# BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

*(Founded in 1878)*

Published every Thursday at Birmingham, Mich., in The Eccentric Building, 329-331 North Woodward Avenue.

Telephones 11, 12, and 13.

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Entered as Second Class Matter in the U. S. Postoffice at Birmingham, Michigan

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

| (In Oakland County) | | (Outside Oakland County) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| One Year | $2.00 | One Year | $2.50 |
| Six Months | 1.00 | Six Months | 1.50 |
| Three Months | .50 | Three Months | 1.00 |

All newspaper and advertising copy must be in The Eccentric office by Wednesday noon to obtain insertion for that week.

*The Eccentric is a member of: National Editorial Association; Michigan Press Association, University Press Club, and Oakland County Weekly Press Association.*

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1930

NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events which have news value and which are written by persons not connected with the editorial staff of the paper. All copy must be presented before noon on Wednesdays. The right is reserved, however, to make such superficial changes in the work submitted as are necessary to the style of the paper and as are required by laws of the state. Because of a mechanical situation in the composing room, headlines written by those other than members of the staff cannot be used. Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation which may appear in the columns of The Eccentric will be gladly corrected upon being brought to the attention of the publishers.


## Motor Cars and Economics

There is a fundamental law of economics which demands that man's creations return or dissipate in the interest of those who made it an equal amount of the creation's value, else pure economic law will be upset, and confusion take place. To explain: an automobile, for instance, represents so many hours of human activity; to produce it people have given of their brain and brawn, as they transformed the various elements of earth-life, organic and inorganic, into the transportation marvel known as an automobile.

The motor car is born, then is sold to a person for human use; it represents so many miles of transportation, plus comfort and luxury—depending upon the make of the car. The Rolls-Royce is at one extreme of the motor car idea, the Ford or the Chevrolet at the other. When considered in terms of mileage only, each car offers to mankind a definite capacity for use; unless man uses each car's potential transportation capacity, the car is not returning to man what man has put into it—and so the used car lot gets another asset, but the economic law is given a liability. Confusion inevitably ensues. An automobile that is built to return 50,000 miles, yet is run only half that distance before it reaches the used car lot, has only half-paid its debt to society. It is not the car's fault, however, that it does not run more than half its distance; after it reaches the used car lot, unless it is sold again, and used to a point near its 50,000 mile capacity, it is only so much inert, out-of-circulation, human energy. Thus man fails to have dissipated in his interest the thing he has created—and somebody has to pay for the loss. Up until a year ago the loser was the buyer; now it has come to be the manufacturer, who realizes that he must eliminate the used car problem before he can proceed to a sounder application of the economic laws in the manufacture and distribution of automobiles.

Did you ever stop to ponder why Henry Ford has made so many cars, plus so much profit? Here is the answer, as the editor of The Eccentric sees it: Mr. Ford has built a mechanical idea of transportation as near to the salvage heap as possible, yet has put into it the atmosphere of respectability. Mr. Ford has offered transportation, not the kind that is shrouded in gaudy traps and trimmings, but the kind whose nakedness is covered with the loin cloth of frugal convention.

Some day we'll try to develop an idea that we've been playing with for some time—an idea that, from an academic sense, argues that it can eliminate the used car problem. In the meantime, it appears, the used car problem will remain with us in proportion as human beings seek to produce without thought of correct merchandising. The used car lot will become a depository for human brain and brawn that has not been allowed to dissipate itself in the interest of human beings.

DR. BURT R. SHURLEY, president of the Detroit board of education, sets a nice example for the coming generation when he publicly demands the repeal of the prohibition law, and the return of beer. His statement is received upon, or within, the minds of many boys and girls. Do you think he, in his position, should talk as he does?

JOHN MCCARROLL, local resident of Park street, suggests that the village commission give men jobs by cleaning and straightening the River Rouge. Is Mr. McCarroll hinting that someday Birmingham may be helped by the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence waterway project by becoming a seaport?

ONE OF THE CHIEF advantages of the radio is the fact that many people's jaws are given periods of rest. The loudspeaker has taken the place of the wagging tongue.

