

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

Published every Thursday at Birmingham, Mich., in The Eccentric Building, 212-222 North Woodward Avenue. Telephone 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. Six Months \$1.25. Three Months \$0.75.

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

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1931

NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events which have taken place and which are written by persons connected with the editorial staff of this paper.

Thankfulness. Tomorrow is Thanksgiving Day. Once again, in the endless flow of time, there comes to human beings in this great country an official reminder that it is fitting and worthwhile—no matter what our plight may be—to offer thanks for every good thing that is ours.

One of the lamentable faults of human beings is the inclination to view one's present situation with the memory of more materially prosperous days in the past. Too often one compares his present plight with more abundantly filled days now only lodged in the niches of memory.

Happy, though, are the men and women who, from whatever place they may find themselves, lift their eyes in gratitude for... why, bless you, for even the capacity of being grateful for small things.

Want to be happier? Want to be filled with thankfulness? Then please bring into your thoughts the desire to win gratitude by reading a few expressions from such folks as...

Isaiah Walton: "God has two dwellings: one in heaven, and the other in a meek and thankful heart."

Henry Ward Beecher: "Pride says thanksgiving, but a humble mind is the soil out of which thanks naturally grow. A proud man is seldom a great man, for he never thinks of getting as much as he deserves."

Other "Gloomy Days". In Great Britain, where the suspension of the gold standard accentuated the heavy crop of gloomy prophecies, some bright individual recently got out a handbill, headed, "They Were All Wrong." Here is what was printed on the handbill:

William Pitt said: "There is scarcely anything around us but ruin and despair." Wilberforce in the early 1800s said: "I dare not marry, the future is so dark and unsettled."

Mars, Bill-Collector. There is one chap who is riding the depression high, wide, n' handsome, as the cowboys say. He is Mars.

Mars' business is wars. But when warring is a bit slack, Mars varies his vocation with bill-collecting. Right now, Mars is bill-collecting. And, if President Hoover has his fingers aching, Mars this year is going to collect from nations of the world the rather tidy total of almost five billion dollars for arms.

Whether the five billion in Mars' books for 1931 is for... or not, for those twelve years is rather hard to say. Mars is crazy. Perhaps he is collecting in advance for wars yet to be fought. Anyway, he gets his money. He always has. He never is loath to demand his pound of flesh.

Nations may not be able to pay their school teachers more than pitances, may let cobwebs hide gaping library shelves, may abandon public improvements, nations doesn't worry. He gets his money.—(From the Rotarian magazine)

Too bad WILL ROGERS doesn't choose to run. He suppose WILL would bark: "I'm not sap enough to run."

A Tool the Devil Wants to Keep

It was once announced that the Devil was going out of business, and would offer all his tools for sale to anyone who would pay his price. On the night of the sale they were all attractively displayed, and a bad looking lot they were.

Someone asked the Devil what it was. "That's Discouragement," he replied. "Why have you priced it so high?"

"Because," replied the devil, "it is more useful to me than any of the others. It can pry open and get inside a man's consciousness with that when I could not get near him with any of the others—and when once inside I can use him in whatever way suits me best. It is much more know I belong to it nearly everyone and very few know it belongs to me."

It hardly need be added that the Devil's price for discouragement was so high it was never sold. He still owns it—and is still using it. Is he using it in your business now that summer is over and most of all us have our day. Let's forget this tool and get to work.

Trade away from home and you will go down. When a businessman shops out of town it makes people afraid of his merchandise. The first thing your customers will do is to buy your merchandise in what they should be or you would trade at home.

A National Celebration

Beginning on February 22nd, the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of George Washington, to Thanksgiving Day next, the American people will take place an extensive and varied celebration in honor of his services to his country.

The biggest event of the season will take place Thanksgiving afternoon, when the 1931 and 1932 Detroit teams will play the strong Cadillac team from Detroit. All the members of the old team will be home Thanksgiving afternoon, and a great game is promised.

It needs only a rainy day to tip the popular American stock market. Politics in Michigan. Present indications are that no state will be in greater trouble of political disturbance during the coming twelve months than will Michigan.

The Grand Trunk R. R. Co. are laying new and heavier rails through from Detroit and being a gang of forty-one hundred men working on the line here. The Italians are living in box cars on the siding and spend their money in the village, making it unsafe for anyone to be out after 10 o'clock.

Last week our city lighting plant, was nihil nil nothing, never, for the first time in its history. The home of Mrs. Emma Robinson, who was the first woman in Birmingham Gas Company, have none, up will rise the President, and say to Governor Gardner, "I am sorry, but I have no more money."

Charles Watts, an old and highly respected pioneer of Royal Oak, Michigan, who died at that village at the age of 86 years. Fred Rainey, who has been speaking in Michigan for some time, is on his way to his home here. He is at present at the Michigan Hotel, where he stops to spend the hunting season.

