

Welcome, Rotarians!

On Sunday and Monday (April 9-10) Birmingham will be host to some 300 Rotarians and their wives when the 638th district of Rotary International holds its annual conference at Cranbrook in Bloomfield Hills. Rotarians will be coming here from Southeastern Michigan and Southern Ontario.

To them we extend our warmest welcome.

Rotary clubs in this district have a distinguished service record. Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills citizens are well aware of the work these local clubs perform in carrying out the organization's "ideal of service". Rotary's most outstanding service is its aid to crippled children.

WHEN ONE MULTIPLIES the efforts of Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills Rotarians by 500,000—for that is the number of Rotary club members in 120 countries—one becomes aware of the great scope and influence of this worldwide service organization.

Our Rotary clubs here are two of more than 10,700 clubs throughout the world which are working for community betterment, for high standards in business and professions, and for international understanding, goodwill and peace. This is indeed a reassuring indication, in these critical times, of the popularity and practicality of idealism.

ROTARIANS OF THE 638th district this week will review their service activities and plan ways of making their future efforts even more effective. They also will enjoy the personal fellowship that always has been the keystone of Rotary by renewing old friendships and making new ones.

We know they will have a successful conference.

Can UN Outwit Communists?

More frequently we now read about the failure of the United Nations to rally a larger number of its members to the cause of freedom on this earth. Chief reason for this condition lies in the fact that the communist world, led by soviet Russia, appears able to manipulate U. N.'s many new members into a state of neutrality, or one of downright sympathy for the cause of Communism.

We join all freedom-loving people in lamenting this deterioration of the humanitarian principles upon which the United Nations was founded.

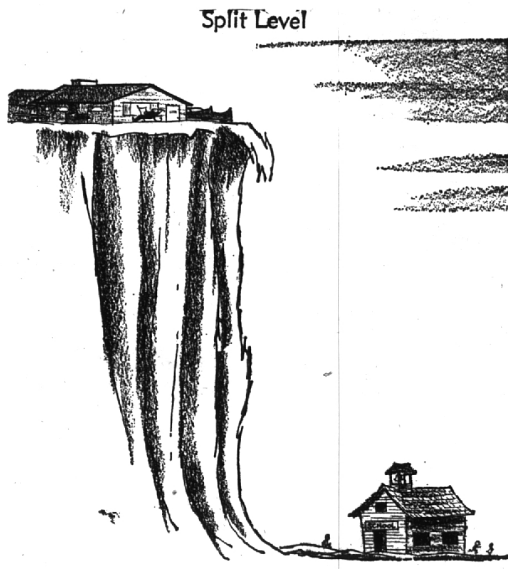
For a considerable time the United Nations has been in need of increased financial assistance from all of its members and it is a matter of current record that for some time the United States has financed approximately 2/3 of the U. N.'s operations, with Russia paying little or nothing.

IT MUST NOT BE forgotten that every new member, however small its population may be, has an equal vote with that of the United States and other great countries. In view of this, it doesn't require a crystal ball for one to prophesy that, with the continuing addition of the primitive peoples of Africa and other parts of the world, they will be able to join with the Communists in dominating the U. N.'s activities.

Perhaps it won't be too long when the remaining freedom-loving nations may have to decide whether or not to remain as a minority and helpless group within the U. N., or to leave the U. N. and form a coalition definitely committed to the cause of freedom, a cause which from past records the Communist world will never support.

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

Until our free, western nations become more fully informed about the Communist movement to vanquish every free country's people; until we set in motion an intelligent, aggressive long-term movement to defeat the march of Communism—well, freedom will ever be in jeopardy. No nation today, we believe, can persuade Soviet leaders to accept freedom as a national goal; no nation can expect the Soviet to carry out a decent agreement. The Soviets have signed scores of them, then refused to live up to them. Yet they continue to sign new pacts, agreements in keeping with their current pattern of attack on freedom... only to toss them into the wastebasket when it suits their convenience and strategy. In the meantime, the



Editorial Page

A Free, Responsible and Aggressive Press Is Democracy's First Line of Defense

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nations defending freedom will be required to keep militarily alert, militarily strong... for, we agree with others, this "cold war" is a war in reality... the Communists are waging it as a fight to the death. They openly boast that they "...will bury" everything that freedom stands for.

The spirit of the mob, when conditions are right, so often explodes into the barbarism of the mob. Witness the recent student "explosion" on the beach at Ft. Lauderdale, when 3,000 vacationing youngsters engaged the police in physical combat. Reports said that the youth rebelled because they were chased from the unlighted ocean beach there... an area where police interfered with romance and beer... and youth. Police did take about 150 of them into temporary custody... then released 'em.

Use of Birmingham's former sewage disposal plant as the new home of the Bloomfield Art Association is, to say the least, an unusual transition. Because they will have to move from their first and only "home" on N. Woodward, because it is going to be demolished to provide additional space for a parking lot, BAA had to find another place... and pretty quick, too! Let's hope our community responds to whatever is needed to transform this disposal plant into an acceptable art center. This unique organization already has proved itself a practical aid in bringing several forms of art culture to our people.

