

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

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NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events which have been written by persons not known to the editorial staff of the paper. All copy must be accompanied by return address and name of author.

Life's Pot Of Gold

A certain man, not rich as the world counts riches, had two children whom he loved dearly, and for whom he craved the best that life has to offer.

"Since I cannot buy beautiful things for you," he told them a little sadly, "I shall try to teach you to see and love Beauty wherever it exists in the world around you."

So he walked with them in the woods and fields and by the riverside, and showed them many marvels which he had looked at, but had never really seen before—the silver sheen of young oaks; the intricate myrtle, tinted like ivory; the slender sickle of the day-old moon.

"The children's playthings, too, were lovely things; mussel shells, lined with mother-of-pearl; chapters strung of polished ruby and amber seeds; the flowers and grasses that hid away from careless tramping feet."

"We have few coins in our purse," the father would say, "but see the silver that rims the clouds before the sun; on the surface of the lake where the light touches it; on the under side of the green bay leaf. We have satin too as the petals of the wild rose, velvet so deep a pile as that of the mullen leaves."

On winter evenings, the three found pictures in the embers, or talked intimately of the friends in the old books upon the shelves—shabby, but priceless. Best of all they played the dictionary game that made words come alive.

In the fullness of time, the father was called away. One of his young friends came to the door and advised. "I wish he had left you a large fine home like mine," he said.

"Our house seems large to us," the daughters replied, "for it holds so many things of value."

"But," the visitor objected, "you have no handsome furniture nor silver, no fine paintings on the walls."

"Your pictures are but copies," the younger girl said. "Our western windows frame the originals of Turner's most gorgeous sunsets; oaks such as Rousseau would paint; a landscape finer than Corot's masterpiece. On the symphonies by Beethoven you may see music more marvelous than the rarest product of Byzantine art."

"You talk nonsense," retorted the consoling one petulantly, as she rose to go. "At least you will admit that a legacy of money would have made you happy—comforted you in old age."

The older daughter looked at the caller in amazement, as she opened the door. "My sister and I are very happy," she said softly, "and richer than anyone we know. When we were small children our father found us the pot of gold at the foot of the rainbow."—Columbia Star.

This May Save Your Child's Life

Boys will be boys, but parents can very often avoid tragedy by using more care in teaching them the dangers of commonplace things.

For example, the child with gasoline. The explosion led to start a fire in Illinois, in a 4-year-old child killed him and seriously injured his 6-year-old brother. Unfortunately, the little fellow is dead, but there are parents in Oakland County who permit their children to use oil and gasoline in starting fires? If so, it is not possible to stop the custom, and maybe save a little life!

It is not unusual to see, in the press, where youngsters get hold of firearms and, probably without understanding the nature of their act, kill someone. In Pennsylvania, not long ago, two little boys got into an argument over some crackers, it is said, and one shot the other with a pistol. The killer was only six years old. Who imagines for a minute that the tot understood the effect of his pistol pointing and that he really had a murderous intent in his heart?

Parents in Birmingham should be very careful in removing firearms from the reach of children, but more than this, they should never fail to instruct them against the danger of such weapons.

IRON COUNTY, in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, is in such a condition, apparently, that its two weekly newspapers, the Iron River Reporter and the Crystal Falls Diamond Drill suggest the calling of a grand jury. If the U. P. does not want to be out-done by the Lower Peninsula, it certainly should have a grand jury session. With Marquette so handy, too.

NEW LIQUOR REGULATIONS in this prohibition country of our allow legislators to administer intoxicating liquor to patients "when necessary to afford relief." Well, that's one way to get at the root of this drinking business, though you'll have to admit that it takes a lot of nerve.

PRESIDENT HOOVER'S unwillingness to give out information to the press of this country may result in the routing of a national-courtesy to place the most honest in a sort of political museum.

Need Part-Time Schools

A great number of young people, between the ages of fourteen and eighteen, are compelled by economic pressure to stop going to school and add their earnings to the family income. The job-fortunate and should be remedied by establishment of part-time educational facilities so that they could work some without abandoning their training.

