

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

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GEORGE RODGERS AVERILL Editor and Publisher

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DETROIT WOULD ANNEX US

Detroit real estate men, not satisfied with the great amount of vacant property that still remains within the boundaries of the Fourth City, are endeavoring to reach out into Oakland and Macomb counties in a scheme to annex vast tracts to Detroit; their immediate proposal is to annex all that part of Wayne County now outside of Detroit.

To put over an "educational campaign," these Detroit real estate firms are collecting together the sum of \$50,000.00, to be used in various kinds of "informative advertising propaganda." They hope ultimately to sway the minds of southern Oakland County residents, more especially Ferndale, Berkley, Clawson, and Royal Oak, to favor the annexation proposition. Needless to say, it's going to be a rather difficult job that these enterprising realtors have undertaken.

The Royal Oak Tribune last week set forth public opinion in its territory by the following:

"In a map printed in the Detroit News all of Oakland, Macomb and Wayne counties are shown and designated as the Metropolitan Detroit area. Developments in the last year or two indicate that many problems will be worked out by this area as a unit, as has been done in other cities; but the first Royal Oak comments to be heard on it are that southern Oakland county territory should retain control of its own affairs and never be swallowed up in a city of 2,000,000 inhabitants.

Petitions for one large annexation project in Wayne county have been filed and the question will come up at the October 6 election there. This includes a large territory to the northwest, measuring 20 square miles. It covers the incorporated village of Redford, the unincorporated village of Brightmore, three square miles of Greenfield township and 1.25 square miles of Grosse Pointe township."

As far as Birmingham and the balance of Bloomfield township are concerned, we believe that they will never consent to annexation to Detroit. The reason lies in the simple, truthful advertising messages broadcasted by some of the very Detroit real estate men who are pushing local property, which proclaim: "Out of the Noise-Zone, into the Ozone," Birmingham, the village of homes where children thrive, "Birmingham, the Pride of Oakland County," and various other well-known slogans that have brought "care-worn Detroiters into the open spaces."

Of course, Detroit is a wonderful industrial center; Birmingham is a wonderful residential center. The two cannot mix.

THE CHARLOTTE REPUBLICAN

Each week we receive about thirty weekly newspapers published in various communities in Michigan. One of them in particular is a welcome visitor at our desk. We refer to the Charlotte Republican, and its genial, well-informed editor, Murl H. (Doc) DeFoe.

The particular part of the Charlotte Republican that we like is Doc's editorial column. We have read this a good many times, some of it we agreed with, some, of a political nature we disagreed with. That, of course, is to be expected. But the thing about Doc's "stuff" that we like, is that none of it ever contains a note of unkindness; knowing Doc, we don't wonder. Keep it up, Murl H. DeFoe—may your years be many, and your wisdom greater and your readers better for your sincere efforts to construct the elements of society.

OUR TOWN IS CLEAN—BUT NOT OUR RIVER

Cleanliness, it has been said, is next to Godliness. A dirty individual is neither clean spiritually nor mentally. Dirt makes for ruin physically, mentally, morally. This is as true of a town as of an individual. The dirty town, the town full of rubbish, of untidy houses, of muddy streets, of unsanitary conditions, is non-progressive materially, morally and educationally. Neither moral nor material advancement flourish in dirty, unkempt dwellings or in unkempt towns.

If any town or city is ambitious for advancement, or if even a few of its men and women are ready to devote their time and energy to the betterment of the community, the surest way to achieve success is to clean up—make back yards and front yards clean and keep them clean, encourage the people to beautify their homes and their yards, stimulate a love for and a pride in their homes and in their towns, repair the tumble-down yard fences, paint up, make things as clean outside as they should be inside, and then that community will look up mentally, morally and materially.

No community which does not clean up and paint up, which does not do its best to have clean streets and clean yards, has any right to look up and face the world.

It might be said a dirty town makes a dirty people; a dirty people makes moral and material dirt and decay. It is the duty of all men and women to make their homes and their home towns just as clean and attractive and beautiful as possible. He who falls short in this respect falls short of his duty to God and man, it matters not what else he may do.

