

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

(Founded in 1874) Published every Thursday at Birmingham, Mich. in the Eccentric Building, 226-222 North Woodward Avenue. Telephone 31 and 12.

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Subscription Rates: (In Oakland County) One Year \$1.50, Six Months \$1.00, Three Months \$0.50. (Outside Oakland County) One Year \$2.00, Six Months \$1.50, Three Months \$0.75.

Thursday, October 24, 1929

"He Lighted The Dark Way" Fifty years ago last Monday, in a small laboratory in Menlo Park, New Jersey, the intelligence of a creative mind, groping its way through the then existing darkness of illumination, pierced the shell of man's scientific limitation and emerged out of the light of Progress, with an incandescent electric light to guide the way.

Since that day 50 years ago the mind of Mr. Edison has been tuned into the wave length of Physical Omnipotence, and from one to the infinite space his delicate mental receiving apparatus has broadcast to the whole world a program of comfort, enlightenment, entertainment, and education.

Thomas Alva Edison, whom the nation honored Monday by celebrating Light's Golden Jubilee, proves to a skeptic world that the mind of man, when applied to problems of The Great Earth Adventure, is "fearfully and wonderfully made," and, when attuned to a sincere and conscientious desire to help mankind, the instrument through which may be duplicated God's Biblical injunction, as set forth in Genesis, "... let there be light; and there was light."

The other night we walked through a portion of downtown Detroit, marvelling at the brilliant display of golden illumination, arranged for the glorification of Mr. Edison. Everywhere were burning incandescent bulbs, giving off a mellow, golden glow. These lamps were rivals with artistically arranged smaller bulbs upon buildings, pictures of the great inventor were seen in many windows, while stretched across the top of several large buildings were electric signs reading "Light's Golden Jubilee."

All mankind, it seemed, had united its efforts in paying homage to the great benefactor. Mr. Edison was stood in silence—silence, though Detroit's sidewalks and streets were teeming with humanity—in a sort of personal tribute to this wonderful man. Our gaze travelled up and over the tops of buildings, to the stars that seemed strewn about the black canopy of night; they twinkled, did these stars, while the lights burned steadily through the night. Then there burst upon our vision, a rounded a cozier, the full, harvest moon—golden in its light, more golden than we ever remember seeing it before.

Even God, in watching over the affairs of one of His children, had joined in the illumination project; from His hands there hung suspended a golden moon, a fitting decorative ornament to be joined with mankind's glowing tribute to one of its pioneer souls.

"He lighted the dark way..."

The Local Sewage Problem

One of the most important projects from a financial and sanitary standpoint, that confronts Birmingham is the creation of a suitable sewage disposal tank and sewage drain system. The growth of Birmingham, plus its expected future expansion, establishes the urgent need of attention to our present inadequate sewage system; the growth of our territory to the south suggests that Birmingham join with other-units of government in co-ordinating its efforts to solve this problem.

One thing to be remembered, not only by our citizens, but by our elected officials as well, is the immense cost connected with installing a sewage system. Hundreds of thousands of dollars may be involved in such a project; in the interest of consideration for the taxpayers' pocketbooks, we suggest that Birmingham's officials look carefully into the problem, especially preventing the saddling upon Birmingham treasury of any impracticable proportion of the total cost.

FROM ST. JOHNS, over in Clinton County, recently there was issued a 50-page weekly newspaper, including ten pages of colored photographs, by the Clinton County Republican-News, perhaps the most representative weekly newspaper in Michigan.

HOME MAKING and the OUTLAWRY of war were stressed at the Woman's International Exposition held in Detroit last week. Does that mean the outlawry of war in the making of home?

Investigating the chain stores it will perhaps be logical to look for the weakest links.

A New "Night Club"

Believes Dr. Paul Arnold Peterson, pastor of the Pontiac First Presbyterian church, "I prefer that before many of the number of service clubs in Pontiac and other cities will be reduced one-half. One organization, the 'Family Night Club,' will rise to take their places, for persons generally are turning their interests toward the home."

