

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

(Founded in 1873)

Published every Thursday at Birmingham, Mich., in The Eccentric Building, 225-227 North Woodward Avenue.
 Telephone 11 and 12.
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Entered as Second Class Matter in the U. S. Postoffice at Birmingham, Michigan.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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SPEEDING MAN'S PROGRESS

Stripped of the things that "mirth consume and revelry," man turns little else but a state of mind, a mere consciousness. The high lights of his life reveal more "ecstasies of soul" than "thrills of sense"; and even the latter must be recognized as coming within the mental realm—for without mentality man might be a tree, a flower, or even a rock—nor to mention a job of no-sense. All of which leads us up to a contemplation of the devices and instruments that man's mind has fashioned with which to transport himself from where he may be to where he wants to be.

Some millions of years ago, then (nobody knows exactly the form of life which has evolved into modern man, must have been made the recipient of a flicker of consciousness; this "flicker" has grown into a steady beam. During and with this growth, of course, man has progressed from the limitations of shortness to 5 1/2 miles per hour in his ability to transport the body that seems to accompany his state of consciousness. This physical phenomena has been made possible only because man's mind has been able to evolve ways and means of shaping the crude resources of the earth into machinery that carry him about the world.

You might be interested to compare the various speeds at which man can transport himself today. For instance, his feet and legs carry him at a running speed of 20 miles per hour; if he mounts a bicycle, he is able to add ten miles to his running speed; if he boards a horse, he is able to travel 40 miles per hour; a Graf Zeppelin 60 miles per hour; a speedboat 90 miles, a train 120 miles, an automobile 210 miles, or an airplane 310 miles. Thus, you see, by constructive thinking, man has fashioned mechanical devices that place in his hands a veritable Catalogue of Speed.

Man can make sound to travel at 720 miles per hour; he can send a bullet through space at 17,400 miles per hour; his greatest triumph in the speed world is with artificial light, which he can send through darkness at the terrific rate of 669,600,000 miles per hour.

Man's progress to date brings proof of his growing intelligence, and proves him a thinking organism of spiritual, more than physical, properties, don't you think?

ADOPTING A NATIONAL ANTHEM

By nature, we are musical. Although we may play nothing more intricate than a harmonica, or a radio, we feel a kinship for all expressions of audible concord of sweet sound. May we add that we do little singing, either, yet loudly applaud those whose voices have the power to make melody in machinery to emit harmony. All of which leads us up to a fact of our national musical gems that has caused us considerable concern.

We refer to the present movement sponsored by Current Events, a national school newspaper, to determine whether or not "The Star Spangled Banner" or "America the Beautiful" shall become the national anthem. A vote is being taken among the national American school children, and a bill now pending before Congress to designate it as the National Anthem.

We do not argue about the text of "The Star Spangled Banner," (even though it may be a bit warlike in parts) but we do feel that any song selected as our National Anthem ought to be singable, to say the least. As most people know who have failed to sing every word of this song, it was never even the great range of the musical scale; it ought to be leveled out a bit, if it is going to do the country the good designed for it.

Here's a suggestion which ought to bring it within the tone range of any representative group of people: I, for both Houses of Congress to gather and prepare the words so that most of them may actually sing it. Even though the Fiddlers' Pete, there may be a few high notes left, acquainting Congress with the words will be beneficial to the country. Too, while they are singing they won't be orating.

"LIQUORARY DIGEST"

The other day we received our secret ballot from the Literary Digest, sent the national poll on prohibition. On our honor, a circular that came with the ballot was signed "The Literary Digest" whenever wrote the list "I" made it appear like an "X." This brings a chuckle to us as we imagine the humor that might attend the situation should it have appeared "The Literary Digest."

Rumors may grow whistlers to cover up its empty stomach, but no matter how busy its bowels may become, free people will still detect in the Soviet's eyes the twinkle of lawful looting.

It now costs the American government 100 million dollars each year to provide rural free delivery. Why not include this tidy sum when estimating farm relief?

SCRAPPING 400,000 AUTOS

In an effort to eliminate the traffic hazard caused by thousands of old and ramshackle motor cars that clog the highways today, American automobile manufacturers are to spend \$15,000,000 this year; they expect with this sum to remove 400,000 obsolete cars from the roads.

The plan is a good one, of course; yet we are led to believe that back of it is some economic soundness—for certainly within the 400,000 cars to be scrapped there are still millions of miles of transportation that ought to be "dispensed" in the interest of the human being who created them.

However, this is a deep problem in economics—too lengthy to enter into here. Perhaps we may dismiss the whole conjecture by admitting that the elimination of dangerous hazards from our highways justifies the economic waste. For what good is money saved if there be no human beings to enjoy it?