Birmingham and the balance of Bloomfield township rightly may be proud of its spick and span condition—with one possible exception. Within our borders there meanders the winding River Rouge; not so long ago it was a beautiful little stream, a picturesque ribbon of water upon the landscape. And it was fairly free from pollution; when cows and horses wandered about its banks, they were able to drink from the River Rouge without danger of contamination.

But our rapid growth in this locality has changed the Rouge very much; it continues to meander through the village, although rather sluggishly and muddily and

BE A BOOSTER

"Do you know there's lots of people Siffin' round in every town, Growin' like a broodin' chicken, Knockin' every good thing down? Don't you be that kind of cattle, 'Cause they ain't no use on earth, You just be a Booster Rooster; Crow and boost for all you're worth.

"If your town needs boostin', boost'er; Don't hold back and wait to see if some other fellow's willin'. Sail right in; this country's free. No one's got a mortgage on it. It's just yours as much as his; If your town is shy on boosters You get in the boostin' biz.

"If things don't just seem to suit you, And the world seems kinder wrong, What's the matter with a boostin', Just to help the thing along? Cause if things should stop a-goin' We'd be in a sorry plight; You just keep that horn a-blowin'— Boost her up with all your might.

"If you know some feller's fallin', Just gopher 'em, 'cause you know That same feller's got some good points; Them's the ones you want to show. Cast your loaves out on the waters, They'll come back, 's a sayin' true, Mebbe, too, they'll come back 'buttered. When some feller boosts for you."

quite filled with pollution. The River Rouge passes through much of Birmingham's public park system, and, if cleansed of its pollution by future protective measures, ought to prove an attraction to all.

The installation of numerous sanitary sewers in the north and northeast sections of the village during the past months, together with proposed sanitary sewers, ought to bring about a speedy solution to the pollution of the River Rouge in Birmingham.

Any move that our village commission, or township board, may make to install sanitary sewers in this vicinity ought to meet with the approval of all progressive citizens.

WHERE OUR SCHOOLS FAIL

Thoughtful educators have been studying the problem of how better to adapt our school system to the practical needs of the new generation of citizens. It is evident to any unprejudiced observer that much of the effort extended in present day education is illogical and futile.

Much that is taught in the public schools is of value only as a means toward securing a teacher's certificate to teach others to secure a teacher's certificate, and so on.

The average high school graduate is about as helpless an individual, so far as earning a living is concerned, as could well be imagined. Few of them are able to spell, punctuate, capitalize or construct a grammatical sentence, in English, and though they may have a smattering of Latin, French or Spanish, they are unable to pronounce correctly many of the most common English words. Their vocabularies are so limited as to be pitiful.

Thus after twelve years of school work they have a very limited knowledge of their mother tongue, which they must use every day and hour of their lives.

In every other subject of practical use they are equally deficient, having only a superficial acquaintance with numerous text-books, studied for the sole purpose of earning credits.

Considering the fact that only a small percentage can hope to go to college or enter the professions, it seems unfair to the rank and file to force them to waste so much time on what Kipling calls "futile piffle." Much of the stuff crammed into our school children is just that, being without either cultural or practical value.

We are not singling out Birmingham's schools in particular, as modern schools go, Superintendent of Schools Clarence Vliet has placed local schools well in the front of the State's best scholastic systems; local parents need have no qualms about this. However, the fact remains that the modern school DOES NOT fit boys and girls with some of the necessary, simple, fundamental requirements of life; the same might be said of many modern homes.

Boys and girls possess wonderful possibilities of development; realizing this, have educators the courage to incorporate the things into the school curriculum that will make for CHARACTER?

DICTATES OF COMMON SENSE

Buying away from home is a habit which usually does nobody any good but the mail order house. Buying at home is a habit which does a world of good to the buyer, the merchant, and the home town. Why cultivate a bad habit when it is just as easy to acquire a good one and why continue a bad habit when there is a good habit which can easily be substituted?

Before the Birmingham stores became so numerous and so abundantly stocked there was some defence for the mail order concerns with their diversified stocks. There was a time when the mail order house was the only place where the resident of the small town and country could supply all of his needs. But today our hometown stores can furnish all of man's needs and without delays, misunderstandings and uncertainty of satisfaction. Four essentials in buying are quantity, quality, favorable price and quick delivery. Your hometown merchants set the standard in all four of these essentials.

