# BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

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THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 1931


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 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.

## Community House Help

Local and nearby residents who are offering their services free to aid the Community House in carrying on its work are deserving of praise. Since the vacancies caused by the recent retirement of Miss Mary Clark Griffith, hostess, and Mrs. O. F. Beier and Mrs. Trumbull, in charge of the Thrift Shop and the Employment Bureau, respectively, much added work has been thrust upon Mrs. Hope F. Halgren, executive director, and Mrs. Harold Euler, bookkeeper.

Recently, at a meeting of the Community House board, Mrs. Charles Burgess offered to be responsible for obtaining additional local women to help out evenings. Mrs. Beier is giving a day each week in the Thrift Shop; others are constant helpers for the multitude of tasks that reveal themselves as a part of the House's activities.

Mrs. Halgren, Mrs. Euler, and one janitor are the only paid employes now on the Community House staff at present; according to information, the House's running expenses now are $225.00 less per month than they were a few weeks ago. Persons interested in the success of the House have expressed thanks that, due to the current financial depression, so much gratuitous aid has been offered to supplement the fine work done by Miss Griffith, Mrs. Beier and Mrs. Trumbull, and feel that, until "things pick up," perhaps the House will be able to maintain its present overhead without adding to it by more paid help.

## Washing County Linen

Clarence L. Smith, is Oakland County's prosecuting attorney, elected to that office last fall. Within his power, our citizenry may receive much, or little, help. It depends upon Mr. Smith's personal inclinations; it hinges upon his desire to worklikehell, as a modern crusader, or upon his mere whim and caprice to let well enough alone. The eyes of all Oakland County are upon Mr. Smith's office these days; these eyes would like to behold Dame Justice, arrayed in her white robes, standing guard at the outer portals. It is to be hoped that Mr. Smith, now that he has the laundering machinery of a grand jury at his disposal, will subject Oakland County's linen to hot soapsuds, and hang the various garments out in the white and regenerating light of publicity, where public opinion may bleach them.

## You And Your Time

**All you have is TIME.**

**It is made up of your yesterdays—fleeting hours that you cannot recall, except in memory.**

**It is made up of your todays—precious hours that are yours to be used as you will, for tomorrow's memories.**

**It is made up of all the tomorrows that have been wrapped up for you in the unfathomable bag of TIME.**

**Yesterday is but a memory; tomorrow is only a promise; today only is yours—this very hour and minute! How do you live in it?**

**If you will it, nothing can prevent you from making today throb with the stuff of which happy, successful lives are made.**

**It is up to you, alone!**

REPLYING TO THE QUESTION of "what do you think of the veteran's bonus loan just granted by Congress?", we believe that this bonus, in a measure economically unsound, is fairer to the country than the thing that actually created it—namely, the recent World War. Wars are now admitted by every thinking person to be barbarically hellish, the mad frenzy of the bowling pack. The veteran's bonus loan certainly is not that bad. The soldier is entitled to a few dollars that war-time profiteers didn't get the strangle hold on.

MICHIGAN'S LEARNED LEGISLATURE has officially taken notice of the fact that a number of University of Michigan fraternity houses housed illegal liquors. So the Legislators will investigate just how the stuff got into the places where youth sowed its wild oats upon the broad acres of the campus. Well, perhaps some of the Legislature, upon the findings of the investigating committee, will be able to obtain lower liquor prices themselves. And that, Dear People, will be a distinct victory!

IN BALTIMORE, Maryland, where news dispatches admit that the modern bootlegger plies his illegal trade every day in the week, the police became alarmed because three individuals sold bread on the Sabbath Day—contrary to the Blue Laws of dear, old, wet Maryland. Well, now isn't that ritchie!

GREEN FACE POWDER is being suggested as stylish for the women, by a French expert in female attire. If it keeps on, the ladies will make the weaker sex of the Fiji Islands appear pale by comparison.

CONGRESS COSTS the people of this country $11,000.00 every eight-hour working day. During tariff revisions, however, the costs run beyond statistical comprehension.

## "The Vance Of Death"

This newspaper, under its present ownership, for more than a decade has sought to defend the case of the modern preacher and his merchandise, Christianity. Upon every occasion in which morality has been the issue, we have sought to lean decidedly in favor of the man of God. We offer no apology for this attitude, other than that we are glad of every opportunity to set forth in these columns any incident in human life that glorifies the common Creator. We shall always continue to do what we can, without entering into controversial religious denominationalism, to present the case of the Man of Galilee.

