

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

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Thursday, March 3, 1927

Note: During the absence from Birmingham for six weeks of George R. Averill, publisher of the Eccentric, the editorial matter is being written by Raymond Girardin, managing editor.

THE PEOPLE ON MOVIES

In another part of this newspaper there appears unsolicited comments on the proposed movie picture ordinance to be voted on in Birmingham March 14.

The spokesman for the side favoring the ordinance the Rev. F. E. Logg offers his reasons for the proposed law. Citizens at large, in turn, give their opinions for opposing it.

From the comment written and expressed in speech in the village today it is almost a certainty that the blue law will be defeated overwhelmingly.

HARMONY AND BIRMINGHAM

Harmony is a thing to be sought after, and yet, were the world a harmonious place it would also be a stupid place.

Nothing that may be disclosed at this late day will dim Washington's fame, nor detract from the homage a grateful nation will always pay to his memory.

A SAD MISTAKE

Granted that the petition for an injunction restraining the state from completing a 100 foot wide Woodward avenue through Birmingham was filed in Circuit Court with the interest of the village at heart—then it appears that the Detroit real estate man who started the action has made a mistake.

Birmingham passed through a severe battle in fairly good shape. While it is true that some of the citizens here would have preferred a street wider than 100 feet it is also true that the majority favored the parallel highways that the state finally decided upon.

Then came a jolt from Detroit in the form of the petition.

A prominent business man, who worked hard to have a 150 foot wide approach, expressed the opinion of a great many this week when he said, "I shall not raise a finger to have this injunction granted. I feel it is one of the worst possible things that could happen to the village."

GEORGE WASHINGTON

George Washington, whose 150th birthday anniversary occurred on February 22, has been more widely discussed during the past year than usual, owing to the appearance of two new biographies written in a rather iconoclastic vein.

The authors, Rupert Hughes and W. E. Woodworth, apparently have the documentary evidence with which to strip Washington of the halo which has surrounded him, particularly with respect to his private life.

As a result, the real greatness of Washington has not been depreciated, but he has merely been transformed from a demi-god into a very human person, with a fair share of the frailties which characterize all mortals.

Even though Washington did, as Mr. Hughes declares, indulge in all the frivolities of a gentleman of his day, including "foppish dancing, gambling, polite drinking and exquisite flirtation," it appears that he was conservative in his indulgences and that his sterling character and abilities were not dimmed.

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SPEAKING OF SPEECH

We do not usually pay very much attention to the many special "weeks," which are set aside for this or that purpose, still it is not amiss to call attention to "Better Speech Week," recommended by the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

It is notorious that Americans are careless in speech, with respect to choice of words and grammatical construction. Many who have a fairly comprehensive vocabulary mar their discourse through faulty diction, while few, indeed, are impeccable in pronunciation.

Considering the difficulty of mastering the English language and the comparatively slight stress placed upon it by many schools, it is no wonder that this is so. And while special attention to better speech for even one week in the year may be of some benefit, it is only through continuous effort that accuracy and fluency can be attained.

But correct speech is worth striving for, if only to enable us better to appreciate the incongruities of Ring Lardner and the perpetrators of our comic supplements.

A TRUISM PASSES

Despite the logicians it would seem from recent developments at Lansing that two wrongs, after all, do make a right.

The bill for capital punishment is on the wane as this is being written. Those advocating it have failed to agree on the manner in which they would have criminals murdered by the state.

The first wrong is in the name of the bill. The second is the failure of its advocates to agree. Adding the second wrong to the first will eventuate, it is indicated, in the ultimate disposal of the bill by the Capitol's janitor.

What's in a name? Ask the editor who spelled the bride's wrong.

The reformers will never have to quit for lack of material to work on.

One has never discovered a safe method of looking for a rich man's name.

Judging by Monday's papers, the best safety zone on Sunday is the home.

Husbands and wives used to bawl each other out in person. Now they do it through the newspapers.

Waste basket: A receptacle in a newspaper office to hold propaganda until the janitor gets around at night.

"Peaches" Browning is said to have gone to Bermuda, but not because she doesn't know her onions.

Those who contemplate marrying stenographers are reminded that most of them now use the touch system.

Boston University has a course which instructs women how to buy. "Most husbands would prefer having them instructed to refrain from buying."

The dog man for sale seldom drag home anything except a deficit.

If Socrates had practiced a while with moonshine, the henlock would have acted as a soothing potion.

Garden-spading marathons will become popular when a new brand of human nature sprouts.

The 1927 Camel and the Needle's Eye



FROM THE ECCENTRIC COLUMNS of Long Ago

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

25 YEARS AGO

The Ladies' Literary club will meet with Mrs. Bignow next Monday evening. The subjects are among the most interesting in Russian history. A full attendance is most earnestly requested.

Miss Lou McDougal was the happy victim of a routine surprise party last Friday evening. About sixteen of the Birmingham young people planned a pedro party, serving refreshments and enjoying a very pleasant social time.

Considerable changes are taking place in our midst. Will Newman has left the Watkins' farm and plate, was taken by Miss Florence moved into one of Mr. Hamilton's houses on Southfield avenue.

Miss Maud Campbell was home for a short visit Monday.

"The Aristocrats," by Gertrude Atherton, is the last book in the library.

