

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

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NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events which give news value and which are of general interest. It is not controlled by the editorial staff of the paper. All copy must be presented before the editorial staff. The staff reserves the right, however, to make such suggestions as it may deem necessary and as are required by laws of the state. Because of a mechanical limitation, the Eccentric cannot accept copy from those other than members of the staff, cannot be used.

An Opportunity

With the start of Prosperity Week Monday, Birmingham launches one of its vital undertakings. It will be successful if the people of Birmingham take the interest in the project they have shown every indication of taking, and if the week is successful, practically everyone in Birmingham will be benefited. The matter resolves itself into this: those who are working on the committee are giving you an opportunity to know Birmingham as you never could learn about it in fifty weeks of things which their natural course. The school, government, municipal buildings and stores will be bared to their very cores for your inspection. After the week is over, you will have been given the opportunity of knowing your community such as few people have.

How is one to cooperate? By taking an interest, for one thing, in the activities which are to be staged.

How is one to benefit? Indirectly by the advertising the events will give to Birmingham in other cities and directly by the display of Birmingham's qualities which belong to people who live here by right of residence and are available for exploitation.

It is an opportunity, are you interested?

Traffic Lights

Despite the fact that many believe, after a superficial glance at the situation, that every traffic signal is designed merely to slow up traffic and to enrich the coffers of the local police department, those who have watched traffic closely see today the benefit the three new lights on Woodward avenue here are giving the village.

Birmingham's traffic problem was a serious one, indeed. On Sundays, especially, the number of automobiles on Woodward avenue was great enough to cause the average expert in traffic problems to throw up his hands and wait for another occupation. It was little better on week days. As for the motorist who was in a hurry to get somewhere, traffic here seemed to move more slowly than a man on his way into prison.

But now it is better, and the future promises even more improvement.

Try to maintain an average speed of 22 miles an hour after passing the first green light and you will find that the lights limit in a considerably shorter time, now that the lights are working, than formerly.

Speed and convenience to pedestrians is not the only factor. Safety is another that must be taken into consideration. But this is so obvious that it does not need to be dealt with here.

Persons in public office have done a service to Birmingham in speeding the erection of these lights—the kind of service that is intrinsic and can never be measured in figures.

Good News

A statement from Charles Plumstead, village treasurer, to the effect that village taxes have come in earlier and more rapidly this year than last is a splendid welcome on the eve of Prosperity Week.

Mr. Plumstead reports that the collection of taxes here is a comparatively easy task because of the prosperity of Birmingham which makes the payments possible.

This is something everyone here may well be thankful for. Unexpected taxes result more or less unpleasantly for those who have paid as well as for those who have not.

All of which is merely an answer to the question, "Why do you call it 'Prosperity Week'?"

Don't Be A "Sucker"

Every day, over the length and breadth of this very prosperous United States of America, there are countless swindlers at work trying to obtain money from gullible people; not only do these swindlers rely upon personal solicitation, but they will spend a great deal of money in pamphlets and postage to get up as \$100.00 from a person on some fake stock selling proposition. One promoter in New York City has a "sucker list" of 600,000 names, from which he obtains millions annually, it is said.

Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, and vicinity are known to be prosperous; and are flooded from time to time with circulars, as well as with personal solicitors. It will pay you to disregard ALL offerings to buy stock, unless you have the personal recommendation of your banker, your lawyer, or a person in whom you can place trust and business confidence.

The easiest way to get off a "sucker list" is to save up several pounds of the promoter's pamphlets and circulars, and send them back to him postage collect.

The Y. M. C. A. Campaign

Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, and vicinity, last week over-subscribed its \$6,000.00 quota for Y. M. C. A. funds by \$184.00. It was the first time in the history of this district that a Y. M. C. A. quota was ever over-subscribed; that is good for the youth who will be aided by the funds and of course, for the adults who take pride in their youth. Despite any post-war animosity that the nation-at-large may have for the Y. M. C. A., the virtues of this institution are still appreciated locally; much of the credit for this may be attributed to the splendid leadership shown here by Robert D. Lynd, secretary of the Y.

Mayhem's Origin

The question of how civilized we are, become more involved every time there is enacted a scene like that at the Ten Mile road and Woodward avenue a week ago when a bus driver is alleged to have bitten off the ear of another driver during a fight.

The infuriating act of mayhem came into its own in New York. It was customary in practically all gang wars for opponents to resort to this kind of brutality. The people who indulged in the fights were of the lowest type. Most of them were thieves and rowdies since childhood. They were half wild creatures, ready to plunder, murder or brawl as the mood and opportunity were presented. They were the dregs of American civilization and most of them eventually were either hanged or murdered by others of their kind.

Then came uplift. The bowery gradually disappeared and with it several smaller "lowers" in other cities. People revolted at the connection of the word. Now it is one of the rarest offenses against law in Oakland County.

