

Dedication of Parks Opposed

The Birmingham Eccentric opposes dedication of the city's parks as public parks. We believe it would be unwise to irrevocably commit the properties now being used as parks to that specific use "to the end of time."

And that is exactly what dedication would accomplish.

How can city commissioners of today know what residents of, say, 50 years from now will need or want?

THEY CANNOT possibly know; therefore, they should not deprive their successors—through action now that cannot be revoked later—of the opportunity and privilege to make their own decisions.

By maintaining city-owned properties as designated for certain uses, but undedicated, the commissioners assure continued flexibility in their usage to meet the needs of the times.

They also assure an ample reserve of property that can be sold to obtain funds to meet other more urgent needs that might arise.

Once dedicated, always dedicated. And we believe commissioners have not the moral right to determine usage for coming generations.

CITY COMMISSIONER Carl F. Ingram reminds us of the reasoning of Thomas Paine in his "Rights of Man" on this subject:

"There never did, there never will, and there never can, exist a Parliament, or any description of men, or any gener-

ation of men, in any country, possessed of the right or the power of binding and controlling posterity to the 'end of time,' or of commanding forever how the world shall be governed, or who shall govern it; and therefore all such clauses, acts or declarations by which the makers of their attempt to do what they have neither the right nor the power to do, nor the power to execute, are in themselves null and void.

"Every age and generation must be as free to act for itself in all cases as the age and generations which preceded it."

In short, Paine says the people of today have not the authority to adopt laws binding on people of the future. We agree fully.

THERE IS STILL another point to be considered.

Once dedicated as public parks, the properties would be opened to all the public—and not to Birmingham users.

There's nothing wrong with that, except for one thing: Overcrowding.

Why should parks like Springdale that are already being used almost to the maximum by Birmingham residents be subjected to overcrowding by non-residents?

WE BELIEVE Birmingham is fortunate to have so many fine pieces of property designated as parks, with excellent facilities.

We are confident that our city commissioners will continue their use as such unless circumstances warrant otherwise.

That is as it should be.

Men Like to Play Soldier

There is good reason to think that one source of militarism is the common male urge to dress up and play soldier. This is not said in denigration of the men in our armed forces, who at best are motivated by a high and honorable desire to serve their country. But neither is it said, lightly, as one would mention a curious but quite implausible theory.

The premise that men like to play soldier is solidly grounded in historic fact. A significant role in international conflict has been played by the prestige of the soldier, and by the whole "officer and gentleman" concept.

INTERESTING LIGHT has been cast on the matter by the West German Defense Ministry's order permitting more decorative uniforms. Especially intriguing is the reason given for this order—that the prospect of wearing a flashier uniform than is now allowed will attract more and

Socialism Kills a Free Economy

The "economic experts" close to President Kennedy are advocating a cut in personal income and corporation taxes, plus legislation to allow increased depreciation charges on business investments—all of this to assist in improving the current business decline.

They thus admit that too much taxation does great harm to the cause of the nation's economic status. Since high taxes (out of the defense budget) can be lowered by less non-defense spending, by elimination of deficits, then why do so many federal politicians support certain extravagant and expensive welfare program ideas?

The answer, for the most part, is easy: "POLITICS." Welfare programs include the creation of business and citizen dependency upon the gifts and grants and purchases of government—and this gener-

better qualified men to military service.

Henceforth, in the West German military, all officers' caps will carry gold braids; the higher the rank, the more braids. Uniform trousers will be trimmer and darker, jackets lighter and more sharply tailored. Ornamental shoulder loops, which many Germans irreverently call "monkey swings," will be permissible for officers attending social events.

THE SO-CALLED "gold braid war" has clearly been lost by those who argued that sportier uniforms would make soldiers look like hotel doormen.

No one can say for certain what the effect of the uniform changes will be. Still, it is significant that recruiting officers think more men will be attracted to long-term service. The outcome ought to provide an interesting study in the extent to which the delights of playing soldier influence willingness to sign up for duty.

FOR WITHOUT God and strong commitments to moral and spiritual values the law of the jungle will take over and the man will become a savage animal interested only in his physical needs and appetites.

Freedom of religion does not mean a freedom to dictate to the vast majority of Christian parents to conform to demands of a few arrogant, godless individuals, Christian or not.

S. OLSHANSKA
Birmingham

erally wins votes.

