

THE ECCENTRIC

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ALL IS MYSTERY

What is more delightful than a secret? What is more entrancing than a mystery? Curiosity is an angel who leads us over the far mountain tops and a demon who mocks us when we fall into the abyss.

Life was Providence has created so vast an existence that the most insatiable curiosity must fail to devour it. Not only is the natural world about us more filled with wonders than the mythical world of "Arabian Nights," but the creative mind of man is constantly augmenting the whole with his own inventions.

We bring forward ingenious puzzles, marvelous fairy tales, detective stories that never happen. We have secret societies and houses with mysterious hidden passages and inventories of indecipherable code with which to converse; peculiar symbols that excite our curiosity; meaningless rituals that stimulate our imagination.

These things are not taught to us, but are a primal impulse.

They begin with the small-boy digging his cave with its "secret entrance" and continue with the man as a member or perhaps a founder of a secret lodge or club.

These secrets may have their base in crime, in commerce, in world progress, in intrigue, in religion or merely in diversion. Mystery may differ but mystery draws all alike.

We might tell you a secret if...

SELF CONTROL

Rather a rare virtue is the control of self. And, unfortunately, it has an extreme, called self repression, and a counterforce that is bred through fear, both of which are misinterpreted by the mass as genuine self control.

How solid and sturdy appears the big executive as he sits in his swivel chair and directs the business under his command? Self control is in his very bearing. But at home, behind the scenes, he is not observed by the world, he may yell at his wife and children and vent his displeasure upon the household cat. With such a man self control is but a thin veneer, a temporary expedient to cover his weakness from the public.

On the other hand, observe the erudite being whose life has been spent in repressing his emotions, in making his every nerve do his bidding at all times. In disciplining himself he has strengthened his will, to the point where he has acquired a weakness worse than the original, a weakness that is self directing and dictatorial as the other was vacillating, soft and shrinking.

Paradoxically he has acquired a strong weakness. He has failed to see that emotions are not necessarily indicative of a lack of strength. He has made himself an automaton subject to his will—a will without a conscience.

Genuine self control is the result of mental and moral strength, of the capacity of understanding. The man with true self control does what he does from the conviction that he is doing the right thing, and is not influenced by what the world thinks. He does not lose his temper nor take offense. He harbors no desire for revenge, because as a great writer says: "The irreproachable does not reproach." Jesus Christ was such a man.

To learn self control one must first say, "I will try to understand all things. I will put myself in another's place. I shall know the whys and wherefores of all I do, not as men tell me but as I perceive them for myself."

OUR THANKS, MRS. BLAKESLEE

"A wonderful thing is the love of the average American for his home town," said a certain writer not long ago. Indeed he was right, and what so surely represents the home town citizens, their business, their social activities, their patriotic joys and sorrows—as the home town newspaper? Like an old friend met in a foreign land it cheers the hearts of those who are away, and he it ever so tiny and humble it is read like the newspaper is read.

The New York World and the Chicago Tribune are bigger but we doubt that they have so many staunch admirers among the home folks. Metropolitan newspapers are the organs of finance but the home town paper is the heart of the people.

Every few days the Eccentric receives through the mails letters telling how much the paper is enjoyed and needed. An extract from one of these letters, written by Mrs. Martha Blakeslee, of West Maple Avenue, reads: "My dear Eccentric, I read your miss you very much if you did not

come each week to see me. I enclose \$1.50 for another year."

For forty-five years the Eccentric has been the mouthpiece of the Birmingham community. Its other newspaper circulating in this district prints so much news of purely local interest. This is YOUR paper. In supporting it you support your town, which means yourself. (Can more be said?)

WE WANT NO BOOZE

While in some places and by some people there is agitation for the repeal or modification of the Volstead amendment, so many strong arguments are advanced for its retention, that the cry for "personal liberty" and others shouted by the enemies of prohibition, fail to convince the average right-thinking citizen.

When considering the railway and automobile strikes, think of the relative amount of violence in these strikes compared with those in the past. And without a doubt the big cause for the lack of extreme violence was the inability of the men to obtain booze. Drink exaggerates the antagonistic feelings in these strikes and the lack of liquor infused in these two strikes in no small measure helped to hinder the work of the professional agitators in their efforts to incite the strikers.

