

'Mud or No Mud'— Home Is A Castle!

An irate woman innkeeper concerned about mud puddles on her rug provided an inadvertent lesson, the other day, in part of what makes the American way of life different from that in many other countries. The difference is one to be cherished.

A covey of hikers including such distinguished personages as Supreme Court Justice Douglas, Interior Secretary Udall and Senator Douglas descended upon the Old Anglers inn on the Potomac after a rainy-day hike. The innkeeper ordered the dripping hikers (and even singled out Justice Douglas) off her rug. Nor was she much abashed when told whom she had been scolding; she wanted to know, rather, "Is he going to clean up the mess you make?" And when the dripping Secretary Udall sought to enter the inn she said he looked like a bum and ordered him to stay out—which he did.

ALTHOUGH NOT THE SOUL of hospitality, that innkeeper demonstrated the vital fact that in this country there is little trace of the ancient notion that royalty (and, by extension, anyone in a position of wealth and/or power) can do no wrong. Here a man, though he be among those at the very apex of government, may safely be chided by an innkeeper whose rug he has muddied. And the innkeeper will not be shot at sunrise, nor deprived of her license, nor even reprimanded. So it should be—but many who live in authoritarian or more traditional societies may find this a little hard to understand.

Individuals, and nations, en masse respond to emotional appeals more than they do to materialistic appeals. Which is to say that U.S. efforts to enlist other nations to fight for liberty and freedom by giving them money doesn't get results. Apparently, what really is needed, perhaps along with gifts, is the whipping up of an emotional appeal on behalf of liberty and freedom—after all, it is said that the advance of Communism depends upon emotional appeals based on Communism's alleged inherent values to win food, health, opportunity for backward nations of Asia and Africa. This also may be true of Latin America. Of course, the fact that Communism never brings about plenty of food, better health, more opportunity is beside the question . . . for once the handcuffs of the police state are affixed, Communism's victims are helpless for indefinite periods of time.

Every year, on May 22, our nation commemorates the departure from Savannah, Georgia, of the S.S. Savannah on a trans-oceanic voyage, which took place May 22, 1819. By Proclamation, the President annually suggests to the country that it pay homage to the U.S. merchant ships on National Maritime Day by displaying the national flag and the holding of appropriate ceremonies in observance of the occasion. Without a substantial, well-manned merchant marine, history has shown that a country is ill equipped to carry on peace-time international trade, and certainly in time of war is handicapped to defend itself.

Now that President Kennedy has requested seven or eight or nine billions of dollars to provide the means to get some humans to the moon, suppose they do get there . . . learned scientists now raise this question: once they land on the moon, how will they get off? To staff the manpower needed to get such a missile from earth into the blue sky requires hundreds, even thousands, of men. That's the story at Cape Canaveral and other missile bases. We would have to have hundreds on the moon—how to get such a "ground crew" there is another, and far more expensive, question for the Kennedy administration to answer.

Michigan's Legislature recently adjourned without providing the State's colleges and universities all the money they wanted. This especially is true of the Wayne State University, University of Michigan, and Michigan State University. These three institutions are Michigan's largest, with student populations getting close to the 25,000 range. Wonder if, say, a quarter of a hundred thousand students should not be decreed large enough to assure maximum scholastic efficiency and economy.

Phil Silvers, the great TV comedian, and his wife recently were the recipients of a twin pair of girls; that makes four females for their family. A few more, Phil, and you'll eclipse another famous comedian, Eddie Cantor, who was the papa of five girls. (Remember how he kidded about the cost of being Father of the Bride?)

"Do We Have to Go Through This All Summer Again, Ma?"



Tom King

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

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From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

There are times when it seems to us that President Kennedy and some of his top advisers talk like some high school valedictorians. They find fault with too much of the "status quo", and offer too much of past failure-panaceas as corrections. Our world was not made in a day, neither shall its major problems be solved in a day. Unless Kennedy et al find it wiser to move more cautiously, guided by mankind's normal ability to evolve into a higher intelligence, we believe the free world is due for greater tragedy. We say this, even though we have declared our own hope that John Fitzgerald Kennedy would become one of our great, great Presidents.

If you question who Governor Swainson appears to represent thus far in Lansing, the answer's easy. He is beholden to the whims and caprices and demands of the AFL-CIO, whose organization did more

than any other group to get him elected. Knowing this, why should one wonder why he opposes and/or vetoes legislation desired by Republican groups? That line about "representing all the people" is a modern joke of the heartiest laugh!

A reader asks: "Are enough of today's adults, in precept and example, living the kind of life that is an inspiration to today's youth? Or are today's adults so ardently becoming disciples of the State of Fun and Frolic that they have forsaken the serious and solemn demands of citizenship in a free nation?" That answer can come only through soul-searching by each adult.

Caroline Kennedy continues to make newspaper headlines. That lovable little tike provides a considerable wholesomeness, home-iness for the otherwise steeped-in-politics White House environment.

One Thing or Another

BY GEORGE WM. AVERILL

"TODAY," HE SAID, "WE have arrived at the time when something typically American is happening—big corporations taking up the sponsorship role."

