

# The Birmingham Eccentric

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THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1932

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 submitted before 10 o'clock P. M. The right is reserved to make such superficial changes in the work submitted as are necessary to the style of the paper and as are required by the nature of the material. The right is also reserved to the composing room, headlines written by those other than members of the staff cannot be used. Any erroneous reflection upon any person or corporation which may appear in the columns of The Eccentric will be gladly corrected upon being brought to the attention of the publisher.

(Every person or group of persons handling public monies should publish, at regular intervals, an accounting of such funds.)

## State Salary Costs

Last week we started the publication of several articles dealing with the salaries paid various state officials. These articles are from the pen of Verne J. Brown, Ingham County representative in the Legislature, and the publisher of the Ingham County News, a strong weekly at Mason. The fact set forth in the several articles is that the salaries paid to state officials on the basis of statistics on file in the office of auditor-general O. B. Fuller.

As you read these several stories, revealing to you the ever mounting cost of conducting Michigan's affairs, you are no doubt struck with the fact that in a situation in which people, elevated to a public office by the vote of the taxpayers, find it easy to levy and spend taxes just as they see fit. Here is a strata of human activity wherein the rule seems to be, with most of the more select jobs in government, "get your while the getting is good."

These may sound like harsh words. They are not. Nor do we wish to make them sound too harsh. All we seek to do is to emphasize the fact that, in many government positions, salaries and wages reach comparatively large figures simply because the public is apathetic toward its ability and necessity to control public expenditures.

In the same manner, huge bonded indebtedness is piled up by and with the public's permission, and often at the public's own suggestion. High salaries are not the peculiar sole increase in your cost of government—yet, when adversity hits the public's pocketbook, salaries come in first for reduction.

But to get back to Mr. Brown's articles. We hope that you will read them through, remembering too, that the present salary cost of state government is not the fault of any single administration. Even the present Governor is not responsible for the major portion of this cost, or for even any appreciable amount of it. It has been increasing for the past decade and had the recent prosperity stayed with us, would probably have gone much higher. Governor Brucker can be blamed, however, for failing to bring about any noticeable "kitchen economy" measures, as Mr. Brown often points out.

By digging into these statistics, Mr. Brown is performing a distinct service to Michigan taxpayers. Our only regret is that Governor Brucker, who was given possession of the state's affairs in 1925, before the Governor called the special session, failed to become really serious about lowering the cost of administering state expenses. It was because of this failure on the part of Governor Brucker to recognize Mr. Brown's plea for lowered costs that the late Governor published his information before the Legislature. Later he was prevailed upon to release them to any newspaper that wanted them. That's why they are appearing in The Eccentric. From the number of comments thus far heard, we are sure that they are welcomed by an over-burdened taxpaying public.

## Congratulations

(From Royal Oak Daily Tribune)  
 In starting the fifty-fifth year of publication the Birmingham Eccentric, our neighbor on the north, continues a long and useful career. The people of the Birmingham area should appreciate the fact that they have one of the best weekly newspapers in the country. The Eccentric not only has carried them the news of the community, but it has been aggressively interested in the best development of the territory and has battled vigorously on the issues of the day.

A city or village without a newspaper is a bad way. That newspaper is bound to be a reflection of the community, as well as a reflection of the men who own and operate it. When a newspaper has flourished more than half a century, it has established a reputation and a character of immense value to its home town.

The Tribune is still a youngster, compared with the venerable Eccentric; for we are only in our twenty-eighth year. That seems to us like a long time to have served this field, and we feel proud of it. But today we take off our hat to the more clearly established newspaper which has many more half centuries of community service.

"HOOVER CALLS FEAR MAIN BAIT TO Prosperity"—headline. Which reminds us that, during the recent inflated economic debacle, he neglected to inform and warn the dear people of the dangers of playing the stock market.

"A SHOT, I DEAD, AT BEER PARTS"—headline. Here is a case where a man's emotions, bottled up in a fit of jealousy, hopped to the spirit world in a hurry.

## Legislative Grabbing

A few days ago, while in Lansing, we engaged for a while in conversation with one of the leading state representatives, J. Miller, of Walled Lake. Mr. Miller is a veteran in the state Legislature, so we asked him this question: "Phil, you have observed coming over here for many years. You have observed the manner of legislative remedies for the various sections of Michigan. Do you observe any special tactics, more or less unmindful of the desperate needs when the people were more prosperous. Now that adversity has come upon us, and people are crying for relief from this and that governmental expense, do you find the present Legislature more willing to give and take, more inclined to compromise for the general good of the state? And, especially since this is a presidential year, do you find the Legislature at all inclined to band together for the common good—even if only to present a cooperative, united group, and thus combat the rising sentiment of the people toward the Democratic party?"

