

Local Young Man Becomes Serious

One day last week we met a Birmingham young business man who exclaimed: "I've gone into politics! Not as a candidate for some public office, rather to associate myself with my political party. I'm going to familiarize myself with public issues and with candidates of both major parties. In brief, I'm going to try to be a responsible, dutiful American citizen. What, Mr. Editor, do you think of my plan?"

Our answer, you may rest assured, was a hearty endorsement of this young man's plan. We were to search the whole of the language, we could not find adequate words of praise for anybody who responds to the demands of American citizenship...

FOR, WE FIRMLY believe, that respon-

U.S. Senators On Spending Splurge!

Aside from Adlai Stevenson, all Democratic candidates for President are Senators—Kennedy, Symington, Johnson, Humphrey and Morse.

This is really too bad. For the Senate is the big spender, much more so than the House. Time and again the House applies a little pressure on the brakes, and then the Senate increases the amount to be taken out of your pocket.

In the last session, the Senate passed three bills which would increase total spending by twelve hundred million dollars. These have not been acted on by the House, but the heat will be on now.

Once the Senate was the more conservative body, but those days are gone.

With five Senators running for Presi-

bility, when intelligently lived up to, is synonymous with two of the most precious of all words: LIBERTY . . . FREEDOM!

A recent writer in "The Friendly Chat" puts it this way:

"Patriotism is not belonging to a political party, and voting for its candidates . . . that is partisanship. It is not paying taxes to support the government . . . that is discharging obligation for the privilege of security, freedom, liberty. It is not boasting of institutions that make for the education and enlightenment, institutions that must be preserved after we are gone. Patriotism is love of one's own country with a respect more tender, more holy and profound, than one's own life."

dent, they and their cronies will be thinking of votes—next November. The taxpayers could, of course, tell them to vote against more spending, but will they? That is up to you, as one of them.

SENATORS LIVE in a luxurious atmosphere. Their office help costs around \$100,000 for each member.

Four of these Presidential candidates are rich men, or very well-to-do. That's nothing against them personally, but the fact remains that what seems like fortune to most of us is small stuff to them. It is political propaganda to cheer the "Surging Sixties" when dollar bills will light cigars.

Better dig in and hold the line, citizen! Suppose the Sixties don't surge!

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

A chap named Dave Beck, once a humble teamster, eventually became a \$50,000 per year head of that union. Not many months ago he had to resign his office, forced to that measure because he got into trouble with the law. Seems as though he misappropriated some of his union's thousands of dollars. He was tried, convicted, and now has lost an appeal of his case to the Supreme Court, of the State of Washington. He can appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court, or begin his 15-year sentence. Yes, "the who humbly himself shall be exalted" . . . "everyone that exalted himself shall be abased" . . . and pride goeth before a fall . . . "etc., etc. Yep, in the U.S.A. you can do a variety of things.

Senator Hubert Humphrey, a Democratic candidate already for the Democratic nomination for President, loudly asserts that "the next President of the United States is going to inherit a series of problems that have been swept under the rug—where they have been festering and intensifying". Humphrey hopes he

can do the housecleaning, too. What he forgot to say was that what's "under the rug" has been there for many years before he took over in 1953. Maybe rugs should be supplanted by wall-to-wall carpeting.

A few days ago a new U.S. Senate office building was opened in Washington, D.C. It cost 25 millions. Four new glistening electric cars (at \$75,000 each) will transport the statesmen through a 1,000 ft. long, six million dollar tunnel to the Capitol and back . . . to and fro, as it were. This ride lasts only about a minute. (Do you wonder? . . . don't, for the boys who occupy the Upper House have plenty of money to play with; the income tax has arranged that quite nicely . . . thank you!

The University of Michigan, in its mid-year commencement exercises recently, gave diplomas to 1,600 graduates. Wonder if among them may lie the inherent talent to aid in staving off our national decline in morality, in ethics, in self-reliance.

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

In a few weeks, you'll be telling a stranger more personal information about yourself and your family than you've permitted many friends to know.

The stranger will be the U.S. government and its census-takers. While you are required by law to answer the census questions, the census-takers also are required by law to keep such data confidential.

THIS CENSUS-TAKING began thousands of years ago in simple form. Primarily for taxation purposes, the Romans merely counted noses and property.

In 1086, William the Conqueror also wanted to know who-owned-what. He planned to award certain of his followers with some land—which he would take from the English nobility.

Back to nose-counts in the 1400's and 1500's in European cities.

FIRST NATIONAL CENSUS was conducted in the 1700's by the Swedish crown. Census records in all parishes were totaled.

The U.S. government had just been or-

ganized in 1790 when 17 marshals and their few hundred assistants counted the Americans for the first time. This count was to be the basis for taxing states and determining the number of Congressional representatives each state would have.

Sixty years later—in 1850—the "invasion of privacy" began. In that census, the names of people were written down, together with their age, sex, race and birthplace.

IT DIDN'T SEEM too much longer before the census was poking its nose into such things as occupation, education, income, marital status and fertility of women.

In 1950, the government wanted to know what kind of plumbing you had.

This year come April? The census bureau is going to see if we really have been keeping up with those Joneses.

A sampling of the population is going to be asked if it has a washing machine, a clothes dryer, food freezer, air conditioning—and how many cars in the garage.

Posies or Poison Ivy?



