

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1925.

A SON SPEAKS TO DAD

Next Tuesday evening there will be gathered together in the Balwin high school 450 local fathers and sons, to observe by fitting ceremonies the national day known as Father's Day.

I who stand before you at this annual Father and Son banquet in Birmingham have been appointed to speak for the sons, and so I will address my remarks to those who, since the boys were tiny babes, have administered to our worldly needs.

My plea is one of extreme simplicity, one that seeks to obtain a clearer understanding for all of us as to what constitutes the relationship between the men and boys of this world.

I would choose for the subject of my talk this title: "The kind of Dad I like." I mean not myself alone, but all the boys of all the nations of the earth.

I would like a Dad who, though a Dad has not forgotten how to be a boy; a Dad who, even though he may be crowded with the business of the world to make a living for his dependents, still remembers the days of his own boyhood and who can step down, when necessary, to meet the gaze of his own son.

I want a Dad who is kind and sympathetic toward the faults of his son, who will pause to correct me when I am mistaken, who will not fail to commend me when I have done right.

I would like a Dad who is thoughtful for the consideration of others; who is tolerant of another person's beliefs. May my Dad be a man who loves very dearly my town Mother, and who, by his acts toward her, instills into my own soul a holy reverence for all womankind.

I would like a Dad who is not so filled with the doing of a multitude of things that he finds it impossible to take me out into the woods, where Nature still holds sway, and tell me some of the wonders of life; I would like to walk with him beneath a gleaming pondy sun, or under the twinkling stars, and be taught to learn something of the splendors that exist outside of four walls and an automobile cushion.

I like the kind of Dad who will teach me, as I am growing up, that, though my earthly father and mother are watchful over me, there is another Father-Mother to whom I owe my existence, and upon whom I must sincerely and devoutly lean throughout my life. I would have a Dad who will teach me to reverence and hold dear the precepts of Jesus of Nazareth; who will actually show me, by his own example, how to apply the Golden Rule to living.

Gathered here tonight are over two hundred boys, all of whom are dependent upon the Dads of today. Like ourselves, we came into the world depending upon our parents for sustenance and guidance; in your hands we are, as it were, plastic bits of clay, capable of being moulded to your idea of what a boy should be.

Someone said that "boys are the stuff that men are made of." Doesn't this prove that our Dads are responsible for the kind of men that we become?

"The Kind of Dad I Like?" Oh, you Dads who are gathered here tonight, how we sons would like to have you better understand us and our needs. We want you to be our heroes; we want you to be our living ideals of true men and great, so that we, too, may have with us a daily example of how to be real men in the world.

Some day, we pray, all the sons here tonight will be gathered at a similar banquet; at our sides will sit our grandsons—our own sons—and what shall be their heritage of true worth, their legacy of love and kindness, of right living and thinking?—the answer depends upon YOU, Dads. You must show us the way.

THE VALUES OF FRIENDSHIP AND MONEY

Would it be amiss to make the following statement? Ask ten people what is the most difficult thing in life to obtain, and perhaps nine of them will reply, "MONEY."

But ask the most intelligent men and women of your acquaintance the same question and they will reply, in most cases, "FRIENDS."

If you are in doubt as to what is the EASIEST thing on earth to obtain, quiet your mental disturbance with the knowledge that MONEY—or any other form of material wealth—is recognized by intelligent people as the answer!

A few weeks ago Alex McKenzie, a supposed pauper in Toronto, Canada, died; bank books found in the attic of his home showed that he was worth a hundred thousand dollars! Just think of it, folks—worth a hundred thousand dollars, yet he died in an attic, unknown to people, and without FRIENDS!

There are thousands of people on earth who have gathered unto themselves MORE material wealth than they will ever need to administer to their physical needs; many of them have made real friends, and are perhaps playing a good part in the drama of life, but we hazard the guess that a lot of them—though they may not live in an attic—are without real FRIENDS.

To be without FRIENDS is to be practically isolated from all the avenues of love, kindness, gratitude, charity, and many other desirable attributes of life; rather would we leave FRIENDS, and what they mean, than ALL the material wealth that mankind has transformed his brains and energy into since the beginning of civilization.

We would rather be rich in FRIENDSHIP and poor in MONEY, than to have the conditions reversed. MONEY is speechless, inanimate—even the United States government keeps most of the wealth of the world hidden away in dark vaults; but FRIENDS may help us, may work and pray for us, may gently criticize and kindly suggest to make us better.

LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY

It often proves difficult to teach moral lessons to people, but you can always get them to feel admiration for the achievements and character of a great man. Thus unconsciously they appropriate moral truth, for when they admire such a one, something of aspiration to do as he did must enter their minds.

The birthday of a great patriot like Abraham Lincoln, which occurs February 12, ought not to pass without reminding the people of his nobility of character, in the hope that some spirit of emulation of his great qualities may enter into the average mind.

The world has produced very few men, who more than Lincoln, combined the qualities of power and love. As respects power, his dominating intellect led his generation, successfully fought a great war. If held together a nation that was breaking in pieces.

But Lincoln was far more than a mere man of power. He had also love for humanity in a superlative degree. If he could have continued president through the reconstruction era, the bitterness of that period would have been avoided by the generous spirit of reconciliation to which he would have given all the ardor of his nature.

His early experiences in a home of poverty gave him a deep sympathy with all struggling people. His heart and interest went out far more to such folks than to the cultured and successful and competent who could take care of themselves! Wherever he saw people fighting for a foothold in the world, and toiling for their homes and families and for a chance for growth and development, his whole heart went out to them. We need more of the Lincoln spirit today, this shall break down the spirit of antagonism that so frequently rises between classes and sections, and that shall soften the friction of these times by a general movement for fraternal spirit and good neighborliness.

Impressions Gained From A Visit Through The Ford Motor Co. Plants

By George R. Averill

We have just witnessed evidence of the material world that ever crept into the mind of any mortal who ever lived. We walked a distance of at least five miles through an establishment that has revolutionized throughout the world as the greatest single piece of manufacturing plant ever known upon the surface of the globe. We refer to the Ford Motor Company, the Highland Park and Rouge plants.

Sixty Men Make Sixty Together with about sixty Birmingham business and professional men, we journeyed down to the Highland Park plant of the Ford Motor Co. on Tuesday morning, and thence began an inspection tour. Just why it is necessary to build so many highways in America. We soon learned the reason.

The Famous "Line" Picture a high enclosed alley, about a quarter of a mile long, and scattered throughout it something less than seven hundred cars. In the center of the alley is a pair of narrow strips of iron, resembling a miniature railroad. These strips, as they move along at the rate of several feet each minute an endless stream of automobiles, the famous "line" of the Ford car assembly.

A Miracle Is Tin Stand at the beginning of this line, some people work on a machine that resembles the familiar appearance of a Ford rear axle on the narrow strips. The differential is caught up by a projection on the sprocket chain—then the fun begins! As the axle slides along uninteruptedly, the workmen stand in readiness to fasten on the chassis a million tons of steel, and then to slip in the motor; then to watch the wheels, fitted with inflated tires, mounted on the moving semi-hold. Become bewildered as, somewhat fastens a gasoline tank to the motor. The car is then tin and then brush your eyes and pinch your face to see whether the motor you are pinning on is the turning motor or if you are just dreaming.

Smelts Own Iron Ore We were shown through several of the buildings on the 1100 acres of land owned by the Ford Motor Co. at River Rouge. In one of them we saw the manufacture of glass, made by the Ford Motor Co. in the plant near Ypsilanti. This glass is used for windshield. We watched one of the huge blast furnaces, from one of the huge blast furnaces; saw it being poured into huge ladles from mounted on iron trucks, and then poured into molds.

Cleanliness Preeminently The power plant at the River Rouge is a marvel of modern mechanical engineering. The plant is completely powdered coal that is blown into their fiery maw, furnishes steam for the rotating turbines that generate power. Everything in the plant was as clean as the best housewife's kitchen. In fact, the interior of the buildings, was as clean as human beings could keep it.

Absolute Despotism But what does it all mean? As we see it, the fact that Henry Ford has, in less than 30 years, come from a village obscurity into the highest place in the material world of the world, is but proof of what is possible for other mortals to achieve to follow.

Money Means Nothing Henry Ford and his son, Edsel, have refused a post-war holiday, endeavor when the accumulation of money means ABSOLUTELY NOTHING to them. They are doing many of the most unique place in manufacturing that was ever accorded any human being. They are doing many

things to MINIMIZE wasted human energy; they are doing many things to perfect IDEAS that will make nature assist in creating mechanical power. They are doing many things, ultimately, to be conserved for finer things.

