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PART TWO

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LIBRARY SETS NEW RECORD IN CIRCULATION

March Busiest Month In History Of Birmingham Institution

INCREASE 130 PER CENT

March was the busiest month in the history of the Baldwin Public Library, according to the monthly report out today. Circulation of books and periodicals was 5830, an increase of almost 130 per cent over the circulation for the same month last year. There were 190 new patrons registered, 30 meetings were held and the story hours on Saturday mornings attracted an average of 62 children each week.

The percentage of increase in the circulation has grown steadily larger since the opening of the new building, January showing an increase of 80 per cent over last year's record, February an increase of 90 per cent and the heavy circulation in March resulting in doubling the circulation record of the entire quarter.

Miss Gertrude Melody, who conducts the weekly story hour, pleased her 68 small listeners last Saturday with three stories, "The Giant with the Golden Hair," "The N. S. Bicycle," and "The Quick Running Squash," selecting her stories from Aspinwall's "Short Stories for Short People." One long story and two short ones is her usual program and next Saturday she will treat her audience to an Easter story.

CLUB BOWLING TEAM ISSUES CHALLENGE

Birmingham Rotarians voted Monday noon as their meeting to challenge the Birmingham Exchange club and the Highland Park Rotary club to a bowling contest. James W. Cobb, local postmaster, is chairman of the Rotarian's bowling team, the star bowlers of which are Howard Bell, Glenn Routier, Louis Hascall, Thomas Neal, Elmer Huston, and Walter Connelly.

52 Issues of The Eccentric $1.50

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

The band boys have got their heads together once more and calculate to have a good band in the near future. We understand that some of the business men are at the helm and there is no reason why we can not have a little music once in a while. The boys dispensed some fine music at the leap year party Tuesday night.

Something in Mrs. Bowers eyes pained her very much. Dr. Campbell removed the offending substance and all is now well.

"I was recommended here by a friend," said a seedy looking man as he entered Whitehead and Mitchell's store the other day, who told me you did a very large business and that any purchases that I might want to make could be effected on very reasonable terms." "Yes, sir; certainly sir," said Mitchell, "we have built up a very large trade by faithful attention to business and by honest efforts to please our numerous customers." "You may give me a two cent postage stamp, if you please."

The Young People's Literary Society of the Baptist church will give a very interesting and instructive entertainment, consisting of views from Dickens' "Curiosity Shop," "Ten Nights in a barroom," travels, Bible scenes, statuary, etc. illustrated by means of a sciopticon, on the evening of Feb. 4.

You may congratulate Ira Toms today on his 21st birthday, hale, hearty and to all appearances in better health than five years ago.

From the Pontiac Gazette we hear of a wedding recently by Rev. Joslyn, Miss Selina Curtis to Henry L. Taylor both of Pontiac.

County Line

William Lusky has moved into John Dolon's house.

Charlie Collins, the blacksmith at the corners, has got a good improvement on drags.

The old soldiers did not forget Morse on Monday last.

25 YEARS AGO

The small fruit raisers are already engaging their help.

We have the power but not the electric lights while our sister villages have both. Let's put our heads together and see what can be done about it.

Bessie Crawford has returned to Pontiac after spending the winter with Mrs. Linton, and is now a telephone girl. She made many friends while here.

The Chebojgan dog that swam seven miles through floating ice to reach his master's side can sleep on our best bed.

Last week Chicago went wild over President Roosevelt, and our Teddy is receiving ovations daily.

We have recently passed through several right smart spells of weather.

There was a drop in egg and milk Friday morning when Will Perkins' team took a run up west. The team started from the depot and ran as far as the Watkins farm where they got into a mix-up with the ditch and came to grief. When found one horse was down in the ditch while the other stood over him and two wheelsof the rig were put out of commission. Will lost his load of milk and a few eggs.

J. Allen Bigelow has lost both of his knives and will reward anyone who returns either of them.

Notes from R. F. D. No. 1

One day last week there was a quiet wedding at the home of H. G. Spencer, the contracting parties being Homer Wilcott of Pontiac and Miss Carrie Spencer of Birmingham. We wish them much joy.

L. J. Haack, our township treasurer, is hustling those who are behind on their taxes.

Walter White has bought a new horse and he is a dandy. Watch out for the dust.

ROTARY CLUB HEARS LAW, POLITICS DISCUSSED AT WEEKLY MEETING

Clare H. Ogden, village attorney, and J. B. Howarth, local insurance man, both members of the Birmingham Rotary club, were the principal speakers at the weekly meeting Monday noon at the Quality Tea Room here. Mr. Ogden spoke on his classification while Mr. Howarth briefly related some of his observations while in the east last week.

