

One Thing or Another

By GEORGE W. AVERILL

Have you heard of the Birmingham boy who decided to get a taste of rural life during a summer vacation?
He got a job on a farm in out-state Michigan. He hadn't been on the job a week when his farmer boss decided to have some fun with the city youngster.
"Say, fella, how about rounding up the 500 sheep in the upper pasture and bringing 'em back to the paddock?" the farmer suggested.
"Why, sure," responded the boy. "Need anything to do it with?"
"Now, just keep 'em together and headed in the right direction."
It wasn't long before the boy had the sheep in the fold.
The farmer was astounded—but he didn't show his amazement.
"Well, see you succeeded," he said.
"Yes, I did. And it was fun," the boy said.
"But tell me, what kind of a sheep is that little brown one in the center?"
"That's not a sheep—it's a jackrabbit!" the farmer exclaimed.
"Well, that little fellow gave me more trouble than all of the others put together," the lad replied.
And how about the Bloomfield mother and her young son who were shopping in the local supermarket?
The little fellow wanted to help Mommy. He picked up a package of something and brought it to her.
"Oh, no, honey," she cried. "Put it back where you found it. You have to cook that!"
A recent poll taken among suburban housewives revealed that their most useful domestic gadget was their husband.
Birmingham City Commissioner William Roberts has come up with a much-simplified form for reporting our incomes to the federal government.
It consists of three questions:
1) How much did you make last year?
2) How much of it did you want to keep?
3) Send it in.

Election Races Benefit Public

Again this year in the April 3 municipal elections, we note Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills has seven good candidates vying for five city commission seats. Birmingham will see incumbent Robert Page, former mayor and city commissioner Ralph A. Main, and political newcomer and Birmingham businessman Carl F. Fischer contesting for the two commission vacancies.

In Bloomfield Hills, these four equally fine candidates will seek the three commission vacancies—incumbents John S. Bugas, Lyman J. Craig, Dominick Vetraino and newcomer Robert A. Frye.

ONE OF THE FOUNDATION blocks in this nation's democratic form of government is the right of any citizen to run for public office.

And one of the best ways for us to keep

this right, in our opinion, is to provide voters with a choice of candidates.

(We would hope that all candidates are fine ones, so that no matter what the electorate's decision, we would have sound government.)

WE BELIEVE GOOD GOVERNMENT can be helped best by EVERY elective office involving a contest for the job. Even the most able public servant is more on his toes if another candidate is trying to convince the public he can do the job as well or better.

And it keeps the public on its toes by providing regular intervals at which to evaluate the jobholder's performance. It can reward well-done jobs by re-electing deserving candidates. Or it can elect newcomers whom it believes can do better.

Next Town Hall Best Yet

Birmingham Town Hall's 1961-62 series looks to us like the standout of those which the community has been privileged to enjoy the past seven years.

Each of the previous series has been very good. But each year's programs enables the sponsors—St. Anne's Guild of Birmingham's St. James Episcopal church—to build a yet-stronger program-to-come.

Perhaps it's because we see three journalists in next year's series that makes it

of especial interest to us. The initial program in September will have that popular, homespun philosopher, Harry Golden. At the midpoint in November there'll be America's widest-read newspaperman, Ann Landers. And CBS' very able news correspondent, Eric Sevareid, will conclude the series in February.

With programs like these, it's no wonder that series tickets are sold out in less than two weeks' time!

From The Eccentric's Point of View ...

Reaction from the leaders of a number of South American countries to President Kennedy's program for helping them regain greater political freedom and economic security also reveals why these countries have not made greater progress in past years.

For the leaders of these countries have let it be known that they really expected the United States to make some outright grants of money to them which they, without any strings attached, could use as they saw fit. This, of course, is contrary to the President's requirement that no money would be given to any country unless it set in motion those needed reforms which would bring greater economic security and political freedom to the masses. The President, accurately, emphasized the fact that in the past too much of the billions of American foreign aid money got into the hands of only a few of the already rich citizens and that they, in turn, did little or nothing to aid their countrymen in raising standards of living. We believe that the President's demand for reforms is a wise one—(or without the beneficiaries of our foreign aid making sincere efforts to raise their own political and economic standards, little can ever be done for them by the mere giving of money.)

