

During 1931 each of us was given time—the stuff of which life is made—in which to enrich our lives. Are we happier, (in spite of a depression), in the growth of our spiritual selves?

FIFTY-FOURTH YEAR—NO. 38

THE S and THAT

By G. R. A.
Over in Grand Rapids there is published each week the Chronicle, with George W. Welsh, former assistant-governor, as owner. Filling the starboard column of the front page of each issue is a column of editorials, under the interesting and nothing captious of "A Corner" which himself Peter Blais is responsible for several relaxing chuckles that I get whenever I find time to run down his assortment of paragraphs. A few weeks ago here in a column offered on behalf of Governor Brucker:

"The Ex-Republicans Democratic Club had another rousing meeting last week. Professor Rabid acted as secretary. A member moved to suspend the rules. Two Brucker men who had sneaked into the meeting during the recesses moved to suspend the rules and the secretary also, preferably from a tree. They were immediately ejected by Ed (Slender) Clark, sergeant at arms. The congregation then listened to an instructive lecture by Prof. Horace V. Handaber, dedicated to Gov. Brucker, on 'Hunting for Health: Armor; How to Keep It From Sneaking.'"

"IT WAS PROPHECIED THAT IN THE NEXT STATE CAMPAIGN 'THE POPULAR BRUCKER' WILL BE: 'GOOD NIGHT, KNIGHT.'"

"Someone put a tack on the chair of Bob Smith, and he rose to a point of order. At this point he tied himself to the chair. He had been sitting in front of a street excavation for two hours in the rain. The Doctor predicted an overwhelming victory for the Republican national Republican state next year."

"THAT REMAINS TO BE SEEN, AS THE ELEPHANT SHOWS HIS STRENGTH IN THE WET CEMENT."

After throwing the Doctor a fish, the members, whose numbers had been increased until they could not be counted, decided to make a pilgrimage to the tomb of the Unknown Taxpayer. The members were advised to bring a Depression, the More You Hoover Around the Brucker We Love of Brucker's hair, a list consisting of all the Grand Rapids men who are still strong in the favor of Brucker's hair, a telephone book where they had been concealed and everyone had another cup of coffee.

"A LOT OF PEOPLE STILL BELIEVE IN BRUCKER, AND A LOT OF PEOPLE STILL BELIEVE IN SANTA CLAUS."

George E. English, editor and publisher of the Huron County Tribune up at Bad Axe, paused long enough last week to compliment me on the 'Eccentric' as you say. As you may observe, he joins several other Michigan newspapers in suggesting that I be a candidate for Congress next fall. Just why my good friends appear to be in some sort of an apoplexy to have me enter practical politics is still to be puzzled out. It's a certain Birmingham scribble.

George R. Averill, able and interesting editor of The Birmingham Eccentric, has added another asset to his literary repertoire. He is now writing some very creditable poetry. And he is now writing some very creditable prose. We expect George to be a candidate for Congress next year and we're for him."

If you like winter sports, including such enjoyable recreation as skating, skiing, tobogganing, snowshoeing, curling, I suggest that you consider going to the Harbors Springs and Petoskey. According to Elmer J. Hanna, Harbor Springs manager, and the Lake Michigan communities are well prepared this winter to give visitors a poor man's share of winter sports. Michigan's snowing attractions do.

Here's a thought-provoking gem from Upton Sinclair's "The Wet Parade": "The saloon was the man's forum in which he debated his problems, under conditions which made sure he would express a poor man's share of an unlimited supply of problems to debate."

Classified Ads should be in The Eccentric office not later than five o'clock Friday. Advertisements of each week.

BIRMINGHAM'S 1931 REVIEWED IN HEADLINES

The year 1931 will not soon be forgotten by Birmingham residents. It was a year of many and varied happenings in nearly every field of activity, with tragedy, grief and misfortune walking hand in hand with a multitude of more welcome events forecasting progress, growth and happiness.

LOWMAN IS OPPOSED
The question of whether the mandate of the Village Charter can be and should be followed literally was the occasion for a long and hotly debated discussion at the meeting of the Village Commission Monday night, with Commissioner Maurice Lowman holding out for strict interpretation and the other six members inclined to favor the spirit rather than the letter of the law.

The discussion was precipitated by the introduction of a resolution calling for the publication of the 1931 annual report of the village together with the annual audit of the village accounts, during the last week in January, as required by the charter. The resolution met immediate opposition, especially from Village Commissioner Harry Ann. It was deemed that the charter provision was "directory and not mandatory," and that it was not the intention of the framers of the charter to require the publication of such a report at this time, which would be inadvisable because of the winter weather.

Deferred For Week
Attempts of Lowman and other commissioners to introduce the resolution to allow for more leniency in interpretation of the charter, failed when Lowman presented it again next Monday night in proper form. The matter is presently expected that an audit of the accounts of the treasurer and other officers of the village will be made before the second Monday in January of each year, and incorporated in the annual report published during the last week in January of each year in complete conformity with the charter.

The charter further states that "the commission shall cause to be published a complete annual report of the village, complete financial statements, and a list of the names of the persons who shall be required from each department or from each division of the village, as follows:—"

Manager's Report Omitted
The annual report may be included in the annual binding as the annual report of the village. Such reports shall be published in pamphlet form, a complete annual report of the village, complete financial statements, and a list of the names of the persons who shall be required from each department or from each division of the village, as follows:—"

Franklin Village Postmaster Ouits
John Currin Resigns After Serving 22 Years; Test To Fill Vacancy
After serving more than 22 years as postmaster of the Village of Franklin, John Currin yesterday announced his resignation, to become effective Jan. 1 providing Federal authorities will accept it.