There are men and women who go to larger cities to buy all or part of their wants. They argue that they can save money and obtain better satisfaction, but brought down to the actual facts they usually admit that buying-out-of-town is only a habit, and an expensive habit at that. They lose the leisurely shopping, the personal service and the realization of responsibility which characterize the local stores.

Big business buys its raw material from the nearest source of supply. Every individual is a business in himself or herself. Thrifty buyers figure in the time, labor, transportation, and market costs and buy accordingly.

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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

Forty-Three Years Ago.—A concert for the benefit of the Cemetery Association will be given at the house of W. R. Post, Tuesday evening, August 29th, 1882. To commence promptly at 8 o'clock. Tickets for \$1.00. Seats at the house of W. R. Post, Tuesday evening, August 29th, 1882.

The Weather.—Do you like candy? If so, watch out for the 80 varieties that will be on sale at F. W. Sherman's as soon as the weather permits. The season is one of his life creases today. It will please you.

Rare Specimen.—A Purple asparagus in its store an immense stalk of asparagus over twelve feet in length and branches in proportion. It's immense.

There will be a grand party at Lawless' Hotel on Friday evening, this is the first ball in this town held since the present affable proprietor, Mr. David Jenney, took possession of it and consequently no pains will be spared to make the evening a pleasant one. Bill \$1.50.

Miss Edna Park visited in Pontiac last week. At Corson and Son's. This week all men's hats, 75c off. Some ladies' and children's hats 1.25 off.

Prof. F. A. Mills commenced a series of lectures at the National Hill last Friday. He was here seven years ago and delivered substantially the same series of lectures on psychology and magnetism as his subjects. His lectures are delivered in a rambling disconnected sort of high-speech style peculiar to himself.

We asked Taylor, the Pontiac artist, the other day about the peculiarity of hands in pictures and he explained it as follows: The peculiarity of the focus incidental to the camera obscura materially prevents the reproduction of the parabolic steam chest, and presented the arabesque silhouette of the condenser, the boiler, the joggles of the longitudinal ampulla, thus dividing the prismatic rays of the solar eclipse running on schedule time and diagonal with the celluloid bicycle. After which the animation struck up the chemical and started for the Clinton River.

Twenty-five Years Ago.—A public hearing at George Purdy's home at about two o'clock Wednesday morning succeeded in frightening the women folk of the family quite badly but did not succeed in getting anything to pay him for the trouble of creating the house; Mrs. Purdy not only heard him, but saw him and it is said that the burglar heard Mrs. Purdy before he made a hasty exit.

Cake Walk Off at Saturday Cake Walk. The cake walk at Electric Park Saturday evening was witnessed by a large crowd. Parties from Pontiac, whose names we did not learn, were the lucky ones, winning the prize, a monstrous cake.

Mrs. H. Bunyan and three children, Masters Horace and George and Miss Edith, of Cleveland, were the guests of her brother-in-law, Andrew Bunyan, this week.

Just about one half of the walks have been repaired that have been ordered fixed—the rest merely say, "Don't have to," and we patiently stumble over them.

We faint, the well known painter and decorator is doing some inside decorating in Oscar C. Harger, of Northside this week.

Vacation With Meals Three Times Daily. Well now, here returneth Mrs. Bigelow and daughter, Miss Beulah, from a five weeks' trip and visit to Lake Mackinac, Petosky and Harbor Springs. They had a delightful sea-

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his heir-at-law, delivers, legates and assigns are unknown. A On motion of Patterson & Patterson, X. Petition for Partition. That the above named Defendants or their unknown heirs, devisees, legatees and assigns, cause their appearance to be entered herein within three months from the date of this order, and that in case of their appearance they cause their answers to Plaintiff's bill of complaint to be filed and a copy thereof to be served upon said Plaintiff by return of the sheriff, and that after the hearing on them of a copy of said bill and notice of this order, and that thereafter that said bill be taken as confessed by said Defendant.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that within twenty days from the date hereof the Plaintiff cause a copy of this order to be published in the Birmingham Bee, a newspaper published and circulating in the County of Oakland, and that in case of its continuance once in each week for a period of four weeks, and that a copy of this order be personally served upon each defendant at his last and best known address, as they are set forth in the petition for partition, before the time prescribed for their appearance.

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