"Do you think it strange," friends, that Mr. Miller should reply to our question thus: "This present special session, called together to bring about immediate relief to a stricken state, is not much different, than all other regular and special sessions. It seems that most members of the Legislature just come here to get their pay, and to get their own territories, more or less unmindful of the desperate needs of any single section. This is especially true when a Legislature is without definite leadership. Of course, there are some who are more unselfish than others, but they are in the minority."

Do legislators exemplify the will of the whole people?

## The Flood Tides Of Money

President Hoover's efforts to have people "quit hoarding their money" and, withdrawing it from safety deposit boxes, old shoes, base burners, teapots, sugar bowls, and lumpy mattresses, by putting it into circulation, is laudable, but it won't be as effective as hoped for. It is comparatively easy to send people scurrying into cyclone cellars when a tornado looms upon the scene, but it isn't so easy to lure them out of their doors again. Just as people cannot prevent people from taking a flight to prosperity, so must we learn ourselves to hasten them to quick recovery from a scare of adversity. In spite of the fact that today's prices of nearly everything are veritable bargains, people are reluctant to part with their money. But, when the right moment arrives, the money will pour out in a flood—from rich as well as those "just comfortable."

## Rosa's Terrier

Rosa Ponselle, opera singer, got sore because a New Haven, Conn., hotel manager would not allow her to take her Irish Terrier "Whiskers," into the dining room for a mess of victuals. The famous diva got up and, after "delivering her mind," went across the street to Casey's luncheonery, where "Whiskers" was made a welcome guest. Of course, Casey's was a fitting place for an Irish Terrier. Miss Ponselle, however, may be a great singer, but, in our opinion reveals poor taste by acting as she did in the hotel dining room.

ATLANTA IS IN DRY GEORGIA, yet recently it re-elected a very wet mayor. As time goes on it is very evident that the citizens of the United States are not willing to support a man who is a great singer, at least the majority of citizens refuse. We know a very dry preacher not very far from Birmingham who is willing to submit the 18th Amendment to the people every eight years for three elections, and then abide by the majority decision. We agree with him, too.

INCOME TAXES HAVE SHRUNK GREATLY, federal collectors report. Now if only it could be reported that tax expenditures had shrunk!

## All of Us

By Marshall Maslin  
 THE INSTANT our cat saw the white rat he made a lunge for it. He was a cat, wasn't he? That was a fat, wasn't it? And cats are made to eat rats. . . . Didn't a profound philosopher named William James once remark that it is destiny of rats to be eaten by cats, and that the rats do not object to being eaten as human beings may suppose?

Very well then, our normal cat thinks the lady of the cat that owned white rat, and the family had to drive him away.

The rat came right in front of the cat, and was leashed. He was told very definitely, in short, harsh words, that this inquisitive little white animal with the quivering whiskers and the pink quivering eyes belonged to the children and to the family. It did NOT belong to him, he was NOT to kill it; he was to let it alone completely.

Our cat didn't like it. He growled and he switched his tail and he shook all over and he complained. He said: "This is a fine way to treat a cat. You won't let me catch snakes in the garden. When I do catch a snake I get me away from me away from me away from me while the snake green thing wiggles off into a hole in a rock."

"And you won't let me catch rats. All right! then I guess I'll go in the garden and eat worms—will that be all right?"  
 "So outside he went, slithering all the way!"

Last night our cat was in the kitchen. He hadn't been feeling very well, but now he was better and purring a little. The lady of the house took the white rat from his cage and let him run around the floor. The cat didn't do a thing. He just looked.

The rat came right in front of the crouching cat and stuck his little pink nose right into the cat's whiskers. That cat didn't move. He didn't look at it.

You could feel the bored disgust that crept all over him. . . . That was that rat, and here was he, a cat, and he couldn't open his mouth and grab that rat and crunch and drag him away under the stove. Those things are created by God with strange ideas, wouldn't they!

And the rat scurried away to his cage and popped out every evening to go down to the kitchen and I heard him squeaking: "Gosh, what an experience! But I showed that old cat I wasn't afraid of HIM!"

You say I exaggerate? You say that cats are laves unto themselves and that no cat, in one lesson, would learn to walk in front of a mouse?  
 Well, this cat did. I saw it happen.  
 And this is smart.

## From THE ECCENTRIC Columns of Long Ago

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 Columns of  
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### FIFTY YEARS AGO

How's this for spring? Now you can dispense with your long profect. The very bold man dare wear a straw hat already. There is no increase and so are spring bonnets. The wheat crop promises to be just immense this summer. The commercial drummer has now to be styled the ambassador of Commerce. Of Oxford has four checkers who challenge the State. Address, Editor of the Globe. Tom Nelson is way off his base with a lame knee. Dr. Post is carrying it, and will bring it out all right if anybody can.