WHAT HAS BECOME of the old-fashioned lady who used a rolling pin on her husband? Well, her grand-daughter still uses it when she kneads the dough.

FEW STATES THIS YEAR BOAST about the greatness of their corn crops. Nor do any of them brag about the quality of their by-products of corn.

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW finally admits that Einstein is one of the eight greatest men in history; yet Shaw leaves us in the dark as to the other six.

OAKLAND COUNTY, after January 1, will have a Democrat as drain commissioner. We hope he will be sparing in the dirt that he throws.

GOV.-ELECT BRUCKER will have none of John Gillespie. Now, wouldn't that bowl you over?

WHAT IS AS RARE as the purchase of a new motor car these days? Answer: it won't be long now.

A "HICK-TOWN" is generally the place where the famous man or woman was born.

## A Scared Brave Man

Prof. Albert Einstein, of Berlin, is about to visit the United States. Though unafraid to penetrate the vast regions of higher thinking, where his naked soul scrapes up acquaintances with stellar celestial theories, and where his intellect is on good terms of friendship with the milky whiteness of eternity, the wizard of relativity dreads the publicity that will attend his arrival in our land. Just imagine, folks, how terrible must be Prof. Einstein's fear of being interviewed by reporters; how tortuous must be his shrinking from the public plaudits!

Yet the man has good foundation for his feelings in the matter. The foundation is based upon his scrupulous modesty, his almost spiritual humility—two attributes, you may recall, that generally attend great people. The genuinely honest searcher for truth never seeks the public limelight; 'tis only the person who is tainted with vanity, bloated pride, or self-aggrandizement who capitalizes on his rightful attainments. Col. Lindberg is an excellent example of the Einstein temperament.

Even nineteen hundred years ago there was a certain searcher for Truth in far-off Judea who performed great tasks of healing, or raising some one from the dead, "and he charged him to tell no man." (Luke 5:14)

It was Nathaniel Emmons who put it thus: "Make no display of your talents or attainments, for every one will clearly see, admire, and acknowledge them, so long as you cover them with the beautiful veil of modesty."

Prof. Einstein, like all true scientists, views in the American system of publicity and exploitation a sinister menace to peace of mind. He would remain placid in a world of turmoil by remaining at a distance from the turmoil.

## "Ham" Raps Athletics

No less a personage than gentlemanly Senator-elect J. Hamilton (Ham) Lewis of Illinois now comes forth with this startling wisdom: "American colleges and universities are breeding grounds for muscular athletes or nursing homes for society blooms." That's a pretty strong statement for a man who defeated Ruth Hanna McCormick to make in public. It perhaps suggests something of the ruggedness of intention that the U. S. Senate may expect when the pink whiskered chap from Illinois projects his 98 cents worth of chemical elements upon the floor of the Upper House this winter.

Mr. Lewis told a reporter for the Princeton College newspaper that "our large universities in America are under indictment from the mass of American citizenship as institutions that care to do as little as possible for the education of the student, and all of everything for sports and amusements."

Perhaps Mr. Lewis is correct in his views—at least partly so. Do you suppose they are arrived at by him thusly because Chicago likes roughness to such an extent that its municipal affairs center largely upon toleration of the gang element?

Seriously, though, we think Mr. Lewis exaggerates athletic tendency in college life; true, it does occupy the headlines for about two months during the football season—and then drops into a sort of oblivion as students bend their efforts toward the mastery of scholastic attainments.

Anyway, Senator-elect Lewis may correct the situation by referring it to the Senate committee on goal posts and cheer leaders.

## War Is . . . What?

Wars are instruments of human torture during which time all the devilish, diabolical conceptions of a man's mind are brought forth in an attempt to exterminate the other fellow. Wars, then, are events in human history when hell breaks loose, and God is only a name to profane upon human lips. Wars are steps, would you say, upon which the human family shatters the foolish differences between tongue and race, custom and tradition, and hastens to a Universal Brotherhood. How high, oh God, is Thy staircase that leads to the balcony of Peace?

