

One of the best of fishermen in and about Birmingham is Prof. W. Johnson, of Adams road, just a short pace north of this village; we'll wager that Mr. Johnson likes to fish as well as to cook.

The Birmingham Eccentric

PART TWO

FIFTY-FIRST YEAR—NO. 50

BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 1929

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INSURANCE HISTORY TOLD

J. B. Howarth Addresses Birmingham Rotary Club

John B. Howarth, secretary of the Birmingham Rotary club, was the speaker at the Monday noon meeting at Chateau Tea Room when he talked on his Rotary classification, "fire insurance."

Mr. Howarth gave a brief history of insurance, stating that it first began in England during the middle of the seventeenth century, following the great London fire. He said that, in Michigan, all insurance companies are under state control, the rates being determined by state officials for all companies; Michigan also perfects a standard insurance policy, containing 200 lines.

"Losses due to fire in the United States exceed that of any other country in the world," said Mr. Howarth. "The annual average loss due to fire in the United States is \$50 million, or an annual average of \$5.02 for every man, woman, and child. Statistics say that this great loss is partially due to the carelessness of the American people, and the fact that many of our buildings are of inflammable material, while much of the building material used in other countries is non-inflammable."

"The greatest cause of fire in the United States is sparks from chimneys, starting roof fires; in 1928 there were 5227 roof fires in the country, 1463 due to defective chimneys, and 1253 due to defective heating arrangements."

The speaker read some startling figures on the world's greatest conflagrations since 1820, including fires in Savannah, Ga., \$1,000,000.00; New York City, \$20,000,000.00; Portland, Me., \$10,000,000.00; Chicago, \$96,000,000.00; Boston, \$60,000,000.00; Jacksonville, \$10,000,000.00; Baltimore, \$50,000,000.00; San Francisco, \$225,000,000.00.

WE HEARD IT SAID BY—

J. Bordenau, west Clawson road: "Four persons were killed and many injured since Jan. 1 of this year on Woodward avenue between the Fourteen Mile road and Lincoln avenue. This is because there is no traffic control. Women and children are forced to wait as long as 25 minutes to cross Woodward to get a bus to come downtown in Birmingham to shop. Why do not the commissioners take some action on this matter and protect the lives of Birmingham men and women and children?"

VOCATIONAL AIDS MEET

Y. M. C. A. Workers To Discuss Work With High School Boys

C. C. Robinson, prominent in boy's employment work for the Y. M. C. A. will meet more than 50 Birmingham men April 8, in the First Baptist Church relative to the work the men are doing in interviewing Birmingham high school boys on their vocations. A round table discussion will follow the dinner.

The village men are selected for their lines and their experience and advice will be placed at the disposal of students of the high school. Questionnaires are being sent to the students to determine their preference for life work. The questionnaires will be classified and the men assigned groups. Robert Lynd, secretary of the organization, said.

Mrs. Elsie Crispin of Detroit sued for divorce because her husband deserted her on their honeymoon when she refused to give him \$5,000.

POLITICS OUT IN STATE VOTE

Nature Of Offices Contested Accounts For Suspension Of Campaign

The state officers to be filled at the election April 1 are non-political in nature. Because of this fact the Republican State Central committee at its organization meeting last week, decided that no active campaign would be pressed in behalf of the party candidates. Instead, they and their record will simply be presented by the committee to the voters.

While the off-year spring elections are never as bitterly contested as those in the general election years, both republican and democratic parties have previously put on some sort of a campaign. All of the offices to be filled are either educational or judicial in character with the exception of State Highway commissioner. This fact has convinced party leaders that "politics" should be kept out of the spring election.

All sections of the state are represented on the republican ticket. For justices of the supreme court, the party presents Judge Louis H. Feal of Newberry, in the Upper Peninsula, and Judge Walter H. North of Battle Creek. Grover C. Dillman, candidate for re-election as highway commissioner, is widely known throughout Michigan because of more than 16 years in the highway department. Eastern Michigan is represented on the ticket by R. Ferry Short of Saginaw, who is candidate for regent of the University of Michigan. Western Michigan is represented by Allen M. Frelaud of Grand Rapids, who has served six years on the State Board of Education, and is up for re-election. Two candidates for the State Board of Agriculture give central Michigan, in Clark M. Brody, of Lansing, and Southwestern Michigan in William H. Berkey, Cassopolis publisher and farmer, representation.

Dr. Walter H. Sawyer of Hillsdale, candidate for re-election as regent of the University of Michigan, rounds out the ticket. "I know of no other ticket previously presented by the republican party in any election which has been so representative of the state at large and which has been made up of candidates so well qualified as those we present this spring," Chairman Howard C. Lawrence of the state central committee said today. "We are proud to present these men to the electors of Michigan. They are not politicians, but men bent upon public service, and we know that when the qualifications of these men are considered by the electors, there can be but one result—a sweeping Republican victory April 1."

