

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

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THURSDAY, JULY 7, 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 the paper.

"LET'S THINK IT OVER"

There is a very old story about a mule standing between a man and a barrel of dynamite...

This is analogous to the predicament of a village commissioner who has been active in blocking the location of the fire station...

At the last meeting he said that a former commission member advocated the site for "eight months" and "we have only considered it two weeks."

What they want, Commissioner Henry, is a fire station erected at once and a fire station erected on property they were bonded for one year ago on the civic center.

TALKING IN CIRCLES

According to a press dispatch, the Rev. Charles S. Beulah, a small town minister who has been appointed by the Watch and Ward committee...

For instance, this "Certain passages in both the Bible and Shakespeare should be expurgated in editions that are placed before the general public."

It has been said that many people pay too much attention to other people's affairs—but this hardly applies to the carrying on of good government.

Next Monday, July 11, occurs the annual meeting of this school district. More than a third of all the money pay in local taxes goes to carry on the work of Birmingham's education institutions.

Movie producer has brought suit for five million dollars against Lillian Gish. God!

Recent exploits of American airmen should enable Mr. Brisbane to breathe a little easier.

Ultimately the only way to be able to read the naughty looks will be to get a job as censor.

A new addition to the President's burdens is the duty of calling congratulations to overseas flyers.

Someone shipped Ty Cobb a case of liquor labeled "electrical apparatus." It was high voltage stuff.

One advantage of Italy's dictatorial system is that the cabinet is always in session when Mussolini is awake.

issues to be placed on the ballot Monday have stated in The Eccentric that the growth of Birmingham makes an addition to the village schools in the form of one new building and an enlargement of the existing school, an absolute necessity.

The growth of Birmingham has been so rapid that members of the school board have had, during the past few years, greater problems than ever they need money to erect the buildings which will house the leaders of the future Birmingham.

Residents of the village are apparently agreed on the need for this bond issue to carry; they want their children to continue to distinguish themselves in scholarship as they have done.

THEIR POUND OF FLESH

Somehow or other the talk in California relative to the cuts in the motion picture star's pay evokes nothing more serious than an occasional chuckle from those people who applaud the stars from a vantage point at the gallery of their favorite "movie."

It is not that they begrudge Gloria her \$17,500 a week, as she is reputed, perhaps by her publicity agent, to receive, but they feel that ten per cent taken from her pay check, and from the pay checks of other stars who are being paid similar salaries, and then applied back in the business might do them, as theater goers and wage earners, some material good.

It is surprising that there is so much protest in Hollywood over the idea, because the average person is of the opinion that anyone receiving so large a salary as a leading man or woman of the cinema should feel fighting over the last dime.

So it goes . . . the rich getting richer and the poor poorer.

A SANE FOURTH

Although it required legislation against fireworks in some places to make July Fourth this year freer from accidents than it has been in a long time, this was not true in Birmingham where the sale was permitted.

The reason is quite obvious. Common Sense aided Providence. The two warring hands in hand and cleared the hospitals. This, it seems, shows plainly a sign of progress.

Next Thanksgiving when it is again time to reflect upon events of the year and to show appreciation for those things which have been good, it would be well to remember July Fourth; to remember that the day came closer to typifying what it is intended to signify than it has in recent years; to remember that the day was not one of horror, as in the past, but rather, that for all in Birmingham, it slipped by without the serious mishaps that have been paramount.

This should be taken as an indication that laws are not always necessary; that personal law made far more effective than state legislation.

Few fatalities and accidents were reported in Michigan over the Fourth, in keeping with restrictions on dangerous fireworks. That is well. The ordinary citizen is satisfied to confine his exploits to automobile tires—regrettably, of course.

If you want to obtain the true estimate of any man learn what his family—or his neighbors—think of him. The exemplification of good character—like charity—begins at home.

It has been said that many people pay too much attention to other people's affairs—but this hardly applies to the carrying on of good government.

"Anything worth having is worth working for," reads an old adage. To which might be added: anything worth having is worth paying for. As an old copybook writer once said: "If it required no work or effort, there would be no glory in achievement."

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PEOPLE'S COLUMN

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

THE FIRE STATION SITE

Have been watching the smoke from the fire hall for several weeks and were it not for the commission we were largely a non-entity.

