

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

(Founded in 1878)

Published every Thursday at Birmingham, Mich., in The Eccentric Building, 128-129 North Woodward Avenue. Established 11 and 1/2 Centuries.

Subscription Rates: (In Oakland County) One Year \$1.00, Three Months .35, Six Months .65. (Outside Oakland County) One Year \$1.50, Three Months .50, Six Months .75.

The Eccentric is a member of National Editorial Association; Michigan Press Association; Oakland County Weekly Press Association; and University Press Club.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 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.

Commissioner Henry Explodes

In one of the most bitter, resentful, and ungentlemanly statements that we have ever heard uttered by anyone, anywhere, at an official meeting of public servants, the publisher of this newspaper was named out by village commissioner W. W. Henry Tuesday night.

It is not our purpose here to enter into a debate with Commissioner Henry on the subject; by his public statements he has proved the caliber of his thinking, and this writer has in his heart toward Commissioner Henry a quantity of an extreme pity for his thought processes.

This newspaper has been in a position to observe very clearly the activities of Commissioner Henry since his election, and is quite convinced that Henry has been a very large factor in the obstruction of civic progress; we have said so, on frequent occasions, and will continue to do so whenever we think the progress of this community is menaced by his actions.

The news and editorial columns of The Eccentric are not for sale for any amount of American money; we have made this statement repeatedly in our columns for many years, and always will. We publish a "People's Column" so that every citizen may express his or her views without cost, and we have never refused to open this column to any signed contributor.

The Eccentric, fulfilling its duty as that duty is interpreted, has stood back of the village commission when the commission has attempted earnestly to perform the constructive work for which its members were elected. At times when we believed the commission was failing in this task, we have called attention to the failure and offered constructive suggestions.

There is a doubt in the minds of those who attended the meeting Tuesday that Commissioner Henry thought up his speech himself. Unquestionably he was taught to say what he did by the group of curb-stone politicians who continually have stood in the way of the progress of Birmingham.

It is impossible for us to become angered at anything Commissioner Henry could say. It is irritating, however, to face the fact that the village has a man of this caliber on its commission; a man whose intentions are good but whose intellect is not developed to the stage where it is able to cope with problems of a rapidly growing community.

Birmingham, as a community, has always tried to reflect an attitude of character in its actions, both internal and external; it stands for a division of opinion on civic questions, but also requires an attitude of tolerance and gentlemanliness. We recommend a course of study in these two characteristics to Commissioner W. W. Henry.

THREE YOUNGSTERS, ALL under 15, were arrested at Walnut Lake after they had done damage to cottages estimated at more than \$20,000. They threatened their captors with guns.

SEBASTIAN S. KRESGE, head of the five and to-cent chain stores that bear his name, has been called a "hypocrite who fawns himself an dishonor his wife." What, indeed, if true, a poor reprobate for his millions of dollars! Poor, foolish man! He dips into his overflowing coffers of gold and gives away a half million dollars to philanthropy, yet seems unable to be the possessor of even five or ten cents worth of real character value.

FOLLOWING THE NEWS that two innocent guards in an asylum at Bridgewater, Bridgewater, Mass., were beaten to death by inmates, many will be crying for the institution of laws that will provide death for the hopelessly insane. This is not the solution. If proper precautions were taken by the guards to protect themselves against the dangerously insane, there would be no cry for the death sentence.

150 DETROIT PREACHERS, at a meeting Monday, passed resolutions against the Big Navy program of the United States, to which they have gotten its start somewhere beyond the pale of the working man and his family. We're glad the Detroit preachers are united in their opposition to an increase in the dividends of those who make warships; we hope the preachers are able to show the owners of steel plants that the word most profitably has been turned into a plowshare.

Valentines

Bits of lace and scraps of tinsel, Flower wreaths and cupid's darts, Lovely ladies sweetly smiling, Framed in gold and silver hearts.

Daily gifts of loving service, Letters, flowers, smiles and tears, Loving sympathy and friendship Scattered all along the years; Human hearts, where lace nor tinsel Weave no fanciful designs, Golden thoughts and deeds adorning; These are life's real Valentines.

—BEATRICE McDONALD

The World Is Better

There probably never existed any single generation of humankind that did not believe, at times, that its contemporary citizens and its coming youth were worse than the previous generation.

Today, in America, we hear much about lots of things. We hear that youth is on fire with flames of hell, and is headed straight for perdition—and oh, what a poor generation they will bring forth! Business is unethical, others will say; it is a case of dog eat dog, and the devil take the hindmost. God no longer plays a part in the affairs of men; another will hasten to cry, and men and women are falling the church.

