BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

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GEORGE RODGERS AVERILL - Editor and Publisher

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 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. All copy must be presented before noon on Wednesdays. The right is reserved, however, to make such superficial changes in the work submitted as are necessary to the style of the paper and as are required by laws of the state. Because of a mechanical situation in the composing room, headlines written by those other than members of the staff cannot be used.

WARS AND PRIZE FIGHTS

A certain school of Sociology tells us that prize fighting will go a great way toward the elimination of wars. Their claim is that two men pounding each other into insensibility, as did Tunney and Dempsey in Chicago last week, furnish an outlet for a brutal instinct, not only to the persons engaging in the fight actually, but to the millions who witness it, hear or read about it. These millions, you see, are vicarious fighters.

All this is a very fine theory, but it is chuck full of holes; so full of holes, in fact, that there is no body to it.

The boxing shows put on by American soldiers in France did not make them the more hesitant to enter the trenches to kill. On the other hand, boxing was encouraged because it furnished recreation, it was a reasonable method of exercise and it accustomed the troops to brutality.

Association with almost anything makes for a more complete understanding of it and softens the edge of resentment. As a general rule, people who hang around saloons drink, those who hang around libraries read and those who hang around fighters and prize rings fight. This is not only because of the nature of those who associate with the heroes of the ring. Notice the look in the faces of the thousands of spectators who leave the scene of a prize fight. Has that strange atavism, which brings up to date man's inclination to step from his cave and lay low his neighbor with a club, been quietly put back to its resting place by the fight he just witnessed? Decidedly not. Rather a brutal instinct has been stimulated. He is more ready to fight than ever before. In his imagination he sees himself a hundred times as the victor in the contest. And if a strange desire for the laurels of physical supremacy can be realized, even on the smallest possible scale, then he is quite ready to take advantage of the opportunity.

Wars are not caused by a desire on the part of men to kill. They are caused by a desire to gain. To be more specific, they are caused by a desire for more money or some material thing which is the equivalent of money. An exception to this stands out so prominently in history that it inspires wonder.

There will always be wars. There will always be prize fighting. It is silly to think that the latter will take the place of the former.

INTRODUCING LEE A. WHITE

One of the finest ways that a citizen of any community has of showing his interest in civic affairs is to accept a place on its official board; that is a truth that is old, ancient and accepted. But when the incumbent of a public office is not only interested in affairs of government, but brings with him a personality and a knowledge of community welfare and progress, the office is doubly blessed. Such a man we believe to be Lee A. White, of Brookside Drive, who was elected Monday night to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Ralph I. Coryell.

Mr. White, as many of you know, is a member of the editorial staff of the Detroit News. In national newspaper realms, Mr. White's name stands for a great deal—all of which is proof of the fact that Mr. White has had many contacts with life and with affairs of public administration.

He has lived in Birmingham for nearly a decade; long enough to have felt the original attraction that this community held for him and his family, and he has observed Birmingham's rapid recent change from a small village into a large suburban community of character-promising values. Mr. White, we have found, has distinct ideas relative to community development; he possesses the kind of mind that quickly grasps a situation, and as quickly and thoroughly provides a way out.

Mr. White's addition to Birmingham's village commission means much to this community. We congratulate president Ellerby and commissioners Halgren and Hersey for voting him into office Monday night; we also feel that commissioners Hulbert and Henry, who voted against the resolution, will soon learn to admire their new fellow official.

The Eccentric congratulates Birmingham upon its new commissioner, Lee A. White. May his kind increase.

THE Y. M. C. A. CAMPAIGN

The last week in October of this year has been set aside by Birmingham directors of the local Y. M. C. A. as the time to make an annual campaign for supporting memberships. The sum of $6,000.00 is the goal set for Birmingham and vicinity. Charles J. Shain will direct the campaign, assisted by about 50 local citizens.

It is to be hoped that Birmingham and vicinity will respond heartily to this annual campaign for supporting memberships for the local Y. M. C. A. The work done under the able supervision of Robert D. Lynd, executive secretary of the "Y", touches the lives and minds of many Birmingham and nearby boys; it affords these boys a contact for character building at play—a means of education that no other agency offers.

