The Birmingham Eccentric

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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 Wednesday. 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 a 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 publisher.

Help 'The Goodfellows' To Help

To all persons in Birmingham who have weathered with average success the hardships of the current economic storm, a direct opportunity will be given Saturday to extend a helping hand to their less fortunate neighbors.

Between 150 and 200 families will depend for whatever Christmas cheer they receive this year on the results of the Goodfellow Club's fifth annual paper sale. The same families, and more, perhaps, will depend on the results of the same sale for baskets of food next Thanksgiving.

Hundreds of children are depending on the club to make their Yuletide happy with the gift of toys and games. Countless families will have occasion to call on the club during the next several months for food, clothing, coal and other necessities to tide them over an emergency period until they can obtain relief from regular welfare agencies.

To date, the Birmingham Goodfellows have never been forced to turn down a request for aid. In order to continue that record, their need for funds this winter is greater than ever before—their goal in this sale is $1,500. Can you turn down the Goodfellows? Then please don't fail to buy a newspaper from them here Saturday.

State In "Divorce Court"

An interesting style in presenting the recent action of Michigan to repeal its state liquor law is given by Vernon J. Brown, Ingham County publisher, as follows:

The people of the state of Michigan have applied for a divorce from the state prohibition law. The marriage took place back in 1917. Now 15 years afterward a divorce is asked. The grounds set forth are incompatibility, cruelty and non-support. The crossbill was not taken into consideration by the voters who acted as judge and jury under Michigan's initiative law.

Turning back the pages of history for a precedent we find in the following verse from the Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam what may be a parallel case:

"You know my Friends, with what a brave
Carouse
I made a Second Marriage in my house;
Divorced old barren Reason from my Bed,
And took the Daughter of the Vine to Spouse."

Omar lived some 900 years ago. The liquor question was then an issue. It may still be an issue 900 years from now.

The Welfare Problem

Detroit's welfare problem increases as the weather gets colder. One phase of the problem is the unwillingness of many who are receiving aid to perform some labor for the city. That is more than a surface problem, too. It is the outcropping of a growing feeling in this country that a public dole is due the unemployed. Business men and industrialists, unless they set up some workable machinery of a less interrupted commerce and trade, are destined to lose the traditional independence of laissez-faire, or free competition, and become the victims of government ownership of most human activities.

Europe Ought To Pay

Europe owes the United States a great deal of money. This money was borrowed AFTER the World War, (our nation had cancelled all debts arising FROM the War), and yet those troubled peoples across the Atlantic Ocean are trying to side-step their financial obligation. They set aside hundreds of millions for supporting huge armies and navies, yet refuse to set aside sufficient funds to meet their foreign obligations. All this trouble arises out of "A War to end War." All this international friction today is but the glowing embers of the Big Fire of 1914. Will the surviving greed and distrust of today again fan into consuming flames this remnant of an old conflagration? God and man forbid!

SOME DAY THE UNITED STATES will develop a more satisfactory method of supplying members of both houses of Congress. When that time comes, with capable minds and hearts occupying House and Senate seats, we'll have a greater and a finer nation. And that time will only come when the average Mr. and Mrs. Voter prepare for and demand it.

APPARENTLY, GAZING at some of the antics of the recent political spellbinders, one might agree with Mrs. O'Brien who, concluding an argument with Mrs. Higgins, said: "Mrs' 'Iggins, I feel I'm doin' the Guv'ment outa entertainment tax every time I look at yuh!"

EVERY DAY AND EVERY WEEK The Eccentric's printing department makes and retains new patrons. This is because the folks who comprise this department are friendly and helpful, practical and able.

Our Baldwin Gridders

In a year when the college football season was, to say the least, a trifle disappointing, it was all the more appropriate and timely for our own Baldwin High School to have turned out a team which, both for its reputation in high school gridiron circles as a clean and scrappy fighter and for its success in winning games, recalls Birmingham's football heyday of five and six years ago.

