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NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events which have occurred in Birmingham and vicinity. All copy must be presented before noon on the day of publication.

Birmingham's Water Supply

Next month, states village manager James W. Parry, Birmingham will have at its disposal the largest water supply reserve within its history.

We hope that manager Parry's estimate of the future water supply is a correct one; even if it falls a bit short of his estimate, it will be a valuable addition to the city's water supply.

We wish to commend the village commission which three weeks ago refused to give water to a nearby subdivision, in doing this the interests and property of Birmingham citizens were being protected.

Birmingham needs to conserve its own water supply.

The Price of Booze

Aside from the actual cost of manufacturing modern commercial booze, a number of other situations enter into the distribution of it.

Cost of manufacturing. Bribes for railway officials. Cost of transportation under a heavy guard.

Tribute

The Pontiac Junior Chamber of Commerce paid a fine tribute last week to Harry J. Brooks with the unveiling of a monument to the late young flier at the municipal airport in their city.

Birmingham, the village that knew Harry from his infancy twenty odd years ago, has been talking since his death, more than a year ago, of doing something for the perpetuation of his memory.

Where Taxes Go

A police inspector in Detroit was found guilty of conduct unbecoming an officer. He allowed liquor to be landed on Belle Isle, it is charged, and played many other tricks with the prohibition law.

The man was reduced to the rank of lieutenant and retired at a pension of \$1,400 a year.

We read plenty of criticism these days regarding the occasional slayings done by federal law enforcement officers; often one or more bootleggers are killed, and sometimes an innocent person. The newspapers that play up such affairs never tell you how many people the bootlegger slays with his too often poisonous liquor, some of which kills hard drinkers, some of which causes the death of just occasional tipsers.

Religion And Industry

Man's greatest successes (when viewed in the world's perspective) lie in the realm of things a physical nature; that is to say, things that he can see, hear, feel, etc., whether it be a great school system with its many buildings and equipment, or a railroad, steamship line, or mammoth merchandising establishment.

We have often wondered what would be the status of the world today if man, turning his effort and thought toward only spiritual and moral development, had neglected to expand his inventive ability along mechanical lines, and had directed it only toward some as yet unknown method of projecting his consciousness as far as the farthest star.

But we do know that man, projecting himself in things a physical nature, has achieved a high level of physical, physically at least, has done a fairly good job of it all. There are those who may disagree with this statement, claiming that man yet has a long way to go and could be farther along had he paid no attention to his physical inventive powers.

Take a big industry today, with hundreds of millions, perhaps, invested in plants and equipment; yet within it are men laboring on bench and in laboratory, seeking new ways, new methods, to produce its products better and cheaper for the consuming public.

The quibbling keepers and guardians of the spiritual and moral world can well take advantage of the lessons that industry offers today; yet how many of them hesitate to find a new and better method of gaining a heavenly ether and an earthly heaven because they fear to scrap some of the physical things which they have garnered during their life.

As a matter of fact, isn't it true that the average orthodox church today, is weighted down with its physical wealth to a greater degree (or at least as great) than modern progressive industry?

The Iris And The Pup

The lady had a row of iris—nice, lovely, gray, bronze and purple colored iris, fifty feet long and four feet deep in front of her house. The little boy next door had a pup.

The lady was proud of her iris. Proud that she could add something to the beauty of the town she loved so well, as they bloomed and bloomed and bloomed.

And the boy was proud of his pup, and loved the same for good and sufficient reason, as and what the boy does not. For unconsciously the pup was teaching the boy about life, love, loyalty, and courage and kindness.

Now what are you going to do about it? The lady has a right to her iris. The boy has a right to his pup. The love of a pup is part of the education of the boy. It leads him in the way of truth.

It doesn't do any good to scold the boy and beat the pup. You made boys and pups, and they are good. And it doesn't help the lady any to have a fit and mewow at the boy and the pup.

The town deserves to have its beauty. The boy has a right to teach the truth about life from the pup. For teaching the boy the pup should be rewarded by having his tummy tickled by the way his iris leaves. Here are deeply conflicting rights.