We hope that the $6,000.00 quota for Birmingham and vicinity will be reached easily and quickly. It will, if all of us do our part.

The Morning Sky

Soft fleecy clouds afloating up on high,
Lit with the splendor of the eastern flame,
With treetops bordering in a feathery frame!
Earth grows more lovely, seeking to outvie
The grandeur of an early morning sky.
We greet the day's return to loud acclaim
Its majesty, yet words seem all too lame,
As we, the wonder of the morn descry.

Faint hearts of yesterday beat on anew;
Unmindful of the failures of the past,
Strive onward to the object of their goal.
The smiling sun a-shining in the blue
Its radiance lends when earth is overcast.
Each sunrise brings new courage to the soul.

BEATRICE MacDONALD.

CORYELL'S GOOD SERVICE

Due to illness, Ralph I. Coryell, elected to a one-year term as village commissioner last Spring, was forced to resign his office Monday night of this week. Mr. Coryell's resignation is a distinct loss to Birmingham. His years of residence here, coupled with a sincere honesty and far-reaching outlook on affairs of government, would had he continued in office, left an undeniable imprint upon a Birmingham that is progressing.

As a commissioner of only a few months, Mr. Coryell easily identified himself with those things of community import that align themselves with the wish of the people who pay the taxes. He was always alert to Birmingham's problems, and, after diligent and cautious search for a solution, he steadfastly stuck to a plan.

Birmingham is sorry to lose Mr. Coryell's services as a village commissioner; it is, too, very desirous that his health will be restored quickly.

A WORD ON RUSSIA

Statistics show that in Russia five times more books are sold in one year than in the United States.

This is disconcerting. Here, the average American, either forgetful or not informed of the genius Russia has given the world, believes it a desolate country, both from the point of geology and intellect.

Because the style of the Russian's hair cut differs from that of the American, he is thought a careless fellow, symbolical of all that is loathsome and against "society."

But just what is under that long hair has been attested time and again. And a fair indication of it is given by the figures quoted above. These figures, by the way, do not represent the kind of literary trash we Americans read between our very busy moments, but books that attempt to answer the question, "What am I and where am I going."

INTELLIGENCE TESTS

Detroit police are about ready to kick the last advocate of "mental tests" for criminals from their very best police station and seek another method of reform. They have given it a trial and found it sadly wanting.

They used a Simon-Binet set of questions and exercises that was first brought into prominence during the world war. At that time, poor befuddled fellows, far more unfamiliar with America and its various ramifications than they could have been were they prpfessors in a leading university, did their bit toward labeling the American army with an astonishing low intelligence score.

Of course the tests the police tried mean no more than the tests used in the army. So far it has been proved that intelligence can not be graded. A person's ability to pass one of these tests can be graded, but that means absolutely nothing. On the other hand, the tests do, to a certain extent, grade the amount of information one has accumulated and his ability to convey it under somewhat distressing circumstances. But that is all.

Before the causes of crime can be determined and before the standard of sanity can be reached, our so-called intelligence tests will have to include a great deal more than questions as to the method of filling a five and a three-gallon jug with a total of seven gallons of water; they will have to propose exercises more significant than that of erecting a toy house with a set of blocks.

HOW ABOUT THE FURNACE?

With the coming of cold weather to Birmingham and the start of thousands of furnaces, there is the increasing danger of houses catching on fire. This peril is one that can easily be avoided if the proper precautions are taken.

As a general rule, fires result from a degree, greater or lesser, of carelessness. A spark from an uncleaned chimney starts a blaze on the shingles; rubbish in the basement, that might easily have been sent to the alley sometime previously, suddenly breaks into flames. Such little things have caused fires which resulted in thousands of dollars' loss.

Just the least bit of care is always quite productive of good in this regard.

NEARLY A YEAR OLD

Elections in Bloomfield Hills village next Monday recall the fact that that community is almost one year old. Since it was granted a charter last winter it has made pronounced strides toward an even more improved community that it formerly was.

