

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

(Founded in 1878 by Whitcomb & Mitchell)
Published every Friday at Birmingham, Michigan, in The Eccentric Building,
125-126 North Woodward Avenue. Telephone 11 and 12.
GEORGE ROGERS AVERILL, Editor and Publisher

Entered as Second-Class matter in the U. S. Postoffice at Birmingham, Mich.
Subscription Rates:
In Oakland County: One Year \$1.50, Six Months .75, Three Months .50
Outside Oakland County: One Year \$2.00, Six Months 1.00, Three Months .75

THURSDAY, MAY 13, 1926

SPEAKING OF GOVERNORS

Alex J. Groesbeck, three times Governor of the State of Michigan, is to be a candidate for re-election this Fall. This desire of his to obtain the Governorship is correct and proper under the methods by which we determine our public officials; any public service aims on the part of citizens of our country are perfectly laudable.

When you meet an individual or hear of one who seeks the favor of the voters, you are confronted with certain general characteristics of countenance and body; most of us have eyes, ears, a nose, a mouth, a tongue, and those necessary appliances and appurtenances that go to make up the rest of the body. All this you may know quite well. However, please remember that such external manifestations are but the physical vehicle of the intelligence that lies behind them!

Therefore, as far as Mr. Groesbeck's (or anybody else, for that matter) situation exists, the public's appraisal of his ability and willingness to discharge the duties of Governor of Michigan rest mainly on the kind of intelligence or ideas that Mr. Groesbeck represents!

In the coming gubernatorial election the people of Michigan ought to be assisted in making their choice only by a careful appraisal of the intelligence, the motives, that lie behind those who may contest with Mr. Groesbeck the kind of man (or woman, perhaps) who will occupy the Governor's chair for the next two years.

The Eccentric has repeatedly declared that the biggest task that any public official has is to conduct himself publicly and privately that everything he does and says will strengthen; in the minds and hearts of right-thinking people, their inherent faith in constitutional government. These attributes represent the soul and the character of any public office; they are as necessary to any office as they are to the individual—and it is the solemn duty of an officeholder to invest his office with them.

The creation of or the completion of a material task; the acquisition of material wealth; even the giving away of treasures without charity behind them—these things in themselves do not evoke the praise and sincere respect of humankind. We all may know people who are possessed of much wealth, but for whom we have no respect for many reasons, some of which are that they are unkind to their family and their neighbors, and to those who would be their friends. The measure of a man or a woman is never taken without some appraisal of the ability to be kind; to be tolerant, to be friendly, to be without vanity; it is true that a few selfish people may gather around some successful, selfish materialist, and applaud him or her heartily; but such applause is generally accompanied by the rustle of silk and the jangle of dollars—it is rather befitting in the counting house, but never in the humble homes and in the hearts of Christian people.

You ask us what all this has to do with Mr. Groesbeck? And we reply: "Very much."

Mr. Groesbeck's three terms as Governor of Michigan show much in the way of material progress; he has given us many miles of good highways, for which we, the taxpayers, have paid well; he has completely changed our form of government into a practical autocracy, proving that one mind is better than many; he has easily been the hardest working Governor that Michigan ever had, proving that, on an hourly basis, he earned every cent of the five thousand per annum that is rightfully his. Yet, beyond this, what has he done to develop the CHARACTER of our people?

Ah, that's where the hitch comes in! As the generalissimo and whole-damnpush of the State of Michigan, Alex J. Groesbeck has been a "howling" success. He can do and has done more materially progressive things for Michigan than any of his predecessors; "progress at any price" has been his motto and his philosophy, and well he has done his job during the past six years.

The Eccentric has no fault to find with Mr. Groesbeck's ability to accomplish material progress. If our aim in life was to obtain as much of this world's goods as possible, to be a great success as the accumulator of "things that moths consume and rust decays," we could follow to good advantage in the footsteps of Mr. Groesbeck.