All of which brings us to a current observation: just as there are mis-guided, non-informed people in the average church congregation who, because of inability as yet to grasp the fundamental TRUTH of Christianity, and who thus lead lives that are at times anti-Christ, so there are certain preachers who lean across their pulpits, their elbows resting upon the Book of Books, yet their mouths sending forth anti-Christ doctrines.

Would you have a contemporary example of one whom we believe at times to be an anti-Christ preacher? Then just cast your glances down into Detroit, where a certain chap whose name is Rev. Joseph A. Vance, holds forth in the pulpit of the First Presbyterian church. Rev. Dr. Vance, when the opportunity manifests itself, tosses from his pulpit the symbol that Calvary stands for, and holds up for his audience the picture of a gallows, or an electric chair. In our opinion, Dr. Vance, who is supposed by virtue of his ministry to be at least hanging on to the fringe of the Celestial City, appears to have loosed his hold upon high places and is trembling upon the hot grids of an angry hell. The scholastic divine has again raised his cry for capital punishment in Michigan.

One day last week Dr. Vance stood upon the stage of Keith's theater, in Detroit, making a Lenten noon address. His topic was "The Call of God." We quote a part of his address—just read it over carefully: "The third thing is what God can do for the man who thus yields himself to Him. 'Be ye not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind.' Life is always working a change in a man. It makes us or breaks us. It stamps us with its greed and smears us with its filth and deforms us with its ugliness; or it beautifies us with its love, and purifies us with its pain, sets us free with its truth, and glorifies us with its sacrifice. The issue depends on the processes. Life is marred and fouled when we let it be conformed to this world's greed and sensuality; but it becomes beautified and glorified, when we let the indwelling Christ transform it from within."

That, Dear Reader, is the kind of language that poured out of the mouth of a preacher who is a vigorous yeller for the restoration of capital punishment in Michigan. That, in our opinion, is the kind of language that proves Dr. Vance at one time a faithful user of Jesus' doctrine; yet, can you reconcile those words of his Lenten address with his anti-Christ pleas for capital punishment in Michigan.

We have no doubt that Dr. Vance is, generally speaking, a kindly, patient, sacrificing sort of chap, with certain crusading instincts to make mankind better; and in the process of making man better, Dr. Vance quite reverently uses those portions of the Scriptures that suit his particular theological fancy. In this respect Dr. Vance typifies the method of reasoning of many persons who seek, quite sincerely in many cases, to be made better by Christianity, yet who still believe in the Mosaic law of "an eye for an eye."

But this we do believe: admit that Dr. Vance is quite instructive and entertaining as a preacher—he would be much better if his heart and mind sought consistent Christian solutions other than capital punishment for the major crime problem. For we do not believe that any human being can stand with God's pulpit and establish complete communication with Him for the benefit of humanity, when such a human being has in his heart the barbaric impulse to kill another human being.

We suggest that Dr. Vance study his own text, including his statement quoted above: "Life is marred and fouled when we let it be conformed to this world's greed and sensuality . . ."

THE WELL DRESSED American plumber is advised to wear white duck trousers. We always supposed that white trousers went with another kind of racquet—one of those racquets that is only settled on the courts.

## Things We've Said Before . . .

### Deciding What Not To Print

We occasionally encounter in our rounds of Birmingham and the neighboring community the type of person who believes that a newspaper is eager to publish derogatory things, or items, about people—items that are sure to embarrass or render those same people unhappy. This is a mistake, and one we regret to call attention to, because it ought to be unnecessary. There isn't a newspaper man in this community but who could spring a sensation in his community if he wanted to, at any time, by merely printing the things he knows, but does not print.

Deciding what not to print is the most trouble-some part of editing a newspaper. How many news items are suppressed for innocent relatives and for the public good, nobody outside of a newspaper office has any idea of. In some instances the person who flies into a passion because a newspaper prints something about him which he considers uncomplimentary has every reason to feel grateful to the editor for publishing so little of what he knows about the case and the circumstances surrounding it. And often the loudest bluffer is the one who is more guilty than the public generally credits him with being.

