

Survival Depends On Character

"The United States is now living the last years of its greatness."

We are prone to downgrade a statement because we don't like the author. But as Poor Richard said, "Love your enemies for they tell you your faults."

The man who said it is Khrushchev. That in itself is of some importance because if he believes it, he may wait for the United States to collapse from within, without war.

There is a lot of bounce left in this country. We think we see a silent revolt hardening against our soft and sloppy attitudes: living beyond our means; pampering of criminals and labor goons; getting fat, demanding more money for less work; something for nothing; and all the things that point toward "the last years of our

greatness."

One never knows when the political pendulum begins to change course.

Prohibition was written into the Constitution. It looked as hard as a steel ball. But opinion changed as the tides change, and the steel ball became an eggshell.

We twice broke the unwritten law against a third term but in a few years decided it was a good law and nailed it into the Constitution.

But political tides change only because the people change.

Maybe Khrushchev's statement will help wake us up.

The old American gods of Character, Work, and Self-respect may return. Our very survival depends upon their return!

Hoover Praises, Truman Vilifies

How varying in character-stature are the personalities of two former presidents of the United States; one of them, Herbert Hoover, a Republican, and the other Harry S. Truman, Democrat. In last November 4th's election campaign, Truman went about the United States making speeches and in practically every speech he scornfully criticized the Republican party and often referred to the so-called "Hoover depression." Harry is known to delight in a political fight and the quadrennial campaigns provide him with his golden opportunity to go about this nation

vilifying the Republicans and their party.

ON THE OTHER hand, Mr. Hoover utilizes his time and talents to engage in constructive conflictive programs for this nation. Recently, he authored a book about Woodrow Wilson, a former Democratic President. In this book, Hoover eulogized the character and ideals of the World War I President. Thus, it seems to us, between Hoover's book on Wilson and Truman's vilification of his political opponents, lies a vast difference in the character-stature of these two former U. S. Presidents.

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

By the way, if you didn't hear Sen. Kennedy speak here, perhaps you read about his program for curing every problem, foreign and domestic—all of which requires more federal taxation to foot the bills. He is an intellectual, never has known anything about working hard for a living—but withal is "a nice guy". Of one thing we believe, you may be sure and certain: he's out to get every convention vote he can... and, in thus doing, he'll be a much poorer (in serious sincerity for that job) U. S. Senator than he might otherwise be. Oh, the lust for power and position! It has ruined many good men.

For more than a score of years the so-called and alleged "best brains" have applied themselves to the nation's agricultural problems—and from what one can learn today the problem is as great as ever. Why? Well, perhaps it's because the suggested solutions to the problems are

required to be "screened" through the sieves of "politics"—and we refer to the most prejudiced and selfish and partisan of politics. No longer any need to ask "Why?"—is there?

Hooray for those Newark, N. J. high school majorettes who refuse to take part in a parade because they have outgrown their short skirts. Their school has no money to buy larger ones for them until next year's budget is determined. "We won't wear parade shorts that look like bikini bathing suits," they declared. Stay away from the water, then, girls.

The 46th anniversary of the federal income tax occurred last February 25—and the baby certainly has grown! At the beginning, in 1913, the rates ran from 1% to 6%, as against 20% to 91% now. And where the per capita tax averaged \$2c in these long-gone days, it has risen to \$397.

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

Michigan put the world on wheels. That's our international reputation. Most Americans think of Michigan as one Big Three auto into which some 6 million Wolverine residents are riding.

If you were to ask many Michigan residents what their number two industry is, you'd get many guesses.

HOW ABOUT IT? What is that second-ranking industry?

It's the production of non-electrical machinery, such as special dies and tools, and refrigeration machinery, according to Detroit Board of Commerce statisticians.

And production of fabricated metal products, like stampings, cutlery, tools and hardware, is our state's third industry.

Here are some other interesting facts which show the diversity of Michigan's industry, and the importance of a number of fields:

OF THE 453 SEPARATE industry groups defined by the U.S. census bureau, we have 369, or 81 per cent.

(It was only 74 per cent in 1939).

Here is how we rank nationally:

Sixth in manufacturing employment, fifth in value added by manufacturing.

We lead the nation in number of employees making mobile homes, boats, internal combustion engines, metal-working machinery, mechanical stokers, hardware,

steel springs, breakfast cereals, alkalies and chlorine, salt, public building fixtures, professional furniture, padding and upholstery filling, and soda fountain and bar equipment.

WE ARE FIRST in number of employees working in machine shops and grey iron foundries.

