

Putting The "T" In Work Wins!

John Hartford, of the Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company, hung a sign on the wall of his office. It read: "Ache and Pain Dept. Work."

He said, "I spell 'work' with an 'i' because I'm the only one around here who works."

Of course, he was sorta joking, because the A. & P. gives jobs to 100,000 folks, and it just couldn't become a great food store unless they worked. It couldn't have lasted and grown for 100 years without a lot of aches and pains. But they all get cured by work.

If Mr. Hartford had lived in Ben Franklin's time, the old philosopher would have put him in POOR RICHARD'S ALMANAC. He'd have told young folks: "If

you'd get ahead in the world, put 'T' in your work."

A YOUNG MAN, applying for his first job, who doesn't ask when his pension will begin; or how many paid holidays he'll have; etc., etc., is sure to get and hold a good job.

A golden age is opening up for that kind of young men and women. For they will have less competition than ever before!

The erroneous idea today is that you can have wealth without work. Just vote yourself rich!

That's what the politicians tell us. But unless Ben Franklin and John Hartford were completely wrong, we'll find that the out-put of society can't be greater than the in-put of "workers."

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

Personally, we like G. Mennen Williams, the Governor of Michigan, but as a political figure we can't say that we admire all the things he has done as our Chief Executive. As a matter of fact, if one were to place a civic microscope on Soapy's official acts, the net result would undoubtedly reveal the fact that in most cases he was dominated by politics. The vast majority of his thinking has been with the view to doing those things which would win him the greatest number of votes at election time, plus the unqualified and vigorous help of labor organizations into whose hands the Governor has so often played. Therefore, we do not believe that the Governor's stature has risen as high as it inherently should have risen, had he acted more impartially, more objectively, in his official duties.

This is what Frank O. Prior, chairman of the board of Standard Oil Co., of Indiana, recently told Michigan newspaper editors and publishers: "I wish you the greatest success, because you may be the testing ground as to whether people coast into socialism or fight to retain a free America." Noble words, Mr. Prior. A nice tribute to the influence of American newspapers. If only newspaper editors and publishers could return the compliment.

Social security increases are going to about 30,000 old-age, survivors, and disability insurance payments in Oakland County, the Pontiac office revealed this week. The monthly checks now range from \$33 to \$116 for retired workers. Maximum payment to a family with four or more eligible persons is \$254 per month. Ap-

proximately 12½ million men, women and children are recipients of these payments, about seven million of whom are retired workers.

If there ever was a more unworkable, fantastic scheme to equal the idea of passing legislation in Michigan to pay unemployed workers unemployment benefits as long as they are out of jobs—well, we haven't heard of it. Yet certain AFL-CIO labor leaders have proposed such endless jobless benefits. Of course, this idea probably never will get on the statute books of Michigan; yet the very thought that it is being discussed by AFL-CIO labor politicians in Michigan is enough to alarm industry in this State. With such fantastic schemes going about the State, is it any wonder that new industry hesitates to come into Michigan, and industry now in Michigan hesitates to expand its operation?

Top leaders in American industry are increasingly aware of the fact that some other countries, notably Russia, are making tremendous growths in manufacturing facilities and output. This foreign development will become very competitive as time continues. To a large extent, it is a sort of technological boomerang that was launched years ago by American industry—government teams to show other nations how to produce more wealth.

There's an old saying that goes: "He's off to a flying start"—but we can think of another way of saying the same thing... only better: "He's off to a trying start!"

The Birmingham Eccentric

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

Remember last summer when a Tulsa (Okla.) housewife won a contest for jaboring away for 94 hours, 32 minutes, 5 seconds?

She just proved that women are the undisputed champs of the art of talking the opposition to death.

Even a filibustering United States senator can't match the longwindedness of a woman.

The men's battlefield traditionally has been on the floor of the U.S. Senate.

These mouth-flapping males have resorted to many devices as they attempted to talk a proposed bill to death.

The boys have read old newspapers, recipes, and phone books in their time-consuming ruses.

SEN. STROM THURMOND is believed to hold the record for a one-man filibuster. The time of this South Carolina Democrat was 24 hours, 18 minutes when he got the floor once in 1957. He started off reading the text of the election laws of each of the 48 states.

He got a breather, however, when he yielded the floor to a colleague who wanted to insert something in the Congressional Record.

Purists think the filibustering honor belongs to Sen. Wayne Morse, Oregon independent. In trying to halt passage of a tidelands oil bill, he flapped his lips for 22 hours, 26 minutes, without pause.

LONGEST-TALKING REPUBLICAN was the late Sen. Robert LaFollette Sr., of Wisconsin. He held the floor 18 hours, 23 minutes. He did not talk continuously, however.

But that recordholder, the Tulsa woman... 94 hours...!
Che-e-z-z-z!

If a man first notices a woman's face, then she'd better go on a diet.

Even if women win equal rights in everything, they'll never be successful. They have no wiles to advise them.

Suburban Sentiment

BY ANY OTHER NAME

Oh Weather, woeful, snowful, grim,
We cannot understand 'ya,
We used to call it Birmingham—
We call it now, "Icelandia!"
—Lucy Benson

Beautiful Spring?



NATURE NOW

by Lydia King Frehse
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Almanacs Continue A Way of Living

Our oldest continuously published periodical in the same name and format is the Old Farmer's Almanac. As of 1959, it has appeared for 167 years.