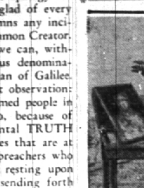
A big noise is often a device to cover cowardice. Newspapers put up with more bluffing than any other agency—not because they lack the courage to "call the bluff," but because their editors are unwilling to use the power they have in hand to send sorrow into the innocent hearts of the relatives of the one who is doing the bluffing.

No, Dear Reader, an editor doesn't hunt trouble. On the other hand, he is kept pretty busy turning his back on that which he knows can only stir up trouble—the unnecessary kind of trouble that cannot do anybody any good or make anybody happy.

On the average, newspaper men are more kindly and tolerant of the frailties of human beings than any other agency we are aware of. It is because they are brought face to face with so much of the world's troubles, we suppose, that they are happy when "good news" comes along to be published.

## ..EX-NTRIX

### THIS WEEK'S TABLEAU



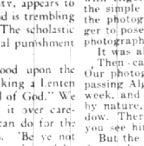
Our enterprising photographer this week presents an informal photograph of Alger N. Onscentz, the portrait painter. For weeks and weeks our photographer had attempted to arrange a sitting with Alger but to no avail. For the simple reason that every time the photographer tried to get Alger to pose, Alger insisted that the photographer pose.

It was all very difficult.

Then came the Great Chance. Our photographer happened to be passing Alger's studio one day last week, and being a curious person by nature, he peeked in the window. There sat Alger in the pose you see him.

But the explanation is different from what you might at first be led to believe. Alger is NOT admiring his latest portrait. He is rehearsing — rehearsing a little speech he has been rehearsing for weeks and weeks. He is planning on how to "Pop the Question." The young lady is Dona Isabella MacTavish, of Elmwood Terrace in Groaner's subdivision.

## Vox Polly




Rev. Frank D. Adams: "We talk peace and prepare for war. We enter into a treaty outlawing war, and keep on building battleships and increasing the range of our guns. If that isn't kidding ourselves, what is it?

Then there was the resourceful movie director who wanted to create a storm effect—so he turned the force of an electric fan on a newspaperman's hat.

### SVORN IN?

Helsinfors, Finn., March 2.—Peter Grimf Svinhufvud, assumed office today as president of Finland in a ceremony before the new Diet.

* * *

Chicago, Ill., March 12.—Al-phonse Capone, awaiting trial here on a vagrancy charge is expected to prove he is a musician by occupation. Attorneys for the defendant are believed to have uncovered on file handy at Valley Forge back in 1777-78.

* * *

### The Old Gold Brick Again?

Several men in New York are reported to have sold the World for $5,000,000. The Brooklyn Bridge hasn't been sold since Washington's birthday.

* * *

Those new George Washington quarters to be circulated in 1932 would have come in quite handy at Valley Forge back in 1777-78.

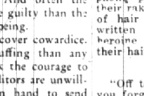
## Sinnick's Cynicisms

"Everybody's in cahoots with everybody else to gyp the other guy," says Sinnick. "The weather man is in cahoots with the manufacturers of raincoats, rubbers, galoshes, overcoats, umbrellas and furs; mittens and fur-muffs. Paving contractors are in cahoots with manufacturers of automobile tires and springs. Why, even the milkmen are in cahoots with the cows to produce less milk so the price will remain high. The police are in cahoots with robbers, thugs and highwaymen—otherwise, what use would there be for policemen? The big steel manufacturers are in cahoots with the army and navy officials as well as preparedness leaders. Manufacturers of insomnia cures are allied with the saxophone players. Playwrights get their rake-off from manufacturers of hair restorer for every play written in which the hero or heroine is supposed to tear out their hair.

* * *

### FORE!

"Off to golf again, John? Have you forgotten this is the anniversary of our wedding?"



"By Jove, so it is! Awfully glad you reminded me, little woman. I must try to celebrate it with a really good round."

* * *

Saturday, March tweddie-first. Is duh first day of sprie. Od dey day, duh early birds begid dair search for duh wurbs.

## *The "Big Shots" Say:—*

**George H. Moses**, U. S. Senator, from New Hampshire: "The motto of the United States has been changed from E. Pluribus Unum to 'Pass the Buck.'"

**George Bernard Shaw**, British author: "Astrophysics have become enormously popular, perhaps because of the erroneous mendacity to which they lend themselves."