Try An Eccentric Classified Ad.

Glimpses

at and about BIRMINGHAM

By RAYMOND GIRARDIN

ATTENTION BIRMINGHAM PASTORS! ATTENTION LOYAL natives of this village! Attention service club members and realtors! Attention crusaders and all righteous folk! This town of ours is something on which to focus the moral spirit, brothers and sisters, the moral squint. The cause is given in the new Birmingham directory and since the book came off the press Saturday morning I have been standing in the corner, a deep red. Probably a deeper red than believable because it seems I constructed the stigma with my own little typewriter. I attempted in writing a brief history of the village to refer to the last 100 years as years of transition from the ox cart to the automobile and airplane. Imagine my craving for a Murad when I found, too late, alas, alas, lackaday and oddsbodkins, "years of TRANSGRESSION from the . . . etc."

But I know a worse one. The correspondent up state for a New York City paper phoned into his office that someone had stolen the mayor's lounge in a motion picture theater and that his honor was threatening to fire the whole police department unless something was done. One of the smart boys on rewrite made quite a piece about it. He explained the official was so intent on the screen thriller he did not notice someone had, so to speak, scalped him. He was not so aware, in fact, until the lights were turned on and the audience began giving him the great American raspberry. It was indeed, quite an amusing story.

It is necessary for the father of the upstate town engaged in a bond telephone conversation with the city editor. He admitted freely he was not free from physical imperfections, but man and boy these 55 years he had taken pride in his hair. He would even go so far as to wager he had a greater head of natural hair than the whole newspaper force. He demanded retractions and apologies. What had been stolen, he pointed out, was his coiffe.

PALM SUNDAY ON LOWER WOODWARD: A SCHICKER driver pinched with great zeal by a private policeman who displays his badge with flourishes. Streets crowded with persons headed nowhere. Store windows filled with brown, wilted remnants of the Flower Show in a florist's. Not so long ago the last word in shop windows consisted of a parasol, a pair of slippers, a bottle of perfume and half a bolt of cloth. An Englishman in front of the City Hall feeding pigeons. Probably thinking of Trafalgar, Nelson's monument or St. Paul's. A policeman tells a stenographer with his leg to get the hell off Woodward and stay off of orifice blah blah. The moocher crutches off. Wonder whether a shell of a person who tags strangers for a dime ever thinks he and his drag gang are the bread and butter of the cops who kick them around. Hatless men with high color and that strange, gray look in their eyes. Whoops and here's one that's hot! Hang on to his hat, "Tullie." Mr. Smith with small children out for a walk. Women with dogs. Two solemn looking readers veiling from curb to building, carrying palm. A grey-haired woman smoking. Crash! Someone throws a cup through the plate glass window of one of the million restaurants above Grand Circuit. "Crowds gather in the dusk. Was it a bullet? I know who done it, says the white lined handkerchief. I know who done it. Well, mister, why is your coffee so rotten?"

I MUST CHANGE MY WILL TO INCLUDE SOME NOTE OF appreciation for the person who thoughtfully mailed me a page from a comic supplement which carries with it deep philosophy, a stinging rebuke and a world of advice. The character in the comic is a small child. She begins to read a book about George Washington but finds she does not subscribe to the legends narrated to her by her grandmother about the big shot of Valley Forge. So she turns to the book, like that. PH! Then she washes her hands and says some things about persons who do not subscribe to legends narrated by her grandmother. The great moral lesson taught is that persons want to learn again and again these legends. It seems my anonymous correspondent finds me lacking in this capacity. I believe who writes anonymous letters are unique. However, I believe a person who clips and mails anonymously is especially deserving of distinction. I herewith bequeath to my comic strip correspondent a copy of "Ned Toodles, the Talking Dog," but only with the understanding that she or it keep me supplied with other valuable contributions to the world of thought furnished by artists and thinkers of the comic page. In the event she or it fails me, the book shall go for the common use of patients at the Home for the Feeble Minded at Lauder.

FROM THE ECCENTRIC COLUMNS

of Long Ago

Bits Of News Cleared From Old Files Of The Eccentric—The Items That Make Up The Background Of The Birmingham Of Today.

FIFTY YEARS AGO
Now is the time for auction bids, we print them neat, cheap and promptly. Give us your order.

Mrs. Pearsall of Disco will address the Union Reform Club at the Baptist Church next Sunday evening. Let a full house greet the speaker.

One day last week two young ladies dressed in men's clothes were blacked up, scared a whole family into hysterics. They were bold brunettes.

