

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1926

VISIT YOUR VILLAGE COMMISSION

In a speech before the Birmingham Rotary Club last week Charles A. Bingham, former village commissioner, set forth many of the local achievements made during the past four or five years, at the same time pleading for "more co-operation and understanding spirit among the citizens of Birmingham, to the end that this village may progress with as little friction as possible."

It is a very common, very human thing to do—this criticizing of the administration of public affairs. It reaches into the high office of President of the United States, and even to the office of road overseer in a sparsely settled section of the prairies. It is a distinctly American trait; when constructively done, criticism proves to be the foundation upon which may be erected a practical democracy.

Birmingham is growing these days; many things are being done that affect the comfort and convenience, as well as the pocketbooks, of local citizens. Every one of these official acts takes place on some Monday night in the village commission's chambers, which are open to the public. Have you a suggestion or a grievance that you would like to air? Then why not take it where it belongs—and not allow it to escape where it may destroy?

WHO SHALL REPAIR OUR MAIN STREET?

Birmingham citizens, aware of the work that has been done on Woodward avenue between Detroit and Pontiac by the State of Michigan, have a right to be grateful to Governor Gooebeck and his aids; scarcely a day passes but what we hear words of commendation spoken because of the ease and safety that now accompany motor travel over this splendid, though highly expensive, super-highway.

But what about Woodward avenue within the limits of Birmingham? Ah, that is another thing; a motorist, after skillfully and untingrily (this latter word has a double meaning) manipulating the caverns and pitfalls that smear the surface of our local main street, has nothing but condemnation for the agency or agencies that have allowed this part of Woodward avenue to go to rack and ruin. For pure rottenness the surface of Birmingham's main street is hard to equal anywhere in Michigan; any local citizen will youch for the truth of this assertion.

How far should Birmingham's gratitude extend as far as Alex J. Gooebeck is concerned? This might be determined if Mr. Gooebeck would answer the following question:

Dear Governor Gooebeck: Why don't you inform, officially, the Birmingham village commission, as to your plan for completing Woodward Avenue through this village? Don't you believe that Birmingham is entitled to the same consideration regarding Woodward Avenue that you have accorded Ferndale, Pleasant Ridge, and Royal Oak? In these latter places you have completed a wide highway, almost entirely at State expense; in Birmingham you have started plans for the west side of the street, but you have never told us what will happen to the east side.

Right now Birmingham's main street is in very bad condition, resulting not only in dangerous travel to the motorist, but eliciting very unfavorable comment against the character of our village. Many local citizens feel that you have already arrived at a definite conclusion regarding the ultimate disposal of the Woodward Avenue situation in this village, and they would like some tangible evidence or information on the subject.

Of course, Birmingham can bond itself for a new pavement; but that would not be fair treatment at your hands. Any information which you may wish to relay to local citizens on this subject through the columns of this newspaper will be published free of charge. In all fairness to your candidacy, we believe that you should give out this information in time for our next issue.

MR. HARTRICK DESERVES RE-ELECTION

Fortunate, indeed, is the lower part of Oakland County in having such a man as George B. Hartrick, of Royal Oak, as one of the two Circuit Court Commissioners of Oakland County. The fact that he is again a Republican candidate for re-election at the September 14 primary election assures us that his office will be cared for with courtesy, promptness and accuracy. We congratulate Royal Oak for having within its midst a chap of the caliber of Mr. Hartrick.

Citizens of Birmingham and Bloomfield township are especially interested in the re-election of Mr. Hartrick as Circuit Court Commissioner, since a majority of the work handled by such an office in Oakland County originates in the rapidly developing lower end of the county, where real estate and building developments are most noticeable. Ralph T. Keeling, Pontiac attorney, is the other present incumbent of the same office held by Mr. Hartrick. Mr. Keeling has also had much experience in that office, and is able to handle all of the work that comes from Pontiac and the northern part of the county.

We hope that citizens of this community will re-elect both Messrs. Hartrick and Keeling at the September 14

primary election. One other candidate, E. L. Phillips, is also in the field, but, since he resides in Pontiac, we believe that the voters of the county will realize that the lower end is entitled to one Circuit Court Commissioner, and will cast their ballots for Mr. Hartrick.

We have no argument with Mr. Phillips' ability to handle the office of Circuit Court Commissioner, but we do feel that the lower part of Oakland County is deserving of a Circuit Court Commissioner from its own territory in the person of Mr. Hartrick.