AS AN AUTHORITY on the subject once declared: The art of government (welfare state pattern) is to take from the haves and give to the have-nots in such artful manner that both groups get the illusion that each is being helped without being hurt."

But the history of this type of governmental policy has been proved hurtful. Time and time again, it has been proved that governmental bureaucracy cannot manage a free enterprise economy. Whenever it tries, it finds it necessary to utilize more and more socialistic methods.

Socialism, you may be sure, cannot co-exist indefinitely with a free enterprise, competitive economy. One or the other is destined to be eliminated.

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

Russia and Cuba sign a new trade pact. Cuba will get trucks, machine tools, cement and the like. Russia will get Cuba.

Crooked politicians may pull the wool over the public's eyes, but they can't entirely destroy its sense of smell.

There's nothing that someone cannot make a little worse and a little cheaper.

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They Are Everywhere



PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Moral and Spiritual Values Most Important

To the Editor:

It is we, the Christian parents and taxpayers, who must demand that the Lord's prayer, celebration of Christ and holidays and the ethics of the Ten Commandments are restored into our schools' curriculum.

We all must realize that moral and spiritual values in the educational scheme of our youth are even more important than social studies, foreign languages, physical or vocational education.

President Kennedy's own inaugural statement should be applied, and given meaning to: "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country."

America has remained the last firm foothold of freedom in the world, and "government of the people, by the people, and for the people" must not perish from our nation!

ALICE HANCHETT
Syracuse, N. Y.

Letters from readers always are welcome. But they MUST be signed, although identities will not be divulged if the writer so requests.

When in Rome, "do as the Romans do." But, when in America, "do as the Americans do!" BUY U. S. SAVINGS BONDS!

Dangers Cited In Too Many Govt. Controls

To the Editor:

There are many Americans who deplore some of the methods of the John Birch Society; but, at the same time, like General Eisenhower, are seriously concerned over the

Once Over Lightly

Strawberry jam just doesn't taste the way it did years ago.

For that matter, neither does watermelon, candy or pumpkin pie—or a host of other delights that favored our childhood.

Remember when you were a moppet and your main aim in life was to grow up and "eat all you wanted" of your favorite "sweet"?

Time passes, appetites change and that long-ago ambition has lost its savor for most of us. Whether it's due to the lack of spring in one's taste buds or the demise of old-fashioned cookery is a moot point.

AT ANY RATE, it's been years since we've seen anyone sun-preserving jams. An aunt of ours, in South Bend, Ind., put up strawberry and peach preserves this way every summer.

Waxen trestles were set up in her back yard and across these were placed wooden planks to form a table for the sparkling, shining jars of jam, set upside down in the sunshine. The preserves were not pre-cooked but relied on solar heat for preserving.

ANOTHER AUNT, responsible for another treat, made sure that every visiting and prospective freeman was supplied with bread, butter and granulated sugar. The crunchy, sweet combination was never allowed us at home—something to do with our teeth, probably—but as any child

Yesteryear Happenings

From the Files of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO
July 12, 1912

Rosal Oak is soon to have a moving picture show, owned and operated by Mr. E. G. Miller. The theater will have all the latest films and will be strictly first class.

It will be located on the corner of Third and Main streets and will be opened in two weeks.

Floyd Hunt spent the Fourth at Orion; Ross Lamb's fine cement is finished; John Schiender's big barn is well underway; Port Hurd of Troy; Eddie Behrendt of Clawson, is staying with her sister Bertha, in Chicago, Ill.; Young Thackelton, of Cleveland, Ohio, is visiting uncle Peter Anderson; Charles Anderson of Sterling recently entertained George Cressy of Detroit; Miss Dilma Chaffield of Barry county is visiting her uncle, Shepton Hill, in Troy; Mrs. Silvers and Mr. Gallip are visiting Amos Silvers in Chicago, Illinois this week; Theresa Davenson of Troy attended Sidney Reynolds' birthday party on July 4, at a family tea party at Frank Hill's; Roscoe was delighted with the fitness of the pastry.

38 YEARS AGO
June 30, 1924

For the second time in three years, the Michigan Professional (See HAPPENINGS, 7-8)

by IRMA N. DAVIS

Spoking of fruit, remember the tang of a sour apple plentifully sprinkled with salt? Of course, if the apple were plucked from a tree owned by a neighbor, so much the tastier.

