

# Should We Call Our Own Tune?

How long will time wait on us? That is the "X," the unknown quantity, in the nation's effort to recapture the initiative in this endurance test called the cold war. The question arises not from impatience, nor cynicism, nor impertinence. What prompts it is a sober look at an unpleasant truth. This is the fact that Moscow continues to call the tune to which the West seems impelled to dance.

The Red strategy is painfully plain: repeated quick shifts of the offensive from one trouble spot to another. We defy them to dislodge us from Berlin and they switch to Matsu and Quemoy. Stalemated there, they confront us with the Cuban rebellion. Things begin to turn against them in the Congo and at the United Nations, so they divert the action to Laos.

SOME OBSERVERS PREDICT that if the West calls the Communists' bluff in Southeast Asia they will renew the Berlin crisis. But could it not be instead that while we parley with them they are setting the stage for an altogether new coup elsewhere? And could that elsewhere be in South America?

This is a treacherous game. Someday, unless we learn to play it even better and more cunningly than they, their big chance may come. That must not happen. In the cold war a so-called deterrent weapon is useless. But there is something else the West can and must devise. That is a deterrent strategy. We cannot recapture the initiative so long as we are compelled to zig when the Reds zig.

We in every part of the North American continent, especially in heavy industrial areas like southeastern Michigan, are vulnerable to a Soviet attack—if those devilish minds determine to go to war.

# Oh, For A Patrick Henry Today!

The most famous words of American oratory are probably Patrick Henry's "Give me liberty, or give me death!" Henry's oratorical ability and the great part he played in the Revolution amply justify his post Office Department in honoring him with a memorial stamp.

Henry played for Virginia the part that Samuel Adams played for Massachusetts, forwarding the cause of revolt by constant speech-making and organizing effort. He served without much success as a general, his talent being for civilian life. He was twice elected governor of Virginia. An opponent of the Constitution in its original form, he was perhaps more responsible than any other for the addition of the first 10 amendments known as the Bill of Rights.

Henry declined appointments both for the secretaryship of state, and the position of chief justice. Both nominations were made by President Washington at a time when Henry's early radicalism had changed to a militant Federalism. He was a Federalist at his death in 1799. His real achievements were his oratory, and his services to the Revolution.

# Make More Jobs Spend Now—Help To

If half of the savings of the American people were to be spent within the next several months, on the normal variety of goods and services available, this veritable tidal wave of purchasing power would start our economy on a rapid rise, with subsequent increase in employment.

However, nobody expects such a wholesale release of savings—yet, were people to begin spending some of their money for necessary needs, or spend it now instead of months from now, the economy certainly would be up-graded.

Such thoughts recently were given expression in a speech by Clyde H. Reeme, president of the Udyllite Corp., of Detroit. Titled "A Program for Progress," Reeme urged more persons to cease postponing the purchase of a wide variety of items. "Unless we buy that car now, have those repairs made to our homes, or purchase other commodities and/or services we know we still need, we fail to do what we can to insure the need for more productive effort, which simply means more employment," he believes.

Reeme's reasoning, of course, is a sound one. President Kennedy admits that, if he runs for re-election in 1964, he'll be glad to go on TV to debate his Republican opponent, Nixon, et al; Better start taking lessons on how to win friends and influence voters via television.

# Pipe Nightmare



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

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## The Birmingham Eccentric

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

Beyond any question of doubt, the good old United States is drifting into a Socialist State. This condition comes about, very largely, because our citizens are not acquainted with the historic facts that, wherever tried, Socialism has always failed to provide people with the environment of freedom of action, of hope of reward... and without these two fundamental human needs, mankind makes very little progress.

Most people fail to appreciate inherited benefits. People seem to value and thus fight to retain, those things for which they have to struggle to win. Because today's U.S. generations of youth and middle age citizens know too little of the types of struggles that caused our Colonists to win freedom from England and to launch this one greatest of republics... can they be expected to oppose the drift into the Welfare State? (Remember that old axiom: "It's three generations from shirt sleeves to shirt sleeves"?)

President Kennedy admittedly is young and full of vigor. He is willing to work very hard, long hours, etc. Reports from

the nation's Capital state that JFK wants to know very much about most of what goes on... as though any one man could so operate and have time left to weigh and decide the volume of momentous problems. We trust that Mr. Kennedy will distinguish between mere quantity and the more important quality phases of his tremendously big job.

Another typically American saga of a human achievement has been written as John Dykstra, 62, 1147 Glenary Dr., Birmingham, was elevated to the presidency of the Ford Motor Co. This man started out as a tool and die maker. He came to the U.S. from the Netherlands when he was a youth. By attending night school in Detroit, then supplementing his studies via correspondence school courses, Dykstra made progressive strides in industry. At Ford he developed manufacturing procedures to a maximum of efficiency and perfection. His new responsibility again proves that a dedicated and self-disciplined man may reach top places in the American Way of Life.