## Land Should Pay Taxes

Michigan farmers, gathered in convention at Lansing, would shift the burden of taxes from land to income. How foolish to seek such taxation reform! And also how impossible! Land will, and should, always pay a proper proportion of the taxes with which to carry on government—no more than is just and fair. We admit that land is now paying entirely too much, and income not enough; but the Michigan farmer will not obtain freedom from the taxation of his land. God help the landowners of any country when they are allowed to escape taxation; for taxation is the life-blood of public interest in matters of government, and no country is going to be governed properly without the interest of the farmer group within it.

CHARLIE PLUMSTEAD, village treasurer, is mailing out checks to many of our citizens, consisting of rebates on special assessments. That is a fine surprise for those who get 'em—a sort of municipal Santa Claus in disguise, eh?

IN SPITE OF ITS NAME, the Prohibition Law doesn't prohibit people from using it as a topic of conversation.

"MONEY TALKS" may be true, but to too many folks these days it is both deaf and dumb.

## Inspired Thoughts

### *I Hear God's Laughter*

I hear God's laughter in the rippling brook
That rounds each jagged stone. And trembling dew
Has proudly learned to wear the lifted look
Of clouds, yet bathes all things with life anew
Which thirst for rain. With quivering lips, jade grass
Or blossom drink; their flowering the speech
Of dust made visible, a song to pass
From silences of earth to heaven's reach.

O lavish gift of water in a stream,
Cool crystal dew, clean snow or fragrant rain,
Know this! You keep alive God's whispered dream
Of faith down meadow-path, up hillside lane,
And help my proud parched spirit understand
A love that bids dark clouds refresh the land.

H. RAYNESFORD MULDER.

## ..EX-NTRIX

**WORDS FOR A SONG**

*"I'm independent as I can be,"*
*The anteroom easily said to me.*
*"And how is that?" Asks I of he.*
*"I'm taking orders from nobody,"*
*Sez he, sez he, sez he, sez he.*

**Words For Another Song**

Betty Co-ed has eyes of red for Harvard.
Betty Co-ed has lips of Yale's deep blue.
Betty Co-ed has teeth of gold for Michigan,
Her skin is black I guess for old Purdue.
Betty Co-ed's a laugh on Pennsylvania;
Her feet are flat for Army, so 'tis said—
Betty Co-ed's a hit with every college boy,
But I'm the one that's hit by Betty Co-ed.

—S. K.

"I like animuls," says the Arkansas School boy, "and not havin' much of a zoo in my town I get most fun out of readin' about 'em in th' dixshunary at th' liebry. O' course there's th' dog an' cat, an' cows an' frogs an' things but I like difrunt animuls, too, like th' jerboa. Th' dixshunary says th' jerboa 'is any of several Old World nocturnal, jumping rodents,' an' I've wrote this pome about 'em:

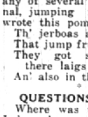
Th' jerboas are wiry rats
That jump frum place to place—
They got strong mussels in there laigs
An' also in their face.

**QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

Where was the Declaration of Independence signed?
At the bottom.

Under what combination is gold most quickly released?
Marriage.

## Vox Polly




**"Nothing has been defined as a footless stocking without a leg."—*Ormond Beebe.***

**THE BRIDE'S LAMENT**

"Our nice new oil stove just went out and I don't know what to do," the dainty little bride complained. "Why don't you light it again?" her fond husband asked. "Boo hoo! I can't. Boo hoo, boo hoo!" she replied "But my dear," the young husband consoled her, "it's a very simple operation. You know dear, you MUST learn to do some of the simple chores about the house. And lighting an oil stove isn't difficult at all. I showed you several times how simple it is. I don't like to be stern, but dear, you go out in the kitchen and try it again."

"But dearest—boo hoo! It's cold in the kitchen," she sobbed.

"Yes, I know, honey," he said. "Of course it's cold now that there's no fire in the stove. How did the stove go out? Did you try to light it again?"

"Uh-huh, but it didn't work. It went out."

"Well, how did it go out?"

"Boo hoo! It went out—it went out through the roof!"

