

When Is Dirty Money Clean Money?

The A.F.L.-C.I.O. NEWS reports a case as interesting as a murder mystery.

The treasurer of a local union of the Laundry, Dry Cleaning & Dye House Workers was found guilty by a Federal Judge of evading \$569,784 of income taxes, and was sentenced to 3 years in the hoosegow.

The treasurer's defense was that the money was not taxable because he had embezzled it from the union's welfare fund, and it was never his money!

The Judge said "nix" to that. The money which he stole was not clean money, even if it came out of dry cleaning establishments! Nevertheless it was income!

Being income, the Judge ruled that he had to pay income taxes on it. This makes the Government a receiver of stolen goods,

if the money can be found!

THAT'S "THE LAW," but it is a curious way for Uncle to teach us taxpayers to be honest.

In such cases, embezzlers should be locked up for embezzlement, not for income tax evasion, and the stolen goods should be returned, if they can be found, to the rightful owners—in this case, the thousands of men and women who sweated over hot soap suds and steam irons to earn the dollars to put into their welfare fund.

A private citizen who knowingly receives stolen goods can be sent to jail, but not Uncle.

What do the laundry workers think of this?

Educators Hold Out "Tin Cup"

As local, state and federal taxes take more and more of people's incomes, the endowments and voluntary gifts formerly bestowed upon many institutions of higher learning decrease. This results in efforts by educators to get more and larger outward monetary gifts from business, finance and industry.

However, as some institutions of higher learning teach and graduate more and more young people that government should assume the roles of paternalism, welfare-

ism and socialism, educators eventually will suffer. How?

PRIVATE CAPITALISM will become impoverished and only "the State" will be in control of the production and distribution of wealth. Then will all of education cease to be free. After all, mankind's environment is the direct result of its thoughts and actions—and educators have much influence over what people think and do.

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

If you want to make some people dependent upon your generosity, give them money. Give it to them unceasingly and they'll openly support you (even though some times, privately, they may cease to respect you). If you are in public office, give them special favors and privileges, or even some of the tax-payers money, and chances are you'll be re-elected—especially if you go for large price supports for the farmers of the nation. That's exactly what most Congressmen do—with YOUR tax money! Like it? If you don't, have you told your Congressman to quit voting YOUR money away?

Five years after he was accused of beating up a Sheboygan, Wisconsin man, who died some months later, John Gunaca, former Detroit bartender, pleaded guilty to the beating in a Sheboygan court, and was sentenced to three years in prison. Gunaca formerly was part of the UAW

picket line when the Kohler strike began. During these intervening years, however, Gov. Williams refused to sign the extradition papers that would get Gunaca into a Sheboygan court. "I don't believe that Gunaca could get a fair trial there," argued the Governor. How does one reconcile the Governor's attitude (he was accused widely of being a "tool" of the UAW) with Gunaca's guilty plea? Would Gunaca have pleaded guilty if first wanted in the Wisconsin court? Why is the symbol of Justice always represented as blindfolded, anyway?

"Our greatest tasks lie before us," thundered the politician, "and in due time we shall solve them." Question: When is this due time?

The art of gossiping has reached higher levels than the art of thinking intelligently. This is why rumors and half-truths fly faster than the truth itself.

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GEORGE R. AVERILL
Editor and Publisher
GEORGE WM. AVERILL
Managing Editor
PAUL NEAL AVERILL
Business Manager
HAL P. BUERGE
Advertising Manager

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

Back in May and June of this year, Birmingham's city commissioners were in a one-sided debate with residents over the widening of Lincoln, from Pierce to Southfield.

The issue was being debated by the residents. The city was listening to why it SHOULD NOT widen Lincoln at this point to 41 feet. It now is an 18-foot wide strip pavement.

Many residents had signed petitions opposing the widening. They lost their argument. The city determined the necessity of widening, and contracts may have been let by the time this appears in print.

THIS WEEK I NEEDED to go back through The Eccentric's microfilm files. The year was 1929. The month and day was August 1.

On page one of that issue was a story about a village commission hearing on the widening of Lincoln, from Pierce to Southfield.

I now reprint the first half of that article, without further comment:

"By unanimous resolution passed Monday night by the village commission, work is proceeding today preparatory to laying an 18-ft. strip of pavement on Lincoln avenue from Pierce street to Southfield avenue.

"AT THE HEARING, Ed Daniels, owner of a large piece of land fronting on

Lincoln avenue, protested the 18-ft. pavement plan, and offered verbal support to a petition, signed by about 25 per cent of the frontage, opposing the move.

"Why do you force this 18-ft. pavement on us when we want the 40-ft. width street?" asked Mr. Daniels.

