

### A Small Voice That Was Not Still

What can one small voice in the wilderness do? Nothing, you say? Perhaps you are right—if you only cry out. But put your concern into action—and see what can be accomplished! We cite the instance of our Franklin Village neighbor, Mrs. Jack Perlmutter, and her concern over the possible closing of Birmingham's branch of the Oakland Child Guidance Clinic. This "one-woman whirlwind" in less than a week's time aroused many citizens in the county into fighting for what they consider too valuable to lose—a program for treatment of child-parent problems. SHE AND HER LOYAL GROUP are bombarding community officials in Oakland county with petitions, phone calls, letters and personal visits. Their campaign objective: to obtain an additional \$27,000 from the Oakland County Board of Supervisors to preserve the Guidance Clinic's present program. If the money is not made available, the Clinic's effort will have to be trimmed. More than 140 county children will be deprived of treatment, the Birmingham branch will be closed, and this area's child-parent aid will suffer a setback which could take many years to recover from.

THE EFFORTS OF Mrs. Perlmutter and her new friends are not yet victorious. We venture to say that if these citizens' energy is maintained at the same level as displayed at last week's public rally in Birmingham, the result will be victory. This display of public indignation should result in the county supervisors heeding the voices of their constituents. If the supervisors refuse, they will be hard put to justify their position in the face of nearly \$1.5 million in surplus funds.

### A Potential Genius In Your Home?

American parents are being blamed for the presumed waste of young potential geniuses. So thunders a feminine New York City college professor. She declared that parents of such children ought to recognize, by the time an offspring reaches the age of five, that they have a genius in their midst. The Lady of Letters doesn't rate the traditional "I.Q." method very highly; instead, she believes that the characteristics of curiosity, interest, determination, persistence in learning and striving after

higher goals is the best key to a child's future potentials. Of a 1960 under-18-population totaling 62 millions, she holds that one per cent of them, or 632,551, fall into the genius classification. "These are the future leaders of our country, and they should be so handled by parents and our educational systems," she concludes. Have you Eccentric readers little geniuses in your homes? Better study the subject—maybe you have.

### No Frustrations On This Job

Men are divisible into two broad classifications—those who enjoy their work, and those who can't wait for quitting time. Yet even those who thoroughly like doing what they do for a living encounter times, surely, when the job builds up tensions and frustrations. Fortunate the man, then, whose job allows him to release frustrations and aggressive feelings instead of building them up. And among these favored few, the top dogs of all must be the skilled crane operators who swing that huge iron ball on demolition projects. WHEN A PENCIL-PUSHER gets to reshaping the argument he had with his wife the night before, his means of ex-

pressing his feelings are limited. He can break the pencil point by jabbing it into the desk, he can snap the pencil in two (unless it happens to be a metal one that resists such impulses) or he can hurl it across the room—and be frowned on by fellow workers. The man who swings half a ton of iron at the end of a cable is subject to no such restrictions. Arguments with the wife? Down goes a wall: Wham! Cost of living too steep? Bricks and mortar fly: Blooie! Lost the bowling championship to that pipsqueak, Smathers? Drop the ball and split a cement floor: Crash, boom! Very satisfying. And the pay? Is good. Oh, to be a ball man.

### Why Not Holler About Your Taxes?

"The power to tax is the power to destroy." Look at our railroads. Rail service is being wiped out in scores of communities. Two great railroads say they must shortly discontinue commuter service to our largest city—New York. Other factors reduce their revenue, but excessive taxes increase their costs to the breaking point. So what? Will it be Government operation of what rail service remains? More Socialism? Graduated personal income taxes are destroying the ability of thrifty people to provide for old age and retirement. Millions are reduced to dependence on a Government handout or a company pension. TODAY'S INCOME TAXES create in-

security, for the Government does not guarantee Social Security payments, nor that they will not be eaten away by inflation, as is being done right now. Income that might be tucked away in a family nestegg is siphoned off by the bureaucrats in Government, chiefly Federal and State. Everybody knows that government money is not spent as carefully as private money. A hoard of vampires and vultures gather around every government treasury. As the Romans said 2000 years ago, "Where the meat hangs, there the wolves gather." Even if you pay no personal income tax, you still pay, for corporation income taxes of 52% are paid by every one in higher prices.