This is only one of the many benefits prohibition has brought to us. When the saloon-keepers shout about the enormous expense to enforce the law and the loss of revenue to the government, do not the benefits gained by the removal of the corner saloons more than balance the expense in favor of a repeal of this law which has been a blessing to the land upon thousands of homes?

Sign on road, "Slow now working." It was plain to be seen the sign spoke the truth, but why shout about it?

Have you parked your "shredded wheel" but for the winter yet?

The play "try for a point" substituted for the goal after touchdown this year, in football, may be a thrill producer, according to Billy Evans. The play "try to break his way" has always been the biggest thrill producer for spectators so far.

FROM THE ECCENTRIC COLUMNS

Forty-Four Years Ago Mrs. Willets discovered two young men of this place in her woodshed Sunday with two large bundles of traps and the good lady compelled them to empty the bags out for her, both of which she vacated merrily accepted by the mass as genuine self control.

The Hungry Nine and the Franklin Stars have at last become sensible and are talking of a friendly game of football to be played at the end of the season. Money to be put up and everything on terms of friendship. We say this is as it should be.

Mr. Melvin Rose is as successful as a corn grower as a successful raiser. A stalk which he recently brought into our sanctum only measured 14 feet in length and the first ear was so high that an ordinary man would have to climb up to it with a ladder. It is safe to say that Melvin is well content.

Two respectfully dressed men drove over the plank road and returned again Monday. Nothing remarkable about this only they had no destination and carried seven cents. On their return they were caught at it. They were followed to Pontiac and taken to the Astor House and gladly settled the matter by paying \$33.

A newspaper in Minnesota carries this boast about the state: "Let's see, what do you know about Minnesota, don't they?" "Raise wheat? Who raises wheat? No water in the state, raising itself. Why, if we undertook to run it, we wouldn't be able to put our house on it."

"But I've been told the grasshopper takes a good deal of it." "If they don't I don't know what we would do. The cursed stuff would run all over the state and drive us out of it." These grasshoppers are a God-send, only there isn't half enough of 'em. It's that what nixes them up. "Plump! Well, I don't know what you call plump wheat, but there are seventeen in our family, and we have ten servants and when we want bread we just go over and seek in a kernel of wheat." "Do you ever catch it in water first?" "Oh, no! That wouldn't do! It would swell a little and then we couldn't get it into our range oven!"

Twenty-Five Years Ago One of our brightest and best young men was married one day or so last week, the result of a lively scrap he had with a passenger on the electric going to the depot. It didn't take many words before the mill was on and it was short, sharp and victorious for Birmingham. The woman fainter wrung their hands calling for the car to stop but the fight went on just the same.

An island in Lake Orion acts very funny, appearing and disappearing at regular seasons of the year. The fact is not caused by the raising and lowering of the water in the lake, but because now the water is unusually high and the island, as usual, has been cut up by the waves. When the water is low there is nearly an acre of it.

A new steam road will soon run from Royal Oak to Farmington. The right of way has been secured. Of the 225 miles of line, the Royal Oak, Southfield and Farmington R. Co. some \$20,000 has already been subscribed. The line will be 100 miles long and connect with the Detroit and Pontiac road at Royal Oak. The road will be a double track, the power for the road in the beginning will be obtained from the electric, which has been substituted in a few years. The road will be built to carry freight as well as passengers.

Mr. and Mrs. Baldwin were visiting in Pontiac last week.

The frame is already up and sheathed of H. A. Popperton's elegant new home on Maple avenue, and judging from the fine finish of the work it will be the pride of the village and a handsome addition to the Poppleton subdivision.

DETROIT UNITED LINES

Table with 2 columns: Destination, Time. Includes Southbound Limited (except Sunday), Southbound Local, and Northbound Local.

FLINT DIVISION

Change at Royal Oak for Rochester, Onondaga, Flint, Commerce and Inlay City. Through limited cars for Flint, Saginaw, Bay City at 10:00 a.m. and every two hours to 10:00 p.m.

VILLAGE COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS

Moved by Commissioner Melville that the Village of Birmingham be authorized to extend the present water works system by adding thereto one new well consisting of one new well to be located at Woodland Avenue, Westwood Avenue, to be equipped with a motor driven deep well turbine of 250 g.p.m. and a minimum capacity against a total head of 45 feet, in the water main, one 6" current type meter, power wiring, automatic electric control for pump motor, brick and concrete pump house, land for well, and one fire alarm siren with storage batteries for same, in accordance with plans, specifications and estimates now on file in the office of the Village Clerk on Saturday, the 23rd day of September, A. D. 1922.

