

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

(Founded in 1878 by Whitehead & Mitchell)
Published every Friday at Birmingham, Michigan, in The Eccentric Building,
126-128 North Woodward Avenue. Telephones 11 and 12.
GEORGE RODGERS AVERILL Editor and Publisher.

Entered as Second-Class matter in the U. S. Postoffice at Birmingham, Mich.
Subscription Rates: All newspapers and advertising
"copy" must be in The Eccentric
Office by Wednesday noon of
each week.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1925

A DAY OF GRATITUDE

"Blow, blow, thou winter wind! Thou art not so unkind as man's ingratitude," says one of Shakespeare's characters in "As You Like It." The Great Bard, of course, was not preaching a Thanksgiving sermon for these are much too modern and too American, but he was giving voice to an age-long sentiment that comes to the surface of every normal heart today.

Long before the Puritans dedicated a day a year amid the snows of New England to offering thanks to their God for his benevolence, poets and philosophers were branding the ingrate and exalting the grateful. "An ungrateful soul is a tub full of holes," says an old Latin proverb. Aunty's believed that the "earth produces nothing worse than an ungrateful man." In Juvenal's opinion, "if you call a man ungrateful, you say everything against him," while Balthus wrote that "gratitude-is the fairest blossom which springs from the soul."

But these are the sentiments of men in relation to other men. Not until the old New Englanders knelt devoutly, offering prayers of thanksgiving, did it seem to occur to mankind to set apart a special time for gratitude to God for his bounty. Thus, the modern Thanksgiving is essentially a religious holiday, as divine in purpose as any of the red-letter days in the church calendar.

Nothing is more appropriate by way of observance than a religious service. Nothing is more inexcusable in the day of the truly believer than to omit a period of devotion and recognition of the Great Provider.

It is useless to say that in this life or that life, this country or that country, there is little or no cause for thanksgiving. "Trite as is the sentiment, things are never so bad that they might not be worse. But when all is said and done, everybody is relatively well off. Things for them could be much worse. A scant meal might be scantier. A serious illness might be more serious. Troubles in business or elsewhere could be considerably greater. No person is without cause for gratitude.

Only the possessor of a low-caste soul, a callous heart, will fall today to be mindful of the Great Benefactor. America is the better nation for having established its Thanksgiving. Its duty today is to preserve it in spirit and in the reverence its hallowed origin deserves.

CARRYING ON GOVERNMENT

For every thousand dollars assessed against residents of Birmingham, the sum of \$30.18 will be paid into the township treasurer's hands this winter. This is the way that government in our state, county, and school district is financed. It is significant and most reassuring, that more than half of this local tax goes into our school system. It proves that local people stand behind an educational system for their children. It is, however, too bad that more of our school money does not go to hire a larger and better teaching staff, as well as finding its way into luxurious school buildings.

APPROACHING

Advertisements are beginning to appear with decorations of holly and mistletoe and smiling faces of Santa Claus. To the observant, these ad, froscos tell their own story, give their own warning, hint at the important business from which none is barred and in which sooner or later everybody will be engaged.

In other words, Christmas shopping. The holiday is little more than a month ahead, fewer shopping days than fifty by a good deal. In no time these days will pass. The natural procrastinator will wait until Christmas Eve when store aisles will be jammed by other procrastinators, stocks picked out, clerks weary, customers in a flutter, clocks ticking time's rapid pace, all because the reminders of today have been neglected.

Every year more sensible persons do their Christmas shopping early. They reap all the advantages in variety of selection and leisure of choice and when Christmas Eve comes they can proceed about their last-minute holiday tasks orderly, while the others fume and sputter.

Americans are a great people never to do today what can be done tomorrow. The postmaster has urged early posting of Christmas mail, but the last days will probably be bigger than ever. The train leaves at 5:15, but the cars do not fill until 5:14. We get there even if we are a last-minute nation, but it is at a tremendous cost of physical energy and mental upsets. The Christmas shopping season is merely one phase of a national temperament.

HELPING THE DEVIL

The fundamentalists are deploring the rows precipitated in certain churches by the liberals. And the liberals are deploring them as a result of the opposition of the fundamentalists. Each side deplors the stubbornness of the other. This intolerance has characterized the conflict between the religious standpatters and progressives from its beginning. As a consequence religion suffers. If this sort of wrangling continues, the disgruntled gallery of unredeemed humanity may develop an inclination to say, "A plague on both your houses," and leave it so.

Certainly, if the opposing factions are sincere in their religion, they can find it in their hearts to concede to brothers on the other side the right to think for themselves. To lay down certain dogma or theories and to demand acceptance by the other side is to assume an autocratic attitude that is foreign to true religion. There is room for tolerance, and such tolerance is essential to preservation of the integrity of the churches involved. A bitter religious wrangle between unyielding factions must necessarily work to the advantage of the devil. True believers will not be so foolish.

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 Our Birmingham City Today

43 YEARS AGO. 25 YEARS AGO.

Miss Ellen Crandall and her mother are visiting friends at Owosso and other parts of the state.

Prof. W. C. Hewitt will give a lecture on "Modern Evolution" at the Baptist church on Wednesday for the benefit of the Ladies Aid Society.

E. C. Poppleton has a new and very elegant covered carriage. The fact that Dick Cummings is a car man, turned out the job is a warranty that it is everything that could be desired, durable and so that anyone can see at a glance that in point of style it is not to be outdone in this vicinity.

S. P. Thompson and wife, old friends of Mr. and Mrs. H. D. H. with their children, Mr. and Mrs. S. Sawyer, and with their daughter, all take Thanksgiving dinner with the above H. D. Huff and wife. We venture to say that the Huff house is the only dwelling in which four generations of the same family indulge in Turkey this day.