HE IS RUNNING FOR CONGRESS

Last Saturday afternoon Robert H. Cook, of Redford, Michigan, dropped into our office and spent an hour trying to convince us that we should cast our vote for him as the U. S. Congressman from the Sixth District at the Fall election. Mr. Cook is opposing Grant M. Hudson and J. Bradford Pengelly. The Redfordite appears to be a serious chap, in his early forties; if he is elected he will probably use his legal training to at least do something to get his name in the Congressional Record, the same as Mr. Hudson has done and Mr. Pengelly wants to do.

Mr. Cook decries the fact that Hudson is a "bone-dry" prohibitionist, as well as the fact that Pengelly "seems all wet." Cook would, he said, strike a happy medium; he thinks the Prohibition Law has presented a real problem to the American people, and ought to be re-submitted for a vote of modification. A picture of Mr. Cook is published on the first part of this issue of The Eccentric. Rather nice looking, isn't he?

SEND IN YOUR TRAVEL STORIES

Have you been reading the articles in The Eccentric from Dr. Hugo Erichsen, of Harmon street, who is traveling in Europe? The Doctor, who used to be a Detroit newspaperman, city editor of the old Detroit Journal, has an interesting style in narrating his adventures on the other side of the Western Ocean. We wish that other local residents who travel about this old earth would send in similar articles; we promise that we won't charge a thing for publishing them, poetry, of course, being excepted.

OUR FINE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Every once in a while we feel moved to write a few lines commending Chief Olsen and his fine volunteer firemen on their splendid work and unstinted loyalty to the lives and property of this community. Last month the department celebrated the thirteenth year of its history by remaining inactive—a tribute to both the department and the people of this community whose carefulness resulted in no conflagrations. Local people have a right to feel proud of their firemen; we doubt if any community our size can produce better firemen.

The grade crossing is acquiring a very degraded reputation. Well, anyway, a permanent wave gives a woman some slight temporary relief.

Perhaps it's the conviction there's no place like home that keeps some men going.

It may be that blondes are dizzy, but that doesn't necessarily prove that all brunettes are naturally elegant.

Evidence submitted to that Grand Jury in Los Angeles showed that Almee McPherson bought a corset in her home city when she said she was in the hands of kidnapers in Mexico. Maybe Almee is slightly mixed up in her stunts.

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 Hon. O. Poppleton was being seriously ill but is said to be improving. Thanks to Mr. and Mrs. J. Croton for a generous supply of wedding cake.

Miss Clara Lathrop began her winter school at the log cabin school house near Clawson, Monday.

Anthony Westlake N. Troy, has received an invaluable boon in the shape of a ten-pound box. Who came last Monday forenoon.

Judge Hoyt and wife have removed from Melvin Rose's house near the depot to Mrs. Stanley's dwelling on Troy St., just west of the Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Chas. A. Wilson, an old Birmingham boy, was married last week at Holly to young Estelle Jane, a lady of the above place, named Mary Campbell. The young couple have our best wishes for a prosperous voyage over the sea of matrimony.

Wm. Worth, of Troy, was feeling so awfully large last week that his clothes were nine sizes too small for him. It was all caused there was a Worthy little girl at his house who doubled up her pink fists and acted as if she had come to stay. We don't blame him a bit.

A company of young people—Messrs. E. Biting and C. K. Johnson and Misses Lillie Calvin, Jessie Parker, and Morris Baum, made an esthetic picnic one day last week and made people think in the vicinity of Gilbert Lake that a whole Sunday School had moved into that region.

Jack Baldwin seems to be pursued by bad luck. Just in the busiest part of the season he was grievously afflicted with rheumatism and was forced to lay up several weeks, and as if to cap the climax a big farm horse which he was shooting through with a fair foot on Jack's right hand toe on the left hand side, damaging that member beyond all repair. Jack grins and bears it like a little man, and enjoys fun just as much as ever.

C. H. Hoffmann, last spring, invested in five swarms of bees, and now he is

during the month of September with Mrs. George Shain. The first meeting is next Monday evening, Sept. 13. Bring all current news. As the program for the evening is in the hands of all the members it is hoped that they will bring some contribution from the summer's driftwood, some "grain of gold" left by the waves.

The following is the list of words for the pronunciation drill: Deficit, hasten, co-adjutant, heroism, divan, inveigled, derision, finance, example, fiscal, interesting, mechanical, come, address, juvenile, recess, almond, cabal, penderous, presence, irrevocable, tedious, idea.

The Oakland County Anti-Saloon League has begun another canvass of the county for signers to their local option petition to be presented to the Board of Supervisors. A systematic canvass will be made and no efforts spared to secure the required signers to bring the matter to a vote next spring. Rev. L. Boynton, of Wixom, is president of the league and the following vice-presidents have been appointed in this section: Bloomfield, M. B. Maxwell; Southfield, Frank M. Bennett; Troy, John Harper; Royal Oak, Lee Campbell. The lieutenants have charge of their respective districts and appoint canvassers to solicit signatures in their respective townships.