In this connection it is interesting to observe that the Federal Office of Education estimates that the number of children between the ages above mentioned amount to at least \$5,000,000 each year. This amount is twice the annual cost of operating the public school system.

The welfare of any country in which the people have political power depends largely upon the average intelligence of the voters. Some plan should be adopted to afford additional educational advantages for this class of young people who drop out of school and go to work.

Wearing Your Religion

From the pen of Murl H. DeFoe, Charlotte editor, we present some plain and honest comments upon the all-important subject of one's religious convictions. Says editor DeFoe:

Religion is a relative experience. It serves and is served according to the makeup of the individual. A stinging and envious person mixes it entirely. This attributes preclude a Christian consciousness. Church membership is essential but by no means final. The Monday attitude is a much more important test. Prof. William Lyon Phelps, the Yale savant, preaching at his summer home pulpit at Huron City, likened love to the burning bush out of which God spoke to Moses, and urged his audience to apply the principle of love to everything. "We can never go wrong if we love God and our fellow-men," he said. "Love is never consumed but the more it is applied the greater it becomes."

The love of God is inextinguishable. Religion is also like the burning bush in that the more you use it the more you have. Religion gives us light and inspiration from God, just as the sun gives us light and heat from the sky. Prof. Phelps spoke of the fine literature of the world by the Jews. Most of the Bible was written by them and they kept alive the idea of one spiritual God while other nations had many gods. "We owe much to the Jews," he said. He warned against prejudice in our attitude toward the Jews. "Prejudice is the sign of a small and ignorant mind," he declared. Most religions are founded on fear but the Christian religion is based on love.

Our School Taxes

Harlow N. Davock, recently retired member of the Birmingham board of education, in a recent article published in this newspaper, said that taxes in Birmingham will always be high. Two firsts were given by Mr. Davock for this. First families with plenty of children are attracted to this community because it offers wholesome surroundings. Second, the prevalence of industrial property requires that the preponderance of taxes be assessed upon residence property.

It is said that Birmingham teachers are paid too little; if they receive more right now the tax rate school tax will climb higher. The low hope for a reduced school tax is in the educational brick a brack, no new bond issues, and ability of people to pay present taxes.

Best Wishes To Lowell

Over in Lowell, Michigan, the good folks are planning a Centennial Home-Coming Celebration, to be held August 6, 7, and 8. Last week R. J. Jeffries, Lowell Ledger contained much information upon the gala event. Lowell is to be congratulated for having lasted 100 years. Within its confines many human beings have entered this world, to taste of joys and sorrows, the successes and the failures, of coming. Birmingham sends its best wishes to Lowell upon its happy occasion.

Man's Leaps and Bounds

Man's physical progress is measured in leaps and bounds, including leaps that last thousands of miles—as witness the airplane. From the bending back and passing carrier to a long flight of human invention. Today's airplane will carry you freight from Detroit to Cleveland for only 15 cents per pound; to Chicago for 20 cents per pound. Marvelous are the wings of man's imagination.

THE AVERAGE AMERICAN family is said to consume more than two packages of gum each week. As we suppose when more seats are installed in theaters the consuming will jump up three. Just think what a great boon would come to mankind if every gum-chewing job that clanks could be harnessed to some central power project!

HERE'S SOMETHING to work out in your spare time. Alexander Legge, former chairman of the federal farm board, argues that twenty per cent less farmers. True—but who is to declare what bunch of farmers must raise less?

EVER SINCE the now famous gentleman, Old Man Depression, came to visit us, many of us are enjoying more of the real pleasures of life than ever before. Thus he has brought a paradox: "he who loses his life shall find it."

SPEAKING OF ALPHABETS, Sanskrit contains 49 letters, while in Hawaii the natives use only 12. We wish that some of the places where we eat alphabet noodle soup would change from Hawaiian to Sanskrit.

THE BEST SALESMAN is one who knows more about people than his wares. A thousand pieces of merchandise may be cut from the same pattern—but not a thousand people's whims and fancies.

NOW WE LEARN that Budapest contains more mineral springs and health baths than any other city in the world. The dirty place!