However, if we want only a certain measure of wealth; if we desire to develop our character so that we may make and hold friends; if we are sincere in our wish to come into the legacy that is rightfully ours before the cornucopia of an all-providing Father—if we want these things in life, then we must turn to another example of human conduct.

What Michigan needs at this hour more than anything else is a man (or woman, if you please) who can place the proper CHARACTER values on that high office of Governor. The man who is elected this Fall must realize that he was victorious only because a majority of Michigan voters have LOVE and RESPECT for him, and FAITH in him.

Can you imagine a greater vantage point from which to express a proportionate reflection of this love, respect, and faith, than from the Capitol Dome in old Lansing?

Very few married couples dance cheek to cheek. Easier a man's job is the more time he has to get disgusted with it.

Isn't the harmfulness of rouge and other beauty aids that impresses us, but their utility.

It is said that too many young men are looking for \$10,000 jobs and it seems that most of them look only.

There wouldn't be a great deal of striving after fame, however, if one couldn't cash it at the paying teller's window.

IF I COULD BE A POET

If I could be a poet, I would sit with ready pen. And write such tender verses as would touch the hearts of men.

I'd paint just as an artist does the birds and trees and flowers. And many other happy things that fill the golden hours.

I'd write of sunny childhood days, so innocent and pure. Of motherhood so wonderful and ready to endure; Of gentle spring, of summer showers, of autumn's harvest fields.

And merry ice and snow and hoary frost that terror wields. Such realms of joy and sorrow, tears and smiles, and work and play.

In all my poem pictures I would skillfully portray. If I could be a poet, I would sit with ready pen. And write such tender verses as would touch the hearts of men.

—Beatrice McDonald

CLEARING THE NAME OF JOHN A. ADAMS

Readers of The Eccentric will remember that, about two years ago during an Oakland County political campaign, this newspaper sponsored and successfully carried through the candidacy of Luther D. Allen for the office of Oakland County Road Commissioner. Our premise was based entirely upon assisting to replace the then incumbent of that office, John A. Adams, with the kind of man we thought would make a better public official. A rather heated contest ensued, in which Mr. Adams not only had the support of friends he made during 11 years as Oakland County Road Commissioner, but by the County Ku Klux Klan as well. As we all know, Mr. Allen won out over Mr. Adams by more than 1500 majority.

During that campaign numerous stories were going around relative to Mr. Adams' conduct as a public official; rumors were spread that he used County labor on his 160-acre farm at Leonard, in Addison township; then there was the time when Mr. Adams, while still in the Road Commission's office, tried to sell the County a gravel pit in which he was financially interested.

Were these rumors and stories without foundation? Before making an answer it will do well to turn attention to a recent trial at Lapeer, in which Edgar Gould, former Lapeer County Engineer, two weeks ago was found guilty of making false estimates with intent to defraud the Lapeer County taxpayers. During Gould's trial three contractors were summoned as witnesses, charged with (and later arrested) conspiring with Gould to defraud Lapeer County on road contracts. Here is a transcript of the court testimony bearing on the name of John A. Adams, as published in the Lapeer County Press last week:

"Charles D. Moore, recalled for further cross-examination by Mr. Browne, was asked if he had been approached by a man by the name of John Adams shortly after he made a bid on a road job here, in the fall of 1922. Q. Let's have it—this is the morning of confessions—let's have it.

A. You know it. Why not you tell it?

Q. Now, John Adams, who was he, Mr. Moore?

A. I think he was chairman of the road board in Oakland county at the time.

Q. And John Adams came to you after you made your bid and what did he tell you about getting a road over here?

A. He said it would cost me a thousand dollars if I wanted a road.

Q. Did you pay him a thousand dollars?

A. No, sir.

Q. How much did you pay?

A. \$500.

Witness said Adams had called him to his house near Leonard and put this proposition up to me.