"If this continues," it will mean great things for music," Haas predicted. For a moment, he touched on the recent and trend. He said they have great advantages in the promotion of good music, but cautioned against this danger:

"I'm afraid it is going to satisfy only the listener's needs. He'll stay at home and listen to his records or his tapes. He'll not go into the city to the many good musical concerts and programs: That's dangerous to the world of music."

HE INTIMATED THAT perhaps the Detroit area was not succumbing too greatly to the home listening habit—at least not yet. He cited a recent conversation with Rudolf Big, general manager of the New York Metropolitan Opera, following its recent appearance here.

"Bing told me this Detroit appearance was the most successful, most brilliant occasion in the Met's history."

Haas reminded his listeners that music is the international language.

"Music has beauty, it has conscience," he said, "brotherhood—especially church music."

HE EXPRESSED PERSONAL disappointment because "we have a marvelous opportunity of which we do not avail ourselves. We do not allow ourselves to take advantage of it."

"Perhaps if we said 'Let THEM go to the moon and let US go to our hearts'—we would have the right attitude."

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Poem Expresses Appreciation for Teacher's Efforts

To the Editor:

The following poem, "The Greatest Teacher," is dedicated to Mrs. Josephine Alberts of Beverly School. Thought it might be of interest to your readers, especially at this time of year.

How can we tell you in poetry or prose,
How meaningful your 30 years have been to those
Hundreds of children whose good fortune brought them
Close
To you, who taught them more than curriculums propose?
Most lessons plans do not include your very "Special
Reading."
Yet since you know so much of this is what kids are
needing—
To overcome some handicap which prevents their joy of
reading,
You spend so many added hours your own pursuits not
heeding.
The many extra things you do with such intense dedication
Add much spice to the potpourri of the children's education.
Mothers who receive your thank-you notes understand your
consideration.
While the children who write them learn to express gracious
appreciation.
We're so very glad to have the opportunity today,
To express eternal gratitude in a little special way,
And to thank you for the 30 years, give or take a day,
That you gave to your profession in such an outstanding
way.

MRS. SIDNEY BORDEN
18880 Bedford
Beverly Hills

Bridge News Is Eccentric Draws Praise

To the Editor:
Since the first appearance in The Eccentric of the card playing duplicate bridge results, I have been pleased to let you know what a welcome addition this is to an already fine newspaper.

Occasionally I read the bridge columns in the News, Free Press and Ladies Home Journal and Sports Illustrated.

There are many local duplicate gamers in the area and it would be well to read the results of these as well as the one held at the Community House.

Again, my personal thanks for

adding this particular public interest item to your paper.

MRS. WILLIAM W. DECKER
3944 Cottondale Lane
Birmingham

If any other duplicate bridge clubs will turn their weekly results in to us, we'll be glad to run them, too.—EDITOR.

We Are Pleased To Receive Your Letters, But . . .

Occasionally The Eccentric receives letters to the editor that are unsigned, often exceptionally good letters which we would like to print. But, like all responsible newspapers, we will not use anonymous communications.

Letters must be signed. However, upon request or written we will publish this letter without the signature.

Preferably, letters should be typed, double spaced and not more than two pages long. They must always be legible in size and should have the writer's address.

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO
June 9, 1911

A Junior Civic League was organized in the fifth grade of our school last week with the following constitution: "For the honor and glory of Birmingham, I promise not to destroy any tree, shrub or flower . . . deface any monument or public building . . . spit upon the sidewalk or steps or on the floor of any street or public building . . . throw any waste paper, fruit skins or rubbish of any kind on any street, sidewalk or public place . . . will not kill or injure any bird, or bird's nest, or eggs, or the young . . . keep crock yards as clean as front lawns and promise to respect the property of others . . . to become good and useful citizens and make our village beautiful."

30 YEARS AGO
June 11, 1931

Unless a group of women, who have been using Harnum School swimming pool for private swimming classes, is successful in raising \$2,000 within the next two weeks, parties will be closed during July and August to save school board expenditures. The parties will not be closed, when approximately 1,000 persons made use of it weekly. The cost, estimated by Louis Randall, business manager of the Birmingham High School Monday, will prevent its operation this summer by the school board at its own expense.

A resolution accepting the assessment roll for the Village of Birmingham, as submitted by the Board of Revenue and placing the same at \$135,000 per thousand, the same as that of last year, was adopted by the Village Board at its Monday meeting. A drop of \$1,427,000 in the total valuation of personal and real estate in the village made a reduction in the tax rate impossible.

The Mapleton, a 30-page mimeographed year-book, appeared at Barnum Junior High School Monday.

15 YEARS AGO
June 13, 1946

Birmingham's summer recreation program will get under way Monday morning with a program specially designed for the 8-14 age group in response to Gov.

Harry F. Kelly's request that Michigan communities make a special effort to provide summer recreational facilities for this age group.

Paul G. Carter, Birmingham recreation director, announced Tuesday Sports, swimming arts, crafts and instrumental music instruction will be given special emphasis.