MANNERS

Last week I was privileged to see sophisticated New York City through the eyes of my daughter who was enjoying her first visit to the Metropolis. She commented "Did you see that man who smiles back and when you are courteous they try to be more courteous than you."

Cherished just a "man's fortune is frequently decided by his first address. If pleasing others, at once conclude he has merit; but if ungracious they decide against him."

Good breeding shows itself most where to the ordinary eye it appears least.

Good sense, kindness of heart, and a proper self-respect are the elements of the best manners.

Manner is everything with some people and something with everybody. We cannot always oblige, but we can always speak obligingly.

Manner is one of the greatest engines of influence given to man.

Civility costs nothing and buys everything. Your manners are the printed page on which people read of what you are inside.

People are usually sensitive on the subject of improving their ways. They resent it when told to do differently, to sit, walk or stand in a better style.

If you have a friend—an enemy is even better—who dares to tell you the truth, listen to him and think over what he says.

—W. C. DUNLAP.

LIGHTING THE DARKNESS

As long as little babies are born, and older people pass on to other realms, there will be need for feeding human consciousness with knowledge. The proportion, educated versus uneducated, in direct ratio to the property and idealism of a given country. In the United States, newest of all great nations, the proportion of illiteracy is gradually being lessened. Much room for improvement remains, however, and it is interesting to learn that the federal government is back of a growing movement to lead all people out of the bondage that ignorance brings begets.

Do you know that, in 1920, five million adult Americans were illiterate? That one out of every 14 people of voting age cannot read the warning sign on a poisoned well? Cannot read "do not smoke, children, it is dangerous, live wise"? One out of every ten people over 20 years of age cannot write. That the percentage of illiteracy in the United States is greater than in England, Germany, Switzerland, Norway, Denmark, and Japan?

That the United States has made wonderful strides toward better things for its people cannot be disputed; when you consider that our progress has been made in spite of so much illiteracy, what greater success may be attained with more education? The future only will reveal—in the meantime may the gospel of a fuller educational system dispel the darkness of partial ignorance.

2000 Times To Mars And Back

The automobiles of America will travel approximately 176 billion miles during 1930, according to a computation made by the National Automobile Chamber of Commerce. "Oh," thinks the modern American who is used to spinning miles during a single day, "that isn't so much; just remember how many automobiles we have." Those 176,000,000,000 miles, however, represent more than 4,000 times the distance to Mars, states Alvan Macaulay, president of the National Automobile Chamber of Commerce, and if one could travel the distance with that motorist, he would travel in another country, China, for instance, all the people, with the exception of a comparative handful, are born, exist and die within a radius of twelve miles!

While we are congratulating ourselves on the progress and freedom that things for its people cannot be disputed; when you consider that our progress has been made in spite of so much illiteracy, what greater success may be attained with more education? The future only will reveal—in the meantime may the gospel of a fuller educational system dispel the darkness of partial ignorance.

A Nashville, Tennessee, lady now comes forward to tell the world that radio announcers often mispronounced words. Was your set just installed, yesterday, Lady?

Inspired Thoughts

Let's Play We Are Young Again

Let's play we are young again, darling.
 That life is again in its May.
 That Love's golden thread is before us.
 I know it's not true, but let's play.
 And maybe, in playing, my desire.
 The years will indeed fall away.
 And maybe you'll love as of old, dear.
 Oh, kiss me once more and let's play.
 —W. C. DUNLAP.

HOCUS POCUS

WHAT sublime eloquence! The Arkansas school boy's description of the frog:
 "What a wonderful bird the frog is when he stands, he sits—almost. When he hops, he flies—almost. He ain't got no sense—hardly. He ain't got no tail, hardly—either. When he sits, he sits on what he ain't got—almost."



Never throw away an old fried egg. Give it a coat of shellac, mother, give it a coat of shellac. It can then be put to use as a bookmarker.

Vox Polly

"Our present industrial system cannot work with liquor. We must choose between drink and poverty on the one hand, and prohibition and prosperity on the other." There is no middle ground.—Hendry Ford, in an interview with Samuel Crowther in the April issue of the Ladies Home Journal.

Thomas A. Edison announces that as soon as he finishes his machine for extracting rubber from goldenrod he will begin work on a process for removing juice from nutmeg.

A slate roof should be washed with hot suds in the spring to remove the dirt. The either a sponge or a piece of chamois to avoid scratching the slate.

Washed with a better flavor if it is first boiled and then pressed with a hot iron.

Always keep a nautical chart in the kitchen. It can be used in breaking eggs.

Horse-Scope

"If the stars indicate, stay in at night."

According to the stars this is not a lucky day for kelly pool players, especially those who are troubled with buck fever when shooting at the pay ball.