In a year when a truly fine Michigan eleven failed, somehow, to impress the country at large with its greatness, when a resounding victory over the Army was all that redeemed Notre Dame in the eyes of every football fan old enough to remember only as far back as Knute Rockne and the Four Horsemen, when the much-acclaimed Rentners and Cramers failed to perform up to expectations and when no new Friedmans or Cagles appeared to fill the breach in the ranks of individual stars—in a year like this there is plenty of time to pay due homage to a top-notch high school team like that of the Maroon and White of 1932.

If it had done nothing more than score the decisive triumphs it did over Royal Oak and Cranbrook, its two most "bitter" rivals, the Maples could have regarded the season as successful. But to those victories they also added four others and finished a difficult schedule with only two defeats to establish a record superior to that of any Baldwin team since 1927.

The credit for much of the Maples' success this year goes rightfully to Coach Miles W. Robinson, who, since taking over the reins from the late George F. Johnson two years ago, has not only succeeded in building a good football team, but has kept alive many of the ideals of high character and good sportsmanship for which his beloved predecessor was so much admired.

A Royal Democrat

Of all the loyal Michigan Democrats who have come under our editorial observation, we can think of no one who has been more steadfast to the principles of the Jeffersonian Party than Harry M. Royal, publisher of the Oceana Herald, published at Shelby. Week after week, year after year, his newspaper has been pleading the cause of Democracy. In his personal column, "Random Remarks," Mr. Royal has carried on a high type of intelligent political partisanship, with an occasional friendly word for those of the Republican faith—and he also takes advantage of opportunities to send a dart of acceptable chiding to brother editors.

The Eccentric recently was the target for one of Mr. Royal's darts, which we herewith present:

Most people who have been in contact with the drift of popular sentiment during the past few months had already appraised the presidential election result. It has been only within recent weeks that the possibility of a landslide to include rock-ribbed Michigan has been thought possible. We go back forty-two years for such a result on the state ticket and eighty years for a similar result for President.

After getting from our good friend C. D. McNamee, of the Muskegon Chronicle, that this latter thing had happened we were prompted to wonder just what it was that the twenty Michigan editors, who created a national furore by going to Washington for an interview with the President, a few weeks ago, had said to him. We thought at the time that carrying to him that Michigan beet was a bit suggestive and, possibly, significant. And now we are of the opinion that they thus gently and ingeniously tipped him off as to what he would get in Michigan.

We have been thinking about that trip—to which we were not invited—and wondering if we might not duplicate it along in the spring or sometime.

As the originator of that Washington trip, we regret that we did not invite Mr. Royal to go with our group, knowing he is a staunch Democrat, however, it never occurred to us that he would even slightly consider the pilgrimage, or we most certainly would have extended the invitation.

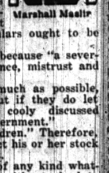
We suggest, on the other hand, to Mr. Royal, (should he arrange a trip to interview President-Elect Roosevelt next spring), that he take some of Michigan's agricultural or forest products to the White House; if not beets, then lettuce, "turnup" and pine.

FOUR CENTS IS THE AVERAGE gasoline tax throughout the United States. That is what you really may call burning money.

All of Us

—By Marshall Maslin—

THERE WAS a man named Jacob Spicer. He was a widower, and he went a-courting of a woman named Deborah Leaming, and she was a widow. And it was long ago before the American Revolution in 1751, in Pennsylvania.



Marshall Maslin

Jacob was a serious gentleman and he wished to make provisions for happiness and well-being as best a man might. So he sat down and drew up a long, solemn document of 22 propositions and submitted it to Deborah for her signature. (I read all this in a book; they were neither of them ancestors of mine.) He called marriage a "solemn Enterprise which may neither establish our happiness or occasion our Inquietude during life," so he conceived that "the following rules and particulars ought to be steadily affirmed and kept":

They should have ONE purse, because "a severance of interest bespeaks diffidence, mistrust and disunity of mind."

They should avoid anger as much as possible, "especially with each other." But if they do let anger loose, "let the matter be cooly discussed when reason shall resume its Government."

