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 SHAFER

George R. Averill, Editor Emeritus

A Salute and a Welcome

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

Mr. Getsinger has served the township as a trustee since 1957. He brought to the as a trustee since 1967. He brought to the board at that time a dynamism that comes with youthful, capable men. He earned his position on the board by defeating an incumbent in the election. Since that time other young new faces have come on the board but Mr. Getsinger

remained the leader of the trustees - through hard work, keen interest and

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

He handled, as chairman of the Town-ship Liquor Sub-committee, the applications for new liquor licenses in a very fair and businesslike manner when he was parties. The township through his planning will have establishments where the resi-dents need them and not just taverns be-cause licenses are available. It is unfortunate for the township that

Mr. Getsinger's advancement to an executive post with a New York firm will take him from the post of trustee. It was inhim from the post of trustee. It was in-evitable that his personal ability would be recognized and he would move forward professionally and, in this case, regret-tably, away from the area. However, he has served his community well and we can ask no more of any man.

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.

We salute Gordon Getsinger for a job well done, and welcome Frank Swindell to the arena of public service.

'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-andsay" system?

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.

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.

He finds that the Russian student, aught by phonetics, does much better. van, it is claimed, acquires a 2,000-word eading vocabulary in the first grade and a

total of 10,000 words by the end of the

THIS IS one more scrap of data suggest-ing that reading methods in this country

might need revision. The "look-and-say" system is deeply The "look-and-say" system is deeply entrenched, and ardently defended by many educators. It is often said that the "phonetics-first" approach is dull and boring, and too much work for the children. Yet, there are indications that more such

work might be a good thing.

More drill may be a fundamental need, with less emphasis on education via enterwith less emphasis on educators are more tainment. Some educators seem to believe this. According to a recent news dispatch, a growing number of schools are going back to teaching phonics in the first grade. We think this is encouraging.

Building a Strong Faith

One of the more curious misconceptions, 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. The more sophisticated a man is, according to this view, the greater the likelihood that whatever faith he possesses will be weakened and hedged possesses will be weakened and hedged at with reservations.

This notion springs, no doubt, from the concept that God cherishes most those who e Him with the direct, unquestioning

Perhaps this is true. But it is a grave error to suppose that a man of broad knowledge and sophistication cannot therefore retain or build a strong faith.

THE TRUTH is that however knowl-

edgeable 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

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.

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 Cavanagh, who supplanted Louis Miriani in that post Jan. 2. A lawyer, married and father of six children, young Cavanagh will be watched cavefully by his fellow-Democrats. If he looks good, perhaps some day he'll run for Michigan Governor. He apparently has what it takes to get votes. We wish him a successful mayoralty!

Perhaps you made several New Year's resolutions for 1962... and we'll wager that most or all of them, if carried out, would improve your health, your temperament... make friends and allow you to influence people. Broken any yet? If you to so, do you regret it? Want to restore that resolution?... Really, you know, if you do you don't have to wait for the approach of 1963 to do so. Any day is a good day for new resolves.

President Kennedy and his intellectual comrades somehow figure that there is an academic solution for most civic and economic problems. Alas! too often they fail to include historic human behaviorn they fall to me... in their blueprints.

This pertinent sentence was in the first Hoover Raport: "No king ever wielded a scepter more powerful than a 5-ent pencil in the hands of an American cities when he sits down to write his Congressman or Senator..."

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

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

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

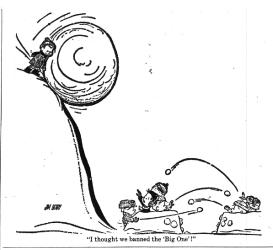
The Old Farmer's Almanac has added Aprils a winter month. Now what can we rhyme with

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. The situation calls attention, as the speaker doubtless intended, to a matter of considerable importance in various parts of the country.

parts of the country.

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. Experts envision small plants that could increase potable water supplies economically. That is the key word, "ceconomically." To make the dream come true, federal research will need adequate support. This is one effective way to help meet the nation's rising water needs.

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, a treatment of the putting Detroit on Easy Street, a treatment of the putting Detroit on Easy Street, a treatment of the putting and the putting of the putting of the putting of the putting and the putting and the putting and the putting as unided lies a calculated plan for making a suicide leap out of the frying pan and into the fire. In the absurbas in the abburbas of the putting and the putting

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO
Jan. 12, 1912
Lone Oak Farm, owned by Harry
M. Russell in Southfield Townshith,
in making a name for teath of the Frieston Cowe, Just a few years
Frieston cowe, Just a few years
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Gresson Cowe, Just a few years
one Roistein Cowe, Just a few years
one Roistein Cowe, Just a few years
one Roistein Cowe, Just a few years
one Holstein Cow. Today he is an
authority on Holstein-Priesianz,
at fancy priescs, his counsel frequently asked.

quently asked.

Dr. Blizabeth Mitthell has been appointed a member of the press not reception committees of the National Osteopathic convention to be held in Detroit in July. She attended the meeting of the Detroit society at the Hotel Ponchartrain Monday evening.

Monday wenning.

The second annual meeting of the stockholders of the First National Bank was hold at the bank coming year. The following were elected: A. Whitehead, George H. Witchell, Eugene Brooks, Charles J. Shain, Volney Nixon, Frank Hlakesies, Affred Y. Lowes, Williakesies, Affred Y. Lowes, Wilson, Brank and Chauncey Nixon.

COULD ONE auburb govern its next door neighbor ... merely to protect its own "interests of the first Natural Protect its own "interests of financial character of the produce of more highly not off the produce of more highly not off financial character of financial character of the protection of financial character of financial character of the protection of the produce of more than the protection of the produce of more than the protection of the produce of more than the protection of the produce of the produce of the protection of the produce of the

Talk of the Towns





"I think we'll really have to boost the shoe size

"It think we'll really have to boost the snoe size for her," the mother told the salesman. "She's been complaining for the last week that these shoes pinch her toes. I can't understand how her feet can grow so fast." As the salesman took off the little gal's shoes, he started to laurh.

As the stated to laugh.

"Maybe this is why," he said pulling a white sock out of the toe.

A young student at Bloomfield Hills Junior High School came home one day recently carrying an arm-load of books.

Intrigued with a new history subject, he had stopped at the library to check out a few volumes on the new-found topic.

He stood in the kitchen excitedly telling his mother all about what he had learned. Then he began to name the titles of the books he had gathered.

"Wow," said his brother who had just walked in the door. "That's worse than an F!"

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

Her story stretches from last direstinates to use summer. It began when the daughters decided to save their pennies to buy Dad an electric hedge clipper. He had better than 120 feet of them to trim and was always talking about getting the gadget that would make the job easier. So, six months after he received the gift, he enthusiastically plugged it in and started gaily trimming the hedge.

So, six months after he received the gift, he enthusiastically plugged it in and started gaily trimming the hedge.

Two feet from the starting point, he cut the

cord.

According to his wife, the girls bought him books this year—one was a volume for would-be handymen.

Suburban **Sidelights**

HANK HOGAN



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. As a result of the type of questions, some of the people attending the event accused them of trying to make political hay out of a very serious social

For the record and probably in defense of the legislators, Mr. Wagg has served under seven governors, Demo-cratic 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 treat-ment 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 the states where this is done the number of beds eeded 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 is 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 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 psychiatrist directing the mental health program.

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



City Beat KEN WEAVER

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.

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."

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

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

During many discussions he will sit back and listen

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 notional outbursts.

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.