BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

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GEORGE RODGERS AVERILL, - Editor and Publisher

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 1928.

NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events which have come to its attention and which are written by persons not connected with the editorial staff of the paper. All copy must be presented before noon on Wednesday. The right is reserved, however, to make such superficial changes in the work submitted as are necessary to the style of the paper and as are required by law or the shape, because of a mechanical situation in the composing room, headlines written by those other than members of the staff cannot be used.

An Indication For Good

Assurance from several members of the special committee studying the adoption of the city form of government here that they believed themselves in technical error in approving a resolution barring the public and press from their meetings, and that they favor rescinding the action and taking away the barriers, is welcome news.

The Eccentric has been of the opinion that when public officials make a secret of their work—and in this case there certainly is no need for being secretive—the results are disastrous to those officials. Closed doors imply whispers and whispers have no place in public administration.

The people of Birmingham are to be vitally affected by the decision of the city-village committee. The conscientious study the members are giving to the proposal is therefore of the highest importance to them.

Merely announcing a conclusion, as suggested by one member of the board, is not sufficient to the people. They have the right to be informed of every step taken before that conclusion is reached. It is a well known truism that a conclusion is often of less importance than the manner in which that conclusion was reached. The people of Birmingham have their own opinions on the issue at present. The opinions have been formed, they readily admit, from information they have gleaned without going thoroughly into the matter. Hence, they welcomed the announcement that a committee of public spirited citizens had agreed to study the matter and give the voters the benefit of their study.

It was a decided setback to hear that they were not to be informed of the various steps of that committee.

A possible compromise, suggested by one member of the group is out of the question. He believes that with the announcement of the decision there should also be made public the reports of the various subcommittees. This, it is argued, would give the people the full information.

On the other hand, it would give them, near election time, a great mass of statistics with which to struggle. The mass would be so great that no newspaper would have space to print it all and no person would have time to read it.

The public and press have a very definite place at the meetings of this group. Barring them from the meeting Jan. 4 has not done a great deal of harm, but barring them from future meetings will.

The village may consider itself fortunate in having persons serving on the board who are capable of realizing mistakes and rectifying them.

The United States' say newspaper despatches, is ready to move for the outlawry of war. It will seek to enlist the aid and cooperation of Great Britain, Germany, France, Italy, and Japan in this new movement. That is good news. Some day the nations of the earth will rise sufficiently above the material plane of existence to make permanent peace a real possibility. When that happens a great majority of the world's population will be simple followers of Christianity. In the meantime the problem of the world is to teach people to take an active interest in the admonitions and lessons expounded in the Bible.

Tonight this community will pay tribute to Harry Brooks, nationally famous aviator who carried Mrs. Evangeline Lindbergh to see her son in Mexico City a few weeks ago. Birmingham and vicinity is proud of Harry, and wishes him great success in future ventures.

According to newspaper despatches, 727,000 people are anxiously waiting to buy the new Ford car. That spells something for the material prosperity of Southeastern Michigan, because, as the Fords roll about the streets of nearly every city in the world, the money paid for them circulates in and near Detroit, and other industrial centers. "727,000 Fords means—well, most anything from the standpoint of statistical conjecture."

The sum of $250,000 will be spent in and near Birmingham this year by the telephone company. That investment bespeaks continued faith in the development of this district. More homes are to be built here this year, it is anticipated by realtors and builders, than any previous year in the community's history. We hope they will be happy homes, as most home are in and near Birmingham.

Lazy

If I should meet a fairy at my gate
When I am going out today, and she
Agreed to grant a golden wish for me,
I'd wish that I might lie in bed till late.
The many other things I crave might wait,
But I would make this one and only plea,
That every morning I might lazy be,
If some enchanting fairy held my fate.

A pretty little serving maid to bring
My breakfast on a shining silver tray,
My silken robe and lace beribboned cap!
Oh, I would be as fine as any king!
And when the breakfast things were cleared away,
I'd just lie down and take another nap.

