

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

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Association; Michigan Press Association, and Uni-
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THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 1928

NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events
which have new value and interest to the community.
All copy must be presented before noon on Wednesday.
However, to make such special changes in the
paper submitted as are necessary to the printer, a
mechanical artist in the composing room must be
available at all times, and as a result, the printer's
work must be completed by the printer's work-
men by these above mentioned dates.

A Year Of Progress

The holidays are over and Birmingham faces a
year wherein history will be made. Its history, of
course, is always in the making, but some of the
projects ahead of the village appear to be of more
importance than those of the past.

Among the most important issues that loom
on the horizon of 1928 is the proposed change to
a city form of government. This will be decided by
voters in March and, although it is too soon for
a forecast as to the result of this election, it ap-
pears to be the consensus of opinion here today
that more progress would be possible under the
city government and that taxpayers of Birmingham
would be saved a considerable amount of money.

The year 1927 has been a great one. Many
events have taken place in Birmingham that a few
years ago were not dreamed of. The affairs of gov-
ernment have, in the main, been administered with
poops on the village commission during this year
could have a disastrous effect on the future of
Birmingham.

Cranbrook Foundation

The establishment of Cranbrook Foundation,
wherein George G. Booth is giving six and a half
million dollars to the furthering of education, to-
gether with the sum of five and a half million dollars
which he and Mr. Booth have already given to
Cranbrook School, marks a new high light in the
educational realm of Michigan; that all this money
and the things that it will further be located in
Bloomfield Township, within two miles of Birming-
ham, spells much for the physical and cultural advan-
tages of this entire district.

Mr. Booth, who came into this world with little
of the gold of the earth, is using his method of
giving away his wealth so that, when the end of
mortal existence comes his way, he may be certain
that the product of his labors will be turned to uses
that assist the greatest number of people possible.
To give wealth away to adults is, after all, a poorer
way than to give it to the young; by establishing the
Cranbrook Foundation Mr. Booth has made sure that
his millions will be devoted to spreading intelligence
to coming generations—perhaps the finest way in
which any person can spend money.

Goodness Abounds Here

The number of persons in Birmingham and vicin-
ity whose holidays were made pleasant and mirthful
instead of the drab days circumstance seemed to
have fashioned for them has not been announced.
But there were many. And it was all brought about
by members of the various organizations which work
through the Community House.

Chas. S. Osborn, Michigan's "Iron Man," a man
of letters, a scientist, and perhaps one of the greatest
all around scholars and creators ever produced in the
Wolverine commonwealth, has just finished his
quarter century as John Fitzgibbon's teacher. The
plus ultra in compliments. But it wouldn't be true,
because they wouldn't.

Scientific men, gathered in Battle Creek this
week, declare that man really is the inheritor of
eternal life. They point out that man has paid
too much attention to solving the problems of me-
chanics and too little to that of the soul. This, they
claim, is the thing to say, or even to believe. Con-
sciousness is all that man knows of real life; and
conscious man cannot conceive a true picture of un-
consciousness, or death; if man's true state of being
is a conscious one, why should man not represent a
true concept of eternity? And, it naturally follows,
man is his own reward, though it may rest on the
pasture of thousands of generations of human life
because he is his reward.

John Fitzgibbon: Reporter

John Fitzgibbon, for the past 44 years a reporter
on the Detroit News, was honored at a banquet at
the Book-Cadillac Hotel last Thursday evening when
about 150 of Michigan's newspapermen, and 50, or
thereabouts, leading Detroit citizens, were guests of
the United League Club, Republican organization.
Here's what Ed Nowack, publisher of the Michigan
State Digger, thinks about John, and we heartily
agree with him:

The dean of them all.
Sturdy as an oak in his convictions, when he is
sure those convictions are right. As honest path and
readers as the day is long. Scornful of taking or-
forced sensationalism.

He would no more think of writing into a story
something that did not belong there for the sake of
a bigger head line than he would of becoming a soap
box anarchist. Wise beyond the understanding of
those of lesser accomplishments. Friends without
number. Loyal. Companionable.

