

Reformers Make Little Progress

Most men (and women, too) who ascend to the top position in their craft, civic organization, etc., come forth with inaugural speeches in which they criticize some phases of the status quo, and then pour into distant horizons of hope in which they declare themselves ready and able to usher in new Millenniums.

Before their term is up, the fast clip of reform they set out on has slowed to a mere turtle-like crawl. That's because original emotion had to give way to the practicalities of human behavior.

Example: perhaps most church-goers thrill over the inspiring words from the pulpit; their emotions are stirred; they pledge themselves to improve, to reform; they inherently respond to the words from the Good Book.

When the sermon is over, they are unable to remember even a small portion of it, with any coherence or memory pattern. Within two hours, then 24, a week, it's but a vague memory—maybe just a mere sentence—remains with them.

Habit has taken over, restoring them to the matrix-like routine of their lives. If more people were able to remain conscious of more of the inspiring thoughts they read or hear, and apply them to their living... they'd make very rapid steps toward attaining a better world.

After all, too many of us pay too little attention to our deeper, more vital needs; we mistake the shadows of life for its substance. That's why so many generations are needed to bring about enduringly good reforms.

Some Farmers Aren't Dumb

Congressman James B. Utt, of California, tells of an enterprising family in Kansas. Whether they all lived on one big farm or on several farms, we know not. However, one year they got \$700,000 from the Government for the wheat they grew, and \$400,000 for wheat they did not grow.

In addition, Uncle Sam also paid them handsome money for storing Uncle's wheat.

The idea that farmers have bubbles in the think-tank should be ruled out. They know how to skin a cat in more ways than one.

The Congressman says some smart ones a few years ago leased grazing land for the Government for two bits an acre, per

year, and then put it in the soil bank and got \$7.20 an acre per year from Uncle for not planting land that never had been planted!

AND ALL SO LEGAL! Uncle writes the laws and pays the freight. He got 25 cents in the pocket and \$7.50 in the neck.

We'll bet a bull-rake against a dozen turnip seeds that if we put some of these smart farmers in the State Department we'd be better off. Anyone who can get around Uncle the way they do, could outfox Khrushchev.

Well, anyway, for yourself, wife and each child, you have 14 bushels of wheat in storage. Doesn't that make you feel good?

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

Today's "liberal" is one who believes that state and federal governments should find ways to relieve more citizens of more of their earnings via the tax route, then scatter the funds to the populace in various ways—not to overlook plenty of foreign aid. Originally, a liberal was one who believed in individual freedom, who would fight anybody or anything to keep freedom. Today there is a trend to transfer the word's basic meaning so that the government itself becomes the "liberal". (Fundamentally, can there be a greater potential enemy of freedom itself than the tyranny that inevitably flows out of governmental bureaucracy that becomes stronger than the very processes of so-called "representative government"?)

drum up support. We-thinks his past, galivanting failed to help him in the national picture—for how can a fellow do a good job on his job when he isn't on the job that needs doing?

Khrushchev wanted to visit Disneyland while in California. For security reasons, L. A.'s police chief said NO, so K got into one of his tantrums. "You mean to say that, with all your police and military men you can't prevent some fool from tryin' to knock me off?" he asked, in those or similar words. In a way, we think his question was o.k. After all, up to that point the old Soviet hamster had not become the target of an assassin's good aim.

Both baseball major leagues gave the American fans plenty of thrills and excitement as the season came to a close. That is the kind of spirited competition that endears the game to its customers... and no doubt adds to the thrills of the players, too.

For some months it is expected that Michigan will be without a fulltime Governor. Soapy has again announced himself interested in winning the Democratic nomination for the Presidency. This means he will gallivant nation-wide to



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

Mushrooms Edible? No Simple Answer

WALLOON LAKE—Now in autumn nature enlivens the dying meadows and fields, the moldering forest floor with one of her greatest shows, that of the curious fungi. Most people are interested in these plants from the standpoint of their edibility questioning "Is this a toadstool? (poisonous) or is this a mushroom (edible)?"

However, the naturalist and the scientist see the above species as limited representatives of one of our most diverse and important plant groups. Because they comprise a highly specialized study involving many aspects of both our personal health and our economic welfare, they increasingly attract the attention of experts.

