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GEORGE ROGERS AVERILL
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Wednesday, November 23, 1927

PROSPERITY WEEK'S SUCCESS

If there be any truth in the old adage that "a person does not need to be taught so much as to be reminded," then the success that attended the Prosperity Week exercises here during the past week argues for an annual repetition of the same event; for, it is conceded on all sides, the events of the past week have done much to remind local citizens of the institutions which they have in their midst, and has brought them to a better realization of the solidity of the community.

Prosperity Week is considered by village, school and township officials as a tremendous success in acquainting local citizens with the institutions which these branches of governing represent. All the merchants, with a few exceptions, are enthusiastic over the week. Although, in some respects, Prosperity Week might have been staged with a trifle more of success, yet it is conceded that the doings of the week—inasmuch as this was the first time local business and professional men ever banded together on such a project—was a good start.

There are many fine things exemplified in the conduct of the village of Birmingham; the character of this community is far above that of the average community of its size. It is altogether fitting and proper that we have, at least once each year, a week during which we can pause in our hurry and evaluate the things that we stand for and actually do accomplish.

OUR NEW THEATER

We wonder if any community the size of Birmingham, in this broad land of ours, ever ushered in a new theater under any more auspicious circumstances than attending the pre-opening benefit performance given in our new Kunsky Birmingham Theater Monday night; certainly the Kunsky organization must feel proud of the manner in which its new theater was received, and it goes without saying that the community is appreciative of the theater management's efforts to give us a fine edifice.

Birmingham and vicinity now enjoys the finest suburban theater in Michigan, at least. That it will support and enjoy this new venture is the hope not only of those who own it, but also the hope of many people, including parents, who see in our new theater an opportunity to view the best in motion pictures without the cheapness and tawdry that somet mes creeps into the programs of a less ethical organization than that represented by Mr. Kunsky.

WHEN TO VOTE ON A CITY?

An important issue will come before the village commission at their meeting next Monday night. The board will decide upon the date for the election to determine whether Birmingham shall remain as a village or shall change to a city.

There are few things of such great importance to the people of Birmingham today as this question and the decision of the commission is anxiously awaited.

Practically everyone in Birmingham will be affected by the disposition of this question. If a special election is not called and Birmingham does not change to a city government, the people of the community will have a heavy tax rate to pay the township for improvements from which they, as tax payers, will receive no direct benefit. The mere delay until the regular election will allow the imposition of this extra tax.

Whether the people favor the change or not is a question that may well be decided at the polls. However, if the commission sees fit, the people are entitled to the right of expressing themselves immediately on the matter without having to wait until the tax is levied for the year.

A delay will cost a great deal of money. The question calls for immediate action. In the interests of lower taxation for Birmingham, every fact bearing on the situation points out the necessity of an early election.

Thanksgiving

THE observance of Thanksgiving Day should bring happiness and enjoyment to every home in the land. It is peculiarly a family day and the name itself brings back memories of the old home and the table laden with good things. It is a day linked with pleasant memories, with traditions purely American.

* * *

The day also is and should be looked upon with thoughtful reverance. Our forefathers celebrated the first Thanksgiving not only with a feast—there were prayers and sermons and songs of praise. These sturdy pioneers laid the foundations for our greatness as a nation and our happiness as individuals by reason of the strength of their religious convictionss We, too, will grow in greatness and happiness in proportion as we remain faithful to their ideals. It is fitting that we should, in humble recognition of the goodness of Almighty God, who has dealt so bountifully with us, celebrate this day reverently and joyfully.

* * *

In compliance, therefore, with the custom of our forefathers and in conformity with the proclamation of the President, I hereby designate Thursday, November 24, 1927, as a day of public thanksgiving.

* * *

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State this twelfth day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and twenty-seven and the Commonwealth the ninety-first.

FRED W. GREEN,
Governor.

By the Governor:
JOHN C. HAGGERTY,
Secretary of State.

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.