His name over a story is like the sterling stamp
on silver. It's the truth, without exaggeration or
distortion.

A gentleman, a scholar and a newspaper man.
That's John Fitzgibbon.

When he reads his John will not like it. He has
been writing a notice for the paper too long to cherish
publicity. But it is the truth, as it is, and John
was writing about someone else—even his bitterest
personal enemy—he would publish it. John will
puff and mutter and protest. But he can't deny
it. It is kind because it cannot be denied. They know
his record cannot be impeached even by himself.

The Union League Club of Michigan is giving a
dinner Friday at Detroit in honor of John, because he
is the dear and the peer of the political writers of
Michigan. This story is a modest contribution to
the praises that should be heaped upon his head.
It is the complete picture of John which the news-
paperman who had worked with him in Lansing, who wrote
of politics and love affairs, who move in his sphere,
tells about with them. They have never told John
face to face what they think of him. If they tried
he would light a new cigar, and change the subject.

John has had one, and only one, love in his news-
paper game—The Detroit News. Very probably he
was fortunate in his selection, because he has never
been forced to write a paper, break the ethics which
every good newspaper man, hopes to comply with.
John has never written anything but the truth as
he saw it and it was humbly possible to ascertain it.
If he ever was asked to inject banner line sensationalism
when it didn't exist he refused.

In his columns in the News each week John
writes interestingly of the state and politics. He has
passed the state in his travels, and the realities of either
hand him. All those things have happened too
many times before in his career. "A wide circle of
readers throughout the state turn to John's comment
as their Bible on state affairs. He tells them why
and how and what for. And—very important—
they can believe it all.

John broke into newspaper work because he was
smart enough not to keep on doing some inferior
job. He was tending horses and cows—a youth
for a man connected with the News. He wasn't
satisfied, although he still was at the age when most
boys are trying to make up their minds whether
to be a policeman or an engineer. John studied
thorndike. He happened to be in the neighborhood.
He started writing little oddities. Then four
pages Detroit News, with limited space, found them
so good they printed them. It won't long before
John became a member of the staff.

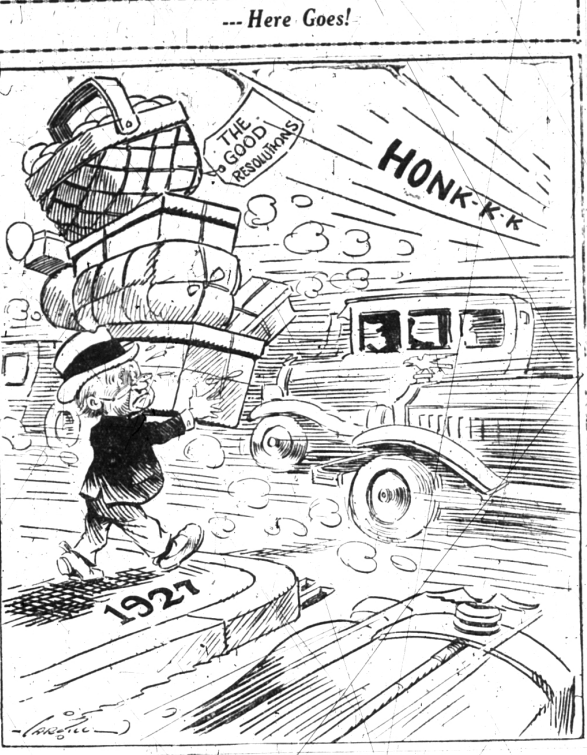
Then he started on the long hard climb. Every
time he was advanced his work was so good they had
to advance him higher. He went through the mill,
state assignments, Washington, Cuba, the Philippines,
and finally the interpretative work he does today,
which no man without wide knowledge of what is
going on behind the scenes can even attempt.

John has so many friends he can't start to count
them. Most of them he has known for years. But
with all his wide acquaintance and his unassailable
reputation, he is not a newspaperman seeking a
new piece of news for his paper.

John is not as young as he was. But when he
stopped one day at the Miami Lake state park with
former Governor Alex J. Groesbeck he went swim-
ming. When he was all tired out John was still
swimming, and going strong.

