

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1927

NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events which have new value and which are written by persons not connected with the editorial staff.

Our New Public Library

The finest library in any small community in the state of Michigan will be opened for public use Saturday afternoon when the public is received at the new Baldwin library on Martin street.

No finer emblem of the culture of Birmingham could be conceived than this structure; no finer institution of a dignified and respectable citizenry could be opened to the public than this building.

But, as fine as it is, it is merely supplying a demand on the part of the villagers for a sanctuary of knowledge and hence it reflects the character of the people of Birmingham.

Commercial buildings mean something to a community, no doubt. They have their place. They are necessary. They tell, in themselves, a story of the city or village in which they are constructed.

Outsiders who come here will know that, while other cities have their smoke and factories and slaves and rushing, unhappy crowds, Birmingham has its beautiful homes, its fine streets, its excellent schools and churches, its clear air—and its library.

Marriage, Divorce—And The Children

At a recent Parent-Teacher Association meeting in Birmingham Frank L. Covert, Oakland County Circuit Judge, made an eloquent plea for more legal consideration of childhood. He was referring in particular to the speed with which the Courts are required to grant divorces, and the consequent reaction upon the innocent children who might be involved in the case.

He mentioned a case of litigation involving a few thousand dollars worth of land, one of hundreds of such cases that are tried before him and his fellow-jurists each year. Several first-class lawyers will be engaged for one or more days, each making a lengthy case for his client's financial interests.

Judge Covert, we believe, has made a strong point in favor of more stringent laws relating to divorces. Marriage, as we understand it, was instituted among their offspring; for that reason, if for no other, divorce ought to be as difficult to obtain where there are children concerned.

Do you suppose that the personification of the Kingdom of Heaven ever gets into a modern divorce court? Yes, divorces ought to be as hard to obtain—where there are children concerned—as it is easy to get married.

At Washington, D. C., Congress is at work again trying to save the country. That is what the boys tell the folks back home. A few of them actually mean it, too, and are often crucified on the cross of "big business" or petty smallness, because they try to exemplify their ideals.

Harry Thaw, the world is again informed, is still on earth. Not so still, though, but what he is made defendant in a \$100,000.00 breach of promise suit by a pretty California movie actress. Poor Thaw! We wonder if he ever has closed his eyes and troubled sleep since that memorable day when Stanford White met his death in Madison Square Garden.

One of Detroit's exclusive night clubs was raided by agents Monday night of this week. The customers were allowed to go home after identifying themselves. If Detroit is subjected to such raids often enough it might be made dry before the next flood visits this earth planet.

Expensive Democracy

It is a very easy thing to do, this criticism of public officials. Under this democratic form of government in the United States, citizens elect their public officials and then expect to be as democratic as possible—often do many things to prevent their elected officials from carrying out government on the side of strict economy.

However, under our democratic form of government, little else can be expected. Even though the cost is higher, the freedom of action that accompanies democracy is infinitely more valuable to citizens in the mass than would be a pure autocracy or monarchy.

Democracy is the result of centuries of human effort to place government in the hands of those who are governed. Because human nature has not kept pace with scientific progress, government is still an expensive thing to administer.

Advertising Birmingham

We have been told the greatest manner in which the virtues of a community may be broadcast to other communities is through the newspaper. Newspapers subscribe to other newspapers, not only as a means of stimulating their own efforts toward making a better newspaper by watching the work of others, but to learn of various endeavors being put forth by other communities, some of which may be adapted for their own.

It has always been a source of extreme pleasure for The Eccentric, in its journalistic pursuit each week, to seek out the virtues of Birmingham and vicinity; to do what it could to assist worthy projects, and to encourage the newspaper publishers, taken from three letters to The Eccentric. The first is from Harry H. Whiteley, former State Senator, now a member of the State Conservation Commission, succeeding the late James Oliver Curwood, and publisher of the Dowagiac Daily News; and the second is from Michigan's newspaper publishers, taken from three letters to The Eccentric.

George E. English, at one time publisher of a Pontiac daily newspaper, and now publisher of the Huron County News at Bad Axe, is a particularly eulogistic in his remarks. "I say," he says, "that it is not now a matter of The Eccentric keeping up with Birmingham, but rather with Birmingham keeping up with The Eccentric. By way of complimenting your Prosperity Week daily."

Al Upchurch, on the Straits of Mackinac, Michigan, who, aside from his duties as Village Preceptor, finds time to get out a very live and constructive weekly newspaper, the Cheboygan Democrat. He includes, in a two page letter, the following praise for Birmingham: "I took a long time off my routine work yesterday and went through that bunch of work accomplished by your staff during my absence. I could not but wonder what sort of an organization you have to be elastic enough to extend it to such lengths. I want to congratulate you. I want to compliment you, and I want to make you feel in some way that your efforts attract not only the newspaper makers of the state, but that they attract others who are inclined to think that Birmingham is some sort of a super-place because The Eccentric is a super-publication and it is made that way by the super-cooperation of its people."