Q. After you gave him the money did you get a contract here?

A. I did.

Q. And you don't know anything more about that, the ultimate destination of that \$500 after you paid it?

A. I do not.

Frankly, it is to be regretted that an Oakland County official should be introduced into the testimony of a graft trial in another County. To say the least, it reflects upon the character and good judgment of Oakland County, and will make us Oaklanders feel bad about driving through Lapeer, if there is any foundation for the transaction which Mr. Moore told the court.

We understand that that part of Gould trial testimony which relates to John A. Adams has been turned over to Clyde Underwood, Oakland County prosecuting attorney, for investigation. Mr. Underwood is now confronted with the problem of investigating Mr. Moore's statement.

In strict accordance with his sworn duty as defender of the public good, Mr. Underwood can do nothing but make an investigation. The taxpayers of Oakland County are entitled to it; Mr. Adams, also, is entitled to the chance of forever settling any disquieting rumors affecting his honesty as a member of the Oakland County Road Commission.

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 GO

Mrs. E. Koyes contemplates a visit to Ludington, soon, to see her daughter, Flora, and other relatives. A Troy street man got things a little mixed one day last week and filling his planting bag therewith planted about four acres of pool checks.

Fred Blumberg who has been enjoying himself visiting relatives in town for the past week and breaking the hearts of our susceptible beauties, left for Oregon on Thursday, in company with his friend, Felix O. Toole, formerly of An Sable.

Miss Libbie Cony who has been residing at Kankakee, Ill., for the past year, arrived at her sister's Mrs. W. H. Camp's, last week, accompanied by her friend, Miss Hartly, who has been living in Kankakee, but is en route to her home in Massachusetts.

Mrs. J. A. Bigelow who has been visiting friends near Dayton Plains measured 27 inches in length and weighed two pounds. It was the sensation of the town on Friday and attracted general attention, being on exhibition at the post office and later at National Hotel. It was speared in

Silver Lake by Johnnie Wyckoff of Waterford township and clearly demonstrates the fact that these delicious fish are perfectly at home and will live and thrive in the waters of our inland lakes.

You just ought to have seen John Rindel rushing through the copypity last Sunday; himself, horse, buggy, two dogs, and four men, looking for 15 head of cattle that were quietly chewing their cud in the lot where the horses had turned them. This beats Melly Sly's clover seed, don't it, Whitty?

25 YEARS AGO

Raynolds Whitehead spent Saturday and Sunday in Ann Arbor, the guest of his cousin, Miss Marjorie Howard.

Mrs. Melvin Rose of Pontiac was a visitor of the Minnes Post this week.

There are tulip thieves in our midst and soon some people will be surprised to see their names in black and white on a justice's summons. Miss Anna Hagerman had her tulip bed stripped of its beautiful double blossoms and there are others vowing vengeance. The takers are not kids by any means.

Mitchell is home from New York City and had a very pleasant trip. Called at the Pan-Am at Buffalo, took in Coney Island, Central Park, Grant's Tomb, the Battery and Aquarium, rowed on the Hudson and the Harlem Rivers, saw the obelisk, rode on the speedway, ate at the Waldorf-Astoria and is now living at home on codfish and very happy.

Mrs. L. Musgrave called on her brother, Cyrus Jarvis in Troy Saturday last.

Harvey Hedding, Alex Mills, John Keyser, and Miss Florence Blumberg of this place each drew a dollar in the Detroit Journal dot guessing contest which was decided last week.