To The Editor:

We wish to let you know that we have had absolutely nothing to do with the framing of the recall petitions in the Hazel Park Controversy. Our attention was first called to it by a request to file a petition with the Superintendent of Public Instruction for the removal of the Board on the ground of 'Misappropriation of Funds', which consisted in the School Board drawing checks in advance for their yearly salary.

After thoroughly going over the law and applying it to the facts in this case we reached the conclusion that this was not such a misappropriation as is contemplated by the statute, and in our opinion when not accompanied with any malicious intent, is not criminal.

We rendered such an opinion to the people who requested it at Hazel Park, stating that it might be grounds for a recall if coupled with other facts.

We have not advised them in a full movement and this office has no particular interest in it, but it is purely a civil matter and we have advised them neither one way nor the other.

C. D. UNDERWOOD
Prosecuting Attorney

There are men whose fame has spread wider than that of J. N. McCall. There have been those whose personal ambitions have carried them into higher stations in public life but none have served more completely than he. For more than forty years he has lived in one community and never in that time has he failed to respond to community responsibility. In the home, the church and the school that triumvirate of American citizenship, he has stood four square to his fellow-men. In kindly manner and with gentle spirit he has lived his life—except as occasion demanded militant leadership and to this he also responded.

Jonathan N. McCall has lived a full life. What more can be said of any man?—Vernon J. Brown The Ingham County News.

NINE MILES AN HOUR

Italy, they say, is sponsoring to establish a speed limit of nine miles per hour for automobiles in any populated district. With Italy at its present number of inhabitants per unit of area, that means that you can ascend the immediate crater of Vesuvius at a mile a minute, if you care to, but elsewhere you will do well to shift to low gear and get out and walk occasionally to rest your legs.

The proposed law will make the motorist presumptively guilty in case of accident. He will have to prove himself innocent. By way of instigating officers of traffic to give testimony of the sort that really convicts, they are given a percentage fee if the defendant is fined by the court and get nothing if he goes free.

If you exceed the speed limit in any way, endangering anybody's life or property, you are fined a minimum of 1,000 lire or a year's imprisonment and a maximum of 10,000 lire or two years in prison. Ten to 20 years in jail await the man who culpably kills or injuries a pedestrian.

It looks pretty severe. But there is on record in the Congressional Record the speech of a Texas statesman who wanted to bar the public highways to automobiles. If motorists wished to travel they should be forced to build their private roads, he argued, rather than be allowed to frighten the horses and mules of the law-abiding public.— Dallas News.

The Hello Girl's "Thank You"

How many years, centuries, have been wasted trying to get the right number over the telephone is something for the statisticians to figure out when they have lots of time. Thus hello girls have their troubles. They answer thousands upon thousands of calls every day and night and every individual expects snappy service. Seconds and fractions of seconds lost in handling single calls mounts into days and years when it is multiplied by the vast number of calls handled every day.

Patrons of the local telephone exchange may have noticed that they have been getting a different greeting from the young lady at the exchange lately. Instead of repeating the number you have given her, she is now saying a cheery "Thank you!" Without further ado she plugs in and rings the number you have given her.

The average telephone patron will pass this new greeting with hardly a thought. Some new fad will be the verdict of most of us. Not so, however, with the operators of the local exchange. Under the recently abandoned practice of repeating the number there was at least one second lost—sometimes several. Since only out of twenty the girl understood the number correctly. On every five or six calls time enough was lost to make an extra call.

The change to "thank you" is quicker. The girl immediately rings the number. She handles more calls with less nervous strain and the operator's work is a nervous job. Then there is the psychological effect of a cheery "thank you." It sounds courteous. It takes a little of the cold-blooded-ness and harshness out of humdrum business routine. Altogether we approve of the change. It is slight to be sure, but important when the number of calls handled in St. Johns exchange is 7,000 each day and an average of one second is saved on each call. That means two hours saved each day or 91 eight-hour working days each year. The saving comes to the patrons of the telephones.—Thank you for the "thank you"—Clinton County (Mich.) Republican-News.

