

Value of AFS Emphasized

Public support of the recent American Field Service Festival was so generous that the president of the Michigan AFS was prompted to write a "thank-you" letter.

The festival took place at Meadowbrook Hall, with several Birmingham area exchange students participating.

We could comment at length on the AFS program and public response to the festival but the following letter from Mrs. A. O. Thalacker says it much more adequately:

"THOSE 1600 OF you who bought tickets and attended the American Field Service Festival on a recent Saturday afternoon at Meadowbrook Hall are aware of the tremendous response made by the good people of this area.

In fact, the turnout was so tremendous that Mrs. Wilson's house almost burst at the seams from the crowd. (Next year's plans will include additional tent space for all to see and buy.)

"We wish to thank every single person who helped to make this fund raising benefit party such a huge success.

"THE PROCEEDS of the festival, approximately \$7,000, will be used to help make up the difference between the amount raised in the high schools for foreign students' travel expenses and the amount it actually costs to bring those students to the United States, under the AFS program.

"There are 2,200 high school age boys and girls from all over the world spending this year, 1961-62, in the United States.

Twelve of these students are right in and around Birmingham.

"HERE THEY are living as members of American families and attending high schools with their American brothers and sisters.

"As a reciprocal part of this program, the American Field Service will send 1,000 American boys and girls to spend the summer months with host families in 28 countries and some 200 in addition will attend school for six months abroad.

"WE BELIEVE that daily contact between people of different nationalities promotes understanding, respect, and affection. These feelings when spread on a broad scale through the years will help to promote closer relations and understanding between countries."

"The newly formed Michigan chapter of AFS was a pioneer movement. Its fund raising plan has been accepted by the National AFS headquarters in New York as the pattern for all states.

"Thus, the board of directors of the Michigan branch of AFS takes this opportunity to extend its grateful thanks to all citizens of this area who have aided in any way the AFS program and especially for their enthusiastic participation on May 5."

WE CONCUR in the thoughts expressed here. And we believe in the importance and the value of the American Field Service. We find the public support of its program extremely gratifying.

THE AMERICAN WAY



A Most Sensible Question

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Airport Series Called 'Complete, Objective'

To the Editor:

I have carefully followed and filed what you have published in reference to the proposed Oakland County Jet Airport, especially your recently completed series of articles on the subject.

I am quite interested in this project because I live on a farm only a few miles from the proposed airport and I have been

somewhat involved with a group that has been investigating all angles of the proposal.

I SHOULD LIKE to congratulate you for the complete and objective job you have done of investigating and reporting this proposal. Your reporting has displayed journalistic statesmanship of a high order.

You have rendered an important service to the citizens of Oakland County (taxes from all of whom can be involved), as well as those of Michigan and the United States. I could only wish that everyone in the county had read and thought about your articles.

HALSEY DAVIDSON
Lake Orion

Questions Cost Of Auditorium For Supervisors

To the Editor:

It would be in the public interest if The Eccentric were to publish plans of the proposed supervisors' auditorium at the Oakland County Civic Center.

According to a recent report on this project, the auditorium will seat 327 persons. Assuming 15 square feet per person in the auditorium plus an additional 15 square feet per person for auxiliary spaces (lobbies, toilets, coat rooms, mechanical equipment areas, etc.) the gross floor area would come to approximately 10,000 square feet.

THE PROJECT cost is reported to be \$532,000. Allowing \$100,000 for sitework (roads, parking, grading, landscaping, etc.) the cost of the building and furnishings would be \$432,000.

The writer would hope that there is a sizable omission in the above square foot figure. If not, Oakland County taxpayers are paying a very high price per square foot for this building. On the basis of 10,000 square feet, the square foot cost would be \$53.20, or three-and-one-half times the cost of the average school building.

A TAXPAYER

Factual Articles, Says Air Official

To the Editor:

I have read with interest your series of articles in The Birmingham Eccentric as they have appeared in our clippings from the Michigan Press Clipping Bureau. May I take this opportunity to congratulate you for your excellent writing on the proposed Oakland County Airport. Your writing is factual and thorough, and you are doing a fine job of enlightening the public regarding this proposed airport.

JAMES D. RAMSEY
Director
Michigan Department of
Aeronautics,
Lansing, Mich.

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

Once Over Lightly

Rationalization is a wonderfully useful technique.

We suspect its roots go back to the first caveman who yearned for a night out with the boys while his conscience smote him and woolly mammoths flaunted their warm coats in front of his shivering mate.

And his wife, whose best friends were sporting the latest in dinosaur hides, probably muttered to herself, "The big lunk. All he thinks of is wild cards while I slave in this cave tanning hides."

The kids, no doubt, saw through all this—they always do—and took their own hides away pronto. Maybe that's the way it began. At any rate, the human race has had a fine time kidding itself ever since.

