

The Birmingham Eccentric

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PUBLISHER: PAUL N. AVERILL. ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER: HENRY M. HOGAN, JR. MANAGING EDITOR: KENNETH R. WEAVER. ADVERTISING MANAGER: ARTHUR SHAPER. George R. Averill, Editor Emeritus

A Salute and a Welcome

Now that the Bloomfield Township Board has appointed Frank J. Swindell as the new trustee to replace Gordon Getsinger, The Eccentric would like to extend its congratulations to Mr. Swindell and its regards to Mr. Getsinger.

parties. The township through his planning will have establishments where the residents need them and not just taverns because licenses are available.

HIS INFLUENCE has helped keep Bloomfield the most progressive township in the county, and perhaps even the state.

WITH HIS departure, the township will have an opportunity for still more new ideas, from the new trustee, Mr. Swindell has been a successful businessman in the area for years, and with his retirement from his business interests this year he can spend the time that most trustees are unable to muster.

'Look-and-Say' or Phonics?

Can Johnny read faster if he first learns phonics or if he is initially exposed to "whole-word recognition" or the "look-and-say" system?

total of 10,000 words by the end of the fourth grade.

Some critics say U.S. children are greatly lacking in reading skills. They are supported by reports which assert that at least 35 per cent of American youngsters are seriously retarded in reading and that 40 per cent more are not reading as well as they might.

THIS IS one more scrap of data suggesting that reading methods in this country might need revision.

An English professor at John Carroll University in Cleveland finds that by the end of the fourth grade the U.S. pupil has a reading vocabulary of about 1,600 words.

The "look-and-say" system is deeply entrenched, and ardently defended by many educators. It is often said that the "phonics-first" approach is dull and boring, and too much work for the children.

Building a Strong Faith

One of the more curious misconceptions, far too common to be ignored, is the idea that resolute faith can only be held by relatively simple folk.

edgible a man may be, however much he knows about the vast universe, all that he knows is encompassed by the Creator. A man who reflects on this cannot but be humble.

This notion is no doubt, from the concept that God cherishes most those who revere Him with the direct, unquestioning simplicity of children.

And if he is humble he will understand that, though he search all his life and glean the searchings of all other men since the beginning of history, he will yet not penetrate the mystery of creation.

THE TRUTH is that however knowl-

Faith is for the simple in heart if simplicity be understood to mean what Jesus meant when he said of children, "for of such is the kingdom of heaven." But faith is also for learned men whose knowledge only shows them mysteries beyond the mysteries they have unveiled.

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

Detroit has a new 33-year-old mayor, Jerry Cavanaugh, who appointed Louis Miriani in that post Jan. 2. A lawyer, married and father of six children, young Cavanaugh will be watched carefully by his fellow-Democrats.

The more of children's finger-prints at home, the fewer on the police blotter.

Perhaps you made several New Year's resolutions for 1962 . . . and well wagger that most of all of them, if carried out, would improve your health, your temperament . . . make friends and allow you to influence people.

A psychologist claims that big men make the most acquiescent husbands. So do big women.

President Kennedy and his intellectual comrades somehow figure that there is an academic solution for most civic and economic problems.

The Old Farmer's Almanac has added April as a winter month. Now what can we rhyme with May flowers?

This pertinent sentence was in the first Hoover Report: "No king ever wielded a scepter more powerful than a 3-cent pencil in the hands of an American citizen when he sits down to write his Congressman or Senator . . ."

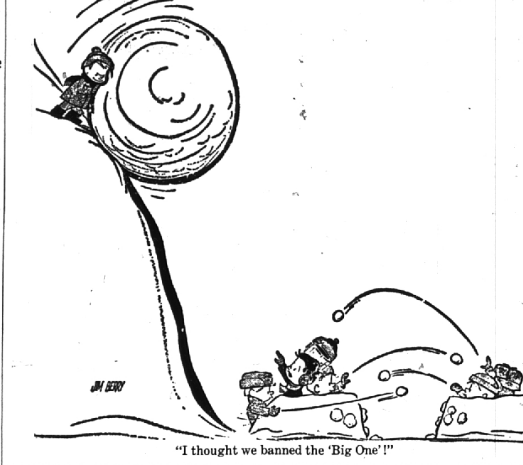
There has been quite a public fuss in Colorado since a federal water expert disclosed that the water supply in 15 Colorado towns is classified as brackish because it contains more than 1,000 parts of salt per million gallons.

Speaking of horses, isn't it true that a smart wife who possesses and uses horse sense never becomes a nag?

The water supply problem in the United States has many aspects. Excessive salt is one of these. Because of experiments in brackish water conversion carried on by the federal Office of Saline Water, the day may come when this phase of the problem will be solved.

Experiments with small plants that could increase the potable water supplies economically. That is the key word, "economically." To make the dream come true, federal research will need adequate support.

