BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

(Founded in 1878)

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GEORGE RODGERS AVERILL - Editor and Publisher

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All newspaper and advertising copy must be in the Eccentric office by Wednesday noon to obtain insertion for that week.

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

THURSDAY, JULY 28, 1927

NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events which have news value and which are written by persons not connected with the editorial staff of this paper. All copy must be presented before noon on Wednesdays. The right is reserved, however, to make such superficial changes in the work submitted as are necessary to the style of the paper and as are required by laws of the state. Because of mechanical situation in the composing room, headlines written by those other than members of the staff can not be used.

A GRADE CROSSING NEEDED HERE

In these days of rapid transportation, when it seems that everybody wants to get some place in a tremendous hurry—whether it be by boat, railway, motor car or airplane—it is generally conceded by scientists that a destination can be reached hurriedly, providing there is no obstruction along the right of way. Few obstructions exist on any transportation area except that which is used by the motor car. And off various governments, in order to provide sufficient highway surfaces, are spending colossal sums of the taxpayers' money.

Last Sunday the highways in southeastern Michigan—and the same holds true of other congested areas in the United States—were literally choked with motor cars. Had all of them been going in one direction, little holdup in traffic would have ensued; the delay on any traffic thoroughfare is caused chiefly by intersecting highways.

Take Birmingham, for instance. Long lines of traffic were held up late in the afternoon last Sunday because Woodward avenue traffic was held up every few moments by East and West Maple avenue traffic. If Woodward avenue were twice as wide as it is, it would not handle twice as much traffic, because of the necessity of allowing east and west traffic to cross.

Inasmuch as the State Highway Department is to widen Woodward avenue here to 100 feet next season, why not present to that Department a plan to create a grade crossing at this busy intersection; a grade crossing located there would eliminate the necessity of tying up traffic, and would result in continuous movement for all vehicles.

It is both practical and even imperative that this matter be given immediate consideration, so that it may be incorporated in the state's work here next spring. We believe that the State will be interested in the plan.

MR. DEMPSEY AGAIN

Jack Dempsey, the mauler, who, a few years ago, crawled from under a box car to become the leading light in our democratic America, and who, a few years later, was knocked back into the discard by another mauler, has staged a come back. And, as the movie queens say, how!

According to many critics at the ringside, and according to one of the judges of the fight in New York last week when he knocked out Jack Sharkey, it was on a foul. He slugged with the former sailor for six rounds, hitting below the belt on at least two occasions. In the seventh round, many claim, a blow to Sharkey's groin enabled the knockout.

Despite the questionable manner in which the victory was won, the thousands of fight fans at the Yankee stadium were satisfied, for their hero had done the unusual. Dempsey has always been the popular fighter because of his gorilla-like tendencies. He was the sentimental favorite before the fight and remains the most popular man in the ring today.

It may be a good thing for the purses of all concerned that the investigation into the legality of the blow that started Sharkey's fall will not be conducted too thoroughly. If it were declared a foul, then Sharkey, a talkative fellow with few friends, would be matched with Gene Tunney, the champion. As a drawing card he is no more in Dempsey's class than is a charwoman in the terpsichorean class of a Pavlowa.

A sly fight promotor knows the value of giving the people what they want. And a sly fight promotor contemplates the killing, when the next championship battle is staged, with the smile of a King Richard in contemplation of a gastronomic exercise.

HOST TO THE WORLD

Heavy traffic on Woodward avenue in Birmingham, which becomes a great deal heavier during the summer months, reflects, as it thunders its way to the north and south, a great nation's attempt at relaxation. Many of the passenger cars are carrying persons to their vacation haunts at Oakland County lakes and in northern Michigan and other cars are bringing them to their homes again, tired, sunburned and withal, cheerful.

Birmingham, with the other communities along the Woodward highway between Detroit and Pontiac, has the distinction of accepting the brief visits of almost as many tourists, during these warm months, as any other place in the country.

There is a serious question in the minds of many here as to whether the village and those who live here are taking advantage of the opportunity this situation offers. Apparently there are many things that could be done that remain in the offing.