TAHUQUAMON FALLS. I have seen the palisades of the Hudson, I have followed the course of the Columbia; I have stood upon the brink of the Grand Canyon, and I have gazed at the wonders of nature; the Snake, the Missouri, the Potomac, the tumbling waters of the Yellowstone, and the Red River of the North have chosen a path to the Arctic fastness, have indelibly stamped upon my mind pictures which time can never erase.

Both. "Is that an eight or a twelve?" Indignant Dad—"You lazy son of a bitch! You don't know which side your bread is buttered on!"

And By My Own Rope. Many little boys I've known, Swift they were and gay... Every time they were taken away and tossed away...

NOAH NUMSKULL. "Charge!!" "BATTERY OVERCHARGE!!" "DON'T DO IT AGAIN!!"

DEAR NOAH IS CHARGING IT, THE THING THAT HAS "SHOCKED" BUSINESS SO SEVERELY? CHARGE!!

From The Eccentric Columns of Long Ago

FIFTY YEARS AGO. Our late fall took a sudden cold on Friday night last. Our Union School joins the majority and gives the children a "trough" holiday this week.

Whitehead and Mitchell have just received a new and elegant assortment of Steel Engravings, Old Paintings, Albert types, Chromos, Panels, Stereoscopic views, Stereoscope sets, lots of beautiful pictures. Everybody is invited to call and see them.

A double wedding in Troy, in which Mason N. Leonard and Harry W. W. Smith were principals was the grand social event of Troy this week. The wedding party took place Tuesday evening and was largely attended by invited guests.

It is a Hamlin of the Watkins Hotel. It is a new telephone subscriber. It needs only a rainy day to tip the popular American stock market.

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THE TRUTH ABOUT BANKS. Officials of the American Bankers' Association are planning a national advertising campaign on the "truth about banks."

Less than half of the American people have life insurance. Those who do have it carry less than the average urban family.

THE "OPEN DOOR" POLICY OF 1931



The Other Chap Says Something—

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The "Big Stars" Say

Charles H. Mayo, famous surgeon: "Your health depends on what you do, not on what you know." David Lloyd George, British political leader: "Warfare among nations, which are as much a burden to the country which maintains them as they are a menace to the country against which they are directed."

W. H. (Alfalfa Bill) Murray, Governor of Oklahoma: "I wear my moustache chiefly because I have eye trouble. Without a moustache my eyes become weak. It is a scientific fact." "Pepper" Martin, Cardinal out-fitter, World Series star: "I call it a swell break for a guy who would be a \$30-a-month plowman in Oklahoma if it wasn't for professional baseball."

Sherwood Anderson, author: "I see so many young people today who are disillusioned. They have had that old idea that anybody can be a president of the United States." Henry Norris Russell, Professor: "What keeps the stars shining is far from being fully answered."

Hugo Conliffe-Owll, British industrialist: "America is owed \$25,000,000 and insists on being paid in gold. There are, however, only \$11,000,000,000 in the world." Mahatma Ghandi, Indian national leader: "Prohibition is an indication of America's great courage."

George B. Cutten: "It is better to spend money to inculcate good morals in young men than to spend it to rescue old sinners." Herbert Samuel, British leader: "I will yield everything to reason but I will yield nothing to pressure."

Thomas W. Lamont, financier: "The experience is a rather thing but only when we profit by it." A. A. Milne, British author: "I like doing nothing and playing golf, picking violets and coaching my small boy at cricket." Silas Strawn, President, U. S. Chamber of Commerce: "It is a good thing to be ought to quit talking about our troubles."

Vicki Baum, novelist: "What I like about Hollywood is that one can get along quite well on a budget of two words of English—swell and longy." Stanley Baldwin, former Premier of Great Britain: "I'm afraid there is no charter which has prevented a fool and his money being parted."

Walter Lippmann newspaper writer: "To insist on more wars for the sake of our prestige is about as self-sufficient as a star. For Mr. Rockefeller to wear a gold crown when he wanted to open a charge account."

Our Scrap Book. THE SUN A STAR. We have had occasion to see that this sun of ours is a magnificent globe immensely larger than the greatest of the stars in the sky. The greatest of these planets is immensely larger than this earth; but we are sure to learn that our sun is indeed a star, nearly so bright as many of those which shine over our heads every night.

Paralaffs. Weak Point. The supreme court has upheld the liquor law again. The country is pretty well convinced, now as to the quality of the law. But something should be done about the liquor.—Topeka State Journal.

On the Job. There may be faculty changes in the school of experience from time to time, but the professor in charge of grade-crossing affairs remains on the job.—Arkansas Gazette.

It is. Strange as it may seem, Europe's response to our invitation to stop playing for a year is positively enthusiastic.—Norfolk Virginian-Pilot.

Jest For the Fun of It. "Is that an eight or a twelve?" Indignant Dad—"You lazy son of a bitch! You don't know which side your bread is buttered on!"

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