The Other Chap Says Something

A FULL LIFE

Newspapers of the state last week carried notices of the death at Ithaca of Jonathan N. McCall, for thirty-five years editor and publisher of the Gratiot County Herald. To those unfortunate enough not to have known J. N. McCall, the item of course attracted no further attention than that which follows the death of any other man prominent in local and state affairs. But to the people of Gratiot county who had personal knowledge of the splendid qualities of the deceased, to hundreds of newspaper men of the state who have felt the influence of his presence at various of their gatherings; to others in widely diverging pathways who have come to know his fine qualities—the message of his passing brought pangs of regret that life so useful should have been brought to a close.

At twenty-eight he had advanced in the profession of teaching until he was called to head the schools in the city which since has been his home. For seven years he remained an acknowledged leader in educational circles, leaving that position to assume leadership in another role, that of editor of the home town newspaper, serving as ably in this capacity as in the previous.

At seventy the mantle of death has descended to bring to an end his active life but by no means to terminate the influences his life has exerted.

At his bier stood eleven sons and daughters as living testimony of his influence in the home—fine stalwart men and splendid wholesome women, men and women of culture and refinement, themselves successful in their chosen professions and spheres. Last rites were said in a splendid church which for generations has been served in many ways by this fine gentleman. Attending the services were men high in the service of the commonwealth who were there to pay their respects to a worthy citizen. Political leaders were there to do honor to a partisan who never stooped to the commonplace in a life service to his party. Men of the business world came to honor the man whom they respected as much for his integrity as for his acute and astute insight into commercial affairs. Citizens were there remembering his long and valued service in village and county affairs. Men and women came to bow their heads in remembrance of teacher and school board member. Neighbors came remembering many kindly deeds. Newspaper men honored their colleague for his able pen which for almost two score years has responded in defense of every righteous cause; which never failed to condemn that which deserved condemnation; which during its long service has never known cowardice nor has been swayed by greed or personal aggrandizement—and yet has often been tempered in mercy for some unfortunate fellow citizen whose momentary slip might have been the target of a ruthless publicity.

A Child's Thanksgiving

I'm thankful for a mother dear to teach me right from wrong,
For bread and milk and other food that makes me well and strong,
For flowers in summertime and splashy puddles when it rains,
In winter for the snow and ice and frosty window panes
Where trees and birds are painted, and ships and castles gay,
And oh, I'm thankful I can shout and laugh and run and play!

I'm thankful for my school with all the pictures on the wall,
For music every morning when we march along the hall,
For all my story books and games, and for my dog and cat,
My Sunday clothes, the radio, my baseball and my bat.
I'm thankful for my playmates and especially my chum,
For every kind of candy and ice cream and chewing gum.

I'm thankful for my bicycle. I'm thankful for my dad,
Who whips me with a strap sometimes, so I won't grow up bad.
And plays football with me when he comes home from work at night.
I'm thankful for my own small bed, so clean and soft and white.
I'm thankful for Thanksgiving Day, and for the dandy toys
That Santa brings on Christmas eve to all good girls and boys.

BEATRICE McDONALD.

CHURCHES

The Presbyterian Church
N. Woodward at Euclid
Floyd E. Logee, Pastor

You are cordially invited to worship with us. Bible School at 10 o'clock. Morning Worship at 11 o'clock.—"Building a Godly Nation." The Young People's hour is at 6:30 o'clock. At 7:30 o'clock the choir will render the Thanksgiving Musical Service. On Wednesday evening the church will hold the first of its monthly Fellowship Suppers.

Sunday A. M.

Prelude, Song of the Basket Weaver, Russell; Anthem, Thanks Be to God, Dickman; Offertory, Chansonette, Banks; Cornetto Selected, Mrs. S. Edwards; Postlude, Calkin.

Birmingham United Presbyterian
On Woodward at Forest
Henry S. Evans, Pastor
814 Chester St., Pilkam.