While the "I told you so" position is not an enviable one in which to be placed, I called the citizens' attention in an election slogan to the fact that politics in Birmingham were largely a non-entity.

The first real issue was the zoning ordinance, then the water-works, and finally the fire hall. The controlling of real estate values regardless of whether it was a good thing for Birmingham as a whole.

And now the fire hall site. Is it not a pity that the promoters of the new site are being heartily in favor of the civic center site for all the municipal buildings. The literature they put out and public utterances by public men are so transparently in favor of the site, the style of the proposed library and the fire hall.

Now a few of those who not only did not raise their voices against the proposal, but supported it, for some unknown reason, are in league with those who have a proposition of their own. Not only a new site but a new style of the property acquired. To whom? Any person knows that officials, deeply interested in the property, favor the civic center.

Who should profit by the increase of the price paid to those who purchased it or those to whom the property originally belonged?

If it is not to be used for the purpose for which it was condemned, it is for some unknown reason, is illegal and I believe any fair jury would decide that it should be returned to the private owner to whom it originally owned it.

These questions come to my mind very indolently do so many others.

Why are those handling the not only the time and the money in public, but the literature from house to house, and the money spent in advertising, favoring the site written by them?

Is it possible that they are so interested in the property that they expect to be reimbursed through their interference in cost and selling price?

Why wasn't this time, expense and money given before the ground for the civic center was acquired and not after they had secured the property?

Why do some of our new commission members suddenly think the voters did not understand the financial liabilities of the city to be incurred?

Why would the building (which would be beautiful) be desirable in the neighborhood and undesirable in another? And we will conclude that in any neighborhood where people could be found who would oppose a church, school, playground or any type of building except that in which they lived.

The pamphlet distributed before the bonds were voted upon was concise, clear as to costs of the character of the buildings, and acquired to build upon and the savings giving a definite idea of the character of the buildings.

And after being approved by more than the required majority, by what lawful right have some of the members of the present commission to seek an attempt to substitute their own duty to carry out the mandates of the people regardless of their personal opinions or the opinions of friends who have something else to dispose of. Why, even if they are within their lawful rights, is just this one piece of property being considered when there are others available at a lower price?

If their actions are sincere why not try to save more for the public?

Why, confine the issue to this particular site. The wishes of the voters of Birmingham have been ignored and ridden over rough-shod previously and the consequences of their actions by public servants are:

First—Creating a spirit of "Why Vote?"

Second—Creating a spirit of confidence in public officials.

Third—That the ward system with all its ill effects is just this one piece of property being considered when there are others available at a lower price.

I am not quarreling with those on the outside of the commission who are trying to sell the situation, but only proves the statement that the commission, properly functioning for the good of all, must represent both wards and districts and more particularly the different stations in life.

Sincerely yours, W. E. BARTON.

BALL LEAGUE RATINGS GIVEN

The standings of the church baseball league and the soft ball league up to this week, according to A. L. Van Winkle, playground director, are as follows:

Table with 2 columns: League Name, Team Name, Wins, Losses, Games Played. Includes Soft Ball League and Ball League.

BLOOMFIELD HILLS COMMISSION

Bloomfield Hills, Oakland County, Michigan. Special meeting of Village Council and Board of Trustees held July 5, 1927.

Moved by Commissioner Rankin that minutes of the regular meeting be printed and mailed to the voters of the village.

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POEMS I LOVE

BY CHARLES HANSON TOWNE "The Sands of Dee," by Charles Kingsley.

The author of that famous poem, "The Three Fishes," has been quoted in this series, loved the sea with a passionate intensity.

And all the cattle hound. And call the cattle hound. Across the sands of Dee. The western wind will wail and dank with foam.

The creeping tide came up along the sand. And for another year the sand. And round and round the sand. As far as eye could see.

Among the stakes on Dee. They rowed her in across the roll. The crew of rowing foam. The crew of rowing foam.

Across the sands of Dee. (Copyright, 1927)

STATE OF MICHIGAN. COUNTY OF OAKLAND. I, Charles Hanson Towne, Clerk of the County of Oakland, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, held on July 5, 1927.

WILLIAM STORRY, Village Clerk. Bloomfield Hills, Oakland County, Michigan.

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