

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

(Founded in 1878) Published every Thursday at Birmingham, Mich. in The Eccentric Building, 116-118 North Woodward Avenue. Telephone 11 and 12. GEORGE RODGERS AVERILL, Editor and Publisher. RAYMOND GIRARDIN, Managing Editor. PAUL NEAL AVERILL, Advertising Manager.

Subscription Rates: (In Oakland County) One Year \$1.50, Six Months \$1.00, Three Months .75. (Outside Oakland County) One Year \$2.00, Six Months \$1.50, Three Months \$1.00. All newspaper and advertising copy must be in the hands of the office by Wednesday noon to obtain insertion at that week.

The Eccentric is a member of: National Editorial Association; Michigan Press Association, and University Press Club.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 30, 1928

NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events which have news value and which are of general interest. It is not connected with the editorial staff of the paper. All copy must be prepared and delivered before noon on the day preceding publication. However, to make such superficial changes in the proof submitted as may be necessary to correct errors of fact and as are required by laws of the state, because of a mechanical situation in the printing plant, the printer is not held responsible for such changes.

Back To School

There is little time remaining before the youth of Birmingham will be again trekking back to school. So much has been said and written about the advantages of education that more words seem useless. To youth, only experience, which often comes too late, teaches the value of education.

Labor Day

On the first Monday in September in each year the hosts of labor celebrate their annual holiday, dedicated to those who toil. While primarily a day of parades and exercises by organized labor, the festival has participated in largely by the general public and business is usually suspended to a considerable extent.

Labor Day was first recognized by Congress in 1894 when an act was passed making it a holiday for the District of Columbia and for all Federal establishments throughout the United States. Prior to that time it had been made a legal holiday in 27 states and one territory, and it is now so recognized in all states except Alabama and Wyoming, and even in these it is celebrated quite generally. The day is also observed in Canada.

One of the encouraging signs of the times is the better relations between capital and labor, which have been developed during the past few years. These two great forces in our national life are coming more and more to realize that the interests of both are promoted through co-operation rather than antagonism.

American labor is the most productive in the world, as well as the best paid and best protected. Employers and the public have learned that prosperity for the workman contributes to the prosperity of all. The high achievements of those who perform the nation's everyday tasks are fittingly commemorated on Labor Day.

The Primaries

Oakland County and the state of Michigan is fortunate in having so capable a group of candidates for nomination to public office as are on the ballots in the primary elections to be held Tuesday.

The opposition to Gov. Fred W. Green is slight. The people of this district, we believe, have a great deal of respect for the governor because of the many things he has done for Birmingham. Decided preference has been made, during his administration, on the completion of Woodward avenue and the new Grand Trunk highway. The time involved in the steps made on these projects is comparatively slight. In matters of state affairs, generally, the governor has done much good. Few of the voters will forget that he inherited a state deficit and the courage to pay it; that he countered a crim wave with a stiff penal code or that he has built up an administrative personnel of high repute.

Birmingham undoubtedly will vote solidly for S. O. Wiley Bell, the only candidate from this village who seeks a county office. Mr. Bell would be a co-worker and deserves the position probably more than anyone in the county. He is highly thought of and his capability thoroughly qualifies him for the post.

Norman C. Orr, the first assistant prosecuting attorney, apparently will be elected to the office of county prosecutor. His record as an assistant is brilliant. Perseverant throughout the county while he investigated his work are hearty in their praise of him. His honesty and integrity are beyond question. His reward for his service to the people of the county should be his nomination.

G. Ross Thompson, the chairman of the county road commission, is seeking re-nomination to that office. The present road commission is made up of three men. Mr. Thompson and Luther Allen have served for several years. Isaac Bond is the new member. To nominate anyone but Mr. Thompson would be to disrupt the smoothness with which business of the office is carried on. The work of the road commission here is heavy and the county is better served by a man who has had the experience, during these recent years of development, that Mr. Thompson has.

A warm contest is expected to be staged for the nomination of sheriff. Frank Schram, the present sheriff, has gained for himself the reputation of being a capable officer of the laws and one who is able to conduct the business of his office on an intelligent basis. We believe his past record entitles him to another term and that, if nominated and elected, he will serve as efficiently in the future as he has in the past.

Although the elections Tuesday are primaries and the votes merely nominate the candidate, the nomination of county candidates on the Republican Ticket virtually means the election of the nominee. It therefore is an election to be taken seriously and one at which all of the voters registered should use the good of themselves and their community, be sure to cast their ballot.

