

Discount Much Political Yak-Yak

Now that the rival politicians have begun to backguard each other, we recall what an old Vermont said: "If half of what each says about the other is true, neither is fit for public office. If nothing each says is true, both are unfit for office."

Well, of course, it can't be quite that bad, or we wouldn't afford to have a Government.

We scarcely can afford one now! Now that the gab fest has begun, and will run for nine long months—God help us—the only way to stay sane is to discount a good deal of what every politician says, and as to the remainder, **Think It Through.** There is probably a little truth in what they all say. Try to find it!

IF YOU WERE STONE deaf and went to a Democratic rally, and then to a G.O.P. rally, and depended on nothing but how the crowds looked, it's a mince pie to a pollywog that you couldn't tell which was which.

When the late Al Smith first climbed to the top of his Empire State Building, and looked down on the crowds below, he couldn't tell the donkeys from the elephants. He even said that "All the uncles look like ants!"

When our 'Ant Prudence heard that, she was sure miffed at Al—being taken for an uncles!

So, take it easy, citizens! We've lasted through a lot of elections!

Bottles Filled With Adventure

A native farm boy in the Azores recently found a bottle on the beach. He took out the stopper and found a note inside.

The note had been written and placed in the bottle thousands of miles away. It had been dropped into the sea near the entrance to New York harbor—as a publicity stunt by the sponsor of a radio program. A reward was promised to the finder if the note was returned.

The native boy was shrewd enough to mail in the note and collect his reward—\$1,000. That is one of the many bottle incidents which have been occurring all over the world's oceans for hundreds of years.

IT WILL BE REMEMBERED that messages in bottles have been tossed overboard by sailors for centuries, and that some eye-opening messages have been dropped in the ocean in bottles, and recovered.

Perhaps the greatest user of bottles, for

messages transportation, is the United States Hydrographic office in Washington. The Coast Guard drops these bottles into the ocean and the messages tell the finder to report where they were discovered—to help determine ocean currents and the effect of the winds.

The messages in these bottles are printed in eight languages, but usually, especially with individually-sent messages, the words are in but one language—often a foreign language to the receiver.

MANY STORIES have been told about bottles dropped in rivers far inland, which eventually wound up in the oceans, or in other countries. Once, it is reported, a \$12,000,000 estate was the value of a will which was written and placed in a bottle and dropped into the Thames River. It turned up years later in the Pacific Ocean. One might say, then, that it is wise never to underestimate the contents of a bottle.

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

To refuse to oppose, in every decent way possible, the encroachment of government bureaucracy on your personal liberties and freedoms is but a way of saying: "Come on, Mister Bureaucrat, and control my life. I don't want to have to think seriously about the plight of society in a democracy; I don't want to have to perform voluntary civic duties to get others to vote intelligently. I just want to let others find solutions to every human problem. But, please, Mister Bureaucrat, please leave me enough of my wages to somehow get enough food, clothing, and shelter so that I can stay alive." (When such a state of mind exists, of course, what is there really worth staying alive for?)

A top spokesman, Guy Nunn, for the UAW, has stated that the UAW, as such, will not participate in the forthcoming political campaign—although any UAW member may do so. On the other hand, George Meany, president of the AFL-CIO declares that his organization will jump into this same campaign with both feet, also with both tonsils and no tongue in cheek, either. Is George going to act like a meanie to Walt Reuther?

The Birmingham Eccentric

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Not all is honey and molasses between Uncle Sam and Cuba's Fidel Castro. The youthful prime minister of the Pearl of the Antilles has been in a rampage ever since he chased his predecessor, Batista, from the island a year ago. One of Castro's demeritias is his great hostility toward anything connected with the United States. He has expropriated millions of dollars worth of U.S. properties. Maybe Uncle Sam will get riled enough to cease being Cuba's "sugar daddy"—for we are Cuba's best customer for that sweet foodstuff.

Chief reason why the federal budget can't be balanced is that the budget's center of gravity is controlled by politicians—instead of plain, old-fashioned honesty.

If men had hips like women, would they (men) be required to wear suspenders in order to keep their pants up? Answer: not if they wore belts.

Very few men or women have attained important success without, during the process having to travel the highway of Rough Going.

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

Then there was the Birmingham woman—new to this state—who met a personable man at a university of alumni party a few months ago. She and the man's wife, it was discovered, had gone to the same university.

So our Birmingham woman liked her new acquaintance's personality, and offered this comment: "You ought to run for political office!"

Her suggestion drew from him a broad smile. Her new friend was Paul Bagwell, Michigan's Republican standardbearer.

Public and private resources have been giving lots of consideration to the plights of compulsive drinkers, compulsive gamblers, compulsive nar-

cotic addicts. They perhaps are unaware yet of a new social personality problem which has grown tremendously since World War II. It's compulsive television-watching.

We all should listen to the other fellow's facts long enough so we can go home confused at a higher level.

How about a couple of swans for each of our nearby lakes? Especially Quarton, Gilbert, Wing, and Vhay lakes? Give an additional touch of refinement, don't you think?

These birds are an entertaining breed, and often live to be 40 or more years old.



