

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

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NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events which have new value and which are written in cooperation with the editor. All copy must be submitted before noon on Wednesday.

Character Is Life's Real Gold

From time to time The Eccentric is in receipt of communications from its readers, with the request that they be published. Here is one received from John McCarrroll, local resident, who is a strong churchman, and who lives about as close to the Golden Rule as possible.

"It's not the stocks and bonds and bank accounts that we accumulate in life, but the character we develop that counts! Sorrow, trouble, trials and tribulations bring lines of care upon a face, but they are the marks of character.

Those who have suffered for their ideals; those who have sacrificed for those they loved; those who have suffered in silence, acquire a nobility of mind and soul that pedigree and luxury and selfish success do not bring.

"I have seen nobility of character chiseled on the fine old face of a workman more kindly than one sees in the faces of those who were wrapped in ermine and crowned with gold.

"I have seen a holiness of expression that comes from faith with mankind upon the humble that is often lacking in the countenances of those who prosper greatly and piously.

"Fine tailoring, and costly cars, and studied manners, and the power of purse do not erase the weak lines of a wasted life that show in the faces of persons who live dissipated, selfish, greedy lives.

"Age is the answer to one's life. They who live and think right need not fear to grow old. Contact with the aged is one of the finest, and most inspiring lessons that youth may have.

"To be loved and respected in one's old age is life's greatest reward. The memory and inspiration of a good life, well-lived—that is the most precious heritage a person can have.

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Impressions On Children

The evil effects which may show in the later life of contemporary boys and girls as the result of a poor example of conduct shown by their elders are as manifold as the thoughts that surge through the intellects that are being developed.

Take for instance the future recently created in our neighboring community of Hazel Park, as the result of an order that the teachers wear smocks. Do you know how it all happened? Here is what we have been told about it by one who knows the circumstances:

Hazel Park teachers sit at desks which, when only a chair is placed in proper order, show the lower extremities of the furniture, including the castors and the legs. Proceeding on the practical theory that anything placed upon the chair reveals to the world its constituent parts, and having learned from a duly made investigation of the subject, the Hazel Park school board—realizing the innate modesty of furniture legs—desired that no other pedal extremities usurp the furniture's position; in other words, it was suggested that smocks would cover the legs of everything at the desk except the chairs.

And then bedlam seemed to break loose! The teachers, apparently unsmothered of sitting in their chairs behind desks that were unmasked on both sides, and being modern girls and attired as befits modern femininity, they considered it no business of their employers what they wore—and resented the use of smocks.

For a while the metropolitan newspapers found some humor in the situation. Just what the students in the schools in Hazel Park thought about it all has not been published in any encyclopedia as yet, but we'll venture the opinion that the Hazel Park school board and faculty must occupy a humorous portion of the minds of many of the students. It is too bad—this smock affair.

What they should have done was to have placed two or three dollars worth of cardboard in front of each teacher's desk.

Let us be grateful in Birmingham that our teachers' desks are of the style that makes smocks unnecessary. Our children will then be able to pay better attention to their studies.

A Good Way To Learn

The annual pilgrimage of the senior class of Baldwin High School to Washington, the nation's capitol, is a fine part of the educational program of boys and girls who are nearly finished with school.

Of inestimable value in later life are some of the impressions gained by the mind of youth when projected in the midst of the greatness of America that is unfolded on every hand in the Capitol City.

This year's senior class is spending the present week in Washington, under the chaperonage of several faculty members of the high school. When they return they will probably bring glowing accounts of the things and the persons they saw, and their parents will feel repaid for any assistance they have given to make possible the trip.

But most of the lasting impressions that imprint themselves upon the minds of the seniors will be incapable of telling; they are those intangible concepts and impressions that stamp themselves upon the intellect in every person's life—things that come from a chance sentence, a passing glance at some picture or building or bit of sculpture, and during the balance of one's life come at the proper moment to tide one over some serious barrier on the journey of life.

Such a transportation has done much to increase youth's ability to obtain better education; these annual trips to Washington are splendid extras in the curricula of Baldwin high school.

Accept This Hospitality

Do you want to see one of the modern wonders of the world? At a distance of less than ten miles from your door—where you may behold the consummate skill of the industrial world engaged in transforming a conglomeration of mere metals into truly wonderful and shining automobiles?

The joys of this night's next week to attend the "open house celebration" being staged by the Oakland Motor Car Co. at Pontiac, where you will be given an intimate opportunity of viewing the craftsmanship that enters into the fashioning of the Oakland and Pontiac automobiles—two factories in one—will mean much to the physical welfare of Birmingham and vicinity.

Perhaps never in the history of an automobile company have such splendid opportunities been provided for the general public to witness the production of motor cars. This "open house celebration" is a very courteous gesture of hospitality, and ought to be accepted by thousands of persons who really owe it to themselves to know how Michigan's greatest industry is carried on.

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights of next week, April 17, 18, and 19, are the evenings when you may inspect the Oakland Motor Car Company's plants. From the information available, you will be given a wonderful time—even to being fed and given a chance to dance.

A GOVERNMENT BIOLOGIST comes forth from the food of learning with the declaration that birds do not need baths and fountains from which to drink. He says bird baths are luxuries—just like the prohibition tendencies, our feathered friends are wise birds to follow.