For the past three weeks we have been hearing the notes of a concert by Professor Rainey and class. We understand that the concert did really take place, and that the management of Herr Dr. Voitkoff, a Baltic editor of the Silesian Gazette, was in charge. His chief occupation is to read the newspapers and make extracts and cuttings from them which are pasted in a book, the more important or interesting articles being underlined in red or blue pencil to call the monarch's attention.

and adviser, Thomas E. Newton, John Endcott of the Michigan state bar, Richard H. Scott and E. O. Lanning.

The Other Chap. Says Something

MR. GROESBECK AND HIS MACHINE

There is no getting around the fact, that Governor Alex. J. Groesbeck has had it up and running, and is expanding as pretty well appointed a political machine as this corner of the north has ever known. While Mr. Groesbeck is able and indefatigable in his line of endeavor, he sticks on the day and night, in season and out, working into the others sleep, and taking no vacation account of the weather. Unless the outgoing signs are fearfully deceptive, the governor never is weak enough to make a move, or cultivate a "friendship" or "relationship" in which he forgets the welfare of the edifice that is his dearest possession, and absorbs his tenderest thought. Whatever else happens, Mr. Groesbeck makes certain that it is always polished and ready for service; and he is constantly adding new parts and putting in extra braces and supports.

The governor's machine reaches today into every department, nook and corner of the government. It has a control lever for every board and commission. It laps over into the legislative branch, where it is known as the door of court rooms. It also connects up increasingly with the county and municipal revolving machinery. Now, one of the governor's big griefs arises out of the fact that he has been unable to get a toehold in the Detroit city hall. It is related that he repeated great hope in the recent campaign to put over Mr. Bowles.

Mr. Groesbeck has, low, in remarkable high degree, the ability to interweave the functioning of government machinery with the functioning of his personal program. It is so that it frequently is impossible to tell where one gives way to the other. It is always very close together, and in a club, the personal machine never takes second place.

Geographically, the political organization the governor has created is bigger than Tammany hall; and it all belongs to Alex. Groesbeck. He shares it with nobody. People work for him and receive recognition and rewards. But it is difficult to know anybody ever really has worked with him as a bona fide partner of his joys and sorrows. One small sign of it gets into his head the other day, that he is a member of the firm; but the moment such a person grows cocky and outlives his usefulness there, he is steam roller passing majestically him- self by anatomy. And of course the same applies to those who attempt to work with Mr. Groesbeck or maintain amicable relations with him, without becoming a part of his organization, receive even less consideration if they get in his way. As to the barbers who come within the sphere of his conquests, they receive the Maudslowiak alternative. They accept the faith of the other side.

The reader will observe from this, that while the Groesbeck machine is a rival of Tammany hall in its completeness, the similarity of the two goes no further than this. There is no council of chiefs, no majority rule in the governor's scheme of things. It is more dictatorial than an old Queen machine. Mr. Groesbeck may have satraps, but he has no fellow satchels.

Was such an arrangement has the virtue of simplicity, there are drawbacks to it. A scribe writer in one afternoon machine recently described the governor as a "long-haired man." The description is shrewd. It also indicates where Mr. Groesbeck is missing a bet.

Here is a brief, partial list of outstanding men who were more or less in addition and connection with the governor, but now are accounted either among those who are "through with him" or out "to get" him: Samuel O'Dell of the public utilities commission, the governor's one time room mate, W. W. C. C. C., former chairman of the Republican state central committee, O. B. Fuller, auditor general of Michigan in former Governor Sleeper, Samuel T. Pepper, assistant attorney general; Fred Green, former executive in charge of state prison; former Lieutenant Governor Tom Read, Sidney T. Waldron, Ed. Hines, George W. Dr. J. B. Kennedy, John S. Haggerty, for years the governor's closest associate.

BEST VALLES AND LOCATIONS

BIRMINGHAM :: :: BLOOMFIELD HILLS Building Sites :: Land Investments

Table with columns for BLOOMFIELD HILLS DISTRICT (Ready to Build) and BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT (Ready to Build). Lists lots with sizes and prices.

OTHER SIZES AND LOCATIONS

Before looking obtain our information map of District

Walsh, James & Wasey Co. BIRMINGHAM OFFICE: 305 S. Woodward Ave., Phone 78 MAIN OFFICE: Penobscot Bldg., Detroit, Cherry 6500

OR SEE YOUR BROKER

Local Representatives: Robert R. Allen, J. D. Johnston, James J. Martin, Frank Criswell, Joseph G. Coker, Mary Manchester, T. H. Loomis, Jr., H. Wilson, J. G. McFarland, Mervin Crawford.

YOU GO HOME HAPPY WHEN YOU DO YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING HERE

Prices are Right Quality is Right Service is Right

Christmas Slippers

As Gifts - THE KIND THAT TIRED FEET REST IN

EVERYTHING IN THE SHOE LINE

YOUNG'S SHOE STORE

111 North Woodward Avenue

DIRECTORY

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Shock & Ogden General Practice of Law Suite 4, First Nat'l Bk. Bldg. Phone Birmingham 1055

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Dr. Mabel Campbell OSTEOPATHIC PHYSICIAN 312 First National Bank Bldg. PONTIAC Phone Pontiac 3147 Hours: 9-12; 1-5 - and by appointment

Fred L. Tucker, Dentist FIRST NAT'L BANK BLDG. PHONE 150 Office Hours: 9-12; 1-5 - Evening hours by appointment

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