NATURE NOW by Lydia King Frehse

Nutmeg Tree Source Of 2 Popular Spices

When your scribe visited the Federal Experiment Station at Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, she saw growing there the largest collection of tropical plants in the world. Among them was the nutmeg tree.

The nutmeg tree (Myristica fragrans) grows wild in the Molucca Islands and New Guinea. These lie about 100 miles north of Australia and are called the "Spice" Islands. The nutmeg is an evergreen tree of medium size with shiny ovate leaves which remind one of our southern magnolia. It is now cultivated in Grenada and other islands of the West Indies. Because both nutmeg and mace come from its seed, it is called the "tree of twin spices."

IF YOU COULD walk the hot humid valleys of these tropical islands at harvest time you would see the nutmeg tree covered with a small golden yellow fruit about the size of an apricot. When ripe, it splits into halves disclosing a seed covered with a curious fibrous material of bright red. This is removed and dried in the sun until it turns yellow. When ground it is used as the delicate spice called mace.

The seed itself is spread out in the sun on trays or tarpaulins until the kernel dries and shrinks. The shell is then safely broken, usually by women laborers who use a special wooden mallet which cracks the shell so the avoid nutmeg is then put into bags and exported to ground and hives as you find them on the shelves of your supermarket.

NUTMEG is a valuable crop. A good tree will yield 1,500-2,000 nuts per year. The nutmeg is planted about 40 feet apart and when mature will produce about 1,000 pounds of nuts per acre. The

THE GARDENER'S CORNER
The Answers to Your Gardening Questions by Bob
QUESTION OF THE WEEK:
What kinds of fruit trees should we plant in the garden of a new home?
BOB'S ANSWER:
We would advise not planting too many fruit trees the very first year. They need care, spraying and pruning and might be neglected in the press of other garden work. Come see us with your garden plans and we will advise as best we can.
LI 9-4122
THEISEN'S
Garden Mart
3826 Woodward
(near 13 1/2 Miles) Royal Oak

Olsen's Market
407 Brown at CHESTER
Established 1924
Something New Has Been Added
Olsen's has an exciting new sauce recipe for Olsen's famous Ham Loaf. You start with red cherries or plums, out of a can—but first you get the Ham Loaf. It's ready to bake. It is finely-ground from ham and pork, with fresh eggs and fresh milk added for mellowness, delicately spiced, and all blended with bread crumbs into a loaf. Bake it two hours at 320°. Meanwhile make the sauce, we'll tell you how.
Try OLSEN'S... Breaded Pork Chops... Stuffed Pork Chops
Home Made Pork Sausage... Ham Salad... Ham Loaf
Crown Roast of Pork... Steaks... Poultry... Fish
FINE-QUALITY FRUITS, VEGETABLES, GROCERIES and SPICES
Ask for: Merritt Harold Phil Bob Patricia (Pat to you)
"We Deliver" MI 4-1916

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Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO
March 11, 1910
"J. Waters Lee, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Volney H. Lee, last week Friday evening caught a man robbing his house. In making his escape, the murderous burglar shot Mr. Lee twice, one shot in the groin making a dangerous wound. Dr. Ascher Lee, the victim's brother, said he will recover."

"Mr. J. M. Kelly, the new Birmingham Exchange manager, has set April 1 for a hearing on a petition for condemnation of land in Southfield, Farmington and W. Bloomfield townships desired by the state for Northwestern highway. The highway eventually will be carried across the state. So far it extends only to the Orchard Lake road."

30 YEARS AGO
March 13, 1930
"Construction work on the Community House is now completed and all the new furniture is in the building. The official moving day will be Saturday."

Harry Allen defeated incumbent H. T. Ellerbe in Monday's village election in a close vote, narrowest in the history of the village. Allen won by a six-vote margin, 605 to 609. Voters approved the \$24,000 issue to pay for property for the civic center which had been obtained by condemnation action.

"Probate Judge Dan A. McGaffey has set April 1 for a hearing on a petition for condemnation of land in Southfield, Farmington and W. Bloomfield townships desired by the state for Northwestern highway. The highway eventually will be carried across the state. So far it extends only to the Orchard Lake road."

15 YEARS AGO
March 8, 1945
A Birmingham market was suspended for 21 days for violation of price ceilings. The suspension was ordered by the Oakland county circuit court. Complainant was the local war and price rationing board.
"Four Birmingham boys filled

OBEDIENT!
Thousands of people read The Eccentric Classified Ads. So remember if you want to sell that hard-to-get-rid-of article, advertise it in the Want Ad section of The Birmingham Eccentric.
STRICTLY FRESH
Most people find that "success" comes before "work" only in the dictionary.
Statistics have shown that nine out of 10 women haters are women.
When it comes to helping others these days—some people will stop at nothing.
The guy who invents all the jokes has a good memory for the ones he hears.
If all the cars in the country were placed end to end there would be someone who would pull out and try to pass.
PONTIAC ONLY CAR WITH WIDE-TRACK WHEELS
Wide-Track widens the stance, not the car. With the widest track of any car, Pontiac gives you better stability, less lean and sway, accurate control.
SEE YOUR LOCAL AUTHORIZED PONTIAC DEALER
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