**John Harriton Rhoades**, writer: "Troubles have past begun for the woman who is bored. Hell is near for the man who bores her."

**Alan Fox**: "Any President can be renominated that wants to be."

## PEOPLE'S COLUMN

The Eccentric is pleased to receive communications for this column. All communications must be signed but signatures will be kept confidential upon request.

To the Editor:

The results of the recent election clearly show what organization means in politics. The only candidate in the field for Supervisor, Bloomfield Hills with a total vote east pf 300, delivering 232 of strong alliance to one candidate, unquestionably shows the result of organized politics.

People who have money invested in Birmingham might do well to sell and move to the Hills where political organization protects the interests of the taxpayers in their own territory.

It is remarkable that the people of Birmingham can remain so obtuse about the situation and so negligent to their own interests even to the extent of refusing to exercise their right of franchise to vote. One hears in the shops and on the street corners, disgruntled citizens complaining about the taxes, and yet they are apt to be very people who won't bother to go out to the polls on election day.

There are too many office holders being elected by friends with an entire disregard of their qualifications. It is of vital interest to the taxpayer that candidates have the required ability, and certainly of more importance that ability be who is most deserving from a financial standpoint should be given precedence.

Surely it is possible to understand the importance to the village that the major offices of the township at least, should be filled by Birmingham village candidates who realize that the village interests may be protected through equalization of taxation.—Mr. Fred Andrus.

### GETTING OUR TAXES PAID

To the Editor:

The basic problem confronting every property owner in Oakland county. How are we going to get our taxes paid? The easiest way to get our taxes paid is to GET SOMEBODY ELSE TO HELP THEM!

In Oakland county there are so many taxes expended that the delinquency has seriously affected county government, reduced operations, removed officers and employees, reduced salaries and wages, and jeopardized the education of our children by closing schools or crowding the pupils on part time.

It seems no doubt that the burden will always have to be borne by those of us who wish to continue ownership of property in this fair county. The property owner who DOES pay his taxes—and he is the one who will become greater with handle a chance for relief.

We "hardly a chance", but there IS an outlet where relief from these taxes can be obtained, confidence restored, property values maintained and substantially increased, making the tax bill small and give an interest on the large amounts we are called to pay during these troublesome times.

This "outlet" is the ability of property owners and taxpayers to properly organize and to petition legislature and apply the remedy as set forth in this article. Then we will show the cause of high taxes, the reason for non-payment, and the way to lessen our future burden.

Keep in mind that during the next five years the taxpayers in Oakland county will be called on to distribute permanent bonds, special assessments and interest charges amounting to from three to five million dollars per year in addition to the regular charges for operation and maintenance.

The CAUSE of high taxes in Oakland county is caused by new roadways, drainage, schools, caring for the unfortunate, sick and infirm, additions to existing roads, playgrounds and public buildings, increase in number of officers and employees, and improvements and facilities required by growth in population.

The REASON for NON-PAYMENT is based on several things.

Primarily, farmers—who sold their acreage to real estate developers—have received payment of this land but have on their hands so heavily taxed that it cannot be profitably used for farm purposes.

Secondly, corporations and realtors,—who were organized to develop the territory, increase its adaptability for use by building roads, thus adding to the population and creating a source of tax revenue to the townships, county and state, are BEARING THE BRUNT OF THE DRIVE IN WIDENING WOODWARD AVENUE.

Thousands of dollars are involved, unable to pay their taxes.

Third, this great widening project was started, thousands of lots were sold in the north Woodward district. Because of widening improvements were not installed and because the tracks of the Grand Trunk railroad prevent easy access to their property, the lot owners and real estate dealers have suffered a tremendous loss which would not have been theirs had the improvement been completed five years ago.

Third, possibly 10,000 lot owners in the Woodward Village Values did not rise and proper use of the properties could not be made. This continued neglect in the widening project, no matter what its cause, provided the particular reason for non-payment of taxes, contracts and consequently non-payment of taxes.

Fourth, villages and townships, as well as the county, are in a precarious financial condition due to non-payment of taxes caused principally by the long delay in widening Woodward avenue. And this condition is the same all over every interested in this widening project is at present suffering financial losses. Many have already lost and others are due to lose property which they may never be able to regain.

