Remember Olden FOURTHAJULY'S ?

A curious document has come to our attention. It appears to be a letter describing various aspects of American civilization. We quote a part of it:

"One custom worth noting is called Fourthajuly. It is not a custom, really, but a sort of day of celebration. Ascertaining what is celebrated presents some difficulties, however.

"My own observation leads me to believe that the occasion is essentially a kind of midsummer festival, marked often by revels that seem to be bacchanalian in origin. There is a great deal of rushing about the countryside, sometimes for hundreds of miles, during a period of several days. Large quantities of various beverages are consumed—distilled spirits and malt brews, as well as the harmless juice of the vine.

"THE HIGH POINT of the reveling is ordinarily reached at something called a Fourthajuly picnic. The participants in these rites seem determined to exhaust themselves in a series of gyrations that involve dancing, impromptu athletic games, and other ritual activities. There also appears to be intermittent worship of the sun god. From time to time, men seem to be mouthing incantations from platforms, but nobody listens to these.

"Some scholars hold that this strange admixture of group activities has its true origins in the signing of a paper called the Declarashunaindependence many decades ago. It is pointed out, in support of this theory, that Fourthajuly once was widely known as Independence Day. The theory is an intriguing one, but it seems to bear scarcely any relationship to Fourthajuly celebrations in our time. This is a pity. The idea of celebrating Independence Day is rather attractive."

Is Monroe Doctrine To Be Preserved?

A statement made by Mexico's foreign minister, Manuel Tello, raises a question of seemingly vital portent to the United States. Mexico, Tello declared, has never recognized the Monroe Doctrine. The historic circumstances which led to adoption of the Monroe Doctrine make this declaration seem a strange comment to come from any Latin American country.

In 1820, after Spain's South American countries—including Mexico—won their independence, President Monroe issued a statement wishing them success and pledging our non-interference. The following year, the self-styled "Holy Alliance"—Russia, Austria and Prussia—proposed to implement their hostility toward representative government by bringing about the downfall of the embryo South American governments.

THIS LED TO PROMULGATION of the Monroe Doctrine, in which we told the Holy Alliance "we should consider any attempt on their part to extend their system to any portion of this hemisphere as dangerous to our peace and safety."

Doesn't Latin America understand that what we were saying was that we would fight to protect their independence? The Holy Alliance understood it. And isn't Russia's role in Cuba an attempt to "extend their system" to Castro's island?

The time seems auspicious for the United States to seek—through the Organization of American States, of course—parleys with other countries in Latin America to determine their stand. Do they support the Mexican attitude?

'Big Chiefs' Also Engage in 'Words'

Much was made of the recent open disagreement between Chief Justice Warren and Justice Frankfurter. News accounts emphasized the asperity of this Supreme Court dispute. Yet the most striking thing about the set-to was the judicial calm that prevailed. This despite keen differences of opinion, apparently steamed up by mutual feelings of outrage.

The chief justice and his colleague did tangle in open court. They spoke with some heat. But discipline and control were the watchwords. Not long after the exchange, the two were conversing without apparent rancor.

The incident is instructive. Most of us, when involved in a controversy about which we have strong feelings, are likely to be mastered by emotion before many words have been said. The hot blood rises, and soon we are saying things both stupid and unfair instead of holding to rational argument. The trick of disagreeing without being disagreeable is something for everyone, and not only judges, to learn.

"Tsk! Tsk! They Don't Make 'Em the Way They Used to!"

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

Thursday, July 6, 1961

The Birmingham Eccentric

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From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

Upon his recent return from visiting 18 South American countries Ambassador Adlai E. Stevenson made his report to President Kennedy. Mr. Stevenson found, during his trip, that "the rich seem to be richer and the poor were poorer" than when he visited those countries over a year ago. He also stated that communism had made further inroads in many of these neighboring countries. What he reported no doubt will stimulate the Congress to provide President Kennedy with untold hundreds of millions of dollars to be used in those countries which, by some of their own efforts, their leaders promise to bring greater prosperity to the masses as well as to launch them on those evolutionary procedures which it is hoped will result in something of the Democratic status in self-government.

Congressman William S. Broomfield questions the wisdom of the Kennedy administration's spending program, wherever it touches "extravagance, wastefulness." He admits that certain expenditures are necessary, especially when they concern realistic defense programs. But he raises a real economic problem, as it impacts upon ". . . the retired, the widows who are living off insurance and dividends, the unemployed who are receiving fixed amounts from state and federal governments . . . thus inflation hits those hardest who can afford it least . . ." Broomfield also says "We are being asked to sacrifice the future financial well-being of our children, to force them to pay debts which we are accumulating. This isn't sacrifice. This is folly."

