

'Red Carpet' For a Soviet Leader?

Every citizen of the United States knows that the greatest enemy of freedom in the entire world today is Soviet Russia.

"Why," millions of Americans today may ask, "Why does our country lay down the red carpet for Soviet Russia's Deputy Premier, Anastas Mikoyan, who arrived January 5th for a two weeks' visit to the United States?"

WELL, WHAT IS suggested when two former friends are engaged in a feud? The philosopher would suggest that the two men get together, talk over their differences, compromise with each other as best they can; in the end, shake hands and be at least friendly.

No doubt the philosopher would side in

10 Years—and Now Red Ink!

For 10 years a likeable, personable chap, whose name is G. Mennen Williams, has been Governor of the State of Michigan.

It seems to many people that when a man has had 10 years as chief executive of his State, he has had more than a normal amount of time in which to put the State in order, to improve the quality of the services the State renders to its people, to develop sound principles and policies, and, above all else, keep the finances of the State on a sound black ink basis.

BUT, ALAS, though he has had all this

with the United States' State Department today and argue that, even though Mikoyan is currently our enemy, by being courteous to him, by treating him as we would like to be treated if we were making a visit to Russia, it might cause some kind of mental, moral and spiritual chemical action, so to speak, to take place in the head and heart of Mikoyan—thus hoping for some good to result upon his return to the Kremlin?

HOWEVER, IT DOES seem to us that some of our American business and civic leaders have been overly friendly to Mikoyan. Pictures in newspapers and over TV have revealed what appears like "great joy and grand pleasure" on the faces of some who have hosted this Soviet anti-American chap.

Millions of Americans understandably may be confused as they seek to reconcile our top public official's severe denunciation of the Soviet leaders, with the geniality of Mikoyan's numerous American "glad-handers".

In the meantime, of course, our beloved country must exert itself to the utmost to remain militarily strong, since military and industrial strength still seem to be the only sure barriers to the Kremloins' plan to subjugate all countries where freedom is something besides a word in a dictionary.

time, our likeable Governor has not been able to keep red ink out of the State's financial bookkeeping.

In his Inaugural Address, January 2nd, the Governor announced that, by the end of June, he expects the State to be in debt a hundred million dollars, and informs the people that new taxes must be found to make up the deficit.

Not a word did he say about economizing, nor do we hear very many members of the Legislature talking in terms of thriftiness in the operation of State government. Michigan taxpayers on the average may not like to have to pay even higher and higher taxes—but the taxpayers' failure to let their elected officials know how they feel on this subject doesn't do a single thing to prevent more taxation.

er Castro, Cuba's sugar crop will contain its usual sweetness.

Now that the scientists have caused the voice of President Eisenhower to come down from the skies, will it ever be likely that outer space missiles will contain the advertising messages of campaigning politicians, some of whom would like to thunder their double-talk to innocent and unsuspecting voters?

GEORGE R. AVERILL Editor and Publisher
GEORGE WM. AVERILL Managing Editor
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ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

Several Detroit metropolitan communities, including Troy and St. Clair Shores, had an unexpected budget item thrust upon them by the state's recent tax equalization commission.

The state ruled these municipalities had over-evaluated the worth of these facilities, thus would be imposing an unfair additional amount of taxes.

The commission ordered property assessment reductions on several of these communities' principal taxpayers. These included plants and offices of Ford Motor Co., General Motors, Detroit Edison, and other large corporations.

ST. CLAIR SHORES officials got mad,

Suburban Sentiment

KEEP 'EM GUESSING
She laughs up her sleeve,
He talks through his hat,
No wonder their kids
Don't know where they're at.
—Mary Binkle

YOU THINK THIS ROCKET business is new?

The Chinese, who are credited with inventing gunpowder, were using rockets back in the 13th century. Crude affairs, they were tubes open at one end, and tied to an arrow. They were ignited and fired at the enemy and its fortifications. Very effective, too.

It's taken man better than 600 years to refine that rocket and get it into outer space.

"A visitor to the village was heard to ask upon entering a restaurant at the luncheon hour, 'Is there a school or college around here? Or where do a these people come from?' And then the Wanderer explained to her it was nothing more than the usual lured-in crowd of Birmingham business people."

"This Wanderer hopes that the old saying, 'better late than never' holds good for this bit. Did you know that the Henry H. Hepp, who resides at 843 Bates, was the first Birmingham family to be visited by the stork, who delivered Thomas Arthur on Jan. 4?"

"A vote of thanks is being ac-

He'll Get a Going-Over



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

Nature's Economy Relies on Bacteria

Disease-producing bacteria which are parasites on plants and animals have earned a bad reputation for their kind. We wrote about these in last week's column.

However, the majority of bacteria are not only beneficial to man, but play a role of tremendous importance in Nature's economy. Bacteria derive their energy from eating an unobtainable amount and variety of foods. Included in their strange diet are the gases of the air; minerals such as iron, sulphur and phosphorus; substances such as egg yolks, cheese and cellulose; liquids such as blood, sewage and manure.