It is worthy of consideration.

Now comes word that Premier Mussolini will control the selection of names for Italian children. It seems that Il Duce wishes to prevent the perpetuation of names that are distasteful to his method of government; Mussolini certainly is an original thinker.

A native of Florida, desiring to see night life in Detroit, was robbed of $2,000 there one evening last week. He could have been held up without leaving his own state—had he waited until the tourist season next winter.

WHEN SEPTEMBER COMES - - -

Seven members of the village commission voted as one at the meeting a week ago when a resolution relative to the disposition of the proposed fire station was under consideration.

While the shock of the agreement was great to those who have been following the issue through its many stages of development, and while the resolution agreed upon in no way settles the location of the department, it was pleasant.

Whether this is anything more than a temporary truce to give both the factions interested a chance to rest for a more intensive battle in September is a question. However, it was demonstrated that the commissioners could agree on something pertaining to the subject of the village fire hall.

When the architects return in September with plans for the building, it is hoped this noble precedent will continue to be honored. For, while it is a splendid thing to give the matter consideration, it will be still more splendid, so far as the people of Birmingham are concerned, for the commission to make this fire hall project a reality.

R. S. V. P.

At the point where west Maple avenue and the Southfield road come together there is a park which, those few who take advantage of its beauties say, offers natural beauty in a degree as great as any place in the country.

Pass this Baldwin Park day after day and you will find it as deserted as though it were somewhere in Siberia. People pay it no more attention than if it were an inconsequential ash heap on the road to nowhere.

Recently, strangers in Birmingham, who had heard of it, asked many persons whom they passed while in search of the place, just where it was located. They were astonished at the difficulty they had in obtaining this information.

It is strange that the sheer natural beauty of this wooded ravine, with its langorous river, does not attract more. It appears to us that many are missing an enjoyment they could have daily from a few minutes in this sanctuary. You are invited to attend a session with nature there on any nice day. *"Respondez s'il vous plat."*

IN THE FUTURE

A Woodward avenue 100 feet wide through Birmingham.

A beautiful highway 204 feet wide on the present site of the Grand Trunk railway tracks.

This is the provision the state is making for the Birmingham of the very near future and in a denial of the cry, put up some time ago by many interests, that the state was neglecting, shamefully, this village.

Road building and planning on so large a scale as this takes considerable time. But under the administration of Gov. Fred W. Green it has taken a great deal less time from the Birmingham angle, than it did under his predecessor.

And that is something to be thankful for.

CLEVER SWINDLERS

They are working in Michigan again—the clever swindlers who claim to be selling genuine imported Turkish rugs, which have been smuggled into this country, and which are being offered at but a fraction of their real value. They were in Ionia last week and succeeded in capturing a number of victims. They elect to do their work after nightfall, when dim lights add to the secrecy of their work, and incidentally make detection of their fraud more difficult. Many who thought they were cheating Uncle Sam by getting genuine imported fabrics woke up the next morning to discover them the poorest of imitations, not even fit for the floors of the humblest homes. Fake Canadian sailors, peddling broadcloths, Irish lassies dealing out real Irish lace, are also working in this state. If any of this crowd calls at your door, detain them on some pretext until officers can be summoned. It is then you will find out their hoax.

A CLARIFICATION

In last week's Eccentric a news story relative to the village commission contained the following statement:

"Commissioner Henry admitted to Ellerby that he had been unable to get an opinion from any Pontiac attorney upsetting Doty's original decision that the village had no right, at this time, to acquire additional land for a fire hall, and that he had, therefore, obtained an opinion to his liking from a Detroit attorney."

The Eccentric wishes to correct any possible interpretation of the above statement, insofar as it might be construed to mean that Mr. Henry was unable to get an opinion to his liking from any Pontiac attorney; Mr. Henry, The Eccentric understands, did not visit every Pontiac attorney, but did not get the desired opinion from the one or more that he did visit.

