

'To Pray My Thankfulness'

For things to eat, for things to wear,
For sheltered home, for all the care
That Thou hast shown my every need
I'm thankful Lord, in word and deed.

For friends and loved ones I am glad
To thank Thee, Lord—for when I'm laid
They come to me with words of cheer,
And thus Thou liv'st with me each year.

Oh, Lord, I pray Thee make me worth
The loveliness of this good earth!
Oh, smile upon this greed-torn world
Until in every land's unfurled

The banner of a Love that's fit
To wear the robes of Holy Writ.

For sun and moon and stars above,
For love of life and love of Love
I'm bending on my knee this day
for true humility to pray
My thankfulness, my gratitude,
For every Christ-Beatitude.

And, as life tumbles on its way,
I hope that each Thanksgiving Day
Will make my song of thanks ring clear
On every day throughout each year.

—George R. Averill

Change the Basic Philosophy

At this point everyone is resigned to the fact that "fiscal reform" is dead. Even the governor was resigned to its fate by the time the State House of Representatives got around to its final vote last Thursday afternoon.

While we are resigned to the demise, the real effect won't hit us until the sale of automobiles slows down and Michigan finds itself back in a financial hole.

There is no question in anyone's mind who knows anything about state finances that our tax structure is imbalanced. This imbalance hits industry through the business activities tax and the personal property tax on machines and inventories.

ITS IMBALANCE also hits the low income families in the state through the sales tax on food and the real property tax on residences.

By not acting on a program to cure the ills during a period of relative prosperity, the state now will have to face up to its problems in a period of financial crisis.

Michigan's financial problems have arisen because its taxes have always been enacted in times of financial panic. This is why they are like a patchwork instead of being well thought out and equally assessed.

IN TIMES of panic, the people who fall victims to new taxes are usually those who can protest the least. This generally means corporations who cannot go to the polls and people of higher incomes because they are in the minority.

This description pretty well fits the people in our area.

The fall of the tax program, then, is really a defeat for us.

Nothing will be accomplished at this point in trying to assess the blame for the

failure of the governor's package. Our local legislators supported him 100 per cent.

The demolition crew of negative Republicans and politically-minded Democrats do not appear on our local ballots for us to be able to make the necessary changes ourselves.

BUT WE CAN learn something from our experience.

We can learn that by sitting on our hands we cannot influence government. And when the whole state sits on its hands, the important decisions are left up to political strategists rather than the people.

We can learn that each individual must pay more attention to government if government is to represent them.

From our own personal education we may be able to influence party leaders and prospective new candidates for public office into changing what seems to be a basic philosophy in Lansing of negativism.

AS WE LOOK back at the tax battles we must admit that all is not lost. As a result of intra-party fights on whether the tax bills should die in committee or out in public view on the floor of the House of Representatives, the more moderate wing of the Republican party finally found out that it was the majority of the Republican caucus and didn't have to be pushed around by loud voices and century old clichés like, "we tried it once back ten years ago and it didn't work."

If it can take advantage of this new recognized power progressive legislation will get a better hearing in Lansing.

If this power had been recognized a month before, we might have had fiscal reform today.

ABC - What?

There was a time when we had to learn our ABC's.

Now we have to learn our ABCD. Those are the initials for the new post office delivery service for downtown business establishments—Accelerated Business Collection and Delivery.

We know, of course, the long history of the use in this country of the ABC's as convenient abbreviations. There's the TVA, for example—Tennessee Valley Authority, which has been in the news quite a bit again of late.

Then there's the NEA, or National Education Association.

And there are the AFL-CIO, American Federal of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations; USIA, United States Information Agency; PTA, Parent-Teacher Association (or O for Organization); CPA, Certified Public Accountant; and countless others.

THE LETTERS ABCD should make it easy to acquaint ourselves with this new governmental service. And this, of course, is necessary if the program is to be successful.

The program provides four-hour, same-day delivery of mail deposited in any of 33 specially-designated mailboxes to downtown merchants.

These special boxes are located in the area from W. Maple and Southfield on the

west to E. Maple and Adams on the east and from N. Woodward and Big Beaver on the north to S. Woodward and Davis on the south.

Mail deposited in them by 11 a.m. will be delivered in the downtown area by 3 p.m. the same day, Monday through Friday.

ONCE WE learn what ABCD stands for, all we have to do is remember where the boxes are and avail ourselves of this service.

It's there for our use.