From THE ECCENTRIC Columns of Long Ago

FIFTY YEARS AGO Dan Cook's potato which had found its way through an old land was the curiosity last week. Prof. Frank W. Sherman took his valuable breath in Gardener's Detroit band—in a 3-fart horn.

The Ovid "Register" says our Huppert Nip E. U. was in Detroit. If Detroiters only knew that, how they would rave at the Register.

We were not exactly correct in regard to Will Perkins' mustache last week, he has 18 lashes on each side a nice chin whiskers. This is the latest and officially correct.

Two of our prominent citizens recently played five games of checkers with the board a— sideways before they found their mistake—and they still vehemently declare that they were sober.

Mr. Perry Henderson with a gang of laborers have made several needed improvements around the city repairing and building the cattle yards, and relaying a portion of the passenger platform from the rear end up to the front. Perry has his cornet with him.

Mrs. White of Detroit, better known as a virtuoso on the piano, an old lady 81 years of age, commenced a dress on Monday afternoon had it completed. Show us the young lady of today that can do this!

For general fly-around-and-around your pants activities, commanding Mack and his crew at the Sam Hills. They walked a mile down to the slaughter house and other morning killed and dressed two head of cattle and walked back home again in just exactly one hour and 15 minutes from some of your fast ones now.

TWENTY FIVE YEARS AGO You have noticed the pretty vine-covered post in front of the Huppert home on Maple avenue east of the city.

Miss Jennie Keyes enjoyed a very sensible vacation last week staying at home and going away for a day at a time.

For your barbers now charge 50 cents for a shave on every day and legal holidays and claim it a reasonable demand.

Some of our real estate dealers says that two questions asked by those looking for homes in Birmingham are: "How big is the school?" Have you a public library?

Some of our hose tower opposite the bank has received a fresh coat of paint being applied by the village painter. The tower is about 60 feet tall and Bill says that there were just 1,176 gallons of paint used.

Bill, you were built a-purposely to come out at all-Hee-haw!" And over a thousand of 'em thought it was original.

"This is a story they tell on a 'near' farmer living near town. He told to some friends who were out like to sell him a joint. The farmer told his wife and she told him that he had ordered meat for Sunday dinner, and she did not see any meat on Sunday they had no meat. The pork did not come out of the house, and the farmer's daughter and angrily asked the reason why the pork did not come out of the house, the question, but being cornered, she blurted out, 'Well, you see, the pig got better.'

FIVE YEARS AGO Almeron Whitehead, founder and president of the First National Bank of Birmingham, and founder of the Birmingham Eccentric, died peacefully last Sunday morning (July 26) at his home in Birmingham.

With his death Birmingham lost one of her most progressive pioneers. Mr. Whitehead was not only more than any other single individual to the growth and civilization of Birmingham.

Almeron Whitehead was a progressive individual both in business and personal conduct. He was always receptive to new ideas that were basically sound and fundamental. As proof of this are the following innovations which he was the first person to purchase, introduce and use among Birmingham citizens: the typewriter, bicycle, bath tub, telephone, gasoline automobile, safe, and the automobile.

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ALICE IN PLUNDERLAND

OH DEAR HOW TO GET OUT?



THE OTHER CHAP SAYS SOMETHING—

THE STATE JESTER Years and years ago the kings of ancient lands maintained jesters. These clowns were supposed to cheer up the king and his court. And if the crowned heads saw anything funny in what the jesters were doing, then all the subjects of the kings were supposed to be grateful.

Up until recently we thought the kingly jesters were a thing of the past. But not so, Michigan has one.

He is the legislator who proposes to give the great state of Michigan absolute control over the finances of the various municipalities. Plymouth couldn't do anything in the line of development without first going over to Lansing and getting consent from the state.

Baraga County is deeply grateful for the aid it has already received from the Children's Fund of Michigan, particularly in the spreading of dental health among its indigent people. The County will share in the benefits of the Fund in an special manner, with the conclusion of a free dental clinic at L'Anse, which will be in operation for a 12-week period, beginning June 29, 1931.