Two new members were accepted into the club: membership Harold Curson, village engineer, and Daniel Swartz, life insurance agent, bringing the total membership of the club up to 41.

"There is a general feeling of unrest in the east, especially in New York, certainly due to the fact that this is a presidential year," stated Mr. Howarth. "New York's chances will go to several places of amusement and pleasure, appear to be crowded, for the first time in many years. New York is growing a fresh interest in unemployment problem is coming more acute.

"As usual, politics seems to be the cause. Wherever I went I found strong sentiment for Al Smith for President even from so-called good Republicans. There also seems to be a feeling that Herbert Hoover will lose the Republican nomination to Lowden. It is felt that this movement of the Harding cabinet can be elected to the office of President of the United States. The oil scandal is remembered against Coolidge. It is felt that Pawes is the only man who can defeat Al Smith."

Mr. Howarth was in New York to attend a meeting at the annual meeting of the "A. Overseas Leaguers Workers.

Mr. Ogden talk dealt with the basis of law administration in the country, especially in Michigan. He pointed out that Michigan is one of the few states in the Union that uses the Magna Charta, or common law, for the interpretation and solution of its legal problems.

"Michigan has, of course, a state constitution, and many statutes upon its books, and the various municipalities have their local ordinances, the regulations of which reduce, but all of them is based upon common law practice," said Mr. Ogden. "By common law practice we mean that the customs, uses and decisions of the common people is the basis for determining court decrees. The State Supreme Court is, of course, the last resort for settling certain problems, and such decisions are used to form many of the answers to legal procedure. In all, there are about 250 volumes of State Supreme Court decisions which offer the lawyer a good basis for handling legal cases.

"But the use of the Magna Charta, or common law, basis is not an inflexible series of statutes, but rather is flexible to that, as time goes on, decisions may be fitted to the customs of the day. Italy, France, and Germany are notable countries in which the old Justinian and Napoleonic codes of justice prevail.

"The American type of court procedure was brought here from England with the Pilgrims. It gives every person the right to have his life and property defended in due legal process."

Mr. Ogden pointed out the two fundamental divisions of court activity: law and chancery. He said that, due to the rapid changes being accomplished throughout the world of science and industry, the legal profession was being taxed to its utmost to keep abreast of the times, and that recourse to many volumes of court decisions are necessary for even the most apparently trivial cases.

WE HEARD IT SAID BY—

Dr. D. L. Stilwell, local physician and surgeon: "When I was at the University of Michigan, the venerable Dr. F. Ingham, head of the Medical Dept., used to say that nothing was lost in nature. 'Breathe in the oxygen and exhale carbon dioxide, and the latter drifts out of the window and settles upon the fields of grain in Michigan, absorbed by the plant life, and returns to your table in the form of food.' Human beings, now that Spring is here, turn their thoughts to the garden. Rake fine to a depth in the garden, to fill your lungs with fresh oxygen, and rid yourself of the carbon dioxide that so encourages the atmosphere during the Winter months. Working in a garden, out of doors, is to your parasitic organs what cleaning one carbon out of an automobile engine is to the perfect running of the car."

CHILD DIES AFTER SLEEPING SICKNESS

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles T. Murphy Succumbs After Illness of 10 Days.

Services were held Friday morning for Charles Thorne Murphy, aged 22 months, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles T. Murphy, 1016 Worlington drive, Bloomfield Hills, who died Thursday morning of sleeping sickness. Services were from the home and burial was at St. Olaf cemetery, Detroit.

The child was ill 10 days before his death in Harper Hospital, Detroit.

He was born May 23, 1926 in New Haven Conn., and was the only child.

His mother is the former Ellis Vhay, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William J. Vhay of Bloomfield Hills.

AUTO HITS TRUCK DURING HEAVY FOG

Driver Injured in Early Morning Collision on West Maple; Traffic Slowed.

The heavy fog Monday morning was responsible for one accident resulting in the injury of A. J. Adams, 215 Oakwood boulevard, Detroit, driver of a truck, and the general slowing up of traffic during the morning rush hour in Birmingham, police report.

Adams was knocked from his truck to the pavement on west Maple avenue when the vehicle was struck from the rear by a car driven by Taylor Menzier, Maple avenue, Clawson, who told police he did not see the truck until it was too late to stop.

Adams was taken home after receiving treatment from a village physician.