**ICE SKATING LESSON NO. 1**

When you are fat
And the ice is blue
Skate fast, my boy,
Or you'll go through!
When cracks appear
The ice is thin—
Skate fast, my boy!
Or you'll go in!

**LUMEN IN NOCTE**

*Sailorman, what is that light you seek,*
*Now that the gale's gone down?*
*Is it a beacon beyond the shoals?*
*Is it the light of a town?*
*Is it the light of a friendly town*
*Where wine and women and song*
*Help to dispel the gloom of the night*
*And carry your hopes along?*
*Or is it the light of a silver star*
*Shining in sapphire skies—*
*A star as ageless as joy and pain*
*Reflecting a greater price?*
*It isn't as bright, you say, as these,*
*Yet a kindlier light by far,*
*Then it must be the light in the eyes of your child*
*Who's wondering where you are.*

B. W. G.

Simile: As hard to find as an Irishman without a sense of humor.

**OVER THE HILL**

Reports from Pittsburgh say that the Allegheny County Poor Farm donated the equivalent of $1,000 to charity last month.

—Which is proof enough for us that the country is financially sound.

## Famous Finales

Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.—Patrick Upham, Goubervillle, went deer hunting, sat down upon a log beside a deer run to rest, and went to sleep. He was suddenly awakened by two large bucks nibbling upon his long whiskers. Upham was so startled that he fell off the log, and before he could get on his feet and grab his gun both bucks had escaped, taking a large part of the beard it had cost years to grow.

## ANOTHER MESSAGE TO CONGRESS

## *The Other Chap Says Something—*

**THE TWO WIVES**

A Parable of Safed the Sage

I heard a knock at my door, and when I opened it, I beheld standing there a woman who was in middle life. And she said, I am unknown unto thee, but I have a friend who said unto me that peradventure thou couldest help me, and I need help.

And she looked it.

And I gave unto her a Chair, and she seated herself, and I beheld and understood that she was Very Nervous.

And I hastened not that she should tell me her troubles, for I was Sizing her Up.

And after a while she began, and she told me her Tale of Woe.

And she said, I am married, but not happily. And I have been married Twenty Years, and I think that my husband doth no longer Love me.

And she gave me a Lot of Particulars with the which I will not Encumber this Narrative.

And I said, I am reminded of a man I knew who married a wife. And when they began they were Poor and Happy, and after a while they grew Prosperous and Unhappy.

And she said, Thus it hath been with us.

And I said. They may have been to blame both of them, but I will tell thee of the woman's blame. For while her husband grew in experience and in power with men, she never grew with him. She shut herself in her kitchen and economized, and she worked her Nerves to a Frazzle.

And she said, It is as if thou wert telling my story.

And I said, When her husband came home at night, she had not time to Change her Dress, and her talk to him at dinner was of how the Grocer had overcharged her, and how the Iceman had given her Short Weight, and how the Hired Girl was demanding an extra Shekel a week.

And she produced a handkerchief and sobbed a little.

And I said, Her husband had an increasing number of Engagements down town, and took many of his dinners at the Club. And she was Suspicious, and I am inclined to think that she had Ground for her Suspicions.

And her sobbing increased.

And I said, It came to pass that the wife died. And her husban gave her an Expensive Funera and went forth and married a Sec ond Wife. And the first Wife ha been a Druidge, and the second Wi was a Doll.

And she said, Art thou both a Mind-reader and a Prophet, an is it mine own Story thou art tel ling?

And I said. It shall be thine own story if thou dost not watch out.

And she said, What shall I do?

And I said, Be thine husband's Second Wife.

And she said, Thou speakest Folly.

And I said, It is the Best Good Sense that ever heard. Go to it, and Doll thyself up, and make thyself Attractive in the Sight of Thine Husband.

And she said. Shall I descend to Rouge and Lipstick?

And I said, I hardly think so, but if necessary, paint an inch thick. And buy some New Clothes, and get a Facial Massage, and rest thee, and have some Pep, and invite thine Husband to go with thee to the places where he doth like to go. Be unto him what that Flapper, his Second Wife will be if she shall succeed thee. Be thine Own Successor.