PERSONALS

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Sheridan of George street left Wednesday last week for Pittsburgh, Pa. He returns today. They will visit points of interest about the Atlantic coast.

Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Briggs of Park street, were the charming host and hostess to George Warren, of Ovid, Mich., during the past week-end. The days were spent in an altogether pleasant way. Mr. Warren regretting very much that his visit terminated so quickly.

Mr. J. B. Mitten has returned to her home on Oakland avenue after a short visit with friends and relatives in London, Mich.

The home of Mrs. A. C. Mudge, on Hamilton street, was the scene of much merriment during the past week-end when her two grandchildren, Eugene and William, came to visit her. The little guests enjoyed themselves immensely as was shown by their reluctance to return to the home in Pontiac after the visit was over.

Mr. Roy D. Montgomery has returned to her home on Hamilton avenue from a ten day trip to Montreal, Canada, where she attended the wedding of her cousin.

William Rosenbaum of Indianapolis, was visiting Mr. and Mrs. John Stribling at their home on Daines street last week.

Nora Pringle of Mt. Clemens, formerly of Birmingham, was visiting Mr. Homer Leonard of Perendale avenue and Eugene and William, who is a September bride, is expected at the home of J. C. Beh of Dewey street last week.

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BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

of the Village Clerk, he submitted to the Village for their approval a special election to be held on the 4th day of September, 1922, between the hours of 10 o'clock A. M. and 8 o'clock P. M. Central Standard Time, such election to be held in the Town Hall on the Northwest corner of Merrill and Bates Streets in the Village of Birmingham, and further resolved that the Village Clerk on Saturday, the 23rd day of September, A. D. 1922, shall call a special election to be held on the 4th day of September, 1922, for the purpose of extending the present water works system by adding thereto one new well consisting of one new well to be located at Woodland Avenue, Westwood Avenue, to be equipped with a motor driven deep well turbine of at least 250 g.p.m. and a minimum capacity against a total head of 45 feet, in the water main, one 6" current type meter, power wiring, automatic electric control for pump motor, brick and concrete pump house, land for well, and one fire alarm siren with storage batteries for same, in accordance with plans, specifications and estimates now on file in the office of the Village Clerk on Saturday, the 23rd day of September, A. D. 1922.

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WHO SAYS THE KIDS DO NOT LIKE OUR SCHOOLS?

Clarence Vliet, superintendent of schools for this district, stated this week that by the first of next year, the public schools of Birmingham would probably be filled to capacity. "The rapid growth of Eco City, as well as the constant influx of families into the Village itself, will add over two hundred new pupils to our schools by January next," he declared. "It's rather strange, too, for it seems that every family that moves more the district has two or more children of school age."

Unless the taxpayers want to vote another bond issue for school additions next year it would seem that a proper resolution should be drawn up, said resolution "prohibiting the admission of families into the district who have any children."

Then rear up the resolution to erect a huge sign on Woodland Avenue which would inform the world (including Detroit) that your home in Birmingham. Make your home in Birmingham. Where the air is pure and green and sweet—then why is green and sweet?—then why yourself to limp of God! We've plenty of room for the kids to roam.

We'll have lakes, glades and pools. We've schools galore—yet we're absent from their posts on vacation or sick leaves and leave their office in charge of subordinates, under a recent ruling. The amendment to the postal laws and regulations issued by Postmaster General Wagon provides that in such cases assistants to these postmasters must be over 21 years of age, if they are men, and over the age limit fixed by state laws, if they are women. The amendment also stipulated that third and fourth class postmasters in such instances may leave their offices in charge of members of their family, if they are not minors.

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PRESS PICKINGS

The Mountain View Orchard at Romeo will produce near 50,000 bushels of peaches before the season is over. Alarmed at the constantly increasing number of serious automobile accidents on Michigan roads, Col. Roy C. Vandervoort, commissioner of public safety, is preparing to issue a questionnaire to police officials of cities, sheriffs of counties, motor club officials and others who may be able to furnish data on the conditions under which most accidents occur. The hope that the concrete pavement on John R. road from the Eight to the Sixteen mile road will be completed before the end of the current season, but the season has given the community a hub for its business activities.

PHONE 626

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