United States Senator Olin D. Johnston of South Carolina fears that more money for embassy cocktail parties might make United States foreign posts as bad as Washington, D.C. This Democrat said that people in Washington have a "merciless way" of forcing guests into cocktail hours before every meeting and, as a result, "everyone must stand around in a roaring den of conversation while everyone gets fuzzy-minded over cocktails." Then Senator Johnston added that the nation's foreign officers might turn into a bunch of "pitiful, blurry-eyed, fuzzy-headed wrecks." So Johnston, who never touches liquor, wants entertainment expense allowances for the State department to be cut down to the cost of no more than soft drinks or maybe just plain water.

"A democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of government. It can only exist until the voters discover they can vote themselves largess out of the public treasury. From that moment on the majority always vote for the candidate promising the most benefits from the public treasury, with the result that democracy always collapses over a loose fiscal policy, always to be followed by a dictatorship and then a monarchy." (This was written by Professor Alexander Frazer Tytler, nearly two centuries ago while our thirteen original states were still colonies of

Great Britain. At the time, he was writing of the decline and fall of the Athenian republic over two thousand years before.)

Have you made your own contribution in the present campaign for funds for conducting the Birmingham Community House during the next year? Our Community House, over its long history, has performed many services for our citizens and, we believe, deserves your financial assistance. If this Community House were not in our midst, where would the many local and nearby organizations hold their meetings? So, whether your contribution be large or small, if you have not yet made it why not do so in the next day or two, for this campaign is expected to close March 20th.

It is a matter of factual record that the Soviet and Chinese Communist leaders have fashioned a working pattern for the taking over of the entire human family. They propose, eventually, to "acquire" the United States. Their plan includes taking over eastern Europe (which they already have done); then the masses of Asia (which are falling rapidly into the Red's embrace); and finally encirclement of the United States through establishment of strongholds in Latin America (and note that Cuba already has gone Communist and Central and South America are eagerly sought after, too.) What are we all doing to prevent Khrushchev's often stated prophecy from coming true: "Your grandchildren will live in a Communist nation?"

There is an old saying that goes "The mills of the gods grind slowly, but they grind exceedingly fine." This comes to mind when we read about the case of Adolf Eichmann, who soon will go on trial in Israel, charged with having caused the extermination of over two and one-half million German Jews while Adolf Hitler was losing his war. You may recall that Eichmann was found and arrested in Argentina some months ago.

It won't be long now until the sound of the baseball bat will come over the airwaves and in the ballparks of the northern part of our land. It is, indeed, a great recreational blessing for millions of Americans, not to overlook the splendid players who bring baseball's best to their ever-lovin' fans.

Science continually is perfecting the means to add years to human life . . . when, actually, most of us would like to know how to lengthen the time between installment payments.



PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Something for Nothing, Nothing for Something?

To the Editor:
Last year Stanley Yankus of Dowagiac chose Australia rather than submit to government telling him what he can grow for his own use on his own farm.
Now seven Ohio-reading Amish families in Ohio are planning to find their "New Frontier" in Canada where they can be allowed to live the life they wish to live.
Much is wrong with America!
ENGLAND AND France have done away with the draft. The United States still retains the draft and its various conscription boards in operation in this country.

