

Pat "Stands Pat" vs Summerfield

The longer that Michigan's senior U.S. Senator pursues his prejudiced way in Washington, the more we can understand why many of his own political party are desirous of sending a substitute in his place, when next Pat McNamara runs for re-election. Currently, he is in a feud with Postmaster-General Arthur Summerfield, a Republican.

This year Pat had approved 26 of 56 Michigan postmaster nominations that reached his desk. Such Presidential nominations must be okayed by a state's senior Senator, then by the Senate itself. Pat declares that Summerfield "tried to ram through the 30 remaining nominations... he is playing politics."

FURTHER, THE Senator writes his constituents in a recent letter:

"Reports began reaching me that he was accusing me of holding up approval capriciously and because of political motivation. Nothing could be further from the truth, but he has succeeded in

creating so much controversy and making it so much more difficult for me to carry out my responsibilities, that I see little hope of approving more nominations in the foreseeable future.

"This is unfortunate for those nominees who would have been approved in the normal course of events, but they have no one to blame but the Postmaster General. Perhaps he wanted to ram through some highly irregular nominations under this smoke-screen."

The admission by Pat that "This is unfortunate for those nominees who would have been approved in the normal course of events..." reveals his confused thinking on the subject, it appears to us. If some of the nominees were eligible for Pat's approval, aren't they still so-despite Summerfield's alleged "playing politics?" Looks to us as though the Senator, himself, is the "playful" politician. (Who will be his successor, anyway?)

Karl Marx's Own Kids Starved

The Naked Communist, a recently published book by W. Cleon Skousen, for 16 years a member of the FBI, is suggested as most important reading for every American especially high school and college youth. Here he writes a bit about Karl Marx, the founder of the Communist doctrine:

"Karl Marx, founder of Communism, is shown in his true stature: (from a friendly biographer) 'Regular work bored him, conventional occupation put him out of humor. Without a penny in his pocket, and with his shirt pawned, he surveyed the world with a lordly air... He was ridiculously ineffectual in his endeavors to cope with the economic needs of his household and family; and his incapacity in monetary matters involved him in an endless series of struggles and catastrophes.'

HE WAS ALWAYS in debt; was incessantly being dunned by creditors... Half of his household goods were always at the pawn shop. His budget defied all attempts to set it in order... His bankruptcy was chronic. The thousands upon thousands which Engels (his wealthy friend) handed over to him melted away in his fingers like snow.

"Most of his children died very young—they starved to death while Marx, disdainful of work, spent his time at the library reading higher mathematics. This is the thoroughly disreputable man whose mish-mash of political, economic and philosophical doctrine has attracted so many self-styled 'intellectuals' during the past century, permitting the rise of brutal tyrants.



NATURE NOW by Lydia King Freese
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eclectic

All Forms of Life Dependant on Rain

WALLOON LAKE—A short walk in today's rain revealed a landscape recreated by the miracle of water. This colorless liquid made up of two parts of hydrogen and one part of oxygen is one of the most determinative factors in both plant and animal life.

The proportion of water in all living tissue far outweighs all its other combined substances. It is the great solvent by which our food is dissolved for digestion, assimilated by the cells and tissues and finally eliminated.

And so it is that we may divide all of our green world into three main groups in relation to their water environments. Water plants are called Hydrophytes and are represented in salt water by such forms as the microscopic plant, diatom which feeds much of the animal life of the ocean or the giant seaweeds which invade the waters in great beds.

Fresh water plants are equally varied from the diminutive duckweed to the water lilies and pickerel weeds or the cat-tails and rushes which live on the water's edge.

LAND PLANTS which require an average water supply are called Mesophytes and are represented by our common trees, shrubs and climbing plants such as oak, sumac and goldenrod. Desert plants take the form of such hardy species as the Joshua tree, cacti and sand verbenas.

All life was cradled in water. This medium provides a stable and protected environment safe from many of the vagaries of frost and drought and wind which plague land plants. Food is accessible and abundant. So attractive is this cradled existence that some plants and animals such as cat-tails and whales which were once land dwellers, have retreated to live in the water.

LAND PLANTS required millions of years to make their transition to their present more exposed and hazardous way of life. Their general pattern is to receive their water through their roots. They usually grow where the annual precipitation is 30-60 inches. The quantity of moisture absorbed depends upon such factors as the amount of free water present, the extent of the root system, the temperature of the soil and the particular structure and needs of the plant involved. Unless they

are protected by waxes, resins or dead cells, all exposed portions of the plant also absorb some water directly from the atmosphere.

DESERT PLANTS are able to live in regions where the annual rainfall is less than 20 inches. Some of these survive by means of shallow but extensive root systems. Others such as cacti are able to absorb their leaves and manufacture their food by means of fleshy green stems containing few pores which are almost closed to evaporation.

Many species such as the barrel cacti have developed ways of storing large amounts of water in their tissues. Other water adaptive mechanisms include the ability of both the seed and the living plant to be dormant for long periods until suitable rains ensue which provide moisture for the completion of the life-cycle.