No wonder that Pontius Pilate once looking over a simpler case than this, and sadder, cried "what is truth?" and washed his hands of the whole business. Maybe the angels feel that way about the pup and the iris.—William Allen White in Emporia (Kans.) Gazette.

Old Age And Bands

Old Age supplied its quota to the Hill School reunion last week and Old Age was happy.

There should be more such reunions; more congregating of those who have survived through the many years and who retain memories in common.

One strange thing in life is the fact that the young surround themselves with brass bands and the old stray off quietly toward a modest seclusion.

It should be the other way. A young person can afford to look and laugh at life and death. What is there to sadden youth? Reveries never will.

PONTIAC, so the story goes, must come through with some jack to meet a deficit caused by its recent air tour and municipal airport meet. According to a story in the Free Press last week, the price of 15-cent hot-dog sandwiches was reduced to ten cents, following public disgust with the high prices of meat charged by Pontiac officials.



CUTTHROAT COMPETITION IN ENFORCEMENT EXPECTED

By CHARLES P. STEWART Central Press Staff Writer Washington.—President Hoover's "National Commission on Law Observation and Enforcement"—as it has christened itself—seems due to have cutthroat competition to buck right from the jump.

Two rival bodies of investigators will soon be in the field. Mr. Hoover furnished the inspiration for them, too.

When Mr. Hoover outlined to the country, during the last presidential campaign his plan for an



impartial commission, to investigate the prohibition situation and decide what ought to be done about it, it was generally recognized as a brilliant concept.

However, it appears to have been a perishable idea, which spoiled as a result of being kept too long.

From an assurance of a wet-and-dry inquiry, with a lot of punch behind it, the project evolved into a not-very clearly-defined scheme for a two- or three-year period of dull, uninteresting research work, by a lot of fussy lawyers, into questions of court procedure and rules of evidence—with no more popular appeal than a discussion of the Einstein theory of relativity.

The thing having assumed this form inspite of him—it certainly was not what the president intended at the outset, for it was not what he proposed by a long shot—there was nothing for Mr. Hoover to do but go on and appoint his board accordingly.

Even at that he was unable to get himself out of the jam. He tried and tried, and got refused after refusal.

All but the soggiest kind of honor—all the legal lights themselves with any sparkle or sentimentality or sense of humor.

Does this explain why the "National Commission on Law Observation and Enforcement" adopted a policy of secrecy?—totally oblivious of the fact that publicity is the breath of life to the president's cause in Washington and what a name with such a seven-jointed self at its initial star chamber session? President Hoover gave his commission the once over at the well-known luncheon he ate with 100 eminent lawyers and officials in Washington, and what a trend in thought, with plenty of mustard, of the much abused hot-dog; city manager conventions use such food.

THE OTHER CHAP SAYS SOMETHING

REAPPORTIONMENT

In most of the public discussion of the reapportionment bill it is assumed that the House is bound by a constitutional "mandate" to apportion representatives to conform to population variations every 10 years.

The actual enumeration shall be made within three years after the first meeting of the Congress of the United States, and thereafter every subsequent term of 10 years in accordance with the terms of the act.

Representatives shall be apportioned among the several states according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each state, excluding Indians not taxed.

Power to apportion representatives after this enumeration shall be exercised in 1946 as irretractably as it is being exercised now by the House after every decennial census is now based quite as much on the precedent that was invariably followed until the census of 1920 as upon any mandate or obligation implied by the apportionment clause.

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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.

Friendly Thoughts By G. Dewey Kimball. Two feet take you where you want to go. Two trained hands obey your will and help shape destiny. Two eyes bring to you fascinating pictures, smiles of true friends, and knowledge. Two ears listen to the music of the universe. Alive in the ecstasy of your being you thrill at a touch of a mental impression and throbb with the ecstasy of living.

Dinner Stories. Does a family of rabbits, for instance, realize that they are running about in a beautiful sea-look?—London Opinion. Pass the Dust-pan.—Wedding guest—"This is your fourth daughter to get married, isn't it?" "MacLight—" "Ay, and our competitor's gettin' awful gritty."—Answers.

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