And she said, This is strange Talk. I thought that thou would-est Pity Me, and Comfort Me.

And I said, Not any. I am strong for thy husband and his Second Wife; but thou hast Possession. Go to it, and be his Second Wife.

And after she has sputtered a while, and wept more or less, she decided to do as I advised.

And a year and a day thereafter, she came unto me, All Dolled Up, and with a Happy Smile, and I knew that the method had worked.

—(The Christian Century.)

**MILLIONS IN BUILDING AND LOAN ASSOCIATIONS.**

Building and loan associations finish a century of operation in this country next year. They have stood the test of time and grow in usefulness. There are 67 such organizations in Michigan with resources totaling more than $167,000,000.

During the early part of December these associations will begin to mail out checks from the largest dividend fund ever made available under this system. The christmas buying power of the membership this year will be enanced by $8,350,000, which hould prove a real stimulus. The tatistics are furnished by the Michigan Building and Loan eague, the State organization hich represents the interest of ll the associations.

The first building and loan association was organized in the icinity of Philadelphia in 1831. he basic plan of these organizaions is assistance to those of mall means to save for home ownership. The idea soon became opular all over the country and egislatures of the various states nade laws designed to encourage orming such associations and to egulate their relations to the public.

In recent years the functions of the building and loan associations have approximated those of banking institutions. In several states laws have been passed permitting the associations to make long-time loans to farmers, thus extending available rural credit.—Detroit News.

**CONSOLIDATIONS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS**

Recognizing that drifting populations and property values have created in some parts of the State where there may be an excess amount of governmental overhead expense, we recommend to the Legislature that it give careful consideration to the wishes of the inhabitants of such localities regarding possible consolidations of government, either through the union of local units where this is the desire of the people in each unit affected, or through the uniting of public offices of a clerical nature where a majority of the people concerned may desire it.

We also recommend to the citizens of primary school districts where enrollments have almost vanished that they give serious thought to the advisability of discontinuing such unnecessary public schools, wherever it may effect a material reduction in taxes.—Emmet County Graphic.

## *The "Big Shots" Say:—*

**John W. Barton**, Minneapolis banker:
"I am very much inclined to the opinion that our standard of living is too high."

**Lyman D. Wilbur**, Secretary of the Interior:
"Our economic, social and political philosophies inevitably must wage a gigantic and fundamental struggle with Russia's.

**William Randolph Hearst**, newspaper publisher, in reference to the current depression:
"It doesn't take long to fall from the top of a high building, but it takes a long time to climb back."

**Herbert Hoover**, President of the United States:
"Any recession in American business is but a temporary halt in the prosperity of a great people."

**Ann Nichols**, author of "Abie's Irish Rose":
"Too many women marry a man to get a home and a meal ticket—there is dynamite in that sentence but it is true.

**William Ralph Inge**, British divine:
"It cannot be denied that many martyrs have been pig-headed fellows with only one idea in their heads and that a bad one."

**Clough Williams Ellis:**
"Exactly what proportion of our population is 'industrial urban' I do not know, but in any case, God help it."

**Robert Borden**, Premier of Canada:
"We have renounced war, why have we not also renounced armaments?"

**Albert Einstein**, German Scientist:
"The being and fate of our people depend less upon external factors than that we remain true to our moral traditions which have carried us through the centuries in spite of the heavy storms which broke in upon us."

## ParaLaffs

**We Should Say Not**

One reason why it is hard to understand woman is because she never wants to make herself plain. —Louisville Times.

**Education Failing?**

If this nation is not full of class conscious young men, the sophomores have not been doing their duty by the freshmen.—Arkansas Gazette.

## From THE ECCENTRIC Columns of Long Ago

### FIFTY YEARS AGO

"Hunting rabbits with the aid of ferrets is becoming the fashionable rage just now among the sports. The Lawes brothers report having killed upwards of 100 of the poor little cotton-tails."

"Many of our citizens are taking advantage of the superior condition of the product of the recent cold weather and last week many tons of the finest ice we ever saw, was harvested from the pond. The quality was simply perfect, averaging about ten inches in thickness and very clear."

