

Sen. "Pat" Opposes Interest Rates

Numerous of the "welfare-paternalist" members of our Congress berate the Eisenhower administration for "giving in to the money-lenders"—meaning, of course, paying interest rates on borrowed money. Michigan's Senator Pat McNamara, for example, argues against raising the rates on long-term U.S. bonds above the statutory 4½ per cent ceiling established 40 years ago. Pat thinks that paying higher interest is a plot by "the money-lenders" to gouge the taxpayers of more of their dough.

WELL, THAT'S QUITE true, if you want to apply the same reasoning to the

increase in the cost of about everything people buy in our free economy.

But who does buy these bonds? For the most part, banks buy them, along with millions of taxpayers, insurance companies, trust funds. Whose money do the banks thus loan? None other than that of the taxpayers' themselves, who also expect the banks to pay them interest on their savings . . . or insurance companies to earn money so they may pay on policies issued to millions of people, etc., etc.

Pat McNamara speaks on the subject of finance out of the profundity of his ignorance and prejudices on the subject. On some other subjects, he may do okay.

What Is Wrong With Patriotism?

The presidents of Yale, Harvard and Princeton have wanted Congress to repeal its requirement that college men and women receiving Federal aid to get a scientific education shall take an oath of allegiance to the United States.

In view of the fact that some American scientists, as well as some others, have been traitors, this oath seems common sense.

But these presidents say that loyalty oaths are "odious," "humiliating," and a "threat to our profession."

Hold your horses, presidents, one and all! Calm down a minute. This is poor public relations for the Ivy League. Congress isn't going to do what you ask. Congress knows a cold war is on.

EVERY PUBLIC OFFICIAL, Federal and State, from President to Justice of the Peace, is obliged to take a loyalty oath, or affirmation, before he takes office. No one has ever objected to it.

Same with every alien when he is naturalized. Same with every military and naval officer since or Republic was born. Same with every lawyer admitted to the bar. Same with witnesses in our courts who "swear to tell the truth . . ." No one has claimed it was "humiliating"—no one but some college presidents and professors.

If you say, "Why pick on us?" you have a point. EVERY citizen should attest his allegiance to our country.

How about public meetings where millions do pledge allegiance to the Flag?

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

We join the Birmingham community in again doffing our hat to the local Lions Club . . . their latest community achievement being the presentation of Fred Waring's "Pennsylvanians" to the public at Seaholm high school. Nearly 2,500 people comprised the audience, each thoroughly enjoying the music of Waring's famous organization. You may recall that a year ago the Lions had a similar success when they hosted pianist Roger Williams here. Of course, the very good added phase of the project is the fact that all profit obtained by the Lions is used in their efforts to provide support for the seeing-eye dog aid given to the blind.

Ladies, why don't you organize a war on those so-called wits who eternally are

plaguing you with satire, often ridicule? We refer, of course, to the male wits. Or do you think what they say is a sort of back-handed means of trying to be complimentary to you? . . . like the statement that most Americans still choose their own form of government: blonde, brunette or redhead.

Of one fact you may be sure, as 1959 swings into a 1960 election year: partisan political statements will be loaded with little of complete truth on most subjects. This traditional pattern of damnation, exaggeration, profanation, exaltation, explanation, etc., etc., is on a swift toboggan slide these last years, or so—proving that the quality of civic culture is rapidly filling up with deterioration.

The Birmingham Eccentric

Published every Thursday at Birmingham, Mich., in the Eccentric Building, 220-234 North Woodward Avenue Telephone Midwest 4-1100

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

In spite of all that snow (which turned to ice) last winter, snowfall in eastern and central counties of our lower peninsula is light compared to counties to the north and west.

What highway snow removal monies the SE counties spend must come from regular state highway maintenance funds. Only counties with 70 or more inches of snow the previous winter get additional snow removal money.

Oakland's total in last year's unusually heavy snowfall totalled only 40 inches. Upper peninsula counties, as well as those at the lip of the lower peninsula, have well over 100 inches.

ALL THIS SNOW AND ICE required vast amounts of salt to be spread by municipalities.

Motorists found last winter their cars turned brown faster or acquired more holes in the auto body than in any previous winter.

Motorists grouped the salt, brown spots and holes together and came up with the reason.

BUT ACCORDING TO MICHIGAN highway department's chief road maintenance engineer, S. W. Dube, this salt equals rust spots was a rationalization, not a reason.

Dube does NOT agree with persons who contend that sodium and calcium

chlorides used to melt ice and snow damage automobile bodies.

"Ironically, the stronger the salt solution and the colder the weather, the less corrosive it is on cars," Dube said. "In fact, I've been told by engineers that rainwater is more corrosive than the salt solution we use to melt ice on highways," he added.

DUBE SAID THE STATE highway experimented with anti-corrosive solutions that are added to rock salt but decided not to use a rust inhibitor in the solution "because they aren't worth much."

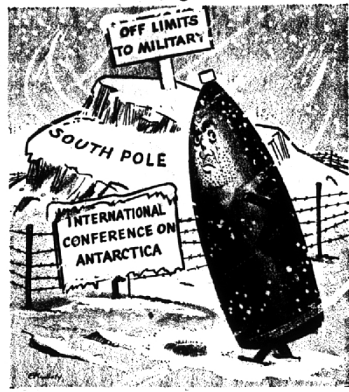
The highway department engineer added that complaints about salt causing rust to cars have fallen off considerably since World War II because most motorists trade in their cars long before rust starts to do any real damage.

"We got a lot of complaints during the last years of the war and right afterwards because a lot of motorists had cars that were almost 10 years old and were starting to fall apart and they blamed the solution we were using for causing the rust."

