

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

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THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 1929

NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events which have new value and interest... connected with the editorial staff of the paper. All copy must be presented before noon of the day preceding the date of publication...

George H. Mitchell

George H. Mitchell who, with the late Almeron Whitehead, published the first issue of The Eccentric 51 years ago this week, was taken by leaving him to Greenwood Cemetery yesterday, and for the first time in its long career, Birmingham's weekly newspaper goes to press after both its founders have passed on.

When we first heard that Mr. Mitchell had passed on in that endless caravan of pilgrims, we felt strangely silent and alone; for the relations between us were, although separate in active business and social life, welded together through the fact that we were carrying on an institution that he and Mr. Whitehead had created so many years ago.

Whitehead & Mitchell, whose names flew in the masthead of The Eccentric for forty years, and whose lives have left an impress of no mean proportions upon this area, have, perchance, entered into another partnership, in other realms. But we who remain here, who knew Mr. Mitchell, will join their family in mourning his passing.

In the meantime, the world lives on; The Eccentric will continue to go to press each week, as best fits its journalistic obligations to this community—even though the hands that write these lines should stop in the midst of . . . for life takes no notice of death, but lives on, lives on.

Wagging Jaws

Probably not less than 90 per cent of all the trouble, from neighborhood rows to international bloodshed, come as the result of the detestable thing known as plain, ordinary gossip. Someone stops you and begins, "now listen, not that I believe this, but I just heard that Mr. Soandso . . ."; "listen, John, I will be the last one in the world to believe that Frank . . ."; "I do hope that William will not attempt to go there, because some people will start saying . . ."; and on, and on, and on . . . as many forms of presentation as there are people to engage in it.

Perspiring Human Meat

During the coming three hottest months of summer, the great majority of United States citizens will picture the sweating, fattened human meat that is draped upon the mezzanine skeleton of Harry F. Sinclair, whose sins have found him out; for, so we are told, this oily chap is going to spend three months as the guest of the United States government in a jail at Washington, because of his refusal to answer questions asked him during the Senate Teapot Dome investigation.

The Old River Game

The Detroit News is staging a courageous warfare against the rum runner and his ability to land contraband liquor from the shores of Canada. Our sympathies are with the news, but how can it expect the "river game" to be anything but a hummer when the bridge isn't ready yet? Evidently, what is needed in the meantime is the playing of a little black jack, with a dash or two of poker, and a period of solitary still, the cards seem to be stacked against the law enforcing officers who never seem to be on the deck with their clubs to trump their opponents' aces. All of which is not in accordance with Hoyle.

CHARLES G. DAWES, former vice-president of the United States, will soon represent his country in the fashionable British Court of St. James. So that he will not betray the high social position of our country, every good American will beseech Ambassador Dawes not to take his queer peek to Court functions.

For Husbands Only

Ladies, cut this out and place it next to the dinner plate of your former "Knight Errant" husband, (assuming, of course, that the years have brought layers of rust to his once amorous suit of armor), and don't forget to smile sweetly at him as you watch him read what follows. Say, Mister Lockjaw, how long since you were placed a gift at the shrine of Love as your wedding anniversary rolls around, your wife's birthday appears, or some other day arrives commemorating a sentimental or romantic event in your life? A long time, eh? Then why not step out of the role of obedient and servile slave, who have been playing for, for these many years, slip on the tunic of Romeo and bring into the lives of her whom you wedded One Happy Day and yourself something of the Dream Stuff of Life! Become happy again—even at the sacrifice of forsaking the hard realities of material acquisition, and better, moreover, live again in the days of transcendental youth! Tell her you love her, as well as the biscuits she makes; and watch yourself grow happy again.

A Real Problem

Unable yet to devise a practical method whereby all babies that come into the world are caused to become righteous men and women, mankind would seem it necessary to incarcerate some of them in prisons, insane asylums, and other homes of detention. In an effort to make them self-supporting, various manufacturing work has been done in our state prisons, the products being sold throughout the country. In 1928, however, the shipping of prison-made goods outside the state where they are produced, by federal action, thus causing Michigan to popular ways and means of supporting its expected prison population of 33,000. Unless profitable work is found for the inmates, the taxpayers' burden will be increased—for even prison inmates must be given food, raiment, and shelter; besides, prisoners should be employed the better to aid in their reform.