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

The number of whooping cranes rose from 28 to 31. This may not seem like much, but on a percentage basis it's a population explosion.

Johnson's warm Scandinavian reception may have set him to dreaming—about boosting immigration to get a big Scandinavian turnout at the U.S. polls in 1968.

Britain's Liberal party is said to lack both money and the common touch. If the Liberals were better at making the touch, they'd have more money.

It's not true that Governor Wallace is drunk with power. When he tipped back the power bottle, he found that it was empty.

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Hits Adolescent Attitudes; Penalize Liquor Marketers

To the Editor:

In the face of already mountainous evidence that the unattractive and immoral adolescent American is, in an enormous minority, the creation of over-protective parents and over-kindly cops, how can the local PTA council consider making the proposal that laws governing sale of liquor to minors be relaxed?

Would it be "realistic" to increase the speed limits in our community because we cannot police the violations of teenagers?

Birmingham is insufficiently sure of itself and its inhabitants to allow the sale of liquor to adults in the form of individual drinks or to allow its citizens a place to buy drinks, yet it contains a fatuous faction which would condone the sale of bottles to babies!

THIS ATTITUDE stems from the expedient of citing the law as a law which prohibits the sale of liquor to teenagers? Birmingham is insufficiently sure of itself and its inhabitants to allow the sale of liquor to adults in the form of individual drinks or to allow its citizens a place to buy drinks, yet it contains a fatuous faction which would condone the sale of bottles to babies!

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Writer Disappointed In Martin Luther King

To the Editor:

In a 1963 Lenten service in Central Methodist Church, Detroit, I found myself one of 20 white people on the main floor waiting to hear the Rev. Martin Luther King. In my heart was a sincere hope that this man might be the one who could lead the Negro race into a bright, new day.

PERHAPS MR. KING would help his people! He arrived late in the 40-minute Lenten service because he was so very busy, but his entrance was complete with velvet-trimmed black academic gown.

His message, to these people who needed his guidance, was a disappointment.

He took first the Lord's Sermon on the Mount and misquoted Matthew 5:10 to read "blessed are they which are persecuted; for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven."

Next he turned to the story of the Good Samaritan in which he likened the Negroes to the poor victim and the white people to the Samaritan.

He failed to point out the possibility or desirability of the reversed situation.

In growing intensity the Lord's word, which the Rev. King came to

sense of responsibility of an adult.

In the face of the fact that in the event of any war, every man, woman and child in the nation would be in jeopardy of life.

Training for qualification as a private soldier is all that is required of adolescents who are drafted into the armed forces. There is no corollary that will demonstrate that the private soldier is inevitably fit to vote and to have unlimited access to alcohol.

There is very little in the way of parental duty that is more tedious or more thankless than the discipline of a snarling, sardonic teenager who must be denied many of the rights of adults for the good of the community as well as of the child.

WILL WE be asked to relinquish the expedient of citing the law as a law which prohibits the sale of liquor to teenagers?

Will we be forced to uphold the wisdom of a law which makes liquor respectably available to children who have demonstrated

daily that they cannot wisely handle gasoline alone?

In my personal opinion, there should be no law governing the consumption of alcohol by any person of any age.

The law should apply with terrible teeth to the purveyors of alcohol only.

There should also be set up a cadet corps in the armed services which would have a different uniform for all but professional soldiers and adult reservists.

THE ADOLESCENT is rare indeed who has the experience that is necessary to make him a good officer, a good voter, a good drinker or a wise man.

If "everybody" does it (whatever it is) the teenager wants to do it. His mores come from his peers and as often as not from peers who are the children of the latest most permissive parents in the area.

Why should we be asked to modify our judgment to suit the convenience of the parents who are too timid to deny their little status symbols every demand so that he may exercise

(SEE ATTITUDES, 5-D)

Yesteryear Happenings

50 YEARS AGO

Nov. 21, 1913

Now good people lets look over the good road question. Keep the snow banks from your mail box also keep road open so the poor small man can get to your place, if you don't you may wonder why the small man don't leave your nighl. The law reads like this: Road must be passable and opened, not just one track. Now don't forget these notices, also keep the snow back so a horse can get up to your mail box. Now let us help one another, don't say let the other fellow do it but say let us all do it.