BEATRICE McDONALD

Babson's Message To Children

Roger Babson, one of America's most constructive businessmen, a man whose statements are everywhere regarded as expert, recently sent out to his clients in the business world, a message to their children. Coming from a man who deals so tremendously in the material phases of life, this message is a pleasant surprise, for it shows, after all, that woven in the fabric of the modern businessman's mind are fundamental thoughts that actually elevate altruism and idealism. We suggest that you, as parents, clip this editorial and pass it on to your children. It was written by Mr. Babson while he was visiting in British Columbia, Canada. Here it is:

To the Children of My Clients:

This last week I have been spending at a Camp in British Columbia, in the heart of the Rocky Mountains. Altho it is the last of July, the camp is surrounded by snow-capped mountains and a short horseback ride takes me out to a great glacier. I often wish that your fathers would take two weeks each year in a place like this to get their "latitude and longitude" and a real perspective of life. Really our bodies, minds and souls are but storage batteries which must occasionally be charged in order to be efficient.

Success comes from a properly directed surplus of emotional, intellectual or physical energy which makes one a natural leader. When one loses this surplus and becomes tired he naturally gets into a rut and becomes a mere follower. This takes away the real joy of living. One of the best things you can do is to get your father out of the rut, if he is now in one, and have him enjoy life. However, I am not writing you this letter for the purpose of lecturing, but to help you get a sane philosophy of life.

There is something about the power, grandeur and beauty of the mountains which gives one an insight of life which cannot be obtained in the city or at the usual resort. As I sit writing this I am looking up to snow-capped mountains over 10,000 feet high. The great face of the mountain shows the various geological periods thru which this old world has passed, while the massive trees, the beautiful wild flowers, gorgeous sunsets show most conclusively that we were meant to be healthy and happy. In fact, if any of you are not so, it is because you have the wrong philosophy of life. You are trying to live or think or work contrary to the great trend of things.

At the risk of being called a preacher I am going to give you a simple philosophy which comes to me as I sit here amidst nature undisturbed and as it was a hundred thousand years ago. What I am to tell you is to me my religion altho it is free from all dogma or sectarianism. Furthermore, it is strictly scientific and puncture-proof. In other words, I am writing you as a cold-blooded statistician and a hard-boiled business man. Briefly, this religion consists of these five points:

1. *I know that ever since the world was first begun, a divine force has constantly been working to develop perfection.* A careful study of geology and biology clearly proves this to be a fact. This force is commonly referred to as God and this perfection is called Heaven, altho both of these have been greatly misrepresented.

2. *I know that we are free agents—free either to act in harmony with this divine force or to act contrary to it. Acting in harmony with it is known as service, while working against it is known as sin.* All history serves as evidence of this statement; also, that in the long run, the forces for good have always won. To help us work in harmony with the eternal order of things, we have the Ten Commandments, the Golden Rule, and many other helps. Such help can be secured from many books, but the collection which has withstood the greatest tests and presents the results of the longest experience is found in the Bible.

3. *I know that, owing to our being free agents, it is necessary for us to relax and meditate often.* Only by such meditating is it possible for us to keep in harmony with this divine force and hence benefit therefrom. The need of such meditation developed the custom of prayer; and the benefit referred to is commonly known as spiritual power. Notwithstanding the needless superstitions which have crept into theology, it is becoming a real science of spiritual things and to ignore the same is simple ignorance.

4. *I know that as we act in harmony with the divine course of things we must be happy.* Hence happiness is the natural reward for service, while unhappiness is the natural punishment for sin. Physical strength, intellect, emotional convictions and material possessions are mere tools applying differently to different people and of value only as they enable us to live properly and hence to be happy. This is clearly taught by modern psychology and is today recognized as a basic law of nature.

