

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1924

WE THANK YOU, GENTLEMEN!

Few, indeed, are the recognitions paid to a publication. When a newspaper publishes something that strikes at an individual or a cause in a way that savors of lack of eulogy, it is not long before the publication's editor is met with argument.

This is merely introductory to our thanks for the recognition paid by The Eccentric by the University Press Club, which last week acclaimed The Eccentric as having the best-looking front page among all the weeklies of Michigan.

So, with the help of the rest of the staff, The Eccentric will attempt, week after week, to uphold the signal honor that has been given it by the University Press Club of Michigan.

SUPPORT THE ANNEXATION PLAN

Again the question of annexing lands to Birmingham for the purpose of acquiring water-bearing areas will be up to the voters of Birmingham and Bloomfield township.

The proposition this time will exclude certain pieces of land upon which reside certain individuals who were opposed to the August proposition, so that village officials feel sure the annexation will carry December 8.

Summed up in a nutshell, the proposition seeks to acquire land that will provide an additional supply of water for this village. The arguments set forth in favor of the proposition may be found in another part of this and other issues of The Eccentric.

THE HOLIDAY RUSH

The grand rush of gift buyers and purchasers of winter stuff that occurs annually at Christmas time, is objectionable for many reasons.

The most serious objection is that it operates so badly for many hard-working people. In many places the postoffice and express and store clerks are just about completely used up after this time of hurry, worry and scurry.

Probably there are many more cases of illness due to the Christmas rush than the public has any conception of. It seems heartless and inconsiderate to allow this habit to continue without effort to avoid it.

HOLIDAY TRADE

The merchants of Birmingham have prepared for the holiday trade more thoroughly than ever before, and it seems only fair to them to do our buying at home. It makes a big difference to them, after they have shown all the enterprise that is involved in buying big stocks of holiday and winter stuff, whether or not they get the business of their home community and the near by territory.

If any of our people go or send to other centers and distant cities for the goods wanted at this season, it is a pretty poor recognition of the good business spirit our home merchants show. Let us back them up, remembering that out of every dollar we spend here, a large part remains to build up the prosperity of our own city.

Facts To Be Considered In Building New Highways

(Editor's Note: The following communication was received by the Eccentric last week. It is written by a resident of Birmingham; the writer is a widely read and traveled citizen, whose ability to analyze any question is recognized. His contribution to the question of a 204 foot road from Detroit to Pontiac is herewith published on its merits.)

Mr. George Averill, Birmingham Eccentric, Birmingham, Michigan. I, THE ENVIRONERS. Let us assume that Birmingham and the surrounding terrain is a rough square divided into four approximately equal parts by two intersecting highways; Woodward running diagonally from north to south, and Maple Avenue running east and west.

The topography is rough, broken up by glacial drifts, woods and lakes. This area, while an ideal location for country estates, discourages the growth of a residential district.

The northeast section adjoining Birmingham is at first level, but more to the north is broken up by the Bloomfield Hills. This general survey of the terrain indicates that the greatest area of growth for the future will be to the southeast of Birmingham followed somewhat later by the development of the southwest and the center of the order named.

Now let us consider Birmingham proper. You will note that the drainage basin for the northern part of the city is to the south-west, and intersects Woodward Avenue and the Grand Trunk Railroad on the northern edge of the town, at the top of the hill. This provides a "bottle-neck" of congestion and a great traffic problem for the Birmingham of the future.

The development of the southeast corner of Birmingham proper has been held up by the Grand Trunk tracks and until recently by the bad condition of Adams Avenue. The southwestern portion is the most densely settled and largest area of any of the parts of Birmingham. This area is remarkably dense in the first place to its natural advantages in being level and readily accessible from the four corners at the center of town, and being fed by Pierce Street, which while running north and south, is a radial feeder.

The northwest corner of the village proper has a comparatively light population and is rather a rural area. The Grand Trunk tracks should be moved consistently east of the intersection of Adams and Maple if we are to avoid future congestion at this crossroad.

The northeastern part of town has the Woodward Avenue hill, the Grand Trunk right-of-way and the drainage basin of the Rouge to operate against ready access and consequent growth.

We assume that the widening Woodward Avenue right-of-way to 204 feet, or by using the Grand Trunk right-of-way, to build two main thoroughfares 100 feet wide.

The population of Birmingham is increasing at such a rate that another north and south business street will soon be necessary. This street should be on the east of Woodward Avenue because that is the portion in which will develop the greatest density. The Grand Trunk right-of-way is properly situated, ready for use.

Something which seems equally important as, what shall be done at the intersection of Woodward Avenue, is, what shall be done at the village limits on South Woodward and North Woodward. The congestion at both of these places is so great that the Grand Trunk will have to be moved to provide room for widening the pavement.

On the south, Adams Road, which is developing into a thoroughfare will receive the traffic of the Grand Trunk tracks should be moved consistently east of the intersection of Adams and Maple if we are to avoid future congestion at this crossroad.