In autumn the naturalist leading a group of amateurs to a meadow for a picnic, "How can one tell a poisonous from an edible species?" A simple and correct answer might save many lives.

Unfortunately there is no such answer. There is only one way to avoid the certain death that lurks within such innocent looking plants as the destroying angels (A. verna and A. virosa) and that is to avoid eating all fungi, unless you are a careful student of their kind.

"Isn't it true," continues the questioner, "that a silver spoon or a coin will turn black when immersed in the boiling solution of a poisonous variety?" Is the species edible, one avoids the combination of white gills, a veil and a cup on the stem. "If one selects mushrooms which grow only in meadows or with caps that peel or with dark colored gills?"

ANY MYCOLOGIST can cite exceptions to each of the above. Boiling does kill certain poisons. However, it does not touch either the Amanita-toxin present in a number of deadly species or the muscarin found in many varieties of A. muscaria or in Russula emetica, Boletus satanas and B. luridus. Scientists point any of the above tests as completely untrustworthy.

The flaw in the "white gills, veil and cup" test is that the veil in Amanitas often and may sometimes evert and disappear in a mature mushroom.

YOUR ONLY valid protection against the most poisonous of all plants is to study each species in detail until you are familiar with its every characteristic so that you recognize it as you recognize a friend or avoid it as you would a foe.

I have seen many people especially those with a European background (where wild mushrooms are a generally accepted food) gather baskets of several species. They have learned the "look" of these by life-long experience, however, the extremely variable nature of fungi allows for that margin of error wherein most poisonings occur.

THE FINAL challenging query "But I have eaten this mushroom, all my life with no ill effects," is truthfully answered thus: "Either you have mistaken the species or your system has an immunity to the poison." It does that of the latter can now be seen drying and withering the most deadly of his winter fare.

Next week—"More About Mushrooms."

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO
Oct. 1, 1909
"The job of repairing and painting the fire department house was done by the Hopps Hardware Co., and certainly is an A-1 job. Shines like a diamond."

Uncle Steve Drouillard on the "Willow Brook" farm has got a nice row of tobacco of his own growing.

30 YEARS AGO
Oct. 3, 1929
Bloomfield Hills voters will decide the first election contest since the incorporation of the village three years ago.

Mary Lou, a house cat owned by A. Pagit, is trained to hunt and is a good retriever for birds and squirrels.

Construction of a one-story building on Woodward avenue between Maple and Willow is completed today. The building was erected in six weeks which is considered record time.

15 YEARS AGO
Oct. 5, 1944
"The victory garden program for 1945 was launched this week when the city commission authorized the manager to renew community garden privileges at Poppletown Park."

"The frost of late September did not touch all of the Birmingham victory gardens but many were really nipped and nipped hard."

The Light Touch by Jeanne Westerdale
MAN TRAP
I spread the map upon my lap
And thankfully behold
I've found my route, without a doubt,
And now—will someone fold it!

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

Former Birmingham city manager, now boss of Oakland county's two-year-old DPW, Harold K. Schone was brought up in the dry state of Kansas.

"Even though he's been here in "Water Wonderland" for more than a decade, he still wonders why Michiganders don't take greater advantage of their Great Lakes.

"It's amazing to me that you in Michigan have the world's greatest fresh water supply, yet you still put up with summer-time water restrictions," Schone observes.

BUT HE ADMITS WE ARE taking progressive steps, such as getting ready for a new and additional supply from Lake Huron.

By 1958, he says, this Oakland area should see two giant 90-inch water transmission mains leading in from above Pt. Huron.

"If we get those, we should never have a water supply problem," Schone declared.

Every well-educated man has a

wife—if she has been doing her job well.

There is a present need for opening of 14 Mile road between Southfield and Evergreen roads. There has been such need for a number of years—and additional residential growth each year has aggravated the through-traffic problem.

Today sees more and more traffic cutting down past the lovely Beverly Hills homes as the only present means of getting from east to west, and vice versa.

IT WON'T BE TOO LONG, we predict, before those Beverly residents will ask their city officials for relief. Then the "Put Through 14 Mile" movement will move ahead rapidly, and come to fruition.

Birmingham city officials, it is on record, have wanted for years to get started. I'll take only a word from Beverly officials to secure Birmingham's utmost cooperation.