

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

(Founded in 1878)

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THURSDAY, JULY 5, 1928

NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events which are newsworthy and which are written by persons well connected with the editorial staff of the paper. All copy must be in the office before 12 noon. The staff reserves the right, however, to make such superficial changes in the copy as may be necessary to make the copy more readable. The mechanical situation in the composing room, however, is such that those other than members of the staff cannot be used.

Birmingham Is Incomparable

Two thousand and fifteen miles of gravel roads, dirt roads, tarred roads, and concrete pavements cover quite a stretch of old Mother Earth—not a stupendous distance to be sure, but enough to afford a glimpse of numerous township, cities and villages. We haven't counted them, but we would be safe in saying that, on Ye Ed's recent trip through Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, we probably went through 150 communities, some of them with a mere "four corners," and many of them the size of Birmingham; aside from any sentimental attachment we have for Birmingham, we are perfectly willing to confess that at no time did we find any of the communities, comparable to Birmingham in size and population, that surpassed or even equaled this village in the many qualities that go to make up a social and business center.

For type of business and residence construction, for quantity and quality of public schools and other civic buildings, for condition of streets, none of the places we went through are superior to Birmingham—a remarkable thing, too, when you consider that this village is in a constant state of change due to its growth.

However, we must confess that, as we entered Birmingham from north Woodward avenue last Saturday afternoon it did not look like the village we left 18 days before; instead of the beautiful trees that used to decorate the avenue we saw what at first looked like the remains of a forest fire—for the trees seemed to have grown into blackened poles, and houses looked queer without the foliage in front of them.

And then we thought of some of the places we had gone through where still remained the stately trees on "Main Streets"; places, however, where blackened stumps bounded the area about them, and we thought how gladly would the residents of such places have been willing to have their trees cut down if they were the recipients of the material prosperity that Birmingham enjoys.

It seems that the old adage "you can't have your cake and eat it, too," holds true in community life as it does with the condition of the cook's pantry; Birmingham is enjoying a material prosperity that is resulting in physical progress, and the process is the cause of our loss of many of the older heritages of this community. It is to be hoped, though, that the remaining members of Birmingham's timber family will be spared as flying automobiles cry for street surface—for, as we have previously stated, Birmingham without its trees would not be Birmingham!

Now Settle It, Pat And Tom!

Upon our arrival in Birmingham last Saturday we glanced through several Michigan weekly newspapers, and came upon some editorial comment in the Iron River Reporter, published by Pat O'Brien, in the Upper Peninsula. In his comment "The Old Man" properly bawled us out for some inaccurate statements we made relative to the size and value of his beloved city and county.

Pat, please accept our apologies. If we stated that your county has only 20,000 population when it actually has 27,000, we are sorry; if we mentioned that the assessed valuation of Iron County is twenty millions and you say it is 18 millions, we are sorry with you in the added wealth. But, in defense of ourselves, we ought to tell you that the figures we used were obtained from Tom Conlin, publisher of the Diamond Drill at Crystal Falls. (Now we suppose Tom "will own us out" for not getting his conversation straight.)

If we uttered and published the story that Crystal Falls contains 5,000 people and neglected to say that Iron River boasts 7,000, and is the largest city in Iron County, it was merely an oversight, Pat. In spite of the fact that we unwittingly underestimated a few things about your dear county, you have never found us in the mood to let our country "bleak and barren," have you, Pat?

And that certainly ought to compensate for anything—yes, anything—that we might say about Pat O'Brien, Tom Conlin, Iron River, or Crystal Falls. And now we'll watch Pat's and Tom's newspapers to see how the Irish settle their differences.

The Presidential Outing

Chase S. Osborn, former Governor of Michigan, and perhaps one of the best informed minds in this country on out-door life, said last week that "it was a great injustice to the north country to induce the President of the United States to spend the summer in a cedar swamp on the Brule in northern Wisconsin." Mr. Osborn believes that there are other spots in northern Wisconsin and in Michigan that are better examples of the northern territory than the Brule, and would focus the nation's attention upon them through Mr. Coolidge's presence.