Hoover: An Inspiration

As we sat before our radio Monday evening, listening to the program of Light's Golden Jubilee broadcast from Dearborn, we were awed with much pleasure the brief address of tribute which President Hoover paid Mr. Edison. As the fine tribute, clothed in excellent diction, sparkling and scintillating with the engineer's sympathetic understanding of another physical scientist's virtues and results, we could not prevent this thought from creeping into our mind: how fortunate that Mr. Hoover was elected President last fall; what an inspiration his messages already have been to the American public.

Helping The Common Cause

Birmingham's new Community House will soon open its doors to an eager public. Within its walls there exists the unbounded and illimitable capacity for doing much good for the lives of men and women, boys and girls, of this area. Yet, to do this, requires funds.

Right now an appeal is being made to local and nearby citizens to contribute \$30,000.00, together with house furnishings, to carry on the Community House for another year. The appeal is a humanitarian one, and the one who gives of material possession toward the cause of the Community House, gives toward the common cause of all.

Conventions And Liquor

Here is a slant upon a very important subject that ought to interest American people who are concerned with the quality of the social order that they are a part of. We refer to the attitude of certain people toward complying with the United States Constitution. The following comment appeared in the October 16 issue of The Christian Century, an undenominational journal of religion; although the letter comments upon the recent American Legion convention in Louisville, Kentucky, the flagrant disregard for the 18th Amendment is not alone confined to gatherings of ex-soldiers, but also may be seen among conventions of practically every type, including some of the high-so-called ethical associations.

Here, folks, is what one close observer of the Louisville convention wrote about the manner in which certain of the boys who offered their lives during war time to "make the world safe for democracy" deport themselves during peace time: "Louisville has gone mad... All of us had expected some disorder, but we were hardly prepared for the riotous revelry that is actually taking place. At 11 o'clock last night the lid was completely off, and some of us got our first glimpse of unmitigated pandemonium. It appeared that men and women had lost every vestige of orderliness and self-respect..."

Today it is the same story. The better class of delegates are attending the sessions at the auditorium, and among these may be found seriousness and sobriety. But the hoodlums and the hangers-on who parade the streets are becoming bolder and more hilarious every hour. Whisky is being drunk openly on the streets. Tipsy men and women hang out of hotel windows, sweating and shouting. Many of the low pranks are unmentionable."

As you may observe, "the better class of delegates are attending the sessions at the auditorium, and among these may be found seriousness and sobriety; but the hoodlums and the hangers-on who parade the streets are becoming bolder and more hilarious every hour." America is grateful for its serious and sober citizens; America is watchful over its hoodlums and hangers-on—in fact, so watchful that it finally sought to regulate the companionship of John Barleycorn through legislation. All that America needs at these times is the sober citizen, who is more men and women to refrain from breaking its laws. Lamely true it is, however, that in these modern days too many people find law-breaking the "conventional" thing to do.

John Barleycorn still occupies too prominent a place upon many convention programs. A KANSAS CITY GENIUS has perfected a device which shoots a gob of quick-drying paint at a victim's fleeing motor car, thus marking it for easier capture. It would appear, then, that in these enlightened non-enforcing days that some people will receive free paint jobs.

Golden Jubilee of Light

Wonder of a wondering world, Fifty years ago tonight, On this darksome earth there shone Golden splendored blazing light! Strange and busy era! Time Has not halted in its flight. Years have passed while we have dwelt In a paradise of light.

All this great and grand old world Has with radiance been dight. Since the man we now revere Solved the mystery of light. Famous peoples now have met. Deming it has been right. Praise and honor should be sung This philosopher of light. Thomas Alva Edison Ridicule knew well, and slight. Low and gnarled was his brow. This great Jubilee of Light. —BEATRICE McDONALD

TO THE HILLS! THE DAM HAS BURST!



PEOPLE'S COLUMN

The Eccentric is pleased to receive communications for this column. All communications must be given full signatures which will be kept confidential upon request.