In this country we have the spectacle of 63 per cent of tax returns delinquent in 1930. If 63 people out of every 100 do NOT pay them the whole tax burden must be paid by the remaining 37 who DO pay their taxes. The money has already been spent. So there you are: We're hit hard; and we will be hit harder before the next few years unless we are all willing and anxious to apply the remedy.

If your little boy (provided you have one) wears holes in his pants, you don't stop him from wearing pants; you do everything you can to get money to buy new ones even stronger and better. This applies also to taxes, which are caused by acquisition of bigger and better things. We must have improvements if we wish to progress, and progress is the spirit of the age.

We wouldn't want to go back to mud roads, hand pumps and cistern waters, streets unlighted, no fire protection, less police and health protection, and log schoolhouses. But it costs money to enjoy improvements and we are better off than did our grandparents. We can go and see the good roads, proper sewer and drainage, educational facilities and better health all cost money. Perhaps in the prosperous years we progressed too fast; but remember, just as fast as we got those improvements, more people came here, bought property and helped pay for the improvements.

### THE CURE

Now the way to lessen our tax burden is clear. Either mail an improvement work and reduce expenses, or get others to help pay the taxes. The first course, while seemingly easy, will NOT bring an immediate reduction in taxes because the improvements have to be finished during the coming five years will mean more taxes instead of less, and there will be fewer people to pay them.

Therefore, instead of stopping improvements and reducing necessary expenses and making other embarrassing retrenchments, let's take the second alternative and get others to help pay our taxes. How to do this? By increasing the value of all the property by recreating interest in development work and betterment. Interest in property that already started or planned to start this year.

TRANSPORTATION is the most important single feature necessary to the proper development of this territory. In Oakland county we are offered between Detroit and Pontiac, first, a wider Woodward avenue; second, electrically operated Rapid Transit trains; third, an elevated express speedway. With a completion of the Woodward widening the property values will become greatly augmented. Consequent to the widening is the development of the Grand Trunk Rapid Transit and Motor Speedway.

All of this will generate renewed interest on the part of those now living in the district; those who own property and especially a large number of people now living in Detroit and Pontiac who will want to move out to this beautiful district of restricted homes to be served by the first modern Rapid Transit service in the metropolitan district of Detroit.

Therefore, we want Woodward avenue widened promptly; we want to turn off Woodward into Royal Oak and Birmingham; we want to the east and west through any tracks. We want it NOW!

We want the Grand Trunk grade separations in Royal Oak, Birmingham and down to Holbrook street in Detroit built at the earliest possible moment—especially the separation at First street in Royal Oak. We want the right of way of the Grand Trunk available for Rapid Transit service. We want Rapid Transit now on the new line of the Grand Trunk just as soon as the service can be inaugurated.

We want everyone to help in creating favorable public opinion in every possible way above the new line of the Grand Trunk. This will not only create general interest as the first roadway of its kind in the world, but will afford a rapid transit service which will attract local patronage and bring many thousand home owners to the territory.

We want electrified Rapid Transit on the Grand Trunk, because Rapid Transit set increased property values in Shaker Heights, Cleveland, over 3,000 per cent in the past seven years, and because the rest of Cleveland averaged an increase of but 15 per cent. Rapid Transit raised values 700 per cent in six years in Flossmore, a south Chicago suburb.

We want that spirit and feeling for the Grand Trunk and its attempt to give us Rapid Transit service, which will demand a progressive spirit in the furtherance of all improvement work and especially in this southeast corner of the county where the largest amount of taxes are levied and, where delinquencies are greatest at the present time. This improvement work will bring more people to live in this district. The more that come, the more that buy, the more that sell, the more that trade with us, the quicker our tax burdens will be lifted. Get that idea in your mind. Folks will WANT to keep up payments on their property and will make every effort to follow our enthusiasm in getting these improvements finished.

Here's the point in a paragraph: Taxes for better things! More people to live in the district and consequently for everybody! We HAVE the fight, help get the crowd, and the third will follow as a matter of course. In other words—Instead of complaining of your tax burden, band and get others to help you share it!

It has been said that in every human heart there is planted the evergreen tree of ENTHUSIASM. As long as we maintain it, we will remain young, when we let it wither and die, we will be old—no matter what our age! Also Enthusiasm makes the impossible possible, makes heroes out of humans, and permits the world's work to be accomplished.