ANOTHER DELICACY we loved when we were so high was watermelon conserve. The recipe for this candy-like tempter came all the way from South Africa where it commonly graced the tables of Boer farmers. Lemon curd—a filling for tart—hails from the same country but had an English origin. How we'd love to know how come make both of these tasty items.

A savory relic of the past was an ice cream cone, dipped in tiny flakes of chocolate. One can still find a drugstore, now and again, where this reminder of pre-doubtful dip days is available. (Of course, a cone in "the olden days," as our children so flatteringly say, was never larger than a golf ball.)

WELL, THOSE pre-historic pleasures are gone, along with homebaked bread, taffy pulls and fudge-cooking sprees.

Today's youngsters, we suppose, are collecting a taste-fulle all their own. Perhaps, in years to come, they'll look back and remember with relish the snap of a toothsome piece of bubble gum, the tang of pizza or the charred flavor of a "cooked-out" hamburger.

Eccentricities

By HANK HOGAN

Hon. Judd Arnett
The Detroit Free Press
Detroit, Michigan

Dear Judd:

I read your column last week on the legislative pay raise and I don't sincerely believe that I agree with you. Apparently, you and your paper felt that a raise at this time was ill-timed and not in the best interests of the state.

Our Constitution put the matter of the legislators' pay into their own hands; thus, a pay raise to the public is always ill-timed; No man should have to determine his own pay and then have to justify it to the public.

AS TO WHY a legislative pay raise at this time is in the best interests of the state I offer the following points:

A legislator receives a salary of \$5,000 and expenses of \$1,250 plus two round-trip mileage checks a month while the legislature is in session.

Our legislature has been in session this year since the second week in January except for a two-week recess. This amounts to five and a half months of legislating to the detriment of any other occupation the legislator might have.

THIS MEANS that at this pay scale we can only attract to our legislative halls people who are happy to live on this pay, those who have the type of other occupation where they can take off a half-salary or those with an outside income such as a retirement pension.

I think we all agree that the legislature is not made up of the caliber of men we would like to see run a billion, two hundred million dollar business.

I think we all agree that we must attract better men to get better legislation.

We cannot do it on the present pay scale.

AT THE PRESENT time there are only 10 lawyers in our state House. New York has over 90. The national average is around 50. Two of the 10 attorneys have indicated that they will not run again.

The legislature does not have one certified public accountant. It does not have one rising young business executive.

It has many farmers, insurance agents and retirees. It has only two men under the age of 35.

THE STATE is having its financial problems. Little leadership has been offered up to this point to solve these problems, other than a few meaningless political cliches like "fiscal reform."

When an automobile company has a bad year, does it cut out advertising or other expenses that might bring new sales to its door, just because it means spending more?

Along the same plane, shouldn't we invest some money now which in the long run will bring us better legislators who in turn will bring us better legislation who might solve the many problems of the state?

Very truly yours,
A. Suburbanite

City Beat

Many people are misinterpreting the U. S. Supreme Court ruling which affects prayers in public schools.

That ruling said, in effect, that no official or government-directed prayer could be given in the public schools. But many people, including some news services, are interpreting the decision to mean that NO PRAYERS can be given in public schools.

They refer to it as the court's "ban against prayers in public schools."

As I understand it, teachers may still lead their pupils in prayer so long as it is not one prepared and directed as an official prayer by the school authorities or the government.

Thus, an instructor could offer her own prayers for the benefit of her pupils. She could say a different prayer every day, or lead her children in silent prayer, and not break the law.

Basically, the court ruled that for the government to authorize or approve a prayer for use in the public schools would be unconstitutional. It does not prevent individual action.

Understandably, but unfortunately, many opponents to school prayers will foster the misinterpretation. They would like to see all prayers banished from the schools.

Believers in constitutional government and in the use of school prayers will have to utilize every opportunity to clarify the ruling, to point out the distinction between official and unofficial prayers.

SOME PEOPLE HAVE attacked the Supreme Court for its decision. They exceed the limits of fair criticism based on disagreement with the principles involved.

This is grossly unfair, and unpatriotic.

The court acted in its rightful capacity. It fulfilled its responsibility. It rendered a decision based on study and interpretation of the Constitution.

This court is the final authority on what is to be the law of the land. Its decisions should be accepted and obeyed with traditional loyalty and patriotism.

People who disagree with its rulings must accept them just as they do those with which they do agree.

This is the way of democracy.