

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

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NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events which would be of interest to the general public. The Editor reserves the right to make such editorial changes in the work submitted as may be deemed necessary.

Rev. Calvin M. Thompson

Calvin M. Thompson, for 12 long years serving man and God as a Methodist minister, one day last week left the clay temple that had been his earthly home for 76 years, and now resides in another "house, eternal in the Heavens, not made by human hands."

Fifty-two years is a long time, when reckoned by the vicissitudes of life, and especially so, we feel, when in the ministry. Though not so long as compared with many, perhaps, in regard to the accumulation of material wealth, we'll wager that Rev. Thompson acquired a host of warm friends; his earthly journey is marked by the good, kind deeds he did for many people in the name of his Saviour.

To Be—Or Not To Be?

Every inch of one's path, in these modern days of physical speed, must be watched to guarantee extreme safety, whether one is walking, or driving a motor car. Even the split portion of a second means enough distance with the ordinary moving automobile, to cause it to cover considerable space, and when an obstruction meets the path of a moving car, whether it be a brick wall, another machine, or a pedestrian, something unhappy and undesired is likely to happen.

Figures just given out covering fatalities in Oakland County for the first five months of this year show that 18 people were killed by automobiles; for the same period last year only nine were fatally injured, making this year's quota just double. In 1927 15 people were killed during the same period. Last year's decrease to nine shows that fatalities can be decreased, if the people who use streets and highways (meaning motorists and pedestrians) exercise more vigilance as they propel themselves from place to place.

It is hardly likely that any person would intentionally, or unintentionally, get in the path of a huge projectile fired from a defense gun, or even point it toward someone in time of peace; yet this is exactly what happens many, many times when hundreds of pounds of metal, made into the thing we know as a motor car, becomes a human being, and is hurled upon the transportation arteries of the world today.

Senator Smoot Burns 'Em Up

In one of the most withering denunciations of a social condition that now confronts the country, Senator Reed Smoot, of Utah, recently told his fellow-members of the Senate that the present trend of cigarette advertising is menacing the very foundations of America. Senator Smoot became so excited about the subject that he uttered the following statements, which we have clipped from the Congressional Record:

"Mr. President, 10 years ago, when in certain quarters of our metropolitan cities a saloon flourished on every corner, when red lights marked houses of infamy, when blazing electric signs reminded the passerby that it was time for another drink of whiskey, no tobacco manufacturer, despite the vast income permitted, had the temerity to cry to our women, 'Smoke cigarettes—they are good for you.' When newspapers were filled with cure-all and patent-medicine advertisements, no manufacturer of a tobacco product dared to offer nicotine as a substitute for wholesome foods; no cigarette manufacturer was so bold as to fly in the face of established medical and health opinion by urging adolescent boys to smoke cigarettes, or young girls—the future mothers of the Nation—to adopt the cigarette habit.

"Not since the days when public opinion rose in its might and smote the dangerous drug traffic, since the days when the vendor of harmful nostrums was swept from our streets, has this country witnessed such an orgy of buncombe, quackery, and downright falsehood and fraud as now marks the current campaign promoted by certain cigarette manufacturers to create a vast national and child market for the use of their product."

Senator Smoot then introduced a bill seeking to place the tobacco and cigarette industry under the Pure Food and Drug Act, thus hoping to eliminate the alleged untruthful statements used in connection with cigarette advertising.

Do Pike Shed Teeth?

In order to shed the nub of what often constitutes the topic of conversation of quite a number of Birmingham and nearby men, we are herewith presenting statements that completely upset the belief that members of the finny Pike family shed their teeth. So, Piscatorial Gentlemen, read what T. Langlois, pathologist of the fish division of the Department of Conservation, has to say on the subject.

"The mouth of our common pike is armed with two types of teeth," says Mr. Langlois, "the upper jaw lacking the sharp canine-like marginal rows that characterize the lower jaw, but bearing instead the binged teeth on the vomer and palatine bones which form the roof of the mouth. These binged teeth may be bent inward and throatward, but not outward, and their function is to allow any fish or other object that may be caught to move along only in the desirable direction—stomachward. Though functionally important, these teeth are relatively inconspicuous, and it is the battery of long, sharp, firmly fixed marginal teeth on the lower jaw that bring the reputation in fishermen's lore of being annually or seasonally shed.