Worked Out An Idea Ask Henry Ford what is responsible for his success, and he will tell you he had an IDEA and I stuck to it, even though I was laughed at by every body in Detroit. There is nothing mysterious in my success; all I have done is to apply pieces of WORK to an IDEA.

Ford Stuck to His Idea We are reminded of a recent conversation we had with John Purvis, engineer at the Birmingham water works station, in regard to Ford's stick-to-it-idea. Mr. Purvis' office worked at the same place. Mr. Ford did—they were also designers. He said: "I stuck to it."

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

43 Years Ago F. S. Moody and wife received a downy birth Monday Jan. 30. It was a girl, but worth as much as a Village Joe. (South Lyons, Excelsior, Minn.) We are writing you because our friend Miss Rose set so high and turned up her nose at common folks, so, Gratification. See?

Dr. Raylate reported having seen a robin on Monday Tuesday morning, and that afternoon's mail brought us 19 separate and distinct poems on partridge birds, and under each of the poems, met at the residence of Mrs. G. Simpson, and spent the evening pulling cards, playing social games, and having a good time, in general. The party broke up at a seasonable hour, and the happy occasion was most pleasantly well pleased with the evening's visit.

Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Huff celebrated the fifteenth anniversary of their wedding day on Wednesday evening, last. They were married at the Highland Park Hotel, and the happy couple had a very enjoyable time. Mr. Huff is a successful business man, and Mrs. Huff is a most excellent housewife. They have three children, and are all well.

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On Friday evening of last week, the Senior class of the high school, together with several other young people, met at the residence of Mrs. G. Simpson, and spent the evening pulling cards, playing social games, and having a good time, in general. The party broke up at a seasonable hour, and the happy occasion was most pleasantly well pleased with the evening's visit.

More than 1,500 loads of ice have been harvested from the Mill Pond this winter. Last night's ivory tooth-pick last week, somewhere in Birmingham. Please leave this office.

Dancing parties are all the rage now, and the Quadrille Band has its hands full. Philetus Gibbs of Troy, has hired out to Jas. Campbell for one year for the consideration of \$185.00.

Widow Bedora is getting fits from all sides, but the amiable old lady is holding her own gallantly. Aunt Em. H. Greer, of Independence, has been visiting in the relatives in town, and everybody is happy.

If the person who stole the bench from the Library premises returns it, it will be paid for. If not, it will be exposed.

Eight and one-half acres for sale or rent, cheap; also a good new overcoat which I will trade for wood. E. L. Jennings, Birmingham, Michigan.

Obser. Medina and F. Jenks pulled out of Troy in a motor car, weighing 15 pounds, two of 10 pounds and one of 5. H. Howland caught the motor car, weighing respectively 11, 4 1/2, and 3 1/2. Pretty good fishing, that.

25 Years Ago For many patrons of the Detroit Free Press in Detroit, the fact that they received the state edition instead of the Detroit edition, is a matter of regret. The edition is printed, before midnight, leaves by a western train, and is carried out by the motor car, weighing respectively 11, 4 1/2, and 3 1/2. Pretty good fishing, that.

The next regular meeting of Piety (Detroit) will be held on Monday, Monday evening, February 9, 1900, at K.O.T.M. Hall, Birmingham. All of the making program are kindly requested to be present, as we have a number of reports to transact. For further information, call on K.O.T.M. Hall, Birmingham, on the first and third Monday evenings of each month. C. H. Carter, patron.

Say, see here, we will just give the \$100 Magazine to the Birmingham Eccentric, here in Whitehead's and Mitchell's, five days to return it, be your satisfaction. We will give you a free warning, quick return, and no questions asked, or a full exposure.

A Sanitarium in Birmingham? Deed there is. What is known as the "Birmingham Sanitarium" is now occupied by Dr. E. Mather, and the gentleman has turned the same over to the Birmingham Eccentric. He is prepared to treat all chronic diseases, and at the same time give his patients from abroad, the most comfortable and special attention during treatment. The doctor intends purchasing the property and building, according to future requirements. He is expecting a patient from Providence, R. I., who has been suffering from New York in the near future. Dr. Mather is also ready for local practice outside of Birmingham. See above institution bids fair to be an important acquisition to Birmingham.

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