

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

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Thursday, January 17, 1929

The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events which have taken place in the city.

Editor McMullen Agrees That "Prisons Are Prisons"

A few weeks ago, you will recall, The Eccentric was "taken to task" for criticizing the editorial opinion of J. E. McMullen, editor of the Linden Leader.

Well, the trip was made Friday and Saturday last week. Included in the party were Norman C. Orr, Oakland County's new prosecuting attorney, and Muri H. DeFoe, editor of the Charlotte (Mich.) Republican-Tribune.

Mr. George R. Averill, Editor Birmingham Eccentric, Birmingham, Michigan.

Allow me to express my deep appreciation to you for the invitation you extended me a few weeks ago to accompany a party of friends on a visit to two of our major state penitentiaries.

This statement I made in good faith, believing it was true and even now I believe it expresses the sentiments of thousands on the outside who accept it on hearsay evidence.

Now, of course, after seeing what we saw with our own eyes and hearing what our own ears you naturally want to know what I think about Michigan prisons today.

Our visit to the "reform" prison at Ionia blossomed from my mind all my pre-conceived notions of prison life, especially to those state wards capable of thinking for whom I pictured it to be a place where punishment might, under proper instructions, try to learn almost any trade they might like more time than make themselves useful citizens when their terms expired.

Without going into detail I freely confess that I am somewhat convinced of my erroneous ideas of prison life, as it operates under the conditions I hardly anticipated, and I only wish every boy and every parent might know from inside information what prison life means.

Be A Rainbow, Mr. Nimmo

Harry M. Nimmo, editor of Detroit Saturday Night, should have lived in the grand and glorious days of Salome; he would have made a fine specimen of this little dancer who, in a moment of feminine whim, aided by her mother, called for and received the head of John the Baptist.

As a subscriber to Mr. Nimmo's shiny sheet each week for many years, we have often wondered what would happen to some quantities of his copy paper and every crime suddenly vanishes in Michigan, and every eccentric knitting, whistling, or flower cultivation, futuristic visiting, take up or rug weaving.

Well, something, of course, for a chap of his ability and energy would certainly learn that white light really isn't white at all, but is composed of the amalgamation of the solar spectrum—with just the proper emphasis on the violet end.

Rapid Transit Solved

One of the most important announcements affecting the physical growth of Birmingham and vicinity that ever struck the ears and eyes of local people came last Friday night at the annual meeting of the Royal Oak real estate board at Oakland Hills Country Club; it was the statement by a representative of the Grand Trunk Railroad that his company had definitely determined to inaugurate rapid transit commutator service on its roadbed when the new right of way is completed.

This announcement is, in our opinion, even greater in importance to the growth of this area than the wider Woodward avenue project; for it heralds the advent of a system of transportation for business men that the operation of private automobiles between home and office.

Aided by motor buses and interurban cars, the new commuter trains over the Grand Trunk Railroad will practically settle the problem of transportation between Pontiac, Birmingham, Royal Oak, and other points in Oakland County, and Detroit, and will turn the attention of countless thousands of tired city dwellers toward the open spaces of Birmingham and vicinity.

To paraphrase the famous Greeley, may we soon admonish the good, home-loving folk of Detroit to "go north, young man"—for "it is only along the stretches of the Grand Trunk that you will find there still remains space for the wisest and most play in for the papposes, and lakes, streams and golf courses for the tribes' warriors."

Come on, Detroit! Come on out in God's country and live!

Responsive Citizens

Nineteen Birmingham men, answering the call of their village community to assist in shaping plans and policies for this community, appeared in the Municipal Building last week and organized themselves into working groups; they seek to investigate six local problems, including Charter revision, ordinance code, and fire.

To carry the analogy a bit further, Birmingham has many lusty votes to heed, and many hungry demands to fill; each resident wants public improvement, and men overlooks the bill to be paid—yet each day the good citizen's family grows and must be fed, warmed, and sheltered.

Unfortunately, in handling public business, Birmingham is so organized that each member of its commission is not obligated to give more time to the task; for you must remember that the five dollars you commissioner amounts, if figured on an hourly basis of ten actually, given to the public, is less than an average of twelve to 40 cents.

County Drain Expenses

This newspaper has always sought to be fair in its treatment of public officials; as a matter of fact, when in doubt, it has generally given officialdom the benefit of the doubt, for it does have proof that the average official is often misunderstood when he is doing his best to serve the people who elected him.

More power to you and your up to the minute paper. Who now knows but that we may soon require a daily in our midst and trust that it may be our present entering weekly.

I hereby present my resignation as a member of the Birmingham Real Estate Board, to take effect immediately.

