

# BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

(Founded in 1878)

Published every Thursday at Birmingham, Mich., in The  
Eccentric Building, 120 N. 12th Street.  
Telephone 11 and 12.

GEORGE ROGERS AVERILL, Editor and Publisher

Entered as Second-Class Matter in the U. S. Postoffice at  
Birmingham, Alabama.

## Subscription Rates

(In Oakland County)	(Outside Oakland County)
One Year, \$1.50	One Year, \$2.00
Six Months, .75	Six Months, 1.00
Three Months, .40	Three Months, .50

All newspapers and advertising agencies are required to pay for their advertising in advance. The office is open on Wednesdays from 10 o'clock to 12 noon for the purpose of receiving orders for advertising.

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

THURSDAY, MAY 19, 1927

## OUR WOMAN COMMISSIONER

For the first time in its history, Birmingham has a member of the feminine sex upon its legislative body. Mrs. Hope F. Halgren, who was elected to office last week, enjoys this unique distinction. This young woman, well known to be excellently fitted for her new task, ought to add something to the life of this community.

"A woman's point of view is different from a man's, but it is just as important as a man's," says Mrs. Halgren. "For this reason I think a woman's being on the commission will be of benefit to the village. It will be of benefit to women because it will encourage them. It will urge them on to greater heights. They will be more interested in civic affairs because one of their number is on the commission."

Well said, Mrs. Halgren—or should we say Commissioner Halgren? To be sure, women play no mean part in the life of the world, and the injection of feminine ideas into the political affairs of this nation ought to add something to the substantiality of the structure. We hope that Mrs. Commissioner Halgren will create a splendid impression upon the political life of this community, not only for herself, but for the sex that she represents.

Did we say that we hope she will do this? Then let us add that we really believe that she will accomplish her aims, for, in this case, we must more than hope for Commissioner Hope Ferguson Halgren.

## THE CRANBROOK SCHOOL FOR BOYS

Oakland County will soon boast one of the most finished schools for boys in the country. Nowhere in these United States will there be a school of the particular characteristics with which the Cranbrook School for Boys will be endowed.

Ideals of such value that they have for the most part become something one imagines only at rare times will be striven after at the Cranbrook School. The determination to afford each of the 200 students, who, within a year, will be enrolled there, opportunities of acquiring the highest qualities possible to man, appears to be the aim of those who are directly connected with the school.

Wholesome education handed out in buildings that resemble factories will be something as remote from Cranbrook as it is prominent in many of our state universities. The limited number of students that the school will accept makes possible a relationship between instructor and boy that offers one of the greatest factors in the development of the youth. It is a system which has proved itself for hundreds of years in Europe but which we, in America, who are far more inclined to production whether it be in A. B. degrees or automobiles, will have nothing of.

The physical atmosphere of the school is ideal. Coupled with the natural beauty of Bloomfield Hills there are the school buildings themselves, conceived and executed by Prof. Eliel Saarinen of Helsinki, Finland. There will be nothing of the half-done affair that they will exude beauty—the rarest of all qualities in contemporary school buildings.

The effect of all this on the student is obvious. Just as is the effect on the students of Oxford produced by the physical atmosphere of the place. The school, having done a great deal for Birmingham and vicinity. The new school, however, is one of their finest contributions.

## THE PAPERS COULD HELP

Commenting upon a recent editorial in The Eccentric in which the lack of sportsmanship among the newspapers was lamented a correspondent says, "The daily papers' bellow about sportsmanship when they themselves give such little evidence of it. They bellow, too, about monopolies and never point to the Associated Press, sitting there and doing their own dirty deed. There are others just as flagrant. It was an excellent editorial."

"Yesterday I saw a poor devil still wearing his army overcoat, 10 years after America entered the war. He was too poor to discard it. Socialism, of course, is ridiculous, but it is indeed a pity that a system such as the one under which we live is allowed to exist. The papers are in a position to get to the bottom of things. Do they do it? Of course not and the reason is simple. While all the injustice is going on they content themselves with writing editorials on the lack of interest in elections when it is their own fault that no one is interested. And their course of action is determined by their mania to see the gold continue to flow into the coffers."

It is an indictment of journalism—all the more stinging because the fact is, in many, many cases, undeniable. It is a very easy thing to sing the virtues of the newspapers, for they have them, no doubt. But it is a very sad thing to have to admit that their views are all too many—that human nature often distorts factors for good into factors for evil.