In his first press conference, Secretary of Labor Arthur J. Goldberg affirmed the intent of the Kennedy administration "... to depend upon private enterprise to make American business flourish." Thank you,

One Thing or Another

BY GEORGE WM. AVERILL

How, then, can one continue to do something which is "illegal"—and admit it publicly, yet?

Well, financial aid to such privately-operated groups as the clinic is not illegal in the legal sense. However, this does not prevent any supervisor from SAYING such aid is illegal. That is really all they are doing—expressing their opinion.

It seems that on Feb. 26, 1956, the county corporation council's office issued an opinion that such aid to private groups is unconstitutional.

But the opinion added, "However, since statutes are to be presumed to be constitutional and valid until otherwise adjudicated [declared by the courts], there is sufficient authority at the present time to justify the appropriation..."

In other words, the corporation council's office believes the appropriation illegal, and so do some supervisors. However, the courts never have so declared.

So every man should have a wife, if only as a matter of education.

You may be confused, as I was until the other day, about why the Oakland County Board of Supervisors has been so lukewarm over more financial aid for the Oakland County Child Guidance Clinic. One of the arguments of some supervisors has been that "we can't do it legally."

The public's confusion arises because the county since 1944 has given financial aid to the Clinic.

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Original Ideas Lacking Among Our Presidents

To the Editor:

I am most pleased to report to you that people actually do read newspapers, as evidenced by the fact that my letter to you published a couple of weeks ago resulted in numerous calls, letters and, in one case, a query from Mr. William Lyman Birmingham through your columns on March 23.

The majority of the commentators read my letter through carefully and were in accord with it. There were a few that had not read it through carefully and were quite critical but after the salient points were discussed they also found themselves in harmony with it.

Possibly Mr. Lyman is also of the group that did not carefully read my letter.

I HAVE BEEN a student of history all of my life and in passing may I say that I am now quite past the age at which most people retire.

Because of my historical research activities, I find it interesting that gifted men that have been elevated to the presidency of the United States invariably do not come up with an original idea and in this Mr. Kennedy is no exception.

The world is now seeing Mr. Kennedy beginning to back pedal on some of his campaign promises and we will see much more of that in the not too distant future because campaign promises and performance in office are diametrically opposed to each other.

WITNESS THE fact that the panic talk about recession, retrenchment, business stagnation, etc., is being replaced by the proverbial condition, less need for emergency legislation, etc., all within a period of three months.

Mr. Kennedy is a very intelligent man and he is undoubtedly finding out the same thing that his predecessors found out; that it is one thing to sit on the sidelines and criticize and quite another thing to be sitting in the seat at which the criticism is aimed.

He may become a very great president for the sake of our country, I hope that he does.

IT WOULD be most ridiculous to assess his future actions as President on his actions as a senator and as a candidate. I predict that much of his youthful enthusiasm will vanish rapidly in the sober realization that the presidency of the United States is an extremely big job.

Mr. Lyman evidently is of the school that feels that all wisdom, intelligence and good ideas are centered in the legislative and executive halls in Washington, D.C. I do not subscribe to the school of thought at all. Some years ago, I wrote "The Great American Can" which has been rather widely published and here it is:

"IT IS MY prerogative, as a free-born American to choose the man I wish to treat as a ruler and I remain within the bounds of decency." (See IDEAS, 5-B)

Yes, There Is Room In Heaven for Dogs

To the Editor:

An answer to a letter from a small boy owner of a shepherd dog.

I am sorry your teacher told you "there is no room in heaven for dogs." I can understand that statement has disturbed you.

Heaven is a big place because heaven is God's creation. The stars and the moon, to the stars and back to earth.

THE MILLIONS upon millions of folks who have owned dogs and gone on to their heavenly home surely would feel lonely without their dogs. As there is no loneliness in heaven, why should the provision for man's best friend. We are certain of this for it was God who named the dog by spelling His own name backwards.

Yes, Heaven is a big place with lots of alley ways, long lanes banked with flowers, good little rabbits munching on golden carrots and by their side good old big and little, dozing in the pure sunshine of celestial space.

It would be surprising strange were there no dogs in heaven, for I believe that the happy little dog which followed him back and forth from Nazareth to Judea the salesman called streets of Jerusalem and accompanied him in the boat when He crossed the stormy Sea of Galilee.

HELEN G. FERGUSON, 955 So. Bates Birmingham

Letter Brings Pleasant Result

To the Editor:

A few lines of thanks for publishing my recent article on "It Could Happen Here" did not do it. I am sorry indeed that someone gave you the misinformation that "there is no room in Heaven for dogs."

HELEN G. FERGUSON, 955 So. Bates Birmingham

Con-Con Issues Not Understood

To the Editor:

There are many people who either do not know or understand little of the issues involved in the Constitutional Convention.

The March 2 Birmingham Eccentric was very valuable and interesting and it is being mailed to various parts of the country.