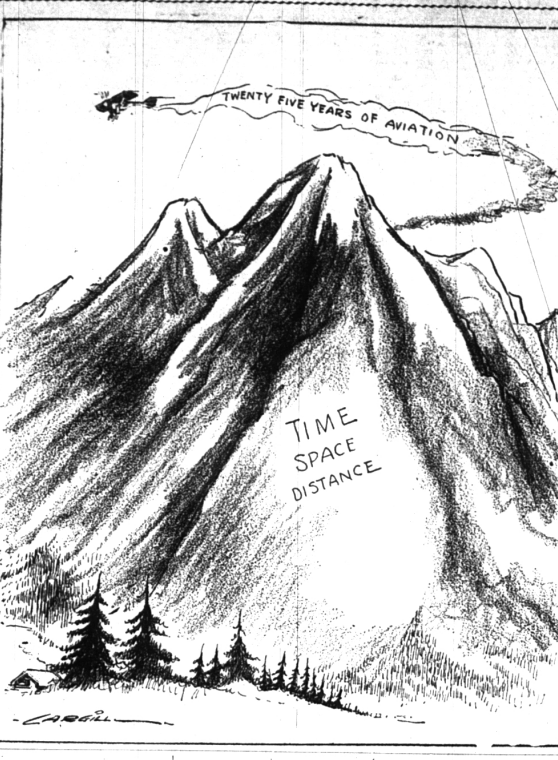
Because I wish to have a thoroughly understood that the above action on my part is taken with malice towards none, I feel that a short explanation should be made.

I call your attention to the fact that I have been a member of said board since its organization. In other words, being a charter member, it would be useless to tell me that I have been in the activities of the organizations, meaning local, state and national, of the real estate that I have derived from its source.

A CLEVER WIT SAYS "my idea of an unsightly package is a man who is all wrapped up in himself." And the more wrapped up one is in himself, the more he is in himself.

THE SUSPICIOUS MAN is one of the most unhappy of men. You find him in politics, in business, in the church and in the home. His unhappiness exists in his being ever fearful that somebody is trying to take an undue advantage of him.

We Have Met The Enemy And He Is Hours!



PEOPLE'S COLUMN

The Eccentric is pleased to receive communications from its readers. All communications must be signed and addressed to the editor.

KIND WORDS

To the Editor: I see that the Eccentric "beat them to it" again and as one of your regular readers I desire to express my warm appreciation for your energetic work.

On my way to Detroit while riding in one of the interurbans I looked diligently through the Free Press for the article referred to by my wife but I found nothing.

When I arrived home that evening I asked my wife to show me the article about the Grand Trunk as I could not find it in the Free Press.

More power to you and your up to the minute paper. Who now knows but that we may soon require a daily in our midst and trust that it may be our present entering weekly.

Respectfully, L. R. NICHOLSON 415 Greenwood Ave.

A RESIGNATION

I have resigned from the Birmingham Real Estate board for the reasons which are stated in the following letter which is a copy of the explanation I mailed the board at the time of resignation:

I hereby present my resignation as a member of the Birmingham Real Estate Board, to take effect immediately.

Because I wish to have a thoroughly understood that the above action on my part is taken with malice towards none, I feel that a short explanation should be made.

THE OTHER CHAP SAYS SOMETHING

THE MAIN REASONS advanced for the increase in bus charge, cannot, in my estimation create volume; this, by adopting such reductions as are working against our supreme objective.

Yours very sincerely, LOUIS HASCALL

WE HEARD IT SAID BY—

WOODWARD AVENUE: "Human intelligence may be compared to the topography of our country. There are the valleys, which represent the depths of moral depravity or intellectual dumbness; then there is the vast sea level plain which typifies the average person; then come the foothills and the mountain peaks, analogous to our outstanding men and women.

THEY ARE DIFFICULT to control. The main reasons advanced for their existence is that they are fast and convenient (if one is not a fool). But these reasons are far outweighed by the objections and by the fact that they tend to demoralize the entire transportation system and make it undependable.

THE WHOLE SYSTEM (or lack of system) on which the jitneys operate is unfair. They accept the privilege of carrying passengers whom they wish to carry, and undertake an equal obligation to furnish service at all times and in all weather.

A REAL OPPORTUNITY For years the election laws of Michigan have been a target for incessant criticism, but little has come of it.

THE MINOR DEFECTS will be easy enough to deal with—such matters as dates and hours, the proper custody of ballots, and the like. The real problem, and the real opportunity, will come when the question of the primary is taken up.

THE EFFECT has been for both parties. It has demoralized party organizers and completely diminished party responsibility.



Remember This! that nowhere in the history of this country, has well chosen real estate in a growing community failed to show a profit.

From a public and non-partisan standpoint, it has not given us a higher average grade of public officials. It has made it harder, rather than easier, for the poor candidate to compete with the one who enjoys the support of a political machine.

It is to be hoped that the commission will deal with the problem courageously and radically. They need not be afraid to, for we believe the legislature and the people will not shy at a radical revision of the present law.

Distance is no barrier to our service. We respond immediately to all calls, and we render a personal sympathetic service.

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For GOOD PRINTING, PROMPTLY DONE, see The Eccentric; or call us on the telephone and we'll see you.