

It's Fun for the Boys & Girls Who Spend Your Wages

In the happy-happy land of federal bureaucracy it traditionally is true—almost regardless of what political party is in power at the moment—that the civil-service-protected boys and girls just love to spend the taxpayers' money.

Generally speaking, whatever brakes of frugality have been applied on those agencies have come from a thrifty occupant of the White House, aided by his numerous personal appointees in top government agencies.

Nowadays, of course, in true consistency with his New & Fair Deal predecessors, Roosevelt & Truman, respectively, President Kennedy and his top appointees thus far show very little concern for the taxpayers' dough.

IT HAS BEEN REVEALED, recently, that for every dollar that the Birmingham area taxpayers get back from Washington, D. C., they will have paid in \$1.36. The story is pretty much the same for most of Michigan's urban areas . . . the same for most comparable other urban areas in the United States.

And please don't overlook the fact that Michigan's two U.S. Senators, McNamara & Hart, thoroughly support this pattern of fattening the prodigal purses of those who inspire and protect federal extravaganzas and federal give-aways. Joining this twin, of course, are all of Michigan's Democratic Congressmen.

You like this? Sure you do . . . or else would you not have let your Senators and Congressmen know how you feel about this "legalized looting" of your wages?

U. S. Being Out-Priced

American industry (and this includes both capital and labor) are threatened daily with foreign competition. Certain countries in Europe, plus Japan's industrial progress, are chasing American-made commodities of various kinds out of U.S. commercial markets.

European iron and steel already have made broad inroads on U.S. industry. Thousands of Americans now are out of work due to the inroads of foreign-made goods in the U.S. market.

What has caused this? High wages, to be sure.

But—and remember this—the inflationary origins begin with unbalanced governmental budgets, when government pumps into the economic stream dollars that are not balanced by their equivalent of goods and services, plus too much "easy credit."

Of course, there are other related human activities that add to the inflationary spiral, with higher-higher wages a part of them.

It's high time that top government and labor union officials bring the U.S. economy into line with the economic "facts of life" . . . it's also high time that the educational system of this nation does more to teach youth what inflation is, and how to prevent it from pricing U.S. industry and agriculture out of not only the world market, but the domestic one, as well. (Ann Arbor and East Lansing papers please copy.)

Soviets Condemn Crime-(Oh, Yea?)

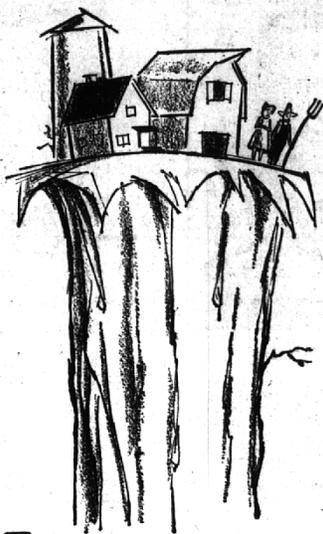
The Soviet Union is cracking down on crime, even the crime of loafing. This makes life more drab and uncertain than ever for anyone of a reflective mind who enjoys whiling away the hours in contemplation.

Idlers, according to a new decree, now run the risk of banishment to restricted localities for forced labor. So do speculators and those who capitulate to the blandishments of private enterprise. But things will be even tougher for embezzlers, counterfeiters, murderers and bandits. They now face the death penalty because punishment heretofore prescribed has not been sufficient to discourage them.

It is odd that such parasitic and violent tendencies exist in this communistic paradise, where crime is supposed to disappear because everyone has work and there is no compulsion for private gain. It's just possible that Ivan is bored to death. Maybe his yearning for a bit of capitalistic reward and escape from the norm has made him forget how wonderful his planned existence really is.

What a contrast! The Kremlin murderers oppose every lesser type of crime . . .

"I Guess It's Time to Call the Soil Conservation Service."



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

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yet the world will never forget what its leaders have done, in quelling the rebellion of Hungary's freedom-loving people . . . or the millions of human beings the Soviet gangsters have shot in cold

blood, or sent to die of hard work and starvation in Siberia.