Wylie E. Groves and Ronald W. Reese were elected to a four-year term on the Birmingham School Board by voters at the election Monday in an election that brought out a much heavier vote than had been expected. Groves was returned to the board for his third time while Reese on July 1 will become a board member for the first time.

An 1886 Book of Recipes by Floyd Bush and William Schultz, Jr., Cranbrook school instructors, won first prize for the oldest privately owned vehicle in the Golden Jubilee Parade in Detroit, June 1. The car is owned by John M. Booth, son of James Booth of Grosse Pointe.

STRICTLY FRESH

A couple of guys who appear in the office from time to time are like blotters: They soak up everything but get it all back-wards.

The lad at the next desk keeps telling his wife to stop treating him like a Greek god. But she persists in setting burnt offerings before him every mealtime.

One of the cameramen around this old bombang told me that he was early in the morning that she was just laid off from her job as scrubwoman.

"Sad story," said my pal. "What did you give her?"

"Well, the sum was bright, but it was early in the morning," he explained, "so I gave her \$11 at 1/500th."

Some of the most underdeveloped territory in the world lies under a few hats that we could identify.

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City Beat

By KEN WEAVER

When Edwardburg Mayor James Winter was torn for Mayor's Exchange Day, he asked if Birmingham Mayor Florence H. Willett could handle a difficult audience.

Mr. Winter should have been here for the city commission meeting a week ago Monday. He would have seen for himself how this woman mayor, noted for her charming, tactful, pleasant ways, could get tough with an unreasonable group. She wielded the gavel with a strong, determined hand when a couple of protestors to a proposed sewer on Redding Road became a little unruly.

SEVERAL TIMES one of them interrupted commissioners' deliberations by rising to "a point of order."

"This is a public hearing," Mayor Willett said emphatically. "When the commissioners finish their discussion you will get a chance to speak."

"Let's have harmony," she ordered.

A few times, as one man tried to interrupt a commissioner, the mayor politely but firmly reminded him that someone else had the floor.

She let the group have their say, but kept them under strict control.

USUALLY, Birmingham's commission meetings run quite smoothly. When someone has an objection, he registers it with restraint and discretion. But once in a while, an irate citizen points the finger of accusation at the commission.

This writer has concluded that this sort of thing happens when the protestor doesn't have enough facts and knowledge to understand what is happening.

So he becomes suspicious of his government. Suspicion soon turns to belligerency.

Usually in these cases, once the protestor understands more fully what is happening he becomes reasonable and cooperative.

And a solution is reached.

ANOTHER THING the writer has noticed is that citizens generally don't attend city commission meetings unless they are directly affected.

But one can see how a citizen can spend tax money by the thousands and no one shows up to agree or disagree.

But let the commission consider widening a street or installing a sewer or banning parking on a street, and its residents are there in force to let their views be known—and unless it's something they themselves have requested they usually are opposed.

IT'S SURPRISING, too, how many people are expert in so many fields.

When they speak at these commission meetings—especially when in opposition to the commission's plans—they are authorities on engineering, sewers, on street paving, on city planning, on taxation, on law.

THE BEST part of it all, though, is that we can do this in a democracy.

We can make our views known whether our facts are straight or not. We do have a voice in governmental proceedings when we choose to exercise it.

By DENI SCANLON

Talk of the Towns

EDITOR'S NOTE: While "Talk of the Towns" author Deni Scanlon is on vacation, her column is being written by Staff Writer Irma N. Davis.

Our way and your way too, no doubt, spring seems to have triggered the backyard cooking on an attendant sharing-of-recipes over the backyard fence.

Fugitives from the kitchen range also their representatives in The Eccentric office have, who passed over their luscious blue-plate, one day for hot or charcoal chatter.

One of the very newly-wed male staff members, lacking seniority as an outdoor chef, nevertheless contributed a tid-bit to the conversation as he related a remark he made at a family dinner—one that fell flatter than the traditional bride's biscuits.

"Oo, Ma," quoth he, "Shirley seasons her food so it comes out as good as yours does."

His sister kindly took his aside and advised him he had used the wrong ingredients for buttering up the girls in his life.

Another perilous bit of cookery involved a hostess, in parts hereabouts, who was given to trying new dishes when she entertained.

Some time ago she decided on a spectacular dessert for a gala dinner party. The recipe was featured in a top home-maker's magazine.

All that required was sherbet with a Fourth of July sparkler poured into the ice. Naturally, the idea was to light the latter just before leaving the kitchen.

Unfortunately, the sparklers set fire to the dainty paper liners underneath the sherbet glasses and then the curtains nearby.

The fire department advised a simpler dessert for future parties.

Incidents such as these lend themselves to dining out which leads, by some devious process of association, to a question happily answered by Greenfield Restaurant's assistant manager, Robert Quiggle.

Did you ever wonder how many people leave the tables strictly alone when it is not an integral part of their salad? Quiggle estimates that 80 per cent of his customers leave it right there on the plate.

He also said that, on days when the clientele is mostly women, orders tend toward sandwiches and salads, including the work load on the salad department tremendously.

As for businessmen, their orders usually are few meat, vegetable and roll.