Services Sunday Nov. 27th, as follows.

Bible School, 10 a. m. Everyone should be in a Bible School.

Morning Worship, 11:15 a. m. This service lasts one hour. Everyone is invited to it, young and old. This Sunday is our annual Thanksgiving Day, and whatever amount is given is turned over to the Women's Missionary Society to be used in connection with the work of the Women's Board. We urge all our members to be present to express their Thanksgiving by being in this service and making a liberal thankoffering. The Pastor will preach upon the words of Paul, "In Everything Give Thanks." Everyone is invited and assured a welcome.

First Methodist Episcopal Church
Maple Avenue, West at at Henrietta
Robert Marcenus Atkins, Minister

You are cordially invited to attend the services at the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Sunday, November 27.

10:00 a. m. Sunday School. Classes for everybody.

11 a. m. Morning Worship. Mr. Atkins will take for his theme "Some Common Denominators" or "A Man's A Man for A' That."

12 Noon. The Young Woman's Class. Mrs. M. M. Morgan, Teacher.

5 p. m. The Hi-Y Hour. Mr. Atkins will take for his theme "Christianity Mountain Peaks."

6:30 p. m. Epworth League for Young People.

7:30 p. m. Morning Hour.

Organ Prelude, "Prelude" Gounod; Anthem, "O How Amiable, Mendels; Organ Offertory, Melody," Rubinstein; Offertory, Solo, Mr. A. G. Rowe; Postlude, Organ Postlude, "Cavatina" Gluck.

"Family Hour, 5 o'clock;

"Organ offertory, "Grace" Warner; Anthem, "Holy Spirit Truth Divine," Lemare; Organ Offertory "Andantino," Gounod; Organ Postlude, "LaFontaine, Dreyfus.

Wednesday, Nov. 21, at 7:30 p. m. Our Midweek service. All members and friends of the church are invited. Mr. Atkins will take for his subject, "The Footstain of Lowly Nature."

Thursday, Nov. 24, at 8:30 a. m. Union Thanksgiving Service at the Methodist Episcopal Church. The Reverend D. L. Woodward, of the First Baptist Church, will preach.

First Baptist Church
Cor. Bates and Willetts Sts.
David Lee Woodward, D. D.
Minister

Res. 146 Ferndale Ave.

Bible School, 10 a. m. Levi Dean, Superintendent. Everybody welcome. Classes for all ages with special classes for adults.

Morning Worship, 11 a. m. Special music by the choir under the direction of Mrs. Mark Brumstead. Sermon by the pastor on "Such As I Have." The pastor is anxious to have all the members and friends of the church present Sunday morning. Junior B. Y. P. U., 3:30 p. m.

Young people specially invited. Evening Worship, 7:30 p. m. The pastor will give a special sermon entitled, "A Modern View of Jesus." Beautiful and appropriate music will be furnished by the choir. The public is cordially invited to this service.

Mid-Week Prayer Service, Wed. 7:30 p. m.

This is the regular business meeting of the church. Time for fellowship, prayer and inspiration at study.

Redeemer Lutheran Church
Lafayette at Ann
R. E. Sener, Minister

Thanksgiving service on Thanksgiving day at 9:30 o'clock in the Morning. Next Sunday's service marks the beginning of the Advent Season. With this Sunday begins also the new Church Year. The service next Sunday will be conducted in keeping with these significant events. Special Advent services will be held every Wednesday evening until Christmas.

Sunday School at 9:30 a. m. The meetings of the Redeemer Luther League are now held every Sunday evening at 7:30.

Holy Name Church

Mass will be held at the Holy Name Chapel on Harmon avenue Sundays at the following hours: 8, 10 and 12 a. m.

First Church of Christ Scientist
Northwest Corner Chester and Willetts

Sunday Morning 10:30 o'clock
Sunday School 10:30 a. m.
Wednesday evening 8:00 o'clock.

