BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

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GEORGE RODGERS AVERILL - - EDITOR AND PUBLISHER
RAYMOND GIRARDIN - - - - MANAGING EDITOR
PAUL NEAL AVERILL - - - - ADVERTISING MANAGER

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THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 1929

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. All copy must be presented before noon on Wednesdays. The right is reserved, however, to make such superficial changes in the work submitted as are necessary to the style of the paper and as are required by laws of the state. Because of a mechanical situation in the composing room, headlines written by those other than members of the staff cannot be used. Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation which may appear in the columns of The Eccentric will be gladly corrected upon being brought to the attention of the publishers.

Rah! Rah! Raw! Raw! Boom!!

Cannon to the right of them—Cannon to the left of them, but onward rode the Birmingham school board—straight to the Mt. Clemens football game.

The cannon, of course, are the protests of parents of boys who play on Baldwin High School's football team and many other citizens of Birmingham who remember all too well the game last fall. They do not want Baldwin to play Mt. Clemens again after seeing the game last fall. They feel it was not a clean enough game.

However the game is on. But the question arises as to who will play it. Parents of stars on the team will not allow their boys to play.

Perhaps there is little reason to worry. The school board seems so determined not to demand the game be cancelled that its tried and trusty members may turn from getting the bond issues across to summer practice, so they themselves can take the places on the gridiron of the boys who will not be allowed to play.

The positions of quarter and half backs appear to be open. Maybe there will be more. So come on, board of education, devote those Monday evening meeting hours to a little signal practice. There is a nice big vacant lot right next to The Eccentric office that would be ideal for weekly workouts. With the right kind of publicity there will be sufficient cash customers at the game next fall—and that seems to be the object. Let's go!.

A Summer Camp For Our Boys

Oakland County boys, during the years to come, will have much cause to thank a group of men who, looking to the welfare of our youth, have undertaken the proposition of building a permanent Y. M. C. A. summer camp at Loon Lake, up near Hale. With a total capital investment amounting to $30,000.00, to be used for the 400 acres of land and buildings,. the quota of Birmingham and vicinity is $7,100.00; the remainder will be obtained from other sections of Oakland County. This sum of $7,500.00 is, all must agree, small in proportion to the value which will accrue to our youth.

Many months have been spent by Birmingham, Pontiac, Bloomfield Hills, and other men, in a search for a spot suitable for a summer camp for boys; at last the site on Loon Lake, with about a mile of lake frontage, was found, and a contract has been entered into to buy it. Charles J. Shain, local druggist, and long a leader in Oakland County in boys' work groups, is chairman of the County committee that obtained the site; he told The Eccentric yesterday that, of the local quota, $2,500.00 has been subscribed, to be paid over a period of five years. We suggest that you who are interested in the boys of the community, and who wish to aid in the speedy completion of the summer camp project, communicate with Mr. Shain, or Robert D. Lynd, local Y. M. C. A. secretary, about the matter.

This project is one that merits the warm cooperation of all people; it will accomplish much for the youth of this area; it will assist to make boys clean, wholesome, happy, and healthy; and such boys are good influences upon girls, and fine possessions for parents.

MUCH TALK, BOTH ORAL and printed, has been manifest since Dean Johnson, of St. Paul's Cathedral, in Detroit, resigned because of what he termed lack of freedom of the pulpit to preach what he thought proper. In particular did the Dean refer to the situation of serving a vestry, the majority portion of which was wet; because he wanted to preach "dry," as well as other inclinations, he stepped out of the pulpit. The Dean should make a study of the manner in which preachers in the smaller communities handle such situations.

IT HAS BEEN STATED that no man is in a sound position when a socially ambitious wife is running his life. Hardly true, unless the man is deaf or at least hard of hearing, we opine.

NEW TELEPHONE WIRE in the United States is being added at the rate of ten miles a minute, we have just learned from our research department. Which will be welcome news to those who love long conversations.

THE WING OF A HOUSE FLY is used in an extremely delicate instrument to measure the heat in the spectrums of stars, so we are told. Well, that's good news. Here's hoping the scientists will never run out of wings, or housewives out of fly swatters.

NOW THAT THE LOCAL school district is to have a real swimming pool in the new Barnum school addition, we suppose our educational attainments heretofore will make a bigger splash in scholastic circles. (Members of the school board will now become engaged in fixing a standard bathing suit for feminine users of the tank, while we suppose the local board of trade will begin plans for picking Miss Birmingham for the annual board walk parade at Atlantic City.)