There are the bloodthirsty everywhere in the state who had hoped that the senate would approve the legal burning to death in the electric chair of persons convicted of various forms of felony. It is sad for them, indeed; just as disappointing as if Rome, in its heyday, had passed a law against any kind of what we, in our 1927 civilization, would call brutality.

For another two years at least there will be no more talk of capital punishment in the official circles of Michigan. Will we, do you think, have made enough mental progress by that time to allow the issue to remain in the legislative waste basket? Or will the purblind creatures who see a cure-all in barbarism again have the state discuss the capital punishment issue—one which, by virtue of its being an issue, shows just how closely we still are allied to the Dark Ages?

Birmingham caught H— last Tuesday at the special election. Yes sir—Henry, Hulbert, Halgren, and Hersey.

## DANDELIONS

We plant the rose and lily fair;  
To them we give our tenderest care;  
In every flowering shrub and tree  
A wealth of beauty ranges wide and free,  
Yet scarcely notice, as we pass,  
The dandelions in the grass.

All sparkling with the morning dew,  
Earth's springtime gown of emerald hue,  
Flecked with these bits of shining gold  
Is most enchanting to behold.  
And yet we call them hold and grass,  
These dandelions in the grass.

The children leave their merry play,  
Along the paths from school they stray,  
Unmindful of the fleeting hours,  
To pick the starry yellow flowers;  
For every bright-eyed lad and lass  
Loves dandelions in the grass.

Yet we unheeding pass them by,  
Just let them blossom there and die.  
If then our souls are beauty blind  
To things that seem of common kind,  
Such treasures we shall miss, alas!  
Like dandelions in the grass.

—Beatrice McDonald.

## 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

A charming home wedding was celebrated Thursday evening, May 15th, at the residence of Mrs. Mary Bell, of Southfield, in which the contracting parties were her daughter, Miss Anna Bell, and Daniel A. McGuffey, of Oxford.

Ladies of literary club, placing flowers next Monday evening for decorating tables. Please Mr. Mitchell, thank to the prompt and efficient work of Geo. H. Toms, and now when the oversight of law, order and cleanliness passes by, the smile that beams all over her good natured countenance is only equalled by Mitchell's smile when he thinks that the great work is over.

Messrs. Munro and Chaffield are covering themselves with glory and the house of Mrs. Mary A. Park was a scene of merriment and merriment. The ladies of the club, placing flowers next Monday evening for decorating tables. Please Mr. Mitchell, thank to the prompt and efficient work of Geo. H. Toms, and now when the oversight of law, order and cleanliness passes by, the smile that beams all over her good natured countenance is only equalled by Mitchell's smile when he thinks that the great work is over.

## DIAMOND EMBLEMS GIVEN TO PRESIDENTS

Diamond-studded Rotary buttons were presented to George R. Averill, Louis Havelall, and Rev. R. M. Atkins, past presidents of the Birmingham Rotary club, Tuesday evening at a banquet held at the Statler Hotel, Detroit. The presentation was made by James W. Parry, and came as a complete surprise to the recipients.

The banquet was held as the result of a visiting attendance contest during the past six months, during which time the membership was divided into three teams, under the leadership of Charles J. Shaw, George B. Hall, and Charles B. Randall. Mr. Randall's team lost, and as a penalty provided the banquet. E. L. Manson acted as general chairman of the banquet, and system such as the one under which we live is allowed to exist. The papers are in a position to get to the bottom of things. Do they do it? Of course not and the reason is simple. While all the injustice is going on they content themselves with writing editorials on the lack of interest in elections when it is their own fault that no one is interested. And their course of action is determined by their mania to see the gold continue to flow into the coffers."



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SHAIN'S The Rexall Store

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## GARAGE IS AMONG NEW BUILDINGS

(Continued from Page 1)  
316 Baldwin avenue, which will cost \$600. Gordon E. Green has a permit for a garage on east Lincoln avenue for \$300, and J. H. Stachler is constructing a \$175 garage at 4130 Lincoln avenue. Paul Norman is building a three-car garage at 235 west Bonnaville avenue, for \$340. Albert Correll has a permit for a \$250 garage at 119 Chapin avenue, and R. H. Ham is building one at 721 Stanley avenue, at a cost of \$300.

## HEARING DELAYED ON WOODEN ROOFS

(Continued from Page 1)  
have been settled Monday but a delay was asked so that Fire Chief William G. Olsen could provide more statistics for the commissioners to consider.

It is expected that if such an ordinance is passed the houses now shingled with wood will not be affected. The ordinance will only apply to new building, it is planned.

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