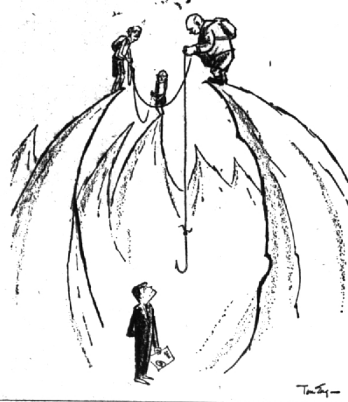


The Early Birds



Kids 'Spook' Halloween Test

In last week's "People's Column" we published another letter concerning Birmingham's pre-Halloween "begging night."

There must be many other Birmingham mothers and fathers who were confused as children came to front doors on three nights this year.

Well, here's what happened: The Halloween party committee decided to experiment. They wanted to see if "begging" would diminish if no specific date was publicized, or if the children were not reminded about it.

WITHOUT A SPECIFIED "begging

night", the youngsters seemed to pick their own. There were the early goblins on Saturday night, the Halloween Eve witches, and the Halloween Night "spooks".

Residential door-tenders were on duty three times, instead of once as in past years, as today's letter-writing couple points out.

Next year we suggest the Birmingham Halloween party committee recognize the inevitability of children getting their "tricks or treats", and direct that it be staged the night before Halloween as has been the custom.

Heads Hospital To Help Drinkers

The founder and president of the non-profit Brighton Foundation for Alcoholism, Harry Henderson, 25520 W. 13 Mile Rd., once served Michigan as a member of the Michigan Liquor Control Commission, along with the late Owen J. "Pat" Cleary and Gov. G. Mennen Williams. The Brighton institution, recently remodelled and extended, was dedicated in fitting ceremonies last month.

"Alcoholism is incurable," Henderson said, in reviewing the work of the hospital. "The male or female alcoholic who continues drinking can only become steadily worse. If the drink persists, death is

inevitable.

"BUT ALCOHOLISM CAN be arrested. As the diabetic can live a normal life, taking his insulin daily, the alcoholic can do likewise by daily adherence to the A. A. program.

"If the alcoholic is willing to admit his inability to handle intoxicating drinks; if he wishes sincerely to stop drinking, and if he can accept the A. A. philosophy, then we can help him. If he is unwilling and insincere, however, there is nothing we can do to help him. He is on the endless treadmill to disaster and oblivion," Henderson said.

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

When we were in our late 'teens and early 'twenties we were naive enough to believe that the way to solve every problem affecting nations was to "think it through, come up with a plan leavened with idealism, then offer the plan to the public." It should be easy of acceptance, we believed... just as people accept the fact that two plus two equals four. Now, a number of decades later, we realize that, as the poet Lowell once wrote "... truth is forever on the scaffold, wrong forever on the throne. (Oh, not quite that bad, for humans do make slow progress toward better times, better behavior.)

down to county aspirants? This precious freedom always is in danger of being curtailed, or even lost. Millions—yes, hundreds of millions—of enslaved people on this earth envy U. S. citizens the right to self-government.

President-elect Kennedy's visit to "make-up" with his old friend Richard Nixon, is reminiscent of the time that Ike made a similar call on the late Sen. Robert A. Taft, when Ike won the Republican nomination over Taft. In the absence of such "make-ups", a chasm as wide as the Grand Canyon could develop, following the customary "bitterness" that attends Presidential campaigns.

1960 U. S. Census figures just released will give Michigan one more Congressman, making a total of 19. It is expected that the Wayne County area will get the extra seat, though Oakland is a close second for it.

Mid-west farmers did not support President-elect Kennedy Nov. 8... though the pollsters suggested that farmers were opposed to Ike's and Nixon's farm programs. After all, who can predict the patterns of human behavior with certainty?

The U.S. Marine Corp commandant, Gen. David M. Shoup, has "declared war" on overweight by those uniformed males under his direction. The General believes that too much obesity is a hindrance to efficient and effective military activities. He is a bit softer on the "lady Marines", though he does tell them they "must maintain a state of physical perfection which insures correct posture and good personal appearance."

Wasn't it wonderful, in this confused world of today, to be able to cast your vote, in secret, for your own choice of candidates for offices from President

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

Americans generally think of their nation as the "biggest" in just about everything—industry, business, national debt, even in newspaper circulations.