This Perplexing World

Some phase, or group of phases, of the spiritual forces of man has spent many ages digging into the bowels of the earth, erecting intricate systems of barter and trade, building empires, dynasties, the Pyramids, a Sphinx, breakwalls to keep out the sea, ditches to shunt the mountain water to desert wastes, good roads, diplomatic lying, cheating, and man-handling—and now we witness the entire atmosphere of our national Capital immersed in the problem of what position a sister of a bachelor vice-president should occupy in the social life of that gay community. Just think of it—it has required about a century to witness the modern crest of civilization's rise, and all these years there has been in abeyance the ticklish question of Mrs. Gann's place in Washington society. Gee, but the world becomes perplexing at times.

A DAYTON, OHIO, newspaper comments on Michigan's search for a state bird, and suggests that the state legislature create in session for a while longer and we'll all agree on the cuckoo. Now wouldn't that make your eyes flicker and your throat hard to swallow—to think that an Ohio newspaper should start to crow about Michigan when its own Legislature goes on a worse lark every two years!

DID YOU ORDER your new plane at the Detroit All-American Aircraft Show, you high-flyer, you?

SENATOR JAMES COUZENS told a Flint audience the other night that the United States Senate, which endured 112 degrees of summer temperature this summer, as they may remain in session until September 15, and he included Senatorial "hot air," too. We don't blame you for your feelings, Senator, but get think how much better off the Senate will be than Harry Sinclair.

WOMEN'S CLUBS UP in Escanaba have begun a campaign to eliminate the use of advertising as a means of educating the fair sex to smoke cigarettes; the city council over in Holland, Michigan, have signified a willingness to arrest all women and girls who smoke publicly upon Holland's streets. Which reminds us, in and near Detroit, that a new, old-fashioned ordinance to prohibit feminine smoking is the Detroit Yacht Club at Belle Isle.

SPEARING OF TESTIMONIALS for some of the modern advertising campaign, heaven help the celebrities not left us without a guide. A testimonial comes over the world through the manufacturers of the little white cigars. Come to think of it, though, there is a certain quiet dignity about a well seasoned corn pipe that spreads beyond the immediate vicinity of its smoke rings.

UP IN IRON RIVER, where Pat O'Brien gets out the Iron River Reporter, they have good elections, good preachers, bad elections, and bad preachers, good weather, bad weather—in fact, the folks up there enjoy life like the folks in other places. Just now jobless Mr. O'Brien is taking various and sundry jobs at each preacher in his community who is, politically minded than religiously inclined." It would appear, then, that a portion of Iron River's Children of God are being neglected while their shepherd stirs the political pot from which, alas! few crumbs fall to the hungry sheep.

BECAUSE OF A LACK of funds, Chicago schools may have to close May 15, and will not open in September. Chicago's Board of Commerce now probably will issue a slogan to the effect that "Chicago's Children Are the Happiest Children in the World—Come and Live in Chicago."

"HOMICIDE," SOBERLY concludes the Detroit Free Press in a half column editorial last Friday favoring capital punishment in Michigan, "is epidemic in this state today, and is as deadly as pestilence." There are three kinds of homicide, excusable, justifiable, and felonious; in Michigan today, felonious homicide is what bothers the Free Press, we presume, and it would prescribe justifiable homicide as a remedy. "An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth" is the Free Press' policy, thus revealing the criminal element to which it is alluding. "Michigan's Greatest Newspaper" has risen over the long period of 98 years.

AND WHEN THE PIE WAS OPENED



PEOPLE'S COLUMN

The Eccentric is pleased to receive communications for this column, but signatures will be kept confidential upon request.

To the Editor: I have been asked by a friend to give my reasons for capital punishment from a Bible viewpoint, but before going into the question, I wish to tell the story of an old man, who, noticing how long Lincoln's legs were, asked him for a know, even Christ himself said, He came not to destroy the law but to fulfill and keep it. God's law, demands the life of the murderer man's idea of punishment is, in justice. Just a few years in prison and then, pardon the murderer and let him go free to commit another murder.

JOHN MCCARROLL: A study of world conditions and consideration of the part the United States now plays in world affairs, leads to the conclusion that this country has reached its "high tide" in protective tariff measures. In the future, the current of high protective rates will recede and lower schedules will be adopted.

TRAFFIC LAWS: To the Editor: May the undersigned be permitted to use your columns to carry a message to the people of Detroit in a matter that concerns them individually and collectively. Since my appointment as Commissioner of Public Safety, I have had an excellent opportunity to become acquainted with the details of what your Police Department is trying to do in the matter of accident reduction and prevention and in view of the thought upon my own soil. That time has and his subordinates, it seems logical for certain of our citizens to be safety and well-being of the community and not for the purpose of making work for the Police Department or to harass the traveling public.