They have two "Stocks of Children." Therefore, let the parent of each stock correct his or her stock to avoid quarrels and resentments.

Let "no Suspicious Jealousies of any kind whatever be harboured in our hearts without absolute or good Circumstantial evidence."

Jacob Spicer shall be allowed to buy books from their common account.

"The said Jacob Spicer shall not unbraid the said Deborah with the extraordinary Industry and Good Economy of his deceased wife, neither shall the said Deborah Leaming upbraid the said Jacob Spicer with the like extraordinary Industry and Good Economy of her Deceased Husband."

If Deborah had asked me about marrying Jacob, I'd have told her he was entirely too solemn for a husband, but I wasn't there and she didn't ask me and she thought Jacob was a good match; so she signed the paper on Dec. 16, 1751, and she married him; and as far as I know the marriage was just as successful as if they hadn't planned everything ahead of time.

From THE ECCENTRIC Columns of Long Ago

FIFTY YEARS AGO

Got your Turkey?

Thanksgiving Day.

Birmingham can take the premium on school girls—they are smart.

The ladies have ordered a carload of chairs for their hall. Can't we paint the benches around the monument?

Miss Nichols, a very popular elocutionist, will give a few select readings at Mrs. A. B. Armstrong's concert. Go and hear her by all means; she is all talented and well knownender.

A gang of hunters, Messrs. Wait and Amos Durkee, Charles and Oscar Mudge and Frank German leave today for Chippewa, Isabella Co., to hunt the wild deer, feeble bear, succulent quail, partridge and turkey. Verily, our mouth watereth for game on toast.

E. C. Poppleton has a new and very elegant covered carriage. The fact that Mike Cummings of Franklin turned out the job is a warranty that it is everything that could be desired as regards durability, and anyone can see at a glance that as a point of style it is not to be outdone in this vicinity.

For the past three weeks we have heralded the coming of a grand concert by Prof. Rainey and class. We understood that the concert really did take place on Wednesday evening of last week as previously announced in these columns, but as we had given our last quarter to the heathen, and the customary complimentaries were not forthcoming, of course we could not attend, and consequently are unable to say whether Rainey did actually give a concert or not.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

Do not forget the Colonial band concert at the Troy Hall, given by the boys' Band on Friday, Dec. 9. You are cordially invited to come over into Troy and have one of the best times you ever had at any party. These little dancing martyrs of the Troy band fill a long-felt want, and are generously patronized by the best people of Troy, who are admirers of the band.

It is amusing to see a young man stick out his chest and walk straight as an arrow if a girl happens to look at him from across the street. He thinks she is stuck on him, when she is only laughing in her sleeve at his necktie up around his ears or his socks down over his shoes.

The Methodist Ladies are industriously engaged in collecting the rods of silver dimes. Each lady member is to collect for the good of the cause, a foot of dimes and they are reaping a fine reward for their labor. It won't be very long before they will have miles of dimes to do business with.

"Hell, and Who Will Be There," is the topic a Warren minister announced for his Sunday sermon. He has received letters from three lawyers, two business men and a fellow pastor that they will sue him for libel if he mentions any names in his discourse.

Our Presbyterian ladies are earnestly looking out for a mile of pennies. A lot of adhesive plaster has been bought, and cut into strips one yard long and an inch wide, and distributed among the members who are to fill them up with pennies. When filled, a yard foots up about 48 cents, unless they all do as the economical editor is doing, and fill them with Canadian cents. When a captivating lady strikes you for a penny for her yard, remember it is for a good cause and loosen up.

FIVE YEARS AGO

Opposition to the proposed dance hall planned by the Bloomfield Hills Auditorium Company to be built on Woodward avenue north of Bloomfield court, is seen today following a meeting of the Village Commission Monday night when H. T. Ellerby, village president, said the board was unanimous in its belief that the building would not be an asset to the village.

