

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

Published every Thursday at Birmingham, Mich., in The Eccentric Building, 125 North Woodward Avenue. Telephone 11 and 12.

Subscription Rates (In Oakland County) (Outside Oakland County) One Year \$1.50 One Year \$2.00 Three Months .75 Three Months 1.00

The Eccentric is a member of the National Educational Association, Michigan Press Association, University Press Club, and Oakland County Weekly Press Association.

WOODWARD WIDTH STILL UNSETTLED

At a meeting of the State Administrative Board held in Lansing last Monday, a large delegation of Wayne and Oakland County citizens, who are in favor of a 150-ft. Woodward Avenue through Birmingham, made an impressive plea for more than a 100-ft. street here.

As we have repeatedly stated in this column, we believe the settling of the local Woodward Avenue problem will be a State project, to be paid for by State funds, and to be decided by disinterested public officials who would not be affected financially by any plan proposed.

Many months ago, while former Governor Groesbeck was in office, The Eccentric made a plea for State consideration of the local Woodward Avenue problem. At that time that we stated that there that we favored sufficient highway area through Birmingham, either by one wide highway on Woodward Avenue, or two highways, one on Woodward and the other on the Grand Trunk right of way.

The situation simply resolves itself to this: there is no probability of an early removal of the Grand Trunk railroad to a point east of its present location, so that the present location would provide a parallel artery for a 100-ft. Woodward Avenue? If there is, then from the standpoint of State economy in road building the State will favor two 100-ft. highways through Birmingham.

If there is no probability of the Grand Trunk railroad ever being moved, thus eliminating the cheaper parallel road plan, then the State can do nothing but establish a 150-ft. Woodward Avenue through Birmingham, or even 204 feet.

Approached from the angle of highway economy, the State is bound to consider the parallel road plan. Approached from such an angle, the removal of a few acres of land from the State is considered from the realm of real estate speculation.

The entire solution hinges upon the Grand Trunk railroad removal plan. Governor Green and the State Administrative Board alone know what will happen in the Grand Trunk matter. We await their verdict.

CONGRATULATIONS, MR. McBRIDE

It's a great thing for one to dream of splendid achievements, to anticipate the realization of one's hopes and aspirations; whether it be the rearing of a fine family, the writing of a poem, or the erection of a building to house one's business—all of these are real helps to living, and worthy of anyone's best endeavors.

This week witnesses the actual realization of a dream which J. H. McBride, local hardware merchant, has cherished for many years; namely, the completion of a fine building in which he may carry on the business that he has made his vocation. Hundreds of local and nearby citizens since Monday have entered Mr. McBride's modern establishment, and have commended him for his industry and foresight in constructing the splendid hardware home which bears his name.

Birmingham may well feel proud of this new building; said to be the finest of its kind in Oakland County. The Eccentric extends its congratulations to Mr. McBride and those connected with him in the new enterprise.

OUR COLUMNS ARE OPEN TO ALL

The other evening, in a casual conversation with David Ladd, village president pro tem, he dropped the name of The Eccentric at times is unwilling to present both sides of any local controversy. He lamented the publicity which this newspaper has been giving to a solution of the Woodward Avenue widening problem, and wound up by saying "even if one side did publish something in The Eccentric you would have something in another column belittling or condemning it."

Of course, we live by the rule of the majority. If a majority of Birmingham citizens desire capital punishment, then we will have it—even if it be a little while, until we undergo a change of mind and heart. Today the whole world is pleading for the settlement of international disputes through arbitration, seeking to outlaw the brutishness of murdering in the name of WAR. Few, indeed, are those in Michigan who are not in accord with this world-wide plan.

Collective society, we are informed by the philosophers of the ages, is but the reflection of its individual members. Michigan now is against capital punishment; Michigan is against war! Can Michigan favor capital punishment and discourage war? What a queer paradox! It would be if the practiced mathematician could make two and two equal four, and two times two equal six; no queerer, though, than making killing plus killing equal death, and killing times killing equal life.

The annual report of Birmingham's police department shows that it was busiest during the past year than in 1925. Although the number of speeding arrests declined, the increase in arrests for intoxication more than balanced it; which proves that alcohol still plays a prominent part in this cold part of the world!

its readers, even though they be in opposition to our own ideas regarding any specific matter touching the affairs and lives of the citizens of this community.

