

# Eccentricities

By LEO A. DONOVAN

PIRATE'S shin-bone is responsible for this week's eccentricities.

Not that I unearthed the thing, George Allan England, a novelist and newspaper writer did that. In fact, Mr. England has spent many long hours digging for buried treasures in different parts of the world and on a few occasions he has dug up bones—and treasure. The shin-bone, well, it is a gift, but its practical use is beyond my imagination, unless you'd care to use it as a prop for one of those doors that always close with a bang at the last bit of wind.

My Uncle Jim met George England recently on an adventure. Uncle Jim has been adventuring since he was about eleven years old. On the Isla de Pinos, a wind-swept little island in the Gulf of Florida in the Mexican Gulf, Uncle Jim and George England, Frank, my uncle's partner, who owns the Bluehood under the water, and other adventurers, last February, sought the buried treasure of Capt. Billy Bowlegs. In addition to the usual charts and guides, however, the treasure hunters were aided by a radio detector that "detects" the presence of metal in the ground.

In last Sunday's Detroit News, Hamilton M. Wright records the adventure at length, and therefore I shall not repeat or copy the fascinating story. A few interesting things in connection with the hunt, however, were explained to me by Frank and Uncle Jim, as follows:

The existence of the treasure is one of the legends that part of Florida, and in Cuba. Mr. England being a writer, seeking such material, received word of it through Jackson Pratt, now an old man, who knew Billy Bowlegs before Billy died at the age of 94 in 1888.

BILLY, or the Terror, as he was known, was built like a gorilla—you know, long arms, the torso of a man and the tail supported on two small legs. Capt. Billy was actually four feet, six inches tall. His parents probably let him walk when he was too young. He moved with the rapidity of an ape, and had terrifying eyes in a large head. He was not a respecter of human life. His death resulted from an accidental fall in his home.

His neighbors feared him, and still shiver at the suggested possibility of his ghost wandering about his former estate. There are tales told of men disappearing around here, after entering the Kingdom.

Frank and Jim were called upon to search the waters along the coast of the Isla de Pinos for a treasure. Capt. Billy is known to have lost while being pursued by a British cruiser in 1846. Capt. Billy scuttled the ship with his cargo of doubloons and pieces of eight, and fled to the island and escaped. Numerous expeditions searching for Capt. Billy's treasure have all failed.

Two peons in Cuba suddenly mysteriously acquired untold wealth, bought several thousand acres of land and builded themselves veritable castles in their man-made paradise in Cuba. Much of their property was bought with gold. Whether they found part of Capt. Billy's treasure has never been ascertained, but is suspected. The radio detector used in the most recent search detected metal, but the diggers usually pulled up an old iron wheel barrow or other metal machinery. The search probably will be made again next winter. Mr. England probably will write about pirates and the buried treasure hunts in the Statepost. The treasure probably will not be found. But it is not found, other searches will be made. Two million, five hundred thousand dollars, if you have to give most of it to follow searchers or to the government.

HAMTRAMCK'S recall election will provide a great deal of interesting stories which will not be recorded in the public print. Hamtramck elections all interesting. For example: The other day I happened to be in Hamtramck and one of those "reliable sources of information" related the following:

"Of course the recall will fail. The guys backing it got all the votes they could. They only got a few votes, comparatively, than

WE HEARD IT SAID BY— Arthur Wedgworth, caddy master, Oakland Hills Country Club. "I believe I have found the finest boys in the district. They are all bettering themselves, and I feel sure, if they shine, and bank accounts.

until at last he enjoyed reading from the difficulty of his grade. Parents have a great opportunity to help the child who reads poorly. It is easier for them to read him the kind of materials at which he can succeed than it is for his teacher. The home has no prescribed readers, no time schedule, no large waiting group of children. The materials can be selected to suit the child's level of achievement. Nor need there be the fear at home of ridicule and disapproval.

Urge your child to read to you. Learn to enjoy what he reads. He will not be hasty. Make him feel he has ample time. He may not look carefully enough at the copy he is reading. Having often tried to imitate the faster reader, he may guess and mispronounce the very simple words. When he makes an error don't get angry. Calmly correct him and help at any time. It may encourage the child for you to read a page or two naturally easy material to him and a page to you in turn, making a kind of team work.

In the home the poor reader can be persuaded to read to his baby brother or sister. Naturally easy matter will be read, and the reading will be done to entertain an eager listener. Children who are failures in history or science are, as a rule, poor readers. The more a child advances through the grades the more his school success depends upon ability to read well. He improves his school achievement in these studies as he improves his skill in reading.

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## County Farmers Will Picnic Today

The annual Oakland County Farm Bureau picnic will be held at Davidsburg park today. The speaker will be C. M. Long, chief of the farm service division of a Chicago creamery. There will be a picnic dinner at noon followed by program of games and sports, including a cow calling contest in which a silver cow bell will be awarded the winner. Farmers and their families are invited to the picnic.

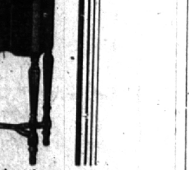
## FINED AS DISORDERLY

Oke Ikento and Tom Panak, employees of the Green Lake Hills country club, were arrested in Birmingham Thursday night by Serg. Edward Myers of the Birmingham police department for disorderly conduct. Serg. Myers claims that he saw them on West Maple avenue near Woodward avenue attempting to conceal a bottle at the picnic.

Justice Malcolm Hunt in court Friday morning fined them each \$10 with the alternative of spending five days in jail.

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## FROM THE ECCENTRIC COLUMNS of Long Ago

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

FIFTY YEARS AGO Orchard Lake hotel on Wednesday, Sept. 1, 1880. Stabling is provided at the Lake House also hot water for tea and coffee. The committee have also provided for tables and seats.

Twenty-five years ago Charles J. Shain is home for a week's vacation. Will he enjoy it? I guess rather. Last Sunday Charlie Cliff got in way of a horse foot which was flying in the air and was badly injured, but is able to get around yet.

Our enterprising hardware man, L. Lee Truax, took two or three days off and attended the hardware men's state convention at Saginaw last week. The good man has been in a whirl ever since. If you notice anything unusual in the Eccentric this week please remember that the 15 year old printers on the job have forsaken the Eccentric and gone to Detroit to work, the result of the strike in Detroit of city printers. Off and on, we think, the combined work of some new janitor service that was added early in the year when this plan was first introduced.

Amounting to \$6,500 resulted from a fire of unknown origin which destroyed 17 valuable dogs and the kennels of the Birmingham Eccentric. The fire will appear regularly and on time.

Every parent, wife, and good citizen may well be thankful that the new state fair grounds are not one quarter of a mile from Woodlawn cemetery. No beer or other vile drink will be allowed. Thank God.

Nelson Stattuck has the last new telephone put in on the Birmingham exchange. When you want Nelson just call 61, his number, and, by the way, if every one calling on the phone would call the party they desire to speak with by number, the time is lessened one-half to wait.

Five years ago Louis M. Randall, chief engineer in the local school system, received appointment as business manager last Monday evening by the board of education. He will be the first man to hold this newly created position and will relieve Clarence Vliet, superintendent of schools, of much of the business of the board of education. He will continue to perform the duties of chief engineer with the assistance of some new janitor service that was added early in the year when this plan was first introduced.

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