If "none but the brave reserve the fair," and all men get their just deserts, there would be a stinking lot of good looking old maids in this very town. The Post Master at Rochester lays abed so long o' mornings that invites the ire of the peaceful citizen.

A. Bub Burns lost his pocketbook yesterday last week, containing a small amount of money, and some valuable papers—valuable only to himself. The finder will think such a vote would surely oblige.

Last week Friday night, a very interesting party took place in the words, of attempting to enforce Mr. Emmendorff's near Orchard Lake. Excellent music was furnished by the Birmingham City Band under the leadership of Adolphus Wilde. Several of our nurses to enforce a law on a street which should go outside of their own town, trade, is more than we can stand. We have our governments getting, wide-wake merchants as you will find, and they are selling goods as cheap as the same quality can be found elsewhere, at the expense of home industry, if you would build up your town.

THE B. H. S. team, second nine, beat the Detroit team, by a score of 23 to 20. Big times for both nines. This victory makes it easy to get together.

### TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

Have you enjoyed our new general, ethereal mildness, called "Spring?"

The Birmingham Handle Works are again in operation after a rest. The teachers' class will contest again for the silver medal at the Reformed Free-Methodist Church at Southfield, P. M., on Sunday, at 8 o'clock, P. M., next time.

The B. H. S. team, second nine, beat the Detroit team, by a score of 23 to 20. Big times for both nines. This victory makes it easy to get together.

Farmers of Oakland County, the "pay and tell the wool-buyers," "I say what our wool is worth, and I will not be a great one, stop talking." Try it. They would get their price. Try it.

There was a jolly time at Macabee Hall Saturday evening when the members of the L. O. T. M. gave a social on the occasion of Mrs. Will Edwards. That lady having recently entered the ranks of matrimony, her sisters of the local Five Cent Club, with a silver berry which was presented to her, made the presentation speech which was followed by a banquet.

### FIVE YEARS AGO

Nine new teachers were approved and the resignation of two other teachers were accepted at the meeting of the Board of Education, Tuesday night.

An option is held today by the Birmingham Community House executive board on the lot at the northeast corner of Bates and Townsend streets, which is being considered favorably as a site for the proposed Community House building. Financial plans are practically complete today, but they will not be made known until the annual roll call, which begins today, is finished, four weeks from now. The price in the hands of the Birmingham Community House is \$10,000.

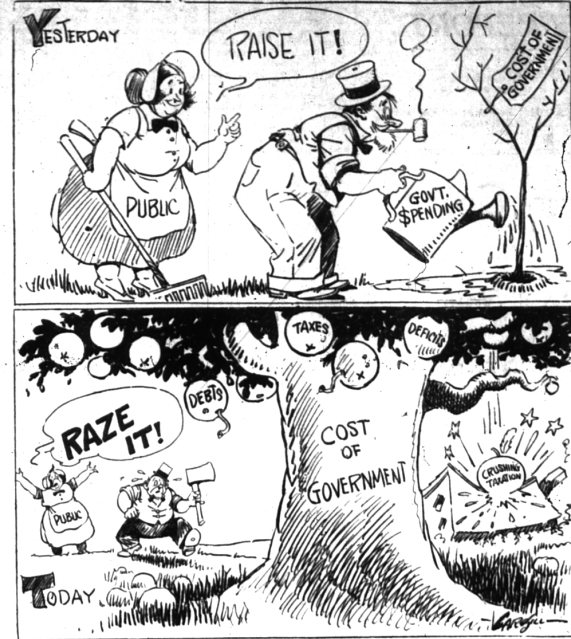
Endorsement of Frank L. Doty, village attorney, for the office of village clerk was supported in the hands of Gov. Fred W. Green by representatives of the Pontiac Royal O. C. and Pontiac Bar Associations, this week.

After practicing medicine for 47 years, Dr. E. L. Campbell, Birmingham's oldest physician, has decided to take a vacation. Four committees on entertainment for the annual reunion of the High School alumni. Thirteen names will be on the honor roll of business men. Village of Birmingham will select four village commissioners to complete plans for the annual reunion.

Knows How  
 The conventions will be held in Chicago, a city that knows how to do things. Since there are about 3,000,000 workers in the United States, this means that 1 out of every 11 is being supported.

Good  
 An Ohio man who can speak six languages recently married a woman who speaks six languages. That darn good handicapping—Judge.

## THE MARCH OF CULTIVATION



## The "Big Shots" Say—

R. C. Sheriff, author of "Journey's End," says: "The theater has become so commercialized in its productions that it is something like a factory."

Bolton Eyre-Mossell, Brit's First Lord of the Admiralty, says: "I ask this country to remember that not only our great overseas trade, but only our sea communications with the Empire, but that the daily bread of the British people depends on the British Navy."