Improved airmail service for Birmingham will be possible if Pontiac is successful in securing a stopoff in its United Airways, Inc., route from Detroit to Bay City, according to James W. Cobb, postmaster.

Removal of the police department to temporary quarters in Martin and Henrietta streets will be made the middle of this month, according to announcement by Chief James Anderson, who is taking preliminary steps for the work today.

A new Birmingham postoffice building looms today after the annual inspection by the government postal authorities, William W. Cobb, postmaster said. The report shows that the 1937 business has amounted to $35,496.53 with five weeks remaining to bring the total up to the $40,000 required by the government, as a minimum amount to place Birmingham postoffice in the first class.

Following a partial flood in the northeast district of Birmingham and the overflow of a reserve water tank at Ridgedale avenue and the Grand Trunk railway tracks, the water supply situation in Birmingham is undergoing a thorough scrutiny today by Manager James W. Parry.

Suppose So

Dr. Mayo says the time will come when there will be no more unnecessary deaths. And the number of necessary deaths can be reduced to one per capita, we suppose.—Dallas News.

THE ASIATIC "PLAGUE"

The Other Chap Says Something—

ELIJAH, THE PROPHET

The secret is out. Voters of Oakland county and the rest of the world now know why it was that Elijah (The Prophet) Howarth couldn't sleep nights two years ago during the Republican primary campaign. They know too why he buttonholed men, women, children, the clean, unclean, half-wits and nitwits and asked them all to vote against Alex J. Groesbeck for the Republican nomination for Governor. And they know now why he drew a long, deep breath when it was made known that the state board of canvassers had counted Groesbeck out. Why wouldn't any man who had penned checks against the pocketbooks of the taxpayers as Howarth did in the Grand Trunk deal be delighted to see the hands of one tied who would make impossible the thing that Howarth had been doing? No wonder Elijah couldn't sleep during the campaign. No wonder he was so delighted when the certificate of nomination was given to another.

As a prophet he knew what would happen if Alex Groesbeck returned to the governor's chair. Times and the Detroit News have revealed the fact that Elijah prophetted well. But the story is not yet ended. There is a day of reckoning coming, Elijah, and the state of Michigan is going to know the whole story you have written on the face of the taxpayer's check book.—Elton R. Eaton in Plymouth Mail.

DEMOCRATS ARE IN

With the election of Franklin D. Roosevelt as president, it is fitting that his party should be awarded complete control of congress. The same is true of the election of Wm. A. Comstock as governor and a Democratic legislature in Michigan.

There should be no political disagreement between the executive and legislative branches of government, state or federal, to hamper consistent leadership. Complete party control, be it Republican or Democratic, was never more urgent than now. Nothing could be more undesirable than a party deadlock at a time when the country is making strides toward recovery from the most disastrous economic slump in its history.—D. S. Cochrane in Hartford Day Spring.

MR. DICKINSON RETIRES

Luren D. Dickinson, most likely—he is 73—is through with public life. No contemporary of his in Michigan politics, which covers a period of twenty-five active years, three terms in the house, one term in the senate and six terms as lieutenant governor—enjoyed a deeper and more affectionate respect from friends and enemies alike than Mr. Dickinson. His retirement removes from our politics a personality who has been politically pure in heart and a distinct asset to our form of government by political parties. Mr. Dickinson steps back into private life with the good wishes of every citizen of this state.—Murl E. Defoe in Charlotte Republican-Tribune.

STRATEGIC POSITION

There are right at this moment some public matters of institutional and state import which are about to break upon public notice. Much of the conditions are such as the daily newspapers have been familiar with and have been inactive to say the least. There seems to be a disposition to now rely upon the weekly newspaper with their corps of fearless publishers to bring questions of right and wrong to public notice. This is, we believe, a correct conception of the weekly newspaper and the weekly newspaper management. It is the weekly which supports what is believed to be right every time—with no axe to grind. So, when these matters fall into the lap of the democrats, they will have the support of the weeklies in correcting any evils, and if the democrats fail to recognize their duty and their privilege, the weeklies will doubtless blaze a trail heretofore untouched by this large contingent of news dispensers.—Frank Bryce in Grand Ledge Independent.

