

## Castro Fashions Chains for Cubans

There is a dictator in Cuba named Castro. His tongue is the law. No free press, no trial by jury. He has confiscated sugar and tobacco plantations belonging to United States citizens. He is taking over the King Ranch properties there, totaling about 5 million dollars.

He is acting like all dictators.

Many sources of wealth have been stolen. No freedom remains in Cuba for any opponent. If Castro is not a Communist, he certainly acts like one.

He has reduced housing rents by 50%. Workers' pay checks have been increased; but to offset these changes he has greatly increased the price of sugar and tobacco.

Women walk the streets and sell their wares by consent of Castro's police. He

promises "something for nothing." It's mob rule.

**YEARS AGO.** CUBA belonged to Spain and was ruled by strong and cruel men. Our country bounced in; Colonel Theodore Roosevelt's Rough Riders cleaned up the mess and gave the Cuban people their freedom.

Now they are in chains again.

The Cuban people are in the same squeeze as they were under the Spanish, but under a home-grown autocrat.

Are we, the American people, to assume that we must coexist with Castro for the sake of peace and tranquility; and, at what price?

## Levinson Honored By Supervisors

Signal honor, which includes the assumption of high responsibilities, recently came to Birmingham citizen David Levinson, when he was appointed chairman of the Oakland County Board of Supervisors. Levinson, one of Birmingham's four supervisors, first became associated with the County body in 1933. His Committee is

the most important in the County set-up — and Oakland County's present more than 750,000 people makes it second only to Wayne in Michigan.

Another position of responsibility on the Board was given to Bloomfield Township Supervisor Arno L. Hulet, that of vice-chairman of the Board, also membership on Levinson's Committee.

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

It takes more than a mere mental whim to start in on a college course if you are in your thirties and if you also are a wife and mother. Yet that's what Mrs. Vera Asher, 2121 Chalmers, Birmingham, and Mrs. Mary B. Schultz, 6074 Livermoir, Troy, did when last fall they enrolled as freshmen students in Michigan State University's Oakland branch. Not only do both "girls" continue to win A's for the excellence of their household chores, but they also manage to get in sufficient homework to win top marks in their academic activities. Congratulations, Gals... what inspirations you must be to your families!

In spite of America's greatest decrease in the number of farmers, the nation's food habits get bigger and bigger... more foodstuff is grown than we can eat. This presents a paradox whose mystery, if solved, would do much to restore the United States to quieter, more domestic tranquility. Maybe we then could enjoy more fully... the pursuit of happiness.

Millions of times, all over the Christian world, words are spoken entreating Divine Providence "to help us to a better understanding... to follow the teachings of Christ... to love our neighbor as ourself..." We ask for help to do these things... forgetting, too often, that "God helps those who (also) help themselves."

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## ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

If everyone went through life with the same degree of enthusiasm for it which Dr. John K. Ormond expresses, what a lot of fun everything would be!

Dr. Ormond has served well and long as a physician-surgeon before his retirement a few years ago.

But the fact he hasn't been taking care of a roomful of patients each day hasn't seemed to slow him down. He was a sort of medical missionary for a year in India. And he and Mrs. Ormond just recently returned to their Beverly Hills home from a leisurely trip around the world.

**ONE PART OF THIS TRIP** he will remember more than any other. He told Birmingham Rotarians about it the other day.

Dr. Ormond paused for five weeks in the Belgian Congo to lecture and conduct clinics there for the foreign and native medical profession.

Just listening to Dr. Ormond is most interesting, at least for me.

In a brief 30 minutes he packed more

information about the Belgian Congo than I ever expected to hear. And Dr. Ormond got it over to me (and I presume the other Rotarians, guessing by their close attention to his remarks) in such an enthusiastic and offhand manner. Accordingly, we probably will remember more facts about the Belgian Congo than we would about the state of Montana from the chamber of commerce of the same!

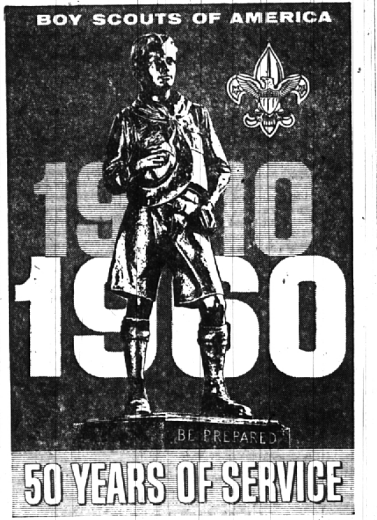
**DR. ORMOND WAS PARTICULARLY** excited about one man he met in the Congo. He was Dr. Henry Becker, who left Illinois more than 20 years ago to minister unto the (and other) needs of a large Congo native community.

