

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 1928.

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 to reserve space for such special features is not guaranteed. The material submitted is accepted at the discretion of the publisher and is not returned unless accompanied by return postage. All copy must be submitted in the composing room, headlines written by those other than members of the staff cannot be used.

Saving Our Trees

Public reaction to articles in last week's Eccentric relative to the danger of losing many of Birmingham's trees in the near future has been healthful, already many people have pledged themselves to circulate petitions which will be presented to the village commission.

One of the organizations enlisted its active support to this movement is the newly formed Community Arts of Oakland County, sponsored by Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills citizens. This group, created for the preservation and perpetuation of art, has certainly hitched its cart to a worthy objective in seeking to save Birmingham's trees from the very often ruthless onslaught of so-called progress.

It's a preamble—one that the Village Commission will receive with gladness. When someone asks you to sign it, we hope that you will not hesitate; if you want one to circulate, call Miss Margaret Whittemore, 1962, Mrs. Coris-Stanford, 676-W, or Mrs. Irwin Neff, 71.

Summer Playgrounds Here

Taxpayers of this school district annually pay about \$700,000.00 for the upkeep and maintenance of their educational system; this sum of money is utilized over a period of nine months each year to educate our boys and girls on subjects that seek to acquaint them with the things of this world, and for the development of their character.

When comes vacation time; the children, who have been under disciplinary guidance for nine months, are generally left to their own resources. For the time to supervise the play and recreation of their offspring during the summer months; many opportunities exist for the children to get into mischief, and certainly you cannot expect children between the ages of seven and 15 to sit and fold their hands.

What would it be impractical to plan a summer program of supervised play and recreation for our children, if such a plan entailed a first cost of \$50,000, or \$75,000, with perhaps an annual outlay after the first year of \$10,000 or \$15,000? A plan that would include the hiring of three or four supervisors, a fine outdoor swimming pool, tennis courts, etc., with provisions for use by adults as well as the youngsters?

Such a sum of money might be raised through bond issue, and would cost each taxpayer a very small sum. Such a plan, when compared to the cost of nine months of school work, is indeed relatively small. Let us hope that some group or organization will get back of such a movement in the near future. The advantages of summer recreational and playground work for the children, as well as the adults of this school district are worth many times what they may cost.

The Taxi War

The most recent page is being written into the barbaric history of Detroit, as this page goes to press, by taxi cab drivers of two rival companies and their hoodlum sympathizers.

Angered because of the continued slashing of cab rates, the drivers have staged numerous pitched battles in the streets. Cabs have been wrecked and passengers injured. Police details, that well could be protecting the homes of Detroit citizens against robbers, protecting the lives of the people of the city in its dense traffic, are forced to stand by in the vain attempt to put an end to this rowdism.

The latest development took the form of defiance hurled at the acting-mayor of the city who ordered an armistice. A few hours after publication had been given the order, police were again called to curb minor riots.

Unquestionably this will be stopped soon, but its effect upon the people and the good name of Detroit will not be forgotten for some time!

It was the kind of outrage that the police could have controlled. Dramatic action, such as the suspension of the drivers' licenses of all the company employees' found guilty of brawling, would have had an effect. The laxity of the company officials, in not dealing with their employes more strictly and of the police, in their half hearted attempt to stop the battles, has done the city more harm than can be reckoned.

BOYS SHOULDN'T SMOKE before they are 21, says Babe Ruth. "In the meantime, they may get some pointers by watching mother and little sister," soliloquizes Bill Spilvens, of Wagon Tracks.

The Future County Site

A recent ruling of the State Supreme Court holds that the Oakland County Court House property, located in Pontiac, is saleable; this settles a long controversy and eliminates any claim that the line of the original donor of the property to the County may have in the matter.

Now comes James Lynch, Pontiac lawyer, who advises the County Board of Supervisors that their body may dispose of the property, and use the proceeds for another site, without referring the proposition to the electors. Mr. Lynch has good reason for his opinion might be sustained in court should opportunity develop to any acroft of the Supervisors—and it might not.

Citizens of Oakland County are grateful that this controversy has been settled by the Supreme Court. And now comes the question of providing a suitable location for the future county site, a problem that will interest many taxpayers of this governmental unit.