Graduate Grateful For Her Scholarship

In spring of 1956 I sat with my fellow graduates at the annual "Swing-Out" ceremony at Birmingham High School.
I was very happy and grateful when I heard our principal, Mr. Ross Wagner, announce the recipient of a scholarship from the Birmingham Alumnae and the University of Michigan Birmingham Alumnae Association.
At this time I would like to say thank you to all the Birmingham residents who made my four years at the University of Michigan possible.
After graduating from the School of Nursing last June I flew with several of my classmates to San Francisco, Calif.
Presently I am working at the Palo Alto Veterans' Administration Hospital. This is a real opportunity in connection with Stanford University and hence I have found it to be a continuous education.
The people of Birmingham have given to me the opportunity to learn, to grow and to enjoy the benefits of a worthwhile profession.
It is my hope that when any graduate of Birmingham will stop by for a visit. Thank you again for your assistance and interest.
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DOWN TO EARTH Sugar Provides Solution For Microscopic Pests

By ALICE WESSELES BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric
Within the last five years we have read about many "break-throughs" in the field of science. Well, listen to this news for all gardeners. Sugar kills nematodes. Yes, sugar from your sugar bowl can kill your nematodes.
Nematodes are four-legged, too small to see, which live in moist, rich soil. They are found in strawberries, and the leaf nematodes. You have seen them when you have a sick looking plant. You dig it up, shake off the soil, and there on the roots you have many bumps and tumors.
Just look in your resource materials and you will find endless methods of getting rid of them.
Rhios can be stung by them. The lower portions of the stems and roots will turn yellow. They are often found in plantings of beans and peas.
AT the experimental station of the USDA in Orlando, Fla., W. A. Feder has found that, if you mix sugar with the soil 1-5 percent by weight, the nematodes will be killed 100 percent within 20 hours. It causes complete destruction, leaving not even a microscopic trace of the infection.
The pests are destroyed by the sugar which they feed on. As they enter the soil, resulting in death from dehydration. The increased osmotic pressure and the suffocation in which nematodes live causes the fluid to leave the body of the nematode.
If I was working on roots, I would mix the sugar and water and then water the area well. If I was working on stems and leaves, I would make the stuff stick to the surface. Sugar is non-toxic, readily available and inexpensive.
I would like to suggest that you read me: "Sure, it is my duty to report such an important finding but I can imagine how the advertising department of the magazine will howl."
TODAY I attended the Chicago World Flower Show in the new McCormick Place which is located

City Beat

By KEN WEAVER

She's Miss America, Her Highness, Little Lover, Little House, Pumpkinhead, all rolled into one. She's a chubby, brown-eyed, curious, playful, independent little girl—nearing the vast age of 14 months.
She's our daughter, Laurie Ruth.

hark again. For a long time she was content with walking and exploring. Toys were forgotten. One day we let her down on the floor without her shoes on. Walking across the carpet made no difference, but on what happened when she touched the cold kitchen linoleum.

THERE WAS a time when she was completely dependent on mother and father. But the weeks and months flew by, and like all normal children, she went through many changes in looks and actions.
One day, shortly after her first birthday, we stood her in the center of the room, let loose—and watched with anticipation.
Laurie staggered. Then zigged. Then took four or five faltering steps, giggling all the while. Obviously pleased with herself.
This scene was repeated several times.

NOW THAT Laurie's walking, she squeezes into the tightest places, such as between the utility table and the sink, between the rocking chair and the bookcase.

Laurie has discovered the kitchen cupboard—and the silverware, refrigerator containers, pots and pans. Two kettle lids make the loudest gymbals you've ever heard.

BURNS ON the gas stove fascinate her. Only trouble is, she seems to turn them on. "No, no, Laurie" she likes to do no good. So, little Laurie sometimes gets her hands slapped.

Leave something near the edge of a table or stand, and she's bound to pull it off. There was a day when she sat contentedly on your lap while drinking from her bottle.

Now? After five minutes, she starts off your lap, walks all around the chair, continually chewing on the nipple.
She must stay near the chair to drink, though. Momma and daddy refuse to chase her into another room.

THIS IS life with Laurie Ruth Weaver. The happy life.

Talk of the Towns

By DENI SCANLON

One of the fondest memories a local four-year-old has noted in her brief history is technically termed "tonsetectory."

desperate sounding wail was apparent from some distant point in the home.

To her, however, it means a wide variety of goodies and gifts.
This fair-haired creature existed for more than 72 hours on merely ice cream, pasting. Her only entertainment was a room full of little books and puzzles, little stuffed animals—and little stuffed friends, who had long since caught on to the fruits of this deal.