"Specimens of the pike in the collection of the University of Michigan Museum, some taken nearly every month of the year, were examined and all were found to bear the usual formidable array of marginal teeth. Some specimens collected in late July, 1927, by Fortner and Moody of the Paris hatchery had their teeth nearly covered by their gums. The casual observer might easily have failed to see the teeth at all, and here's the reason: the firmly set or ankylotized teeth, not recognizing the swollen condition of the gums. No specimens have been found to be notably lacking in marginal teeth, and none have been found possessing two sets, one displacing the other. Based on these and other observations, the conclusion seems to be that the firmly set or ankylotized marginal teeth of the pike are not periodically shed and renewed, but remain with the fish throughout life unless broken off by an overactive mouthful, in which case they are gone forever. The reports which, in many cases, they are gone forever. The reports which, in many cases, they are gone forever. The reports which, in many cases, they are gone forever.

A Serious Problem

Had he included the fact that the precincts of the average home presents the greatest social problem, resulting in the prison problem, Vern J. Brown, of the Mason County News, might have been correct. Here, Brown, who is a State Representative and lives within a few miles of Jackson State Prison, says:

"Michigan's greatest social problem today is found in the question of prison management. Never in the history of the state has there been so many serving prison terms. Never have those imprisoned been so long in the prison. The economic waste represented in the thousands now languishing in the prisons and jails of this state is appalling. And apparently not one thought is being given by those in authority to salvaging this great junkpile of humanity."

Inproper and incompetent home management, which is allowed to grow up like a garden filled with weeds, is the greatest cause of the evils of our world; such homes are the foundation stones of many prisons.

THOSE WHO FAVOR the idea of selling Birmingham surplus water supply outside its limits on the basis that Detroit does so, must not forget that Detroit has the Great Lakes as a supply, while Birmingham depends solely upon temperamental underground wells.

IN A TWO-SEATER airplane, Lindy has taken his young bride from the east to the west coast of the United States; we presume that he found it impossible to drive with one arm about his wife—and recommend that some romantic motorists become air-minded.

NATIONS, LIKE individuals, have their moments of generosity; and, like individuals, nations often forget to keep a promise. That is why so many helpless soldiers of today, made helpless in the last great conflict, have hearts that beat like withered things—withered things that are dying because they need the warmth of human kindness and the rain of human gratitude to nourish them. War, as Sherman said, may be hell—to many of them who survive it.

A PARIS CONCERN now offers a dog to match the color of every dress it sells. That brings added expense to friend hubby, who must provide food for the kennels. We suggest that babies are cheaper in the long run—one baby will match any dress.

"EASY PAYMENTS" is often used in putting across various of the world's commodities—from small articles to immense bond issues. Sometimes we wonder if the adjective, "easy," refers to articles, bond issues, or people.

IN SPITE OF THE FACT that a level plane has no uneven surfaces upon it, by "remaining on the level" you will soon find yourself reaching higher positions in the structure of life.

LOUIS CHALPIRE, a Belgian, suddenly went insane while his marriage ceremony was being performed. Cynics may say that he wasn't quite right at all along, and only became violent when the fatal words were pronounced.

REST ASSURED, somewhere in this world of quick change the balance of all things is being maintained. For instance, Mrs. Ruth Greenberg, of New York City, was taken to a hospital where it was discovered she had on four suits of winter underwear, three dresses, and a dozen pairs of heavy stockings. That ought to compensate for the lack of feminine clothing in a city of several thousand women.

THREE BEAUTIFUL little children, with their mother and grandfather, were burned to death Sunday morning when another machine collided with their downs in Indiana. In these days, if you would sustain the lives of our children, cease your CONCENTRATION and COURTESY on the highway.

NEW YORK GOLFERS found a killer with four golf balls in its nest, upon which the lady bird was sitting (not sitting). Probably trying to hatch out a new kind of golf bag.

As Kipling Says, It's Clever, But Is It Art?



ILLINOIS' ARMAGEDDON IN WOMEN'S RIGHTS

By ROY J. GIBBONS, Central Press Staff Writer

Chicago (Special)—The Armageddon of American women in the legal battle to remove the marriage restrictions that will strip Uncle Sam's 50,000,000 nieces with a thornbrier in inequally.