NATURE NOW by Lydia King Prehs
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Little Chickadee A Popular Bird

The black-capped chickadee is one of the best loved birds in America. Although it is with us summer and winter, it is most frequently seen in the cold months chattering among the bare branches of trees in orchards or woodlots.

If you have a feeding station the chickadee is easily attracted. He is primarily an insect eater but when the snow lies deep he also relishes sun flower seeds, suet and peanut butter.

The chickadee is smaller than a sparrow, measuring about 5 1/2 inches. His beak is short and stout, his tail long. Easy field identification is possible because of his jet black cap and matching bib. Grey back and some contrast with white cheeks and abdomen which is washed under the wings with the winter landscape is perfect.

CHICKADEES ARE little acrobats performing all sorts of unexpected feats; swinging and chattering and enjoying even the coldest days. In summer they chiefly inhabit woodlands but often spill over into adjacent orchards and shady lawns. When the nesting period is over, they frequently travel in noisy flocks, sometimes accompanied by other species. These birds respond quickly to their easily imitated call or any soft repeated sound, and with a little effort can be tamed and trained to eat out of hand.

When the deep summer woods is cool and shady, the chickadee can count on the chickadee's call as a punctuation of this quiet beauty.

Winter days are cheered by its buoyant chicka-dee-dee-dee, sometimes lengthened to a scolding repetition of dee-dee-dee-dee. Many an amateur walking in a spring or summer woods mistakes its other call "phoebe" for that of the phoebe bird. However, the notes of the latter are harsher and have a decided accent on the second syllable. Sometimes it is also confused with the call of the pewee but he calls three instead of two notes.

THE CHICKADEES' stout little bill is put to good use at nesting time when the pair finds a rotten birch or pine stump, one to ten

feet above ground. Here they hollow out a convenient cavity and line it with fur, feathers, plant down or moss. The female broods the six to eight small white eggs which hatch in 13 days.

The defenseless little ones have many enemies and only a few live to their first autumn age of 9 to 10 years. The larger clutch of eggs must make up for the more hazardous life of our song birds. This contrasts with the longer life span and small number of eggs (two) of the ferocious horned owl which may live to the ripe old age of sixty years. In the bird world the number of eggs roughly correlates with the hazards of life.

THE RANGE OF the chickadee in eastern North America extends from Labrador to the mountains of North Carolina. In winter it migrates to additional southern states but in general it is a permanent resident within its range.

Most of the daylight life of the chickadee is spent in search of insects and their eggs. It is a constant destroyer of these which makes him a valuable citizen of any community and a friend of the farmer and orchard owner. The contents of the stomach of one chickadee revealed the presence of 200-300 fall canker worms while another had feasted on some 450 eggs of the plant louse. One ornithologist gives the chickadee credit for destroying 8 million insects per year in Michigan alone.

IN WINTER WHEN starvation is often a threat, these little birds take refuge in bird's nests, woodpecker holes or under hangings of logs. The bird feeder reaches only a small portion of the hungry ones. However, winter birds are accomplished foragers and keep alive in almost any winter weather except for a bad sleet storm which may cover their feathers with ice so that flying becomes impossible. It is safe to say that winter birds profit less from a feeder than does the one who feeds. For on a winter day the latter can be treated to a show with ever changing acts and characters all of whom are interesting and have their own intriguing characteristics.

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO
Feb. 18, 1910
"George Purdy sold his cozy home, on Bates street, one day last week, for \$2,150 to a Mr. Weffers of Walled Lake. Before the sun had set Geo. P. hustled around and bought one of the new houses built by his brother, Jack last summer on Frank street."

"Dan'l Hughes has sold his saw-mill outfit to Flint parties last week."

"The Epworth League will give a birthday social Tuesday evening, Feb. 22, in the church parlors. Admission one cent for each year of age."

"The Village Improvement society is making plans to hold a fair the second week in March."

30 YEARS AGO
Feb. 20, 1930
"With the opening of the Cranbrook academy of art this month, the fifth unit of the Cranbrook foundation, which has consisted previously of the school for boys, the school for girls, the Bloomfield Hills school for children, and Christ Church, is now under way."

Kroger's was selling popular brands of cigarettes at \$1.25 per carton, two packs for 25c.

15 YEARS AGO
Feb. 12, 1945
A former superintendent of Birmingham public schools died this week at her Royal Oak home. She was Mrs. Oliver A. Green, 60. As Rhoda Starr, she became one of the nation's youngest school superintendents in 1910 when she assumed

the job here. She was 26 years old at that time.

More than a thousand persons attended a special concert at Cranbrook Monday evening by the Detroit symphony orchestra.

STRICTLY FRESH

Given time, fins on cars, as on fish, have a way of evolving into something else.

Girlie magazines will probably be around as long as girls.

Middle age is when you can't make believe that white stuff on your head is dandruff.



No matter what anyone says, one sure cure for juvenile delinquency is time.

Many a mate that has been sealed with a kiss.

Thousands of people read The Eccentric's Ad. So, remember if you want to sell that hard-to-get-rigid article, advertise it in the Want Ad section of The Birmingham Eccentric.

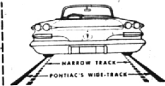
Indian Guides Meet . . . discussion "How to conduct a meet- ing" . . . Buzz sessions will also be held on games, trips and craft projects. All big braves are invited. This is the first district workshop in the metropolitan Detroit area. All big braves are invited.

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