### From The Eccentric's Point of View ...

Fidel Castro, some of these days when he is tossed on his tunic, will become the laughing stock of his countrymen. If ever there was a phony revolutionary leader, we think Castro is it! The tragedy of it all is that so many trusting Cubans will have been papered by Castro's utter fanaticisms. What kind of a clock does one need to participate actively in five civic groups, two youth groups, one political organization, two company committees, one church group, one military service, and one university alumni group? It must have 24 hours on its face! This is the community

service record compiled by a 31-year-old Birmingham man, James S. Willoughby, who has just been named the local Junior Chamber of Commerce's "Man of the Year." He's certainly a pace-setter for the rest of us. "Lead me not into temptation . . ." would mean more to some people if it read: "I must not fall victim to temptation . . ." Eighty-eight per cent of all American homes now have television sets—and 12 per cent of them can still get the kids to bed on time.

The Birmingham Eccentric  
Published every Thursday at Birmingham, Mich. In The Eccentric Building, 1228 Bowers Street, Telephone Midwest 4-1100

GEORGE R. AVERILL Editor and Publisher  
PAUL NEAL AVERILL Business Manager  
GEORGE WM. AVERILL Managing Editor  
DAVID F. GIBB Advertising Manager

### Handwriting on the Wall



NATURE NOW By Lydia King Frehe

### Lichens Basic Plants In Overall Life Pattern

Yesterday while making "butter gardens" with a little girl in our family, we were over-pressed by the small things of earth. Among the materials we used were little colored stones, tiny seed heads, grasses, mosses, lichens, all picked up along a country roadside.

Of these, lichens are among the most ancient and primitive of plants. Because of their small size and inconspicuous ways, they usually go unnoticed, yet more than 10,000 species have been studied and named.

IN A DAWNING world, when all life was contained in the ancient seas, scholars believe that plants resembling lichens were among the first to colonize the bare and rocky earth. Then's now, the species of algae and water fungi were cast out by the sea to die.

In an effort to survive, two carbonic acids which can dissolve the hardest rock. In this way, by their living and dying they created the first soil.

Lichens then were forerunners of water-loving plants like mosses which in turn made acidic soil for more advanced forms. Gradually larger plants gained a foothold, launching a plant succession which has culminated over the millennia in our present world.

Today as then, lichens grow security, for the Government does not guarantee Social Security payments, nor that they will not be eaten away by inflation, as is being done right now.

Nothing is more frustrating to a man than to drive in back of a woman motorist who is doing everything right.

The best measure of a gentleman is his respect for those who cannot possibly do anything for him.

where no other plants can gain a foothold. They are practically immune to extremes of temperature and moisture and are so cosmopolitan in their tastes that they are found throughout the world, from the bare earth and rock and on the sterile soil of our northern pine-barrens.

ALTHOUGH lichens are generally grey and brown colored, some are orange, yellow, green or purple. Many of you who have travelled in our western parks have seen the "crustaceous" lichens they grow like crusts on bare surfaces like rock and bark.

THE COMMON rock type "Un-Believable" from which comes a representative of the "foi-foie" group of lichens because it grows in rosettes with raised edges. This species appears on surfaces where a small layer of organic material has accumulated in a "crust" like form.

"ROCK LICHENS" produces beautiful blue and violet dyes and is used in making cosmetics, tannins, mucilage, salves, puddings, culture media for bacteria and sizing.

Monday morning early, two automobiles of the Cadillac brand were found here in Birmingham. One with initials WIK was abandoned by four men on Pierce Street and stood there all night with lights on.

A few weeks ago our women went up to Lansing and asked for the ballot on equal terms with men. Charles Collins, Republican candidate for U.S. House on Monday night was officially declared the winner over Mrs. Fannie Collins.

Official sanction of the proposed 200 foot width of wider Woodward Avenue through Birmingham over the old Grand Trunk Railroad right-of-way, with additional approval of the village's proposed grade separation at East Maple Avenue and the new wider Woodward was given yesterday afternoon at Lansing at a meeting of State Highway offi-

### One Thing or Another

BY GEORGE WM. AVERILL

One of America's most distinguished newspapermen, James (Scotty) Reston, reminded his Birmingham Town Hall audiences last week that in recent years, more than 800 million Asians and Africans have received their political independence. "They are trying to understand the principles and methods of self government, to work out their own governmental systems, and put them into operation," said The New York Times' chief of its Washington bureau.

