

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

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Thursday, January 20, 1927

A DREAM OR A REALITY—WHICH?

It may be pleasant to vision a Woodward Avenue, 150 feet wide, running through Birmingham, and it may be pleasant to drive in imagination on the pavement between two building lines separated by so great a span.

The Eccentric does not take issue with local citizens who protest the State Administrative Board's decision to make Woodward Avenue 100 feet wide through our community when these citizens declare that a 150-ft. highway would be a beautiful thing.

We do, however, take issue with the persons who would rather dream of a 150-ft. width than realize a width of 100 feet, with its attendant pavement, which would be made a realization during the coming Summer.

At the opposite of the dream is the laying of a new pavement this Summer on the basis of a 100-foot width. And we would remind this community, with the offer for a 100-ft. pavement on Woodward Avenue should come the promise of the State Administrative Board that, when the time comes to complete the Woodward project beyond the confines of Birmingham, another highway to parallel Woodward Avenue will be constructed at State expense.

The Eccentric believes implicitly in the fairness of Governor Green and the Administrative Board; it believes implicitly in their willingness to serve this community with highway transportation facilities.

Those who are interested or concerned in the local Woodward Avenue project will gaze upon the matter from the perspective of personal selfishness, at the same time agreeing that it is a State job, to be done economically, we may expect quick and satisfactory results.

Governor Fred W. Green is, above everything else, a humanitarian business man; he may be trusted to fulfill his task in meeting the demands of citizens of this State. The local Woodward Avenue problem is, in his hands.

Birmingham, The Eccentric believes, does not deal in "the stuff from which dreams are made"; it does not deal in dreams behind them, a concrete manifestation of their practical realization, utility, and attainment.

YOUTH NEEDS LOVING MOTHERS

In George Young, the 13-year-old Toronto victor of the Catalina Island swim, the world is presented with tangible evidence of what has happened to a youth who retains and uses those simple virtues which are the products of a humble home and a loving and beloved maternal influence.

WHERE DOES IT GO?

A local merchant and citizen of Birmingham, in discussing the question of a local community fund, the other day made this statement, "I have just figured up my total contribution to various campaigns and drives put on here during the past year, and was rather startled at the amount thus expended. The total was, indeed, more than I intended to give during the year; however, could I have it to do over again I know that I would give more money to such worthy enterprises as the Community House, the Y. M. C. A., and two other organizations. A good deal of the money I gave away probably got into underserving hands. If we had a local community fund I would be willing to give a goodly sum at one time, knowing that a local committee would see that it was wisely used."

The above sentiment is undoubtedly expresses the opinions of most people in this community. It is to be hoped that such a fund will be created for Birmingham and vicinity.

ALL CAN HELP

Business is after all a reciprocal matter. Stores do not attract the merchants who own them nor are they only for the people who trade with them. Without the other merchant cannot sell and the customer cannot buy. And reasoning in the negative, if the merchant does not satisfy the customer the customer will trade elsewhere, and if the customer trades elsewhere the merchant is deprived of the opportunity of arriving to satisfy the customer.

By trading at home with the home town merchants the people of Birmingham become the architects of their own business places. They create the demand and the home town merchant, assured of the demand, does not fail in meeting it. It is always more convenient to trade at home, and assured that the home town merchants will find it quite convenient to meet every merchant who wishes.

Every citizen of Birmingham is interested in the growth and opportunity of the community, but many of those who trade out-of-town do not realize that community improvements begin with the improvement of its business. The business of a town or city is the lifeblood of a community.

TESTING YOUR TEMPERAMENT

You have a temperament. Everybody has. Old-fashioned folk would call it your disposition. But science is following a more modern style. You might as well get in line and acknowledge that you, too, are carrying a temperament concealed somewhere about your person.

Very well, then, how about getting acquainted with your temperament? It is the child of your moods and your moods are the child of your emotions. Want to test it out? If you can stand living with yourself, do this for a month:

When you get up every morning, scowl at yourself in the mirror. At the end of the month say psychologists, your facial map will resemble a sector of your man's land in rainy weather.

There will be smiling at what you see in the mirror on the thirty-first day. You will perk up wonderfully. Friends will marvel at the change that has come over you. And your digestion will be better.

But don't keep up the morning smile too persistently. It may degenerate into a snimper. Having set your temperament go to both extremes, take a trifle on the side of the smile, and you will be joyous without becoming chronically sanguine.

