

Let Reuther Buy, Run A Big Plant

A few years ago, Ben Fairless, then President of U. S. Steel, said that the employees could buy control of the company in a few years by investing an average of only 5 3/4's a week.

Then they could elect a new Board of Directors, fire the present management, and determine how many hours to work, and the wages and dividends to be paid.

If they desired, they could retain executives already experienced in making and marketing steel who would conduct the business under whatever policies the new Board of Directors laid down.

THIS WAS NO FANTASY, as Big Steel's shares are bought and sold on the Stock Exchanges, and many brokerage firms make share buying easy under monthly purchase plans.

In fact, several million employees are

already part owners of their employer, and scores of big companies are encouraging employee ownership under various stock savings plans. The idea is as sound as ham and eggs.

The big labor unions have millions of dollars to invest. If a union did buy a well-known company, it would be a tremendous educational experience, for its members, and for the entire country.

As a suggestion, let Walter Reuther's union buy control of one of the large U. S. industries and try run it. Then he would not take time telling Congress how his business should be run. He would want to do that himself, we presume.

And we might see the last of costly and inflationary strikes—for then Walter and his pals would have to change some of their practices, if they want to stay in business.

Training Men For Public Service

Congressman A. S. Herlong, Jr., Florida Democrat, and Walter H. Judd, Minnesota Republican, have introduced a bill proposing a sort of political West Point. The bill, to summarize it, recognizes that we are losing the cold war in the Far East, Africa, and Latin America.

It recognizes that we are losing that war because the Communist workers work harder, are better organized, and have a far greater degree of operational know-how than American representatives in these countries. Often it is a case of totally indoctrinated professionals versus U.S. amateurs, and sometimes our amateurs are even a little pathetic, because of a lack of proper training and indoctrination.

UNLESS WE CAN produce men of equal training, devotion and know-how, the United States may one day find itself in a world with only a few shaky allies, almost totally isolated. The Herlong-Judd bill provides for an advanced training and development center to be called the Freedom Academy. There counteraction to Communism will be developed into a science and private citizens and government personnel can be trained to be the dedicated moving spirits the free world so desperately needs in many areas today.

In the minds of many, the Herlong-Judd bill will enable us to close the political warfare gap in many areas of the world, which is—in the long run—as serious as the mis-

sile gap. The cost of the Freedom Academy would be comparatively small, when compared with some of the other huge expenditures we are making in the battle against Communism. It would probably be one of the best investments we can make in this transcending battle of ideologies.

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

Russia's Frol R. Kozlov, who recently toured parts of our country, openly boasted in an interview that unless the western free nations "get out of Berlin, Russia will use force against force, if necessary, "to keep us from maintaining contact with West Berlin's free people. This Kozlov chap, said to be the Soviet's third top man, is a tough human being. He must be such . . . else how could he have climbed over the dead and captive bodies of the millions of human beings who were made victims of the Kremlin's savagery!

As the years roll on, the tradition of displaying the American flag on certain holidays of the year becomes a sort of lost cause. To be sure, merely hanging out the flag is no absolute proof of thorough patriotism, but it certainly is a visible part of the loyalty involved.

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

Have a mother-in-law in Drayton Plains whose telephone number you keep forgetting?

Or like to shop for Turkish tobacco at a special Walled Lake neighborhood grocery?

Perhaps you have many friends in Rochester?

All these special phone numbers—but they aren't in the Birmingham phone book! Cheer up, friend! Michigan Bell phone company has recognized this customer problem—and is going to do something about it.

Next spring.

AFTER SURVEYING CUSTOMER habits, MET has decided to consolidate 27 Detroit metropolitan exchange directories into three alphabetical directory areas.

You and I will be listed alphabetically with all the other phone users in "northern directory area":

Auburn Heights, Birmingham, Commerce, Drayton Plains, Mayfair, Pontiac, Rochester, Royal Oak, Southfield, Troy and Walled Lake.

The "eastern" directory will contain Macomb county communities. The "west and farmriver" will have Wayne areas, plus Farmington and Northville.

The individual telephone exchange book, which went out of use a few years back when "extended area changes" were lumped together into a single directory, now becomes something of a museum piece!

On Monday, with its 6,684th episode, Helen Trent entered into her 27th year of her "romance," according to a press

release we just received concerning this radio heroine who "represents the mature outlook of a woman of 25".

The mature women we know adjusted to life much earlier than Helen did by giving up their search for romance. They found living was much better than romancing.

There is another Birmingham couple which has joined the group which has learned first impressions often are misleading.

Some years ago they made their first visit to Canada—and right back out again. Their trip took them into the Quebec City area on the St. Lawrence river.

THEY COULDN'T FIND A DROP of pasteurized milk for their new baby. Hardly any Canadian they met spoke English. It was all French.

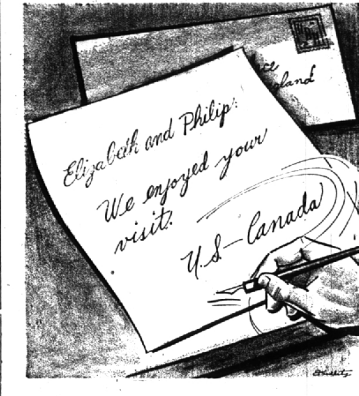
A policeman told the American's wife, who was wearing a modest sun dress by U.S. standards, to "cover up your shoulders." The roads were narrow and clogged more by animals and pedestrians than vehicles.