But in this latter impression, we must bow to seven newspapers in four foreign countries.

According to recent circulation figures, here are the top ten greatest newspaper circulations in the world:

- First—Manchik (Japan) with 6 million subscribers; second—Daily Mirror (England), 4.6 million; third—Asahi (Japan), 4.5 million; fourth—Daily Express (England), 4.2 million; fifth—Pravda (Russia), 4 million; sixth—Bild (Germany), 2.4 million; seventh—Daily Mail (England), 2.2 million; eighth—New York Daily News (U.S.), 2.1 million; ninth—Evening News (England), 1.3 million, and tenth—Chicago Tribune (U.S.), 1 million.

If everyone could be big instead of bigoted, what a changed world this'd be!

Back last summer, the Birmingham city commission queried by letter the Birmingham school board regarding possibilities of having school district and municipal precinct voting districts with the same boundaries.

Whatever happened to the reply?

Unions, associations, clubs and other groups exist because they are substitutes for people's individual inner security.

One of today's cultural mysteries is why so many people exist on assumptions when it is so easy to ask for facts? You probably would find enough of them to make a sounder decision.

Before others can get along with you, you must get along with yourself.

If you don't like MY ideas, for heavens sake! use YOURS.

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Churches Are Working Against Prejudices

To the Editor:

In answer to Mrs. Bill Jones: I am not accustomed to writing open letters. Yet as president of the Birmingham Council of Churches and at request of one of my colleagues I am making this reply to your letter in last week's Eccentric.

First, I would express my sympathy for your concern for the still exist among us, especially toward the Negro and Jewish elements of our society.

As Christians it must be our high calling to dispel such prejudice by loving all men equally, as Christ loves them. I must say, however, that I am more optimistic toward the progress we have made in this area than you seem to be.

WE ARE a long way from reaching the ideal stage where all men are brothers; but I hope, and pray, and believe that we are making significant strides toward that goal. Secondly, I am sorry to hear that you encountered so much anti-Roman Catholicism in the churches you have attended. While differences unfortunately still keep the church divided, I'm sure all dedicated Protestant clergymen feel the same way about the great unity in our faith in Christ. This unity is also experienced

with the Roman Catholic communion. Again, I feel that great strides are being taken in this area of understanding in the Lutheran World Federation, for instance, major meetings for communication and doctrinal study have been sponsored both in this country and abroad to seriously approach our differences and our agreement. One such ecumenical institute with Lutheran pastors and Roman Catholic priest meets each year at St. Paul's Lutheran church in Toledo, Ohio.

BOTH ROMAN Catholic and Lutheran theologians have addressed this institute, and a new appreciation for our common faith has been experienced. I have also seen great and hopeful signs of greater understanding between Protestantism and Roman Catholicism in congregational life on the local scene, and I would be most happy to cite some specific examples to you.

Thirdly, I am wondering which of the churches you have been attending — the churches in which you have found this prejudice of bigotry and lack of mutual understanding. I find it difficult to believe that these have been churches which represent the major, ecumenically-minded, denominations of our land.

Over 80 per cent of the Protestant Christians of our land are members of these major denominations. (See CHURCHES, 5-B)

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO

Dec. 2, 1910
FRANKLIN The stewards of the church have arranged for the annual donation to be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Green this Friday evening, Dec. 2. The pastor, Rev. Humbold, received a most impressive from Gov. Warner giving the Thanksgiving proclamation and in accordance held a Thanksgiving prayer meeting in the church parlors on Thursday evening last.

Grand new National bank bills are now being circulated from the First National bank of Birmingham. Those we saw were remarkably new, clean, bright and desirable. What makes them doubly welcome, you get an autograph of Miss Jarvis, cashier, and A. Whitehead, president on each bill. Jay Chatfield, of Troy, was the first one of the public to receive this new money in the ordinary course of business.

If you build a frame house you will have to paint it at least once in three years. It will cost not less than \$75 at present prices for all an labor. That amounts to \$25 per year. And if your house rents for \$12.00 per month, it takes two months rent to keep your house painted each year.

The recent bazaar given by the Willing Workers at the Town hall was most successful in every way and cleared for its promoters the neat sum of \$18.

30 YEARS AGO

Dec. 4, 1880
With a million dollars worth of gifts in Birmingham ready for Christmas shoppers to wrap for their family and friends, it ought to be the merriest Christmas ever. Merchants have combined the buying centers of the world to get together all the newest and most original of comforts and conveniences.

