

## Your Right To Print, To Speak...

Once each year the American press dedicates a week in October to the subject of "free press," with special emphasis on its relation to the operation of a free, self-governing people. This is the week for 1959.

Volumes, thousands of them, have been written on the part that freedom to think, to speak, to write have played in the struggle of mankind toward a better life. Over the long centuries wars have been fought by men against the various oppressions that have been imposed upon them by tyrants of many kinds . . . all the way from the outright feudal lords, police states, and frequently by enshrined bureaucrats in so-called democracy.

Even today, right here in the United States, from its capital city of Washington down to some of the nation's local units of government, numerous misguided officials seek to keep secret many news sources . . . news that concerns the vital interests of citizens and taxpayers.

fended, be maintained, then less alarm need be manifested that much of freedom may be lost.

A FREE PRESS does not mean that people who work on publications are the only beneficiaries of this medium of communication. Nor does free speech mean that orators, clergymen, and others who use their voices to express their knowledge or experience or messages are the sole beneficiaries of free speech.

These two freedoms should belong to EVERYBODY!

The working newspaper men and women are merely the people whose job it is to gather and disseminate news, to offer editorial comment on a variety of subjects, to bring together those who buy and those who sell merchandise and services, and in many other ways to aid in the development of the various community services so necessary to modern living.

UNCEASINGLY, the newspaper men and women of our country endeavor to search out this news . . . news for YOU, who should be the MASTERS, not the servants of government. Without such information it would not be too long before much of freedom would vanish; taxes would get higher and higher; laws to govern you would become more oppressive.

Indeed, without a free press you would lose those other freedoms included in our Constitutional Bill of Rights set forth in its first Article: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

When the people themselves are unceasingly convinced that only when free press and free speech exist can the remainder of the freedoms be protected, be de-

NO EXPERIENCED, intelligent newspaperman believes that journalists are infallible, or that they "know everything about everything." We go out with our newspapers are capable of making mistakes, yet ready to correct them when brought to our attention.

More briefly, to quote another editor: "The newspaper is an institution developed by modern civilization to present the news of the day, to foster commerce and industry, to inform and lead public opinion, and to furnish that check upon government which no constitution has ever been able to provide."

Thus, when "Newspaper Week" is observed in the United States, its chief dedication is to remind you, the public, that a free press is your dominant defense against whatever evils the absence of a free press may spawn . . . evils that always lead to the loss of your freedoms.

"...WE WAS FRAUD..."



**NATURE NOW** by Lydia King Frehse  
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eclectic

### Indian Summer's Midwestern Gift

After October's first killing frosts nature relents while Indian summer ushers in its own brand of frosty mornings, blue skies and sunny daylight hours.

This is nature's finest hour. A rich and mellow fruitfulness covers the hills and valleys overlaid with a shimmering haze which gives the season its name.

The term "Indian summer" is well chosen for it was during this brief period of warmth and beauty that the red man made his final preparation for the lean winter months area. Some say it arose from the smoke haze which followed his setting of the great prairie fires which he used to hunt the game at season's end.

AND SO it is that we say in October "The asters are like blue smoke on the hills"; shaking their shaggy flower-heads at every passerby. Then your thumbs her botany to review their names, finding there a Mrs. Frehse for these flowers hybridize freely and often the species are without sharply defined limits.

It is well that the hardy aster tribe should see out the season's end for they are of the composites, the most highly developed and the most recent of our plant groups. Most of their 250 families are resident in North America.

Fields and meadows of our midwestern and eastern states are their favorite growing range. Here together with their cousins the golden-rod they spill over our autumn landscape making a color contrast unaccounted for by any other of our native plants.

ALTHOUGH FEW of you will learn the names of species which are puzzling even to the botanist, each of you could learn to know two of our most common varieties before you finish this article.

ON ANY autumn trip arctic pick out the albert's purple-blue aster in the meadow. It is also stout.

### Madison Heights Halts 12 Town In Court Action

Delay in the form of court action its \$2.8 million assessment and again snatched the Twelve Town seeking a cut to about \$700,000 drain Friday, when the city of its share of the \$17 million Madison Heights formally filed its protest.

The suit argues that the method of Madison Heights is protesting by which costs were apportioned is unfair.

Bond Attorney Claude H. Stevens, counsel for Twelve-Towns, is expected to file a motion for dismissal of the Madison Heights petition.