The Village Trees

The letter in this column is from Russel Gore of 609 Yorkshire road. It was written in response to a request from this newspaper that he express in writing his opinions on the general tendency to cut down the trees of Birmingham. The village streets might be widened. We believe the letter one of the finest pleas to save the trees that we have seen and are pleased to pass it on in the editorial columns of The Eccentric. The letter follows:

When this community recently cut down 204 trees on Woodward avenue it destroyed in a few days that nature had taken 15,300 years to produce. I am figuring the age of each tree at only 75 years. Many were much older.

Birmingham at the same time did a great deal in this tree-cutting orgy to destroy the one asset it has in its competition with other desirable suburbs—its beauty.

Beauty alone has brought about Birmingham's growth. It was an oasis of green to which one could flee from the desert of Detroit. In my capacity as feature writer for the Detroit News I wrote a full page story about Birmingham, illustrated by photographs showing trees arching overhead on our still unspoiled streets. I stated then, what I am repeating now, that one who cuts a tree out of a town is helping to kill the goose that lays its golden egg.

Since the opening of summer when the Woodward avenue trees still lend dignity and charm to this now blasted thoroughfare—I have been traveling in a part of our country that reaps a heavy harvest in dollars every summer because the people there prefer their villages beautiful trees. All through New England I found cities—many of them much larger than Birmingham and all that I passed through, situated on the great Atlantic Coast Highway—which had saved magnificent trees on their business streets by the simple expedient of leaving them and growing up wide spaces in the pavement. When I returned to Birmingham, Woodward avenue after weeks in these splendid towns of the east it seemed as though a pestilence had struck what once was in a fair way to become one of the most attractive of Detroit's suburbs.

The 150 centuries of growth destroyed on Woodward avenue can never be replaced by this generation. But we can still save Maple avenue. We owe it to ourselves to resist the vandalism which would hand to private property owners the 20 per cent in added value supposed to be brought about by wholesale tree slaughter. Do we have to ruin our town—cripple it in the competition with the many other desirable suburbs—to give each property owner the extra value supposed to be inherent in a tree-lined street? What is going to become of GENERAL property values in this community if we make our once lovely Birmingham look like a sun-baked prairie town? Are you and I going to pay in lessening value of our homes due to the uglification of our home place to that of the low lying farms? These people suppose "business" thoroughfares may sell out at high price and move where the residents have had the sense to resist the vandalism inspired by private greed?

The trees belong to all of us. And Birmingham belongs to all of us. Men of vision must realize that the trees belong to all of us. They are not to be rapidly with the reaching out of Detroiters to cooler and greener residence spots, it is, and always will be, a suburb. As a suburb it must compete for population with such other suburbs as Royal Oak, Grosse Pointe, Dearborn, and our beautiful sister to the north—Bloomfield Center.

What have the suburbs of other cities done? They have deliberately benefited themselves to attract the class of citizens who will pay a higher price for property if it is part of an attractive environment. The string of lovely towns on the lake shore north of Chicago try to outdo each other in providing shade and coolness which nature did not provide for them. The suburbs about San Francisco, Los Angeles and New York have planned at great expense, trees infinitely inferior to those Birmingham proposes to destroy!

The commercialism which can not see beyond its own nose has had its way with Woodward avenue. Now let the higher-commercialism—the commercialism with a conscience—the permanent asset to us all represented by the beauty of our community—rally to resist the attack on Maple avenue.

Maple avenue, as is predicted by some, may, at a future date, be part of a highway from Ypsilanti to Mt. Clemens. But Coldwater is on the great thoroughfare stretching from Detroit to Chicago, and the right of way to it had to destroy all the trees upon the Irish Hills area on the Chicago strip in order they did not denude themselves of trees in a hysterical "business" frontage. Should Birmingham irrevocably mar one of its most beautiful avenues just because some day it may be part of a comparatively minor highway?

Beauty is all we have in this town—the sooner we realize that the better for all of our pocketbooks. Beauty is as much our chief asset as climate is the chief asset of southern California. If we let short-sighted business men—or short-sighted commissioners—make this another Royal Oak or Berkley the beauty that attracts them are going to pass us and buy their homes in Bloomfield Center and other more enlightened communities. With our trees gone we might as well be bankrupt.

Within the next 10 years more rapid transportation will make a few miles extra on the journey from Detroit to Birmingham less than they are now. Bloomfield Center, which is deliberately valuing and cultivating beauty, where we are destroying it, will easily come to be the more desirable community in the eyes of newcomers searching for pleasant homes. As a suburb Birmingham is in competition with every other suburb within 50 miles of Detroit.