It is to be expected, during the course of routine that precedes the decision of a new site, that many different views will be held; the city of Pontiac will be interested in keeping the future county site within its own confines—indeed, the law compels this manner of location. But citizens of Pontiac may rest assured that a terrific howl will be raised from Oakland County taxpayers who live south of Pontiac if the Board of Supervisors become gullible to the demands of Pontiac interest and locate the county site in the heart of Pontiac.

A county site with its county buildings, ought to be located where it may be reached with comfort and convenience by the greatest number of county residents. It ought to be located where land is not so expensive but that a decent park area may be provided, not only for purposes of beautification, but for the parking of automobiles as well.

This column has often suggested that a county site, located in the vicinity of Dr. Joseph's Mercy hospital, south of South Boulevard, Pontiac, would be an ideal place for future development. It would be within our county seat, easily accessible to Pontiac and northern townships in Oakland County, and certainly desirable from the standpoint of citizens who live south of Pontiac.

Bloomfield Township may feel grateful toward its own Supervisor, Robert Y. Moore, who has pledged himself to lead the Board of Supervisors to a decision on locating the future county buildings south of Pontiac's business center. It is to be hoped that other Supervisors from other portions of Oakland County will join with Mr. Moore in the consummation of a plan to locate a governmental installation where it may be accommodating to the greatest number of taxpayers who support it.

The Test Of A Man

The place to take the true measure of a man is not the forum or the field, not the market place or the arena, but at his own fireside. There he lays aside his mask and you may judge whether he is a swamp or angel, king or cur, hero or humbler. I care not what the world says of him; whether it crown him with bay or pelt him with bad eggs; I care never a copper what his reputation or religion may be; if his babes dread his homecoming and his better half has to swallow her heart very often she will ask him for a five dollar bill. He's a fraud of the first water, even though he prays night and morn until he's black in the face, and he howls hallelujah until he shakes the eternal hills. But if his children rush to him to greet him and his wife's own sunshine illuminates the face of his wife, then he is his own soul, you may take it for granted that he is true gold, for his home's a Heaven and the humber never gets that near the great white throne of God. I can forgive much in that fellow mortal who would rather make men swear than women weep; who would rather have the hate of the whole he world than the contempt of his wife; who would rather call anger to the eyes of a King than fear to the face of a child.—William Cowper Brann.

Who's Who

A series of interviews is being run in The Eccentric with residents of Birmingham and vicinity who have been honored by mention in 'Who's Who,' a book of national and international celebrities.

Eight men from this district have been given place in the book. This is considered a large number for the community of the size of Birmingham.

The award is one based entirely upon the merits and accomplishments of the persons selected. A place in this volume is one of the things in the land that money can not purchase.

The Eccentric is pleased to place its readers contacts with men of this calibre and it heartily recommends the reading of their interviews.

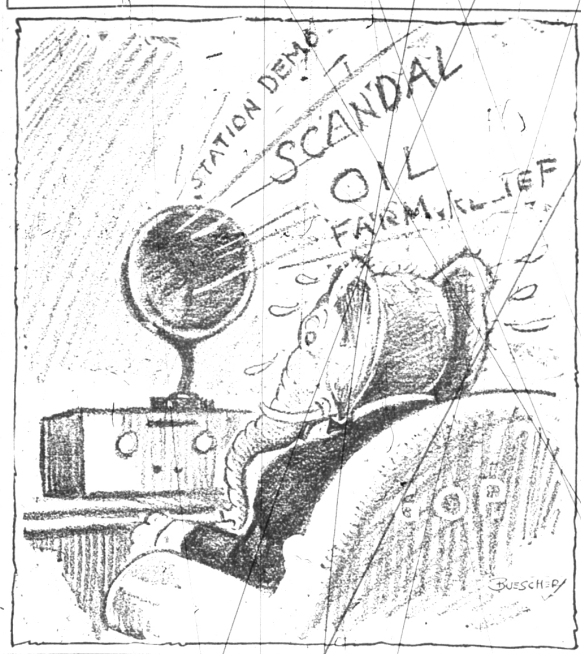
Other Thrills In Life

According to Charlotte Perkins Gilman, in an article in the Forum magazine, the present interest in matters of sex show that a great majority of earthlings are too much concerned with their biological and physiological processes, and too little concerned with their intellectual selves. This lady admits that the "pleasures of eating and mating" are perfectly proper and, she proposes other "thrills" for people by writing:

"Has the human race, no others at command? Balboa certainly had one when the Pacific 'swam into his ken.' Archimedes, magnificent thinker as he was, leaped from his bath and ran naked into the street, shouting 'Eureka!' That was a supreme thrill." It has come down the ages to us, that a supple son of unbridled rapture, not because dinner was ready, but because of a new lady-friend, but because he perceived a new truth. He had an idea, as we say, and it was such a big one that it itaizet set him on fire.

