

## BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

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GEORGE RODGERS AVERILL, Editor and Publisher

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 1926

## THE LOCAL NEWSPAPER

In spite of the fact that the metropolitan press now reaches into nearly every town and village in the country, the local newspaper in the United States is each year getting on a firmer foundation and becoming more and more useful to its home community.

It may be said that the day of the metropolitan newspaper is at hand. This is true, but it is equally as true that the day of the local newspaper is here too.

The metropolitan daily with its world-wide news, its comic sheets and its magazine supplements, while of course essential in our modern civilization, cannot take the place of the home newspaper. The very fact that the big city daily must cover a broad field forbids its becoming local in any sense, and it is in the local field where the home newspaper dominates and where it finds its true usefulness.

For, after all, it is the home news, which is most important to most of us. We have the greatest interest in the community in which we live, and in the people who are our neighbors and friends. And it is the local newspaper which records the happenings of the folks at home, and in addition fosters the civic pride and progressive spirit of the community.

It is the home newspaper which boosts the town, year in and year out, which refuses to advertise the city merchants in competition with the local business men and which takes the lead in every enterprise which has for its purpose the unbuilding and prosperity of the community.

We frequently hear it said that the old time independent spirit of the newspaper is gone, that its editorial policy is now subservient to the business office. Yet this is not true. There is more unselfish idealism in the average local newspaper than in any other business enterprise. It frequently speaks out in the way which it believes will be for the good of the nation and of the community, regardless of what the consequences may be from a business standpoint. This is more than the average business man will do or can do.

Of course the local newspaper is now on a firm business basis. This is why it is improving from year to year, why it is giving its readers a constantly better newspaper, and why it is increasing its influence for good in the community. But the local newspaper is still the principal booster for the community, and it does its boosting often without any hope of material reward.

Unfortunately indeed is the community which neither appreciates nor supports its local newspapers.

## IDEALISM IS HERE

That 200 Birmingham citizens have organized the Village Players, and are putting \$10,000.00 into the building of a local playhouse, proves beyond any reasonable doubt that this community possesses idealistic yearnings. When you want to relate the virtues of Birmingham, just tell your out-of-town friends that this village has within it the highest type of mental, spiritual and physical life manifestation of any town its size in the whole world. In other words, Birmingham and nearby folks think of something other than their stomachs.

## LITTLE ENOUGH FOR SCHOOLS

The Birmingham school district this year will raise \$437,503.32 with which to carry on an educational program for the youth of this community. That's a lot of money; based on an estimated attendance of 2,000 pupils, however, it is less than \$22.00 per scholar, which is entirely too little to pay for the shaping of one life for one school year. Some day society will wake up to the fact that a little more money spent on leading out of children the latent capacities for good which they all possess will do much to remove many of the social ills for which we now pay enormous taxes for prevention and upkeep.

## LOCKS AND BARS NECESSARY

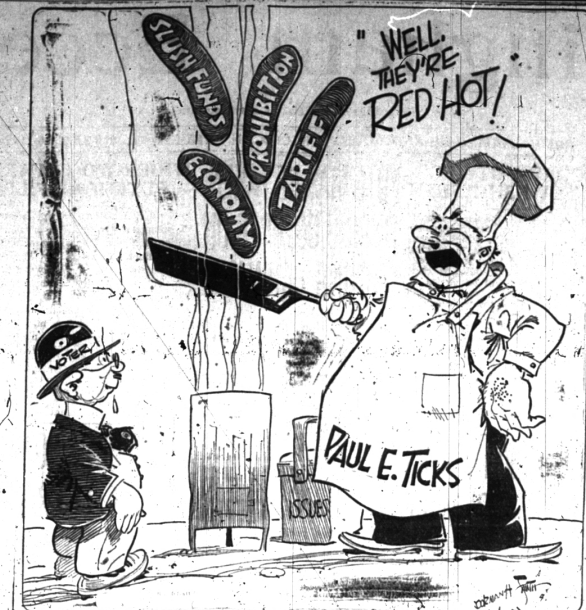
Another evidence of the growth of Birmingham may be seen from time to time as police are notified that "Mr. So-and-So's" home was robbed by unknown burglars. That is the penalty we must pay for expansion. A few years ago Birmingham was a quiet, peaceful little burg—a place where nearly everybody knew everybody else; to-day it is different. Locks and bars are now playing a useful role in the protection of property in our midst.

## RUDOLPH VALENTINO

Rudolph Valentino, "sheik of the movies," died in New York City, Monday, following an unsuccessful operation. Thousands of people will regret his passing. He was a good actor, and the sum of his stage activities—as far as impressing the public is concerned—probably weigh heaviest on the side of social uplift. Of course, "Rudy" wasn't a boiler-maker, and therefore didn't act like one; we don't believe, either, that he was the walking personification of a powder-puff. He lived his day, performing a useful service in the world; as a regular four-square man, we believe Valentino stacked head and shoulders above a fellow by the name of Jack Dempsey who just dotes on fights. (Said fights, of course, must not be near any battlefield.)