Reading room in Church building open 11:30 a. m. to 4:30 p. m. daily except Sundays and Holidays. Wednesday evening 7:00 p. m. to 7:50 p. m.

Southfield United Presbyterian
Rev. W. T. Armstrong, Minister
Preaching Service, 11 a. m.
Sabbath School, 12 o'clock. M. Clyde Gass, Supt.

Dog, Who Acts As Butler, Missing; Woman Grieves

To lose a dog who is a favored pet hurts very much. But when the dog, in addition to being a great pet, acts as a sense of hearing for one who has lost her sense of hearing, the loss is a real tragedy.

"Van," a Boston bull belonging to Mrs. Mary Aldrich, mother of Mrs. Walter S. Skinner, 717 Forth Eldred, was lost the day Mrs. Aldrich's "ears," Mrs. Aldrich at home much of the time alone. With Van there, she always felt perfectly safe, and capable of tending to the house. Without Van, she is at a loss.

For Van always knew the telephone ring. He would run distractedly from the telephone to Mrs. Aldrich and never leave to come to the phone whose ear the latter would not be able to hear. Van could distinguish between the ring of the telephone, the front door bell and the back door bell, and performed his duties of informing his mistress of guests or telephoners with dispatch.

Mrs. Aldrich is almost ill with lonesomeness for Van, and does not be more than grateful to anyone who will give her any information leading to his return. She needs him.

Van is dark brown with patch of white between the ears and around his nose, and a white chest with black spots.

It is said that King Arthur, who died in the year 542 was the first person in England to be buried in a wooden coffin.

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.

43 YEARS AGO

An excellent photograph of the Cass base ball club of Detroit has been on exhibition at the postoffice this week. The familiar faces of Hawley and Wright are among the boys.

Orchard Lake vs. Birmingham in a game of polo at the roller rink tonight. There will also be a barrel race. This is some thing new and attractive and all should see it.

Last week Will Hawley and wife took time to visit this place. While they stayed a few days, and then returned to his business in Bad Axe, leaving his wife to make a more extended visit.

John Pound, the dry goods man, has a new advertisement this week and starts off with a Shakespearean expression, the eternal fitness of all things does not seem to be reachable. But Five, is obvious to everyone.

Fair warning! Look at the date after your name. If the time is past, you're dead beats and if not, when we get around to it, you will see the great and glorious blue goose in all his pristine glory. Don't forget this, please.

Last week a band of ten young ladies cheering heartily for President Cleveland swept out the post office and left cards with Hon. Wheelock and Co. and A. T. Parson and Son, and each received from a liberal minded and enthusiastic citizen a new dress. It took 69 yards to clothe the sweepers.

Hurrah for the Ladies' library, mass parade that comes off January 1st. Again this grand event is to excel all others, as the workmanaging managers are already casting around for music, etc., and making the necessary preparations.

Last winter we danced, this winter we sing. The last place of meeting was at M. Shur's, and after singing all were bountifully supplied with apples, molasses candy and all "sich."

Mrs. Gage Crawford and daughter will spend the winter with her parents.

Mr. and Mrs. McKinstrey visited their daughter at Rockwood lately.

Mr. and Mrs. Boomer and son spent last week in Flint.

Born, Monday, Nov. 21, to Mrs. Charles Ogg, a son.

Mrs. M. Chase is living briefly as a widow, but is now expecting Mr. Chase over for a short hunt with his spoil. His bosom friends are watering in the mouth in expectation of something choice.

Frank Warner won ten cans of oysters at the shooting match here, he was the best shot among the crowd.

The young folk had a party at Burn's one evening last week and all report a good time.

Thanksgiving day was duly observed at P. C. Simonson's, at which place the bodies had for their guests Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Simonson, Mr. and Mrs. Edmund James, and Mr. and Mrs. Ephriam Perkins. Roast pig and chicken pie was the center of attraction at dinner time, after which the day was past in visiting and social conversation.