By looking at the map of the Grand Trunk Railroad north of Birmingham, you will note a "cut" made through the Bloomfield Hill section to take a "cut" grade into Pontiac. If the Grand Trunk tracks were run directly from outside the northeast corner of Birmingham to this bend, we would then have one of the three serious barriers to traffic removed from the north end of Woodward Avenue. The cut and the bridge, which would, taken alone, do not seriously menace the traffic of the immediate future. Sometime however, the bottom of the hill at the cut burns will have to be filled in and an underground street of the type shown in the sketch, but this work belongs to the remote future.

In conclusion, it seems that if two right-of-way may be established through Birmingham, we should certainly take this opportunity to establish them; not only because we will need two north and south thoroughfares, but also, because the topographical barriers to the north and west indicate rapid development to the east and south, once the railroad is removed.

If it is impossible to move the railroad however, the property to be condemned for widening Woodward Avenue should be taken from the east side of the street because it can be taken from this side with less expense.

Few people believe that Birmingham should be called upon to support a special assessment to carry wide Woodward through the village. The method of appraisal and purchase employed by the State in the Grand and Royal cuts is enthusiastically endorsed for Birmingham by the owners of Woodward Avenue property.

FRANK L. MAIN, 622 Pierce Street.

HE WHO TAKES, SHOULD GIVE

I think I should tell you of one Henry Brown. Who lived on the edge of a nice little town; The town was a dandy. With everything handy.

And that was not all, for better than Henry was there. His streets were the neatest. The air was the sweetest— His skies were the bluest, he'd proudly declare.

The children were happy and so was his wife, And Henry was happy all the time of his life. The neighbors were chatty. The women—not catty. The men were good fellows, and "Hen" liked 'em all.

Yet Henry has shown me, While he has not said a word, In certain directions, he's just a bit small.

Outside of the village, his taxes are low. And yet he has all the advantages, though. Of those who are living Within, and getting Much more than do: Henry in paying the bill, And Henry, like many. Thinks well of a penny— And cries every time he brings kist to the mill.

Whenever the village elections they hold, Inviting old "Hen" to come into the fold. Old "Hen" and his neighbors All get out their sabers And kill the election by voting it down. Thus gaily they pillage The fruits of the village. Do you think it fair to be like Henry Brown?— C. S. Kinnison in Detroit Times.

FROM THE ECCENTRIC COLUMNS of Long Ago

Just Bits Of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric—The Items That Make Up The Historical Background Of The Birmingham Of Today

33 Years Ago Last, but by no means least, Christmas trees are the tops. The double wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Manly was celebrated on the evening of the 22. Among the gifts to the couple were combined mirror, comb case and towel rack, two knife boxes with useful contents, two suitcases, two wash tubs, wash boards, clothes pins, rocking chair, two brooms and two shovels. Mr. Manly presented his wife with a camp chair, showing her just what we had already surmised, that these desired their wives to take their ease.

25 Years Ago An acquisition to Brown street is the handsome new residence of V. H. Lee.

A preliminary meeting of the Alumni of the University of Michigan in Oakland County was held in Pontiac on November 17, last, for the purpose of organizing an Alumni Association and giving a banquet.

Are you prepared for a rainy day? If not it will pay you handsomely to examine the "Bottle-neck" of congestion and complete line of gentlemen's and ladies' Mackintoshes, from \$3.90 up.

Take notice all concerned! I have exhausted strength and patience chasing trespassing chickens. From this date, November 28, 1924, I charge with a shot gun—T. Lanley, Birmingham.

There seems to be more str in the poultry kingdom during the present season than in any other localities. The war zone is getting near home.

Rehearsal of "A Young Man and his Maid" was the subject of the discourse to be delivered at the Presbyterian church on Sunday evening.

New books in the library by Duane. The Three Musketeers, The Year After, The Vicomte de Bragelonne, Marguerite de Valois, Chivalry.

The Salem Sanitarium of Mrs. B. H. S. met on Monday evening, the home of one of the sisters and entertained the Messrs. Mabel and Edith Campbell, Belle Ward and Mabel Campbell.

Little Royal McKinley, riding down on a well-bred first-year dog last week, after falling a gilt fence, was badly injured. The water was very deep. It was a new well and little Royal stood on the edge of the water, waiting for the earth to swallow him.

The Whittier Opera House presented "A Man Of Mystery," a new melodrama, next week. The Katchamans.

All men are made of dust, but some dust is too thick and dark.

The most surprised little girl in Birmingham last Saturday morning was Miss Bessie Biglow, when on returning from a ride she found twelve dollars in her pocket.

Miss Bessie Biglow, when on returning from a ride she found twelve dollars in her pocket. She had been celebrating her birthday. The fond mama had prepared a delightful treat for her. Another friend had brought a flashlight of the merry little group while they were at the table.

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