

Dangerous Attack in the Offing

Congressional liberals will launch an attack on the House Rules Committee in the opening days of the next Congress. Here's why:

The Rules Committee has the job of insuring an orderly flow of legislation to the House floor for action. It must choose among thousands of bills the ones worthy of House consideration.

RIGHT NOW, CONSERVATIVES control the committee and liberals control the House. Naturally the liberals want to change the rules in order to get their bills out of the Rules Committee as quickly and with as little trouble as possible.

A simple majority in the House now can bring a bill to the floor by petition, but liberals are upset because members usually are reluctant to by-pass the committee.

Changing the rules can lead to a traffic jam of legislation on the floor during which many expensive measures can slip through without proper consideration. In the past, the actions of the Rules Committee have saved this country billions of dollars.

THE POWERS of the Rules Committee have remained unchanged for about 50 years, although they have been under attack by first one side and then the other—always by the side with a current majority. In the last half century, every proposal for changing the operations of the committee has been shown to have disadvantages bigger than its advantages.

The changes proposed for 1951 are the same ones that have been brought up and turned down before. The reasons behind them are the same, too: The dominant liberals want a clearer track for roadshowing through their legislative program.

'GET LOST!'



From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

Well, already President-elect John F. Kennedy is being headlined "Jack," just as Eisenhower is "Ike." Newspaper headline writers like short names or nicknames to use in getting out their newspapers. (Who knows but what such familiarity also helps a public official in his relations with voters?)

Russia's attempt to improve the value of its ruble is, if her past treatment of

her currency is any example, not going to fool anybody—even most of her own people. Indeed, this latest magic in handling the ruble brings it closer to rubble . . . or rubbish.

An Englishman, Sir Alan Herbert, once said: "If nobody ever said anything unless he knew what he was talking about, a earth's hush would descend upon the earth."

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER

BY GEORGE WM. AVERILL

A few months shy of five years ago, this column reprinted 40 questions by which a community can be rated as a place to live.

Here we are at the start of a new year. It is a time when we set new goals, polish up old ones, and discard outdated standards and practices.

With this in mind, then, you newcomers to the community can score this list as it affects the community in which you live, do business or participate in civic activities. It might suggest certain specific situations you might lend your efforts to for the coming year.

AS FOR THOSE WHO remember the list, when it first appeared, you might like to compare it with your previous scoring. It might be interesting to see how many "No" answers have become "Yes." You might feel there has been no change. You, too, then might re-dedicate yourself to seeing what can be done about one or more of the "no's".

There is no foolproof questionnaire. If you can circle 30 or more of these virtues, chances are excellent that your hometown is one you can be proud of.

Here we go (next week we'll give you our score):

1. Most high school graduates stay in town. Yes No
2. Getting a loan on a sound business venture is easy. Yes No
3. The local paper constantly pushes civic improvements. Yes No
4. There's a Chamber of Commerce with a live-into manager. Yes No
5. Local speakers pay the same fees as out-of-towners. Yes No
6. There's a place to swim within easy reach. Yes No
7. Young couples have little trouble finding a place to live. Yes No
8. The head of your government is a "get-things-done" man. Yes No
9. Town entrances are free from junk, stacks

10. Teachers' salaries are better than the state average. Yes No
 11. There's at least one doctor per 800 people in your county. Yes No
 12. There's a library with a good collection of recent books. Yes No
 13. Newcomers quickly feel they're part of the town. Yes No
 14. Schools have plenty of room for students. Yes No
 15. Fire insurance rates are low for your type of town. Yes No
 16. Service, veterans' and women's clubs team for projects. Yes No
 17. There is an active, well-organized Boy Scout troop. Yes No
 18. A modern hospital is within your trading area. Yes No
 19. All streets are paved and sidewalks are in good shape. Yes No
 20. Well-stocked stores keep shoppers in the town. Yes No
 21. There's a hotel or motel you'd enjoy if you were a visitor. Yes No
 22. It's easy to find parking space in business section. Yes No
 23. At least one restaurant serves outstanding meals. Yes No
 24. The sewer extension program keeps pace with new housing. Yes No
 25. It's easy to get volunteers for any worthwhile project. Yes No
 26. Public toilets are provided for folk shopping in town. Yes No
 27. Prompt, reasonably priced ambulance service is available. Yes No
 28. Good zoning keeps factories away from residential areas. Yes No
 29. There's an annual Clean-Up, Paint-Up, Fix-Up week. Yes No
 30. Streets throughout the community are well lighted. Yes No
 31. More than half the church congregations are under 40. Yes No
 32. Shade trees line nearly all the streets. Yes No
 33. There's an ample supply of good drinking water. Yes No
 34. There's a recreation center where young people dance. Yes No
 35. The business section has a modern, neat, porous look. Yes No
 36. There's as much interest in local as national elections. Yes No
 37. The tax rate is attractive to new industry. Yes No
 38. There's a community council to guide town progress. Yes No
 39. There's an active PTA. Yes No
 40. Fitness must take regular training courses. Yes No
- (List reprinted by permission of Town Journal)

THE AMERICAN WAY



Urges Kindness, Mercy To All Living Beings

To the Editor:

As we celebrate this blessed season we are reminded of the fact that Christ who could have been born in a castle chose instead to be born in a stable surrounded by animals "the least of these". We are reminded too that He came into this world suffered and died that this great doctrine of justice and mercy might reign. There is no cause that is more God-like than that of animal welfare for it is a cause from which no one ever hopes to gain anything of material nature. Its only reward is peace of mind, the knowledge that by our efforts we have helped to make the world a little kinder place than we found it.