A California preacher, John Matthews, while gesticulating during a sermon, strained a muscle and is seeking compensation from the state industrial accident commission. And yet some people declare that preachers never exercise.

WEEDING

Out beneath a summer sky,
Out beneath a summer sky,
Who so gay and free as I,
Groveling upon my knees
In the gentle morning breeze.
Naught I know of care or gloom.
All around me flowers bloom.
Birds flit by on joyful wing,
Pausing oft to chirp and sing,
Sorry when my task is done.
Weeding is no end of fun.

Not one thought have I that's sad,
Nor an impulse to be bad.
All the world is glad and gay
On this golden summer day.
Helping little plants to grow
Is the finest work I know.
Fleeting hours I scarcely heed,
Endlessly just weed and weed.
Life holds nothing I would ask.
I have found a pleasant task.

—Beatrice MacDonald.

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

The Eccentric is pleased to receive communications for this column. All communications must be signed but signatures will be kept confidential upon request.

SUNDAY MOVIES

To The Editor:

The last sentence of an article, "New Theater Approaching Completion," appearing in the Birmingham Eccentric under date of Thursday, July 21st, reads "The work on the building has progressed rapidly since the consent of the village was given to Sunday movies a few months ago."

It would seem that it ought to be known in Birmingham that the consent of the village has never been given to Sunday movies. It is true the village refused to adopt an ordinance containing a license cancellation clause and a fine of $100.00 for the violation of the ordinance. The State law still stands and it prohibits commercial amusements on Sunday. The weakness of the State law is that the penalty is only $10.00; and lawless men do not respect law unless there is a heavy penalty.

Yours very truly,
R. M. Atkins
Pastor First Methodist Church.

WE HEARD IT SAID BY—

(Little Editorials picked up by the Staff in and around Birmingham)

F. J. Mulholland, dry goods merchant: "I should like to see a co-operative plan worked out by the merchants of Birmingham whereby all stores would close on Wednesday afternoons during June, July and August. This would be a benefit to those employed in the stores as well as to the customers."

Rev. C. M. Thompson, pastor Southfield Methodist Church: "I do not see any objections to sidewalks on Woodward avenue in Birmingham that are not more than 10 feet wide. The streets here are used a great deal more than the walks, for pedestrians are in the minority by far. Even on Saturdays, when the village has the greatest number of pedestrians on the down town streets, the sidewalks are not crowded."

Mrs. L. H. Waldrip, Baldwin Public Library: "I believe the library is the coolest place in town on hot days. Most of the people who come in seem to like to stay and enjoy its coolness for a while."

Mrs. Hazel Lawler, village clerk: "There is a large supply of charters of the village and copies of the building code in my office and a copy may be obtained for a nomial sum by any citizen who wants one."

Clarence Vliet, superintendent of schools: "We hope to have the new Chesterfield school under way this fall as that will allow the walls to dry out well and the building to be complete and in shape to open before the beginning of school, September, 1928."

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The Other Chap Says Something

NO BOTTLE-NECK

It is more than likely that the citizens of Birmingham and the property owners in the main business section will be glad to learn that the width of the Pontiac-Detroit highway through the village definitely has been settled. Even those who may not be in accord with the decision arrived at by the State Administrative Board will welcome a cessation of the controversy.

It was natural that there should be a division of opinion in a matter so highly controversial. There was much to be said in favor of several plans proposed at one time and another. An impartial and fair-minded referee, in which capacity the State Government was anxious to qualify, discovered various related problems that tended to make the final settlement all the more difficult.

By providing for a 100 foot highway, several feet of which is to be paved, the locality in which the principal retail business of the town is transacted, will remain symmetrical and conveniently proportioned. It will be easy to transact business on both sides of the street without undue effort in crossing. It is manifest that a business district divided by a 200 foot boulevard would present certain embarrassing difficulties that would be hard to overcome. In an orderly and attractive community the size of Birmingham, this feature was a matter of importance.

