# BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1926

# RESPONDING TO TOWNSHIP FIRES

People who reside in unincorporated territories dught to take a lesson from the fire last week that destroyed a home worth \$30,000.00 on Woodward avenue, at the Hunt road. This home, owned by Mrs. John Finn, burned to the ground simply because fire equipment did not respond when the first alarm came in. And the reason that Birmingham's fire apparatus, was not sent out was simply because this village had no assurance that it would be paid for the use of its men and equipment.

Rather a hard way of looking at the matter, many people will say. "What do we care for a few hundred dollars when we might save many thousands?" is the statement that many local people have uttered since Wednesday of last week. That, too, is a correct way of looking at the matter, provided you do not care how you spend your money.

nesday of last week. That, too, is a correct way of looking at the matter, provided you do not care how you spend your money.

As we view the matter, Birmingham was morally negligent for not responding at once to the Finn fire; the officials of Royal Oak township certainly are very lax in not seeing that their outlying residents are protected against fire, by arranging with nearby municipalities for payment of the use of fire equipment; and the Finns (or anybody elge who may be in a like circumstance) have been negligent, both morally and financially.

For many years Birmingham, and other municipalities that owned fire apparatus, answered alarms to places beyond their corporate limits. In some cases the people whose property was threatened have recompensed the municipality for the cost, but, on the other hand, many people have refused to pay these bills. An easy solution to this dilemma is to have township boards stand back of the costs of answering such fires, se that the taxpayers in an incorporated community are protected. This is the method now adopted by both Troy and Bloomfield townships with Birmingham, Royal Oak township has never agreed. officially, to pay for such fire protection with Birmingham, actording to village manager Harry S. Starr. Mr. Starr declares that he has tried for two years to make such an arrangement, without success. Burt Willson, supervisor of Royal Oak township, however, kays that he has never been asked by Birmingham to enter into such an agreement; that, if true, does not absolve him from the responsibility of looking after the interests of his isolated people. To be sure, the best means of fire protection is to live in an asbestos house; the next best thing is to build your home not too far from a large city water main. In the case of people who live beyond the corporate limits of a city or village, they ought to augment their individual water sources with positive assurance that the nearest organized for the protection is all when fire threat.

sources with positive assurance that the nearest organized fire department will respond to their call when fire threatens their property.

Apathetic public officials and apathetic private citi-

zens are a bad combination for guaranteed fire protection even good government.

# LENTEN SELF-DENIAL

Whether one should observe the Lenten period by special self-denial in the matter of food or otherwise, is a matter for personal choice according to one's religious Taith. But the idea of the desirability of some form of self-denial is not a principle that can be limited to any one time of the year, or any particular group of people. Those who think they can accomplish the true ends of life without conforming to this principle in some way make a mistake

Even in the most material fields of activity, the people Seven in the most material fields of activity, the people who cannot deny themselves pleasures and extravagances are not likely to accomplish the success they desire. The country is full of people who were never able to deny themselves anything and who in consequence never had the concentration to succeed in their occupations or other-

The world is full of selfish people whose only thought is to follow the pursuits that will give them the most pleasure. If they are involved in any dispute or controversy, they can think only of their rights and claims.

They give scarcely a thought to the troubles and diffi-culties of others. As a rule such self-seekers are unhappy and discontented.

There are more who practice genuine self-denial in

harmory with the Lenten idea, that we realize.

Innumerable parents are denying themselves the comforts they wish for, so that their children can have better advantages. Many deeds of kindly sympathy are percomforts they wish for, so that their children can have bet-ter advantages. Many deeds of kindly sympathy are per-formed involving sacrifice, and many gifts are made by those who need the money almost as much as those who receive it. A great deal of anselfish service is given to the community, that costs the givers thereof self-denial. Such ascrifices may seem difficult, but they bring generous re-wards of affection and esteem, and few people who make them ever regret it.

Discovery of a substitute for mercury is announced, though the telephone long ago disposed of the messenger

them ever regret it.

Mary Garden asks us to believe that eating spinach will postpone the arrival of age, but we are not that green

A great many persons are constitutionally opposed to any ideas that they themselves do not originate. "Controversy is to the mental world what the wind is the physical world," an authority says. It's mostly

The modern girl may be a little affected, but she doesn't "put on" as much as the old-fashioned girl did.
A smile may be intended to show good humor, and it may be intended to show good humor, and it may be intended to show good teeth.

### ON GROWING UP

I wish that I could always be a happy little boy
And find the world just like it is, chuck full of fun and joy.
I would not like to say good-bye to all my story books,
To never race and jump again and hide in grassy nooks,
And all my dandy toys and things to have to put away.
I wish that I might never grow too big to romp and play.

I like to go to bed at night and dream of happy things,
Of little elves and giants tall, of princes fine and kings,
Of fairies holding silver wands with magic in their touch,
And sometimes of my sweetheart that I love so very much. I like to paint and draw and spend a lot of time at school, In summer to go barefooted. It feels so nice and cool.