Michigan is second or third nationally in more than 50 industries, including:

Machine tools, food products machinery, woodworking machinery, conveyors, industrial trucks and tractors, computing machines, ball and roller bearings, tires and inner tubes.

We are first in transportation equipment, second in pulp and paper products. We're third in machinery (except electrical), fifth in fabricated metal products and primary metal industries.

OUR STATE IS SIXTH in chemicals, drugs and chemical products, ninth in food and allied products.

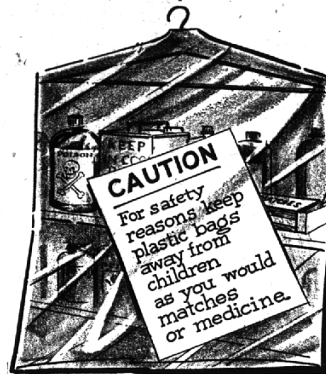
Michigan lagging in industrial leadership?

Hardly looks like it.

But don't let all this stop you from being an industrial or commercial goodwill ambassador.

We've still got lots of land, plenty of workers, and a number of industrial first places to win!

For Safety's Sake



NATURE NOW

by Lydia King Frehse

Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Tulip Tree Graced Colonial Forests

Your scribe has just returned from viewing one of America's most decorative native trees at the moment of its flowering. It is the tulip (Lilidendron tulipifera).

By chance it grows a stone's throw from my door, a remnant of the oak-hickory forest which originally covered our suburban area. On this June morning its tulip-like flowers held sunshine in their cups, setting the whole tree alight. Yellow, poplar, white poplar, canoe wood, white wood; these are some of its common names. However, it is none of these. It belongs to the large-flowered magnolia

In Michigan the tulip appears in our lower peninsula south of the Grand river. The March 1959 report of the Michigan botany club's "Big Tree Project" claims a new state record for a specimen growing in Cass county, which measures 22 inches in circumference. However, our present day tulip trees are but a remnant of the great boles which graced the primeval forests of Colonial America.

TODAY'S average tulip measures 50-60 feet in height with a columnar trunk 2-5 feet in diameter. The mature bark is grey-brown and deeply furrowed. Bright green leaves shaped somewhat like a maple with the tip cut off, hang from the slender branches which together form a conical crown.

If one were to bring the tulip-shaped flowers within eye range their beauty would be a revelation. So closely do they blend with the leaf green that for the most part they pass unnoticed on their lofty perch unless one singles out a tree in the bright sunlight.

The flower cup is two or more inches broad. It shows three reflexed greenish sepals and six petals with outwardly rolled edges. These form a deep chalice cup with an orange-red center. The pale yellow stamens circle an erect cone-shaped pistil where the seeds ripen. This persists throughout the winter.

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Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

HAPPENINGS 50 YEARS AGO

June 18, 1909

"All vases, cans, etc. placed in the cemetery must be placed even with the surface of the ground. The tin for this purpose cost five cents each."

"Berry pickers can get their berry picking cards, just as they want them, at a reasonable price at The Eccentric office."

"Miss Daisy Durkee is now angel of the office. She is learning the are preservative of all arts and is advancing right along."

"Martin Blust, the silver-tongued orator, of Warren, is safely home from a two-weeks visit with friends and relatives in Missouri."

30 YEARS AGO

June 18, 1879

A \$215,000 bond issue for an addition to Barnum school was authorized by a 2-1 vote in a special election June 10. The money also will provide a school swimming pool. Construction bids will be advertised and the addition rushed to completion to relieve classroom overcrowding.

"Forty-seven students, the largest class in the history of Birmingham, will receive diplomas at the commencement exercises... Friday at the Baldwin high school. Dr. Harry M. Crooks, president of Alms College, will be the principal speaker."

"Pines exceeding any previous month's record in the history of the department were paid during May by persons arrested by Bloomfield Hills police. The total showed 11,400 collected by Justice Floyd S. Buck in fines and costs."

15 YEARS AGO

June 18, 1944

Named to Birmingham's board of education at Monday's election were Mrs. Norman Lyle, Lee F. Joslyn, Jr., Mrs. Lewis B. Sap-

pington and Amos F. Gregory.

Two weeks ago we did a total of \$11,000 damage to two Birmingham residences. Sparks from the chimneys are believed to have set fire to the roofs of the Fred M. Harley residence on Pleasant street, as well as the W. B. Mainland home on Glenhurst.

Supt. of Bham Schools Dwight B. Ireland said the district must look ahead and keep her school building program abreast of the times. He said all but one elementary school is presently filled to capacity. Barnum junior high is crowded, and Baldwin high "well filled."

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