And so, Dave, having relieved yourself of this subject, why not compose something on the local Woodward Avenue situation for our next issue? As long as you don't mention a certain kind of cement, or mention similar subjects that are handled by our advertising department, we'll gladly give you front page position. All we ask is that you write on one side of the paper, preferably with a typewriter, and get into our office not later than Wednesday noon.

REJECTING THE COMMUNITY FUND PLAN

At a meeting of directors of the local Community House and the Y. M. C. A. here last Thursday evening, after about two hours of discussion, a majority of those present disapproved of the idea of a Community Fund for Birmingham. Although a good many looked with a certain kind of hope on the idea, they did not entertain any hope for its adoption here in the next year or two.

In bringing the attention of the public to an expressed need for a Community Fund for this village, The Eccentric was merely voicing the sentiments of a large majority of the business men, as well as many residents of Birmingham. This plan has been rejected as impractical by a majority of the Community House and the Y. M. C. A. directors at this time may be all right, and it may not be; only the response of local citizens to the drives which these two organizations will soon stage will show to what degree any disappointment has been registered.

Regardless as to what means of seeking funds is employed here, we hope that the community will contribute generously to the institutions that assist in making this vicinity the kind of liveable place that it is. Though we may differ on the means used to obtain public support, let us not differ on the value of the thing to be supported.

Simply for the purpose of Birmingham will have its Community Fund. In our humble opinion, the quicker this day arrives the happier all will be.

NOMINATIONS ARE NOW IN ORDER

From the village clerk's office this week comes the announcement that a petition, nominating Robert D. Baker, of Southfield avenue, for village president, has been filed. This news is of vital importance to Birmingham citizens, and is, undoubtedly, welcome.

Whether or not Mr. Baker will accept the honor which many of his fellow-citizens seem willing to bestow upon him is not known at present, we are told. Yet the fact that a man like Mr. Baker is possible timber for one of Birmingham's official vacancies, that will occur in March next, to stimulate others to take an active interest in affairs of local government.

In Mr. Baker, we firmly believe, Birmingham would find a very acceptable village president. We hope that Mr. Baker decides to accept the nomination, and that the committee of Birmingham's opponents of Mr. Baker, we trust that the campaign will be conducted in a friendly manner.

PROPOSED CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

With the proposed introduction of a bill providing for capital punishment for murderers in Michigan comes the usual amount of blabber on the part of those who see in this barbarous law a cure-all for crime.

Certainly a crystal which foretells such Utopianism is a foggy thing indeed. It is just as silly to think such legislation would prevent further or reduce the number of murders as it is to think the three of execution from which is going to prevent boys from starting to smoke cigars.

Putting on the table, for the time being, a discussion of the motives which cause man to commit crime, the mechanisms working within him as a result of heredity and environment, the argument for hanging in Michigan is sheer childishness. The childlike childishness of a cruel youth and normalcy is in question.

Chicago, if we remember correctly, is in a state where capital punishment is a penalty for murder. Chicago, it may also be noted, does have its murders.

It is common knowledge that in England during a time of great poverty for pocket picking was hanging, more so than for any other crime.

The plea for capital punishment is absolutely un-Christian in a so-called civilized Commonwealth such as Michigan; it may be the law of the jungle—a thing which Michigan distinctly claims that it isn't!

What this country needs more than methods of physical annihilation or torture is the revival in its law enforcing and justice dispensing agencies. If we have any claim to relationship with a loving Divinity, then shall we be able to establish such relationship by legally murdering those who commit murder?

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FROM THE ECCENTRIC COLUMNS of Long Ago

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

43 YEARS AGO Mr. Wm. Whitehead last week when the thermometer was down to 24 below zero, Whitehead let his coal fire go down a little and consequently his house plants froze stiff, and Jack Baldwin says Whitey dined on greens the next day.

E. B. Newman, of Troy, lost a ladies' hand bag out of his sleigh on Saturday night last between Albert Adams and Big Beaver. The bag contained about \$2.

On Thursday last our senior editor, Almeron Whitehead, received the appointment of postmaster.

A new tenant house on Mrs. Polly Robinson's farm in Troy is one of the coming facts of the coming summer.

Thomas Thurlby, one of our village blacksmiths, has purchased the house and lot owned by Miss Phoebe Price, two doors west of the M. E. church on Mill street. We heartily wish Tom a long life in his new home.