WATER LARGELY determines the rate of plant growth. This habit is especially beneficial to many perennials which lie dormant during the winter as a protective measure. Their visible parts die while life is preserved in root, stalk, bulb or corm. Or, as is the case with our deciduous trees and shrubs, the leaves fall, the growth process is reduced, but the well protected woody parts survive in single season. Flower buds are set and sealed during the latter part of the growing season which flower at the touch of another springtime.

SO GREAT is the water demand of the average land plant that 200,000 pounds of this liquid must pass through its tissues to manufacture one pound of dry food matter. An acre of corn will use some 500,000 gallons of water in a single season. Much of this intake is lost by transpiration which process is controlled by such factors as humidity, temperature, light and air movements.

THE AMOUNT of water present in our universe does not vary, like matter it may change its form but it cannot be destroyed. Moving like a great wheel from sky to earth and earth to sky it may use the form of cloud, dew, rain, snow, ice.

Let a drop of water fall in your hand. Its impact is gentle; its evaporation certain. Yet the dependence of every cell, tissue and organ upon this most adaptable of all fluids is one of nature's basic laws.

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From The Eccentric's Point of View...

Michigan's State parks, open to the public, are running behind popular demand, both in available space and in conveniences. In an effort to obtain additional funds to help solve the problem, both Democrats and Republicans in the State Legislature passed a law requiring a small fee to be paid by those who use these facilities. But Governor Williams, despite previous approval of the fee plan, we are told, vetoed the bill when it reached his desk. Why? It is declared that Soapy merely responded to the dictates of UAW-CIO leaders. Yet the fee would be no hardship... less than the cigaret and soft-drink money spent by park users in a couple of days or less.

While some of our more progressive nations endeavor to achieve means of transporting humans to the moon, little, old Japan is sticking close to Mother Earth... that is, earth that lies six and one-half miles beneath the Pacific Ocean, known as the Japan Deep. It's a sort of trench, 1,840 miles long. The Japs believe this trench has something to do with the numerous earthquakes and tidal waves that now and then strike Nippon. If it's thought

that the trench should be filled in with earthy material, maybe Uncle Sam will be asked to furnish the dough.

Now Uncle Sam has 50 stars, plus 13 red and white stripes in his flag. That's quite an addition to the original 13. Too, today's political, economic and social environment of our country has changed considerably from the days of Washington and Jefferson. (Change, whether it be for the better or the worse, is a fundamental condition of life.)

One of the very best ways to fight Communism is to lend yourself more industriously and intelligently to the job of making self-government work better. No use trying to fight Soviet Russia and at the same time refrain from measuring up to your duties and responsibilities as good citizens.

Eighty-year-old British conductor Sir Thomas Becham recently married his 27-year-old secretary. Wonder if the old boy is as capable, domestically speaking, in bringing out harmony as he is with an orchestra.

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO
Sept. 10, 1909
"Oliver Phillips has remodeled his barn. He now owns a nice horse and buggy."
"Woodward Avenue, where you toboggan into Circle City, was called a few weeks ago and on Tuesday it was salted."
"John Hanna has a new horse so look out as he is a goer."
30 YEARS AGO
Sept. 12, 1929
"Birmingham water is pure and abundant, so necessary Manager James W. Parry, announced yesterday after a conference with Dr. A. W. Neppitt, health officer."
"That Woodward Avenue is not the safe thoroughfare for horses it used to be was proved again Friday when one of four being led to Birmingham was struck by an automobile."
The fall fashion supplement featured the exit of the family towel, fur trimming, turbans and the decline of the perfumed bath in favor of the new showers.
15 YEARS AGO
Sept. 14, 1929
"Bloomfield Village got off to a fine start on its early fall salvage collection last week turning in a total of more than ten tons of salvage."
"Registration of Birmingham motorists for the new 'A' gas-line books is underway and will be concluded this evening."
STRICTLY FRESH
Today, a gentleman in a fellow who tips his hat, from his seat, when he sees a woman standing on bus or streetcar.
Place of employment is where you go to rest after your vacation.
We haven't said anything recently about the food where we eat lunch; it's no longer a joking matter.
What makes some relatives such fascinating people is that you see them only occasionally.
Trouble with picking up hitch-hikers is that you can't possibly know which one has a hitch in his make-up.

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

Town criers many decades ago used to keep village streets ringing with announcements of news and advertisements of merchants. Then they were replaced with the peace and quiet of the printed word in your community newspaper.
Then Marconi discovered the wireless—and the town criers came back and into our homes via radio. With TV, we see as well as hear them.
If you want to see a woman at her worst, just drop by breakfast.

Kids certainly wear out their clothes fast. But their parents give out faster!
There's a lifetime of difference between being alone and being lonely.
There are no good or bad books. Only authors.
Few problems are baffling. It's just that most of them are neglected.
The reason most people worry about tomorrow is because that's when the bills and taxes are due.