Undoubtedly, Mr. Osborn is right. But even a President of the United States sometimes finds it impossible to pick out his own vacation spot and,

though the "mosquitoes and black flies may abound in the Brule cedar swamp," Mr. Osborn has overlooked the fact that Presidential vacations are very often spent where they may work the greatest advantage for the particular political party that is in office and seeks to remain there.

However, Mr. Osborn should find solace in the knowledge that, though the Brule district may be uncomfortable to man or beast, it at least confines its predatory agencies to quadrupeds, centipedes, and things that fly—and not to two-legged beasts that prey upon the patronage of a nation's coffers.

And Mr. Coolidge is entitled to spend his vacation where predatory animals are least dangerous.

Congratulations, Midland

W. Roy Crissey, editor and publisher of the Midland Republican, last week held an open house celebration in order to acquaint the people of Midland County with the new home of the Republican. Editor Crissey also issued, in conjunction with the event, a splendid 24-page newspaper, showing in detail the interior of the Republican's new home and its mechanical equipment, and also containing many commendatory messages from citizens of this community.

We congratulate Mr. Crissey upon the success of his newspaper property, and forecast a long career of community usefulness to the son of the late Crissey, Sr. who, for nearly fifty years, watched over the destiny of Midland's journalistic institution. And we congratulate the citizen of Midland for their fine support to so worthy a journal as the Midland Republican.

No Parking

The habit of double parking on Maple avenue is causing a considerable amount of traffic congestion in downtown Birmingham which police are doing their best to eliminate but are powerless without the co-operation of the motorists.

Courtesy has a large place in the habits of the motorists of Birmingham. The "rough and ready" driver who cares little for the rights of pedestrians and other motorists is not common in the village. He is a decided exception.

Thus, it is almost strange to see that the street is blocked, practically to traffic, by those who park double.

Aside from the inconvenience it offers to other motorists, the practice is a severe handicap to the fire department whose trucks often have to use Maple avenue in responding to an alarm.

All things considered, a great deal will be done for the general good of the village if motorists will co-operate with the police in keeping this important thoroughfare as clear as possible.

A FRENCH POET ENTERS the cage of a nervous lioness each evening and reads a list of his odes to them. The poet claims by appealing to their artistic sense he thus conquers their desire to tear him to pieces. Thus may you cow a lion. Poor, helpless things. (A Daniel come to judgment?)

IT IS REPORTED that beer served in Prague is so good that it requires that hours of the prospective consumer to consume it. (The cafe-keepers are losing trade, and seek a means of increasing business. Question: if good beer is hard to drink, why does Detroit drink so much beer? Too bad, isn't it?)

SOME PEOPLE BELIEVE that women, in the sale of themselves to the masculine members of society, are severe merchants. In such a monopoly, the axiom that "competition is the life of trade" serves to keep the prices down.

FERNDALE, OUR CITY of the south of Birmingham, will get a million dollar tube factory. This is good news for Ferndale, most of whose population depends upon such industry for employment. Royal Oak, too, would like a big factory. However, Birmingham does not want a factory, as it prefers to remain strictly residential. A zoning order here would insure its residential preference.

NOW THAT CHRYSLER has absorbed Dodge in the automotive industry, there will be much crying of Dodge and some dodging of Chryslers. That will result in the General condition of Motors of such a nature that all of us can a-Ford an automobile.

NEW YORK CITY EXPECTS to contain 21 million people by 1965, an increase of 12 million. Such expectations even exceed the famous statement made by P. T. Barnum. What a lonesome crowd they will be.

AN IRISHWOMAN, AFRAID to trust a bank with her life savings, hid it in a rat in the attic of her home. When she went to look for it she found that the rats had gnawed the entire \$900.00 into shreds. Thus does an unerring Nature reveal to the whole world the secret place of a person who—lacking trust in her fellowman—refused interest on her money from a banker. Such news is good advertising for banks.

