

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

(Founded in 1878)

Published every Thursday at Birmingham, Mich., in The Eccentric Building, 126-128 North Woodward Avenue.
Telephone 11 and 12.
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Entered as second class matter in the U. S. Postoffice at Birmingham, Michigan, May 1, 1902.
Postoffice No. 1000.
Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Act of October 3, 1917, authorized on July 1, 1928.
Postpaid.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

(In Outside Country)	(Outside Outside Country)
One Year \$1.50	One Year \$2.50
Six Months .75	Six Months 1.25
Three Months .40	Three Months .65

Advance payment in full is required. Single copies 10 cents. The Eccentric is published every Thursday except on legal holidays. If the subscriber is unable to obtain the paper, he should write to the publisher at once.

The Eccentric is a member of: National Editorial Association; Michigan Press Association, and University Press Club.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1928

NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events which have taken place in the city of Birmingham. All copy must be submitted to the editorial staff of the paper. All copy must be submitted to the editorial staff of the paper. All copy must be submitted to the editorial staff of the paper.

Our New Municipal Building

Birmingham now has a huge symbol of the responsibilities of self-government; it is represented in its splendid new Municipal Building, formally thrown open to the public last Monday. Here is the latest word in municipal edifices, erected at a cost of \$200,000.00, and paid for out of the pockets of the taxpayers whose business will be transacted within its walls.

Perhaps, more than any single argument ever projected in this community, our new Municipal Building will impress the people of Birmingham with the importance of their governmental relationship; for here is colossal evidence of the fact that it requires money to allow society to herd together. The Municipal Building is comparable to the long-trousered suit of clothes which a boy wears, for with it, as with the lengthened trousers, comes a startling revelation of maturity, and the responsibilities that naturally attend it.

It is a far cry from the humble quarters in which our village officers were housed, when this writer came to Birmingham slightly less than thirty years ago, to the fine, new edifice. In the old Baldwin Public Library, at the corner of East Maple and Woodward avenues, there existed the library on the second floor; on the first floor were the village offices, police and fire departments, while at most any place you would find something that belonged to the water department. To say that the former village quarters in the old library building, were not conducive to a sense of great responsibility toward local government—either from elected officials or citizens at large.

Some improvement was made when the village officers were moved to the old double house at the corner of Pierce and Martin streets about three years ago. A dignified, slight, was added to the scene of carrying on the village's business. But this soon vanished when Birmingham's growth, made the new quarters crowded because of increased employee activity.

Now we have the New Municipal Building. It dresses up and dignifies our village government; it is a result of increased interest in village affairs on the part of citizen as well as official.

It is a credit to the people of Birmingham. For it, former president Shain and Commissioners Bell and Ladd created and planned; the people voted the money with which to pay for it, and the present commission (though strictly opposed to it, they finally joined together in hurrying its building operations, and are equally proud with citizens of its completion.

"Off with the old, on with the new," might be applied to the municipal affairs of Birmingham; and may we have, with this transition, the retention, as far as possible, of the quietness and the quaintness, the neighborliness and the friendliness, that were created and sustained by "the old."

A Planner In Our Midst

There arrived this week within the corporate limits of Birmingham a mind that has spent much of its conscious life in municipal planning, a mind whose intelligence the village commission has the power to pay \$5,000.00 for a plan that meets the requirements of this portion of the earth's surface. We refer to Arthur C. Comey, of Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Mr. Comey's task is to look over this community; investigate the natural topography of the land, learn about its traffic hazards and its street surfaces, glance at its park system, determine what its people have of the desires, urges, and impulses and then—well, just produce a very simple, very workable plan to make this Birmingham a veritable Utopia. Some task, you must admit!

Well, the least you can say about the matter is that the village does need a plan. That admits the problem, even though the solution may require a long time to work out.

But hiring a planner is a good move, all are agreed. When he has completed his task, let's all study his recommendations, and diligently seek to apply those portions of it that are practical. In the meantime, let us wait for the report, fervently praying that it may be applied to the betterment of the community that we all call home.

MANY OF THE STATE'S grown-up boys are tramping, tramping, up and down hill in the woods these days, waiting for their "shot." They'll obtain huge appetites, and really feel much alive during the process. Women will do well to remember this: many exercise when they want their husbands to run errands; that is, they will do well to remember the need for exercise of their husbands, and may not do so well in putting over a domestic exercising argument.

"THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF being loved softens the hardest pang, even at the moment of parting; yes, even the eternal farewell is robbed of all its bitterness when uttered in accents that breathe love to the last sigh."—ADAMS.