RELIEF FOR CLOSED BANKS

Just when we have needed our State Banking Commission the most it has failed us. A number of banks have closed in Oakland County during the past two years leaving the depositors and stockholders "holding the empty purse." The first thing and only thing the State Banking Commission did after the banks closed their doors was to appoint a bank receiver who has sat in the bank ever since trying to collect on notes and mortgages. The State Banking Commission has done nothing else. They have stated the rest is up to the depositors and stockholders, but they boast of their ability to reorganize and re-open banks. Why don't they come to the rescue of some of these closed banks? There are thousands of bank depositors in Oakland County who have lost every cent they have to their name in closed banks and have been forced to ask for welfare help.

Banks had written upon their windows, on their stationery and in their newspaper ads the words "Under State Supervision" then why doesn't the State Banking Commission do something? Depositors were led to believe that the State of Michigan stood back of those banks that advertised "Under State Supervision." If it was true then the State Banking Commission should come to their rescue and not sit over in Lansing just drawing down a good fat salary.

Under the future administration of Governor-elect William A. Comstock, it is the sincerest hope of the people of this county especially that he organize a new Banking Commission or system that will act immediately on this banking situation.—Rochester Clarion.

Possibly

We keep reading here and there that the horse is coming back. Maybe that will mean more stable employment.—Boston Herald.

The "Big Shots" Say:—

Charles M. Schwab, steel magnate:

"National pride is natural and proper, but loyalty to one's own can go hand in hand with appreciation of the worth of others."

Burton J. Lee, professor of surgery:

"Cancer is a curable disease if it is discovered in its early stages."

Newton D. Baker, chairman, National Relief Work:

"We have food enough and clothes enough and shelter enough for all our people, and there is in the country money enough to supply all the helpful and curative agencies needed."

Bernhard Ostrolenk, economist:

"The immediate return of American prosperity depends more than anything else upon the rescue of the farmer from the economic disaster which has overwhelmed him."

Jane Addams, American social worker:

"The national self-righteousness of the American people is often honestly disguised as patriotism. It can be traced back to the opinion of the Puritans that they were the chosen people."

William E. Borah, U. S. Senator of Idaho:

"The depression has cost us to date $150,000,000,000. It has cost the farms over $40,000,000,000."

H. H. Kung, member, Chinese State Council:

"If peaceful means fail to protect China's sovereign rights, the Japanese will have to reckon with our 400,000,000."

Gerald W. Johnson:

"Indestructible wealth can be possessed by nations in one form only—the record of the deeds of her illustrious sons."

Huey P. Long, U. S. Senator of Louisiana:

"I am a conservative; I am in. The radicals are the fellows who are out."

Stuart H. Perry, newspaper publisher:

"The entire machinery of the law is political, born of politics, dominated by politics, saturated with politics, in which respect this country stands in contrast to all other progressive nations."

Jest For the Fun of It

Slight Misunderstanding

Despairing Employer (engaging fourth typist within a month): Can you punctuate?

Typist (brightly): Oh, yes. I'm always early in the morning.

Mistaken

"Daughter, your hair is all mussed up. Did that young man kiss you against your will?"

"He thinks he did, mother."

—Chicago Phoenix

Better Biographies

In adolescence, he'd delight
To torment boys too weak to fight;
But never dared to black an eye
Unless his hoodlum gang was nigh.
(Now a detective sergeant, he
Is expert at the third-degree).

—E. B. Crosswhite in "Life"

Famous Firms

Fire & Theft

Phrasophobia

Among the phrases I detest
(And those that I abhor are many)
This as about the most unbleased
"If any."

It makes me sore and overwrought,
With those whose thoughts aren't worth a penny
It seems to take the place of thought
If any.

The bird that springs it gives me pains
Through all my nerves and their antennae,
I'd love to shoot him through the brains
—If any!