## GROESBECK'S STATEMENTS

First it was a half million, now it is two million that Governor Groesbeck estimates to be the cost of giving the Grand Trunk a new right of way east of Birmingham, so



that Wider Woodward may be completed at some future time. That's only "raising the ante" four times, eh, Gov.? Remember when you once told Oakland County that you'd build 'em a road for nothing, and then obtained over \$800,000.00 from us to help on your Woodward project? You certainly are a regular Santa Claus, Mr. Groesbeck, with your bag of cement promises. However, as the ancients were inclined to say, "It's a long road that can't be paved with the people's money."

## JOHN BARLEYCORN LIVES

Congressman Grant M. Hudson told a Birmingham audience the other Sunday evening that prohibition in the United States is a success, and that "vision is what the American people need to understand the situation." Of course, prohibition for the individual is always a success, and for that reason it could be made successful for a collective group of people that go to make up a nation. Some day it may become successful; in the meantime, however, faith in good government is subject to being lowered in the minds of the people because of the corruption and graft evidenced by those who are hired to enforce the law. John Barleycorn has been so well preserved through the ages that it is difficult to witness his actual decomposition.

## SENATOR COUZENS' FARM

Senator James Couzens is having quite a time getting a man to run his 900-acre farm a few miles northwest of Birmingham, it appears. This beautiful and expensive piece of the earth's surface was originally purchased as an estate by the Detroit multi-millionaire, and has cost him a barrel of money ever since to operate. He offers to lease it to the man who can make it pay. Based on its assessed value, we doubt if any man can make it pay as farm land. Therefore, we suggest that the Senator use the estate as a home for aged and useless politicians. (If he should, Oakland County would be the heaviest populated district in the entire world, wouldn't 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

Wm. Poole is entitled to our thanks for a generous supply of harvest apples. Ditto Ed. Miller.

Married Aug. 30th, by Justice John Bodine, Isaac Dunn and Flora Jane Merritt, all of Southfield and of African descent.

Mrs. Susan Frink returned home on Tuesday night last from Lake Superior country via the propeller Nyack. She expresses herself well pleased with her visit.

Mrs. McLaughlin's barn on Townsend street has been removed to its proper position out of the street and the sidewalk extended to a junction with the Pierce street walks.

List of letters remaining unclaimed in Birmingham, Mich., post office Sept. 1st, 1882, is a follow-up Miss Fannie Henderson, Mrs. George Loring, Mr. Wm. Ryne. Persons calling for any of the above will please say "advertised." J. Allen Bigelow, P. M.

Several young men who attended a surprise party at William Baldwin's near Big Beaver, on Thursday evening of last week, were surprised by the sudden departure of their buggy wheels after they had started for home. Some one who thought it smart had evidently manipulated the wheel of the vehicles. Several ladies and some frightened young men were fortunately the most serious results.

Born: On Sunday last, Sept. 2, to Mrs. E. C. Poppleton, a girl.

Some unscrupulous son of a gun stole the Miles Evans' pants, rifled the pockets of about \$3.50 and escaped scot-free. They abducted the unscrupulous with the aid of a fishhook attached to a pole, and fished very successfully.

Scene: Whitehead and Mitchell

drug store. Time: 3:15 a. m. He was yelling like a painter, and every time he kicked the door, we thought himself and the door would come together. Cautiously sticking our heads out, we saw the matter was not so serious. We were informed by a member of the board that an architect from Detroit had been engaged, a man who had been in this class of work a long time, making plans for schools and churches in that city. Just which will be erected, an annex or a separate building, will probably be decided this week, and we are assured that before now the new building will be completed, the work to be rushed just as fast as possible, care and good workmanship considered. The \$5,000 already voted for a school building will be amply adequate to make the necessary expenditures.

## 25 YEARS AGO

At the regular meeting of School-board No. 1, held Monday evening, the school board was empowered to erect a separate building or an annex to the old one, on the present site. We are informed by a member of the board that an architect from Detroit had been engaged, a man who had been in this class of work a long time, making plans for schools and churches in that city. Just which will be erected, an annex or a separate building, will probably be decided this week, and we are assured that before now the new building will be completed, the work to be rushed just as fast as possible, care and good workmanship considered. The \$5,000 already voted for a school building will be amply adequate to make the necessary expenditures.

One of the innovations of the state fair this year will be a Midway with the two starting features eliminated, conducted on a basis of respectability.

to be sure, but none the less a Midway that will embrace many strange and curious sights. In addition to this departure there will be a free show given, as promised by the management some time ago, every afternoon in front of the grand stand by a troupe of high class jubilee singers and calkwalkers.