Our Transportation Comfort

In these days of production and speed, when the average person seeks to create as much in as little time as possible, transportation methods occupy a large place in the public mind. Birmingham and nearby people, for instance, many of whom are engaged in business in Detroit, seek to go back and forth from their homes to their offices as quickly and comfortably as possible. Recently local people were given what they deem the best quality of transportation they have ever had between Birmingham and Detroit, namely: the so-called jitneys. Because of a political decision in Detroit, and probably because of the fact that the old type that they used, and still use, in part. It is to be hoped that, in order to meet the demands of commuters in this area, the Eastern Michigan Railways continue to replace the old buses with newer types; if they do so, they will undoubtedly receive the good will of the traveling public, the only quality of patronage in any line of endeavor that guarantees a profitable relationship between buyer and seller.

This has left the Eastern Michigan Railways, formerly the Detroit United Railway, in practically sole control of transportation between this area and Detroit. During the past week the Eastern Michigan Railways have put on some splendid modern buses—far superior to the old type that they used, and still use, in part. It is to be hoped that, in order to meet the demands of commuters in this area, the Eastern Michigan Railways continue to replace the old buses with newer types; if they do so, they will undoubtedly receive the good will of the traveling public, the only quality of patronage in any line of endeavor that guarantees a profitable relationship between buyer and seller.

Birmingham and nearby citizens (and this feeling obtains all over the world) care not so much what is behind a piece of merchandise as what that merchandise actually is with its great resources, the Eastern Michigan Railways ought to, and probably will, keep abreast of modern progress and thus meet the ever-changing demands of the public in transportation requirements.

Ideals Of Woman

Most of the good things to which man has fallen heir have come from, or directly through, the efforts of woman. Substantial rungs on the ladder of mankind's climb from primitive civilization right up to the present have been turned out upon the sensitive lath of woman's idealism. And now, since women are making a more active interest in government, have the right to vote, we may expect a great many more rungs in the ladder of progress for the whole world to stand upon.

It is refreshing, too, to watch the activities of some women in public office. Florence Allen, of Ohio, is a Supreme Court Justice of that state, the highest public office held by any woman in America. Here is what she says about justice in government—and may her kind increase.

"Sometimes I think what we need most is to get back to the old standards in government," Judge Allen said. "Truly these are new and diverting times. But the old standards remain. You and I are not tested by whether we have flown over the world or dipped under the ocean, but whether we, like Micah, do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God."

"We need above all things a new definition of the word power. We need new political prophets, who will teach us the faith of democracy; who will show us the meaning of constitutionalism; who will unite politics with morality, and who will define the true ideas of liberty. The fundamental problem of the American people is the transformation of their imaginative outlook."

Here's How To Sustain Peace In The World

Here's something that does not happen every day—and it eloquently exemplifies a quality of human relationship that is the basis of world peace. The speaker was "Bill" Wendall, a hardware merchant of London, Canada; the occasion was a charter presentation meeting of the new Flat Rock Michigan, Rotary club Wednesday night of last week. Mr. Wendall three years ago was district governor for Rotary International for eastern Michigan and western Ontario; he has been in Birmingham.

Said "Bill" during his speech: "The day after you folks in the United States had elected your Herbert Hoover President, I chanced to run into my watchman at the factory in London; he was all smiles, more than usual. So I asked, 'Well, Jim, what so happy about this morning?' And Jim replied, 'Well, we elected Hoover, didn't we?'"

And here, Folks, is the additional astounding thing that "Bill" Wendall said after the old of his happy countenance: "... and let me add, too, that Herbert Hoover could have been elected Premier of Canada just as easily as he was elected President of the United States."

This simple remark of "Bill" Wendall's confirms Canada speaking to the United States! And Thank God that the fruits of that kind of thinking reveal three thousand miles of international frontier between Canada and the United States—three thousand miles of two national boundary lines, without a fort or a soldier along them.

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Bill Smith must have a regular runaway for horses on the war path, day or two after his team had their war-dance, Hiram Chaffield's team, ran away taking the same course over the fence through the pig pen, letting William's porkers out into the cold world. Fortunately no damage was done.

Johnnie Dwyer on Anthony's farm. Fooled with a revolver, without alarm. At last it went off; no more to hinder. So did John's left hand fore finger.

At the Hays farm on the Poppleton farm they are having high old times. Company from "In-land" has been over the place. The visitors are the Misses Carson and Mrs. Bailey and two children, all from South Bend.

Maccabee danced at Big Beaver tonight. Rigs will meet the electric cars as usual. Otto Kurth, living near mud mill, fell from an apple tree Tuesday.

We Fed 'Em Once, But We're Not Going to Again



Reed's Valedictory Promises Much Fire

By CHARLES P. STEWART
Washington Correspondent for
Central Press and The Eccentric
Washington—Jim Reed's wind-up series of performances in the senate this next winter will be worth coming miles to see and hear.

It undoubtedly will be the Missouri statesman's valedictory, and nobody who knows Jim Reed makes any question that it will be red hot. Jim probably is the worst disappointed solon who ever arrived at the end of his term. He is not the type of individual to be chastened by it. Any set-back in his fortunes simply makes Jim Reed as mad as a hornet. His setbacks since last June have been the most humiliating in his career. It is a fair conclusion that he is correspondingly sore. In fact, it is certain. He has proved it by things he has said.