This progress seems to illustrate the fact that organization, with a common end in view, makes for the accomplishment of improvement at a far greater rate of speed than individual effort.

We sincerely hope that the young, but thoroughly cognizant, village at the north of Birmingham will continue in its very fine start; and we extend our heartiest congratulations upon its precocity.

Rouged lip stains spoil the looks of pretty white cigarettes.

Some who stand for progress are content to remain standing.

If being conceited makes people any happier, let them go to it.

A Pennsylvania man got so excited over his preparations to commit suicide that he dropped dead of heart failure.

UNFOLDING OF YEARS REVEALS MYRIAD OF GREAT EVENTS

(Continued from Page 1)

one of the greatest injustices since slavery.

But the mortorcars, the changes in people and all the rest of it, well, that is as it should be, he reasons. His philosophy is the least bit involved. You work and then you gain the benefits of your labor; you attend to your affairs and live up to the laws that are natural and your life is nothing to regret; you sow and you reap. I suppose he is a living Isak from Knut Hampsun's "Growth of the Soil" more than he is anyone else from a book.

He Keeps His Days Filled

See him at 89 as he spends most of his days in his workshop, 100 yards from his home. The building itself is part of a house estimated to be 150 years old. It was built from logs even before Edwin Dunning's father took over the 640 acres of ground, on a part of which it stands. With his own hands he converted it into a place where he may make lamp bases and chairs and stools. The craftmanship is of a surprising quality especially when one considers that all the skill has been acquired in later life as a means of making the long, arid days take on a new significance.

He is tall, his skin is brown from so many years under the sun. His hair is grey. But he is erect and his eyes sparkle and his nerves are more steady than are those of many younger people. And all day he makes his hands, which definitely show signs of hard work, seem inconsistent, and one wonders at the overalls which he wears.

A few years after his birth in Dexter in 1838 he was brought to Auburn with his parents. He attended the school at Auburn, in Pontiac Township and also the district school in Avon Township. He studied under people whose names are linked with the county's history—Henry Pearsall, the father of Frank Pearsall who lives in Birmingham, P. C. Davis, Garton Van Valderburg, E. N. M. Collier, Mary Short and Mary Jane Galloway.

"I was not a model student," he said. "But model students had dusty clothes and we did not." It is difficult to imagine him being punished or punishing. Some people transcend all that.

He told me of the growth of Auburn, which, during his early life was larger than Pontiac. It was a manufacturing village and must have been afire with the same overestimate of factories and smoke and population that characterizes Pontiac today. It had several mills and three hotels and a bank. Pioneers in the realty trade did well for themselves. Land values were high and continued higher. The village was to be the manufacturing and governmental center of Oakland County.

Then Came An Exodus

Then someone tipped over the traces. The county court house with its quasi-majestic administrative offices, was transferred to Pontiac. And in its regal wake followed the industries. And after the industries went the houses. Great, three storied frame mansions, chromos and all, were literally transplanted in Pontiac where many of them still stand.

At that time there were no Better Business Bureaus nor Chambers of Commerce to check the exodus. Civilization had not progressed to that stage. But there were protests and demonstrations. Hundreds of farmers and their wives gathered at public meetings in the village at night and voiced their disagreement under the flare of torches. They pleaded with the interests to remain in Auburn. Then stormed official circles against the removal of the offices. But it was in vain. Auburn was deserted as if it were with plague.

Then those people who remained, went back to their farming and for their socials they came to Birmingham. It was the Birmingham that had so recently been known as Piety Hill, the Birmingham of the National House, where dances lasted until dawn awakened drowsing horses at the hitching posts on Woodward avenue and Hamilton avenue, and tired revelers drove slowly to their homes. It was the same Birmingham which a very few years later, was the pride of Oakland County, for did it not have a plank walk, a telegraph wire and a railroad?

"The Indians through here were a lazy lot," Mr. Dunning said. "The men did not work. The women made baskets and sold them to people who lived here in the neighborhood. They were like Gypsies, treking from Walpole Island to the north of the state and back again as the seasons changed. They were as harmless as they were shiftless."