Now that the annual Winter taxes are almost collected, local people need have no fear of paying more taxes until next July. The period between will, when accompanied by plenty of hard work and some frugality, enable us to get ready for the Summer tax. The fella who said what he did about death and taxes ought to be glad that he had to die only once, remarked Bill Spilvers, sage of Hog Wallow, the other day in commenting on the regularity of taxes.

"Hoofbeats," The Eccentric's exclusive autobiographical novel by the celebrated Russian author, Pathos Potoskey, continues to weave its spell upon our readers. Many compliments have been paid The Eccentric for its discovery of such a world-beating novelist who, despite being the recipient of rejection notices for years, periodically has the Saturday Afternoon Hitching Post, the Green Sex's Diary, Open Spaces and Dying Embers, Cosmopolitan, the Heart's Seminal, and other best-selling sheets, has finally "made" such an illustrious publication as a weekly newspaper. The Eccentric herewith declares that nothing less than three million dollars will be traded for the movie rights to Pathos' story. (No Russian money accepted, either.)

Charles Chaplin, the music hall entertainer who turned the art of throwing custard pies into reason for making out a whooper of an income tax return, is having a bad turn of marital affairs in his California home. Charlie probably deserves some of the criticism that is being directed his way; some of it may be the natural attempt of sensational newspaper to swell circulation figures. Chaplin is, however, to be pitied, but not indicted until all the facts are known. (His children are deserving of this at least. Charlie is being seep in real (not reel) life for the moment, with no chance of "cutting" scenes.

"How I keep my figure" will be discussed by 36 women in a Detroit newspaper, according to an advertisement in that organ last Sunday. Queen, too, how they chose but 36 women to talk about "the perfect 36." We know a lot of men who'd like to enter into a similar discussion, but all they could talk about would be "How I lost my figure" (both personal and banking) by allowing my wife to keep her own.

NEW DISHES

Were I a fairy bright and gay I'd wave my magic wand today With three delightful swishes. Then I would close my eyes and smile, For in a very little while I'd have some brand new dishes.

Some women buy a hat or gown Or trinket when they go to town. Let each buy what she wishes, But I, my longings vain would quell; And all my golden dreams dispel In beautiful new dishes.

I'd choose some pattern very new With yellow flowers and lines of blue, And maybe tiny fishes That swim around each plate and cup, Or birds that sing whenever you sup. I dole upon new dishes.—BEATRICE McDONALD.

FROM THE ECCENTRIC COLUMNS

of Long Ago Bits of News Cleared From Old Files of The Eccentric—The Items That Make Up The Historical Background Of The Birmingham Of Today.

43 YEARS AGO The flyers were all out Saturday last with Mr. German, of near Franklin, trying to down our village park, owned by James Van Every, but he failed, of course, and now Mr. Van Every sports the new-fashioned sleigh bells given by Julian Leet as a reward for being the best.

Ed McKinney's house is being pushed rapidly. Almoner Gibbs, of Big Beaver, is drawing lumber for a new house. Frank Blakeslee & Co. have bought the store now occupied by D. E. Wilber.

The latest Moses K. Taber has a nice talkative parakeet. The most wonderful! It out-talks Birmingham. "The Birmingham Eccentric, to be consistent, ought to be edited by a crank."—Detroit Free Press. Perhaps it is! two of 'em.

Robert Virtue, a young man employed on Charlie Purdy's place in Southfield, while loading spiles last week Friday, had his leg broken very near the ankle joint. Dr. C. M. Raynolds was promptly called, who did all in his power to relieve the sufferings of the unfortunate man by dressing and bandaging the break. Mr. Virtue is a single man, and we hope he will rapidly recover.

Housing Hall and wife entertained a few of their friends with a boning big dinner on the good old English plan on Thursday last.

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IS IT JUST AN EDITORIAL ERROR?

Some noted person in the distant past is credited with saying, "Say today what you think; say tomorrow what you think, even though it contradict what you said the day before." Such procedure, it will be presumed, spells modern progress. If that be true, then we submit that the Detroit News, in its editorial policy, in progressing at a rapid rate, proof of which may be seen in the following two editorials, reads them over carefully; especially the latter, which are ours. They relate to a Birmingham program, the ultimate width of Woodward Avenue here. Here is part of one published in the News last Sunday: "Restriction of the highway through Birmingham to 100 feet means that in the very center of the magnificent wide road from Detroit to Pontiac there will be a bottleneck which will hold up traffic in both directions, and finally force a long distance on either side of the village the effect of the 204-foot widening. Traffic through Birmingham will be retarded to the speed of the slowest vehicle."

