

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC (Founded in 1878)

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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.

Political Relaxation The Eccentric hopes, following the elections, that Birmingham and Bloomfield Township people and officials will unite to enjoy years of the greatest prosperity and harmony in the history of these institutions.

There have been differences of opinion in the past in Birmingham between its people. Few other communities of this size, in fact, are so ready to become excited over local problems.

The people who have selected Birmingham as their home do not understand why it is necessary to have so much trouble in affairs of government.

The officials elected Monday are capable and honest. The people of the village or fortunate that affairs of government are in the hands of commissioners of this type.

Actually there is little to worry about now and the wise thing seems to be to join hands and relax in the labors of community development.

Brooks Memorial Approval of school officials has been given to the plan of placing a tablet commemorating the accomplishments of the late Harry J. Brooks in the Baldwin High School and it remains now for the friends of the late tablet to take steps toward bringing about the project.

The tablet will serve two purposes. It will commemorate the life of the young man, serving as a testimonial of Birmingham's appreciation for his works and her sorrow at his untimely death, and it will be an inspiration to the other students of the college. It will be a small monument to achievement—an ideal at which they all may aim.

Crime Correctives A robber in Pontiac who made it a practice to rent a room in a home and then loot the residence was given a heavy prison sentence after pleading guilty and making it possible for police to recover most of the things he had stolen.

Soon after his conviction, when police were about to relax in the belief that the long sentence would be a lesson to other persons inclined toward stealing, the owner of another rooming house reported a similar robbery.

All of which seems to bear out a belief we have long cherished: that criminals are not daunted by the prospects of long terms in prison or capital punishment.

The second robber in Pontiac more than likely reasoned like the first, that he would never be caught.

This, we believe, goes to show that the manner in which we deal with criminals reeks of ignorance. Our police and our judges have as little understanding of the criminal and the causes for the crime he commits and a possible remedy for the situation as they have of the mental activities of an inhabitant of the moon.

Meantime we go along being a barbarous, self-sufficient and thoroughly oblivious lot of people—and that is about all.

The Bridge Builder An old man traveling a lone highway Came at evening cold and gray To a chasm deep and wide. The old man crossed in the twilight dim. For the sudden stream held no fear for him. He turned when he reached the other side And built a bridge to span the tide.

"Old man," cried a fellow Pilgrim there, "You are wasting your strength with your building here. Your journey will end with the ending day. And you never again will pass this way. You have crossed the chasm deep and wide, 'Why build a bridge at eventide?'"

The builder raised his old gray head, "On a path I have come," he said "The follows after me today. 'A youth whose feet will pass this way. The stream that has been naught to me. To that fair-haired boy a pitfall be. He, too, must cross in the twilight dim. Good friend, I am building the bridge for him.'"

Choose For Yourself

A few weeks ago we published a letter from one John S. Hemphill, who recently lost his son in the Nicaraguan embryonic warfare, to President Coolidge. In his letter Mr. Hemphill insinuates that the warfare is being staged by this country for the benefit of Big Business in Wall Street.

Our good friend George Boutwell, of Lakeview avenue, who tries to keep himself posted on all questions, both local and international, hands us a current copy of The Outlook Magazine, and refers us to an article captioned "The Street of Finance," or "What is the Truth about Nicaragua and Wall Street?" This article, written by Thomas H. Gammack, certainly sets up a reasonable argument against the popular belief that Wall Street is concerned with the Nicaraguan warfare, or any other battles that ever took human life.

Personally, we are willing to believe that Wall Street certainly is not desirous of waging a war in Nicaragua; Wall Street, although it has much money at stake in Nicaragua, feels that it can make greater profits in time of peace than when soldiers hold the land. Mr. Hemphill's letter to President Coolidge is, of course, exaggerated in this respect; but it does prove the popular conception of modern war and its origin when it indicates that there always follows in the wake of Mammon his very good fellowman, Mars, the god of war.