THE ECCENTRIC EXTENDS its congratulations to Hiram Johnson, who last week completed 35 years as publisher of the Saranac (Mich.) Advertiser. Mr. Johnson, who last year was president of the Michigan Press Association, is a practical realist of the finest type; we hope that his community appreciates him as well as do the weekly newspaper editors of Michigan. We await with hope Mr. Johnson's fiftieth anniversary as publisher of the Advertiser.

MILDAY'S SKIRTS WILL be just below the knee, according to fashion decree emanating from London, England, that we hope that long-felt need is covered, it would seem—providing, of course, that the supply of these new dresses is not depleted by the flare-up of indignant members of the masculine sex. (4-hem.)

People of the United States are the most wealthy of any people in the world. But, then, they have to be to meet the installments.

WINDOW PAINS



The Other Chap Says Something

A DIRTY DOLLAR
There appears on the screen of imagination the figure of a woman in a drab tunic. Here is a house of a hundred urgent needs.

Clothes for the children who are ashamed of their shabby appearance before their schoolmates, piano lessons for promising Jimmy, dentistry for James, a trust to lessen grandfather's aching side, overdue rent, food to satisfy a hard-working husband, palliating his Sunday morning ugliness when the defeat of low wages and long hours surges through his mind and stabs his heart.

We know such women—have known them all our lives. Oh, she will say, if I could but make a little extra money at home. How few dollars would help!

There is a breed of human hyenas that prey upon such pathetic women as these, through the advertising columns of newspapers and magazines. If in the free realm of commercial hellishness of the day there is anything meaner than the "home work for women" gyp we have yet to hear of it.

The classified advertisement is craftily written. It is calculated to draw a letter from despairing women of the type described. In response the gyp sends a lengthy, rosyate explanation, which concludes with the requirement that a dollar or more be sent for material. There is a promise of purchase of the goods, attested by patient hands, if—

The woman does the work, performs embroidery in the spare moments of the day and in the dark reaches of the night when the family is slumbering. Hopefully she sends a package to the gyp and awaits the reward that may mean to her a glimpse of happiness, a moment's respite from killing worry. The work is returned. It is not satisfactory. Perhaps the poor creature gets a 10-cent apportionment for her time and her money investment.

AN ACT OF COURAGE

Someone has described politics as the business of managing the votes of the poor on the promise to protect them from the rich, and at the same time securing the support of the rich on the pledge to protect them from the poor. The originator of this saying undoubtedly had a good deal of experience and knew whereof he spoke.

In these days of so much political sidestepping, then, it is a pleasant surprise to find a Governor making an appointment to a high office with the certain knowledge that he risks making a number of political enemies, when he could just as easily have made an other selection that would offend nobody.

One need not agree entirely with Governor Green's choice of Arthur Vandenberg, Grand Rapids publisher, as United States Senator to admire the courage he has shown in the appointment. It was freely suggested that the Governor might, and probably would, avoid certain political pitfalls by remaining neutral amid the rivalry for the Senatorship, until the primary decided the issue. Political sagacity might well have counseled such a decision.

But Governor Green, with the same fearlessness that characterized his tackling of the problem of crime, his intrepid attacks upon slyster lawyers, shunned the easy road. Declaring openly that he knew the probable consequences, and that he realized that "few men are big enough to forgive the man who thwarts their ambition," the Governor nevertheless named his man. And this although the man had already declared that he will run for another term to complete his work, which means, of course, that he will place himself in a position where political support or opposition will mean a great deal to him.

It is not to be expected that

FEATURE ARTICLES ARE TO BE DELAYED

The following cablegram was received this week by The Eccentric from Mortimer A. Neff, of east Maple avenue, who has been writing a series of articles for this newspaper on his trip through Europe.

"French customs confiscate copy tissue. Journalistic 'jam' results. Returning end April. Fifty thousand words there."

NAME THIS NEW GOLF COURSE

and win \$25.00

WE own 630 acres of beautiful land located in Orion and Oakland townships, east of the Orion or Lapeer Road and just north of the Dodge Road. We are constructing on the Jesse Voorhees and Lynn Bailey farms, which are part of our holdings, an 18-hole public golf course. We want an appropriate name for this course and will award \$25.00 to the person suggesting the name selected by our committee.

The property is quite rolling, has about fifty acres of beautiful oak and hickory timber on it, and Mr. Wilfred Reid, the well-known golf architect and Pro at Indianwood Golf Club, is now laying out the course. Golf experts tell us we have a most beautiful property for such a golf course.

In selecting a name we will give preference to one bearing significance to the property and location, and in submitting your name, please tell why you think your suggestion applicable.

Address your letter to our Pontiac Office, No. 1 Waldo Block, 24 E. Huron Street, Pontiac, and write your name and address plainly. May 15th is date set for this decision.

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Advertisement for New Residences by Colgrove, Buck & Tillotson. Features a drawing of a house and text: 'A few exceptionally good values in modern new homes and building sites. Colgrove, Buck & Tillotson REALTORS'.

Advertisement for Frank Couzens, Incorporated. Text: 'LET US BUILD FOR YOU! Be it a home, store, or flat—our service covers your every building need. When you "let us build for you" we supervise the construction from start to finish, relieving you of this important responsibility. Financial assistance may be included in our service. FRANK COUZENS INCORPORATED BUILDERS OF CHARACTER HOMES BIRMINGHAM 108 N. BATES PHONE 1730 - 1731'.

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