WE THING MOTORISTS would accept Dube's explanation without question if he would add the REAL reason for the rust and the holes.

Perhaps he can get help in this direction from his department's research laboratory?

On the Right Track



NATURE NOW

by Lydia King Frehse
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Black Walnut Tree The Fruit of Beauty

Yesterday on a morning spent in her favorite county side, your scribe had paused to observe a black walnut tree which hugs the hillside as it slopes upward to meet the old apple orchard.

Although it is one of our latest trees to grow green in the springtime, it is also one of the first to lose its frond-like compound leaves in autumn. Now it stands bare—its emptiness relieved only by a single nut held high in a safe crotch of branch and limb. Below, the ground is covered with a circle of nuts; their leathery husks shining yellow-green in the morning sun.

The odor of black walnut is pungent. Its taste is bitter. Although the tree loves rich bottom lands, what its leaf it may also grow as does my above tree, on fertile hillside in the southern portion of our state.

BUT YOUR SCRIBE remembers best how a graceful stand of these trees followed the curve of Tommy Run creek on her grandfather's Ohio farm. This site was a favorite haunt on autumn weekends when the confines of school relaxed and we went nutting both "for fun and for nuts."

Great black willows hung over the slow-moving water now covered with its jewel-colored hoard of floating leaves. These autumn excursions were the highlight of our appeal from the tingling air, the brilliance of blue skies, the chattering of squirrels and the noisy call of crows and blue-jays.

IN THOSE DAYS, no supermarket held out its tempting array of food-stuffs, and my grandmother depended upon walnuts and history nuts to enrich her winter meals. The walnuts were gathered in gunny sacks, lugged home and dried on the second story of the tool shed. This space could only be

reached by a ladder making it a special kind of place full of mystery.

By the time the press of the harvest season was over, the bright green walnut husks had dried to an uninteresting black. Their removal was a chore accomplished by pounding each separate nut through a hole (the size of the enclosed nut) in a substantial oak board.

THIS CHORE accomplished, the resulting hoard of nuts are spread out on newspapers in the attic, where a further drying process ensued. By Thanksgiving time they were cracked and the meats picked from their shells for walnut candy, cake and cookies, the delight of whose characteristic flavors can't quite be recaptured in adult years. Black walnut meats now available in the markets are machine processed and come from our more southern states. No scattered trees which dot our Michigan countryside go unharvested for the most part.

TODAY OUR dwindling supply of black walnut is most prized for its fine-grained and beautiful cabinet wood. In colonial days, these great trees were split for fence rails and rafters. The furniture of our colonial period were made from walnut.

The walnut secretary at which Andrew Jackson sat to write his pithy correspondence may be seen today at the "Hermitage" near Nashville.

OCCASIONALLY, TODAY'S antique hunter comes upon a walnut heirloom in garret, barn or cellar. If his aim is a mercenary one, he may saw this into skillfully cut veneer to be used in making more than one piece of furniture.

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO

Nov. 5, 1909
"We have a football team that we may well be proud of. They have not been scored on."

"Soap marks on the windows is a new stunt for Birmingham kids on Halloween. All the merchants watched the girls and boys mark up their windows to their heart's content and Monday all washed up without the expense of soap as it had already been applied."

30 YEARS AGO

Nov. 7, 1929
"An unlicensed pilot and his passenger who took off from Royal Oak crashed their Jenny plane to the ground yesterday noon barely missing a house."

"Ghosts and their shadows left the village without damage after their annual visit late Thursday. The 15 flower guests were more decorous than ever, probably because all the village police were on the streets until a late hour."

15 YEARS AGO

Nov. 3, 1924
"A group of representatives from local organizations met Thursday to consider the city-wide cooperative action in the task of aiding the homebound soldiers of World War II."

"Birmingham staged her heaviest election count in history casting a total of \$6,323 votes and re-

taining her traditional 3-to-1 Republican balance."

STRICTLY FRESH

"Two places some teen-agers can't stand: classrooms and barber shops."

It's getting that time of year when Pop tries to find a sock without a hole to hang on the mantel.



Reports of TV quiz show fakery probably are welcome to some who couldn't stand the thought of anyone being that smart.

It was Mark Twain who assured nicotine addicts that it was easy to quit smoking. He had done it thousands of times.

Anyone can spot the most forgotten man in the neighborhood. He's getting his garden ready for next year.

The Light Touch by Jeanne Westerdale

PHOTOGRAPHER'S PROOF

They're disappointing,
And I feel hooked,
For none of them look
Like I think I looked!

pail after pail after pail . . .



there's always plenty of hot water



the new electric water heater way

House cleaning is so much easier, so much faster when there's plenty of hot water.

You can be confident that an electric water heater, plus Edison's Super Supply Plan, will provide round-the-clock hot water for cleaning and all the rest of the family's needs, too.

Here's the convenient, modern way to GET IT HOT . . . GET A LOT for an operating cost as low as \$3.88 per month.

Only electric water heaters give you all these important advantages:

- Efficient—the heat goes into the water
- Install anywhere—need not be near a chimney
- Long life—meet Edison's rigid standards
- Automatic—all the time
- Fast—new, more efficient heating units
- Outer shell—cool to the touch all over
- Edison maintains electrical parts without charge
- Safe—clean—quiet—modern



See your plumber or appliance dealer **DETROIT EDISON**
SERVES SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN

Birmingham's Newest Cleaning Store



Grand Opening SPECIALS

TOPCOATS

men's or ladies'

\$1.20

you SAVE \$.55 on each topcoat

SPECIAL starts Thurs., Nov. 5 and ends Sat., Nov. 14



WOODWARD and MERRILL

Opposite Birmingham Theatre