WHO'S WHO AND TIMELY VIEWS

PLANS FOR INTER-AMERICAN HIGHWAY SYSTEM OUTLINED

By T. L. ODDIE, Senator from Nevada. (Times-Lexicon's Bulletin was born at Brooklyn, N. Y., October 24, 1870. He is a graduate of New York university. In two years he was engaged in real estate in New York City. He went to Nevada in 1898 and became engaged in mining operations. From 1904 to 1908 he was a member of the Nevada senate. He was governor of Nevada from 1910 to 1914. In 1921 he was elected U. S. senator and has been re-elected each term since. He is a Republican.)

Leaders of American republics are effectively working out highway transportation program, the new connection with the proposed inter-American highway, that will make the scenic splendors and natural resources of all countries of the Americas accessible to the international motorist. Rapid transportation is a vital necessity to the economic welfare of every nation. The aeronautics branch of the department of commerce feels that a suitable system of highways will aid materially in the development of a comprehensive system of inter-American airways. Not only will such a highway system increase the safety of the airways by furnishing additional surface transport facilities for the movement of aircraft fuel and supplies; it will also provide "ground feeder" lines which are so essential to the full utilization of the airways. In order to obtain maximum prosperity and stability for each of the nations of North, South, and Central America, men, money, mail and merchandise should be transported with the least possible delay. An inter-American highway system, therefore, will be a distinct adjunct to the inter-American railway.

THE OTHER CHAP SAYS SOMETHING

HOW DO YOU LIKE YOUR CRIME NEWS? Will you have your crime news served hot, cold or medium? Will you have it garnished with all the horrible details, or will you prefer to have it served "straight?"

In other words, do you want all the horrible details of a murder printed in your favorite newspaper, or would you prefer to have the printing of the fact that a person was murdered, without the details of the grisly details of a would-be criminal, or would you think it best not to print such news at all?

Many newspapers would pay large sums of money if someone could furnish a plan for the liquidation of crime news which would satisfy all readers. No workable plan has ever been devised to handle that situation, though many have tried. Some prefer to have no crime news at all printed. Some like to have it collected in an inconspicuous position on an inside page. Others like the gory details. All these have been tried, and none of them is entirely satisfactory. The question of what to print and what to leave out of crime news is one of the hardest things to do. The newspaper publisher, as readers of newspapers, there are two things in the publication of crime news that we do object to. We object to having only crime news served to us as the main course of our newspaper (on the front page), and we like-

weekies as hick sheets, it makes no laugh. What do you think?—Tuxedo County Advertiser.

SITTING IN HIS OWN CASE

Senator Vandenberg of Michigan, one of the clearest heads of our Senate, has introduced a bill providing for the substitution of judges in "indirect contempt" of court personal in their nature. He proposes to amend the Judicial Code so that a defendant in any proceeding on alleged contempt arising from an attack upon the character or conduct of the judge, not made in open court, is diminished by taking away the judge's privilege of vindicating his own virtue or satisfying, uncon-

sciously, perhaps his own vanity or anger. Perhaps it is too much to hope that Mr. Vandenberg's amendment will be adopted in this session of Congress. Of its ultimate passage there should be no doubt. Sporadic judicial interference with the liberty of the press this year show the imperative need of ending the evil before it spreads further.—New York Times.

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Schettler Leases Birmingham's Busiest Corner. In keeping with our policy of having nothing but the highest class merchants in the new Hanna Building stores, it is a source of satisfaction to us to announce that the Schettler Drug Company have leased the store at the Southwest corner of Woodward Avenue and Maple.

Colgrove Buck & Tillotson REALTORS. With night about to end the world is bathed in a profound expectancy. A marvel of creation is to be performed and at the dawn the soul of the one who waits for this rare moment is touched by an emotion that gives him a glimpse of the infinite.

Friendly Thoughts By G. Dewey Kimball. We serve not only with polite tact, but with a sympathetic personal consideration of other's feelings. G. DEWEY KIMBALL FUNERAL DIRECTOR. Ambulance Service 408 N. WOODWARD AVE. PHONE 859

Seven months after she had died a pension was awarded to Mrs. Elda Dunham of Lowell, whose husband was killed by a robber two years ago.