"From what I heard, Dr. Becker was talked about more than Dr. Albert Schweitzer, who is in French Equatorial Africa a day-and-a-half trip away from Leopoldville, the Congo capital," Dr. Ormond recalled.

"We had an extremely interesting trip — all the way around the world," Dr. Ormond said.

And it sounded that way, too!

## Boy Scouts Mark 50th Anniversary February 7-13



**NATURE NOW** by Lydia King Frehe  
Special Writer for The Birmingham Executive

## A Tree's Growth Fantasy of Life

Now in a snow-whitened world our broadleaf trees stand like dark silhouettes against a grey sky.

A few hours' into their lives' wood-stemmed joints burst the autumn's bounty into a glowing panorama of yellow, orange and crimson. Now this wealth of leaves lies snowmelted and brown in every crevice and hollow. Held in the secure grasp of the forest floor they will add one more layer to the mooring richness of the humus which accumulates from year to year.

To live its life a deer or a fox must eat a butterfly or a mouse or a man.

These same necessities to supply the energy of the hunger. It has no mouth but it breathes, no stomach but it eats. To satisfy these life needs, a plant develops equipment and chemistry as functional and as complicated as that which maintains the animals.

Mrs. Frehe

**TO LIVE AND GROW** a tree develops roots, a trunk and a crown. Once the seed falls, it sends down roots which seek the richness of the earth and growing shoot which reaches upward for the light.

As the seasons come and see the sapling turns into a tree producing cells, tubes and fibers. The main tap root acts as a drinking quartet, ever growing downward in search of water. The small hair roots are tipped with growing taproot cells. These branch into a complex root system for sucking up and transporting water to all parts of the tree, through the cambium or conductive layer which has just under the bark. As the tree reaches maturity it sends out the great buttress roots which anchor it safely to the ground.

**WHILE THE ROOT SYSTEM** is developing the trunk of the tree is developing the hollow tubes called vascular bundles which transport the food in solution to all parts of the tree. Over all is the covering bark which protects the tender cambium layer from fire, insects and other enemies.

**30 YEARS AGO**  
Feb. 5, 1930  
A week's trip to Washington D.C. during the spring vacation is planned by 80 Baldwin high seniors, largest group ever to make the trip.

**50 YEARS AGO**  
Feb. 5, 1910  
"Frank Benoit has bought a big house which he will enjoy in the hills."

**15 YEARS AGO**  
Feb. 1, 1945  
Coal using residents were advised this week by local dealers to be especially careful in firing their furnaces. Eight weeks of severe cold weather have reduced coal supplies severely.

**THE CHAIRMAN OF THE GOOD ROADS** committee of the Detroit automobile club, Edwin S. George, has solicited \$10,000 which will be given to help build a stone or cement road from the base line to the 12 Mile road, provided that Royal Oak township or several townships shall jointly raise \$20,000 more for the same purpose.

**THE LOCAL CHEROKEE** dealer this week was advertising a roadster at \$495, a sedan at \$675.

**WOODWARD AVENUE** was noticeably darker this week as the national "brownout" went into effect to conserve the electricity output.

And the many hazards which threaten it.

And so season after season the roots drink the life-giving water which in turn is sucked up through the vascular bundles or tubes in the cambium layer. By capillary action it is carried through the stem and limbs to the highest leaf. The final miracle of photosynthesis takes place. By means of this action when the leaf is exposed to light, sugar and starches are formed in the chlorophyll containing tissues of the plant.

**URING THE** sunlit hours, an intricate exchange of gases occurs. The leaf pores take in carbon and give off oxygen. As photosynthesis takes place the resulting carbonic acid gas is separated into its two elements, carbon and oxygen. The carbon is then retained as the food material which feeds the tree while the oxygen is released. This accounts for the "frostiness" of the air wherever trees abound.

The food so produced is now available for the development of new tissues and the repair of old tissues. The starch and sugar in turn make the carbohydrates which in turn are carried downward to all living parts of the stem and the roots. The surplus is stored in the dead cells and heartwood of the tree for future use. This "heartwood" is the bulk of the stem and provides the wood which is so essential for man's needs.

**THIS LAST** action of the leaves is the food producing cycle of the tree. It is a unique process which only plants can carry out. Every animal uses already synthesized materials for making its food. In other words plants alone can make living food from air, sunlight and water. No animal can do this.

In addition to the production of food comes also the breathing organs by way of stomata or small mouths on their under surface. This "breathing" sucking in oxygen from the air and giving off carbon dioxide, goes on throughout life even as a man breathes.

By this process the tree continues its growth until it is felled by the lumberman's axe.

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