GEORGE H. CURRY
70 Palister Avenue,
Detroit, Mich.

## Immortality

**What is there when this life is done, for me?**
**Is there another life that I shall share**
**Hereafter, where no suffering nor care**
**Nor death shall ever come, where glad and free**
**From earthly chains and earthly griefs I'll be,**
**And where my lost ones beautiful and fair**
**Wait now, where radiant joy beyond compare**
**And beauty reign throughout eternity?**

**My heart for beauty yearns, for joy and love,**
**Food and drink and sleep I need. All these**
**Are mine to know. The snow and rain, the breeze**
**The sun and flowers are all my treasure-trove.**
**That then for which my heart has hungered most**
**I can not think will be forever lost.**

*—Beatrice McDonald.*

## THE OTHER CHAP SAYS SOMETHING

### A PLEA FOR THE CHURCH

Edgar A. Guest, under the caption, "I'm Glad There is a Church Near My Home" says: "The church stands against all the errors and blunders of life. It is the united voice of a group of people who want their children to know what is best. It is a plea in brick and stone or board for all that is most worth while. It offers to give them up. There never was a church erected to drag men down. For that reason, whatever the church may be, I like to live it."

—Fred D. Keister in Iona County News.

How fickle we are. Jack Dempsey spent last week in Michigan refereeing boxing contests in a half dozen towns. Big posters in this section told of his Niles engagement Saturday night. Ten years ago he was heralded as our peak slacker. Over at Lansing the other night Dempsey probably split the box office receipts for the capacity crowd in his presence drew for the Veterans of Foreign Wars boxing show. The presidents of the six best known colleges in New England would have been lucky to have filled the same auditorium at half the charge made to see Dempsey. Some day this country will wake up to the fact that we have been putting the emphasis on the cheap and vapory things of life. Dempsey's triumphal march through Michigan is a perfect illustration. Character building calls for a little more substance. But what we started to say concerned this shift of opinion toward Dempsey since the war. It has this lesson, however, today's rap may be tomorrow's meal ticket.—Murl De Foe in Charlotte Republican-News.

## *ParaLaffs*

**Only Chance**

Mohammedan women are demanding the right to see their husbands before they marry them. In this modern day and age it's about their only chance to get a good look at them.—New York Evening Post.

**It Might**

Will Roger's suggestion of a good will offering to Lipton has been well received, and the dollars have been piling up on Jimmie Walker's desk. There soon won't be enough to buy Sir Thomas a judgeship.—The New Yorker.

**Sad, But True**

"There's nothing like a saxophone," says a musical paper. Except, unfortunately, another saxophone.—The Humorist, London.

**Quite True**

Owing to the business depression, some of the movie stars are going to keep the same husbands they had last winter.—Ohio State Journal.

## All of Us

By Marshall Maslin

### COMMON AS DIRT?

"COMMON as dirt," I've heard people say.

"Common as dirt," they'd say with a sneer in their voices. "Common as dirt!" Common? Meaning low, degraded, filthy, worthless, something to scrape off their shoes as they come into a decent house, something to wash off your hands before you put clean food in your mouth. Common as dirt!

Well, it's a waste of good words. It's a foolish phrase, with no good in it. Common? What's wrong about common? Good things are common. Bread is common, water is common, sleep is common, the air we breathe is common. The colors of a sunset, the green leaves of the tree, the flowers in the field, the songs of things—all these are common. You can't use the word common as a term of abuse. Not that word.

And you can't say, "Common as Dirt," either. Dirt's the commonest thing of all, but it's not loathsome, it's not mean or low, it's not dirty, it's not useless . . . All things come up out of dirt. Life, sleeps in dirt, beauty is incubated there, strength is made safe in the common dirt. We call it dirt when we intend to sneer, we call it earth when we would praise it and show our love—but it's dirt just the same.

Walk into a field, bend down, scoop up a handful of the soft, moist, fragrant stuff, hold it, think about it. A passing stranger might think you mad, standing there in a plowed field, surrounded by the skies and the black-birds and the drifting clouds, but you wouldn't be mad at all. You'd be very wise, learning something reviewing the First Lesson of life and printed there so plainly in a handful of dirt.