Senator Reed is a bad temper, in the most terrific temper on earth. Being beaten for the presidential nomination is not a uniquely painful experience for a public man, to be sure. It happens to quite a bunch of them every four years. Jim, however, assuredly did have defeat rubbed in.

He not only was beaten; he was beaten badly. He wanted that nomination no more.

badly that he stretched the rules of the game pretty far. He appealed for help to various old enemies who gave him a certain amount of encouragement for awhile, building up his hopes until he really thought his chances were pretty good, and then threw him down.

Moreover, by seeking aid from these ancient enemies, he offended his friends. His career ends under a cloud.

In the past, a spell of unpopularity never has worried Senator Reed a bit. He has experienced plenty of it before, and staged a first class comeback each time—a comeback as a man to be feared and admired if not to be loved. On this occasion the outlook is less promising.

The senator is fast nearing 70. Indeed, he will be past 70 before his state has another senatorship to offer, and even then Harry Hawes, who occupies that particular seat now, is sure to want it again.

A come-back at 70-odd is pretty unlikely.

A public career can quite easily be kept going beyond the 70-year mark, but it is harder for a man so far along in life to start a career over again, after a break.

Besides, Jim's former support-

ers are mostly wets.

It is fairly safe betting that they never will forgive him for trying to win dry backing at the Houston convention.

They certainly sat on him hard when he undertook to name his own successor in the senate. That was one of the humiliations he suffered, as a result of his campaign for the presidential nomination.

All in all, we can take it for granted that Senator Reed has a lot of venom in his system, even for him, and the three months of the winter session of congress will be his last opportunity to bite anybody in an official capacity.

When Jim Reed bites, it hurts. His chief difficulty will be to do enough of it in the limited amount of time remaining to him before his retirement. Prospects are that it will keep him on the jump.

The Other Chap Says Something

PRESS AND ELECTION
In the Presidential campaign now ended, the part played by American newspapers may not have been rightly estimated by many whom they serve. It is not a question of editorial policy, or party preference, that is referred to. What the press has done in gathering and printing political news affecting the election has been particularly true of the dispatches sent out by The Associated Press. They have faithfully reported the speeches of candidates and the leading campaigners of both parties; have given faithful accounts of the activities and utterances of political committees, national, State and local; have covered the campaign news affecting the election from all parts of the country, and have done it without partial bias or prejudice. So far as has appeared, not a single complaint has appeared, not a single complaint has been made of unfairness or prejudice in the whole sale and continuous supply of information by this great news-gathering organization. Serving as it does newspapers that are Republican, Democratic and independent, it naturally would seek to avoid anything which might betray a partisan inclination. But to have succeeded so remarkably in giving uncolored political news is an achievement which deserves recognition both by the public and by the newspaper calling.

In other ways fair treatment of party candidates by the press has made conspicuous gains in the present campaign. The habit of printing in full the speeches of political opponents has spread in a gratifying manner. Even still the press organs have come to publish themselves on holding the scales even in their news columns. This is a great advance from the days when it was considered almost treachery to your own party to give the views of the other side a decent hearing. As Dr. Johnson said that in his reports of the speeches of the House of Commons he always made sure that "the Whigs got the worst of it," so the earnest American practice was to see to it that the Republicans—or the Democrats—got the worst of it, not only in editorial content, but in the reports of speaking and events.

The perverse and shortsighted policy has now largely been abandoned. (New York Times).

New well developed by next week. Supply expressed that new water supply will fulfill expectations. The Bill will be effective. To install permanent pump as soon as tests of volume are completed. Actual drilling operations at the new 18-inch well being sunk on village property at Lincoln and South Woodward avenues, has been completed, and testing and developing of the well will be started by the middle of next week, according to D. D. Goodwin, representative of the Layne and Bowler Co., which is doing the work.

62 Issues of The Eccentric \$1.50

ONLY ONE WABEEK SHOP LEFT

Nine out of ten of the shops in the fashionable new Wabeek Building are occupied, and all but three of the offices leased.

This, of course, is a satisfaction to us, but what is still more gratifying is the uniform report of "satisfactory sales" from every merchant we have placed in this beautiful new building.

Colgrove, Buck & Tillotson

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Tell Your Merchant You Saw His Advertisement in THE ECCENTRIC

Friendly Thoughts
By G. Dewey Kimball

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Upon your instructions we assume responsibility for every detail and with experienced care, faithfully arrange and conduct the service with correctness and dignity.

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HE KNEW I like that story of the Yankee journalist who went to interview a famous film star who had just been divorced from an even more famous husband. "Why did I leave him?" she echoed, "Say, did you ever live with a genius?" "Sure," said the reporter, following, "I've lived with a genius."

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