"Johnny Nye walked into a hole in the mill pond last Saturday, where they had been getting out ice. He came 'Nye' being drowned."

"James Cowles, V. S., will give a free lecture on 'The Horse' next Monday afternoon. All horse-owners will do well to attend."

"Henry Randall and James Shain have united their steam engine and clover thresher and the way the whole combination surprises and satisfies the most exacting farmer as to his clover yield."

"We would like to see—The sidewalk question settled.—A new depot for passengers on the west side of the railroad.—A telephone line established connected with Detroit."

"Miss Sarah McDowell announces to the ladies of Royal Oak and vicinity that she is prepared to do all kinds of dressmaking at reasonable prices at her home, or will sew in families for 50c a DAY. Will also weave hair from combings at 25c per ounce."

"William Reynolds is now prepared to furnish minnows to fishermen at the rate of 50c per 100."

"Till Trowbridge and Ainslee Sowersby have formed a copartnership for the purpose of breaking colts, and offer their services in that capacity, guaranteeing satisfaction in all cases."

### TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

Mr. Zang, a canvasser for the Detroit Suburban Telephone Company is in our midst, hard at work and with great success. His specialty is organizing rural lines and he can offer great inducements to subscribers.

At the regular annual communication and election of officers of Birmingham Lodge No. 44 F. & A. M., held on Thursday evening, Dec. 7, 1905, the following officers were elected and installed: W. M. Masters, W. M.; Charles Bingham, S. W.; Fred E. Brooks, J. W.; Geo. Bridges, Treas.; Wilmot H. Wood, J. D.; M. R. Blair, Sec'y; Eugene Brooks, Treas.; W. M. Story and H. G. Hendrickson, Stewards.

At the conclusion of the communication the craft retired to the banquet room where a bountiful repast was spread and the brethren regaled on roast turkey and oysters.

Upon his arraignment before Justice A. W. Campbell Monday morning of this week, Fred P. Zillman pleaded "Guilty" to the charge as read to him by the police. The complaint was for larceny of four binders and brass rule from the Eccentric office to the value of over $60. Another lot of type was found where it was hid by Zillman in the Eccentric's own office packed away in eleven cigar boxes.

Chas. Toms, banker from Cassopolis, Mich., surprised his parents and his large circle of friends by suddenly appearing in our midst one day the latter part of the week, and the next day under date of Dec. 7, the Detroit News said as follows: "Governor Warner stated to the News that Charles Toms, of Birmingham, Oakland County, has received an appointment as prison storekeeper . . . ."

Let us hope that Russian students will not construe liberty for license and go to playing football.

At the New York opera Mrs. William K. Vanderbilt's gown was of bright red silk veined with chiffon. She wore diamond shoulder bars instead of shoulder straps, thus setting a fashion that will not be generally followed.

### FIVE YEARS AGO

With activities at the Community House increasing as the season advances presage a very interesting season for this organization. The monthly meeting of the executive board of the Community House was held Monday morning and among other things it was decided that open house would again be held this year on Christmas eve on Twelfth Night, at which time the entertainment will be given the same as on Twelfth Night told and all the Christmas greens brought to the House burned on the hearth. Miss Griffin will, of course, be hostess on both occasions.

Among the recommendations submitted by Chief W. G. Olsen and a committee of the local fire department Monday of this week was the proposition of submitting to the voters the plan to issue bonds with which to build a modern engine house, capable of housing three pieces of equipment, together with accommodations for 16 beds.

**New Celebration**

At the instigation of the United States, this country and Canada are about to celebrate a hundred years of peace by engaging in a tariff war.—Asheville Times.

**Not So With Men**

A pyschologist asserts that the average woman's thoughts are above her dress. On her hat, presumably.—Passing Show.

**We'll Say**

"The husband who talks in his sleep may easily ruin his wife's nerves," declares a specialist. Especially if she can't quite hear what he is saying.—The Humorist (London.)

**Here's How!**

Under terms of a will, a Texas man has just been awarded $1,900,000 for staying sober five years. If the government really wants to enforce prohibition, there is a good suggestion.—San Diego Union.