Says a "nasty" Hoosier editor: "Why don't they plan on sending a rock 'n' roll singer up as the first man to orbit around the globe? That way, if the thing fails, we will at least have one thing to feel good about."

Talk of the Towns

By DENI SCANLON

No matter what this reporter's assignment has been during the past few years, there is one job that has never lost its attraction.

The weekly editing of Mrs. Lydia King Frehse's "Nature Now" column is what can be termed an education—so much so that curiosity set in and it came time to find out how and where she went about amassing such a great amount of knowledge about nature.

The story behind the pen of The Birmingham Eccentric's special writer is an interesting one.

Mrs. Frehse was an English major when she attended Ashland College in Ohio, but during the war she was forced to teach biology—science was her minor subject.

"That was my first concentration in science," Mrs. Frehse explained.

In 1920, she was thrust into really living what she taught when she married Robert M. Frehse.

"We honeymooned in the Ozarks where my husband was director of a camp for boys. I was scared to death by the snakes, whippoorwills and moonshiners. We lived in a cabin on the top of a gulch that was full of lizards and snakes. I even found a snake on the mantel one day when I was dusting," she added.

The only woman in a camp for 150 boys, she had to learn about "those creatures" (the snakes and lizards) in order to survive. Mrs. Frehse did just that for four years.

In 1924, she and her husband came to Detroit where he became the director of education at Westminster Church. It was shortly following the move that they founded Camp Westminster on Higgins Lake. The Frehse family spent the next 22 years there.

Beth, Robert M. Jr. and Rosemary were reared in the camp atmosphere. Now married, Beth resides in Seattle; Robert is in Caracas, Venezuela, and due to move to Jamaica next month. Rosemary is living on a farm in the Rochester area.

When the Frehse children were old enough to blaze trails of their own, their mother began to take over the camp's nature program.

Her husband, she claims, was and is her best critic. A dedicated naturalist himself, Mrs. Frehse recalls many an outdoor chapel hour that was interrupted by his question, "Do you hear that yellow warbler?"

The only successful way to teach youngsters about nature, she feels, is to acquaint them with it in the field. "Microscopes and books come a little later," she says.

Although they were busy with camp and nature programs, the Frehses maintained a permanent home in Ferndale where they have been residents for 35 years.

Since her husband took over direction of the National Conference of Christians and Jews for Michigan, Mrs. Frehse settled down to "write in earnest."

She has contributed columns to The Birmingham Eccentric for 10 years and is a columnist for an Ohio paper. She also writes articles for many nature and youth publications.

Mrs. Frehse officially earned a bachelor's degree and has completed "a doctorate's worth of work in a combination of many fields at many schools."

She is proudest of her membership in the Sullivan Moss Society. The Michigan Botany Club, the Audubon Society and guiding nature studies are presently the 125-lb. grandmother's most active endeavors.

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Says Land Question Pertinent to Prosperity

To the Editor:

The most important issue confronting the Constitutional Convention will be the economic problems of wages, unemployment, migration of business to other states, slums and finding adequate government revenue sources.

These are the problems that led the electorate to vote for Con-Con. Details of governmental forms are all secondary. The best made systems of government will fail if the economic system is not based upon Justice for all Producers.

IF WE TAKE the land rent fund which is attributable to the presence and economic activity of all the surrounding community and use it for public benefit, while at the same time leaving wages and interest in the hands of the producers, Justice will have been served.

When we pay the community what it is worth to occupy a valuable site, there would be very little pressure put upon government to provide either dole or jobs.

THE JOBLESS in Michigan are not going to be highly concerned as to whether the state legislature has one or two houses, etc. All they want is a chance to earn a living. And dividing the wealth is no solution—we must make more of it.

Prosperity is within our grasp if only we understand and act on the land question. To ignore this shall be fatal.

Carl F. Shaw
Drayton Plains

Letters from readers always are welcome. But they MUST be signed, although identities will not be divulged if the writer so requests.

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO
July 7, 1911

The Birmingham School Board solicited bids for excavating for foundation of the new school building. Bids are to be in no later than 7:30 p.m. July 12 at which time they will be opened at the school house. Plans and specifications can be seen at the residence of the president.

