

Romney, Van Wagoner: Citizens

Two of our Birmingham area's men who are dedicated to the job of being good, conscientious citizens, are George W. Romney, American Motors Co. president, and Murray D. "Pat" Van Wagoner, former Governor of Michigan.

Romney some months ago launched what has become known as "Citizens for Michigan", a non-partisan organization of citizens designed to lend their aid in improving Michigan's governmental structure. His efforts to date have brought forth good results.

"Pat" Van Wagoner, a prominent Democrat, has offered his experienced services to Citizens for Michigan. Presently, he is chairman of the Oakland County portion of this state-wide organization. "Pat", who made a good record while in Lansing (he operated on a frugal policy, frequently vetoing extravagant portions of the state's

budget) as Governor, also brought nationwide acclaim to Michigan when he served as State Highway Commissioner.

WE MENTION ROMNEY and Van Wagoner as citizens deserving of commendation. Aiding them, of course, are other dedicated men and women, also worthy of praise.

Altogether, Citizens for Michigan is attacking a civic job as old as civilization, to be sure. This group is endeavoring to bring rightful civic pressures upon all who represent Michigan's government, to the end that the problems of our times may be met honestly and intelligently.

Without such a group, unnecessary feuding will continue among too many politicians of both parties. We hope that Citizens for Michigan will prosper into the indefinite future.

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

We don't have the historic data on the subject, but it seems to many of us that of late years Old Man Winter has increased his frigid invasions into Florida. For what reason we cannot say, meteorologically speaking. On the other hand, though, can it be that nature seeks to bring to Florida's original northerners something of the climate they were nourished in? Or is there some other acceptable reason... like for example the northern Democrats giving the southern Demos the political cold shoulder?... or the resentment of the antagonists of integration wanting to put Arkansas Governor Faubus in a deep freeze?... or... but why go on? After all, Florida is a nice State, and no doubt will be able to ward off another glacial age for many years to come...

Soviet Russian leaders have vigorously and openly declared that they intend to bury the United States—and, according to Krushchev, when he visited the U.S. last fall, he defined the "burial" as meaning the decease of the U.S. free enterprise system. So much for our opponents on the international scene. Yet there is another sworn enemy of our free enterprise system: it may be defined as consisting of all within our own country who would substitute the socialist-welfarism system upon us, or who would plunge the federal and State governments into extravagant boondoggling programs. In other words: all who would bring on further inflation and thus cheapen the American dollar. (Please never forget that our enemies may be found both within and without the U.S. borders.)

Persons who agree that the federal (or State) government should take over more controls of business are also inviting that same government ultimately to take over many other segments of our lives... including labor itself. Many persons, unaware, perhaps, of the history of what happens when government's bureaucratic tentacles start grasping, have but to review what has happened in other countries when the citizens abdicated from solving the maximum of their own problems; eventually the tyrant, the dictator gets control. (Observe what Fidel Castro is doing in our neighbor Cuba.)

In his budget message to Congress, President Eisenhower predicted, if his ideas are followed, that the next fiscal year will end up with nearly four billions of surplus, which he wants applied on the national debt. Immediately a goodly number of Democrats in both Houses let it be known that such a surplus is just the dandy gadget upon which to hang some further "welfare projects." Don't you know, like, that when you talk about economizing with federal money with those Demos it's a case of "heads you win, tails I lose"?

We recently met a young woman who has become engaged over the Christmas holidays. Happily, joyously, she allowed fellow-workers to get a close look at the diamond on the proper finger. When she was informed that the happiest of new-weds are those grooms whose brides manage to keep them out of the kitchen... well, she wouldn't believe it.

Way back in 1898 Admiral Dewey, on behalf of his beloved U.S.A., freed Cuba from the tyranny of Spain. "Remember the Maine" was a popular slogan for years afterwards. Resurrection of that slogan might help in winning some contemporary respect for the United States of America, as one Fidel Castro throws his weight around on our nearest Caribbean neighbor.

We read that the male mosquito never bites, since he is a strict vegetarian, not given to the eating of human flesh. Well since some mosquitoes do bite, they must belong to the female of the species. All of which proves, again, that the female of the species is more carnivorous than the male.

Oregon's U.S. Senator Wayne Morse recently fell out of the haymow on his stock farm, injuring himself slightly. But rest assured that his vocal chords were not harmed in the least.

'Tis rumored that a nearby college professor wrote on a student's theme: "Your vocabulary is mean and impoverished but entirely adequate to express your thoughts."

The Birmingham Eccentric

Published every Thursday at Birmingham, Mich., in the Eccentric Building, 220-234 North Woodward Avenue Telephone Midwest 4-1100

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

Time may heal all wounds, but it doesn't solve all problems. Only applied intelligence can accomplish that.

There's a movement under foot to get Oakland county government revamped. "Home rule" is what is desired. So far the effort hasn't gotten very far with the residents of the county. This can be attributed to the fact that these residents haven't been given the reasons for the changes. They've heard generalizations, true. But specific reasons will accomplish much more than general talk. Apparently the facts are buried quite deeply. Or maybe there's no real need at the present time for "home rule"?