Yes, apparently in Russia a crime is a crime is not a crime is not a crime . . . depends on who did or does it.

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

Crusty old Sam Rayburn, speaker of the House of Representatives, doesn't want his fellow lawmakers entertaining any silly vacation notions. The idea that they should take time off with their families during July and August is, to the veteran Texas congressman, "the greatest nonsense I ever heard of." We agree that during this time of crisis congressmen should put duty ahead of the beckoning seashore, lakes and mountains, and tell their wives and children to quit complaining because papa has to keep his nose to the grindstone. But what Mr. Sam dismisses as nonsense has a bit more substance for his Capitol Hill

colleagues. They aren't all bachelors—as you are, Mr. Sam!

Just when American business leadership needed all the proof of its decency that it could muster, along comes that price-fixing scandal related to several very large U.S. electrical goods manufacturers. Exposures of how they got together and "rigged prices" have shocked the country . . . and have provided some politicians with reasons for tightening business controls . . . even though the rank and file of American business does operate on decent ethical lines. For shame . . . for shame, on those few big electrical manufacturers.

Talk of the Towns

By DENI SCANLON

When you shop in Birmingham, it involves, for this reporter, driving to Maple and Woodward, finding a parking spot, digging into depths of a purse for a nickel, window shopping, the eventual purchase and then heading for home. It's the city gal's standard procedure. It took a 4,600-mile vacation trip to find, however, that somewhere in these United States there is a spot to shop that is like no other.

Santa Fe, N. M., was an education. A ruddy adobe shop, "What have you got today?" She presented two handmade blankets and some jewelry. Arrowsmith looked over the items thoughtfully and said, "I'll take the blankets. Don't see the beads."

The pair decided on a price. Then he unfolded half the amount of money and gave it to the woman. Leaning over the worn wooden counter, he scanned her quickly and said, "Guess you need some new stockings."

He pulled out some bright-colored leggings and handed her a calling card. "All set?" he asked. "She flashed a smile, turned and left the shop without speaking a word during the whole transaction."

"Can't give them just money," Arrowsmith replied to an un-satisfied question from this tourist. "I give them half money and half food or clothes. Somebody has to take care of them."

With admiration growing for the man, this

young modern sat fast on a stool in the corner to continue a fascinating study. A loud red-faced old fellow bustled in. "Where's that stuff I ordered, pal?" he wanted to know.

"Out back," was the reply. The two disappeared into the rear yard. They returned a short time later. The old man was finishing a sentence, ". . . take good care of her. She's a worker." After his loud departure, Arrowsmith said, "Got a burro now. Traded her for some equipment the old guy needs."

The rusty bell on the back of the rugged door rang again before he had a chance to continue. It was a young Indian who carried a necklace of turquoise and orange beads.

"From the Fox mine, eh?" Arrowsmith said, fondling the stones. "This is junk!" he added, pointing to orange links on the necklace.

This startled visitor watched as he pulled out a knife, cut the thread, took off the turquoise and threw the plastic beads in a pail.

The Indian, meanwhile, collected some cans of wax and a pair of leather boots. He held them up. Arrowsmith nodded approval and the Indian left. "He took him a full day to drill a hole in a piece of this turquoise," Arrowsmith explained.

There were at least 50 loose stones on the counter. "Maybe next time he'll remember not to string good turquoise with USA dime store garbage," he commented dryly.

When this native of Michigan finally got up to leave, Arrowsmith smiled and said, "Come back soon. If I don't have what you want maybe I can trade 'til I get it."

What Rex Arrowsmith was too humble to realize is that you can't buy, sell or trade the quality he possesses. Concern for your fellow man is priceless. It is not transferable for money.

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

The Program Presented One Side of Question

To the Editor:

One recent Saturday evening, before several million viewers, CBS presented the personal views of a newspaper columnist on the world situation.

There was only one side presented. One could only be reminded of the Munich surrender to Hitler when listening.

This columnist would have us make concessions on a number of points called Castro "no threat" and he made a strong pitch for appeasement.

Of course, he has a right to his opinion. But does CBS have a right to consistently present one-sided points of view on great issues?