Mrs. Hattie McBride will illustrate by pantomime the Irish ballad, "Shandon Bells," at the St. Patrick banquet.

Western Kansas editors have a unique way of prodding up delinquent subscribers, as this will indicate: "If you have frequent headaches, dizziness, fainting spells, accompanied by shills, cramps, torts, bunions, chilblains, epilepsy and jaundice, it is a sign you are not well, but are liable to die any minute. Pay your subscription a year in advance, and we will send you a gold watch."

We call attention to the advertiser's copy of costliness of claim, ham in this issue. The new bank both useful and fragmental. This was formally opened on Saturday.

TO WINTER

Oh Winter, you are growing old. Your manner is less rough and bold. And now your charms we scarce behold. As time goes fleeting by, But do not be so cross and sad, And frown so often. You have had your fling. You have been gay and glad. And all must sometime die.

Oh Winter, 'twas a merry time. You brought us. Days were all sublime. When you were young and in your prime. But you are faded now. Your garb of lovely spotted snow. Is soiled and threadbare places show. Your weary head is bending low, And frowner is your brow.

Poor Winter, we have fickle grown. Your Winds their final blasts have blown. Upon our hearts. We now disown. All fellowship with you. We fain would greet Spring's golden days, On azure skies once more would gaze. And lost within a flow'ry maze. Bid you one found adieu.

—Beatrice McDonald

block has been handsomely fitted up for a large, light and convenient banking room, and Mr. Lewis the cashier in charge, will be found among the very pleasant gentlemen to do business with. Success to the new enterprise.

John McQuarters and his family have moved to Birmingham from Southfield.

The Chrysanthemum Pedro club held its regular meeting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. B. H. Blair. The ace prizes were won by S. C. Mills and Mrs. Bessie Munro. Bobby prizes fell to L. M. Hubert and Mrs. Zina Mills.

George C. Aldrich of Battle Creek spent Sunday with his father and brother.

The twentieth wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Anderson was appropriately celebrated by over 100 friends of the family last week Wednesday at their home on the old John Highgate farm.

Mack Randall has rented the new girl babies had arrived at the home of John Davenport, of Bloomfield, and Will Parks, of Troy. Both fathers are delighted, of course, and all the families doing nicely, too.

Married in Detroit, Feb. 28, by Rev. Richard Turnbull, Mr. Frank Young to Miss Eva A. Means, daughter of A. L. Means, of Southfield. The happy couple have their best wishes for a long and happy life.

Last week Miss Flora, daughter of Daniel Bassett, of Southfield, was married to Mr. Dick Erwin, of the same town. Dick and his wife bought 80 acres of good farmland and Sam has his eye on a paying speculation.

Last week we carelessly omitted to mention the fact that two brand new girl babies had arrived at the home of John Davenport, of Bloomfield, and Will Parks, of Troy. Both fathers are delighted, of course, and all the families doing nicely, too.

The whist club meets at Edwin Baldwin's tomorrow night.

A social party at P. C. Simonson's on Friday night last was well attended and a very pleasant time had all around.

Joe Donaldson and Sam Harrison, two of Birmingham's best young men, have been prospecting in and around Bad Axe, Mich. They report the house of Wm. Hawley and Co. as flourishing and are much in love with the country. They bought 80 acres of good farmland and Sam has his eye on a paying speculation.

BLOOMFIELD BIRMINGHAM

Now is the time

IF YOU are thinking of a large or a more up-to-date one—and nearly every one is—now is the time to investigate.

We have homes of every size—modern in every respect—winterbuilt houses, which, if sold now will show a handsome saving over the spring prices when the demand is at its peak.

Building sites are already showing a marked activity. In Chesterfield Gardens, we have only a half dozen lots left.

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

Bloomfield Hills-Birmingham property is always on the rise. We can't say it's wide Woodward brings its hills and lakes within easy access of Detroit.

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 in the spring.

When a Wyandotte diverter took the morning car for home you ought to have heard the Indians yell—no robbery is something blood-curdling and undesirable.

The Franklin L. O. T. M. held a very successful masquerade on St. Valentine's night which created any amount of amusement. It being impossible for a man to recognize his own wife or sister, so completely were the four dances disguised.

There were various other amusements, including a fish pond and a rummage sale. A handsome quilt was raffled off, which was acquired by Mrs. Adams. A very pretty doll, dressed in a Mearns of the order, was presented by the Lady Commander to be given to the one guessing its name. No one making a correct guess, it was sold at auction. The doll's name was Lindora, after the Deputy Great Commander, Mrs. Clodona Jacobs, who organized the drive.

The Ladies' Aid of the M. E. Church met with Mrs. Bookham next Friday afternoon, Mar. 2. No committee this month. Mrs. Bookham and Mrs. Eugene Smith provide the top. Fannie J. Shain.

43 YEARS AGO. Julia Lee had rented his house to Ed Carter party.

Ed Schanite and Jim Todd will occupy the Stanley Farm this year.

Rev. J. McCracken will preach at Liberty Hall on Sunday evening next. Everybody invited.

Miss Nettie Blumberg leaves for Ann Arbor this week for a two weeks' sojourn with Mrs. Goss, a former resident of Au Sable.

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WILLIAM HENRY STONE, JR. ARCHITECT. 955 East Maple Ave. Phone 695 B'ham, Mich.

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