

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC (Founded in 1878) Published every Thursday at Birmingham, Michigan, in The Eccentric Building, 15-17 North Woodward Avenue. Telephone 11 and 12. GEORGE RODGERS AVERILL - Editor and Publisher RAYMOND GIRARDIN - Managing Editor PAUL NEAL AVERILL - Advertising Manager

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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 received by the printer on Wednesday afternoon, 12:30 p. m. or earlier, however, to make such superficial changes as may be necessary in the composing room, headlines written by those other than members of the staff cannot be used.

THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 1928

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We Need Planning Birmingham's Village Planning Commission, an institution created three years ago, and one which has done much for the village, resigned last week. The chief reason given for such action was that the village commission recently refused to engage a city planning expert, at a cost of \$5,000, to make a study of Birmingham prior to the period of its incorporation.

The entire Planning Commission favored hiring a city planner, as did commissioners Hersey, Halgren, and White. President Ellery and commissioners Hultberg, Henry, and McBride opposed such action, resulting in the defeat of the recommendation.

In the interests of the continued proper development of Birmingham, it is the hope of local citizens that the village commission do all in its power to ameliorate the situation, either seeking the restoration of the recent Planning Commission to a working status, or appointing one to take its place.

Good government, sympathetic understanding of the labors of duly elected public officials in carrying out their own plans for community betterment, each needs the cooperation of a group of such men as may be found upon a Planning Commission.

ARTHUR SAPP, PRESIDENT of Rotary International, believes that men fight only because they are very selfish. He thinks that men are not so much less selfish, and more understanding of one another's problems. Selfishness, as far as the reaction of the world is concerned, does more harm during so-called times of peace than during time of war.

To lose one's self in efforts for others automatically eliminates selfishness; when enough people serve others to make it impossible then we'll have no war. Speed the day!

BIRMINGHAM AND NEARBY people are now in a position to make hundreds of loyal friends for the coming summer. By placing an assortment of things such as various places on your property, you may win dozens of feathered friends, if you will send them their way from the sunny south. Who is going to make the greatest number of bird friends this year?

MICHIGAN HAS THE LONGEST coast line of any state in the Union. Yet, with so much fresh water in the Great Lakes, and in our inland lakes and streams, it is always a puzzle to the stranger why trucks are so liberally used to transport liquids in Michigan. One would naturally expect the transportation of liquids upon land to be confined within pipe lines. Some, maybe, will invent a truck that doesn't leak.

LIFE ON EARTH, VIEWED from the realm of pure materialism, is filled with tragedy. People eat and are filled; they stay away from food and get hungry. Right now five million Chinese are starving to death because they are suffering the consequences of civil war. The earth upon which they live will grow an abundance of food if they would only lay down the sword and take up the plow. You can't so hate and agricultural products at the same time, can you?

Nutrition Class in Spring I want to write a poem of the springtime. The birds are singing gaily at my door. I long to go a strolling in the woodland And gather violets forevermore.

I want to pen a witty lifting ballad, A sonnet and a crozier or two, But I must balance vitamins and proteins In fluffy muffins and a peppy stew. I wish I had a box of cherry choc'lates, A piece of lemon pie or maple cake, But cellulose is what I need, and minerals. Of such as these I freely must partake.

I'd like to read my new continued story. My magazine came in the mail today, But I must study fats and carbohydrates And learn to use them in the proper way.

I ought to be out spading in the garden. My housecleaning is calling me in vain. The kiddies need new clothes. I should be sewing. But I must count these calories again.

The voice of golden springing calls, "Come hither." In my heart is genetic urging calls. The balmy winds are sighing in the treetops, While I am cooking good-nutrition meals.

I can't enjoy the sunshine and the roses. If I pass up this priceless board of wealth. So I must study well my books and pamphlets. Investments in the bank account of health.

—BEATRICE McDONALD

Cornerstone Laying

Next Saturday afternoon, April 21, ceremonies attendant upon the laying of the cornerstone of Birmingham's splendid new municipal building will be held. Fitting exercises, in keeping with the occasion, will be of interest to every local citizen.

It Would Sky-rocket Taxes

Citizens of Birmingham who are interested in keeping their tax rate down ought to feel grateful to the village commission for its refusal, last week, to lend support to the foolish scheme of making it necessary for the village at large to pay 75 per cent of the cost of street improvement work.

If the village were to pay 75 per cent of the cost of all street improvements, every body would yell for paving—with the result that the Birmingham tax rate would be so high that you would need an airplane to escape the upper part of the figures against your property.

Let's have improvements, but let's have them paid for by the people who want them and who are benefited directly.