Some people have such nebulous ideas that they don't even leave a trace on filter paper.

If police departments applied as much enforcement to taillight requirements on trucks as is applied to expired parking meters, the light bulb companies would have a sudden boom in sales.

There's nothing so nerve-racking as coming upon a tailgate of a truck which those airbrakes are stopping on that proverbial dime! And no stoplights to warn you!

If this hasn't happened to you, then you can't be a motorist!

"Strangest Weather I Ever Saw"



NATURE NOW by Lydia King Frehe Special Writer for The Birmingham Economic Wolverine State Never Nurtured Its Namesake

Michigan is called the "Wolverine" state but it has no wolverines! Students of our fauna doubt that this animal ever lived in our state. People who live with this stealthy and aggressive creature agree that he is not a model to be chosen as a state symbol!

The wolverine is the largest of the family "Mustelinae" which also includes the mink, martin, ferret and weasel. They are sparsely found in circumpolar regions. In North America one must now travel the swamps of Canada and Alaska to see them in their native haunts.

Indians and trappers call the wolverine the "glutton" or "carcajou" and claim he is dominated by an evil spirit. His earliest biographer (1562) makes of him not only a glutton but a ravenous monster of great strength and super-natural cunning. A terror to other beasts and a bloodthirsty master of the forest.

Recent biographers modify this judgement considerably, calling the wolverine an uncommonly large and clumsy weasel-like animal of great strength, cunning and perseverance. All agree that he is a notorious thief of stores of meat and fish and that he will eat and hide carrion on trees and underground caches.

HUNTERS and trappers consider the wolverine to be their greatest enemy for he not only steals the bait and the trapped animals but breaks the trap so that they cannot renew their operations until the beast is killed. All agree that sharp teeth, large curved claws and a powerful body three and a half feet long make of this animal a potent instrument of destruction.

Early summer is mating time, the female producing a single litter of four or five young every two or three years. Because it is nocturnal in habit a wolverine is

seldom seen, but its newly-born young are said to be cream-colored, blind and to weigh only three and one-half ounces. They are nursed for ten weeks and then appear full grown in late autumn, following their mother. They gradually separate from her and at two years of age are independent denizens of the coniferous swamps.

ALTHOUGH THE wolverine is an omnivorous eater he prefers carrion to any other food. In springtime he feasts on the eggs of ground-nesting birds. In summer he robbes the larvae of wasps, undaunted by the ferocious stings he carries thereby. All during the season when berries hang ripe on their stems these are his chief food supply.

Since the wolverine hunts by stealth rather than by surprise, the summer animals are seldom his victims. But with the arrival of winter the situation is reversed for the wolverine makes an excellent automobile robe or bearhug rug. Indians use the brown fur to make a protective head dress and decorated fringe on their garments. It is especially prized because the long hairs do not frost.

Just why an animal so untractable should have been selected as the state symbol of our beloved Michigan is unknown to this writer. But it does know if you want to see a wolverine, that you had better look for it at the nearest zoo.

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO
Feb. 11, 1910

"Sunday, Feb. 20, will be local option field day in the churches of Oakland county. Speakers under the direction of the anti-alcohol league will speak in the Baptist, Methodist and U.P. churches in Birmingham and vicinity at the regular morning services... Let everybody come and hear these men tell why Oakland county should be kept dry."

"Last Sunday morning it was good and clear and cold, being from 3 to 5 below zero."

"Miss Martha Baldwin is home again after a few weeks absence during which time she has been a happy guest of Mrs. Adams, of Elkin, Ill., an old friend."

30 YEARS AGO
Feb. 13, 1930

Birmingham Village Manager James W. Parry now gets a \$2,500 salary. He was given a \$100 raise Monday night by the village commission.

The Western Union office here was robbed of \$209 late Sunday night. Entry was gained by breaking chains holding a rear door transom.

Petition of Charles Dohany for an injunction to restrain Grand Trunk railroad from proceeding with new right-of-way plans across his Troy township property was denied this week by a Wayne county circuit judge. The judge held that Dohany was two years too late with his protest. The railroad has been long in negotiating right-of-way.

15 YEARS AGO
Feb. 8, 1945

There will be an important tennis tournament this July on local

courts. The Western Lawn Tennis association has awarded its junior and boys' championship meet to a Cranbrook school, it was announced.

January was the coldest month Birmingham has experienced in several years. Temperatures averaged just under 17 degrees.

Donald C. Ebert, on leave as Birmingham city manager and now in the U.S. Navy, and three other local servicemen are stationed on Guam, friends here reported.

STRICTLY FRESH

A smile increases your face value.
There's nothing like hard work—and wouldn't it be sad if there were?
People can't be paid merely for living. It must be for earning a living.



Inflation is a state of affairs when you never had it so good or parted with it so fast.

Blow grease is fine to get a lot of jobs done. But even machinery must be oiled in the right spots.

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