

Nine Billion Dollars Will Buy . . .

Nine billion dollars would buy three million automobiles at \$3,000 \$'s each.
There is a great hue and cry about overcrowded schools. Nine billion would build 3,000 high schools, at three million each.

It is claimed that there is desperate need for more hospitals for the physically sick, mentally ill and crippled children.
Well, nine billion would build 1,800 hospitals, at five million each—one for every second county in the U.S.A.

How about housing, slum tenements? Nine billion would build 600,000 homes, at 15,000 each—enough to house 2,400,000 people, at four to a family.

And think how many jobs would come alive in building these houses, hospitals,

schools and automobiles!

BUT WHERE IS THE nine billion? It is locked up, lying idle in farm surpluses in Government warehouses, costing one million a day in storage charges, or a third of a billion a year.

This idle money in farm surpluses is bigger than ever before, after 40 years of "solving the farm problem."

And it is getting bigger every time you heave a sigh for the "good old days." This economic insanity surely proves that Washington, D. C. "is our only insane asylum run entirely by its inmates."

Paraphrasing Lincoln: Will government of the people, by the pressure blocs, and for the pressure blocs ever perish from the earth?

Critical of U. S. College Courses

Brilliant or merely above-average students too rarely reach their potential in the American educational system, believes Michael Millgate, a British educator who recently taught at the University of Michigan.

"If a talented student is determined to get good marks, they are too easily within reach," says Millgate. "At most universities the student who is at all bright can get consistently high grades without serious effort and has little incentive to develop his abilities to their fullest extent."

"The insistence on students studying subjects quite remote from their major fields may be admirable in intention, but in practice usually means that they emerge with a useless smattering of many subjects and a competent knowledge of none. This may be adequate for those who need nothing beyond a ready supply of cocktail conversation, but no one should pretend that it is a university education."

"THE ABLE STUDENT is further discouraged by the tendency to emphasize the memorization of facts which can be tested objectively, and the refusal to trust him to do serious work on his own time."

"The British system, which has its own failings of course, is to trust the stu-

dent much more, by giving him fewer specific assignments and longer vacations. It emphasizes not the mere amassing of information but the development of mental skills and habits which will equip the student to meet and evaluate with confidence any new material—a poem, an historical document, a syllogism—with which he may be confronted."

Prof. Millgate presents an able defense for the more ideal educational environment, it appears to us. However, his country has centuries of cultural development behind it, whereas the United States is still—so to speak—in its educational swaddling clothes.

COME BACK IN A couple of centuries, Professor, and observe our development. By that time we probably will have ceased somewhat to be a nation of gadget worshippers; we shall have divorced ourselves from too intimate a relationship with materialism . . .

Maybe, too, we will have improved upon our ability to make the processes of democratic self-government work for the enduring benefit of more of our citizens.

Potential talent always need time, plus dedicated resolution, to flourish into the beautiful flower patterned within its seed.

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

Quite a number of local and nearby parents are showing interest in the efforts of a volunteer group to develop a practical program to aid in the prevention of various phases of the delinquency problem as it relates to youth. Perhaps you have read about this plan in this newspaper. By the way, The Eccentric will be glad to publish, without cost, letters from its readers on the subject.

A prominent labor leader has served notice on all Congressmen who voted for the Landrum-Griffin House bill that labor will do everything possible to defeat them at the 1960 election. Thus, you see, how certain pro-labor segments of Congress allow themselves, slowly but surely, to become the mere pawns of a special group. Thus they forge the shackles (point of no return) that bind them to political bosses.

The Birmingham Eccentric

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GEORGE R. AVERILL
Editor and Publisher
PAUL NEAL AVERILL
Business Manager
GEORGE WM. AVERILL
Managing Editor
DAVID F. GIBB
Advertising Manager

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

John Orr Young—originally the "Y" in Young & Rubicam, but now a respected advertising consultant—is a colorful commentator on marketing activities today.

He puts out a monthly news letter, and in the current issue he reports his reaction to a marketing sidelight—the bull-fighting costumes women today wear in their supermarkets.

"Why do they wear shorts, Spanish pants, blue jeans and slacks?" wonders Young. "Such garments should be worn when few people are around and they should be worn with a grille and by those who are built for such garb."

"THERE IS A LOT in that old saying: 'Girls who wear slacks should never turn their backs.'"

"Then this matter of woman's crowning glory, Frowny is the word for it, sometimes frightful. The sun total of clothes, hair, bare legs and thighs adds up to something south of glamorous."

"Yes, I know they are having more and more children and have many duties. Even so, couldn't they manage to spruce up a bit?"

"It's too bad their husbands have to see them looking so lumpy and towseled

—but why impose this on the whole shopping neighborhood?"

I can only say "Amen!"

Seems that the great outdoors is becoming merely one open bedroom, one big backyard where the females can cavort in curlers, lounging costumes, and the next thing to bathing suits.