Several months ago CBS cancelled an Armstrong Circle Theatre program on Soviet espionage on the

grounds it might hurt U.S.-Soviet relations. This absurd rule was reversed when the public created an uproar.

Now we are spoon-fed appeasement and it is presented as a kind of cloud-visit with an authority apparently answerable only to God.

Has CBS forgotten the appeasement of Hitler that led to war? Have they forgotten that there is such a thing as standing up to the dictator before he is ready for a Pearl Harbor?

A copy of this letter is being sent to the FCC for a ruling to determine whether or not equal time should be given a reasonable elected authority to answer CBS's chosen view.

PAUL J. McGRATH

Eccentric Makes Serviceman Feel 'Right at Home'

To the Editor:

Today at mail call I received your Eccentric of May 18. The news might seem old to you, but it's most interesting to me.

Over 8,000 miles from Birmingham, and The Eccentric makes me feel right at home.

To most people the advertisements tell where the "specials" are and how long they will last. To me they are just as interesting as the news articles.

In my travels with the Seventh Fleet, I have seen sights that many young men of my age won't ever think about.

I left the States on Feb. 15 and have seen Hawaii, Guam, Subic Bay, the Philippines, Okinawa, Hong Kong and five major cities in Japan.

ALONG WITH these most inter-

esting places above the water I have also seen the South Pacific with its equal interesting sights underwater by acquiring the sport of skin diving.

I am a member of the Midway's Shareuda Diving Club. I wish that servicemen could get as much interesting information from their home towns as I have received from The Birmingham Eccentric.

JAMES C. BRAIN SN, USN
Sasabo, Japan

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

June 30, 1911
Birmingham is growing faster than any town in Michigan of its size. Lots on and near Woodward Avenue are the most desirable and valuable of any in the village where everyone would like to live. John H. Ferguson has Cobb's Oak Grove addition is a fine one for investment. With the present expansion of the school building assured, and a sewer voted for, the city just has to grow.

The Birmingham Eccentric offered a year's free subscription to the two persons who voted "No" on the recent school question. The number of persons who called at the office to claim a "no" vote were just 102, some 11 more than all the "yes" and "no" votes combined.

Steps are being taken to extend the curriculum of Birmingham High School to be widened or extended the northern, eastern and western limits of the school district to extend in the southern direction one-half mile.

30 YEARS AGO

July 2, 1931
Contests for all three places on the Board of School Directors in the election July 13 were assured yesterday when Charles S. Kinnison, head of the new school board, said his intentions of entering the race for the one-year term opposing John E. Martz, 724 Oakview Road, the only other candidate for the one-year post. Four candidates have filed petitions for three-year terms, two of which are to be filed.

All traces of the \$1,000 fire which occurred at Oakdale Country Club last May have been obliterated and the club is back to normal, John Brennan, club manager reports.

Merritt D. Hill, 965 E. Glenary Circle, Bloomfield Township, president of the Detroit Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, has announced that 92,000 boy scouts and adult leaders of the council have taken the initiative in the Detroit area to raise the States flag at their homes, especially on holidays.

"Over the years, the Boy Scouts of America has encouraged the use and display of the flag of the United States as a symbol of the freedom and privileges we enjoy as citizens," said Hill.

"OUR FIVE MILLION present and twenty-eight million former members," he said, "have come to know the flag as a symbol of the ideals, hopes, goals, and history of our people."

It is an interesting fact, Mr. Hill points out that virtually every one of the nation's 130,365 scout and explorer units has its own United States flag at their homes, especially on holidays.

The flag occupies positions of highest honor, all sorts of Scout-ing functions and especially at public events as a symbol of the freedom and privileges we enjoy as citizens," said Hill.

We have no quarrel with the good citizens who are intent on building a display for their homes over their husbands' or wives' heads an hour late from work.

One fellow we have in mind was nagged so often he requested his wife to list her complaints by number. When

he stepped out of line she then merely shouted: "34, 42—24 yes, and 12!" At the end of a month they increased their television watching time by about 40 hours.

We have no quarrel with the good citizens who are intent on building a display for their homes over their husbands' or wives' heads an hour late from work.