ST. FRANCIS of Assisi, who is

recognized by all faiths as the patron saint of animals lived in the dark ages of barbarism when the light of faith burned dimly. He helped to keep that light burning and today hundreds of years later the light of justice and mercy burns brightly in the humane societies' windows throughout the civilized world.

Kindness and mercy to all living creatures, not political theories, must come before peace to mankind.

How can we pretend to fight for benevolence in government while we praise and reward hideous cruelty to helpless animals?

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NATURE NOW

By Lydia King Frehe
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Ancient, Modern Floras Linked by the Pine Cone

Most of you who read these lines look upon the pine cone as a familiar, decorative object much in evidence during the Christmas season. In truth the cone is a kind of ancient and rudimentary flower. Dried and dead and emptied of its seeds it has little of the allure and none of the fragrance and beauty which we associate with a flower.

THE FOSSIL RECORD tells us that cones were the reproductive structures of our first primitive seed plants which developed from the high spore-bearing ferns and cycads (gymnosperms) which our coal-age swamps. These were alive more than 200 million years ago. That which we now call a flower did not come into existence until the birth of our modern flora, a development which required some 100 more millions of years of living and dying. Strange as it may seem our early flowers grew on trees and shrubs (angiosperms) that first lived in the Arctic region which at that time had a semi-tropical climate. It is therefore correct to say that cones are the place of flowers as the reproductive structures of pine trees and their allies. I hold in my hand a pine cone which grew on my sandy northern soils. It is made up of special reproductive leaves which we call scales arranged in spiral fashion around short stems.

Born on these scales when the cone was new and green and fastened at their bases were the ovules which after fertilization developed into the flat single-winged seeds. There are two of these at the base of each scale and even though my cone is now empty, the imprint of their growth is still visible.

CONIFER SEEDS are called "naked" because they are not completely enclosed in any fruit or husk. Neither are the ovules or ovary as are those of the "true" angiosperms which develop in an ovary completely enclosed in an ovary. (See NATURE, 7-B)

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO

Dec. 30, 1910

The first annual meeting of the stockholders of the Birmingham bank of Birmingham will be held at the banking offices on Jan. 10, 10 o'clock to 4 p.m. for the purpose of electing directors for the ensuing year and such other business. (From Almeron Whitehead, president.)

A lady of our city has found a sure cure for broken dishes. If the dish to be mended can be tied to a short string, then placed in boiling milk and left one hour, you can never tell that the dish had ever been broken and it can afterwards be put in boiling water without the pieces coming apart.

Tuesday evening last the MBA lodge tendered Mr. and Mrs. George a surprise. Two sleigh loads left town early in the evening for a short ride which was enjoyed by all. Each member was supplied with tin horns and bells and as they sped along made such a joyful noise that the snow on the oaks in the maples turned green with envy. At their hosts' home, they spent the evening in card playing, dancing and singing, after which they had an oyster supper.

30 YEARS AGO

Dec. 31, 1920

With the suggestion of accord by the trustees of the county Circuit Court judges that a grand jury should be called to conduct a thorough investigation into the affairs of the county and the selection as prosecutor of Paul W. Voorhies, attorney - general, initial preparations for the investigation were instituted last week. . . . before the jurors are summoned, conferences in which the Grand Jurors must take regular training courses. Frank L. Doty and Glenn C. Gillespie, with Voorhies and Norman

C. Orr, prosecuting attorney, have been held.

Admiration of the window display judges who studied Birmingham store windows assiduously during the pre-Christmas weeks, centered finally on the Kroger displays, especially those in the W. Maple avenue store.

When Charles E. Plumstead, village treasurer sent out \$3,438 in tax rebates to property owners, one wrote to him in appreciation. Hugh W. Hitchcock, Randal St., wrote, "May I express my appreciation . . . it gives added proof that, after all, there really is a Santa Claus, besides confirming my impression of the integrity of our Village officials."

Three brothers . . . added a Birmingham branch to the chain of stores which has prospered because of their efforts. The new store is the Sire brothers grocery store on W. Maple.

15 YEARS AGO

Dec. 27, 1935

The grand opening of the Ranch room in the Cotton House is scheduled for Wednesday evening, Jan. 2 from 8 to 12. At this time all tentacles of the Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills area, their parents and their friends are invited to visit the new "Ten canton room to view and use its new facilities.

Donald Egbert, city manager, who recently returned to Birmingham following his war duties with the Navy at Guam, will resume his work as city manager of Birmingham following Jan. 1. When Egbert was given leave of absence for military duty, the position was filled by Harold E. Goson as acting city manager. Goson retained the post of city engineer.

PERCE IN 1961
... this is our sincere prayer for each of you!
McSweeney's
Specialists in the proper fit of children's shoes
277 Pierce St.

Young Folks
175 Wear Maple
MI 7-2260

Coming Next Thursday
January Clearance

"Smart Fashions For Infants & Children"

Look For Our Big Big Big January Pre-Inventory SALE

Har From HI-WAY FURNITURE MART
1532 WOODWARD AVE., BIRMINGHAM, MICH.
4 BLOCKS N. OF 14th N.W. RD. Midwest 4-1410

Happy New Year!

Here it comes . . . a brand New Year full of the promise of better things! And it's our sincere hope that every happiness you desire will be yours in '51!

The Sales & Service Department of HAROLD TURNER FORD

"Your Friendly Ford Dealer"

464 S. Woodward Birmingham