PRINCESS HOHENLOHE-SCHILLINGS-FURST has succumbed to the cigarette advertising campaign that is now sweeping the tobacco fields clear of everything but weeds. She praises the aroma and flavor and smoothness, etc., of a cigarette of the little white cigars, agreeing that she never coughed once. However, perhaps she will when she starts in on the second carload. Still, you never can tell with a name like hers.

A Holiday

The roses climbing on the old porch rail  
Sing rapturous songs of laziness to me,  
And bid me linger near to them, to see  
Their beauty, and their fragrance to inhale.

The row of maple trees along the lawn  
In murmurs low entreat me to come out,  
The hollyhocks an invitation shout,  
And all the birds have called since early dawn.

I'll fill the living hours with rest and play,  
No clock nor gong shall summon me to toil  
And all my dreams of gaudy display  
Today is mine, a carefree holiday.

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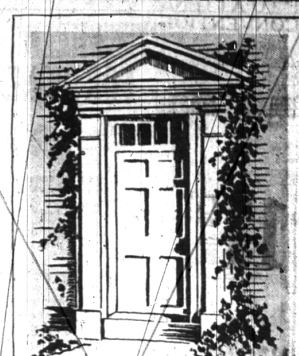
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six silent alarms. Eight alarms within the village limits are recorded and two within the township, totaling 10 alarms for the month, reports by Vernon Griffith.

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STUDEBAKER  
MODELS NEW

Announcement of the addition of many new features of beauty and refinement to Studebaker's line of world's champion automobiles was made here today by Claude Mosher, local Studebaker and Erskine dealer. Concurrent with the announcement, the new automobiles were revealed to the people of this city in the Studebaker-Erskine showrooms on west Maple avenue.

The new cloak of beauty that Studebaker's quartette of champions—The President, Eight—which is offered at a new low price; the world's champion Commander; the Dictator; and the Erskine Six. There is a variety of body types and color combinations which will win favorable applause and fit the taste, temperament and treasury of any motorist, masculine or feminine. "Studebaker-built cars, having demonstrated their speed and stamina by winning every official speed and endurance record for fully equipped stock cars, Studebaker determined to match the outstanding performance qualities with beauty of design, which would be equally pre-eminent," said Mr. Mosher. "I believe every motorist will be pleased by these new automobiles."

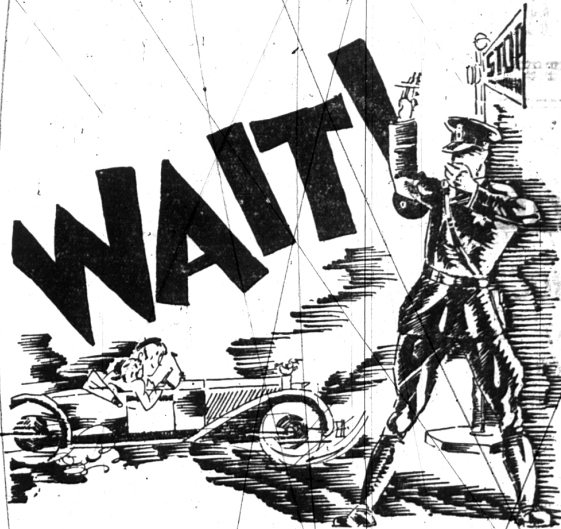
FIRE REPORT  
CITES LOSS

Total Damage To Property In Month Is \$200

A property loss of \$400 from fire during June is recorded in fire reports made public today. Insurance covered \$200 of this loss, leaving a total loss of \$200. Loss on property in the township during the past month amounts to \$5,200 with \$3,000 of this covered by insurance, leaving a total loss in the township of \$2,200.

According to the monthly report, \$65,000 worth of property in the village and township was endangered by fire during the month.

During June the department answered four general alarms and



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