IN MODERN-DAY suburbia, rationalization comes into flower in the spring. Mrs. Suburbia sends the ancient tribal call to arms the day she spots a smudge on a far corner of the guest room ceiling. "Time to spring-clean," she says. "Time to get busy on those important business contacts," says Mr. S., aiming for the local golf course and getting a nice, clean brush-off for his pains.

"LOOK HERE," he groans, "who brings home the bread and butter? Who worked for a promotion so you could have that mink sarong?"

"Who fixes those seven-course dinners to impress the customers and the boss?" counters his ever-loving, matching him rationalization for rationalization.

"Who wants to hang around?" the kids tell themselves, getting down to basics and getting out of the vicinity even faster.

Mrs. S. murmurs sweet nothings about the storm windows and the long, tall grass which reminds him that mowing can wait while he runs down to the nursery for some stuff to kill the crabgrass.

That one gets nipped in the bud and he winds up spading the garden as well, meanwhile raking up a whole new set of excuses to justify his immediate presence elsewhere.

IT'S NOT ALL one-sided, though. Mr. S. takes a few swipes at some dandies dreamed up by his wife. Her wardrobe may need a spring lift but the garden club gathering is not reason enough. New pants for the living room will have to wait, too, even though it does bother her to look at the spot where he scraped the wall putting up the Christmas tree.

One thing, however, they do agree on—they each need rest so let's quit working and settle on a spot for this summer's vacation.

As for where it will be and why—well, now the rationalization will really begin.

Yesteryear Happenings

From the Files of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO
May 17, 1912

The "Votes for Women" amendment has made its initial bow in Oakland County. Last Saturday at Pontiac, the Oakland County Equal Suffrage Association was organized and plans made for an active campaign.

Miss Martha Baldwin, of Birmingham, said that the early organization of an Oakland County Suffrage Association was another evidence that this county is always "foremost in good work." She urged an outdoor campaign and suggested automobile parties to tour the county.

"At indoor meetings," said Miss Baldwin, "you are likely to have an attendance of people who are already converts. But the outdoor meetings reach new people."

The bachelors of a town in Hungary are holding meetings of distress and indignation. The town council at its last meeting unanimously voted that every unmarried man over the age of 24 must pay an annual tax. The thing is to be upon a sliding scale, poor bachelors having to pay but 40 cents and the wealthier ones as high as \$29.

The House adopted 237 to 39, a joint resolution providing for an amendment to the Constitution to permit the election of U.S. senators by direct vote of the people.

30 YEARS AGO
May 19, 1932

In accordance with a recent ruling of the County Board of Auditors, every Oakland County employee receiving more than \$800 a year begin with this month's pay to donate a day's wages each month to help balance the county's budget. (See HAPPENINGS, 6-B)

by
IRMA N. DAVIS



Project HOPE Worth Support

"S.S. HOPE I" set sail last Wednesday for its second voyage of mercy. This time her destination is South America.

The de-mothballed navy hospital ship has been equipped with the most modern equipment and supplies through the efforts of the People-to-People Health Foundation, Inc., and staffed by a crack team of American doctors, nurses and technicians.

Its purpose is to promote better health, international harmony and goodwill.

In its maiden voyage last year, the ship travelled 20,000 miles and its staff treated about 28,000 patients. A film recording the event recently won an academy award as the best documentary short subject film.

THE REAL EFFECT of her voyage cannot be reflected on film or in statistics. This ship is going into some of the most destitute and disease-ridden areas of the world and its staff will be working side by side with the local doctors to save lives and upgrade medical procedures.

The effect of the voyage should be measured in the expressions of gratitude on the faces of parents whose children have been restored to the community, and the friends we have won through the milk of human kindness.

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

Charity fund-raising in the United States is meeting with increasing public rejection of many of their campaigns. Reason: there are too many of them, some never heard of before, some tied up with "causes" that overlap one another, some for organizations restricted to objectives felt to be unnecessary for widespread public support. Deserving and long-established charities, however, also feel "the pinch" of so much "competition" and have suggested that government should set up an accounting system to which all fund-raising "charities" expend too much on overhead, too much to a national headquarters, etc.

Peace Corps Director Sargent Shriver says that volunteers might be sent to Communist-controlled nations. They won't be if Shriver has any political ambitions.

"Hopalong Cassidy," on the shelf for several years, will hit television's comeback trail in the fall. TV may lack imagination, but it doesn't lack old films.

The Census Bureau reports that 10 per cent of American workers walked to work in 1960. They're the ones who got there on time.

The Red Chinese government is being forced

to out its grandiose words of Communist theory. That's more than some of the Chinese have to eat.

Automation is said to be freeing many Russian workers. Over here it is "freeing" a lot of work-ers, too—by putting them out of jobs.

It is reported that thousands of Soviet technicians have left Communist China. Perhaps they got hungry.