The sewer is going grandly on. Many men at work and the contractors promise a finished job by Christmas. This will make Birmingham as good as the best. In the spring it will have in full operation a sewer, gas for cooking heating and lighting, electricity for light and power, cement works, pure water, healthy air, good society and what more can a good We say it again, Birmingham is the only town to live in.

The Birmingham Public Schools will hold an exhibition of pictures in the High School assembly room, Wednesday afternoon and evening November 26, for the purpose of (SEE HAPPENINGS, 5-B)

Eccentricities

By HANK HOGAN

The other day I happened to be passing a discount house and noticed a large Cadillac complete with chauffeur standing in front of the entrance.

Apparently madame had toddled down to save a little money.

The irony of the situation was that if you included the cost of the chauffeur and transportation, madame was actually paying more than if she had shopped in her own community at regular prices.

Discount buying has a psychological aspect. People feel that they are getting something for nothing, and everybody wants something for nothing.

THE SAD PART of this is that there is no such thing as a free lunch. You get what you pay for.

The old tavern with sandwiches on the counter also charged an extra couple of cents for a pitcher of beer to recoup its cost.

With slight variation, all businesses pay approximately the same price to a manufacturer. The price they sell the product to the consumer reflects the cost they buy the product for, the cost of operating their store plus a reasonable profit.

How then can discount stores sell for less? Usually they try to lower their profit and make up for it selling twice as much.

THEY ALSO TRY to lower their operating costs by cutting out services usually rendered by merchants, such as checker locations, no credit and no delivery.

Now if all stores tried to be "discount" houses we would end up having no profitable businesses and no services at the same time.

If there was no variation in price, the discount house couldn't expect twice the volume, because it gets this volume by pirating business away from established merchants. Therefore their profit would be halved and probably not cover their overhead.

AT THE SAME TIME specialty stores like we have in Birmingham, to match discount prices, would have to cut out the things that have made our shopping area great—the services of credit, delivery and the like. And of course, move from the higher priced locations.

This would spell doom for a community such as ours and has already spelled doom for some communities.

Yet every time we frequent one of these organizations we are moving closer to forcing our merchants to match prices and in the long run make it unprofitable to do business in Birmingham.

City Beat

By KEN WEAVER

The phone calls and letters are still coming in on this smoking-drinking age controversy.

Everyone so far has been in agreement that the age restriction for the purchase of cigars and alcoholic beverages should not be lowered from 21 to 18.

But how about some comments from the opposition? City Beat would like to publish some thoughts from the other side.

Mrs. Mary Holmes, 614 Wattle Road, wrote: "Your reply (Nov. 7 issue) was certainly the attitude we parents should be taking now. Where are the parents who can still say 'no' to their youth?"

IN HER letter, Mrs. John B. Costello of 3780 Squirrel Road, said:

"Congratulations on the backbone you exhibit in your dissertation on lowering the legal age for drinking and smoking.

It takes courage to stand for something which is going to require vigilance on the part of the parents and which will be unpopular with the younger set, in general.

"However, in the long run, I am sure adults gain respect by assuming a firm position through reason, and standing by it."

She suggested, for "more professional backing" on the subject, that we read Fred and Grace Hechinger's book, "Teen-age Tyranny."

AS FOR the smoking proposition, C. E. Lutz of 1147 Hillside, suggested a reprinting of the article published in The Eccentric (April 25, 1963) concerning the no-smoking policy adopted by the Bloomfield Hills school board upon request by the student body.

"Why are Birmingham high school students so different from those of Bloomfield Hills?" Lutz asks.

"Let's keep Birmingham from becoming a degenerate society," he declares. "You have the power to help."

Lutz also sent along a clipping from a Toronto newspaper which related that a study of smoking in Winnipeg schools showed that the less intelligent students are the heaviest cigaret smokers.

It also stated that the students were directly influenced by their parents smoking.

MRS. C. L. Ewald, 18674 Chelton, said in her letter: "Your Nov. 7 column was read with great interest and appreciation. Let's hope there are others who share the same feelings and who will do something to prohibit lowering the age limit . . ."

A fellow Rotarian had this to say on the laws we do have. We would be further ahead of the game . . . Drinking is not a sign of maturity."

Another individual criticized the attitude by many that "everybody is doing it anyway." They take this position, he asserted, in order "to have a clear conscience."

He also leveled a blast at what he called a "few pin-head preachers who have the idea they could solve this Negro situation by marching up and down Woodward in Birmingham . . . They confuse moral issues with legal issues."

Just When He Had the Crab Grass Beat



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