5. *I know that as we get this point of view, faith takes the place of doubt, courage takes the place of fear, and no person or no thing can annoy us.* We then have a satisfaction that we are truly a part of the eternal life about us and can never die. Then we realize that we must become a real part of "inherit" the Heaven referred to in my first statement. Moreover, this is merely in accordance with the immutable laws which govern mathematics, chemistry and the other sciences.

I fully realize that few of you young people may have any use for this statement at the present time. In the prime of health one naturally has little use for doctors; and in the flush of youth one naturally is not interested in eternal life. Your interest in these things, therefore, may not come until you are older in life or until you have sickness or other troubles. Some day, however, you will want something to tie to; you will want to know where you are at and where you are going. Some day you will be off the track and will want to get on again. Therefore, I do ask that you save this letter until such a time comes. Have it where you can put it in your pocket and go into the mountains all by yourself. Then and there you will have the evidence for all I have said; then you will get faith, courage and joy for which you will then be hungry. *Moreover, by that time you will have learned that happiness cannot be purchased and does not come thru material possessions. It comes only as we get a proper sense of values and lead a natural and well-balanced life.*

John C. Lodge this week was inaugurated as Mayor of Detroit. He says that he will begin a war on bandits and drunk drivers. He desires that both classes be kept off the streets of Detroit by placing them in jail. Here's hoping the new mayor does make good his name by lodging them where they belong.

VILLAGE COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS

Regular meeting of the Village Commission called to order Monday evening, January 9, 1928, at 8:00 o'clock.

Present: President Ellerby, Commissioners Henry, Hulbert, McBride, White, Halgren, Hersey.

Minutes of meeting of January 3, 1928, approved as printed.

11—Moved by Commissioner Hersey that the bills be allowed as read:

Mike Morrison, Labor, $1465.00; Lawson-Erb Lumber Co., $229.87; W. H. Miller, $53.84; Ponsell Floor Machine Co., $225.00; Fred C. Douglass, $1400.00; Forbes Electric Co., $500.00; Rand Kardex Service Corporation, $327.60; W. C. Noack & Sons, $18.00; Detroit Mantel & Tile Co., $1000.00; Burrowes & Kurich, $250.00; Robert Pepperell, $93.13; Mc-Cauley & Madison, Inc., $19.00; Shaw Motor Sales, $9.90; E. M. Mahaffey, $1.25; Vogt Brothers Mfg. Co., $46.19; The Detroit Testing Laboratory, $38.50; D. B. Wilkinson, $166.45; Dale D. Carter, $65.00; J. W. Parry, $11.20; The McBride Hardware Co., $28.79; W. S. McAlpine Map Co., $21.60; Birmingham Battery Service, $7.00; J. B. Howarth & Son, $51.60; Miller's Tire & Battery Service, $15.53; Miner Grocery Company, $3.73; Clark Parks Coal Company, $92.07; Acme Window Cleaning Co., $3.75; Stanley J. Jones, $174.21; Hascall & Harsell, $77.50; Robert R. Allen & Company, $211.16; Reliable Linen Service, $8.00; Stewart Specialty Company, $3.00; Leonard Electrical Co., $75.44; The International City Mgr's Assoc., $15.00; S. G. Adams Stamp & Stationery Co., $25.50; Kalmorgi Sign & Signal Co., $1183.76; W. H. Anderson Tool & Supply Co., $20.40; L. N. Bailey, $10.27; Bell Bros. Garage, $22.25; Charles Plumstead, $36.59; Birmingham Eccentric, $279.12; Wm. G. Mahaffey, $120.00; Glenn Allen, $25.00; Charles M. Jones, $25.00; Karl Haskell, $25.00; Wm. J. Thornton, $25.00; Charles Jones, $25.00; Birmingham Hardware, $31.40; Birmingham Sign Co., $14.75; Bingham, Sparks & Bingham, $357.84; Bird Electrical Company, $38.04; David C. Hilsath, $19.15; Boughner Bros. Garage, $11.45; James E. Brown Co., $3.50; City Planning Publishing Co., $3.00; F. W. Comer, $72.21; Contractor Publishing Company, $48.00; Lake Domestic, $4.25; Kritz & Nixon, $0.75; William Ford & Co., Inc., $32.77; Huston Hardware Company, $2.29; Michigan Bell Telephone Co., $6.27; L. J. Misener, $1.95; R. C. Mohlthrop Lumber Co., $108.71; Oakland County Road Commission, $1.29; Peerless Blue Print Co., $7.47; Holcomb Equipment Mfg. Co., $184.80; Saunders-Elder, $9.90; F. S. Sternal, $15.75; Superior Seal & Stamp Co., $8.00; General Office Equipment Corporation, $9.05; The Todd Company, $38.85; George Townsend, $15.00; Tracey & Cotton, Inc., $1.00; Rollin H. Williams, Inc., $44.60; Sinclair Refining Co., $167.69; Yawman & Erbe Mfg. Co., $20.25; Gregory, Mayer & Thom Co., $178.81; Detroit Edison Company, $1,194.66; Consumers Power Company, $3.60; J. W. Baird, $11.60.