Efforts are being made in Washington, D. C., to determine exactly what specific notes should be used when The Star Spangled Banner is sung. Back in 1955 some high school students asked their congressman for the official version of the song; it was found that several arrangements have been uncovered... none of which agree with Francis Scott Key's original composition. Suggestion: change those high notes... where the rockets red glare... bombs bursting in air... land of the free... down to where the average American audience can join in the singing without straining or bursting some portion of its audio apparatus.

Mrs. Kennedy rode on an elephant and a camel abroad but not, as we recall, on a donkey. Democratic leaders may think that's going too far in non-partisanship.

A Free, Responsible and Aggressive Press
Is Democracy's First Line of Defense

ESTABLISHED IN 1878

Published every Thursday at
Birmingham, Mich., in The
Eccentric Building,
1225 Rogers Street
Telephone MI 6544, F 1100



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

Eccentricities

By HANK HOGAN



One of the many proposals which died in Con-Con permitted lotteries in the State of Michigan. They are presently prohibited in the Constitution.

At the risk of alienating those people who successfully fought the proposal, I would like to ask "Why not?" The opponents of lotteries and other games of chance claim they are immoral, but I have yet to run across a person who can say why. In my cursory search of the Bible, I have found no provision against entering into games of chance.

Some of our greatest ecclesiastical temples have been built with the assistance of the forbidden game called "bingo."

GAMBLING IS like liquor. It is over-indulgence that is bad. Moderation has never hurt anyone. Should we prohibit temptation because some people can't control themselves? We tried it with Prohibition and found it didn't work.

Actually, society has already said that gambling isn't wrong when it legalized betting at race tracks. It's hard to distinguish that it is all right to bet on horses but not to take a chance on a lottery ticket.

Looking at lotteries from a practical standpoint, the state could lighten its financial load by either taxing lotteries or conducting them itself and earmark the funds for education or mental health. Ireland has successfully financed its hospitals for years through its sweepstakes. The only business this would hurt is the numbers racket, which could possibly be one of our largest industries. With the state stopping in, the betters could be assured that at least they would get an honest shake.

I SAT IN the audience the day lotteries were discussed on the floor of the Convention. A Detroit delegate first proposed four state lotteries a year. He received very little support because the rest of the delegates felt they would be fighting the churches. The delegate then proposed that bingo be legalized and that one-half of the proceeds go to 4-H clubs. His comments on the floor were something like, "All right, you fakers, let's see the farmers vote against this." Believe it or not, he received more votes on this proposition.

MAYBE I'LL BE ridden out of town on a rail because of my suggesting this step, wouldn't you rather have this form of voluntary taxation, than a state income tax?



By
KEN
WEAVER

City Beat

Some people who enjoy living in their community offer suggestions to make it even more enjoyable. We call them civic-minded. Sometimes their ideas are acceptable, sometimes not.

Here's one that—"without the benefit of construction drawings and preliminary estimates"—sounds attractive. It came to the Birmingham City Commission from Mrs. A. Leslie Schaefer, 120 Hawthorne.

"... Wondered if you have ever considered putting strips along Maple near the bridge for cars to pull off on if needed."

"Around that area is a depression and you'd be amazed how many stall or run out of gas there; and since there is so much traffic going by, it is a hazard."

"Also, many would like to walk over to the falls or to the park, but there is no place around to park. There is plenty of room along our side of Maple—continuing on to the bridge."

Anyone think this is a good idea? Expressions of opinion wanted, please.

COMES THIS "monthly" observation by Josephine Collins, 832 Davis, Birmingham:

January
All of those Xmas decorations
Are packed in boxes, with separations.

February
Valentine had a funeral. It rained it.
In other words, we incinerated it.

March
Those Shamrocks, worn on St. Patrick's Day,
Lost their charm. We threw them away.

April
That strange breed, with egg-laying habits,
Are packed away, marked, "Easter Rabbits."

May
Heavens! We'd better start asking each other,
"On May 14th, where'll we put Mother?"

J. Collins

SPEAKING OF the time of the year, a neighbor said to me the other day:

"Perhaps in the spring a young man's fancy turns to pleasurable activities, but mine turns to getting the dandelions out of the lawn."

"After spending all day Sunday eradicating those lovely yellow pieces of eight which look beautiful only on the lawn next door, I'm as full of aches as a hypochondriac who fell into a cement mixer."

"I think I pulled 4,837 out of the grass and now I hate the sight of yellow. I've gotten stiff on dandelions before, but only the fermented kind."

It's estimated that 4,200,000 cars will be junked during the year. Rickless drivers will account for a lot of them.

The House approves a billion and a half to help colleges build classrooms. Finding faculty to teach in them won't be quite so easy.

The memory of Franklin D. Roosevelt was honored at ceremonies in Moscow—but his statue is great enough to withstand that.