Late in the afternoon there is a sign which indicates that many a brave man who declares the night before that his sore throat must be yanked will begin to find reasons why he should keep his dental appointment.

Children born on this day will never care for circus parades.

Zachary Zealot was born on this day and was remembered as the greatest fanatic that ever fanned a flame.

Today's Mystery Story
 Lost—Five-foot step ladder on W. Main St., last Friday. BRINDELL BROTHERS.

The small town has more gossip because there's more fun in watching a game if you know the players.

This is the season when the deck man busy figuring is computing the profit to be made raising golf.

If machines can't think, how does your car know you are trying to demonstrate that queer noise for the garage mechanic.

Famous Finales

(News Item)
 SAN FRANCISCO.—At least one of Carlo Gelardi's 11 children is due for a visit to the woodshed. Gelardi brought his family to police court when he answered a charge of catching underized car.

Asked regarding his finances he replied he was insolvent. Then one of the youngsters spoke up: "What about your Trans-Am stock, dad?"

"Fifty dollars," said the Judge.

Non-Trans-Am Skull
 DEAR MOTHER—IF OYSTERS IS THE MOTHER OF PEARLS WHO'S HER FATHER? PEARLS ARE MOTHERED ALL AROUND PA.

DEAR MOTHER—IS IT TRUE, THE BARK OF A TREE, CHIEF OF THE FOREST, ABOVE THE RUSTLE OF ITS LEAVES?

DEAR MOTHER—YOU SAID RETIRE THE MINUTEMAN. TIME IS RUNNETH? SURELY HADN'T YOU BETTER CALL.

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THE GLEANERS!



The Other Chap Says Something—

THE DRINKERS

Lt. Governor L. D. Dickinson, our best known crusader, is scolding the drys "for laying down on the job" intimating this attitude is one of the reasons for the admitted shift in public opinion on the prohibition question.

The hypocritical in the operation of this law is the principal reason why the public is getting discouraged. In most cases the violators are the half pint offenders while the "big shot" like Capone divide up news with cabinet members.

Capone make out our case for hypocrisy. In a copyright interview with the Chicago Tribune, the notorious bootlegger in part said: "I'll ever did was to get a license and whiskey to our best people."

Capone said in the tone of a successful man, however, that the question as to what he attributed his success.

"Some of our best judges use the stuff," he went on blandly and yet somewhat earnestly.

"Usually I did not come in with any brass band; I don't go in for that stuff. Neither did I come in with any bodyguards."

"I am not afraid of anybody." The last statement was spoken with quiet conviction, followed by a push on the buzzer on his desk. Capone's wife and sister, Madeline, came in and chatted. When they were gone again, Capone asked:

"Did you notice my wife's hair? It is streaked with gray and she's only 28. That's from worrying about things here in Chicago."

"You're right," she said. "I have been blamed for crimes as far back as the Chicago fire. Really," he continued, "I am not trying to out in an on-body, or do anybody any harm. Here I am with my wife and sister and we're all getting down to Miami in about three weeks."—Muri H. DeFoe in Chicago (Mich.) Republican-Tribune.

THE OLD-TIME DANCE CALLERS

Some of the old-time fiddlers had more of a variety of tuneful melodies in their repertoire than others, but there was one accomplishment in which fewer excelled. That was the calling of the dance figures, which some of them could do in an original and novel way.

The figures of the old-time square dance were called off in the following manner:

The "Big Shots" Say:

Franklin S. Clark, writer: "In America all sorts of industries have to watch women's fashions closely. Colors fashionable for clothes are often reflected in automobile colors."

Mrs. Gail-Correll: "Grand opera belongs to another age. A good, old-fashioned opera is more enjoyable in 1930."

General Joe Christian Smith: "Women are better lighted than men."

Will Hayes: "Today sound is the greatest asset of the motion picture, the third dimension."

Benjamin Franklin: "A man stops having experiences he loses learning; after that he merely remembers and then he becomes muddled."

Thomas A. Edison: "This rubber stamping job is the most complex I ever struck, and that's why I like it."

Charles F. Chalmers, of Ohio: "I say to you that the United States of America for the past 60 years has accumulated more wealth, national and personal than all the peoples of the world back through all the history of all peoples and nations of the earth."

Thomas D. Campbell, owner of 20,000 acres of Montana farm land: "Earning holds the greatest future of any industry in America. It must become industrial."

John J. McGraw, leader of the New York Giants: "Hans Wagner is the greatest all-around player that ever lived. Christy Mathewson, a pitcher, was never equalled."

"Al" Smith, Democrat: "No office is too small to warrant a faithful servant in remaining away from the polls."

Dr. Julius Klein, assistant Secretary of Commerce: "The new living in a period of rapid economic change. New ways of earning and selling are appearing with incredible activity."

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

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