOT planting that ex-

tra wheat.)

But no, sir. Old Stanley had to bust a law. A law meant to protect you and me. (Our Washington legislators don't pass laws that aren't for the very protection of you and my safety and welfare, now do they?)

THOSE FELLOWS PASS A LAW saying no extra wheat, by golly, so we can't have any people going around this nation trying to ruin it by planting extra wheat.

That's just what of Stanley tried to do, apparently. Ruin you and me by planting those extra wheat seeds!

But we got the last laugh. On of Stanley, that is.

HE FOUND OUT who was boss—but quick. In looking out for your and my interests, our Uncle Sammy showed of Stanley!

Our Uncle Sammy hauled of Stanley into federal court—but fast!

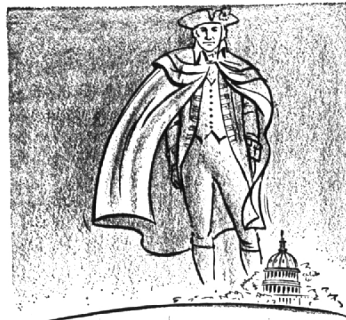
And the federal judge, he slapped a \$2,600 fine on of Stanley. (And when of Stanley was a little slow in paying up, our Uncle Sammy he went and took half of the fine right out of of Stanley's bank account. No foolin' with OUR Uncle Sammy. No, sir-ee!)

SO FRIDAY OL' STANLEY finally saw the light. He admitted publicly who's really the boss of this here country! He found out who can tell him what he can or can't do with his land.

Of Stanley's gittin' out. Goin' to Australia, he is. Sellin' his farm, he is. Goin' to the Land Down Under. (Boy, those Australians don't know what they're gettin'—a guy who wants to do what HE wants with his farm! Can you imagine? A guy who thinks his property is his own to farm the way he wants!)

Of Stanley found out that in America, without Uncle Sammy's approval, that which you sow you do not always reap!

He Knew



"TO ADD BRIGHTNESS TO THE SUN OR GLORY TO THE NAME OF WASHINGTON IS ALIKE IMPOSSIBLE."
... Abraham Lincoln

NATURE NOW by Lydia King Frehe
Special Writer For The Birmingham Eccentric

Wildlife Hurt By Hard Winter

Michigan's "old-fashioned" winter is an even greater hazard for the creatures of the wild than it is for man.

During this, the earliest winter in eight years, with its attendant accumulation of ice and snow, our deer herd is especially threatened. Since the food supply from the ground is cut off, these creatures must depend upon browsing from the low hanging branches of such trees as cedar.

Conservation officers report this food supply to be rapidly dwindling. Starvation has already taken its toll with heavier casualties predicted. Ground-feeding song and game birds are likewise threatened. Neither small nor pleasant can withstand severe weather. In many localities, ringnecks have been found trapped in sheets of ice or imprisoned by tail-feathers frozen to the ground.

OUR severe winter is also a threat to fish. The accumulated ice tends to deplete the oxygen in the water. In their frantic need for this life-giving element, perches frequently come to the surface of a hole in the ice where they may be caught with the hands.

The weather conditions which threaten the above animals are a protection to one of our most savage animals—the wild cat. Sometimes called the bay lynx, or bobcat, it lives in the most secluded sections of our Northern forests. Here the barrier of snow and ice is a protective from the hunters and his dogs.

A fall-grown bobcat may weigh as much as 40 pounds. Like the fox, it is a clever escape artist, using such tricks as backtracking and circling, thus confusing its pursuer. This animal is classed as a predator, taking rabbits and other rodents, as well as an occasional grouse or fawn. However, one of

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO
February 26, 1909

"Talk about enjoyment. You ought to see Mr. and Mrs. Bert Buell enjoying life at Palm Beach, Florida, basking in the warm sunshine, while we poor Michigan people are shovelling coal and snow. And Bert, pitch in, we are 'wid eyes' in mind if not in body."

"Every bird destroyed means one less mouthful that the farmers can produce."

"This year a million robins have been shot in the south. This means agricultural murder for the north. Every robin is worth its weight in gold to the farmer."

30 YEARS AGO
February 21, 1929

"Pigeons this weather on Woodward avenue seem more tame than ever. Walking through the snow, it makes no difference to them whatsoever, it goes close the hurrying pedestrian comes. All of which is something of a stimulant to the vanity of the walker."

"Plans for swimming pool to be built as an accessory to the proposed addition to the Barnum school are to be presented to the board of education at their meeting March 4."

15 YEARS AGO
February 24, 1914

"Bitsy got a little fan mail from an East Lansing admirer this week. The only thing that puzzles her is that it came in the form of a birthday card with a few friendly remarks on it. Bitsy is too young

to have passed a milestone. She's just a little kitty."

"Many Birmingham, Michigan, residents have had experiences in which their mail has been sent to Birmingham, Alabama, by mistake. If this happens often enough, as it does in the cases of Birmingham business houses, it is possible to get a forwarding address posted in the Birmingham, Alabama, post office. Of course, forwarding addresses are good only on first class."

Part of this problem is that our modern economy demands a much greater per capita water supply than of yore. Added home appliances and our present manufacturing methods demand some three times as much water as was formerly needed.

Park financing is always a crucial problem in our state. It is necessary that we not only maintain but increase our facilities for attracting the tourist industry. It brings us some nine million visitors annually, thus providing us with our second largest source of income. Our Michigan United Conservation club have adopted resolutions urging more attention to park improvement and added acreage.

But the number one problem persists: "Where are we to find the necessary funds?"

The battle for maintaining the Porcupine mountains as a natural area has been won. The delay of this decision was an advantage, since the untiring efforts of all conservative-minded organizations were brought into play. As a result, a national as well as a local interest has been aroused on the importance of preserving such unusual areas.

It is now up to us to remain alert for any future threats to the wilderness which we prize not only for ourselves but for those who come after us.

Books

(Continued from Page 6-B)
he can cope with makes up the substance of this powerful story. "The Pistol" is a well-written, well thought out book. It is not overladen with extraneous details as were Jones' earlier novels. It is, for the most part, clearly written, being marked only rarely by the awkward, haphazard writing that made "Some Come Running" and "From Here to Eternity" such difficult reading.

THE OLD TIMER

"The man who toots his own horn soon has everybody dodging when he approaches!"

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ICE-AGE NEWSPAPER

The mailman used to bring it warm— But things element-ic, We think we'll freeze the title to "The Birmingham Ice-Centric!"

—Lucy Benson