The supplementary route which is to be constructed on the D. & M. right of way and to be laid out 200 feet wide will insure to the Birmingham project all that advocates insisted upon. There will be no congestion or confusion incident to a bottle-neck section. Those who wish to drive through the business district will be enabled to do so without loss of time, and those not wishing to stop will be able to slip through the town with comfort and safety. No settlement of this perplexing problem would have met universal approval. The verdict at Lansing at least puts an end to the controversy and gives everyone concerned an assured program by which to proceed.—Pontiac Daily Press.

READY MONEY PREFERRED

I like to pay my debts promptly; not for a noble reason, but because I hear deadbeats abused so much. For fifty years and more I have heard collectors growl viciously at deadbeats; so I like to pay promptly. I not only clean up every debt I owe at the end of the month, but when possible, I prefer to pay cash as I go. No one's credit is actually as good as his money. I know thousands of men who are being injured because collectors "talk" about them. Most of these men finally pay their bills; it is extremely foolish to be slow about it.—K. W. Howe's Monthly.

Senorita Lilli de Alvarez of Spain, after her recent defeat in the tennis finals at Wimbledon, Eng., by our own Helen Wills, proved herself a good sport as well as a wonderful player. Walking off the court with Miss Wills after the game, she stepped behind as they approached the gate. Motioning to Miss Wills to pass, Senorita de Alvarez said: "Queens first."

The greatest ambition of many persons continues to be to get on the government payroll. More than 19,000 applied for the 2,500 places to be filled in the new Prohibition Bureau.

VILLAGE COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS

Regular meeting of the Village Commission, held Monday evening July 25, 1927, at 8 o'clock.

Present: Commissioners Henry, Hulbert, McBride, Coryell, Halgren, Hersey.

Minutes of meeting of July 18th, as printed with the exception of the following correction to Resolution No. 4-1: in which the list Numbers should read as follows: Lots 15, 49, 141, 145, 248, 259 and 316.

Moved by Commissioner Hulbert that the following bills be allowed as follows:

Charles Plum-feed, petty cash fund, 16.39; H. F. Klein, $20.71; Emil G. Olin, $24.95; H. Edgar Allen, $35.00.

Yeas: Henry, Hulbert, McBride, Coryell, Halgren, Hersey. Nays: None.

Communication from R. V. Colwell, land and planning, filed.

Communication from D. J. Healy, engineering service for Plant Subdivision "referred" was read and referred to the Manager for investigation the direct Water for sprinkling at the next meeting.

Petition of H. Allen and E. H. Bates for sidewalks on Watkins Street between Wallace and Hanna Streets in front of lots 34, 35 and 14 Block 40, was read and referred to the Manager for report and recommendation.

Moved by Commissioner Coryell the sidewalks in front of Lot 168 Birmingham Park Addition be removed, and that the owners be notified.

Yeas: Henry, Hulbert, McBride, Coryell, Halgren, Hersey. Nays: None.

Moved by Commissioner Hersey that the matter of the sale of the old waterworks be laid on the table for decision.

Yeas: Henry, Hulbert, McBride, Coryell, Halgren, Hersey. Nays: None.

Moved by Commissioner McBride that the bids for the construction of sanitary sewer on Hazel Street, and Maple Road and Lincoln Avenue, and that the received August 15, 1927, at 10 o'clock A. M.

Yeas: Henry, Hulbert, McBride, Coryell, Halgren, Hersey. Nays: None.

Moved by Commissioner Hulbert that the report be received and placed on file.

Yeas: Henry, Hulbert, McBride, Coryell, Halgren, Hersey. Nays: None.

Moved by Commissioner Coryell, that Resolution No. 7-1 be taken from the table and also that be read as follows:

Whereas, the State Administration Board has authorized and announced its intention to acquire a right of way of width of 100 feet on Woodward Avenue from Oak Street to Lincoln Avenue and 204 feet on the Grand Trunk R. R. And Whereas, the Village of Birmingham this its elected Village Commission, has always been in an adequate width for future state traffic along the U. S. Route No. 10, or Dixie Highway.

Be it hereby resolved, that the Village Commission agrees to accept the above arrangement and plan of traffic to be carried out by the State of Michigan at cost to the Village.