HISTORIANS WILL probably recall the fact that Harry Ford Sinclair possessed the oiliest smelt that ever sprang from the countenance of an individual. It appears, though, that one of his oil cans sprung a leak as it made a "fall" earthward, and greased the pathway of the person about whom has been said "long trails do not a prison make."

AS YOU WORK OUT in your garden this year, just believe that you are sowing God to "keep and dress" this very wonderful earth. There is an abundance of fine satisfaction in helping to develop the life contained within a dime's worth of garden seed.

ASTRONOMERS ARE LOOKING for a new star, or planet, said to be within the custody of our own large sun. The news dispatch about this comes from Chicago; we'd believe it better if it came from Hollywood—where more so-called constellations of stars have been charted than Chicago ever found in all its hog pens.

SOME PEOPLE WHO FEEL SORRY for men and women who are kept within prisons might do well to turn their pity toward themselves. There are, in this life, many things worse than a prison of stone and steel; some of them are greed, envy, hate, resentment, anger, fear—and a host of other mental conditions that imprison the one who thinks them.

100,000 PENNSYLVANIA miners are ready to strike in the coal mines of that state. Something must be wrong with an industry when so many men find an excuse to pit themselves against financial interests that control the coal fields. And when so many men are ready to strike (which means that they are ready to fight, if necessary) it is not good for a country.

A TEXAN'S GLASS EYE exploded the other day when he stepped from a warm room into the cold outdoors, resulting in serious injuries. Queer things happen in this world; when will dentists devise self-locking false teeth for individuals who talk too much?

Michigan's Lament JOHN C. WRIGHT in the Michigan Tradesman

They've squandered my maples and birches, They've stolen my hemlock and pine; In unrestrained measure They've gathered my treasure To build up their cities so fine.

They've scoured my borders for plunder— For balsam, for cedar, for spruce; They've piled in their alleys The pride of my valleys, With only a vandal's excuse.

They've ravished my elms and my alders, Their skins with my timbers still grown; They pluck for their pillows My buds and my willows— My larges they pay with a stone.

I haven't the need of a poet, I can fling my own song to the breeze; I can tell my own story In epics of glory— But how can I sing—without Treets?

They've given me desolate reaches In lieu of my forests oak; By rail and by water They've wrought the same slaughter— My woodlands they've turned to a joke.

My tamaracs, ash and my poplars, My cottonwood, tough as a nail— By every enclosure and my mill— The hazel and osier Re-echo their pitiful tale.

I was proud of my virginal forests, As a step is proud of her hair; From cutting and logging They turned into tobbing— Demanding my land wasn't fair.

I'm sending my call to the masses, I've acres of soil that will please; But farmers, and farmers, that his fellow-students would, later utilize the Rotarians' offer to talk with them relative to further de-

COFFEEES HIGH GRAD'S

What the Future Holds For Youth Is Told By Business, Professional Men

Member of the Baldwin high school boys' senior class Monday night, at a banquet given by the Birmingham Rotary club at the Lone Pine Tea House, were given intimate glimpses of the rewards of business and professional life when five Rotarians, under the chairmanship of Robert D. Lynd, head of the city's work committee of the club, gave short talks on their respective classifications.

Historical Highlights Linger With Student

(Concluded from Page 1) ed at lunch, thoroughly impressed the group and remains imprinted in the minds of many as one of the highlights of the trip. His magnificent decorative architecture is perfect in every detail. The building is one of the most expansive in proportion, and its beauty is remarkable. Here a museum of ancient writing, which was declared one of the attractions of the library.

The Bureau of printing, engraving where the currency of the country is manufactured, was visited Monday morning by the party. Here a student in the department of printing was witnessed. The Van-American building and the White House were also visited.

Dr. H. J. O'Brien, president of the Birmingham Rotary club, presided at the luncheon. He made a few remarks and then turned the program over to the speaker.

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ROULETTTE GIVEN FOR CONTEST

Students in Community House Drive Test Told Requirements

Plans for the essay contest with the Community House drive, soon to start, were issued today, pupils in Birmingham schools who are taking the course.

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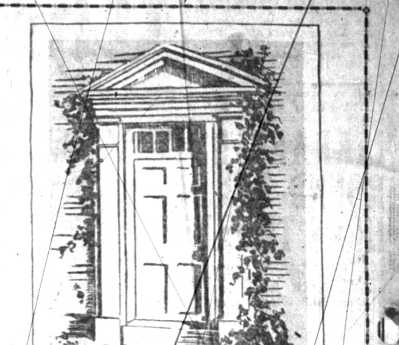
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