Inez Framley, a Toronto school girl, broke the world's record in the women's high jump with a height of 4 feet, 11 inches.

Glimpses

at and about BIRMINGHAM

By RAYMOND GIRARDIN

Few people know that Nick Altrock, the comedian of baseball, is a regular on Ring Lardner's "You Know Me, Al." Even though if one is familiar with the stories and then meets Nick the relation is not difficult to establish.

Altrock told me that when he was pitching and Ring Lardner was writing sports for a daily newspaper they became friends. Lardner frequented very close to Nick at all times and encouraged him to talk. They used to sit up most of the evenings while the team was on trip, Altrock talking and Lardner listening to his tales of the people of baseball.

Then gradually the stories began to appear. Altrock likes to believe he is more proud over the fact that he furnished one of the material for the stories than that he brings them and the people to the ball games who like his antics.

§ — §

Take Lardner seriously and you will find he knows a great deal about people. He reports Americans at their peculiarities. It is said of a guy that he is one of the most observing men writing in the country today.

Take Nick Altrock seriously and you find something of the same quality.

§ — §

Altrock likes to talk and he enjoys most a thing about those who have become ball players. Let him tell, for instance, of the table talk of a rookie who has been brought up from the minors and you will find him picking the bones out of Lardner's stories. Then out of the attack his fool with his bare hands? Then Nick can tell all about it. Once the fellow gave a report that cleaned shoes and a celluloid collar were fashioned to please the vanity of the Prince of Wales? Then Nick can explain that point of view clearly.

§ — §

You see, he takes a superior attitude. So superior that one is inclined to forget his mistreatment of the English language and his various other habits as he talks. One naturally feels superior with him, particular in a very strange sort of way.

§ — §

The first time I met him I was out as a reporter to get an interview. He was in a hotel, finishing a letter to his wife back in Washington. I introduced myself. "Where," asked Nick, "before we talk, can we get some pretzels?" So the interview was carried on while we drank pretzels. "Pretzels I mean like" pretzels. Nick, I have reason to believe likes pretzels. He says the malt in them is good for him.

§ — §

You know at one time he was a sandlotter. That was when baseball players wore mustaches and rode to and from the ball park on bicycles. He won many a game and then he "allowed his arm." It became quite useless for pitching. He was in a bad way. He had never done anything else but play ball and for other kind of work offered him no inducement. He had been used to a merry life as a popular ball player and it looked like the little grey house over the hill for him.

§ — §

Then he showed people that he could be funny. But it did not go as fully well. It must be difficult to be funny when one expects to be carving in a few days. He went into vaudeville and his act was pretty bad. He was in Chicago and was about to be chased from the theater. He met Ring Lardner again, whom he had known for years and Ring explained his predicament and Ring came to the rescue. He wrote a poem for Altrock. It is perhaps the worst poem I have ever heard. If you go into the waste basket and pull out some of the stuff written after Lindbergh made his flight, add some of the lines from American ballads, and touch it off with a mixture of Edgar Guest, Gene Stratton Porter and a rainy day, you will have some idea of the verse. I have lost the copy he gave me and I am sorry I can not reprint it. It tells what a pitcher thinks when his arm gives out, if my memory is right. It is as maudlin as anything can be.

But it worked.

§ —

The crowd of clerks in the theater were going through their usual yawns. The management was going through its usual hair pulling taunts. The boys in the box office were trying to argue people out of the refunds they were demanding violently. Then Nick stepped up and sobbed out the poem. He stopped the show. Actually. They made him long time offers.

§ —

The success gave new life to the former pitcher and he was able to be as funny from then on as the crowd wanted him to be. Now he recites the verse only when he feels overcome with emotion and has to have an outlet.

But still, I know people who play saxaphones under similar emotional stress.

FINES HIGHER DURING MARCH

Report Shows Past Month Records More Law Violations

Law violations made a pronounced rise according to the March report announced today by the police department. Totals in fines practically trebled those of February, according to the records. The recent report sums the fines paid at the police station at $202, while in the previous month a total of $73 were levied.

Seventy-five persons paid fines in police court. For speeding, 30 arrests were made. Fines for the violation of traffic signals were next heaviest with 21 at a total Over 50 fines were paid for various violations of the parking ordinances. In February only 26 traffic signals arrests and 22 speeding violations were reported.

Fifteen lodgers were in the jail, 12 accidents were reported to the police, and 14 dogs were killed.

Mrs. Homer Gage of Worcester, Mass., has been made an officer of the Legion of Honor of France in recognition of her work for French orphans and other charities.

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