In a day when newspapers and books were a luxury it served many useful purposes. Each successive printing was an indispensable part of my grandfather's household, hanging always on a nail on the wall adjoining the kitchen.

The Old Farmer's Almanac came to us as a part of the stock-in-trade of an itinerant peddler whom we called Old Bartley. His visits were a high point in my childhood experiences. His horse-drawn wagon held an intriguing collection of such necessities as kitchen knives and tinware, thread and buttons, as well as such luxuries as lace and ribbons, wall mottos and ten-cent finger rings. On the seat beside the driver was his most prized possession, a fine guitar.

HIS VISITS were timed to coincide with the supper hour. The chores finished, we all gathered round while Bartley was transformed from peddler to minstrel. These times stood still for a wide-eyed child while the peddler alternated song and story, glad and sad. Regardless of the melody, every piece was sung to the accompaniment of three major chords.

When breakfast was over, my grandmother duly made her purchases from the magical wagon. The horse was hitched and the guitar returned to its accustomed place on the front seat. As a parting gift in exchange for the purchase of her household, my grandmother was presented with a copy of the Old Farmer's Almanac.

IN THE Barton collection of the Detroit library my scribe examined many of the older issues of this periodical. Then as now, the contents covered a wider range of subjects. For the year of our Lord 1792, printed in Boston and edited by Robert B. Thomas, the Almanac contained besides the large number of astronomical calculations and the calendar for each month of the year, as great a variety as any other Almanac of new, useful and entertaining matter.

Included were the names and character of the planets, the phases of the moon, the signs of the zodiac, a table of eclipses and holidays, together with the weather forecast. Also printed were tables of postal and interest rates, anecdotes, refutations, notices of various meetings, vacation dates at Harvard and reports of experiments and observations of eminent agriculturalists.

The farmer's life then, as now, was largely dependent upon the weather as it affected planting, the care of crops and their harvest. Proper cultivation of his vegetable patch and the care and breeding of his stock were also major items of interest.

CERTAIN phases of the moon were favorable for planting and the breeding of stock. Auspicious dates for hatching, potting, sowing and the extraction of teeth were also suggested.

The current issue of the Old Farmer's Almanac follows the same general format. Each month's calendar carries some timely suggestion to the farmer. March gives helpful notes on making maple syrup.

April suggests that the modern dairy farmer need no longer grow all his own cattle feed. May presents some of the penalties of man's upsetting the natural balance of nature.

General articles include one on "The Great Out-of-Doors" and a facetious account of "Our Man in the Moon."

And so we continue to find, in current issues of this old periodical, timely information for the farmer, the nature lover and the conservationist.

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO

March 5, 1909

"Everyone says Birmingham is going to boom this spring. Already people are here from the city looking for homes. Why not have a motto? Let our friends send in something suitable."

"It is thought some had been turned in a false fire alarm about 11:15 Tuesday night. Many turned out and the night operator, Mrs. Musgrave had more than 10 operators could do for about half an hour after."

30 YEARS AGO

February 28, 1909

"I Faw Down and Go Boom" is being taken literally by young villagers. The Wanderer saw two children walking along Woodward avenue chanting the song. Each time upon arriving at the "boom" they would slide on the ice and sit down, and the phrase never seems to lose its fascination."

"Did you know there is a public bathhouse in Birmingham? Neither did this Wanderer until the other night it was disclosed at the informal meeting of the school board and village commission there is one at Baldwin high school. It was provided by Martha Baldwin and is always available to the public. And the strange part of it is, none of the commission seemed to know of this village institution."

15 YEARS AGO

March 2, 1914

"The Wanderer observes—many people drive automobiles as if they

were rehearsing for an accident."

"The Week of March 12 will be Michigan Potato Week and special recognition will be made of the state's important crop during that week."

"In another part of this edition of The Eccentric it was found in form which may be clipped and filed as your application for a Victory Garden space. It is suggested by the committee that these be filed in at once and filed at the Victory Garden desk in the municipal building."

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN—In the Circuit Court for the County of Oakland.

No. 041329
Greta Kossel, Plaintiff, vs. HERBERT O. Kossel, Defendant.

ORDER TO APPEAR

Suit pending in the Circuit Court for the County of Oakland, in Chancery, on the 11th day of Feb., 1939.

In the above entitled case, appearing that the defendant, Herbert O. Kossel, is not a resident of this State, but that he resides in Peoria, in the State of Illinois, therefore, on motion of Carl F. J. Joseph, Plaintiff's Attorney, it is ORDERED that the defendant appear in said cause on or before March 13, 1939, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, at the County Clerk's office in the City of Birmingham, to answer the complaint and to show cause why he should not be held in default.

It is further ORDERED that the defendant file a verified answer to the complaint on or before March 13, 1939, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, at the County Clerk's office in the City of Birmingham, to answer the complaint and to show cause why he should not be held in default.

Carl F. J. Joseph, Plaintiff's Attorney, by HERBERT O. Kossel, Defendant, by DELOREAN E. MURPHY, JR., Oakland County Clerk-Register of Deeds by WILFRED L. COOK, Deputy.

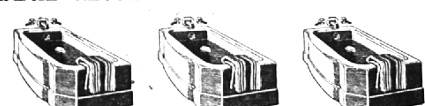
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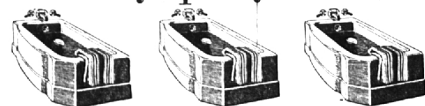
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