# City Beat

By KEN WEAVER

"There are many court decisions which we like, which we believe in and which we adhere to. "But then there's a ruling which we dislike, which we believe is in error. "But we can't have a system in which we obey the decisions we agree with and ignore those we find unfavorable."

THESE WORDS are closely akin to those uttered by Commissioner William H. Burgum at a recent Birmingham City Commission meeting. Several residents voiced dissatisfaction over a Michigan Supreme Court ruling of some years ago and now desired that the commission find some way to circumvent it.

But, as Burgum pointed out, you can't say, "We don't like this ruling, so we aren't going to observe it."

It's the same old story: Laws are made for other people, not for me.

TAKE THE SITUATION in the South. Let the U.S. Supreme Court render a decision favorable to proponents of segregation, and there is no question that it is a wise, sound, intelligent ruling and should be followed closely. But let that high court rule against segregation—then what a howl of protest there is. And look at the efforts to side-step that much-maligned ruling. Abolishing public schools to avoid integration, for instance. The obvious point of concern is: How strong a government would we have if we followed the practice of obeying decisions we approved and disobeying those we did not approve?

# PEOPLE'S COLUMN

# Claims Dewey Didn't Found PE Association

To the Editor:

Had Mr. Barrett in his letter in The Eccentric of April 12 made use of primary rather than secondary sources, he would have found that the Progressive Education Association was not organized by John Dewey but by a group of teachers and parents from private schools called together by Stanwood Cobb, then head of Chevy Chase Country Day School.

The first public meeting was held in Washington, D. C., in 1919. Dewey and his educational philosophy were a strong influence upon the group.

SO WAS Colonel Francis Parker from Wellesley, Mass., public schools; later the Cook County Normal School and the Chicago Institute at about the same time that Dewey established the Laboratory School of the University of Chicago (1896).

The group were insistent that the child should be the center around which subject matter should be organized and that children's interests should be used for motivation.

Dewey never had any direct official connection with the association and was made its honorary chairman about a decade after the founding of the association.

BY THIS time the membership had become more professional group, some of them former students of Dewey at Columbia University and interested in the application of the sciences to education.

In 1930 the association extended its influence into the secondary school and appointed a commission on the relation between school and college.

I should like to refer Mr. Barrett to the many pamphlets and books published by the association and published by the D. Appleton-Century Co. and especially to a short pamphlet entitled "Progressive Education Advances" published in 1938.

# Sgt. York's Taxes Settled; How About A. C. Powell's Case?

To the Editor:

Now it's settled! Aging, bedridden World War I hero Sgt. Alvin C. York has settled up with socialism. United States Tax Commissioner Mortimer Caplin has graciously accepted a \$28,000 check from this burraucrat-ridden patriot in full settlement of his alleged income tax indebtedness.

NOW, MR. Caplin—when you proceed with equal vigor in exorcising the tax liability of Adam Clayton Powell His income tax settlement? Why not though, that his problem is relatively simple. Powell is merely under indictment for income tax fraud—the other great crime that is Sergeant York's, that is serving his country as a hero in soldier's uniform.

B. W. TOOMEY  
Orchard Lake, Michigan

# Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

## 50 YEARS AGO

May 5, 1911

A special meeting of the council and a tiling mass meeting is called by Mayor George E. Daines today at 8 p.m. to consider the advisability of assisting the American Games Co., a proposed Michigan organization to plan, organize and operate the Birmingham Handle Co. All citizens interested in the success of the games are requested to attend. The capitalization of the company is \$60,000 which allows \$10,000 to working capital to employ from 40 to 50 hands each year all year round.

The problem of successfully providing for the large number of school children... has become an active question. The growth of the town is checked by the crowded condition of the school... New pupils are entering continuously. A class of 43 children from the subprimary room will enter the first grade room on Sept. 1, 1911 as compared with the class of 12 entering from kindergarten the previous September. Our greatest need is a primary school. (From a letter by Rhoda M. Starr, Superintendent of Schools.)

## 30 YEARS AGO

May 7, 1931

A new schedule of greens fees, established with the expressed purpose of discouraging outsiders from using the Bloomfield Township Golf Club, has been announced. Leaving conditions there was adopted at an open meeting of the board of trustees in the building Thursday night. The fee for nine holes of play for residents was raised to 50 cents on weekdays and \$1 on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

Among important matters discussed at the Birmingham Board of Education meeting Monday night at Baldwin School was the possibility of obtaining sufficient funds with which to meet the next school payroll, due in two weeks. The board has been asked at this time because of the delinquency in taxes, resulting in a shortage of funds available for school purposes.

A total of \$12,895.50 was pledged in the annual Community House roll call which ended last night. The annual dinner for the scores of campaign workers, team captains and drive heads.

As the pamphlet is copyrighted and cannot be reproduced in whole or in part without permission of the publisher, I cannot quote from it directly.