Adam Gray and family had a narrow escape while coming from Detroit in their machine Monday night. North of the state fair grounds Gray was blinded by the lights of a large auto southbound and to avoid a load of hay, pluckily turned his machine into the stone rail of a bridge. No one was thrown out and only Mrs. Gray was slightly bruised.

Birmingham has sweltered in heat the past few days, the likes of which has not been felt or equalled in 30 years past. Any night of the past six would have been an ideal time to have taken the census,—everyone being driven outside by the heat. We saw 113° but we heard of a thermometer bursting at 120°.

30 YEARS AGO
July 9, 1931

Alterations and improvements at Bloomfield Township Park, which have been in the course of construction for several weeks, will bear fruit Sunday, when the new baseball diamond north of the club house will be opened for the first time. The old diamond south of the culb house is being abandoned to make more room on the golf course. Eventually the green for the second hole will be located on the old diamond.

Birmingham pupils of the Birmingham School of Music participated in a recital held at the Community House June 30. The program included both vocal and piano numbers.

Mrs. L. W. Porter of Baldwin avenue entertained a group of friends informally at luncheon Tuesday, afterwards taking guests to visit the gardens of members of the Birmingham branch of the National Farm and Garden Association. Guests included Mrs. Norman Lyle, Mrs. James Lee Oliver, Mrs. Gerald McMechan and Mrs. F. H. Mellinger.

15 YEARS AGO
July 4, 1946

When the experimental atomic bomb test was staged at Bikini Atoll Sunday, Lt. James Sprague, 212 Daines St., a Navy pilot was a participant, according to Mrs. James R. Sprague, wife of the flier. He is attached to the VX-2, the Navy drone (pilotless plane) unit, and when the bomb was dropped, pilots of his squadron directed their radio-controlled Hellcat drones through the cloud of smoke and dust. They were sent into the heart of the mushroom cloud to gather up particles in the air for later analysis, through special built-in scoops.

Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills sent its elected delegates to attend the Oakland County convention of the Republican party held in Pontiac Thursday of last week. Delegates include Dr. John P. Wood, Ernest R. Baldwin, Howard R. Estes, Ray A. Palmer, David Levinson, W. A. P. John and George R. Averill from Birmingham and Luther Allen from Bloomfield Hills.

"Dancing under the Stars" will be possible every Wednesday night throughout the summer season, it was announced by Mrs. Wilbur Johnstone, chairman of street dance committee of the Recreation Board. The dances will be held weekly.

STRICTLY FRESH

They tell the story about the counterfeiter whose apprentice accidentally ran off a stack of $18 bills.

"Don't worry," soothed the apprentice, "I'll take them into

the hills and pass them off on some hicks!

Accordingly, he drove to a small town and asked a clerk in a general store if he could make change for an $18 bill.

"Sure thing," said the clerk. "How do you want it: two nines or three sixes?"

• • •

There is so much violence on television these days the whole family is developing powder burns around the eyes.

• • •

But we found that one of the best gestures the private citizen can make in the direction of better programming is a fast snap of the fingers—counterclockwise.

Michigan Big Help In U.S. Space Race

Michigan industry has already chalked up some important firsts in the space age. It will score many times again.

The free world's first satellite —Explorer I—was launched by a Jupiter "C". It is still orbiting, and Chrysler is still producing Jupiters.

That gold-plated magnesium sphere hurled into space by Vanguard and expected to orbit the earth for hundreds of years was made by Brooks and Perkins.

A KEY ROLE in the successful Discoverer satellites launched and recovered by the Air Force was played by a small "cold gas reactor" developed by Bendix.

It is used to control the altitude and steer the satellite.

Burroughs ground guidance computers have been used in the launch of some of our most important scientific satellites — Pioneer V, which has gone into orbit about the sun, Midas, Samos, Transit and Courier.

In addition to these notable space accomplishments, there have been—and are—vital contributions by hundreds of smaller companies in Michigan working on subsystems or under sub-contract for major systems.

MICHIGAN'S shining hour in space activities this year will undoubtedly turn out to be provision of the booster that put America's first astronaut—Alan B. Shepard, Jr.—into space.

More Chrysler-built Redstone missiles will be used this spring to launch other Mercury Astronauts on similar training missions.

Looking further into the future, the "Big Three" of the automotive industry are organized and prepared for individual assaults on space age business.

With missile production tapering off, Chrysler is out bidding on new contracts.