FRANKLIN — Mr. and Mrs. George Pickering Monday celebrated their golden wedding anniversary at a dinner party at their home. Forty guests were present. Their twin daughters, two sons and five grandchildren participated in the celebration. Over 12 years ago, Mr. and Mrs. Pickering lived on the old Pickering farm, one-half mile north of the village.

BLOOMFIELD HILLS — At a meeting of the Village commission of Bloomfield Hills Tuesday evening, it was voted to purchase a new automobile for the police department to replace one of those now in use, which has been driven 34,000 miles. Two cars are constantly maintained by the commission for police use, Chief of Police William Putnam said. The Birmingham branch of the

National farm and garden association will meet Monday at 2 p.m. in the Community house.

15 YEARS AGO

Nov. 29, 1945
A dozen or so local dog owners appealed to the Birmingham city commission Monday evening for changes in the city's dog ordinance. They were especially interested in elimination of the provision calling for annual immunization against rabies, or for some changes in the present immunization legislation less frequent.

In a real nice letter home to their mother, Mr. Leora Cummings, 195 Henrietta, three of the five Cummings servicemen tell of having met for an afternoon together in Tokyo. They had not been together for about three years and said one afternoon was all too short in which to get caught up on news. First to reach Tokyo was Lt. Jack Cummings, U.S. Marines, then in came Tom, a water-tender 2/c aboard the destroyer tender U. S. S. Piedmont. Then both men kept an eye out for the U. S. Army division in which Lt. James Cummings was serving. They lost no time in hunting up the army officer

STRICTLY FRESH

You can always spot the political die-hards these days. They're the ones who keep talking about 1964.

Likewise, everybody who was really interested in the last election can be identified by the bags under the eyes—from those sessions with television.



Since the invention of elastic, it's estimated that women now take up a third less space.

Tombstone inscription: "To the memory of Freddie, an Army mule, who like kicked 3 generals, 8 colonels, 15 sergeants, 97 privates and 1 bomb."

Why is it that so many girls with hourglass figures allow their sand to shift?

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TWO EX-AREA MEN HAVE SOME REAL CHRISTMAS GOODIES IN THE STORE FOR YOU AT THEIR NEW VERO BEACH FRUIT STAND—Jack Adderley went to Vera Beach, the very heart of the world-famous Indian River citrus country, from Bloomfield Hills. Tom Ashcraft came down from Birmingham. They are now open for business at their new Plantation Groves stand. We say "stand" in jest, of course; actually it is one of the newest and most modern fruit packing plants in all Florida.
Jack is President and Tom is General Manager. You can't miss the plant when you're down Vero Way; it's on the east side of U.S. Highway No. 1, near the south city limits. Be sure to come in, for an "old home week" welcome.
Reason for giving you this background is quite simple—Plantation Groves wants to be the Bloomfield-Birmingham Santa Claus agent on Holiday fruit gifts. There can only be one "champion", one "best", in oranges and grapefruit, the Very Best is Indian River Citrus. Only about 10 per cent of Florida's total citrus production can carry the coveted Indian River stamp-of-quality approval. Only a small portion becomes available for out-of-Florida consumption, because it is the "first choice" for the home-folk, and for the single juice and concentrate producers, who have to use the best. It is literally "the citrus man's citrus."
Plantation Groves will produce and ship only Indian River citrus. It will be constantly checked for quality. It will be washed and packed on a day-by-day schedule for firm freshness, and will be shipped only on a satisfaction-guaranteed basis. Prices are competitive with lesser varieties, and there has been no consumer cost inflation because of Hurricane Donna damages in some parts of the state. For example, a big bushel of oranges, or grapefruit, or "half-and-half", is only \$8.25; a full half bushel is just \$5.95—all orders shipped prepaid.
These are reasons then why Jack Adderley and Tom Ashcraft sincerely solicit your fruit patronage this Christmas as well as any other time. You cannot beat Plantation Groves quality or service. While the clock is running out for Holiday orders, there is still time for you to do business with former residents who want to make good in the old hometown area, too. "We can accept Christmas orders up to December 10." Please write today for airmail-answered particulars to:
PLANTATION GROVES
P. O. BOX 1746
VERO BEACH, FLORIDA
Do this and we'll all have Happier, Healthier Holidays. Thanks!