PAVING IN RESIDENCE PARK AREA 175—Moved by President Shain that the following ordinance be and it is so adopted:

Whereas May 8, 1926, was heretofore adopted by this Commission as the time for the opening to land suggestions and objections to the proposed concrete curb and gutter improvement with Tarmac treatment in Residence Park Area in the Village of Birmingham:

Whereas due notice of said meeting has been given in the manner required by law to each person owning property liable for assessment within a special assessment district established for such purpose by the Commission for the purpose of May 8, 1926, at 1 o'clock P. M., has been given to all persons making suggestions and objections to the proposed improvement, therefore:

Be it resolved that concrete curb and gutter and regaving with Tarmac treatment be constructed in Residence Park Area, in the Village of Birmingham, and more particularly described as follows:

Brookside Drive 18 feet wide, Ravine N. to Loc. 38, inclusive. Park Street 18 feet wide, Brookside to Ravine. Park street 24 feet wide, Ravine to Euclid. Euclid avenue 24 feet wide, Park to Fernside. Fernside 24 feet wide, Euclid to Ravine road.

Be it further resolved that all lots and parcels of land fronting and abutting on each side of above named streets within the district heretofore described be constituted Special Assessment District No. 76, upon which shall be levied and assessed according to benefits, the sum of \$17,410.00 being 2-1/4ths of the cost of the pavement according to an estimate heretofore prepared by the Village Manager and now on file with the Village Clerk, and

Be it further resolved that the Village of Birmingham shall pay from the general funds the amount of \$10,000.00 being 1-1/4th of the cost of the improvement, and, Be it further resolved that the Assessor of the Village of Birmingham be and he is hereby directed in accordance therewith, to make a special assessment according to benefits as herein provided on all taxable lands and premises constituting Special Assessment District No. 76 for the sum of \$17,410.00 aforementioned, and impart the same to this Commission with all the usual and necessary papers, and

Witness my hand and the Seal of the Village of Birmingham, this 13th day of May, 1926. HAZEL E. LYNCH, Village Clerk.

DIRECTORY FIRE COMPENSATION BURGLARY AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE and BONDS Oakland Realty Co. T. D. LYNCH - Manager LEVINSON BLDG. Phone 143-W

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

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

Wormer & Moore REAL ESTATE —BIRMINGHAM —ROCHESTER —BLOOMFIELD HILLS —SOUTHFIELD Main Office: 2231 PARK AVE., DETROIT Main 4886 Birmingham Office: 520 S. Woodward Ave. PHONE 930

W. S. McAlpine Engineering Co. SURVEYING Farm and Lot Surveys Made Quickly and Accurately REGISTERED SURVEYOR Telephone 805 508 S. Woodward - Birmingham

Maurice E. Baldwin COUNTY SURVEYOR 103 1/2 N. Saginaw St., Pontiac, Mich. Municipal Engineering - Subdivisions Topographical and Drainage Surveys Office: Room 1012 Bursar Bldg. Res. Phone 2805 - Office Phone 2313

Allen Engineering Co. ENGINEERING AND SURVEYING OF ANY DESCRIPTION "Rush" Farm Surveys. A Specialty Telephone 135XM Office: Room 3, First State Bank



A Home in Birmingham Estates

YOU know what's happening in Birmingham and the Hills. Isn't it a good place to buy real estate for investment?

Walsh, James & Wasey Co. 1530 Penobscot Bldg. Office Also in Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills Jay A. Walsh Donald D. James Robert W. Wasey W. Whiting Raymond

OAKLAND OWNERS For Service CALL 550 Robert E. Ramsey - - 113 Brownell St. BIRMINGHAM

House Wiring ESTIMATES CHEERFULLY FURNISHED ON ANY JOB—LARGE OR SMALL ELECTRICAL REPAIR SERVICE We do repairing on all kinds of electrical appliances WORK CALLED FOR AND DELIVERED TELEPHONE 90 OR 219-J BIRD and RYDER

THIS STRONG BANK INVITES AND APPRECIATES YOUR BUSINESS YOU will enjoy the personal service rendered to each and every one of our many patrons. Our officers are glad at any time to advise you in your business dealings. SAFETY BOXES TO RENT \$3.00 PER YEAR AND UP PONTIAC COMMERCIAL and SAVINGS BANK — RESOURCES OVER \$16,000,000.00 —