S. OLSHANSKA Orchard Lake

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO

April 7, 1911

The meeting of the Birmingham Women's Literary Club was held at the home of Mrs. Hulbert with 25 members and several visitors present. The meeting was devoted to the legislative committee who had arranged a mock session of the Michigan legislature. After roll call by the clerk, each member brought up some law that had been prominently before the people during the past few months.

Town meeting came around April 2 and as usual went Republican with the usual generous majorities. The Democrats put up no ticket in Troy and in Royal Oak and Southfield did not secure the election of any candidate at all.

Surveying parties for the Grand Trunk Railway are causing all sorts of reports to fly about regarding a new line east of the present road-bed. Farmers east and north of the present location are being disturbed by the prospective change brings the shrieking locusts and the citizens and barns belonging to them.

30 YEARS AGO

April 9, 1931

Birmingham business and professional men, bent upon forming a cooperative organization to foster a closer relationship between themselves and the citizenry, held their first meeting in the Commercial Hotel. Present were: Alfred LaBelle, local merchant opened the meeting with a brief report on the existing situation of the group. Forty-one persons were present.

During the first four days of April, Birmingham experienced a record increase in building activities. Donald C. Egbert, building inspector reports. Permits for new

Talk of the Towns

It happens every year just about now that the windows are open, fresh air comes in and all of a sudden "working and housekeeping—NUTS!"

"Last week I heard the wild geese fly, winging north in the lonely sky. Tried to fight but it was no use because I'm a sister to the old wild goose."

Kidding? Never.

One of the most spectacular sights to behold is a sky blackened by thousands of wild birds heading north for the spring.

Living in Birmingham, one only catches sight of a few of these graceful and streamlined aviators as they fly in formation toward Canada. But, there are spots that suburbanites can really see this wonder of nature.

Jack Minor's sanctuary for the geese is located near Leanington, Ont. According to a blackboard outside the observation area, more than 50,000 geese have numbered lunch there. It's a phenomenon worth seeing.

Another indication of spring is the unbelievably loud sound of the insects scuttling around on the southeast corner of Adams and Featherstone roads.

Even little birds are assailing around the tree tops out that way, adding to the chaos of a new season. It isn't only seeing that suggests spring. Hearing is just as vivid.

The first bit of warm weather sends this writer into a frenzy of remembering old stomping grounds.

The foot of 12th Street, behind the rail cars, is a spot to take a camera, if you're interested in human nature. There, fishing for nothing is an art.

The very end of Coolidge Road is "the spot" for waving back to the first venturers on the Bob-Lo boat.

The river's edge in Ecorse is one better. There are benches.

As for "inside outside places to ponder", Strand Drive on Belle Isle has something interesting to offer.

The Dossin Great Lakes Museum, built specifically to house the history of the Inland Seas, is located where the visitor can see the long ships passing while he observes their past. The exhibits include the largest collection of ship models built to one scale.

Just last week, another sight suggested the real need for spring.

A big black car drove by. Fingered in the dust on the road.

"Zorro rides again!"

Yes, it's time for the family's outdoor car-washing brigade. Give the little members a rag, shove them inside to scrub-a-dub, then slam the door.

It is time to flood away winter's grim grime.

By KEN WEAVER

City Beat

For five years Julie Candler, with camera in hand, chased fires for The Birmingham Eccentric. Wednesday night of last week there was a fire at Julie's house, 1288 Dorchester.

Seems she and husband Bill had been trying to smoke out a raccoon.

Which proved to be a hazardous thing to do—when you have a defective chimney and don't know it.

Some reporter arrived on the scene, camera in hand.

Sees dramatic shot: Fireman atop aerial ladder spraying water on chimney and roof.

Focus, set adjustments, place bulb in flash gun, click shutter—no flash.

Julie, helpful and observant as ever: "Wanta use my camera?"

Meekly: "May I?"

Two shots left. It works. Picture taken.

MR. AND MRS. Clarke F. Andreas are back from their three-week trip to South America.

They met our friend Tobias Juca de Castro, the man in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, who has been communicating with Birmingham city officials and The Eccentric.

"That's his hobby," said Mrs. Andreas, "he writes to people all over the world."

They found Castro "a little nervous man."

For four hours a day he works as secretary of the Uruguayan-Brazilian Chamber of Commerce. The rest of the time he gives private tutoring lessons in Portuguese.

"MR. CASTRO picked Birmingham to write to after a friend sent him a copy of a Detroit Sunday magazine section which carried an article about our Mrs. Willett," explained Mrs. Andreas. She said he was quite grateful for the pamphlets and brochures she delivered to him from Mayor Willett, the Birmingham School District, the Chamber of Commerce and The Eccentric.

"He's 50 years old and says he's very tired," Mrs. Andreas commented.

"He said he worked for 12 years without a vacation. He took a week one time, got too nervous and had to go back to work."

Castro is secretary of the Central-Alagoan Society (Alagoa is a small state north of Rio). The society has 30,000 members who meet to exchange ideas and help people who are in need.

MRS. ANDREAS said their visit to Rio proved "very educational."

More about this next week.