But these things seem determined to occur and recur making us wonder and wonder about "civilization" and "progress."

A Child Dies

All the reading and writing and arithmetic that six-year-old Marie Thompson learned in her two years of school are of no avail to her today. She was the victim of a thoughtless moment. She was only a child from a comfortable home can be cheerful after a day in school. Marie stepped into the street directly in front of a large truck.

Nothing can be done now to bring back this beautiful little "angel." But steps can and should be taken to prevent future accidents of this nature in Birmingham.

The first move to safeguard the lives of children was made by the village commission when the members authorized the village manager Monday night to get touch with various organizations in Birmingham to work out a safety program which could be adapted in the schools and at the home. This is an absolute necessity and thoroughly deserving of the complete co-operation of every person in Birmingham.

A few years ago the streets here were comparatively safe for children. They could chafe in the winter and play ball in the summer. Automobiles were few off the main thoroughfares. Today, however, it is different. Danger lurks everywhere.

And to combat this, parents and teachers are preparing for the continual work of emphasizing to children constantly the few maxims of safety that are necessary to 1927 to safeguard life.

The solution to this problem is not isolation of the child from the danger. Some day he must face traffic and the young one should be taught constantly how to face it.

We must realize that we live in a changing Birmingham and we must not neglect this phase of our children's equipment for life. The same traffic hazard exists in nearly every community and it is largely up to parents and schools to assist police in the elimination of death or accident on our highways.

WE HEARD IT SAID BY

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

Louis Hascall, realtor: "The commission deserves credit for the traffic signal at Oakland County chapter of the Red Cross. We and Woodward avenues. We people who live in that part of Birmingham previously found it difficult to cross the street most of the time because of the heavy traffic on Woodward."

Miss Carrie M. Taylor, secretary Oakland County chapter of the Red Cross: "The Red Cross is still in need of clothing to be sent to the sufferers from the recent flood in the Mississippi valley. With the winter coming on, those people who were left destitute by the flood are badly in need of clothing. Contributions will be received at the Welfare Building in Pontiac."

Clarence Vliet, superintendent of schools: "The new school code gives the school board more power. But one instance of this is the fact that the board may authorize the feeding in school of indigent children."

Clarence H. Ogden, village attorney: "The new school code changes the form of government here from a village to a city is mandatory following the receipt of petitions. This is provided by law."

Miss Winnie Smith, Eccentric office: "Certainly no effort should be spared to avoid a repetition of the accident which resulted in the death of little Marie Thompson."

H. Kenneth Bingham, real estate and insurance dealer: "The increase in automobile accidents since the speeding law was lifted has been astounding. Now there is no limit outside of village or city limits. Drivers can be arrested for reckless driving but not for speeding. We seem to have had our merits."

James W. Cobb, postmaster: "Although there are still several weeks left of the Christmas season, it has already started. It is well to place packages in the mail now to assure prompt delivery."

Mrs. Charles E. Asper, chairman of the sale of pre-opening tickets for the Christmas season at the Community House: "The opening of the Community House is being rapidly for the opening of the Community House and those who plan to attend are advised by Mrs. Asper to secure their tickets immediately."

The Other Chap Says Something

"COME UP FOR AIR" Much has been said about Haron County's beautiful shore line, its fine farms and good roads. To begin with, we have lots of it. It is not fitting to smile and say nothing of being pure.

We have more pure, clear air in this county than any other place in the state, and there is plenty of it for our people. My live in the city where the same quantity of air has to be used by so many different people."

The expression, "come up for air" doubtless originated from some Detroiters decided that it would come up to Haron County for the summer—Huron County (Mich.) Tribune.

NEW EDITOR

Michigan newspaper people will be particularly interested in the announcement that Roger M. A. draws, for many years actively in charge of the Menominee Herald-Leader, is to return from Florida, where he has been for several years, to assume the editorship of the Detroit Times-Mirror.

LEGAL NOTICES STATE OF MICHIGAN, Probate Court for the County of Oakland. In re: Estate of John C. B. Estate, in the Probate Office on the 5th day of November, A. D. 1927.

Hon. Ross Stockwell, Judge of Probate. In the Matter of the Estate of Minor Sarah Jane Spranger, administratrix of said estate. In and out of probate proceeding that the time for the presentation of claims against said estate be limited and that a time and place be appointed to receive and consider all claims and demands against said estate.

It is ordered, that four months from the date hereof be and shall be the time for the presentation of claims against said estate. And it is hereby appointed that the 3rd day of April 1928 at nine o'clock A. M. in the Probate Office of said county, be and shall be the time for the presentation of claims against said estate. And for the exact determination of the heirs of said estate and the discharge of said administrator, the date of said hearing is hereby set for the 3rd day of April 1928, at nine o'clock A. M. in the Probate Office of said county. ROSS STOCKWELL, Judge of Probate. A true and correct copy. Deputy Probate Register, 30-32

Birmingham Awaits Prosperity Week Start

(Continued from Page 1) village office, the fire and police departments are planning to start the commission meeting Monday night when the manager was authorized to make a small sum of money for this purpose.