Let's look back a hundred and fifty years in these United States of ours; let's see what happened to the spiritual impulses that made a mere handful of courageous Pilgrim Fathers strike out across unknown seas and land at Plymouth Rock. Let's look, if you please, at what a modern historian, W. E. Woodard, says of the days when George Washington lived, in the middle of the 18th century:

"Families of ten were common. Procreation was a public necessity as well as an amorous function. Announced belief in birth control would have indignantly branded the announcer as something lower than a horse thief. Great families of strapping boys and husky wenches, quickly outgrowing their clothes and passing them on to new and lesser waves of progeny. Desultory reading, writing and ciphering. Huge appetites. Red apples. Hard cider. Tame hogs. Four races and athletic games. Religious conversions. Bear traps. The hottest peach brandy in the world. Hymns bawled. Country frolics. (Illegitimate offspring.) Shotgun. The air was full of quarrelling and laughing, of praying and fighting, of loving and drinking. It was an era of coarse food and coarse opinions."

If customs today are not better than those described in the above paragraph, well, what's the use of arguing? They are, of course. So cheer up, and be courageous for the future.

Good News For All Of Us

Birmingham has the promise of Manager James W. Parry that next winter there will be provision made for ice-skating rink for villagers. This is welcomed by Birmingham citizens who enjoy this healthful and interesting sport.

There is every reason why provision should be made for this accommodation in the village. The cost would be slight and this is not to be considered in view of the great amount of good it would be to the village and those who take advantage of the ice-skating season.

Benefits to be derived from this sport for persons of all ages are too numerous and too obvious to reiterate.

However, it may be well to consider the younger generation of the village. It would give them a safe place to enjoy the recreation that is the right of their youth. It would keep them off the streets which rapidly are being made more dangerous by an increasing number of motor vehicles.

We hope nothing will stand in the way of this project being completed, for the adults of Birmingham must have a place to play just as they must have a home in which to live and the children must have a place to play just as they must have school in which to study.

WHEN A MAN MAKES UP his mind to do a certain thing he clings to it as tenaciously and as loyally as a woman will. There was an instance of this in Birmingham recently when a few members of the city-village committee changed their minds on the status of the question after investigation. Most of those who served left the investigation with the same opinion they had when it was started.

ED NOWACK, THE HASTY and viriolic publisher of a political weekly newspaper which he edits from Lansing, wonders why Andrew Bird Glaspie, of Oxford, Oakland County, is puzzled over the tendency of a fawn to run away, instead of attacking whatever it should have laid hold of. Ed, why worry about such inconsequential matters? Haste, this Bird Glaspie just as much right to write about fawns as you have about hynes? Now well's start another paragraph, Ed, just as you do each week.

A NOTE TO HER FRIENDS says she is not a murderer yet she is to be hanged in California with her husband for a murder. This is the situation of which women who are trying to save Mrs. George McDonald have to face. The attitude of Mrs. McDonald is one you will find among women but not among men.

THOMAS A. EDISON PASSES his eighty-first birthday as the average man passes his eighth. He said he has worked twice as hard as the average man. This is true and it is also true that he has accomplished one million times more than the average man. Edison is strictly speaking, a scientist. Research is not his forte; but making the most of the research of others is his forte. His ability to do this is advanced man at a rate too rapid to be calculated.

Some fellows who think they ought to be elected to office display much originality of thought.

The Other Chap Says Something

THE GREEK DEBT

The American loan to Greece differed in several aspects from the other debts of European nations. In the first place, no actual advances were made until more than a year after the armistice. In the second place Greece since the war has passed through a revolutionary period.

These considerations account for the long delay which has attended the settlement and also for the further advances of \$12,000,000 which accompanies the settlement. As compared with the Greek debt, the other war obligations presented relatively simple problems.

It was the Greek request for an additional advance that caused the most difficulty. But few Americans will begrudge this extra \$12,000,000 in view of the immense financial burdens under which Greece is laboring with the essential humanitarian refugees who were forced to leave Turkey, and Greece alone was totally incapable of meeting the problem. The United States has simply joined the other nations in lending a helping hand.—Philadelphia Public Ledger.

ROUTINE OF EDUCATION

American education is seriously threatened by routine. We are liable to jostle all of the good out of education by traveling in a rut. In our schools the individual too often is submerged. In our high schools we tend to discuss forward standardization, and in our colleges there is a wide gulf between educational theory and practice. Theoretically the American college, if it has any justification, is supposed to prepare men and women to go out as leaders in the community. In practice too often, alas, the average student is crammed for exams with phrases or, at least, expressions culled or perhaps garbled from an extensive reading course which he does not even understand, and his parrot-like expressions have no basis in educational theory. He has expression but no conviction, conclusions without conviction.

Ask a group of college students to write a theme on what interests them, and what do you get? The first response is that they are not interested particularly in anything. They have had a smattering of every thing without much taste or preference for any particular thing. The themes you would get would be words and words.