Mr. G. Stephens, living west of the Six-mile House on Woodford Ave., father of Fred Stephens of this place, and who was given up by certain physicians, is now rapidly recovering from a serious illness under the skillful treatment of out-townman, Dr. C. M. Raynale.

BALLAD OF THE SNOW

What fairer vision holds the land Than children playing in the snow; A happy carefree joyous band, Not caring that the north wind blow To paint their cheeks in ruddy glow. What joy to watch their merry play! No sight more beautiful I know Than children on a snowy day.

Atop the hill with sleds they stand, While each awaits his turn to go. What choice of wealth does youth command! And heaven 't is blessings does bestow With sparkling forms and laughter gay. No sight more beautiful I know Than children on a snowy day.

Alluring is the crystal sand, Where caves or castles quickly grow. Neath many a deft and busy hand. What fun to toss it to and fro. And when a comrade comes to woe, Such merriment or his dismay! No sight more beautiful I know Than children on a snowy day.

Envoil. Snow, winter's queen, your graces strow And mingle with youth's fair diaphanous. No sight more beautiful I know Than children on a snowy day. —Beatrice McDonald

"OLD FAITHFUL"

is already up and if the sleighing holds good, we'll see some fun. Mrs. 25 YEARS AGO Mrs. E. J. Wilkinson and daughter, Miss Maude Gates were guests of Mrs. G.H. Mitchell over Sunday. Mrs. Wilkinson was on her way to her home in Holly and Maud returned Monday to her work on the Oxford Leader. The Literary club will meet with Mrs. J. A. Bigelow next Monday evening and with Mrs. Crawford the following Monday evening. Dr. C. M. Raynale was called early Sunday morning to mend a broken wrist for W. R. Clizbe, who slipped and fell with the above result. Mrs. Grace McKinnon has sold her home on Brown street to Peter Kerr for \$2,500. We are glad that Mr. Kerr has decided to live with us and become a Birmingham man. Charles Shain spent Sunday with friends in Ypsilanti. Miss Belle Corson of the U. of M. is spending a few days at home. The H. M. S. of the Methodist church will meet with Mrs. James Shain Thursday, Feb. 13. Miss Martie Sly, of Wilkesbarre, Pa., has been spending a few days at her home near Birmingham. The club of Jerry Mumping Jacks held a pleasant meeting Tuesday evening at the home of Jack McDougall. Miss Martha Baldwin spent two days in Detroit last week and on Thursday attended the meeting of the Twentieth Century club. Last Sunday Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Lee were happily entertained by Stephen Tucker, an old Birmingham boy, wife and three daughters. They are all Steve's daughters, because from the baby up to the oldest they are all musical and each little hee-ee are fine and they sing together in a natural singer. Their hee-ee are fine and they sing together in a natural singer. Their hee-ee are fine and they sing together in a natural singer. The time of all times to take out of the mind insurance policy is before the accident occurs. Just think — if Neighbor Clizbe had such a policy, and with his crooked wrist, his wages would keep right along with expense. Think of it but don't put it off. The old reliable Actna will carry you — J. Allen Bigelow. The following story which was given us the other day as a true incident, illustrates the indistinctness of the human mind. Police officers render their hymn. A very little girl had been to church and heard the well-known hymn commencing "Am I a soldier of the cross, a follower of the Lamb?" and after coming home was overheard to render the words thusly: "Am I a shoulder of a horse or foreleg of a lamb?" Mrs. M. L. Phillips of Cole, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. James Nye, on Monday last. The funeral will be held at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Clark Vaughan next of Cleveland at 2 o'clock next Sunday afternoon. Parties from Birmingham and Pontiac wishing to attend will find a conveyance at Circle at 1 p. m.

BLOOMFIELD BIRMINGHAM A Word to the Wise If you are thinking about a new house—if you have outgrown the old one—now is the time to act if you want to save money. Every winter—as you know—a score of contractors build a house or two out here "to keep busy during the dull season." Many of the houses are finished. They are new and modern from garret to cellar with all of the latest conveniences. They are the last word, both inside and out, in well-built beautiful homes. Some of these houses can be bought today at figures way below what they will bring in the height of the spring selling season—on prices and terms that we do not believe will ever be duplicated. For this reason, if you or your friends are thinking about a new house, now is the time to act. Because we believe the spring demand is going to be the largest in the history of this district with several buyers for every available new house.

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