Base ball at "Circle" Birmingham (picked nine) vs. Detroit (Jefferson) at "Circle" Birmingham, Sept. 14, at 3:30 p. m. Most comical exhibition of ball playing ever witnessed. Everyone invited. Free admission. Losing team will settle for a chicken supper at the National Hotel. Everyone invited. Free admission. See the sport. Band concert in evening. Admission 15c.

It is stated that the People's Telephone Company, of Detroit, will soon start an Oakland city telephone company. Options on a majority of the stock were secured some time ago and it is stated, will be taken up before their expiration, in about 20 days. From the same source it is learned that a plan is on foot to form a working arrangement of all the independent companies of the state in opposition to the Michigan company. If the plan carried out all the places of any importance in the state excepting Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, Mt. Clemens and possibly one or two other cities will be connected with independent toll lines.

That while Governor Gooebeck proclaims that roads have been taken out of politics, the reverse is true and road promises are held out in quarters where political strings are needed, and that favors are expected from localities where roads have been allotted.

That Gooebeck road figures are not understandable and that several conflicting financial statements have been issued since January.

That Governor Gooebeck has interchangeably used the calendar year and the fiscal year, where each would best suit his purpose in making his financial statements against existing financial conditions.

That in 1925 money was taken from sinking and other funds to be used for highway purposes and later replaced.

That contracts were let in 1925 far in excess of the ability of the State to pay.

That the Michigan had bonded itself for \$50,000,000 but that all but ten of these millions had been expended.

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before Governor Gooebeck became interested in the question. That men like Hercules Earle, Phil Colver and Fred Rogers were giving their attention to Michigan's highway program long before Michigan's annual had seen an opportunity to aggrandize by absorbing their ideas.

That public sentiment in the state was working for additional road finances through the gasoline tax. That Governor Gooebeck stopped in and vetoed the bill, thereby holding up a large additional amount of money for two years by his obstruction tactics.

That \$1,125,000 invested in the notorious cement plant at Chelsea might better have gone into highway construction.

That Governor Gooebeck has embarked on a program of convict built highways which has called for the investment of hundreds of thousands of dollars in expensive road machinery, which in the hands of unskilled labor, has been subjected to excessive depreciation, which is a dead loss to the state, and that further, there are no acceptable figures to show that convict-built roads have not been more costly than contract-built roads.

That the Gooebeck road program has been partially carried on by supplying counties with money which the legislature has said should be paid them.

That counties are still deprived of their share of the annual automobile license money beyond the amount which the legislature set by law.

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DELAYS ALLEY CLOSING

Closing of an alley east of Woodward avenue will be delayed until assessments are secured village commissioners decided Monday night. It was not considered advisable to give up this land unless the right to use a sewer or water pipe in the future was secured. The petition asking that the alley be closed was received officially last night. It has been signed by 100 per cent of the property owners.

Assessment roll for the installation of an eight inch sanitary sewer on Chestnut street, west of Elm, was confirmed.

John Schneck, Des Moines street car motorman, has asked the police to apprehend three men who sold him a "gold brick."

COMMISSIONER'S NOTICE

In the matter of the estate of Wm. F. Pennington, deceased, having been appointed by the Honorable Ross Stoddard, Judge of Probate to act for the County of Oakland, State of Michigan, Commissioners to receive, examine and adjust all claims against said estate, and four months from the 15th day of August, A. D. 1926, having been allowed by said Judge of Probate to all persons having claims against said estate, which will present to us, for examination and adjustment, notice is hereby given that we will meet on the first day of November, at ten o'clock A. M., on each day, at the office of Lewis & Clark, in the County of Oakland, in said county, for the purpose of receiving and adjusting said claims.

LESLIE L. MIDDLETON, J. TUTTLE, Commissioners. 19-21

Do You Know That you can buy— Quarton Lake Front Lots for \$5,700 Fine wooded Forest Hills Homesites near Adams School for \$2900.00 100x200 feet in Coryell Park for \$4000.00 75x141 ft. Homesites in East Maple Gardens, near Monnier Superhighway for \$2300.00 When these are gone they will never be available again at such prices. You have a splendid opportunity right here at home. Walsh, James & Wasey Co. 1530 Penobscot Bldg. Office Also in Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills. Joy A. Walsh Donald D. Jones Albert W. Wasey W. Whiting Raymond