Twenty-two prisoners are now incarcerated in the county jail several of whom are awaiting trial in the circuit court for serious offenses, but the majority are serving short sentences for crimes not so serious. Four of the offenders are of the feminine gender, and are awaiting trial on charges from getting drunk and disorderly to more serious offenses. "We have got the toughest bunch that ever Oakland county jail contained at this season of the year," said an official who is familiar with the situation.

The next teachers' examination will be held at Oxford, Oct. 17 and 18. Owing to a change in the law there will be no examinations held in February hereafter.

The law requires that all certificates not granted by the county board of examiners shall be filed with the commissioner of schools in the county where the holder desires to teach. All such teachers having positions in Oakland county will govern themselves accordingly.

District No. 9, Pontiac, No. 5 fr. White Lake, No. 6 Orion, and No. 3 fr. Troy are in want of teachers. Among the third grade holders' certificates we notice the following names: O. Jensen, Royal Oak; Zillah Beatty, Pontiac; Lizzie McGowan, Southfield; Lena Bartram, Edith Koomts, Birmingham.

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## THE OTHER CHAP SAYS SOMETHING

## A SICK CIVILIZATION

Utopia is always over the horizon. The perfect law is always in the statute books of one state or the other country. In America we hear a lot about the perfection with which Quebec handles the liquor traffic, which is under a system of government control in the province. But here comes Cardinal Beign, prime minister of Quebec, railing at the bootleggers. It seems there is as much bootlegging under the Canadian system of government control as there is under the American system of government prohibition. In Canada, American prohibition is an ideal of the Canadians; in America, Canadian government bootleggers are the ideal of Americans. Cardinal Beign in a recent pastoral letter treats the problem of the bootleggers in these solemn words:

"By virtue of our pastoral authority we have prohibited and do prohibit under pain of grave excommunication, sale, and clandestine importation of intoxicating liquors such as are already prohibited by civil law."

All of which goes to show that it isn't the American prohibition law which is making the trouble. All levels over Christendom are shaking. The spirit of license after the war comes from a cynical disillusion among the people of the whole earth who, were fed war propaganda, until their gorge rose and now they refuse to believe in anything and regard with suspicion all attempts to use government as an agency of human welfare.

This cynicism brands as hypocrisy all aspiration because the aspiration which took 40 million men to death and left the world beggaring under an unpayable debt was the aspiration of a false propaganda—a propaganda of hate! The bootlegger, the cynic, the stick-up man, the spy, the thief, the man who is morally retching at the overdose of materialism that came with the war propaganda.

Until the world's stomach stiches, civilization will be in danger, in danger from within and not from without; in danger of the loss of vision, for it was written of old that without vision the people perish. William Allen White in Emporia (Kans.) Gazette.

Only twice has Michigan elected a governor for a third term and never for a fourth. Indiana has a four-year term for governor and he is not eligible to re-election, and Oklahoma has a similar law. The history of any state has a man been elected for four (Continued on Next Page)

## CANDIDATES.

(Grand Old Country Herald)  
Two weeks ago the Herald said that unless there seemed to be need that it would remain neutral in the Governorship contest. But the more we have thought of the matter, the more it seems to us a public duty to support Mayor Green for the nomination for governor.  
We do not believe that with the governor exercising the executive power which he does in Michigan today, it is safe to elect him for more than two or three terms. We know what the argument is, "If you have a competent man or woman in your employ, would you not keep that man or woman after year?" Certainly we would. If you had a good county officer or an especially competent state officer, would you not retain him more than two or three terms? Certainly. It would be good business. But meanwhile, we would expect this employ to do as we said. We certainly would not keep him if we thought he was doing anything which might be dangerous to the continuance of our business. The governor has a right to unlimited power. He has such powers. As the governor's powers have increased the powers of other state officers have diminished. We do not contend that Groesbeck is contemplating the overthrow of Groesbeck government. We do not believe that he would do so. But this is true, when a governor is permitted to create a dangerous precedent, he is creating a dangerous precedent. A weak governor might become the tool of a corrupt ring or a strong governor might usurp more and more the functions of the legislature and the executive. We do not say that Groesbeck would do this, but we do say that, with his strong executive tendencies and the encroachment of the executive on the legislature, a dangerous precedent already made, his administration has traveled a long road in the wrong direction and created a dangerous precedent for even the third term.

## Opportunities

350

## Homes under construction in Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills

Wise people buy land where there is activity.

Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills are strategically located between Detroit and Pontiac.

Discriminating people prefer this location.

You can have a wide range of choice in the 20 splendid developments we have to offer you.

Take advantage of this opportunity. A call or a note will put a trained specialist at your service.

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