Telling you that 'out of this comes all things'—"dust thou art" —and to this all of you return. Telling you that the common things are beautiful and strong and inspiring. Telling you that dirt, so common, is comedy and tragedy and profound delight; that the common part of us is best; that the Common Streak that runs all through us is the Pay Streak that buys us the most from life. Telling us truths like those.

Don't be using "Common-as-Dirt"as a bit of abuse. Save it for compliments. Keep it for praise.

## *From The Eccentric Columns of Long Ago*

### FIFTY YEARS AGO

The oldest horse we ever heard of recently died on Hugh Mc-Bride's farm in Royal Oak. Mr. Drinkall of that town drove it 32 years and it was an aged equine when he began.

Last Friday evening, 28 of the school scholars paid Thurston Barr a visit, had an oyster supper and made merry until 3 o'clock the next morning. Wish we were young once more.

Frank Durkee started for Washington to attend the inaugural ceremonies last week, but only got as far as Mt. Clemens, when he started home. He was so worried for fear his horses were not properly cared for, that he couldn't sleep nights.

(Royal Oak notes) On dit: Two weddings.

John Allen is rusticating at Nashville, Tenn.

The oyster supper at Wm. Todd's was the boss affair of the season.

Darius Hoxsie has finally managed to slip into town between two nights, in order to escape giving bonds to the corporation for his good behavior. He and his wife are now snugly ensconced in their old quarters on Troy St.

Next week Friday is the last day of school in Dist. No. 10, and Alma's well beloved will be a "Rowe" there as they have had one all winter, and sometimes two.

(Big Beaver notes) For some time past the officers of Red Ribbon Club have been exerting themselves to prevent the spitting of tobacco juice on the floor, and have succeeded to some extent in stopping the disgusting habit. However on Saturday evening last some contemptible objects in human form took advantage of the evening down in the lights for the Sciopticon entertainment to indulge in this low dirty taste to their heart's content.

We recently say Mrs. Jeffrey calling on the Dr. and we hear she is afflicted with sore eyes, but hope she will soon recover.

### TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

Say, Detroit, help your country cousins to ride setting down. Instead of stopping up half the way home. In some cities suburban cabs carry the signs "This car stops only two cars to the square," so why can't the D. U. R. do the same and not stop all the way out of the city limits to let Detroit passengers off.

The recent action of our village board in regard to the expectorating nuisance shows that it is an up-to-date body ready to do for the good of the village. This action has placed our little town in line with the progressive corporations of the state and our people ride ready to work for the enforcement of the law.

Davie Dickie of Orchard Lake last week was pinned down by a big tree and seriously injured.

Lost—A bear skin boa, last Friday, between Pinder's Worth and James Greer's in this village.

Mrs. Charlotte Beardslee of Clarkston, a nonogenarian 95 years old, has her second sight and has been able to read fine print without glasses for eight years.

Three of Pontiac's society ladies were in Detroit recently and went to Windsor, Ont., for a trip, bought a 25c cup and saucer and smuggled it over. They acted so very queer that the custom officials lined 'em up, searched 'em, and found the goods. One had the cup and the other the saucer hid about their clothing in very funny places. On being told that the cup and saucer cost only 25c the officers let the scared, sad, and frightened ladies go, telling them they were allowed to bring over 50c worth each if they wanted to. Now Mr. Hoover and Julia buy American goods only.

### FIVE YEARS AGO

J. H. McBride, local merchant, is very much in favor of annexing outside subdivisions and says that it is against the laws of civilization, progress and of nature to try to keep them out of Birmingham.

At the annual village election held Monday, Charles J. Shain was re-elected president, David Ladd and S. O. Wylie Bell commissioners, and Hazel Lawler, clerk.

"Daniel Boone" is to be presented by the American Association of University Women next Wednesday at 3:45, 4:45 and 7:30 in the Baldwin High School.

Three types of service on the D. U. R. now are being distinguished by the cars used therein. Good, better and best are recognized by the green band around the body. The limiteds are known as the "royal blues," the predominate color in their body painting, while the basic local service is being furnished by cars painted a desert sand.

Village Manager Starr Monday night was directed by the commission to prepare maps and diagrams, together with an estimate of the cost of construction, of a six-inch water main on Pierce street, from Lincoln avenue south to Bird avenue. This main will relieve conditions at the Pierce Street School, to which water is now carried for drinking purposes.