John has the spirit of youth and the wisdom of
the ages. To say to anyone "you know what I
mean about state and national affairs during the last
quarter century as John Fitzgibbon's would be the
plus ultra in compliments. But it wouldn't be true,
because they wouldn't.

Chas. S. Osborn, Michigan's "Iron Man," a man
of letters, a scientist, and perhaps one of the greatest
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PEOPLE'S COLUMN

The Eccentric is pleased to
publish communications for this
column. All communications must be
signed, but signatures will be
kept confidential upon request.

THE BURTON-LITTLE CASE

To the Editor:
I was glad to read the recent
article in The Eccentric of Dec.
22 on President Little. Apparently
the writer was able to get in-
formation from correspondents
and the real man, instead of the one
pictured by the press. But I was
disappointed to see that the facts
of the same case which he ac-
cuses others of slipping into it.

He refers to Burton, "that
great man or that great pres-
ident." Now I wonder if he knew
Burton. Or is he using the pic-
ture of a man who is not known
for public consumption? Did he
know Burton, the man who could
crush it for individualism and the
crush if the minute it showed its
face? Did he know the president
of Mexico who is not known for
those in the Lambert party, Mr.
Brooks said. During the three
days of that country, the
group was fettered constantly.

Sovereigns of the country were
brought back by the plot of the
Ford-Brooks party. When the
ship arrived at the Ford airport
Monday, the family of
Mr. Brooks hurried to greet
him. His mother and father, Mr.
and Mrs. Joseph Brooks of South
field and his sisters, Mrs. Robert
Chissis, Mrs. Milburn Cooper and
Mrs. Ralph Kasper were already
at the airport.

William Bennett, head of the air-
port division of the Ford Motor
company and Mrs. Stout, Mrs.
John Collins, wife of a former
Ford pilot, Stanley Cleveland,
president of the Ford Products in
Mexico and G. Miller of the ser-
vice department of the company
waited a chock "right" when they
left the plane upon its landing at
the airport.

He was directed to Miss Lizzie
Belle Sawyer, a daughter of the
late Joseph E. Sawyer. Mrs. Stock-
well survives together with four
children, Joseph S., Eleanor, Fred-
erick and Ledy all at home.
He had been confined to his bed
suffering from an inflammation of
the lining of the lung. His trou-
ble is believed to have started two
years ago when a blood clot pres-
sured one of the optic nerves de-
stroyed him of the sight in one eye.
His physical condition since had
been a cause for worry but it did
not prevent him from carrying out
his usual duties in the Probate
Court. It was believed that a com-
plete rest would cure him of his
illness. So he was advised to go
to bed for weeks ago. While he
was in bed he was seriously illing
his condition was not considered
critical until Saturday.

BROOKS RETURNS FROM MEXICO, LEAVES AGAIN FOR NEW YORK CITY

The task of overcoming space is
of Brooks' chief duty. He is
back for the aircraft division of
the Ford Motor company who after
returning to Detroit from his
trip to Mexico City with Mrs.
Evangeline L. Lundberg took a
week's rest, then boarded off
for New York City where he will
attend the automobile show. He
is due to arrive there today.

Brooks' return trip from Mexico
city was forced to land there
because of the party thrills galore, the
weather being so severe that the
plane was forced to land in a race
track near Rocky, Ind., and the
other was in a small field north of
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PONTIAC
Many of Detroit's successful
merchants are buying and
improving Pontiac business
property because they see
another profitable market in
this G. M. C. industrial cen-
ter. No city is growing in
greater strides.

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ROTARIANS TO
DANCE TONIGHT
Annual Club Frolic To Be Held
In Bloomfield Hills
Inn

BIRMINGHAM
THEATER ADDS
VAUDEVILLE
Announcement is made today by
Russell Chapman, manager of the
Crawford Birmingham theater that
starting Friday, Jan. 11, four acts
of vaudeville will be part of the
regular Friday night program.

Service Held For
Judge Stockwell
(Continued from Page 1)
The wars of the Revolution and of
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He was a member of the Georgia
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