Plan Decorations The decoration committee under David H. Ladd, plans to start having the first "trimmings" placed about the village Saturday night. All entrances to Birmingham will be brightly colored and columns will mark the roads.

Parade Friday The parade on Friday night will be one of the big features of Prosperity Week. It will be composed of approximately 100 floats, the bands and bugle corps, both the boy and girl scout organizations, fraternal orders, and high school students will start on its way promptly at 7 p. m.

Prizes will be given to the two best floats, \$25 going to the first and \$15 to the second. The judges will be stationed at Woodward and Maple avenues. Entries may still be entered in the contest by communicating with J. A. Wendorff, in charge of this part of the program.

Posters for the week to be on display in Birmingham stores are being completed by the art classes in the Baldwin High School under the instruction of Mrs. Helen R. Kinder of the art department.

Sunday, church day, all pastors in Birmingham with a special service in their churches stressing the meaning of Prosperity Week.

Praise Given New Lights

(Continued from Page 1) lights, including the old light at Maple and Woodward avenues, in 60-40 periods, 60 seconds for Woodward traffic and 40 for cross-street traffic.

"We feel that we have not yet realized the lights to their best advantage," Mr. Barry said at the commission meeting Monday night. "However, it will take time for this work to be done."

Louis Hascall, 210 North Woodward avenue, appeared at the meeting to express the thanks of the people in his neighborhood for the light at Oakland and Woodward avenues.

Police report few autoists are running the lights and believe the signals are easily seen.

'Model City' A Feature

(Continued from Page 1) ranged. It contains wide streets, electric lights, churches, schools, office buildings, stores, street cars, automobiles, traffic cops, railroads, a river, a yacht club, a pleasure boat plying back and forth and the bridge opening automatically for it. It is also the smallest theater in the world, with six vaudeville acts.

Adjusting to the city, in the suburbs as it were, is a farm that is as complete as the city. The big feature is a barn, with a narrow and hasty, and in a corner is a threshing machine that does everything separating the grain from the straw.

The two Kempf brothers are now in the city. The school at Cape. The city has been used to from time to time, several buildings, notably the new Lutheran church, having been built in the city and included in the exhibit through loyalty to their home town.

The Model City and Swiss Village will remain in Birmingham throughout the week.

Try an Eccentric Classified Ad

Rescind Move On New Well

(Continued from Page 1) against the recommendation of Manager Parry who favored another company meeting Monday night after a talk before the commission by William A. Dale, a representative of the company.

Specifications call for the installation of a well capable of pumping 500 gallons a minute at the minimum, with water house and connections to existing mains.

PLUMSTEAD REVIEWS CHATAQUA AFTER 30 YEARS ON PLATFORM (Continued from Page 1) such an audience, I always tried to get some one person, who stood out from the rest of the audience. I did my best to make the person realize what I was trying to do, and it always worked. Although many members of the audience were still wondering, the show was over, yet there was always one, and usually of course, more than that, who had got something out of it, and had saved the evening from the heartbreak that had come to an actor when he knows that he has failed in his effort to get over.

Mr. Plumstead's career was the result of dreams of the stage from his earliest boyhood. When he was five years old he played Hamlet in "East Lynne," in St. Louis, with the village stock company, of which his mother was a member. The stock companies were common among smaller communities. They were composed of amateurs from the village, who worked together in the smaller parts of plays, which they played the leads. It was smaller, Mr. Plumstead said, to the little theater movement of today.

"Old Plum" as he is affectionately known to Chataqua lovers and members, throughout the country, will be 65 years old tomorrow, Armistice Day. He has traveled all over the country billiard for many years he gave wholeheartedly to the cause of the blind and half-blind. He made his Sunday cry with his rendition of the "Faded Love," a stage poem. He thinks he has a good deal of work for good. He is almost sure, he smiled, "the call of the footlights" is a very powerful thing."

FURNACES POPULAR IN FIRST SNOW FALL

Coal was heaped high in the furnaces of Birmingham homes Friday night. The rain and snow combined to drop to 25 degrees above zero and the first snow of the season fell.

A cold, bleak rain turned to snow at about 9 p. m. and fell in quantities in large enough to make the fields outside the village and some of the lawns here, a faint white. The rain and snow combined to drop to 25 degrees above zero. The thermometer next on its downward trend until it reached 20 degrees above zero.

DIRECTORY

Dr. G. R. Norton OSTROPATHIC PHYSICIAN 134 1/2 West Maple HOURS: 10:30-1:30 and by appointment BIRMINGHAM, MICH. PHONES: 1015-1115. Residence 804-R Office 1690

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