Our tree haters can wipe out our most valuable asset in a few days if you—the far-sighted and loyal citizens of Birmingham—stay back and let them. If you believe any—or only a part of this—write or phone the village commission immediately. You'll never be sorry. They're sharpening the axes now for east Maple avenue!

GENE TUNNEY'S RETIREMENT from the ring writes an interesting chapter into the pages of fiction. His love for books has at last led him into such a chapter. Now he will try a chapter in the life of a countryman in November, with a possible inclusion of children in the mix. Then he may long for the tameness of ring battles as compared to

Squalls in the Offing



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.

ON ELECTIONS

The following letter was dropped into the streets of Birmingham, addressed to The Eccentric, by Harry J. Merritt, candidate for the office of circuit court commissioner. It was delivered by Gilbert Minding, 155 South Woodward avenue, who is to be given a ride in an airplane on finding the letter and bringing it to this office.

To My Friends in Southern Oakland and County: September 4 is almost here, and the only important thing yet to be done is to make it a day to vote. I need your support, and you need a Circuit Court Commissioner. We have over 18,000 registrations! What a splendid showing we can make if you do your part by voting!

Inasmuch as there are two main sincere friends who are strongly supporting me in my candidacy for election. Throughout the campaign he has acted the part of a gentleman at all times, just as he has in his daily work at the office and in court. I am sincere in believing that Mr. Orr, should be elected, will lend to this important office the intelligence and dignity it requires.

Like practically everyone who knows him and his work, I am strongly in favor of the nomination of Norman C. Orr. Very sincerely yours, WILLIAM COLLYCOTT, Pastor Rochester Methodist Episcopal Church.

LIKES ARTICLE

I wish, through the column of your paper, to express my appreciation of the splendid articles by Rev. H. S. Evans as published in The Eccentric of Aug. 16 and 23. The title of his subject was "The Word of God."

It shows that Rev. Evans knows what the word is, and stands firm and is able to tell the readers of your good paper what a treasure we have in the Bible. I consider that there is more food for character building in those two sermons than we usually get in a secular or daily paper.

It would be a bright outlook for our boys and girls if they could be taught by their parents at home, and also in the school, the principles of the Bible. Our blessed book, the Bible, the word of God. Then, and only then, can we expect men and women with a conscience who will fear and love God, and try to keep his commandments. For He tells us in His word what we must do if we love Him and also what we must not do if we love Him. It is our duty to read the Bible, and logically belongs to Birmingham. As this territory geographically and politically belongs to Birmingham, the question is at once important: ought we to make every voter in Birmingham study the

PRaises ORR

May I have a small amount of space in your valued newspaper to say a few words in behalf of Norman C. Orr who is a candidate for the nomination of the office of prosecuting attorney in Tuesday's primaries.

It has been my privilege to know Mr. Orr personally and to be familiar with his work as chief assistant prosecutor, and from this experience I have not the slightest hesitancy in saying that he is thoroughly capable of handling the office.

Mr. Orr in a man of many fine qualities. This has been proved in his three years in the prosecutor's office. He has that rare quality of understanding a subject which is essential to the man who would be fair. And fairness is one of the prime requisites of a person for this office.

Police officers of the county know from experience that the accused persons brought into the court room will have a fair trial when Mr. Orr is handling the case for the people. This firm desire to be fair has gained for him many sincere friends who are strongly supporting him in his candidacy for election.

Throughout the campaign he has acted the part of a gentleman at all times, just as he has in his daily work at the office and in court. I am sincere in believing that Mr. Orr, should be elected, will lend to this important office the intelligence and dignity it requires.

Like practically everyone who knows him and his work, I am strongly in favor of the nomination of Norman C. Orr. Very sincerely yours, WILLIAM COLLYCOTT, Pastor Rochester Methodist Episcopal Church.

VOte 'NO'

The rapid growth of Oakland County has necessitated many communities in its borders to join their neighboring villages in a annexation to obtain the advantages a town can give. Annexation is usually a question of whether the district to be annexed shall stay as is, or join to a neighboring village or city.

Annexation next week by Birmingham voters, however, will decide more than that. It will decide whether certain portions of the district to be annexed, such as the land south of the Quartan road, shall be a village or logically belongs to Birmingham. As this territory geographically and politically belongs to Birmingham, the question is at once important: ought we to make every voter in Birmingham study the

WHOOPEE!