THAT'S WHY MOST of us Americans are bewildered at what's going on today in the Congo. So let's not think of political independence and setting up of governments 5,000 miles from here. Let's bring it home—and see ourselves in a similar situation.

IF YOU SAW Chico Toledo on the street, you probably would think, "There goes a good-looking young man." He's the Latin type—black hair; dark, steady eyes; dark complexion; slim sharp features.

CHICO IS intrigued by Tobias' middle name. "He has a very fancy name in the middle. Juca is an odd name to have. It's usually a nickname; for instance, for John or Joseph. It is strange to use in the middle."

CHICO 17, came to Birmingham in August and will remain till June. He is staying with Mr. and Mrs. John M. LaFevre, 2711 Fairfax.

"I'VE HEARD A LOT about him in Rio," says Chico. "I think I know him, but from the picture you published with this column a couple weeks ago I'm not so sure."

"I think he's doing a very good thing. He is extending the propaganda of Brazil, and is doing a very good job."

The old saying that managing editors are greges was far from wrong last week. A certain one from a local weekly asked one of his staffers, "When was the last time so and so was in Birmingham?"

With that "you're so inefficient look" on his face, the M. E. called a metropolitan daily to get the information. "Well, I," he said smiling as he leaned back in his chair, "It was April 30, 1945!"

Members of the village commission, the planning commission and other village officials were present with a heavy snow-fall on Saturday and wind on Monday and Tuesday, the foresight of the Village Commissioners was impressed upon this Wednesday night.

These Township Citizens voted their "independence." They undertook to establish their own city forms of self-government. Only thus could they obtain additional public benefits they desired for their particular political subdivision.

At first, just about everyone has ideas on what should be done. Or how to do it. Or who should do it. There are a number of political self-starters who are trying to have things their own way.

By KEN WEAVER

CHICO 17, came to Birmingham in August and will remain till June. He is staying with Mr. and Mrs. John M. LaFevre, 2711 Fairfax.

CHICO 17, came to Birmingham in August and will remain till June. He is staying with Mr. and Mrs. John M. LaFevre, 2711 Fairfax.

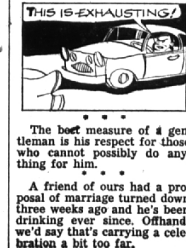
CHICO 17, came to Birmingham in August and will remain till June. He is staying with Mr. and Mrs. John M. LaFevre, 2711 Fairfax.

CHICO 17, came to Birmingham in August and will remain till June. He is staying with Mr. and Mrs. John M. LaFevre, 2711 Fairfax.

CHICO 17, came to Birmingham in August and will remain till June. He is staying with Mr. and Mrs. John M. LaFevre, 2711 Fairfax.

CHICO 17, came to Birmingham in August and will remain till June. He is staying with Mr. and Mrs. John M. LaFevre, 2711 Fairfax.

CHICO 17, came to Birmingham in August and will remain till June. He is staying with Mr. and Mrs. John M. LaFevre, 2711 Fairfax.



### Talk of the Towns

By DENI SCANLON

The old saying that managing editors are greges was far from wrong last week. A certain one from a local weekly asked one of his staffers, "When was the last time so and so was in Birmingham?"

With that "you're so inefficient look" on his face, the M. E. called a metropolitan daily to get the information. "Well, I," he said smiling as he leaned back in his chair, "It was April 30, 1945!"

Members of the village commission, the planning commission and other village officials were present with a heavy snow-fall on Saturday and wind on Monday and Tuesday, the foresight of the Village Commissioners was impressed upon this Wednesday night.

These Township Citizens voted their "independence." They undertook to establish their own city forms of self-government. Only thus could they obtain additional public benefits they desired for their particular political subdivision.

At first, just about everyone has ideas on what should be done. Or how to do it. Or who should do it. There are a number of political self-starters who are trying to have things their own way.

These Township Citizens voted their "independence." They undertook to establish their own city forms of self-government. Only thus could they obtain additional public benefits they desired for their particular political subdivision.

At first, just about everyone has ideas on what should be done. Or how to do it. Or who should do it. There are a number of political self-starters who are trying to have things their own way.