The Parent-Teacher Council

In spite of the recent dissolution of the local Parent-Teacher Council, an organization composed of officers from Parent-Teacher units of the six Birmingham schools, we are unwilling to believe that this vacuity of parental interest is a true reflection of the intelligence of the parents of the children who attend our schools; we are inclined to view it merely as a temporary lull in the program of those who send their children to school, and pay heavily in the process.

According to Mrs. Fred W. Johnson, late president of the Parent-Teacher Council, "Birmingham is too highly organized for the Council to continue. Our action was caused by a lack of interest in the Council and the fact that the village is over-organized. There are so many organizations which take the time of women, and naturally they attended meetings which seemed the most urgent."

If Mrs. Johnson's explanation is a complete picture of the situation, then a pathetically serious condition has come upon this area, for we can think of few "meetings" that dot one's social calendar of more importance than the utmost cooperation between parents and teachers.

From entrance to graduation in a school system is a long road in the life of boys and girls; with a few exceptions, it is a rather un-romantic route to parents—just as much of life is wanting in thrills and sensation. Yet this very seeming dullness about it all is what makes it natural, and permanent; and happy are boys and girls who have behind them a group of parents and teachers always loyally watching, waiting, and praying for their steady, even though quiet, progress toward a day when they, too, may be fitted to care for themselves.

This district may be over-organized; yet it may be under-organized as well.

A New Edifice Of Life Wanted

Clarence Cook Little, retiring president of the University of Michigan, offered up a brave swan song to students last Sunday morning in a baccalaureate sermon in Hill Auditorium. The highly mechano-scientist, who is about to leave for a small island off the coast of Maine, where he will spend the remainder of his life trying to discover a remedy for cancer, made some startling statements to his audience—most of which had to do with the inability of orthodox religion to meet the needs of the family of man.

To say the least, Dr. Little's declarations about God being The Great Unknown, forever unknowable and inscrutable, left his audience of youth somewhat bewildered—albeit they (some few of them, at least) may have had a chain of thought stirred within themselves that some day may bring fruit. The young university president, although he plainly shows that he, too, is but little progressed beyond the floundering salamander stage of incoherent civilization, is a brave man; he has proved, as well as any we know today, that man will only progress when he questions the smug complaceny of temporary things that crumble, and seeks to put in their place the enduring foundation stones of Truth. Dr. Little has done Michigan, as well as the entire United States, a real service in his candid willingness to crusade for a New Edifice of Life.

On Finding A Job

Jobs are what men and women work at in order that they may gather from the service that the jobs create a sufficient amount of this world's medium of exchange with which to pay for food, raiment, and shelter. Some people are engaged in work that they love; others, not having found themselves, are "square pegs in round holes" while trying to "find themselves." Then there is the one who is out of work most of the time—seeking, ever seeking, for a certain kind of job that never appears; such people are like hungry animals looking for food upon a desert waste. To do the task at hand quickly and well, trusting to be led into work that better meets the demands of your soulful dreams—that is the successful way of life. A little more real trust in the Lord will nearly always guide one's life into happy circumstances and surroundings—even into mere jobs.

HERE'S A SUGGESTION for tired backs: after weeding the garden you may get rid of the kink in your back by painting the ceiling, or vice versa, as they'd say in classy circles.

MUCH JUSTIFIABLE CRITICISM has been heaped upon the W. C. T. U. and other prohibition groups because of occasional fanaticism, as manifested upon occasion by some extreme dry point of view; fanaticism may be found, we have observed, within many of the world's movements. This includes the apparent consistent effort made to discredit the prohibition laws by Robert H. Clancy, Detroit Congressman, who takes every opportunity to lambast the arid intentions of those who stand for the observance of law. We wonder if Mr. Clancy completely lives up to his oath of office.

ACCORDING TO EDWARD Filene, Boston merchant, Henry Ford deserves the unstinted praise of the world for embarking upon the five-dollar-per-day wage scale for his workers some years ago, because, holds Mr. Filene, "Ford has contributed more than any other individual to the change in the motivation of modern capitalism, whereby the prosperity of the masses is sought as essential to the prosperity of business." However, according to "Men, Money, and Motors," the recent book by T. F. McManus and Norman Beasley, Senator James Couzens was the author of the wage increase and its attendant policy.

Sonnet on The G. F. S.

Sweet Friendliness, most beautiful and rare
Cheers sad or happy hearts along life's way,
And Steadfastness with strong and ponderous sway
Retrieves all doubt and weariness and care.
Purity is a blossom white and fair.
Each woman cherishes one slender spray.
O'er all these gems in exquisite array,
Religion lends a redolence of prayer.