"Yes, just fine, thanks."
"If you have company, this chat can wait."
"Oh no, I'm alone right now."
"Eh—well—what's that screaming?"
"Oh—that's our Siamese cat. They're 'very talkative,' you know, and I really have to control myself. One of these days I'm going to howl back!"

Few days after the worst of the siege had ended, Miss Four was asked by her mother, "Do you think you might manage to eat some solid food today?"

Then there came to mind other feline tales that tickled the imagination.

"I guess I could," the tot replied in a suddenly softer and weaker voice. "Only nothing more than a chocolate cup cake!"
The pride of a new mother is sometimes overwhelming. A Beverly Hills woman relates an unbelievable story the other day.

The boisterous nature of the Ahrens' kitten suggested the story about the cat named Tarzan, who, because his mother insisted, was taught to climb trees at a very young age.

"My sister," she began, "was positive that her baby said 'pork chops' when he was only two weeks old."
Knowing the family had genius tendencies, the woman kept a close eye on her nephew.

Tarzan lived up to his name. He eventually preferred to spend most of his time in the tree-tops climbing over limbs and screeching at people: "Me Tarzan, You Jane."

"Did he really call for 'pork chops'?"
"I doubt it," she replied. "He's two now and still hasn't said a word!"

The most cherished thing she had to give was her kitten. So off it went, unbacked, no postcard, no address—just dropped delicately in the corner mail box.

During a recent telephone conversation with Lucille (Mrs. Don) Ahrens, a rather lonesome and

It took Dad and an understanding postman to rescue the snoozing pet from his comfy spot amid letters inside the dark mailbox.

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric
50 YEARS AGO
March 24, 1911
On March 13 a mass meeting of the local citizens was held in the assembly room and an athletic association organized. Officers elected: president, Charles Martin; vice president, secretary and treasurer, Lloyd Chappell. It was formally voted to join the Oakland County Athletic Association which includes all the high schools of the county. Fortice accepted.
Natick is hereby given that a Democratic township caucus for the purpose of placing in nomination candidates for township officers, for the township of Bloomfield and for the transaction of any business that may properly come before it at the town hall in Birmingham, March 25 at 4 p.m.
Now John Cavanaugh and Brothers Lett (an R.D. number one) have got telephones in their home and now can say "Hello" as loud as anybody and just as far.
30 YEARS AGO
March 26, 1931
If tonight's map-revision meeting of the zoning commission succeeds in covering the remainder of the suggestions and charges urged by property-owners at the sectional meetings, the map can be altered by the village engineer within four days time and be ready for consideration again at a new series of public meetings. To-night's meeting will take up changes to be considered in the map west of Southgate (south of Maple and north of Brown).
Officers of "Strandcrest," Adams Road, and Vadme Scott, 515 Pilgrim Road, Birmingham, will take part in the Oberlin College Radio Hour of the week. Approximately 80 students will give the program. Miss Strand and Miss Scott are members of the Oberlin acappella choir, one of the main features of the broadcast.
The annual health conference and banquet of the Oakland County Tuberculosis Association will be held tonight in the Community House with Cap Carpenter, newly appointed director of the health welfare department, as the principal speaker.
15 YEARS AGO
March 21, 1946
Birmingham is to have a part in a big state-wide campaign of job training and education for returning veterans of World War II, declared Jack Thomas Veterans counselor, upon his return from attending a meeting of more than 50 interested leaders in Lansing. Thomas explained that the meeting was called to further the program of establishment of veterans' institutes for completion of their education and for on-the-job training and education.
Gardeners whose fruits and vegetables helped win the war were appealed to today by Mayor Moody to again help make up food shortages at home and abroad. To carry on the gardening program, John W. Galt has been appointed to form a committee, it was announced by the mayor.

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WAIT TILL I TELL YOU!
The listener finally had all he could take when the braggar described how he could bend a horseshoe with his bare hands. "That's nothing," he remarked, "My wife can tie up 10 miles of telephone wire with her chin."