A few weeks ago, this same couple came home from another trip via Niagara Falls. The twosome was prepared for another European-flavor trip across Ontario via Sarnia to Birmingham.

"We were overjoyed to find English spoken, pasteurized milk (although we didn't need it this time), no critical policemen, and wide, smooth roads," remarked the husband.

They both admitted that first impressions are misleading.

Gracious Guests



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

Hear Pewee's Song In Wooded Suburbs

Whether you are on vacation or at home in our wooded suburbs, an ear tuned to the song of summer birds is almost certain to hear the sweet and plaintive call of our eastern wood pewee.

Like the cuckoo, he is more frequently recognized by his call than by sight. He too hides his secretive ways by repeatedly calling out his name: "pee-a-wee, pee-a-wee," slurring his voice down to the middle note and lifting it again for the last syllable. Sometimes he says a single "pee-wee" accenting the note and slurring it downward to an abrupt ending. At best his vocal effort is more like a call than a song.

The pewee is a flycatcher about the size of a sparrow. He takes his insect dinner on the wing, frequently returning to the exposed perch he has just left. His upper parts are dark olive grey, his under parts greyish-white tinged with yellow. His head suggests a crest, his mouth is wide, his slightly decurved bill decorated at its base with several bristles.

FORTY-TWO SPECIES of flycatchers are known for North America. Among those common to our range are the olive-sided, the least and the crested varieties as well as the phoebe. All these are similar in size and coloring.

Also included in the family is the kinglet, which is quite different in looks and habits but easily identified by his black tail with its white terminal band.

Although similar in appearance to the phoebe by its more conspicuous wing bars. The phoebe also says its name but us as a very raucous tone sounding only two syllables with the accent on the second.

Mrs. Frehse

People's Column

Junior Achievement Appreciates Stories

To the Editor:
During the past year we have been impressed with the fine news coverage tendered Junior Achievement by you and your associates.

We hope we can always offer something that is new and different in the way of teenage personalities, situations and challenging moments to warrant your interest.

I just wanted to let you know that all of us here at J. A. think you've done an excellent job of things.

RICHARD S. MORRON
Publicity Director

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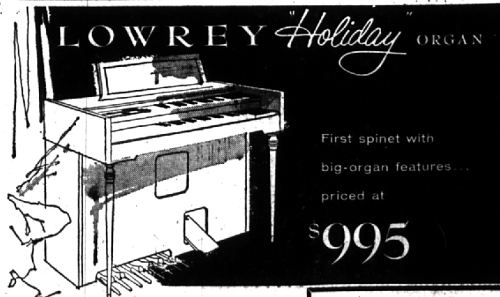
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Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO

July 30, 1909
"Wednesday a new schedule went into effect on the Pontiac division of the Detroit United Railway that greatly improves service. Under the new schedule, the first car for Detroit leaves ten minutes earlier than heretofore but the other cars run as before with the addition that the last southbound car runs through to Detroit, so that passengers no longer have to change at Royal Oak. Northbound first car leaves Birmingham five minutes earlier, but the others run as before. In addition, there is now a midnight car leaving Detroit for Birmingham only."

30 YEARS AGO

July 25, 1929
Donald C. Ebert "recently assumed his duties here as Birmingham's first building inspector. He has served as city engineer in Stuart, Fla., and also in Palm City, Fla."

City officials indicated they will do everything they can to save the 80-year-old trees along East Maple, Birmingham. They said they only want to widen the right-of-way 10 feet each side of the street. It's now 40 feet.

Village commissioners approved special assessments for extending Merrill street from Pierce through to Woodard.

A Detroit, Boyden MacKillop, can, 22 voluntarily appeared before Oakland county's prosecuting attorney and admitted the June 23 slaying of a Birmingham landscape gardener in a field near Birmingham country club. MacKillop said he had shot and killed Walter Balk when the latter attempted to attack a Detroit girl who was out riding with MacKillop. Police accepted his story.

15 YEARS AGO

July 27, 1944
New ration board regulations have boosted furloughing service-

men's morale. If they are home for more than three days, they can get an extra gallon of gasoline for each day they are home.

Orchard Lake country club officials are completing final details preparatory to staging the Michigan open golf tournament next weekend.

Residents in the east-central part of Birmingham are swearing their annual battle with the starlings. They particularly like the crows around the Ritz-Carlton home, 816 Knox. Spinning appeared before city commissioners this week, get plenty of sympathy, but no answer on how to get rid of the birds.

STRICTLY FRESH

"Too many motorists forget 'horsepower' is named for an animal that can kick the stuffing out of one if it is misused.

It's not so much that autos are overpowered; trouble lies in the fact that so many drivers are under-brained.

If alcohol and gasoline were a good combination for powering an



auto, they'd long ago have been combined at the refinery, rather than in the driver.

Washing in-and-out of traffic is a do-it-yourself way of loosing your own shroud.

The man who boasts that he knows all there is to know about operating an auto is the most dangerous person on the road.