A treasure chest of jewels sparkling bright
Kept all untarnished, never dull or dim;
A garden spot with lovely flowers bedight
That bloom to sate the most capricious whim.
Like each of these the G. F. S. acclaims
The best in all its Work, its Play, its Aims.

—BEATRICE MCDONALD

BUT THEY DIDN'T GET AWAY WITH IT!

OAKLAND COUNTY NEWS

"Hitching" a ride on the rear bumper of an Eastern Michigan motorbus may cost the life of a nine year old Hazel Park boy. He is Herman Schmidt, of 1762 east Jarvis avenue. He jumped off the bus and ran in front of a car coming from the opposite direction, deputies report. He was taken to the Highland Park General Hospital.

* * *

Oakland County potato growers have taken an important step toward improving the yield of their 1929 crop through the purchase of certified seed, according to the county agricultural office. This seed was grown under the supervision of trained inspectors from Michigan State College and was submitted to rigid tests before admission to certification.

* * *

Municipal Judge Henry W. Harpster plans to appear in person before the Oakland County Board of Supervisors when that body meets June 24 at which time he will request the adoption of a resolution calling for the appointment of a second judge of the Pontiac Municipal Court.

* * *

The cooperative plan, allowing half work and half study planned by the Oakland Motor Car company and **Pontiac High School** received the stamp of approval of the Board of Education Thursday night. The first class to take advantage of the plan will start June 24. More than 25 boys have already entered the course and several others have made application which is expected to be passed on today. The plan allows junior and senior high school students to work two weeks in the Oakland Motor Car company's plant and then return to school for two weeks' instruction. By carrying this plan through the entire year, they will be able to get a full year's school credit. The course was intended to start with the beginning of school in September but to complete the year at the same time with graduation next June, the start was moved up to this month.

The small number of students entering the course in the first year will allow the instruction to be carried on by regular members of the faculty, Principal Frank J. DuFrain says. If the enrollment increases later and extra teachers are needed 40 per cent of the expense will be borne by the state.

* * *

Accordingto a bulletin issued by H. M. Vaughn, count agricultural agent, through the service of Michigan Sate College, fruit growers will find it necessary to protect nearly all of their plants during the next two weeks.

* * *

Philip Bahler has been refrained from killing his neighbor's cat by an injunction issued in **Circuit Court** to Arthur and Mrs. Mae Ipsen. The Ipsen property in Log Cabin Park subdivision at White Lake joins that of Bahler, but neither party can agree just where. The Ipsens ask the court to determine the dividing line.

* * *

Through the cooperation of the various school districts and the **Oakland County** health department, complete health supervision is now being given school children, according to Dr. V. K. Volk, deputy health commissioner and director of the school health service.

* * *

Negotiations will be started immediately to secure an additional supply of water for Ferndale, the pressure having been greatly reduced during recent warm spells. It is believed that Ferndale will have to join the North Woodward water system sponsored by Royal Oak, in order to secure an additional supply of water from Detroit.

* * *

Royal Oak will again return to angle parking after two weeks of parallel parking suggested by R. J. Whitney, city manager, and William T. Lorimer, chief of police. Petitions signed by 439 taxpayers were received by the commission demanding the return to angle parking. A resolution was passed suggesting a return to the former method.

* * *

J. D. Newsum, finance director of **Royal Oak**, was granted two weeks leave of absence to serve in the United States army at Ft. Sheridan by the Royal Oak commission Monday night. His service begins July 15.

* * *

An ordinance providing for an awning protection for customers entering and leaving barbecues was defeated by the **Royal Oak** commission.

EDITOR COMMENTS ON ARTICLE BY BIRMINGHAM CLERGYMAN

By MURL H. DEFOE
(Editor Charlotte Republican-Tribune)

Apropos of the enlistment of Senator Couzens in the effort to wipe out unemployment, a scathing indictment against certain industrial leaders is carried in the May 23 issue of the Michigan Christian Advocate (Methodist) referring directly to an "Industria Baron" in the hills of Oakland county, Senator Couzens' legal residence. The person must be well known judging from the description which openly tells of the Bacchanalian surroundings and habits of the "Baron" whose factory pays a minimum wage of forty-three cents. The Advocate writer then pauses to inquire:

"Is it Christian that thousands of workers are worse housed and fed in Oakland county than the barnyard animals of the rich? Is a man better than a sheep?"

The author of the Advocate article is Robert Marenus Atkins and it is an address given by him in Detroit in April. He quotes quite liberally from Professor Harry Ward's "Economic Morality." Prof. Ward furnishes the figures of which these are interesting:

More than two thirds of our wealth is in the hands of one-third of our people and one-third of our people live below a health and comfort standard. In 1925 the 95 largest corporations, a little more than one-tenth of one per cent of the total number earned nearly one-half of the net income of American industry. Over 95 per cent of the individual income tax is paid by less than one-third of one per cent of the population and 82 per cent do not make enough to pay an income tax.