The day when the right of citizens of the United States shall be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex is at its sunset. You may take the word of Mrs. C. P. Fowler, chairman of the legal status committee of the Illinois League of Women Voters for that.

And with the dawn of another day, there'll be a new legal deal all the way around, and a new deal for the women of Illinois. Women of this state have started off the battle by pushing through the house of representatives a bill permitting women on juries, subject to a referendum in 1930. Heretofore, there has never been a referendum vote on this subject in the United States, those who operate in making women jurors to serve having settled the matter by court decision.

The Nineteenth amendment to the constitution of the United States, giving women the franchise, neither directly nor indirectly, removed the inequalities and undesirable legal disabilities between men and women," said Mrs. Fowler. "In many states, for instance, it does not operate in making women eligible or liable for jury duty.

Jury service was open to women in three states before 1920. Since that time, by new state statutes or by construction of the 21 state laws providing for women jurors, nine are compulsory; in two states there are special exceptions—for nurses—and in the other 10 states and the District of Columbia, service is permissive.

The Illinois legislature has passed the 'women on juries' bill, and it's up to the women of the state to see that the referendum makes effective their years of patient waiting. If Illinois admits women on juries, it will mean the call to arms of those already existing women. But Illinois women aren't out to change their status and that of their sisters in the other 47 states of the union by the vote of jury service alone. Their grievances are many, and the remedies they suggest drastic. The fight is on, and their position is to strike hard while the iron is hot.

At this juncture, it might be noted to recognize Mrs. Rena E. Fowler, member of the Illinois legislature from the Twenty-fifth district in Chicago, and a leading figure in the League of Women Voters.

THE OTHER CHAP SAYS SOMETHING

Paste It in Your Hat

Vacation time is at hand. Many are teeming away to forest and stream for the annual holiday from the rut in which they live during the rest of the year. Much of the pleasure they will derive from the trip will be determined quite largely by the attitude of others toward them and toward the things which they seek to enjoy. Or, to state the proposition inversely, their attitude toward other vacationists and the things those vacationists are seeking to enjoy, will quite largely determine the extent of pleasure which these latter persons derive from their holiday.

One commentator says, "If they really want to enjoy themselves, as well as make it pleasant for others, they should observe the following code of ethics prepared by Seth Gordon, Conservation Director of the Leak Walton League." We would suggest that they paste them in their hats, and then carry their hats in their laps while touring the country so they can read them frequently. The code follows:

- 1. Your outdoor manners tell the world what you are at home. Don't belong to the public. Respect the property of rural residents. Ask before using it. Don't get into the gates and bars; go around planted fields, absolutely where you are pulling the trigger. Respect the law. Take enough time to get into the game to eat, then quit. Protect public health. Keep your camp and do not litter the highways with trash.

NEARBY and ...YONDER...

by T. T. Moxey

NEWTON CREEK forms a part of the boundary line between Brooklyn and Long Beach. Its navigable length is approximately five miles. Its maximum width is probably 250 feet. Its greatest low-water depth is perhaps 25 feet. Four bridges enable it to cross it at convenient street intersections. It empties into the Pacific Ocean at the mouth of Long Island and Manhattan Island, opposite Thirty-third street, New York City. Its eastern end is near the geographical center and its western end is near the center of population of Greater New York.

By virtue of the fact that its entire length is near to both the Hudson and the distributaries centers of Manhattan and that it penetrates one of the world's leading manufacturing centers, which is growing with astonishing rapidity, this little creek has the reputation of being the busiest waterway of its size in all the world. Statistics indicate that during a recent year receipts shipments via this little waterway aggregated more than 5,000,000 tons of freight—manufactured goods, sand, oil, stone, lumber and ore constituting the chief items, having an aggregate valuation of something like \$300,000,000. More than 10,000 arrivals and a like number of departing vessels were recorded during that time.

Fodder, made from wood, is being used to feed cattle in Germany.

An Unusual Home in Fashionable Quarton Lake Estates. The beautiful new brick colonial home on Puritan Road, just South of Oak Street, is practically finished and open for inspection. Five bedrooms—three baths—large living room—dining room—recreation room and library are all artistically arranged and enjoy all the newest conveniences known to the building profession. For appointment to see this new Berz-built house, telephone Birmingham 830.

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