Even greater benefits are anxiously looked forward to in the new Northern Michigan Children's clinic. The state has become even more indebted to the Children's Fund for the gift of \$10,000,000 has made this work possible, and Baraga County is proud to acknowledge its debt, and congratulate the Senator on his countless accomplishments.

Supervisors of Baraga County. Marj H. Legman, in Charlotte Republican-Tribune.

THE WEEKLY NEWSPAPER Sherwood Anderson, the novelist, bought two country weeklies in 1927. He says that in two years ago, and discusses "The Country Weekly in a recent issue of the Saturday Review."

The country weekly has become pretty dull and meaningless, and also says that "when it is a true country weekly it is not a newspaper at all." Being an unsophisticated editor we feel our inability to make a proper defense against the charges of so eminent and scholarly a writer as Sherwood Anderson, but we do wish to remark that country weeklies may be classified much the same as dailies—good, bad and indifferent. We do not know the situation in Indiana, where Mr. Anderson lives and publishes his own colorful and meaningful newspapers, but we wish he might

Paralaf's It Does Not consume fat. This doesn't seem to be true of those who fear they are getting fat.—The Newark Evening News.

Man, says science, "is just a lot of protons, electrons and photons." He knows about the connection to the American principle that all men are born equal.—The Louisville Courier-Journal.

Looks So Judging from the outgivings of the leading spell-binders, the two parties have caught the current contagion and gone in for miniature politics.—Virginia Pilot.

Just About Cotton Shleawks to Be Tried—Headline. House to have caucus?—Arkansas Gazette.

All of Us

By Marshall Maslin

HE TOLD me he was broke. But he smiled as he said it. One year ago, he said, he had a bank account with \$100 in the bank and some investments.

Now the business and the money were gone. He had lost it all. He had struggled to keep it, but he had done all that any man could do. He had even sold his car to help him. He had even sold his house. He had even sold his family.

Two years ago he had a family. A wife and two children. He and his wife were fairly happy together. The children were happy. He had even sold his house. He had even sold his family.

He still had the wife, he still had the children, and they were happy. He had even sold his house. He had even sold his family.

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Our Scrap Book

PUNCH AND JUDY, THE ORIGIN I sometimes fancy, too, that Punch and Judy are a striking instance of the growth of a new art form. Punch always gets a little bit of the story, and Judy always gets a little bit of the story. Punch and Judy are a striking instance of the growth of a new art form.

What we mean out of the profession, 4 per cent of our population is going to have even more than 80 per cent of our wealth.

Alfred P. Sloan, Jr., automobile executive. "Fluores reads much more frequently from lack of knowledge than from lack of interest when facts are available."

Thurs Sumter Winslow. "People don't get indignation any more. They fear anything but a pleasant deal in a dinner room."

John Galworthy, British author. "Half-truth is the devil him self."

William Green, president of A. F. of M. "A general reduction in wages at the present time is the greatest injury that could be inflicted upon our social and economic order."

Herbert Hoover, president, United States. "The Nicaraguan government has shown itself fully cognizant of its responsibilities."

Henry Ford, industrialist. "The liquor business makes money for a very few—too many money-making tools from very many."

Wm. E. Beach, U. S. Senator from Idaho. "In Washington treason may be said to consist of a conspiracy to prevent increase of salaries, or to abolish an office, or to refuse to create an office—especially commissions."

L. P. Jacks, professor of sociology. "The evils of enforced leisure are almost as bad as the evils of enforced labor, and really a new form of slavery."

Bertram Park, photographer. "Not for generations have the standards of women's beauty been so high as today."

George W. Wickersham, chairman of the Senate Committee on Education. "Many a devoted father is trusting more than a banknote to his sons and daughters."

Poems That Live

TWO birds within one nest; Two hearts within one breast; Two spirits in one form, Two hopes of love and dream, Together looking for love, together blind.

An ear that waits to catch A hand upon the latch; A step that hastens its sweet run To win; A world of ruse without, A world of strife shut out, A world of love that's true, A world of love that's true.

HE told me he was broke— But he didn't sound like a man who was broke!