It is a well-established principle that rules and regulations are necessary for the government of society and that the wishes and desires of the individual must be subordinated to those effecting the general public. Any other arrangement would result in chaos. If our streets are to be made safe for children, young people, the middle-aged and elderly people, the drivers of vehicles must show tolerance and regard for each other as pedestrians and likewise the pedestrian must be considerate of the vehicle driver. It is the duty of each of us to be necessary for the Police Department to do anything more than to exercise leadership in the matter of accident prevention.

The citizens of some cities would like to register a kick for the safety and well-being of their Police Departments show same interest in their traffic affairs. Let us get together and respect to the citizens of Detroit. It is a very poor sportsmanship for any person to register a kick and to act peevish when someone is trying to be of assistance.

Let us get together and support the very men we are paying. Yours very truly, DANIEL T. CROWLEY, Commissioner of Public Safety, Detroit, Michigan.

During its first year of operation the Holland tunnel between New York and Jersey City was used by 42,000,000 persons.

Try An Eccentric Classified Ad.

WHO'S WHO AND TIMELY VIEWS

REDUCED TARIFFS ADVOCATED

By ELMER THOMAS, Senator from Oklahoma. (Elmer Thomas was born at Greenleaf, Ind., Sept. 8, 1876. He was graduated from Central Normal college, Danville, Ind., and DePauw university. Admitted to the bar in 1897, he practiced at Lawton, Okla., from 1901 to 1911. He is owner and operator of Medicine Park, Okla. From 1907 to 1920 he was a member of the Oklahoma state senate and was chairman of the Democratic state convention in 1910. He was a member of congress from the sixth Oklahoma district from 1923 to 1927, and was elected to the senate the last year.)

either the Old or New Testament, as far as I know, even Christ himself said, He came not to destroy the law but to fulfill and keep it. God's law, demands the life of the murderer man's idea of punishment is, in justice. Just a few years in prison and then, pardon the murderer and let him go free to commit another murder.

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Building Income Property

In the past 15 months we have bought and built for the Community Improvement Company, Inc., 15 stores in Oakland County, which are showing a handsome income.

The last of these is a forty foot store at 1248 and 1250 South Woodward Avenue, Birmingham, for the Kroger Grocer & Baking Company.

Through intimate association with merchants constantly looking for new locations we are in a position to develop some splendid income properties of the above character for individual investors.

Colgrove Buck & Tillotson REALTORS

DIRECTORY

ARTHUR L. WEEKS, Architect; McAlpine-Starr, Inc., Engineers - Surveyors; Dr. J. J. Reilly, Dentist; Clare H. Ogden, Attorney-at-Law; Dr. J. S. Donaldson, Dentist; Dr. G. R. Norton, OSTEOPATHIC PHYSICIAN.

hundreds of millions of peoples of the entire world. The United States is now generally regarded as the richest and most powerful and the most influential nation of the earth. Our material wealth approaches a total value of \$400,000,000,000. This vast store of riches is not all in the United States, but is invested throughout the world.

NEARBY and YONDER by T. T. Macey

The Majestic Columbia BOIN a Canadian, in a mountain lake formed by the melting snow which trickles down from the farcical mountains in British Columbia, the great waterway of the Pacific Northwest—the unostentatious Columbia—starts off in a northerly direction, changes its mild sedition, makes a U-shaped bend, flows south across the international boundary line and becomes an American. Winding its way south then averting west, it accumulates dignity as it separates the between Washington and Oregon, 1,200 miles from its source near the little city of Astoria, which claims to have been the first American settlement on our Pacific coast, loses itself in the Pacific ocean, carrying with it the detritus of an empire comprising a quarter of a million square miles. Indian tribes are said to have suspected the existence of a great river cutting down off the eastern divide towards the Pacific in this northern region, but apparently it remained for the discovery of a Boston trader, vessel to discover it in 1792. It originally provides moisture which has transformed barren lands into blooming orchards of renown. The outstanding feature which has made this river far and away, is its spectacular 600-foot long gorge, where it flows down a mighty corridor between a row of oddly shaped peaks on one side and a parallel, basaltic wall, over which massive waterfalls drop their filmy forms on the other, producing one of the most strangely beautiful passageways ever sculptured by the hand of nature. (See 128, Western Newspaper Union.)

Friendly Thoughts By G. Dewey Kimball. As the rain causes things to grow, gentleness brings love to life, turns hope into faith, subdues arrogance, brings order out of chaos and understanding to bewildered minds. Gentleness is a subtle power; it is a pervasive influence; it enters freely where bluster is denied. G. DEWEY KIMBALL FUNERAL DIRECTOR