

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

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GEORGE ROYGER, AV. RILL, Editor and Publisher

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1926

PLANS FOR OUR NEW PUBLIC LIBRARY

In the development and growth of Birmingham, many things must needs be considered to maintain a well balanced community. Schools, churches, libraries, and similar things that make for intellectual growth are as necessary as our water supply, sewer system, dog streets, etc. This brief article will relate to the Baldwin Public Library.

Everyone here knows that, in the near future, the village commission intends to sell the present site of the Baldwin Public Library, which houses practically every village enterprise, including the dog pound and water meters. The village commission recently turned over to the library board a block of land upon which, it is hoped, a decent public library will be erected. As far as we have been able to learn, such a library could take concrete form whenever the library board completes its plans.

We have heard that it will be about a year before such plans are ready, after which the matter of raising sufficient funds must be submitted to the people for approval. What we can't understand is just why it requires an entire year to get together plans for a building that will cost much less than a building that our school board prepares—in some cases—in a few weeks.

Certainly, enough time ought to be spent in planning a library for Birmingham's future needs. Perhaps it does require a year to plan a building that costs about \$150,000.00; if it does, then it ought to take about two years to get out plans for a school building that costs a quarter of a million dollars or more.

Will some kind friend enlighten us if there is any truth in the old adage that "the man who considers everything never decides upon anything."

ANCIENT FABLES BROUGHT DOWN TO DATE

Embodying the kindness of Lincoln, the stalwartness of Washington, and the zealotry of Napoleon, the figure of Governor Alex J. Groesbeck leaned over the rostrum at the meeting in Any Hall, Any Place, Michigan, last night, while a thousand hearts swelled with pardonable pride as two thousand eyes gazed upon their Chief Executive. A thousand pairs of ears heard words spoken that delineated the various activities of the State Department during the past year, and Michigan's potential leader sat down amidst thunderous applause as the audience, overcome with emotions of love and satisfaction, came to understand that the lowly backwoods home stood on a par with the millionaire's mansion in the mind of their Governor.

In referring to the matter afterwards, Governor Groesbeck said, "Far above the physical returns that I shall get from this life, do I value the good will of my people; when I stand before an audience of Michigan taxpayers, pleading their cause, I am cognizant of the fact that what I say may effect more to two million people; the awfulness of the situation almost appalls me at times, for I well know that what may seem trifling at the moment may actually change the destinies of many souls. I am more concerned with the intellectual and moral development of the people who look to me for guidance and leadership than I am with all the material attainments of Rome."

No, Gentle Reader, the above is not a news story; it is merely the kind of story that we, personally, would like to see attached to the personality of Governor Groesbeck these days—or to any other prominent public official in Any Place, U.S.A. And we hope that it shall come to pass Mr. Groesbeck lays down the mantle of political favor in Michigan.

ST. VALENTINE'S DAY

For so many years that the memory of man runneth not to the contrary, sentimental youths and romantic maidens have exchanged tokens of affection on what we know as St. Valentine's Day. Just how the ceremony came into being nobody knows positively, for its origin is shrouded in mystery, although the name probably was the result of one of those wise compromises the early fathers of Christianity made with the practices of idolatry, grafting into the customs of the then new religion the feasts and the holidays to which their converts had been accustomed, fixing them on days dear to the church, making them conform to the Christian creed and handing them down to posterity as Christian customs and Christian holidays.

All the more is to be suspected in this instance, for the reason that neither of the good saints whose names are associated with the event knew anything of romance, and either would have been properly shocked had anybody so much as hinted that he would cast sheep's eye at the fair sex on February 14 or any other day. But St. Valentine, the elder, having his day on the calendar near that on which the youths and maidens of early England were accustomed to send to each other tender missives, it is altogether likely the wise missionary bishops made virtue of necessity and joined the two in a way inoffensive to the church and pleasing to the people.

But whether or not this may be the explanation, the real origin of the custom may be traced, as most other holiday observances, to a crying need deep in the soul of man. In spring life is at the flood. Even age renews its youth, and youth itself is in mating mood.

Popularity leaves very little time for steady thinking. Today is what we were all looking forward to yesterday. St. Louis doctor says 40 is the ideal age for love. Wonder how old he is? We would say about 40.

None of us can think of Abraham Lincoln without thinking somewhat of self—he was that human. Even the sweep of greatness, bearing him so swiftly to the heights, seems not to have made him remote, but almost to bring him more near. In this compare him with Washington, a figure as distant from the day's round as those of ancient or even mythical times. Despite his warrant to the name, who could call him Gentleman George? Yet none halts at Honest Abe.

He was honest and plain and simple, and he kept these qualities beyond his earlier years in a way found only among the truly great, and seldom so emphasized in that small company. He was, perhaps, the most human and unaffected of the titans, those supreme achievers who cannot be accounted for by any of the formulae we know. Certainly no other American approaches him in the matter of genuineness, and our knowledge of the dominant personalities of the past leaves him as lonely in this as he was in his strange life.