In other words, the Nicaraguan situation shows the perfect regularity and orderliness of the cause and effect of too much materialism; material things exist mainly for the purpose of decay and decomposition—and war is but one of the methods of hurrying up the process.

Respecting The Trees

In "The Sharpshooter" column of the Lansing Capital News on day last week there was published a fine bit of comment on the preservation of trees. In view of the fact that this fine old village of Birmingham, due to the demands of modern "progress" (3) being made upon it, is menaced with the necessity of beholding some of its trees, we think the article referred to is especially timely. The Warren C. Hull memorial was about 41 years ago, superintendent of Birmingham's public schools, and is probably remembered by many of the older local and nearby citizens. Here is "The Sharpshooter's" comment:

Trees have made history in Michigan. Trees were used to describe boundary lines long before Michigan became a state. Original territorial surveyors drove their stakes. Then that there might be a double check they marked a nearby tree.

The location of the tree to the stake was carefully recorded. It was sent back to Washington with every report.

Most of these marker trees have been cut down or have become the victims of time and storm. But some of them are still standing.

They have history written on their ancient trunks. They should be beacon lights of conservation. They should be cared for and preserved as long as life is possible for them. They are an heritage.

This idea of preservation is not our own. It comes from Warren C. Hull of Lansing. Mr. Hull suggests a simple marker on these old trees.

He suggests the conservation department hunt them out and care for them.

The idea is valuable and beautiful. Those that are still left can be found by search of records and search of land.

In Ingham county the search is already begun. A. N. Bateman, county surveyor, is hunting for the old marker trees.

If one is found in Ingham county, it would be worthwhile for the county to start the movement. A county marker could be placed and the state could put one with it later on.

Let's keep our tree monuments of history. And care for them.

HELEN ANNA SMITH, of Brooklyn, N. Y., is causing a stir by her activities in the field of evangelism. Helen is eight years old. She has the distinction of being the youngest child in the world, so far as is known, to spread the teachings of Christ. This is something that may well be remembered when people tell you Christianity is on the wane.

WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT, former President of the United States, and now Chief Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court, opines that athletics is the keynote of college life today; he believes that it is a poor substitute for the intellectual goal which was set for students in the days of old. From this one would infer that the modern college is a gymnasium or an athletic field—which it is, around Thanksgiving time each year.

Rev. Sidney D. Eva, Mt. Clemens preacher, formerly of Farmington, told the Exchange club of America in a place recent that the ministers of America will never again permit themselves to be induced to put idealism into "war." He intimates that the clergy has been fooled long enough by "big business," but now "his eyes opened." We shall see, Rev. Eva, we shall see.

Monday was a fine Spring day—and a fine day for the voters to get out. Even the sea, south of an automobile tire in the mud at the Harmon street voting booth was familiar to the ears of local citizens.

Tom Davis, Hazel Park school superintendent, remains in office despite his opposition to long skirts. Evidently the school board members have synchronized their minds to the changes of Dame Fashion. In other words, they are willing to view their faculty in a clearer perspective.

"Yes, sir," said the flaxen haired young thing as she stood upon the steps of Voting Precinct No. 1 in Birmingham Monday afternoon. "Yes, sir, of course I am for women—just as Henry George was for men."

THE 1928 ELEPHANT HUNT



The Other Chap Says Something

Several things have happened lately that have made us wonder if the boys of today are getting what is good for them. We have pondered considerably over the question of whether or not our boys especially, were learning the value of work. Do they know how to work? Will they be discouraged when they find that no matter what other qualifications they may have, hard work will be necessary to succeed in any endeavor?

With that thought, we wish to relate a story we heard in Lansing last week Thursday. Three men were seated together in the meeting of the Republican State Central committee. One was Hon. Phillip Colgrove of Hastings. He is the father of L. E. Colgrove, Birmingham realtor. (Some mention was made of the appointment to the supreme bench "I want to tell you the story of Will Potter," said Mr. Colgrove. "I think you will find it interesting," he said, and we will leave it to our readers, especially the boys who may read this, if it is not.