Henry Morgenthau, former Ambassador to Turkey, says: "You can't reach 125,000,000 Americans. While there are 57,000,000 or 6,000,000 unemployed, there are still over 50,000,000 gainfully employed."

Ruth Bryan Owen, Congresswoman from Florida, says: "Ninety-nine per cent of the job of a congressman is to humanize government for his constituents."

Wm. E. Borah, Chairman, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, says: "One reason I urged recognition of Russia was because I have always felt that if capitalism and communism were placed side by side, communism would disappear."

Albert Einstein, in Rotterdam, after a trip to the United States, says: "When someone is dead in America, he does not exist any more. No one talks any more about him. With us, in Europe, it is quite different, isn't it?"

Smalley D. Butler, Maj.-General, U. S. Marines, retired, says: "I do swear but here's a queer question: Before I get up to speak, I make a prayer."

Henry Ford, auto magnate, says: "Security depends as much on the honor and experience of the banks as it does upon burglar-proof safes."

Walter Lippman, newspaper writer, says: "Easy money is a good pain-killer."

Harper Leach, says: "It can't be a depression but a misreading of the great era of plenty the world has ever known."

Anne Lindbergh, mother of kidnapped baby, says: "I shall never give up hope."

## Jest For the Fun of It

Always An Alarm  
 "I wish I had another name."  
 "Why? What is your name?"  
 "Fyre, and when I am asked for it on the telephone I get the fire department."

Famous Firms  
 Through & Through  
 Naah Numbskull Wants to Know  
 Do captains ever have major operations?  
 Would a bad egg behave if you beat it?  
 Who oils the hinges on the golden gate?  
 Do tennis players quarreled, should the racket be carried into court?  
 Ham: "How'd you get the black eye?"  
 "I mistook asthma for passion."  
 "Loo Holtz Revue"

Modern Lad  
 My infant never asks for toys  
 And yet his room is always full  
 Of things you bang or push or pull  
 And planes and tenants of the Ark.

He takes them from the smaller boys  
 He overpowers in the park.  
 "I'll be in 'Life'."

Cohen was in a taxi when terrific rain fell, and he was stuck in traffic. "What's de matter? Vat's de matter?" he shouted.  
 "I've lost control of the car," replied the driver. "I can't stop here."  
 "Well, for heaven's sake," cried Cohen, "turn off de meter, any way."  
 "—Boston Transcript"

Good Ideas  
 A writer of popular songs has been asked to contribute a piece to a collection of songs. He seems quite a good idea unless somebody ransoms him.—Punch Show, London.

Paralaf's  
 Paralaf's  
 Man is that peculiar animal who can get a good hearty laugh out of pictures in an old family album and in the pictures of his relatives as much as a grin.—Boston Herald

Too Often  
 It is often true, also that if a man but make a better clasp, the delegates will vote for him. Boston Herald.

Good Ideas  
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Some  
 At least one politician is made toward outlawing war when a nation that is waging it tries to make the world believe in the virtues of life, depression or no depression.—Greenboro, Ga., Herald-Journal.

Right  
 Manufacturers of playing cards and cigars report increased business for 1931. This proves that people may be in the grip of a depression, but they still play cards and smoke cigars.—Greenboro, Ga., Herald-Journal.

## PEOPLE'S COLUMN

The Eccentric is pleased to receive communications for the PEOPLE'S COLUMN. Letters must be signed, but signatures will not be printed. Letters must be limited to 500 words.

First State Bank  
 To the Editor—  
 I am very interested in the letter in your last issue with regard to the First State Savings Bank.

The writers say that the plan proposed "favor of selfishness," and the inference is that the selfishness is on the part of depositors.

May I say here that in all such cases as this, it is recognized in both law and equity, that the interest of the depositor is paramount, and it may well for the borrower to remember that the money deposited was deposited.

But this does not mean that the position of the borrower should not be given every consideration. If he has been allowed to borrow the money, and if he has secured it by his own intelligent plan, it would be reasonable if it would be given every consideration to the impossible terms of repayment.

The problem will best be met by attacking the standard point of intelligent self interest and forced liquidation, which would be the result of the plan proposed by both depositors and borrowers, is probably the worst policy to adopt.

The second alternative is to continue under receivership and allow liquidation to be accomplished, with all its attendant expense. This procedure might result in some borrower being liquidated, perhaps ruined, whereas others might conceivably be given every consideration that conditions warranted.

In any case the expense involved makes this method undesirable.

Now the plan for reopening the bank.

From the information I have gathered, it seems unlikely that 40 percent of deposits be taken out of the bank. The surplus applied to the delinquencies accruing from the bank's uncollectable assets, plus the usual deduction of the 100 percent stock assessment.

So the first requirement towards an affirmative attitude to this plan would appear to be a willingness to bid to the bank to the 100 percent.

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