Of course there's lots of nice things, too, can happen when

you're big.
Your face and hands can be a sight and no one cares a fig.
You needn't always brush your teeth and keep your suit so clean

And no one spanks you if you're bad and start to acting

mean,
But all the grown-up joys I know aren't really worth a rap
When I am tired and sleepy, just to climb on mother's lap. -Beatrice McDonald

#### USES OF THRIFT

Are there no blessings for man in prosperity beyond material joys of easier living?

Shouldn't prosperity mean more that the thought "Will it last," than an opportunity for extravagance and dissipation, than a respite from worldly care?

Prosperity means more money, of course, more comforts, more pleasures, more freedom from worries, more joy in living. The industrious are working their way forward and upward. The thrifty are kaying aside a comard and upward. The thirty are trying aside a con-tence. Hundreds of thousands of homes are being built, is a time rich with hope and achievement. But what does all this really mean to us?

Merely more money, more comforts, more pleasures?
Adversity develops great differences in men. Prosperity develops greater differences still.
Many are glad to seize the fruits that fall from the

cornucopia and eat, drink and be merry.

Many others store them securely away where they are of no use to themselves or anyone else.

And others carefully use them as means to develop their own minds, to broaden and sweeten their sympathies, to educate their children, to lend a helping hand to the weak, to soothe the sorrowing, to make the home whole somer and happier, to build schools and hospitals and churches, to grasp not the joys that must perish with them's selves, but to create those leavening human forces that shall endure forever.

Wealth itself never advanced humanity a single step. Prosperity that is wholly material can never truly benefit any people. It is but enriched soil in which the real treasures of life may be better grown.

# FROM THE ECCENTRIC COLUMNSof 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

Almost maple sugar time

Cooper Pickering of Franklin in ist two minutes bought out Cor-dius Brayman's handsone residence a Saginaw street for \$2250.

The following pupils of the high room were perfect in deportment for the week ending March 2.1 Manio-non, Elbert Buel, John Brayman, May lefferd, Hallock Gibbs, Nellis Rey-nolds, Charlie Buttolph, Lizzie Whitz Minnie Saliberts, Marc Leet, Lilk I Saliberts, Lilk Brayman, March Reynolds, Frank Sultz, bern Beatty, Trank Sultz, bern Beatty,

Married at the residence of the oride's parents, on the Trowbridge arm near Bloomfield Center, by the tev, Thomas Middlemiss, Wednesday 'ebruary 28, 1883, Mr. William 'arks to Miss Mary Rule.

Ren. Thomas Modelemies, weomesta-february 28, 1883, Mr. William Parks to Miss Mary Rule.

A large number of friends and rela-tives were present from far and focal-tives were present from far and socia-tiful repast was served. The presents were examined and we report as follows: two \$20 gold pleeses, Mr. (full repast was served. The presents were examined and we report as follows: two \$20 gold pleeses, Mr. (full repast pleeses, Mr. and Mrs. Weaver; set of silver spoons, Mrs. alek Parks: nizkle alarm clock, Jas Parks: famil-ted silver spoons, Mrs. alek Parks: nizkle alarm clock, Jas Parks: famil-lenenic, crystall set, Sarah Parks: silver castor, Mrs. Wm. Rule; table lenenic, crystall set, Sarah Parks: silver castor, Mrs. Wm. Rule; table lenenic, prostall set, Sarah Parks: spoon, Miss Polly Parks; drozen sagt-sepoon, Miss Polly Parks; dozen sagt-port and Mrs. Joseph Cromie; glas-bord and pitcher and vegetale lamp, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Cromie; glas-furting and family. The Eccentric corps returns thanks for a bountiful new housefold a world of joy, good health and prosperity.

25 YEARS AGO
Miss Minnie Staley has reto om a very pleasant week's visit latives at Drayton Plains.

Miss Mary Crawfard of Fred lich., is a welcome guest at the f Mrs. D. Roy and to say that dies are enjoying the visit alf tells the story.

nere Sunday guests her brother, Harvey

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the problem of the policy of problem will be open at a revision.

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Lot No. 322 of Thomas Park Subju-vision, Southwest Quarter of Section 18, a subdivision of the West Half of the Town One North, Range Eleven East, ed-cording by the plat thereof recorded in Coroling to the plat thereof recorded in Dakland/County, in Liber 29 of Plats on Page 19, excepting an exament of five feet across the rear of sald lot reserved for public utilities.

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r phille utilities.

ated at Royal Oak, Michigan, this second
of February, 1926.

FIRST STATE BANK OF ROYAL OAK,
By Frank King, Cashier,

Assignee.

MORTGAGE SALE
fault having been made in the condiof a certain mortgage, made by
MAS.WHEELER Incorporated a Mich