This is being broadcast throughout Michigan, each week, Birmingham and vicinity as reflected through the columns of The Eccentric, and the "Eccentric" paper, each week, as a part of the line community that makes this publication possible.

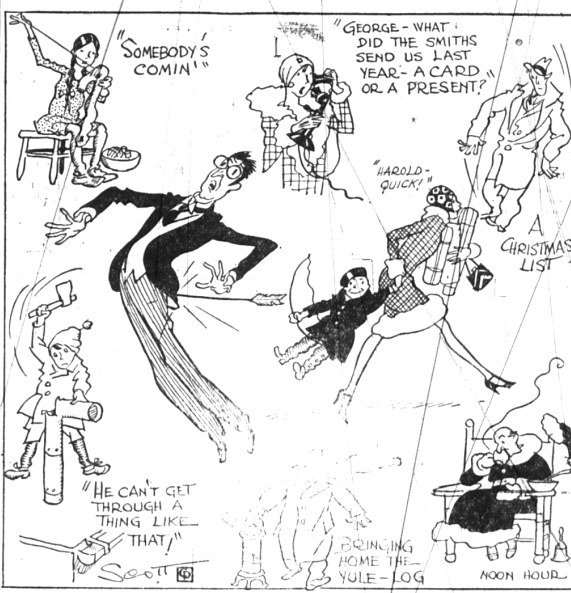
For, we have found during eight years of publication of this newspaper, Birmingham and vicinity deeply evaluates qualities of character in its life and customs, and we appreciate our position as chroniclers of events of the community.

The necessity of the Department's order may have a basis in fact—in fact, our own personal observations over the last three or four years lead us to believe the order a correct one. However, this truth does remain: countless thousands in Michigan who get out the paper, each week, are getting a fish. Net result: good water, and fisherman like fish. Net result: good water, and fisherman like fish.

Fishing is more economical, both for the State and the disciples of Walton, than many other recreational pursuits—some of which result in the building of more prisons and hospitals. The State can do well to provide outdoor recreation for its citizens; it is like putting a gymnasium in a beautiful school building, and pays huge dividends in the shape of re-created and regenerated minds and bodies.

Al Smith, Governor of New York state, is perfectly willing that it rain as long as he owns a pair of rubbers. He will enforce the Volstead Act, yet thinks it all wet. New York and other state statistics prove that Al's thoughts are far from being dry. It begins to look as though democracy's platform in the forthcoming presidential election will form a severe drenching.

IT'S IN THE AIR



The Other Chap Says Something

NOTE SLACKERS

The vote-slacker problem is presented from a new angle in a study just made by Professor H. Titus of the political science department of the University of California at Los Angeles, who shows that the tendency of qualified electors to absent themselves from the polls is directly proportional to the size of the community in which they live, cities of 100,000 population and over having the poorest record and those of 10,000 and less the best.

CHRISTMAS CHEER

There is, this year, a something behind the usual Christmas cheer in the air. It isn't the feeling of bon-ho-ho-extravagance that so often characterizes this time, but an atmosphere of satisfaction that comes from calculated thrift. The thrifty clubs of the banks, in which one saves a small sum weekly for next year's Christmas money, were well patronized last year. Viewpoints and well-planned budgets have grown in numbers. It is easy to spot the patrons of the thrifty clubs, the owners of the "accumulated funds" which have been faithfully fed according to the budgets. They buy carefully, and without extravagance, but they buy comfortably and abundantly. There are still the hurried ones, dashing around in flurries of uneasiness lest they forget some important lest the bills of January get too big. But they grow fewer year by year. They used to be something of a little contemptuous in the attitude of the flurries towards the savers. Christmas, they said loudly, ought to be a time of extravagance and foolishness, and without extravagance. But now the look is cast up instead of down. For the savers seem to have all the fun, and are better able to be foolishly generous if they want to, and they have more to show for it. They are the part of the performance in the joy of looking forward to another year's Christmas. Bangor Convention shows a decline, which cannot be explained wholly by the shut-down of the Ford plant. The reaction has not been sufficient to create any widespread depression. The activity of America is in a cheery vaze.

ROSES

I walked and found a lovely spot Where grew an abundant rose. And as I walked I gladly plucked A bunch of these bright posies.

A little lad I knew was ill. I carried him some flowers, A few bright blossoms near his side To help him while the hours.

A dear old grandma lived alone Who loved the flowers so fair, And ere I journeyed home again I left some roses there.

A little girl who seldom saw God's lovely flowers in bloom Was happy with a few small buds To brighten up her room.

One lovely rose I kept and put In a cherished vase. It's fragrance was delightful, and It brightened all the place.

How wonderful are the flowers, Just any kind of roses. But some more beautiful could be Than lovely, fragrant roses.

—Beatrice McDonald

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