A judge rules that an outsider has no right to prevent a man's beating his wife. This may be the only exercise the man gets, but the ruling does seem to carry the fitness campaign too far.



PEOPLE'S COLUMN

What Would Income Tax Do to Economy?

To the Editor: Detroit's Mayor Cavanaugh has mentioned, among other ideas for putting Detroit on Easy Street, tax on suburbanites who make their livings in Detroit.

IF "OUTSIDERS" are to be taxed for holding jobs in Detroit, it would seem only fair for these outsiders to withdraw their present support of Detroit's economy.

Lunch Opens FAR Program

A public information program to stimulate new action in meeting the growing needs of retarded children in Michigan.

Happenings of Long Ago

60 YEARS AGO Jan. 12, 1912 Lone Oak Farm, owned by Harry M. Russell in Southfield Township, is making a name for itself with its herd of thorough-bred Holstein-Friesian cows.

By KEN WEAVER

City Beat

When you attend city commission meetings regularly over a period of time, you get to know the commissioners pretty well.

By DENI SCANLON

Talk of the Towns

Last week, a young mother took her three-year-old daughter into a Birmingham shoe store for toys.

By DENI SCANLON

Talk of the Towns

The budding scholar told of this book and that book and said, "Oh . . . and I got 'Aegean Civilization'."

By DENI SCANLON

Talk of the Towns

The "what-did-you-get-for-Christmas" department brought back memories for a local woman. Her story stretches from last Christmas to the summer.

Suburban Sidelights

Recently Charles Wagg, the director of the Michigan Department of Mental Health, spoke to the local unit of the Society for Mental Health at Devon Gables.

After his speech, during a question-and-answer period, two local legislators quizzed him on his department's budget practices.

For the record and probably in defense of the legislators, Mr. Wagg has served under seven governors, Democratic and Republican, and no one knows what party he espouses, so an attack against his administration is not a partisan political maneuver.

ALSO FOR the record, our mental health department over the last several years has had one of the highest per patient cost of all the states in the United States but has ranked in the middle of the states in results.

The mental health department is given a lump sum appropriation each year by the legislature. It is up to the director to institute programs to make the most effective use of those dollars.

THE DIRECTORS in progressive states like New York, Kansas, and Iowa have instituted "after care" programs which allow patients to leave state institutions earlier and go back into society and work, but still have treatment available to them during the adjustment period.

This type of program, of course, frees bedspace for patients on the waiting list.

Also, these states have instituted community mental health centers in local hospitals, where patients can come in day or night and be treated before they are institution cases.

In states where this is done the number of beds needed has been reduced drastically.

In Michigan, however, the drive is for more beds. The cost of custodial care for bed patients practically uses up all of the appropriated funds and there is little left for research or new programs.

THE LEGISLATORS at Devon Gables wanted Mr. Wagg to justify his reticence on submitting what he called a line item budget; that is, instead of just a lump of money being given to the department, the legislature would spell out that part of the money should be used for new projects.

Mr. Wagg talked at this luncheon as if he was the father of these community centers, yet through his establishing priorities in budgetary expenditures, he has been the biggest stumbling block to their institution.

If we are to continue spending more for mental health each year, we should start work on programs that show results. If we just add beds, mental health should be put in the same category as state prisons. We are paying for taking care of people not curing them.

Michigan is one of the few states that does not have a psychiatrist directing the mental health program.

Maybe doing what the other states are doing, including direction, might give us a better program.

By KEN WEAVER City Beat

When you attend city commission meetings regularly over a period of time, you get to know the commissioners pretty well.

You learn to recognize their idiosyncrasies. And, lest someone think that's a nasty remark, let me give the dictionary definition for idiosyncrasy: characteristic distinguishing an individual.

NOW, CONSIDER Bill Burgum.

A characteristic that impresses you about him is his persistent effort to improve the public's image of the municipal government and the people serving it.

What makes this idiosyncrasy so outstanding is the fact that it's there despite Bill's proximity to the woods—you know, "so close to the woods you can't see the trees," you know.

During a recent debate on a certain municipal project Bill asked what the City would do if numerous citizen complaints resulted from it.

He said something like this to his colleagues: "You know what the public's reaction usually is to these things.

"If they encounter any kind of difficulty, they take the view that 'this is what happens when the City runs things.'"

Whether the criticism is fair or not, it is one that so many citizens do make when it comes to municipal affairs.

It does Bill credit to be aware of this attitude and to want to do something about it.

THERE'S ANOTHER characteristic you notice about Bill. During many discussions he will sit back and listen attentively, saying very little.

Then, when he has reached a conclusion, he will lean forward abruptly in his commissioner's chair, and speak with vigor and vitality.

It's almost as if he explodes. Yet, Bill does not indulge in emotional outbursts.

You might call it an eruption of vigorous, intelligent reasoning.

It's one of the things you observe in Bill Burgum when you attend city commission meetings regularly.