THE PAMPHLET explains that there is always a wholesome diversity in the points of view of progressive educators but always an emphasis upon the importance of the individual and the interrelationship between the individual and society. It is inherent in the nature of progressive education that its philosophy is dynamic, hence responsive to rapidly changing educational needs and flexible enough to allow for the original contributions of many minds.

For progressive education the democratic ideal is fundamental and the educators are dedicated to influencing the general public's reactions to concern with that ideal.

GEITHA WILLIAMS  
7211 Bingham  
Birmingham

# Says Vacant Land Could Be Used to Help Unemployed

To the Editor:

Ever notice the great amount of vacant rural land in Oakland County? Seems as if there is enough good land to produce food and thus employ the droves of unemployed we've seen lined up at the MESC office in Pontiac.

Of course, all the unemployed may not care to farm, although it would be better than nothing, but they could do something that might follow from the growing of crops such as processing food or providing services for those working on farms.

MOST of the world's work is producing food, clothing and shelter, even here in the auto center. Perhaps a good deal of this vacant land is being held for a chance to develop it into a residential subdivision. Why not use the vacant lots for the full rent or site value of land and enable those willing unemployed to go back to work by growing crops or building? If unemployed want to work, but can't afford to buy a spot on God's expensive EARTH. CHARL SHAW

# One Thing or Another

BY GEORGE WM. AVERILL

If the Birmingham-Bloomfield public's reaction to Denery-Birmingham's new store can be summed up in one word, that word is: "WOW!!!"

For the 15 times this columnist has noted the annual April reorganization meeting of the Birmingham city commission, only one has the commission failed to devote the less-than-60 seconds to routine appointment of its representatives to the Oakland County Board of Supervisors.

That one exception occurred just three weeks ago. Commissioners held off for one week its reappointments of Mrs. Hope Lewis, David Levinson, Luther Heckock and City Commissioner Carl F. Ingraham.

THE OFFICIAL HUT UNRECORDED reason was "lack of time" (because the hour was late). The real reason: the other six city commissioners are concerned that the four supervisors seem to be representing the county-at-large more than they are Birmingham.

Mayor Florence Willatt has been instructed to arrange a commission-supervisors "information exchange" within the next few weeks. One of the main agenda topics is expected to be this matter of representation.

For several years, this column has been suggesting to city officials that they should really—but really—advertise the location of the city's five municipal parking lots.

Present signs are so inconspicuous that motorists have to be looking at the small signs to find the lots. The other six city commissioners are concerned that the four supervisors seem to be representing the county-at-large more than they are Birmingham.

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A cold war is one in which opposing nations shoot from the lip.

It's easy to predict what is going to happen. The difficulty arises in explaining why it didn't.

If they had it to do over again, many people would choose another try. Some of us would call it someone else.

If you had no problems to solve day after day, what on earth would you do with your time?

The trouble with many club programs is that the speaker is asked to fill up too many minutes.

# Talk of the Towns

By DENI SCANLON

In the busy world of an adult, there are almost as many things forgotten as there are remembered.

Ask somebody what they read yesterday or last week and the result will probably be "the just of it." Very few of us still retain our childhood ability to recite verbatim.

But those verses learned at an early age seldom fade. This writer remembers: "The adman was the first man that ever was invented."

"He lived long ago and never was contented."

"He was made out of mud in the days gone by."

"And was hung on the fence in the sun to dry."

"Then along came Noah stumbling in the dark."

"He found himself a hammer and built himself an ark."

"Then along came the animals, two by two."

"Along came the sebra and the kangaroo."

"Along came the lion, along came the bear."

"Along came the baboon without any hair."

"For 40 days and 40 nights they sailed upon the pond."

"And Noah kicked the lioness out because she was a blonde."

A busy Birmingham lawyer recalls:

"When I was a little boy, just so high,

"Mamma used to spank me and make me cry.

"Now I'm a big boy and Mamma can't do it.

"But Pops takes a bigger stick and teads right to it!"

Another resident, who, incidently, is a writer, added this one to the collection:

"I've promulgated esoteric cogitations and articulational observations, beware of platitudinous ponderosities."

A Franklin woman learned many a little song but enjoyed more than ever "in these days" singing them with a substitute set of words.

Her version of "Three Blind Mice" goes: "A trio of sightless rodents, "A trio of sightless rodents, "Perceive how they scurry, "Perceive how they scurry, "They all pursued the agriculturalist's spouse "Who decapitated their appendages with a kitchen utensil.

"I've never witnessed such an exhibition in your time. "As a trio of sightless rodents."

And to conclude, a Beahm student came up with her family's "do to bed march." "She and her siblings would chant this: "Happy dreams, sweet repose, Sleep on your back and have a good toes!"



Our pal next to us here quit his griping when the boss sent him this note: "Be thankful for all the praise that come up. If I didn't have them you wouldn't have a job. And if they weren't so and he's saying that, his ability would be sitting in your chair."