Yeas: Ellerby, Henry, Hulbert, McBride, White, Halgren, Hersey. Nays: None.

12—Communication from Gallagher-Fleming Company was read requesting that they be allowed to withdraw their bid on the General Construction of the proposed municipal building, on account of a typographical error in their bid.

13—Moved by Commissioner Hersey that Gallagher-Fleming Company be permitted to withdraw their bid on the Municipal Building, and that their certified deposit check be returned to them. Yeas: Ellerby, Henry, Hulbert, McBride, White, Halgren, Hersey. Nays: None.

14—The report from the Architects on the bids for the construction of the proposed municipal building was postponed until Monday evening, January 16, 1928.

15—Communication from Southern Surety Company enclosing assignment from N. A. Starr Co. of the balance due them on the Baldwin Library Building, was read, and referred to the Attorney.

16—Communication from the Department of Health, Lansing, was read and placed on file.

17—An application for a license to keep and conduct a licensed dance hall on the Reed & Holmes property, on Old Woodward, and a permit to build said building, was made by the Bloomfield Hills Auditorium Company.

18—Moved by Commissioner White that the following preamble and resolution be adopted:

Whereas, a petition has been filed by the Bloomfield Hills Auditorium Company requesting a license to conduct a dance hall in the Village of Birmingham, and

Whereas, such petition does not comply with the provisions of Ordinance No. 134, in that such petition is not accompanied by a petition signed by 51 per cent of the property holders adjacent to such proposed dance hall, for other reasons,

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the petition for such license be declined.

Be It Further Resolved that, inasmuch as petitioner's application for a building permit for a permit to build a building to be used as a dance hall, that such petition for a building permit for this and other reasons, be declined.

Yeas: Ellerby, Henry, Hulbert, McBride, White, Halgren, Hersey. Nays: None.

19—Moved by Commissioner White that The Village Attorney and the President, meet with the Attorney of the Bloomfield Hills Auditorium Company in the very near future. Yeas: Ellerby, Henry, Hulbert, McBride, White, Halgren, Hersey. Nays: None.

20—Moved by Commissioner Hersey that the following resolution be adopted:

Resolved that the Commission of the Village of Birmingham does hereby declare that it is expedient and advisable that a 24-inch trunk line sewer be constructed on Henrietta Street from Frank Street to Lincoln Avenue, and that the Village Manager be hereby instructed to prepare maps and diagrams, together with an estimate of the cost of construction of such above named improvement, and file the same with this Commission with all due haste.

Yeas: Ellerby, Henry, Hulbert, McBride, White, Halgren, Hersey. Nays: None.