—Berton Braley in "Life"

Just Two

She: "There are two periods in a man's life when he doesn't understand women."

He: "Yeah! Before and after marriage."

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. Letters must be limited to 150 words. They must be in the office by Tuesday noon for publication the following Thursday.

Cleaning Sidewalks

To the Editor:

The following is a copy of a letter I have addressed to Village Manager James W. Parry:

"I am told we are feeding numbers of idle men and their families who are without work and means of support.

"We have within our city limits vacant lots, yes, and places where people live, where the snow is never cleaned from the sidewalk.

"Why not so arrange that a phone call to the Community House would send a man to clean the walk? A card with the address where work was to be done, to be filled out as to time spent by owner or whoever asked to have work done. This card to be returned to the Community House and supplies furnished in proportion to work done. Card to be signed in ink.

"The average man would feel much better having done something to help pay for supplies furnished and the taxpayer would feel more like helping one who was willing to work. 'No work no pay'."

TAXPAYER

Christmas Savings

To the Editor:

Will you please put these few lines in your paper for the mothers of the children who had Christmas Club accounts in the closed First State Savings Bank? They should come together and demand that these accounts be settled first. These savings are protected by patents dating Feb. 1, 1925, and Aug. 4, 1926.

Therefore, we mothers have the right to force this First State Savings Bank to pay these accounts first. This was a club payable in 50 weeks. It is now 100 weeks since the club was started.

In the bank today (Nov. 28) they had the nerve to tell me they were paying 20,000 on savings accounts. They have saved 62 cents for each of the children's Christmas accounts of $12.50.

If that is not injustice, what is it?

MRS. KATE DRUMM,
960 North Woodward avenue.

Our Scrap Book

TENNYSON'S FAMILY GROUP

It must be borne in mind that to hospitable people there are dangers from friendly inroads as well as from the attacks of the enemy. The new house, where for many years past the family has spent its summers, stands on the summit of a high, lonely hill in Surrey, and yet it is not quite out of reach of London life.

Sometimes at Aldworth, when the summer days are at their brightest, the blackdown top has been well warmed and sunned, I have seen a little procession coming along the terrace walk, and proceeding by its green boundary into a garden, where the sun shines its hottest, upon a sheltered lawn, and where standard rosetrees burn their flames: Lord Tennyson, in his cloak, going first, perhaps dragging the garden chair in which Lady Tennyson was lying; Hallam Tennyson following, with rugs and cushions for the rest of the party. If the little grandsons and their mother, in her white dress and broad, shady hat, and Lionel Tennyson's boys, absorbed in their books of adventure are there, the family group is complete. One special day I remember when we all sat for an hour round about the homely chair and its gentle occupant. It seemed not unlike a realization of some Italian picture that I had somewhere seen: the tranquil eyes, the peaceful heights, the glorious summer day, some sense of lasting calm, of beauty beyond the present hour.

Lord Tennyson works alone in the early hours of the morning, and comes down long after lunchtime. It is rare to find other guests assembling around the social breakfast-table. He generally goes out for a walk before Luncheon, with his wife and sister, and perhaps, and followed by a couple of dogs. Most of us know the look of the stately figure, the hanging cloak, and broad felt hat. . . . It is a great thing in the world when people are content to be themselves, not chipped to the smooth pattern of the times, but simple, original and unaffected in ways and speech. He is a poet leading a poet's life.—From "Records of Tennyson, Ruskin, Browning," by Anne Thackeray Ritchie.

ParaLaffs

No Longer

It is still insisted by Japan, that it is not interested in annexing Manchuria. Nor is Washington, as far as we know, any longer concerned over the Louisiana purchase.—Detroit News.

They Say

A noted publicist passes the news along that "angels don't eat." Well, they say conditions have been bad everywhere.—Richmond Times-Dispatch.

What

What this country needs is fewer needs.—Atlanta Journal.

Maybe

Tennis is increasing in popularity. Maybe it's the craze for rackets.—Chicago Times.

Just It

The human race seems to have improved everything except people.—Easton Express.