We wonder if our readers are all aware that we have the best bakery that Birmingham has been favored with for years. Mr. Beer is attentive and prompt, keeping everything in splendid order, and makes irreproachable bread, as well as the finest class of pastries. We know how it is ourself.

Look out for the robin.
Our farmer friend John Ashley raised from a single bean only 278. Who can beat it?

The Adverts have nearly completed their new crop, and it looks quite neat and tidy.

Birmingham Mills ground 310 bushels of grain in custom work one day last week. Pretty good days work for a country mill, but the proprietors believe in a judicious amount of advertising, so it is no wonder that they succeeded.

SPRING STYLES for Boys and Girls

What Price Quality?

It isn't price alone that makes economy. It's the quality you buy for the price you pay. If you will look around and compare price for price and quality for quality then you will realize the sound economy we offer you.

R. E. Davidson

Top Coats

Mansish top coats of tweeds, mixtures, and novel weaves in tan, gray, and smart navy regulation styles. Ideal for spring wear.

\$8.95

Caps to match **\$1.95**

K. & S. Blouses

Guaranteed washable.

95c

Caps

Just like Dad's.

\$1.25

Gay Ties

Spring colors and stripes.

50c

Sturdy Socks

In many colors and combinations.

59c

Girls' Dresses

Summery frocks for school wear, made of broadcloth and soft prints with attractive trimmings. Plain and printed silks for dress wear. Many are hand-made. Sizes 1 to 14.

\$1.25 to \$12.50

Coats

Smart sport coats for all around wear. Made of tweeds and fancy weaves that will please little daughter and give her long wear.

\$10.50

Hats

Smart little turned-up brims to match coat or dress.

\$1.95

Accessories

Just like Mother and big sister wear. Flowers - Scarfs - Hosiery Handkerchiefs - Gloves.

OPEN EVENINGS

Play Suits

The little boy needs a number of these for spring and summer wear. Made of suitings and fine broadcloths that wash well and give long satisfactory service. Plain colors with contrasting trimmings, and belts just like Dad wears.

95c




MONTGOMERY WARD & CO.

will employ a local salesman for Birmingham and surrounding territory in their ROOFING CONSTRUCTION DIVISION. Insurance salesmen or men experienced in contacting home owners preferred.

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or Apply Room 206
Grand Truck Terminal Bldg.
1951 East Ferry Ave.
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A Bank For All The People



OUR EARNEST DESIRE is to make this bank helpful to you. Come to us with your problems, your ambitions. We are here to advise and assist you.

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JOHN B. WILLIAMS - Chairman of the Board
T. R. DONOVAN - President
CHANCEY NIXON - Vice-President
CHARLES B. RANDALL - Vice-President
M. T. JARVIS - Cashier
O. P. PETERSON - Ass't Cashier

First National Bank

CAPITAL AND SURPLUS, \$400,000.00

4% Paid on Savings
BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

Tell Your Merchant You Saw His Advertisement in THE ECCENTRIC

B. L. E. Davidson BIRMINGHAM DEPARTMENT STORE

Birmingham's Foremost Store

FROM THE ECCENTRIC COLUMNS

of Long Ago

Bits Of News Cleared From Old Files Of The Eccentric—The Items That Make Up The Background Of The Birmingham Of Today.

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ence and with one at his farm he is strictly in it. The other was placed in the greenhouse of R. Peterson who will soon be ready to supply everybody with the finest products of a first class greenhouse.

FIVE YEARS AGO
Miss Mary Martin, resident director of the Community House, was the chief speaker before the Exchange club.

Final steps for formation of Rotary club were taken when 12 Birmingham business and professional men meeting at the Birdwood Inn with George R. Averill, president. Marks the second business luncheon organization in the village.

Installation of three flashing "lighthouse" types on Woodward avenue. Two lights will be placed at Maple and Woodward avenues for a 30-day trial. The other light will be placed at north Woodward and Oak street.

Village commission asks that the installation of 200,000 gallon steel storage tank be withdrawn.

Consumers power company will increase gas service here. Plan of Manager B. G. Campbell to spend \$500,000 in county approved.

New ordinance to make Woodward avenue a "through" road. Village commission passes new legislation to govern Birmingham traffic.

Luther Allen, chairman of the Oakland County Board of Supervisors, asks support of one mill tax for county poor farm before the Woman's Civic League.

SERVICE MEASURED NOT BY GOLD BUT BY THE GOLDEN RULE



Easter's Promise

Easter marks our annual observance of an anniversary of the Resurrection. It is a reminder of that great promise that there is a life everlasting, as exemplified by the Risen Christ.

It is fitting that each of us should ponder this great promise, this wondrous message, that we may be better men and women; better Christians.

S. O. WYLIE BELL FUNERAL DIRECTOR
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