Mr. Atkins (he may be a preacher) localizes these figures into powerful arguments for more consideration for the worker. For example:

"Almost simultaneously, not long ago, many of the salesmen of an Adding Machine company suffered salary reductions at the Detroit office and the company declared a stock dividend of 40 per cent. General Motors declares a stock dividend of 100 per cent and the workers buckle up to make increased profits. Has anyone heard of wage increases of 40 per cent or 100 per cent being declared simultaneously with stock increases? Does money come first and labor second? It does in modern industry. It does not in the brotherhood of those who follow Jesus of Nasareth."

On the recent $3,000,000 drive for charitable purposes in Detroit the Salvation Army is to be one of the benefactors. In asking people to give to this fund the following direct appeal was made for the Salvation Army:

"Why the Salvation Army? This great industrial age has shortened the span of usefulness. In the struggle of life, sickness in the home, unemployment and innumerable other causes, thousands are reduced to poverty or straitened circumstances. No city can be safe where discouragement and despair are allowed to continue in the hearts of the masses, the hearts of the masses."

Mr. Atkins concurs in this bit of sentimental writing in this fashion:

"Is it your duty and mine to provide for these victims of industry, when industry makes little or no provision for old age or sickness? It is. It is infinitely more our duty and the duty of the Christian Church to call upon industry to lead a new life, following the commandments of God.

* * *

The widely circulated propaganda that workers are stockholders in great numbers is a half lie; it is true in its figures, it is wrong in its implications."

THE OTHER CHAP SAYS SOMETHING

NO "SPORT" IN BASEBALL

"Bucky" Harris, manager of the Detroit Tigers, visited Grand Rapids the other day with his crew of ball tossers and was visited by a newspaper reporter and photographer and gave them a "snoot welcome" according to the editorial columns of the paper. And that particular paper had given hundreds of dollars of free publicity on which "Bucky" cashed. The newspapers make baseball upon which the owners fatten along with their slave contracts. The newspapers depend upon their subscribers to pay the cost of this propaganda, which we think is unfair and unwarranted in results, except to the base ball magnates. There is no "sport" in professional baseball or professional anything else. All are money rackets, all too often mixed with graft. American newspapers are largely playing the "sports" game for the enrichment of those who have no claim on public favor of funds.—Oceana Herald, (Shelby, Mich.)

"SISTER"

We called her "sister" almost from the hour that she first came into our home.

We were young then—mother and I—and just somehow she seemed to be something more than just a baby—she seemed to fit into the niche that real brothers and sisters had held.

How we watched the days before her coming. How we dreamed of the mystery of life, how thankful we were that God had permitted us to share in that wonderful thing.

We have never been disappointed in sister. She has always remained the same to us. She has never given us one hour of worry, not one moment of trouble. What a wonderful thing it would be if all mothers could say that same thing.

Saturday she was married, fulfilling the ideal to which all womanhood looks forward, the natural order of life as it has been decreed down through all generations of humanity.

We hope she will be happy—mother and I—she is deserving of happiness. It was not the easiest thing in the world to give her into the keeping of somebody else, the first born of the household but it has been so willed and we would not wish it otherwise.

She still is sister to us.—Fred D. Keister in Ionia County (Mich.) News.

This Wisdom

Stella—If you had two wishes, what would you ask for?
Maris—A husband.
Stella—That's one.
Maris—And I'd save the other one till I saw how the husband turned out.—Answers.

Keep Trying

The visitor to the suburbs was doing his best to keep up the conversation. Finally he said:

"I hear your volunteer fire company has bought a new engine."

"Yep."

"Have you tried it out yet?"

"Nope."

"What, no fires at all?"

"Oh, yep. Had five fires."

"Then why haven't you tried your engine?"

"Houses burn down 'fore we get there."—Portland Oregonian.

How Come?

The savage desert tribes of Africa pay no taxes, we read. It is difficult therefore, to know what makes them savage.—Everybody's Weekly.

Judge for Yourself

"How is that housewife with her installments? Conscientious?"

"Well, I've known her to let the radio man have the grocer's money."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

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.

Colgrove Buck & Tillotson
REALTORS

Friendly Thoughts
By G. Dewey Kimball

Is there a friendly gate to our character? Does it invite others in to a friendly understanding? Have you a smile of welcome that makes others feel happy and comfortable in your presence?

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