21—Moved by Commissioner Hulbert that the following preamble and resolution be adopted: —that

Whereas this Commission, by virtue of a resolution passed January 9th, 1928, determined that it is expedient and advisable that a 24-inch trunk line storm sewer be constructed on Henrietta Street from Frank Street to Lincoln Avenue, in the Village of Birmingham, and more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at a manhole on the corner of Henrietta and Frank Street and extending south to existing stub at Lincoln Avenue, a distance of approximately 1120 feet, and

Whereas by virtue of the same resolution the Village Manager has prepared maps and diagrams of such above named improvement and filed same with this Commission, together with an estimate of the cost of same amounting to a total sum of $5154.00.

Now be it resolved that all lots and parcels of land fronting and abutting on said above named street will be benefited by said improvement, and shall constitute a Special Assessment District upon which a special assessment shall be levied to defray a portion of the expense of constructing such above named improvement, and

Be it further resolved that the Village of Birmingham shall bear $2724 (52.8%) of the cost of constructing such above named improvement, and that the lots and parcels of land embraced in said special Assessment District shall be assessed $2430 (47.2%) of the cost of construction of said improvement, upon the basis of equal assessments per front foot amounting to approximately $1.45 per foot, and that the special assessments shall be divided into five equal installments, payable annually, beginning with the date of confirmation of a Special Assessment Roll for the above purpose, and

Be it further resolved that this Commission shall meet at the Village Clerk's office in the Village of Birmingham on Monday, January 23, 1928, at 8 o'clock P. M., to hear suggestions and objections to the proposed improvement, and the method of assessment thereon.

Yeas: Ellerby, Henry, Hulbert, McBride, White, Halgren, Hersey. Nays: None.

22—Moved by Commissioner McBride that the following preamble and resolution be adopted: that

Whereas this Commission, by virtue of a resolution passed December 27, 192[illegible] determined that it is expedient and advisable that Concrete curb and gutter be constructed and the streets be graveled on Shirley Drive and Arlington Road between Maple Avenue and Lincoln Avenue, in the Village of Birmingham, and more particularly described as follows:

All of both named streets between Maple Avenue and Lincoln Avenue, curbs to be set for a 32-foot roadway except on the right of way common to both streets and at the junction of said streets with Maple and Lincoln, for a distance of 100 feet, where they are to be set to provide 36-foot roadway, and

Whereas by virtue of the same resolution the Village Manager has prepared maps and diagrams of such above named improvement and filed same with this Commission, together with an estimate of the cost of same amounting to $19,591.00.

Now be it resolved that all lots and parcels of land fronting and abutting on said above named street will be benefited by said improvement, and shall constitute a Special Assessment District upon which a special assessment shall be levied to defray a portion of the expense of constructing such above named improvement, and

Be it further resolved that the Village of Birmingham shall bear 1-6 ($3,265.00) of the cost of construction of such above named improvement, and that the lots and parcels of lands embraced in said Special Assessment District shall be assessed 5-6 ($16,326.00) of the cost of construction of said improvement, on the basis of equal assessment per front foot amounting to approximately $1.80 per foot, and that the special assessments shall be divided into five equal installments, payable annually, beginning with the date of confirmation of a Special Assessment Roll for the above purpose, and

Be it further resolved that this Commission shall meet at the Village Clerk's office in the Village of Birmingham on Monday January 23, 1928, at 8 o'clock P. M. to hear suggestions and objections to the proposed improvement, and the method of assessment thereon.

Yeas: Ellerby, Henry, Hulbert, McBride, White, Halgren, Hersey. Nays: None.