FORD'S DEFENSE products group is known as the Aeronautronic Division.

While the division is based at Newport Beach, California, its chain of command eventually winds back to Dearborn, Michigan.

Aeronutronics has already achieved some space successes — such as Project Farside, the missile fired from a high-altitude balloon in 1957 at Eniwetok—and has many promising projects under development.

One of the most spectacular, from the public's standpoint will be Project Ranger, the capsule expected to make a landing on the moon next year.

GENERAL MOTORS, which formed its Defense Systems Division less than two years ago, is steadily building up a first-rate team of scientists and administrators.

Land, sea, air and space will be its operating domains and everything from the electronics, aerothermodynamics and propulsion of space systems to biological sciences will be its operating areas.

Obviously, Michigan plans to continue its pioneering role in the new world of the universe opened to man.

BY GEORGE WM. AVERILL

One Thing or Another

Until a couple of weeks ago, a trailer village was an unsightly place. Cramped together have been trailers of all vintages, sizes, colors and conditions.

Dirt roads, very little grass, fuel tanks, and other disagreeable facilities characterized the trailer village.

Not any more. With a little imagination, design, order (and let's not hide the fact—considerable financial investment) a trailer village of beauty has been constructed. It holds great promise, not only for the residential communities in which they may be located, but also for the vastly improved living conditions of the trailer families themselves.

THIS NEW CONCEPT in mobile home living is Glen Wood Mobile Home Village on Morrissey (9½ Mile) Road, just east of Dequindre in the City of Warren.

When you're out for a Sunday or evening drive, you might swing by and see for yourself these unique trailer village features:

Individual lots averaging 40x80 feet with concrete platform.

Paved, winding streets.

Fenced and equipped recreation yard for children.

NO OVERHEAD WIRES, no clothes lines, no outside oil tanks or gas bottles (all facilities are underground).

Water and sewers to each home.

Postal service to each door over cement sidewalks.

The homes differ in exterior profile, floor plan, color, equipment and size, but are symmetrically arranged along the streets.

ORNAMENTAL WALLS FORM the village's entrance. A number of huge trees have been left standing, and new ones (one to a lot) will add to the park-like setting when fully grown.

"While there was some opposition to the development at the outset, the park in its complete form should be a definite asset to the City of Warren," says its mayor, William A. Shaw.

"The amount of planning and expense the owners put into the project has made it an outstanding example for other park developers to follow, not only in this community but throughout the nation."

Glenn Wood Mobile Village truly is a fine example of modern community planning.

By KEN WEAVER

City Beat

Quite often, people have misconceptions of newspapers.

For instance, a reader calls to place an item in the paper about a veterans organization in another city.

"They deserve publicity," she explains. "They fought and suffered in the war to make this country safe for you and me and I think they deserve recognition."

Right. Veterans and servicemen do deserve respect and admiration.

But newspapers publish news of what has happened and what is happening. "Deserve" is not a criterion.

There must be news involved—and in the case of this newsaper, the news must be local: Something happening locally or involving local people.

WHEN IT COMES to news items, some contributors have difficulty distinguishing between fact and opinion.

They send in news releases telling how wonderful some event is going to be. The reporter condenses the article to the facts.

Then comes a telephone call:

"Why didn't you publish all of my news?"

THE NEWSPAPER serves as a public service medium. Thus, many people think of it as a unit of government.

In their dealings with the paper, they sound much like taxpayers making demands of some governmental agency.

What these people don't realize is that a newspaper is actually a business enterprise.

Another thing they don't realize is that newspapers REPORT the news; they don't control it.

But, because what newspapers report does involve human emotions—the things people do, think and feel—they are put in a position to be judged, to be criticized, to be praised.

IN ADDITION to news, newspapers publish advertisements.

Some people fail to distinguish between these.

A man calls the news department and asks to "put an ad in the paper." What he really wants is to tell about a news event.

A woman calls and says she has "an editorial" for the paper. She, too, means that she has a news story. Editorials are the articles on the editorial page revealing the newspaper's opinions on various subjects.

UNFORTUNATELY, newspapers have themselves to blame for many of these misconceptions.

Because they are so engrossed in the business of obtaining and publishing the news and advertising, they lack the time (or don't take the time) and space to publicize themselves.

Call it a public relations factor.

Newspapers too often fail to properly educate the public as to what constitutes news, what constitutes advertising and how to place both in the newspapers.