One of the editors across the way hit it good in Las Vegas, we're told. He went down there with his \$6,000 Jaguar and came back in a \$45,000 Greyhound.

Some typical Sunday drivers would be easier to take if they only drove on Sunday.

WE FEEL THAT in these days of world crisis, the American people will want to display their national pride as a symbol of their faith in our democracy," he said.

BY GEORGE WM. AVERILL

One Thing or Another

Almost a year ago, Birmingham's new public school superintendent—Otis M. Dickey—walked in on this column and introduced himself.

After the niceties had been expressed, the subject (naturally) veered to the press and public relations.

In a column about that discussion, Dickey was quoted: "I believe that a school system's educational program should rest on the understanding and goodwill of the public which is being served."

IN THE INTERVENING YEAR, The Eccentric has found Dickey most cooperative whenever we approached him on a news story. He never held anything back. He trusts the reporters—and has found the reporters can be trusted to report the news accurately and understandingly. (His staff, too, has closely followed his example.)

In his public relations with the school board, his faculty, and his district's residents, Dickey has demonstrated remarkable forthrightness, trust and confidence.

Perhaps no better example to date can be cited than his attitude toward the unique series of April conferences detailing the Citizens Curriculum Study Committee final report.

IN HIS INTRODUCTORY remarks, Dickey said: "A word concerning the participation of members of the school staff. No gag rule is in effect. They are free to speak as individuals or as representatives of their groups.

"If they were not free to join in the exchange of ideas, there would be no point in having them here. They have not been coached on what to say, but I have asked them to do two things of them."

"First: Keep the discussions on a positive note. We'll gain nothing with minor bickering. We are not here to rewrite reports or make on-the-spot decisions. We are here to develop understanding of the reports presented and to develop understanding of various ideas expressed."

"SECOND: I HAVE ASKED the staff members not to dominate the discussions to the extent that parents and citizens do not have a chance to be heard.

It is not necessarily that they would, but the idea is that (we staff members) have many chances to get together and hash things out—and we don't have very many opportunities to hear the ideas of our citizens****."

Such forthrightness and consideration portends great progress for all elements of this Birmingham school district.

By KEN WEAVER

City Beat

Bulldog Charlie stalked the street, his eyes glaring, his hands resting on his Colt .45's. Bulldog Charlie was mad—shootin' preaching against him.

For most of his young life, Bulldog Charlie had been a Kentucky mountain outlaw.

He lived by the gun. His crimes included moonshining and shooting up a couple of men.

Evangelist Tom long had heard of Bulldog's evil ways. In his revival meetings he called the outlaw a sinner and warned his worshippers not to imitate him.

Bulldog threatened to kill the evangelist. Tom was out to convert Bulldog.

HEARING THAT Evangelist Tom was back in town for another of his tent meetings, Bulldog set out to find him.

At the same time, the evangelist walked down the same street in search of Bulldog. He clutched his Bible tightly. There was determination in his eyes.

The two men met. Bulldog tightened the grip on his guns. Tom clasped his Bible more firmly.

They stared into each other's eyes. Tom saw hate, cruelty; Bulldog saw love, kindness.

EVANGELIST TOM placed his hands gently on Bulldog's shoulders.

"You are a sinner," he told the outlaw. "But you can win forgiveness. I want you to come with the now to our tent meeting."

A calmness settled over Bulldog Charlie. Without a word, he lifted his hands from his guns and strolled down the street alongside the evangelist.

Bulldog Charlie attended several revivals. He was converted. He became an ordained minister.

When I met him, he was traveling the Indiana circuit preaching Methodist. He was an old man, with a kind, gentle face.

A gun-toting outlaw had become a Bible-toting preacher.

You may or may not be able to believe in the conversion of Bulldog Charlie, but you can believe that he changed from a life of bad deeds to a life of good deeds.

STRICTLY FRESH

Many women at heart are frustrated lawyers. They love to have lengthy hearings, plead over their husbands' or wives' heads an hour late from work.

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he stepped out of line she then merely shouted: "34, 42—24 yes, and 12!" At the end of a month they increased their television watching time by about 40 hours.

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