Yeas: Henry, Hulbert, McBride, Coryell, Halgren, Hersey. Nays: None.

Moved by Commissioner McBride that the Taxi Ordinance be laid on the table for one week.

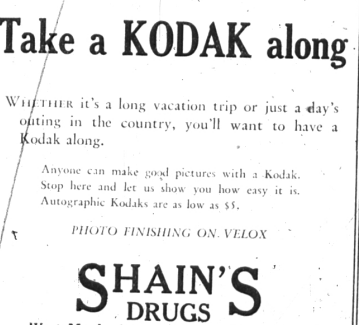
Yeas: Henry, Hulbert, McBride, Coryell, Halgren, Hersey. Nays: None.

Moved by Commissioner McBride that the meeting adjourn.

Yeas: Henry, Hulbert, McBride, Coryell, Halgren, Hersey. Nays: None.

HAZEL E. LAWLER,
Village Clerk.

A farmer in the vicinity of Evening Shade, Ark., believes in diversification and raises live stock, including hound dogs. He recently advised: "Now is your chance to get a hound pup from the famous 'Old Bell' dog of mine. 'Old Bell' took eleven coons, seven possums and a mink in three nights last fall. Can trail and tree any varmint that ever ran on four legs."



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Houses running from $12,500.00 to great country estates — exclusive lake frontage — beautiful indivdual hill top sites.

Bloomfield Hills-Birmingham property is always on the rise because wider Woodward brings its hills and lakes within easy access of Detroit.

If you or your frineds are thinking of a new home, today is the time to begin your investigation. Phone headquarters and we will be only too glad to help you.

Building sites are already showing a marked activity.

In Chesterfield Gardens, we have only a half dozen lots left.

Pleasant View Subdivision, which adjoins Chesterfield Gardens to the south is also in demand.

Quarton Lake Estates lots are constantly on the increase. We have sold several of these during the last thirty days, but still have a few exceptionally good buys which will be much higher later in the spring.

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School District Board

School District No. 11, Southfield Township

Oakland County, Michigan

BIDS—For the erection of the Louise Lathrup Elementary School Building located on Lot 1677 Louise Lathrup's California Bungalow Subdivision No. 3, Oakland County, Michigan, on the East side of the Southfield Road between Eleven and Twelve-Mile Roads.

SEPARATE PROPOSAL NO. 1 — Architectural Trades.

SEPARATE PROPOSAL NO. 2—Heating, Ventilating and Plumbing.

SEPARATE PROPOSAL NO. 3—Electric Wiring.

Proposals for the above building will be opened at 2:00 P. M. Friday, August 5th, 1927, at the Architect's offices, 2231 Park Ave., Detroit.

Plans and specifications under the direction of the architects may be seen at the office of McGrath, Dolmen & Page, 2231 Park Ave., Detroit. Plans and specifications under the direction of the consulting engineers, Van Tuyl, Heartt and Barron, may be seen at their offices, 916 Francis Palms Building, Detroit.

PROPOSALS MUST BE SUBMITTED ON FORMS FURNISHED BY THE ARCHITECTS AND CONSULTING ENGINEERS and must be accompanied by a certified check or cash in the sum of 6% of the amount of the proposal; which check upon failure of the successful bidder to enter into contract with the Board must be forfeited to the Board.

The right is reserved to reject any and all bids and to waive defect or informality in any bid.

General Contractors must submit, attached to their proposals, the names of all their proposed sub-contractors; also submit complete schedule of heating, ventilating and plumbing and electrical work on the forms provided by the Engineers.

Proposals will be received for the completion of the entire work by March 15th, 1928.

A deposit check of $25.00 is required for each set of plans, to be refunded when plans and specifications are returned; also a rental of Five Dollars ($5.00) per day will be charged contractors who retain plans and specifications longer than agreed.

(Signed)
DOUGLAS LATHRUP,
WALTER S. ROGERS,
EARL LATHRUP,
DISTRICT BOARD.

Dated: Southfield Township, July 19th, 1927.