As we remember it, this is Mr. Colgrove's story: "One evening over forty years ago, a man named O'Donnell and I were campaigning. We were out in the Maple Grove district in Barry county, and I think I was going to make a speech that night, and before the meeting started and as the crowd was gathering, the director of the district and I were visiting.

"See that long-legged boy over there?" asked the director. I looked at the lad he pointed out. "Mark in Barry county, I think of this world," he stated. He then told me how the boy's father, Captain book-learning. The boy wanted a high school education. The old captain finally consented, stipulating that the boy should live at home and walk to the school. The nearest high school was in Nashville, seven miles away. Night and morning Will Potter walked to and from his home in Maple Grove township which was about fourteen miles each day.

"I don't know how much extra he did nights and mornings. He held all school at home on Saturdays, holidays and during the summer vacations. When he graduated from the Nashville high school he took the examinations to qualify himself for teaching in that school. Several years, the last place being at Harrison, county seat of Clare county, that is where he met and married Mrs. Pottes and where their first child was born.

"In spite of the meager wage paid teachers in that day, and the fact that he now had a wife and child to look after, he could not start to gain a university education at Ann Arbor. In due time he was taught school following the sending of "rood-will dolls" to Japanese youngsters last year.

The railroad journey between Vienna and Venice takes 18 hours but can be made by airplane over the mountains in three hours.

Clifford Hill, 9, and Alex Rank, 11, plunged over a 100-foot canyon while climbing near Toronto, but landed in a snow bank and were only slightly bruised.

WHO'S WHO AND TIMELY VIEWS

Monogamous Marriage Discussed by DR. VALERIA H. PARKER (Dr. Valeria H. Parker, of New York City, is well known for her lectures and work on social hygiene. She was born in Illinois, studied in Ohio, married in Massachusetts, fought for suffrage in Connecticut, and has lectured on social hygiene throughout the country. Dr. Parker was at one time chairman of the social hygiene committee of the National Association and now is director of the department of social morality of the National Woman's Christian Temperance Union.) There is nothing new in the recommendations of those who advocate unions of men and women which may be transitory at will and which attempt to free the man and woman concerned from financial and family responsibility. In various ways, through the ages, such unions have been tried and found wanting. Both church and state declare permanent monogamous marriage the sole foundation upon which mating should be based. The ethical principles involved are at one with the biological and psychological factors concerned.

The highest development of human love is found in that relationship which fosters mutual delicacy, forbearance, and responsibility. To forswear the fruit of love in attempting union without child-bearing is to stultify its finest development and to ignore the responsibility of the parent. Science insure the possibility of repeated physical union without parenthood.

No satisfactory substitute has been found for the rearing of the young by the two parents who are responsible for their existence.

The solution for the problem of an increasing number of unhappy marriages lies not in the legalization of sterile and transitory unions but rather in sex character training and better preparation for marriage and parenthood. This has too long been neglected by healthy church and school, the most important factors in child training. Until all three fulfill this responsibility, we shall see an in-

Masonic Leader

Miss Elsie Thompson and E. W. Sawyer, mutes, of Dover, Eng., were married with the sign language, and the two of the bridesmaids and the best man were also deaf and dumb.

During three months ending with January the Ontario government paid out approximately \$50,000 in bounties for the destruction of 3,310 wolves.

American school children will send hundreds of "friendship school bags" to Mexican children following the sending of "rood-will dolls" to Japanese youngsters last year.

Samuel S. Forstner, of Schenectady, N. Y., is the newly elected grand high priest of the New York chapter of Royal Arch Masons.

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

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increased number of unions colored by the false standards and unhealthy emotional stimulation of those who see the relationship thought between the sexes merely in its physical aspect.

The amount of thought and effort now spent in devising methods of physical union without responsibility might better be diverted into channels of conscientious preparation for family life and parenthood.

Those who undertake the most satisfactory of all love adventures, monogamous marriage, will remain together until death separates. From such unions without healthy and well prepared men and women the children of the future should come.

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