The first railroad was an event that made its mark upon the memory of Mr. Dunning. It all centered around the career of one "Sault" Williams, who promoted it.

'Sault' A Superlative

Sault, it seems, had blood than which there was none bluer. But that was just one superlative he boasted. He was the bravest, the most handsome, the most dashing, the most romantic, the wealthiest . . . he was, I assume from Mr. Dunning's description, someone sent here by Sir Walter Scott who had taken him directly from one of his novels. But Sault stammered and hence made himself eligible for variations of the usual epic hero.

For instance, when returning to Piety Hill from a point south one night, riding his silver steed, he was set upon by a band of robbers, where the heart of Royal Oak now is. Desperate fellows, these, with but one thought, and that was bloodthirsty. "Your money," they demanded of the startled Sault, "or your life!"

Now Sault could have disarmed the villians and made one kind of hero of himself. But he had been reading Aristophenes rather than Rostand and he made a joke instead. He said, in his uncertain manner, that he had no money but he would be glad to do them the favor of giving them his note for 90 days. And in the National House later, when he narrated the incident, his friends added a few more feet to the already towering

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VILLAGE COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS

Regular meeting of the Village Commission held Monday evening September 26, 1927, at 8 o'clock.

Present: President Ellerby, Commissioners Henry, Hulbert, Halgren, Hersey.

Absent: Commissioners McBride and Coryell.

Minutes of meeting of September 19, 1927, approved as corrected and printed.

577—Moved by President Ellerby that the following Village Bonds and interest due October 1st be paid:

at SECURITY TRUST CO., of Detroit

Issue	Prin.	Int.	Total
Water Main	$ 201.50	$ 15.78	$ 217.28
Street Improvement	10,689.05	1,208.00	11,897.05
Sewer	1,220.93	267.69	1,488.62
Total—from I. & S. Fund			$13,552.85
Sewage Disposal Plant	675.00		675.00

at DETROIT TRUST CO., of Detroit

General Bonds—from I. & S. Fund			$ 675.00
Special Bonds—From Special Fund Shown Below—			
Henrietta Street Opening	1,000.00	60.00	1,060.00
Watkins and Argus Sewer	700.00	42.00	742.00
Pierce Water Main	300.00	41.25	341.25
Brown Paving	4,000.00	550.00	4,550.00
Brown Widening	1,000.00	137.50	1,137.50
Residence Park, C. & G.	3,000.00	412.50	3,412.50
Daines Paving	1,000.00	137.50	1,137.50
Poupleton Paving	1,500.00	247.50	1,747.50
Oakland Paving	4,000.00	550.00	4,550.00
Madison Sewer	500.00	68.75	568.75
Riverrock Sewer	500.00	68.75	568.75
Kennesaw Sewer	500.00	68.75	568.75
George, C. & G.	500.00	68.75	568.75
Elm Paving	500.00	79.75	579.75
Daines, C. & G.	800.00	110.00	910.00
Townsend, C. & G.	800.00	110.00	910.00
Ferndale, C. & G.	1,000.00	137.50	1,137.50
Forest Hills Sewer	500.00	68.75	568.75
Chestnut Street Sewer	1,500.00	206.25	1,706.25
Birm. Villas Water Main	100.00	15.75	115.75
	300.00	41.25	341.25
Total Check to Detroit Trust Co.			26,992.00

at PENINSULAR STATE BANK of Detroit

Water Storage Tank	100.00		
Total Check to Peninsular State Bank from I. & S. Fund			$27,668.00

at FIRST STATE SAVINGS BANK of Birmingham

Surface Sewer	189.00		
Woodward and Maple Paving	524.25		
Total to First State Bank from I. & S. Fund			$ 713.25