BUT IT is their appetite for dead plants and animals which is responsible for their position as basic organisms in life's chain. During the resulting process of decay, locked up proteins and other valuable substances are released so that they may be reused as food for new generations of living plants and animals.

This decay becomes a necessary link in the chain of life. Without it, the plants of the earth would soon become an insurmountable pile of garbage. Decay—producing bacteria also work to man's advantage in the disposal of sewage. By their action, the solids in otherwise dangerous wastes are converted into valuable fertilizer, while the liquids can be purified and reused to help maintain our water supply.

AMONG the most useful of bacteria are those which keep a constant supply of nitrogen available for the rest of the organic world. Some of these live free lives in the soil. Others called "nitrogen fixing" bacteria have taken up partnership with the legumes, living in nodules on the roots of such plants as clover, alfalfa, vetch, peas and beans. Here they store nitrogen which they gather from the air. When plowed under, a crop of legumes can provide as much as 100 pounds of nitrogen per acre. Without the chemical action of decay-producing bacteria, the farmer would reap no benefits from

recorded Mrs. Ann Traver, 1335 Bird, one of the enthusiastic bowlers of the area, for her outstanding work in promoting the sale of war saving stamps and bonds among the women bowlers of Birmingham."

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO January 22, 1909
"Found—a new suit of men's clothes. Saturated with Queneo can have the same by calling on Fred Frank, proving property and pay for this ad."

"Samuel Bortle, of Ann Street, has just had his cozy little home wired for electric lights, which he will have going just as soon as the company can get in the electric juice. Sammie always was in for improvements and his home shows a neatness which can never be excelled anywhere."

30 YEARS AGO January 17, 1929
January means something besides the issuing of auto tags to the village offices. Now is the time for the renewal of the restaurant and beverage licenses."

"A visitor to the village was heard to ask upon entering a restaurant at the luncheon hour, 'Is there a school or college around here? Or where do a these people come from?' And then the Wanderer explained to her it was nothing more than the usual lured-in crowd of Birmingham business people."

15 YEARS AGO January 20, 1944
"Fluorocent light is a new feature of Bodine News."

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Michigan's Factories, Farms and Stores Depend on Trucks
Manufacturing, farming, the retail business—all have one thing in common: each needs transportation facilities.
And, since the motor truck provides fast, flexible, direct service unequalled by any other form of transportation, more tonnage is shipped by truck in Michigan each year. (Nationally trucks haul more than 3 times as much tonnage as all other systems combined!)
Every truck you see on the road is working—working to help keep Michigan's economy humming, to help keep employment and sales high. There isn't a corner of the State that isn't served daily by trucks. And factories and shopping centers can be located anywhere and be assured of efficient truck service so long as they're on a road.
You see how vital trucks are to Michigan.
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BIRMINGHAM telephone lines
by AL WARNER, Manager
BIRMINGHAM STILL GROWS. A lot of people are glad to have 1958 pass into history and are looking forward to a better and brighter 1959. Regarding our fortunes during the past year, I imagine we are all looking forward to new heights in the months ahead. I know we are here at your Telephone Company. While we added, in Birmingham, 455 new customers and added 1296 more telephones in the past 12 months we expect to do even better in the twelve months ahead. We have confidence in the continued growth and prosperity of our Birmingham Area and have been making plans and spending money to meet new demands for service. I wish to extend to each of you, from all of your telephone neighbors, the best wishes for a happy and prosperous new year.

NEW USE FOR FAMILIAR OBJECT.
The day was chill and windy. The man on the street tried, four times, to light his cigarette... no luck. Then he noticed a public phone booth a few yards away. He stepped inside, shut the door and achieved success with his next attempt. Then he went his way—and we like to think that he carried with him some small feeling of gratitude to the Michigan Bell Telephone Company, for placing at his disposal a really storm-proof cigarette lighter.
CORDS GET PERMANENTS. "Spring" type telephone cords—the kind that can't twist and catch on things—eventually lose their neat tight curls, just like a lady's hair. When this happens, they're not there to charm a lady's hair they get a permanent wave. (They go it when the telephones come in for repair.) Around one million cords get the full beauty treatment each year—washing, re-winding and heat setting. \$400,000 is saved by this annually. It helps keep down telephone costs.
THE FOLLOWING STORY is vouched for by a highly respected newspaper. A parakeet, name of Jerry, flew away from home and didn't stop until he reached Shawnee, Kan., thirteen miles as a parakeet flies. The man who found him was wondering what to do next when Jerry chirped up loud and clear: "Call Mary... Jackson 34 412." The man, more from idle curiosity than anything else, dialed the said number. Believe it or not, but the person who answered was none other than Mrs. Mary Neal, Jerry's worried owner.