"To which" (the late) commissioner Harry Allen replied.

"Because, Mr. Daniels, twice the village has tried to install a pavement on Lincoln avenue, from Pierce to Southfield avenue, and twice we have found that the valuation of the vacant property on that street will not stand the cost of a 40-ft. pavement.

"THAT IS WHY WE BELIEVE that the 18-ft. pavement is all right for this year, to be followed later by additional widths. This paving is needed to abate the dust nuisance, and to aid in routing traffic west of the village from Woodward avenue."

"The commission" passed a resolution denying the petition."

"... Under the terms of the village charter, not more than 25 per cent of the value of a piece of property can be levied for special improvements against that property in any one year. Because the 40-ft. pavement costs exceed this proportion of much of the vacant property, the 18-ft. plan is held necessary to keep within charter limitations."

'About Time to Saw Those Planks!'



NATURE NOW

by Lydia King Freshé
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Insect Eating Cuckoo Says Its Own Name

Now with deep summer all about us, our days are enlivened by the after-noon songs of our friends the birds.

Many of these owe their common names to their particular song or call. Among them are the bob-white, killdeer, chickadee, phoebe, whip-poor-will, cuckoo, pewee and the chewink or towhee (he says both).

Birds, like people, usually make their homes where they can find a good living and we need not be out in the country to find them. Here in our wooded suburbs live many woods birds. One which you might hear as she writes these lines is mentioned above. He is the cuckoo, a valuable insect eater.

The cuckoo is a shy and solitary bird generally known by its song rather than sight. He frequents old orchards, hedgerows, thickets and wooded stream banks. During many years of camping our family knew him as a fellow inhabitant of Michigan's north woods country.

THAT WE HAVE heard his call here in the suburbs almost every day for the last several weeks may be due to a new invasion of the birds. It is also the name of whose scientific name is Bucefala trichoptera. (Described in "Nature Now" October 23, 1958.)

Millions of the small larvae which represent the caterpillar or "eating" stage of the above insect are everywhere dangling from long threads which they spin to carry them from the trees to any available landing space where they pupate. Overheard they have left millions of oak leaves skeletonized by their voracious appetites.

Although we have not seen the cuckoo at close range his call is unmistakable. Two species, the yellow-billed and the black-billed are common to our state. Their songs though similar are an authentic identifying factor. Like most avian music they are more easily learned from the bird than from the book.

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO
July 23, 1909
"Railroad Jack staked his hotel on Woodward avenue, for a few hours on Tuesday. Before supper time he was towing his lodging house toward Bloomfield Hills."

"The prodigal has returned. For over two weeks Web, Bray and boys have mourned the loss of their fox hound and gave him up with broken hearts. Tuesday after an absence of two weeks the boys woke up and found doggie asleep on the lawn in front of the house, all tugged out but able to wag yet."

"Been camping yet? Or are you like most of us: already thinking of next winter's coal bill?"

30 YEARS AGO
July 15, 1929
As the Oakland circuit court last week dismissed the last of several property owners' injunctions against the Grand Trunk railroad's acquiring its new right-of-way, crews were rushed into the field to resume construction. Estimates are the rails will be ready for use in a few days.

"Sixteen people narrowly escaped injuries at 6 p.m. yesterday when a southbound Blue Goose motorbus crashed into a DUE car shed, Harmon and Woodward avenues, Birmingham."

"East Maple avenue property owners, learning of the village commission's intention to condemn 10 feet of land on each side of the street for future widening purposes are about to form a protective association with the view to saving the large trees for all time."

15 YEARS AGO
July 29, 1944
Leon C. Smith has a house on his hands. He thought it was his and had it moved to a lot

GOPs, Dems Give 'Old College Try' To Brand New Idea

Mrs. Marjorie O'Madigan, 540 Chesterfield drive, Bloomfield Hills, John A. Gibbs, 803 E. Third, Royal Oak; James P. Dickerson, 720 Westwood, Birmingham and Mrs. Betty M. Kingsbury, 1830 Evergreen drive, Royal Oak, are Republican participants in a unique Institute in Practical Partisan politics at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

The two-week Institute, in session July 19 through July 31, is the first of its kind. It is offered as part of the Summer Session at the University by the Department of Political Science in cooperation with the Republican and Democratic State Central committees, and with the assistance of the Ford Foundation.

Participants are named to attend the session. Paul D. Bagwell, Republican gubernatorial nominee in 1958, Congressman Alvin M. Bentley, of Owosso, Governor G. Mennen Williams, Congressman Chester M. Bowles of Connecticut, and Dan Ipaolberg, member of the White House staff, will address the institute.

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