at FIRST NATIONAL BANK of Birmingham

Lincoln Sewer No. 50	100.00	9.00	109.00
Bates Sewer No. 51	100.00	3.00	103.00
I. & S. Fund—General Bonds			$ 212.00
Special Bonds from Special Fund Shown Below—			
1st Alley N. Lincoln Sewer		6.00	6.00
Lincoln Sewer No. 50	200.00	18.00	218.00
Bates Sewer No. 51	350.00	31.50	381.50
Total to First National Bank			605.50

to INTEREST AND SINKING FUND RESERVE

Knox Sewer	100.00	6.00	106.00
Ridgedale Sewer	100.00	6.00	106.00
Forest Sewer	100.00	6.00	106.00
Watkins and Argus Sewer	100.00	6.00	106.00
Frank Street, C. & G.	500.00	45.00	545.00
Pierce Street, C. & G.	500.00	45.00	545.00
I. & S. Fund—General Bonds			$ 817.50
Special Bonds from Special Funds Shown Below—			
Knox Sewer	200.00	9.00	309.00
Ridgedale Sewer	500.00	15.00	515.00
Forest Sewer	200.00	9.00	209.00
Henrietta Sewer	200.00	6.00	206.00
Total Check to Interest and Sinking Fund Reserve			1,239.00
GRAND TOTAL			$ 2,573.00
			$46,604.60

Yeas: Ellerby, Henry, Hulbert, Halgren, Hersey. Nays: None.

578—Moved by Commissioner Hersey that the following bills and pay roll be allowed as read:

W. Luth, $75.60; W. Brown, $75.60; C. Coburn, $75.60; L. Snider, $70.20; E. Harrison, $76.30; I. Dohler, $74.86; J. Symons, $64.80; Geo. Smith, $64.80; James Atwell, $64.80; Wm. Maxwell, $58.20; Frank Burnett, $54.00; Frank Luth, $81.00; Joseph Hutler, $54.00; Wm. Spence, $27.00; David Ganfil, $27.00; Austin Laude, $36.60; George Barber, $27.00; John Berry, $64.80; C. Higbee, $64.80; Myrtle Bell, $21.60; Sam Howard, $108.00; R. C. Allen, $96.00; Mike Harebedian, $1,241.94; M. B. Gardner Co., estimate No. 1, $2,686.74.

Yeas: Ellerby, Henry, Hulbert, Halgren, Hersey. Nays: None.

579—Moved by Commissioner Hulbert that the petty cash fund due Charles Plumstead in the amount of $15.36, be allowed.

Yeas: Ellerby, Henry, Hulbert, Halgren, Hersey. Nays: None.

580—Communication from Ralph I. Coryell, tendering his resignation as Village Commissioner was read.

581—Moved by President Ellerby that Mr. Coryell's resignation be accepted, and that the Clerk be instructed to write Mr. Coryell, expressing the regret of this Commission that he finds it necessary to resign, and extend our sincere wishes for a speedy recovery.

Yeas: Ellerby, Henry, Hulbert, Halgren, Hersey. Nays: None.

582—Communication from Clare Ogden was read.

583—Moved by Commissioner Hulbert that the communication of Clare Ogden be laid on the table for one week.

Yeas: Ellerby, Henry, Hulbert, Halgren, Hersey. Nays: None.

584—Moved by Commissioner Halgren that Mr. Lee White be nominated and elected to the office of Village Commissioner, to succeed Mr. R. I. Coryell.

Yeas: Ellerby, Halgren, Hersey. Nays: Henry, Hulbert.

585—Moved by Commissioner Hulbert that the bond of James E. Pender covering Plumbing License be accepted and filed.

Yeas: Ellerby, Halgren, Hersey, Henry, Hulbert. Nays: None.

586—Moved by President Ellerby that the interested property owners on East and West Maple Avenue be advised of an informal hearing on the proposed widening of Maple Avenue, to be held in the Baldwin High School September 30, 1927 at 8 o'clock.

Yeas: Ellerby, Henry, Hulbert, Halgren, Hersey. Nays: None.

Moved by President Ellerby that the meeting adjourn.

Yeas: Ellerby, Henry, Hulbert, Halgren, Hersey. Nays: None.

HAZEL E. LAWLER, Village Clerk.

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