23—Moved by Commissioner Hulbert that the following preamble and resolution be adopted: that

Whereas this Commission, by virtue of a resolution passed December 27, 1927, determined that it is expedient and advisable that a storm sewer be constructed on those parts of Holland, Cole and Webster Avenue in Leinbach-Humphrey Woodward Avenue sub-division not now served by a storm sewer in the Village of Birmingham, and more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at manholes on Holland, Webster and Cole Avenue, existing approximately 900 feet west of Adams Avenue, and extending easterly to the easterly limits of Leinbach-Humphrey Woodward Avenue Sub-division on Holland and Cole and to the point of intersection with the proposed Eton Road County drain on Webster with a connecting trunk line on Torrey Avenue between Holland and Cole Avenue, and

Whereas by virtue of the same resolution the Village Manager has prepared maps and diagrams of such above named improvement, and filed same with this Commission, together with an estimate of the cost of same amounting to a total sum of $14,997.00.

Now be it resolved that all lots and parcels of land fronting and abutting on said above named street will be benefited by said improvement, and shall constitute a Special Assessment District upon which a special Assessment shall be levied to defray a portion of the expense of constructing such above named improvement, and

Be it further resolved that the Village of Birmingham shall bear $2,457.00 (23.15%) of the cost of construction of such above named improvement, and that the lots and parcels of land embraced in said Special Assessment District shall be assessed $14,552.00 (76.9%) of the cost of construction of said improvement, according to benefits derived therefrom, amounting to approximately $1.74 per foot and that the special assessments shall be divided into five equal installments, payable annually, beginning with the date of confirmation of a Special Assessment Roll for the above purpose, and

Be it further resolved that this Commission shall meet at the Village Clerk's office in the Village of Birmingham on Monday, January 23, 1928, at 8 o'clock P. M. to hear suggestions and objections of persons interested in said proposed assessment, and that a notice of such meeting be published as required by law.

Yeas: Ellerby, Henry, Hulbert, McBride, White, Halgren, Hersey. Nays: None.

Moved by Commissioner Hersey that the following preamble and resolution be adopted: that

Whereas, pursuant to a resolution passed by this Commission on December 19, 1927, the Village Assessor of the Village of Birmingham has prepared Special Assessment Rolls according to maps, diagrams and estimates on file with the Village Clerk for the construction of concrete curb and gutter on Northaven Drive from Southfield Avenue to the West line of J. Lee Baker Sub-division, in the Village of Birmingham, and

Whereas, said Assessment Roll as corrected by this Commission as required by law, now

Be it resolved, that said Special Assessment Roll be filed with the Village Clerk, and be entitled Special Assessment Roll for District No. 1100, and that the Commission of the Village of Birmingham meet in the Village Clerk's office in the Village of Birmingham on January 23, 1928 at 8 o'clock P. M. to hear suggestions and objections of persons interested in said special assessment, and that a notice of such meeting be published as required by law.

Yeas: Ellerby, Henry, Hulbert, McBride, White, Halgren, Hersey. Nays: None.

HAZEL E. LAWLER, Village Clerk.

CHURCHES MARK VICTORY DAY

Union Services To Be Held In Commemoration Of 18th Amendment

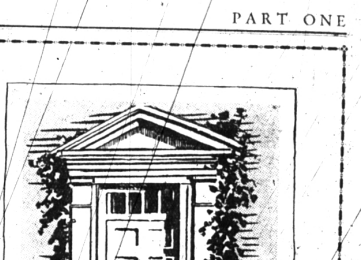
Victory Day, the anniversary of the passing of the Eighteenth Amendment, will be celebrated Sunday, January 15 at the First Baptist Church under the auspices of the Birmingham W. C. T. U. with all the pastors of the village taking part in the union service at 7:30 p. m.

Rev. F. P. Loggee, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church will preside over the service. Scripture will be read by Rev. R. M. Atkins, pastor of the First Methodist Church.

Rev. J. C. Mathews of the Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church will talk on the "Social Movement Expressed in the Eighteenth Amendment." "The Issue Before the Nation," will be the topic of Rev. Henry S. Evans, pastor of the United Presbyterian Church.

Rev. David Leon Woodward of the First Baptist Church will have as his subject "Eighteenth Amendment as a Test of Democracy."

Special music will be furnished by the First Baptist Church Choir.



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