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### From The Eccentric's Point of View...

Mankind has been projected into a man-made environment of much evil. One's material possessions, his reputation, his very freedom . . . these and many similar attachments are forever subject to seizure, to destruction, by individuals and groups of individuals. Perhaps the most gigantic and threatening evil confronting free men everywhere is the Communist scheme to capture all of mankind. This evil comes not only direct from Soviet Russia, but from many places, some suspected, some unsuspected, in the United States. You probably have fire insurance on your homes, stores and factories; you believe in insurance on your life, perhaps—but do you have insurance on your American freedom? That "policy," by the way, consists of intelligent response to the requirements of freedom itself! This, and this alone, is your insurance against the loss of your liberties.

We have come to the conclusion that the chief aim of Nikita Khrushchev's visit to the United States was to make propaganda; he probably knew in advance that he would not make many American converts to Communism; his best bet was to impress other nations (behind and in front of the Iron Curtain) with the distorted stories and pictures of his "welcome" to the U.S. His photographs with Ike will be used, as will other favorable ones, to shake the faith of many other friendly nations in their dependence on Uncle Sam to help and befriend them.

A San Francisco watchmaker has just flown around the earth in a single-engine plane in 29 days, 6 hours and 52.2 seconds. Congratulations! He certainly knows what makes something tick besides watches.

### The Birmingham Eccentric

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### ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

What's the world's toughest golf course? The one out W. Maple avenue, our own Oakland Hills country club.

This from a golfer who's played most courses in the U.S., England and Scotland—Tom Draper, 111 Abbey, Birmingham.

He's one of the nation's top amateur golfers, has been playing since a youngster.

"Oakland Hills' fairway traps make it so tough, even for a tee shot," Draper explains. "Remember that one of golfing's greatest players, Ben Hogan, won the 1951 USGA tournament at Oakland Hills with a seven over par, the final half of the tourney even being played from the ladies' tees!"

Most pressure comes on the greens, Draper emphasizes.

"A three-foot putt for a bogie is one thing, but that same 3-foot putt for a par is quite another. And when it's only three

feet to go for a birdie, the pressure is very great!"

Along with cooking, home decorating, sewing and child care, our modern educational systems ought to teach in their home economics classes the fundamentals of "How to Fight and Stay Married."

What's the best Christmas gift your serviceman could get? It's some homecooking, according to the American Red Cross. Cookies, fruit cake, and other home-baked goodies which can be packed in coffee or similar tins, sealed tightly and packed in heavy, corrugated pasteboard boxes.

Money also is a welcome item. But make your gifts to overseas servicemen in the form of money orders, advises the Red Cross. Personal checks are impossible to cash in foreign countries, and it's dangerous to send cash through the mails.

### Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

**50 YEARS AGO** Oct. 22, 1909  
"Again in the our sad duty day to announce the annual opening of another of John Hanna's safes. This safe blowing is growing to be chronic with John and he is now approaching a large safe manufacturer with a proposition to buy safes by the dozen."

"According to State Treasurer Sleeper the tax budget appropriation made by the last legislature was \$1,000,000 too low to meet the deficit that is growing against the state."

**30 YEARS AGO** Oct. 24, 1929  
"One of the most important projects from a financial and sanitary standpoint that confronts Birmingham is the creation of a suitable sewage disposal tank and drain systems."

"An all-school vaudeville will be sponsored by the Senior Washington group."

**15 YEARS AGO** Oct. 26, 1944  
"The witches and goblins are all coming back to Birmingham this day, evening, for the big annual Halloween party."

"Members of the Victor Gardens staff have completed the contracts that were registered for fall plowing last year and a number of plots have already been plowed."

**The Light Touch** by Jeanne Westerdale  
JUNIOR LIKES IT  
A shattering blast of sound that ends All peace of soul— This, my dear parental friends, Is Rock 'n Roll!

"What's this town coming to" asked a voter after learning that women will fill every place on the election boards.

**STRICTLY FRESH** Tactful reference letter: "Dear Sir. An honest difference of opinion between Mr. Smith and the office manager over the length of coffee breaks led to the release of this young man from my employ."

Bright note in the infant picture: The chemical value of the human body has risen from 97 cents to \$1.17.

Annual malady among baseball fans has passed until the 1960 World Series.

Why didn't someone ever suggest concrete tires and rubber roads?