DIRECTORY

Dr. G. R. Norton OSTEOPATHIC PHYSICIAN 314 1/2 West Maple BIRMINGHAM, MICH. PHONE: Residence 804-R Office 1690

McAlpine-Starr, Inc. Engineers - Surveyors (Registered) 508 South Woodward BIRMINGHAM, MICH. Phone Birmingham 803

Clare H. Ogden Attorney-at-Law Suite A, First National Bank Bldg. Phone Birmingham 1055

Allen Engineering Co. ENGINEERING AND SURVEYING OF ANY DISCIPLINE "Rust" Farm Surveys a Specialty Telephone 135-M

Oakland Realty Co. K. D. Lynch - Manager LEVINSON BLDG. Phone 143-W

Dr. Mabel Campbell OSTEOPATHIC PHYSICIAN 312 First National Bank Building Phone Pontiac 3147 HOURS: 9:15-1:15; and by appointment

Dr. D. L. Stilwell Physician & Surgeon SUITE 108-O'NEAL BLDG. 102 S. WOODWARD AVENUE Hours: 2 p. m. to 8 p. m. daily; 7 p. m. to 8 p. m. Mon., Wed., Fri., and Sat. Telephone 1875

Maurice E. Baldwin Office: Room 3 First State Bank COUNTY SURVEYOR 101 1/2 N. Saginaw St., Pontiac, Mich. Municipal Engineering Subdivisions TOPOGRAPHICAL AND DRAINAGE SURVEYS Office: Room 10 - 12 Barr Block Res. phone 2801 - Office phone 2811

thought, without conviction, without fire or enthusiasm. The man or woman who can solve the educational problem of this country by exalting the individual and de-standardizing our schools will make a newer and better American.—William Allen White in Emporia (Kans.) Gazette.

A MAN'S PRAYER

Teach me that sixty minutes make an hour, sixteen ounces one pound and one hundred cents one dollar. Help me so to live that I can lie down at night with a clear conscience, without a gun under my pillow and unhaunted by the faces of those to whom I have brought pain. Grant that I may earn my meal-ticket on the square, and that in earning it I may do

unto others as I would have them do unto me. Deafen me to the jingle of tainted money and to the rattle of unwholly skirts. Blind me to the faults of the other fellow, but reveal to me my own. Guide me so that each night when I look across the dinner table at my wife, who has been a blessing to me, I will have nothing to conceal. Keep the young enough to laugh with little children, and sympathetic enough to be considerate of old people. Then when comes the day of darkened shades and the smell of flowers, the tread of soft footsteps and the crunching of wheels in the yard—make the ceremony short and simple. Here lies a man.—The Boy-crofter.

62 Issues of The Eccentric \$1.50



The Financing of Building Your Home

Is a simplified arrangement with an organization that maintains its own Financing Department. This department will be glad to assist you in the one problem that may be your hesitation in building and owning your Own Home.

One of our salesmen would be glad to call and give you further information FRANK COUZENS INCORPORATED BUILDERS OF CHARACTER HOMES BIRMINGHAM 108 N. BATES PHONE 1730 - 1731

An Old Firm Changes Its Name

Clemons-Knight-Menard Co. now becomes KNIGHT - MENARD COMPANY Realtors

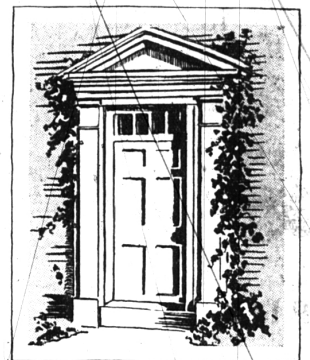
The name Clemons-Knight-Menard Co. has been so favorably advertised by three of our major developments—Rosedale Park, Beverly Hills and Breton Woods, as well as by a score of smaller properties,—that it has been with the greatest reluctance that we have arrived at the decision to change to KNIGHT-MENARD COMPANY.

This change, made solely for the sake of brevity, in no way affects the personnel, properties or policies of the corporation. Our address remains the same—KNIGHT-MENARD BUILDING—1441 PARK PLACE; and the affairs of the corporation will continue to be administered by Ernest O. Knight and Harry F. Menard.

Developments sponsored by Clemons-Knight-Menard Co. include: Rosedale Park, Beverly Hills, Breton Woods, West Bloomfield Lakes, Waterford Lakes Estates, Meadowcrest, Glendale Gardens, Glendale Courts, Greenfield Park, Miller Homes, Cedarhurst and Devonshire Downs

KNIGHT - MENARD COMPANY Realtors

1441 PARK PLACE DETROIT CADILLAC 7264



Income Property We are offering a few well chosen Pontiac business properties which show gratifying income returns. Colgrove, Buck & Tillotson FIRST STATE BANK BLDG.

Tell Your Merchant You Saw His Advertisement in THE ECCENTRIC

Advertisement for Oxford Mattress Company featuring an image of a mattress and text: 'MATTRESS Made From FEATHERS', 'Box Springs, Down, Comforts, Mattresses recovered and remade. Our sterilizing process destroys all moths, worms, removes all chuff, dust and disagreeable odors from feathers.', 'Oxford Mattress Company Reliable Renovators Phone Oxford 147 Oxford, Mich.'

Tell Your Merchant You Saw His Advertisement in THE ECCENTRIC