In the August 23rd issue of your paper, there appeared a letter by one James W. McKnight attacking your attitude. Dr. John R. Stratton on the proposed debate with Gov. Al Smith. The author of that letter said that he was not giving aid and comfort to the enemy. From the tone of his language it is also evident that he is not even aware of the ordinary courtesies of fair combat. He is obviously of the belief that a blow behind the back is as fair as any other.

It might be well for me to state in the beginning that I am white, and Protestant, and that in the coming election I intend to vote for Herbert Hoover. My ancestors came to this country in the seventeenth century, settling in Virginia. My father and grandfather were both Democrats, and I have hitherto voted that ticket. My reason for voting for Hoover is that I believe him to be a great organizer, a great administrator, and one thoroughly experienced in world affairs. He is the best presidential prospect this nation has had in a year, and, regardless of party, I believe that the choice is not to be let go. BUT, I do not regard Mr. Al Smith as a moral superior. Both are men of excellent morality; their reputations are stainless.

But to return to Mr. McKnight's letter. How can anyone with brains enough to vote for Herbert Hoover defend John R. Stratton? Even before the coming election I intend to vote for Al Smith. I believe that the words he used against Al Smith are a self-defense. He is a continually contradicted himself, and, as a result of his assinine remarks, the country has heard his foolish utterances. Surely, as your editorial implied, if he can debate with morals to defend himself with William A. Brady in his church, then he can afford to allow his Smith to defend himself. Perhaps both the Rev. Mr. Stratton and Mr. McKnight have read the words of the prophet Isaiah: "Do not bear false witness against thy neighbor."

It seems that both Stratton and Senator Heflin, who is also very close to Mr. McKnight's heart, are Democrats. In reality they are the worst foes that the party has. It almost makes self-respecting Democrats ashamed to admit their party affiliation. Instead of taking votes away from the New York governor, they are more likely to aid him. Who then will be giving aid and comfort to the enemy? Consider the real reason for these attacks on Gov. Smith and that he is a Catholic. Stratton and Heflin, are both Fundamentalists of the deepest dye. They believe, or at least pretend to believe, in



Modern Residences. A few exceptionally good values in modern new homes and building sites. Colgrove, Buck & Tillotson. FIRST STATE BANK BLDG. REALTORS.

DR. J. J. REILLY, DENTIST. Announces the Opening of a DENTAL OFFICE. ROOM 201 BIRMINGHAM THEATRE BUILDING. Open Evenings 7-9 P. M. and All Day Saturday.

the old bogey about the Pope's moving to Washington, as a Citizen of the United States, at the time President. They also doubtless believe in Santa Claus and the bedtime stories of the brothers Grimm. They do not seem to realize that, even were a Catholic President willing to be influenced by the Pope, it would be impossible because neither the electors nor Congress would allow it. And anyway, it is nobody's business what Gov. Smith's religion is. Article II, Section 1, Paragraph 5 of the Constitution of the United States reads: "No person except a natural born Citizen, or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President; neither shall any Person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to the age of thirty-five Years, and been fourteen Years a resident within the United States." And that is all there is. Further than that go one has the right to ask. Certainly August 27, 1928.

DIRECTORY. Dr. G. R. Norton, Osteopathic Physician, 3147 West Maple, Birmingham, Mich. Dr. Mabel Campbell, Osteopathic Physician, 312 First National Bank Building, Pontiac. Dr. D. L. Stilwell, Physician & Surgeon, 508 South Woodward, Birmingham, Mich.

McAlpine-Starr, Inc., Engineers - Surveyors (Registered), 508 South Woodward, Birmingham, Mich. CIVIL ENGINEERING - Farm Surveys - Lot Surveys - Subdivision Design. Clare H. Ogden, Attorney-at-Law, Suite 4, First National Bank Bldg., Phone Birmingham 1055. W. D. KNOX, Architect, 210 Birmingham Theatre Building, Telephone 2050.

Allen Engineering Co., Certified Est. Surveys, Subdivisions, Sewers, Sidewalks, Pavement, Earth and Gravel, Topographic Surveys, Telephone 114-M, 114 FRANK ST. DR. ROSS RIDDELL, Chiropractor, 316 Baldwin Avenue, Phone 1672. EVENINGS BY APPOINTMENT.

A Thought for Today. NO labor is good but that which aims at producing courage and strength of soul rather than of body.—DIODORUS.