"The ancient thrill of the hunter, which some of us seek to repeat by long expensive travels after 'big game,' may be had by the searcher of scientific truth, 'world without end.' There is in history—and all its predecessors of anthropology, biology, geology, and the like—many a thrill that were here discovered dimly before the student, such with it as the thrill of the scientist; and there is in the progressive applied sciences of today and tomorrow, an undimmed country stretching before us, where any one, any day, may chance upon new knowledge of colossal importance, with its colossal thrill."

WHY BROADCAST THAT STUFF?



PEOPLE'S COLUMN

The Eccentric is pleased to receive communications for this column. All communications must be signed and accompanied by return postage. No confidential communications are accepted.

MODERNITY AND BIRMINGHAM

At times a genuine admiration for modernity, this lusty, ruffianistic, modernity, moves us to take up the cudgels on his behalf, despite a leaning towards old-fashioned notions. But as with all infants, though he needs freedom to live and move and sometimes learn by tumbling, yet there are Holy of Holies which he should not be allowed to touch.

We think we shall have to content with good sense the wholesale destruction of picturesque features, where an important story such as Woodward is concerned. How can we expect otherwise? Woodward has long been known as a residential street, and also the Woodward and Willets. The Wallace Building, an essentially urban structure, is too imposing to harmonize with modest frame dwellings. The present ensemble is absurd. When we have the "Christian Science" Church, grand by no means, the First Baptist Church which we hope will similarly regard as an enviable adornment, and nearby are the High School, the Library, the Municipal Building and the proposed Community House. Clearly, the only logical future for this section lies in public buildings or apartment houses.

But, when whispers go around of widening West Maple at Southfield, and "improving" Baldwin Park, we justly tremble, for what un-nerving horrors that would be wrought! Benches, tables, benches, fireplaces, wastebaskets, swings and worse—everything that is not a house, and a building by effected there. If he can, God is a losing game.

This writer has perhaps traveled farther afield than some, who after many years in this lovely village have become accustomed to its charms. The stranger's first sight of Birmingham, by way of West Maple, is enough to take the breath away, and subsequent journeys lay day are hardly less enchanting.

"Each man kills the thing he loves," but at times one sadly doubts the love. Are there some who wish to make Birmingham another Royal Oak? Should this tragedy occur, how many wealthy people who seek justice and can pay for it, and whom a score of miles a little farther out is neither here nor there, and fold up their tent like the Arabs and silently steal away? M. F.

PROGRESS

For a lover of peace and quiet, it is a dreadful thing to see the buzz of flywheels of modernity, and when this happens, assuming there is no immediacy, assuming that present progress is reduced to a seeking of gibbering imbecility or seeking healing in philosophy. That is to say, he must entirely change his point of view, when he catches the music in discordance, and discovers the apparatus of formalism and the people of the Old World Spirit that dwell therein.

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

Advertisement for James Allen Eaton Real Estate. Features a star logo and text: 'Our Motto is - Service. Real Estate - Rentals. Office: 315 MERRILL. Opposite Library Square. Phones 607-R and 607-W'.

Advertisement for Jewell A. B. C. Cleaners. Features a drawing of a man and woman and text: 'Tell a man he's wise and he'll believe you. Tell us that he has his clothes regularly cleaned and pressed and we'll agree he's wise. -Mr. Before and After. 'Got Your Appearance's Sake'. JEWELL A. B. C. CLEANERS. Cleaning - Dyeing - Pressing - Repairing. PHONE 312 412 SO. WOODWARD AVE.'

Advertisement for a directory listing of professionals. Includes: Dr. G. R. Norton (Osteopathic Physician), Dr. Mabel Campbell (Osteopathic Physician), Dr. D. L. Stowell (Physician & Surgeon), Arthur L. Weeks (Architect), Royal Oak Cement Construction Co. (Sewer - Paying, Driveway and Curb, All Work Guaranteed), Clare H. Ogden (Attorney-at-Law), W. D. Knox (Architect), and Allen Engineering Co. (Certified Lot Surveys, Subdivisions, Sewers, Culverts, Pavements, Carb and Gutter, Topographic Surveys).