Now, here is part of the editorial which the News carried the day before; you are to guess whether or not a heavy snowfall is to befalling a so-called "bottle neck" to slow up traffic so that the pedestrian may walk in safety. If snow should prove preferable, then what will this part of the country do in the Spring, Summer, and Fall? It will cost, read on: "It will cost \$100,000 to clear the snow from the street (of Detroit) the D. P. W. estimates, but that \$100,000 will be largely spent in paying more than 600 men for their labor. The taxpayer will be affected only slightly, while the 600, their families and the merchants from whom they buy necessities will be benefited greatly."

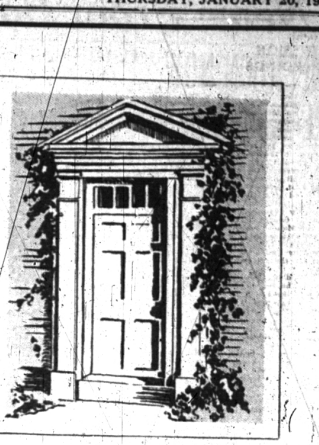
"Automobile traffic was slowed, involving loss of time, which is money to professional and business men and to those interested in hauling freight by truck. On the other hand, the average autoist exercised care in the pushing of his car such as he would not under better conditions, with the result that the pedestrian was safer in crossing heavy traffic streets than in good weather."

Mr. E. J. Skinner, of Warren is spending a few weeks with her daughter, Mrs. Robert Hanft. The choir director of St. James' Church, Miss Louise Stinchfield will meet the choir in the club room next Saturday evening at 8 o'clock. It is requested that each member make a special effort to be present.

We learn from our exchanges that the wealthy are fleeing to Rhode Island to escape taxation. We were going to skip, too, in honor of our mite, but before we could find our big red handkerchiefs to tie up our one lonely shirt, one

Mr. and Mrs. Ira Chaffield returned Saturday from a two weeks' visit at Clarkston.

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More Pontiac Acreage

We have just sold another large piece of close-in Pontiac Acreage to a group of prominent Detroit investors.

The right kind of Pontiac property, in our opinion, cannot fail to show a handsome profit in the near future.

If you do not know the facts surrounding the \$12,000,000 expansion program of the General Motors in this city, we will be glad to give them to you.

SAUNDERS-COLGROVE-BUCK

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Bids Wanted

FOR Erection and Completion of the New Baldwin Public Library, BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

The Village Commission of the Village of Birmingham, Michigan, will receive bids up to 8:00 P. M. Eastern Standard Time, Monday evening, February 14th, 1927, when and where they will be opened for the erection and completion of the new Baldwin Public Library building, to be located upon the plot bounded by Bates, Martin, Chester and Merrill Sts., Birmingham, Michigan, according to plans and specifications prepared by Marcus R. Burrows and Frank Erlich, J., Architects, 700 Architects Building, 415 Brainerd St., Detroit, Michigan.

The work is divided as follows: GROUP I: General contract, comprising general mason, steel, and iron, reinforced concrete, stone, carpenter, tile, marble, slate, lathing and plastering, glazing, roofing and sheet metal and painting, together with alternate bids. GROUP II: Plumbing, heating and ventilating, together with alternate bids. GROUP III: Electric wiring, power work and lighting fixtures, together with alternate bids.

Bidders may bid upon any one or more of all the above groups. Plans and specifications and terms of bidding may be seen at the offices of the architects, and at the office of the Village Engineer, Town Hall, Pierce Street, Birmingham.

A deposit of Twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) will be required for each set of plans and specifications taken for the purpose of estimating. Same to be returned upon return of plans and specifications. The Owner specifically reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted and to waive any irregularities in favor of the Village.

Address: Bid on Baldwin Public Library, Birmingham, Mich. Address: Village Commission, Birmingham, Michigan.

Eventually—Why Not Now? CONSULTANT ON INCOME TAX MATTERS E. W. LACKIE Suite 4, First National Bank Building PHONE 95