The oyster supper at Henry Sturman's, Thanksgiving night, passed off superbly, but they had no Wright to Hyde so many of those oysters.

25 YEARS AGO

It is claimed that hoisters from the city are using dynamite to fish for, actually cutting wire fences on the farms in this vicinity to make easy runways.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Lewis celebrated their first wedding anniversary last Saturday evening. Some fifty guests were pleasantly entertained at their home.

A beautiful bouquet of pansies made Miss Emeline Mitchell very happy one day recently. And to whom do Miss Daisy Durfee's flowers beautiful and no mistakes.

Mrs. Eli Phillips and Mrs. Charles Baker of Claw Lake, also Mr. and Mrs. William Churchill, a bride and groom, by the way, were guests of Mrs. C. H. Hoffman one day last week.

Mrs. C. N. Corey and daughter, Ida, passed a very pleasant day recently visiting with their former neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. McLuckie of Pontiac. They were royally entertained.

Mrs. Fred Taylor, formerly Miss Lena Faint of this place, now of Kalamazoo, has been seriously ill at Burgess hospital in that city. She is now convalescing from an almost fatal attack of appendicitis. Lena's numerous friend and relatives in Birmingham extend sympathy and good wishes, hoping her recovery may be speedy.

Mrs. A. Whitehead visited her sister Mrs. Chas. Howard in Ann Arbor, last week.

A social meeting of the Epworth League was held at the home of Miss Verna McKinney last Tuesday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hanna visited Mrs. Jennie Craft near Fenton and Mrs. Belle Arthur of Holly last week.

Miss Emma Cochran of Pt. Huron and Mrs. Alvah Townsend of Detroit were recent guests of Mrs. Seeley Peck.

Mr. and Mrs. Hunter Worth have returned from their northern trip, bringing with them three deer as the result of their expedition.

The monthly meeting of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union will be held at Mrs. Miller's on Tuesday, December 2, at 3 p. m.

The Ladies' Aid of the Methodist Church will meet with Mrs. Ira Chatfield, Fri. afternoon, Dec. 2. Tea will be served from 5 to 7 p.m. Ten cents.

The Eccentric is being issued a day earlier this week because of Thanksgiving coming on our regular press day. We wish all our readers the fulness of joy in the blessing of home, friends and feasting, not forgetting the deeper significance of the day in the true spirit of gratitude. It has been a good year. Let us be thankful.

Several of our townsladies, together with several out-of-town guests, visited the new school building last Saturday and noted the improvements there. They were greatly pleased with all they saw, especially the janitor's work. The entire building was as neat and clean as could be. Verily we are fortunate in our janitor and his good wife.

Every one of Charles Tom's friends (nearly) had a taste of venison, some of Charlie's own shooting, and he proves to be the only Birminghamite that has deer meat to give to his admiring friends. They do say that Web. Gray shot and brought home two of the antlered beauties, but it a rumor. Guess we will have to run it down and if true we will promptly report the same. John Baldaw of Beldow won one and they do say the Purdy Bros. are disgusted with hunting, and that George sold his gun and all the paraphernalia that went with it and announces hunting forever. Jack said he fired the outfit into a river, completely disgusted with his luck. This also is a rumor.

The latest reports from Bert Blakeslee, in the Philippines, state that he packed up and left Bandoon in less than four hours time and went to Manilla, expecting to be transferred to another island, although he had not been as well as usual since having the tropical fever in August. The doctor in the hospital, at Manilla, told him that he had better get to a cooler climate. He applied for transportation, which was granted, and as soon as his work is completed and a transport leaves he will start for home. His father, F. Blakeslee, is planning to make a trip to San Francisco to meet him, and as they will spend some time in California, it will probably be February before Birmingham friends greet Bert again.

Charles Parks has sold his milk route to Mr. Rodgers, who will thereafter serve the former's customers.

Pontiac

Many of Detroit's successful merchants are buying and improving Pontiac business property because they see another profitable market in this G. M. C. industrial center. No city is growing in greater strides.

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