Tuggey Claims 800 Petition Signers
Between 700 and 800 signatures have been attached to a petition now in circulation demanding the removal of James W. Parry as village manager. The petition was presented to the Village Commission yesterday by Justice of the Peace Arthur J. Tuggey, sponsor of the measure.

HAVE YOU MET?
Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Charlot of the Abbey road, who moved to Birmingham from Detroit on Dec. 16. They have four children, William, Jr., who is 16 years old; Patricia, 12 years old; and Bobbie, five and one-half years old. Mr. Charlot is a teacher and is planning to enter Baldwin High School at the beginning of the new semester.

BARGAIN RENTALS
FURNISHED ROOMS: 2 with 8 rooms, 2 baths, oil burner, large lot, 2500.00. 2 with 6 rooms, 2 baths, centrally located, \$40.00. UNFURNISHED: 8-room house on 12th street, 2500.00. 2 1/2-story house, 2500.00. Real Estate. General Insurance. Adv. 5417

lic interest in affairs of government, as evidenced by the calling of the first grand jury in Oakland County for use during 50 years, attempts of the Property Owners Division to bring about reforms in township government, virulent attacks on the administration of village affairs, and concerted movements in opposition to the State Tax Commission's re-valuation of the county. Budgets were slashed, tax rates lowered and economy was set up as the guide.

It was a year which saw, along with developments on the Grand Trunk, other important changes in the sphere of transportation, notably the abandonment of interurban trolley service and the completion of wider Woodward from Royal Oak to Birmingham.

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175 Needy Families Get Christmas Food And Toys
Goodfellows Distribute Seven Tons of Edibles In Biggest Relief Project
"Dear Goodfellows: We thank you with all our heart for the good things you brought to our family all happy and we wish you a happy New Year."

A BABY VOIDS AN ELECTION
Or How a Blessed Event Ended A Political Career
Question: When is a commissioner not a commissioner? Answer: When his family gets too big.

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St. James Episcopal Church dies suddenly. William Thornton named acting chief of Birmingham fire department. Mr. and Mrs. W. F. W. 22 years old, son of Mr. and Mrs. Vernon C. Fry, killed in auto accident on Northwestern highway. Dan Parson, retired farmer, killed when struck by auto while crossing West Maple avenue.

Mr. Hops F. Halgren, executive director of the Community House, injured in automobile crash. Carl H. L. Plinterman, Detroit industrialist and resident of Bloomfield Hills, ranges self in hotel room in Jackson.

Village Commission begins series of public discussions on proposed zoning ordinance. Albert Featherston, pioneer Birmingham settler, dies at 83. Fifteen residents of Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills tried by 1930-1931 Grand Jury.

WABEEK CHECK RECEIPTS TOTAL \$96,000
Corporation Pays In Full; December Receipts Total \$96,000
Swelled by a check received yesterday from the Wabeko Corporation for \$48,499.80, winter tax receipts at the Bloomfield Township offices had mounted to \$96,000. The grand jury yesterday when the books for December were closed, according to Mrs. R. Margaret Thomas, township treasurer.

MILK ORDINANCE OBJECTIONS SEEN
Restrictions on Birmingham Distributors May Be Proposed, Vote Indicates
That an ordinance which would make it compulsory for distributors of milk in Birmingham either to pasteurize the product or produce it under Grade A standards will not be adopted without strenuous opposition, was indicated at the meeting of the Village Commission Monday night when the village attorney and health officer proposed a resolution to prepare such an ordinance.

VILLAGERS AND THE VILLAGE
BY THE WANDERER
Readers of The Eccentric who enjoyed a series of articles published last fall, based on the chapters of a book of political philosophy written by the author, "The Mirrors of 1932," will be interested to know that the book, which has been published anonymously, was revealed last week as being Ray T. Tucker, Birmingham writer for the New York World-Telegram.

DARICE ROWLEY'S CASE CONTINUED
Examination for Darice Rowley, 23 years old, of 1136 Villa road, was held by the court yesterday in Pontiac Municipal Court. Rowley was charged with not having a license to operate a motor vehicle. The case was continued to next Wednesday.

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION
A resolution of appreciation for the work of the Birmingham Teachers Club in providing milk and Graham crackers for underprivileged school children was adopted unanimously by the Board of Education at its meeting Tuesday night. The resolution was introduced by Village Commissioner Tuggey and was adopted with commendation by the Board of Education.

Armed thugs held up "The Cave" on Woodward avenue, escaping with \$143. Thomas McCutcheon succumbs to heart attack while riding on street car. R. K. Novikov, noted business man, died at his home in Bloomfield Hills.

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153 Brown St. Phone 102-154
We are free to give you the best of our furniture. We have a large stock of furniture, including chairs, tables, beds, and more. We are located at 153 Brown St. Phone 102-154.

Drop Party Owners Division Demands Township Reform

Committee Report Recommends 10 Percent Salary Reductions; Attacks New Budget

WOULD SLASH RENT AND PARK BILLS

Drastic economies in Bloomfield Township government, including salary reductions and savings in general operating expenses, are recommended in a critical report on township affairs issued yesterday by a committee from the Property Owners Division of the Birmingham Real Estate Board, composed of Eugene Walton, chairman, Luther Heckock and R. K. McMillan. The report, the outcome of the Property Owners Division's investigation of the past several years following the passage of the township's new budget, which the committee charged was adopted secretly and which it said was "very criticized" in the current report.

10 Per Cent Wage Cuts
Salary cuts of 10 per cent for all employees are recommended, together with the turning off of one-third of the township's night lights, the closing of the Township Park during the winter "unhappy" season, and a combination of the committee charged was adopted secretly and which it said was "very criticized" in the current report.

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