He is a vast heritage for his own land, and for all lands, and no one doubts that time will strengthen his hold on men whose outer differences might seem to shatter hope of such sharing. But he had so little to do with outer things; he was so free from pretense and false pride and selfishness, and so familiar with sorrow, that these hindrances and this help to expression of certain dreams latent in all hearts have made his heart an open door to a common room for human hopes.

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

42 YEARS AGO

George Randall was the recipient of a check for \$100.00 from his father, Henry Randall of Southfield. It was a recompense for the reading of the entire Bible by his son.

The new cigar which takes the lead of all the five cent goods in the market just now is "The Eccentric." They are made especially for the trade and are the best selected stock. For sale by Whitehead & Mitchell.

Jack Baldwin last Tuesday fitted and set 52 horse shoes. A big day's work and a vast amount of a day for setting either.

It takes lots of candy, a silk handkerchief, a pair of squirrels, and five rabbits to buzz up an average Southfield girl, and then her mother flirts with the wood at the ardent lover as he takes his departure.

Married: Tom-Fattison—At the old homestead, No. 115 Larned St., East, on the 15th inst., by the Rev. George Field, Cassius M. Fattison, Birmingham, Mich., to Miss Sarah Belle Fattison, youngest daughter of George W. Fattison. No cards.

At first we imagined the whole town was on fire, then we wrote that Mr. Taber's coat had shook hands with his belt backwards, but as he drew near we recognized in the face surrounded by wild disheveled locks, the familiar countenance of our old friend, Mr. Taber. He was not crying, but we caught a few sad expressions as, "just ten pounds, ninety four and six pence, a good nine box, you great overgrown idiot, what are you standing there for, are you mad, or are you a fool? That was enough for us and we just walked into our office and filed up that activity in our files. As for all these years, to do our share in purchasing a pair of diminutive boots for the first baby boy of the Eccentric Club.

Long eared shaped buttons with circles of black passementerie cord are the trimmings for cloth redingotes.

A very pleasant event was the marriage of Miss Mary Ann, eldest daughter of H. H. Chaffield of this place, to Mr. Joseph L. Robinson of East Tawas, at the residence of the bride's father, Wednesday, February 14, 1926, the Rev. A. J. Bigelow officiating.

The bride was tastefully dressed in a wine-colored silk with thread lace throat and sleeves. A number of guests were present, and immediately after the ceremony a sumptuous feast.

What makes Birmingham "Birmingham," and not one of the thousands of ordinary small towns of this U. S. A.?

What gives Birmingham the reputation of being such an ideal home place?

Why are people moving to Birmingham?

Not because of our municipal buildings or business enterprises but because of the lack of them and the absence of what the regular towns are proud of.

Birmingham is different because even though it is a boom and commercial turmoil of Detroit it is still Birmingham and has kept its atmosphere of culture, refinement and refinement and has not sacrificed this atmosphere to commercialism.

Recently an inveterate speaker to Birmingham said Birmingham should strive for a hundred thousand population. What prompted this remark? "Commercialism." And in a late issue of your paper one of our citizens gave as his reason for moving to Birmingham, "the fact that Birmingham and that meant more money spent in Birmingham and more money spent with the merchants."

Why sacrifice what makes Birmingham "Birmingham?" To defeat such a sacrifice let's de-

OUR VARIETY OF PROPERTIES IN THE BIRMINGHAM-BLOOMFIELD HILLS DISTRICT

is the largest ever offered in High Grade Suburban Development

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Walsh, James & Wasey Co.

REALTORS
BIRMINGHAM OFFICE: 305 S. Woodward Ave. Phone 78
DETROIT OFFICE: Penobscot Building Cherry 6500

Local Representatives:
T. R. Lacombe, Jr. L. D. Atterton
I. H. Hutson James J. Maginade
Ralph Hoenigle Joseph Trussell

VILLAGE COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS

Regular meeting of the Village Commission held Monday evening, February 8, 1926, at 8 o'clock.
Present: President Shain and Commissioners: L. D. Atterton, L. H. Hutson, Ralph Hoenigle, Joseph Trussell.
Minutes of meeting of January 1, 1926, approved as read.
Matters presented for consideration: The bill as introduced by President Shain that the Village of Birmingham be incorporated as a village under the provisions of the act of the Michigan Legislature, approved March 1, 1925, and amended by the act of the Michigan Legislature, approved May 1, 1925, and the act of the Michigan Legislature, approved July 1, 1925, and the act of the Michigan Legislature, approved September 1, 1925, and the act of the Michigan Legislature, approved November 1, 1925, and the act of the Michigan Legislature, approved January 1, 1926, and the act of the Michigan Legislature, approved March 1, 1926, and the act of the Michigan Legislature, approved May 1, 1926, and the act of the Michigan Legislature, approved July 1, 1926, and the act of the Michigan Legislature, approved September 1, 1926, and the act of the Michigan Legislature, approved November 1, 1926, and the act of the Michigan Legislature, approved January 1, 1927, and the act of the Michigan 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