This is being 'feminine'???

The Good Lord must have meant for us mortals to spend two-thirds of our time listening, only one third talking. That's why he gave us two ears and only one mouth.

Some people believe they never lie—they only express greatly exaggerated opinions.

Service on a public body requires more than the normal amount of patience, understanding, public relations sense, and courage. It helps more than you know to serve WITH board members who have a good sense of humor. Otherwise, you soon find yourself worn down on the abrasiveness of those stonefaces serving with you.

Age-Old Fallout Problem



NATURE NOW

by Lydia King Frehse
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Forest to Suburb, Squirrels Live On

The crack of guns on crisp autumn mornings brings to mind the fate of the hunted. Among our small game animals the squirrel has been a wary target since pioneer days when men like Daniel Boone roamed the Kentucky river flats in search of a tasty dinner.

Now the great forests are gone by the squirrel like all wild animals live on, wherever he is and a food supply. If your home is in a suburb where oak trees provide a crop of acorns, you are almost certain to have the fox squirrel for a neighbor. He is the largest of the tree squirrels which also include the grey, the flying and the red squirrel. His rusty coloring, especially on his underparts distinguishes him from the grey variety. However, he has many traits in common with the grey squirrel, sharing the same woodland where the fox squirrel prefers the higher ground and the grey the bottom land and swamps.

We often see Mrs. Frehse when driving along country roads or in protected areas such as Belle Isle. They are not a separate species but are a color phase of the grey. Sometimes both occur in the same litter.

THE LITTLE RED squirrel is the smallest of the tree dwelling rodents. He prefers evergreen or beech-maple forests where the seeds of leaves and twigs provide an easy dinner. He is a noisy little fellow who will "talk you down" while he steals the eggs of such wood birds as the chickadees, warblers and thrushes.

The flying squirrel which is very rare in our range cannot really fly but glides through the air from branch to branch sustained by a membrane which connects his limbs with his body.

The term "rodent" refers to the gnawing habits of this group of mammals. Their widely spaced incisors grow continuously at the root as they become worn. Because the hard enamel covers only the outer surface of the teeth, it remains to form the broad chisel-like edge so effective in cracking nuts and gnawing tough vegetation.

THE SQUIRREL is essentially a climber. His short legs and strong hips enable him to leap remarkable distances while his long tail acts as a balancing agent while he performs his tight rope tricks. His dexterous front paws enable him to wash his face and manipulate his food with great skill.

While our tree squirrels do not hibernate they construct bulky shelters of leaves and twigs high in the branches of trees. As autumn approaches they grow lazy and he late ahead. However, few noontdays are so inclement that they discourage a round of antics in the snow or a teasing game with a stray dog or cat.

RECENTLY we saw two fox squirrels safely making their way across Woodward Avenue well toward the downtown area. Their inquisitive ways often lead them to enter cottages or temporarily vacated city homes where they set up housekeeping, often leaving behind tattered curtains, furniture and rugs.

All through the autumn squirrels bury large quantities of nuts. They then depend upon their sense of smell to locate these food stores as needed. However nature is well served by such gluttonous ways for many trees are thus planted, especially oak, hickory and beech.

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Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO
Nov. 12, 1909
"Shall we progress with electric lights or go backward 20 years with gas. Our old kerosene oil lamps some say, were better than our electric lamps and still cheaper."

"One of the street seats that are so much prized by persons waiting for the car was destroyed by the Halloween raiders. Only 10 out-houses turned over, some of them entirely destroyed, and all of them more or less damaged."

30 YEARS AGO
Nov. 14, 1929
Birmingham will have rapid transit between Detroit and Pontiac in three years, the president of the Canadian Northern Railway announced last night.

"Construction of the Wakeek Manor, an eight-story apartment located at the southeast corner of Willetts and Bates streets, will begin at once."

15 YEARS AGO
Nov. 16, 1944
"The Birmingham city commission authorized the city manager to proceed with preliminary plans for the erection of a new clubhouse at Springdale park."
Word comes that the OPA has fixed the prices of turkeys for this Thanksgiving, but word also

comes that turkeys are not quite as plentiful at these prices as last season."

STRICTLY FRESH

Best way to find something is tell a small boy not to touch it.
Doctor to patient after the operation: "How does that suture?"



ONLY THE BEST
Strange how a chow hound becomes a gourmet when he's eating on an expense account.
The beauty secret of many blondes is rooted in mystery.
Inflation can turn a lot of white collar positions into frayed collar jobs.

The Light Touch by Jeanne Westerdale

CLOCK SHOCK
Modern clocks are minus numbers, Minus ticks to jolt our slumbers. Smooth and arty, they're sublime. But try and figure out the time!

TEEN TALK
His conversation, via phone, Has savoir faire, is hushed in tone— And judging by the length and trend of it I'd say a girl was at the end of it.