*One of the greatest tragedies that can come into a person's life is that of entertaining a vain regret. To look back to a certain time and regret that you failed to do what you ought to, is tragic, indeed.*

# The Birmingham Eccentric

16 PAGES, PART 1

FIFTY-FOURTH YEAR—NO. 46 BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1932 $2.00 PER YEAR—SINGLE COPIES 5c

# TWO INDICTED IN STATE BANK PROBE

# *Police Hold Medinger In Jersey City*

## THIS and THAT

By G. R. A.

**A Libel On Monkeys**

The report is contradicted that monkeys on the Amazon are starving because there are too many peanuts, and that other monkeys are warned to stay away.—(The Melbourne Progress)

*Everything, of course, is relative. To those who may think themselves capable of making great splashes upon the sea of life, may we remind them of the case of the bantam rooster who found himself locked up in the barn with a heavy draft horse. "Let's get together in our difficulty," suggested the rooster, "and co-operate. Let's agree to keep off each other's toes."*

**You cannot escape the blows that life thumps upon your head. But you can, so to speak, place your head in such position for each blow that it will become practical and acceptable to look at. I have found that my life is like unto a substance which, if properly shaped, will float in accordance with definite laws upon the sea of life. A block of metal, of course, will not float; but if you pound it with a hammer in such a manner as to hollow it out, it will float. Our task, then, is to cause the hammer's blows to fall in keeping with a preconceived plan to hollow it out—not just allow the hammer to hit the mass of metal in a planless fashion, for without a plan it would simply pound into many shapless forms. I find that, with a preconceived plan to regulate where life's "blows" may fall upon my life, I may beat my otherwise shapeless, pliable life into the kind of form that, like a vessel that complies with the laws of floating bodies, will be sustained upon the sea of life by very definite forces.**

Every day, in The Detroit Free Press, Grantland Rice writes a sports article, and quite often his column leads off with a verse. I have come to look for those verses; most of them are stirring thoughts excellently executed. For instance, here is one which bears the title, "The Final Chapter." It is well worth reading and remembering:

*When you make the battle, look down upon the field,*
*With glory in your battle-axe and triumph on your shield,*
*Before the head starts swelling from fame's elusive thrill;*
*Look out against the sky line—or halfway up the hill;*
*Look out against the sky line, where crossings for the day*
*A better man than you are is always on the way.*
*And when you hear the tumult that rings against your name,*
*The far-away, rolling thunder that heralds growing fame,*
*Don't breathe it in too deeply, don't let it sink too far,*
*Don't build your future on it, however high you are—*
*For you'll hear louder cheering when in your final fling*
*You fade into the shadows before the vine-crowned king.*
*So let this thought, in passing, sink swiftly in your soul—*
*The fun is in the battle, but never in the goal;*
*And when the days seems easy, put this down for a bet,*
*No matter what the booty, you pay for what you get;*
*Through darkness look to sunlight, but when the sunbeams flock,*
*In place of picking laurel—get ready for the shock.*

**Prosperity, or adversity, is a matter of relative comparisons. If you think of the sun's noonday brightness at midnight, it is terrible; if you think of the midnight darkness at noonday, it is bright, indeed.**

Framed above the office door of Charles F. Kettering, General Motors Corporation research director, are these inspiring words: "No one ever would have crossed the ocean if he could have gotten off the ship in the storm."

*An extreme case of rare tact and gentility is revealed in the manner in which an old gentleman, detailing an indignant letter, said: "Sir, my stenographer, being a lady, cannot take down what I think of you, and I, being a gentleman, cannot express it; but you, being neither, can readily divine it."*

## Birmingham Post Joins Legion Drive To Relieve Jobless

The Birmingham post of the American Legion was prepared today to join in the program of the Legion's National Unemployment Committee which is engaged in a country-wide drive to uncover every available job for the unemployed.

David Levinson is in charge of the movement for the post in Birmingham. Persons who desire to employ workmen or who know of any available job, large or small, permanent or temporary, are asked to call him at 608.

Watch for the "Queen's Husband." —Adv. 46

## FITCH STORE CLERK HELD AS EMBEZZLER

**Disappeared Week Ago; More Than $2,000 Said To Be Missing**

**KEPT DUPLICATE BOOKS**

Detective Joseph F. MacGregor of the Birmingham police department left last night for Jersey City, N. J., in response to a telegram from police there that Paul S. Medinger, 22-year-old former clerk in the David G. Fitch Men's Furnishing Store on West Maple avenue, was under arrest there charged with embezzlement.

The arrest ended an eight-day search for Medinger in every city of the East after his disappearance a week ago yesterday. According to Chief of Police John F. Hackett, he had embezzled money from the store by means of a duplicate set of accounting records and by substituting checks intercepted at the store for cash intended to be deposited in banks.

Although the full amount of the alleged embezzlement could not be ascertained, pending completion of a thorough auditing of the store's books, it was said to be between $2,000 and $2,500.

**Duplicate Records Found**

The duplicate records were discovered in a search of his rooms in a private home at 391 Townsend street.

Medinger had been employed in a position of responsibility in the Fitch store for about three years, coming here from Pittsburgh where he had been employed in a large department store. His salary at the time of his disappearance was $30 a week, Chief Hackett said, although he drove a large car on which he was paying $100 a month, and was in the habit of buying expensive gifts for friends.

Medinger's disappearance last week followed his appearance as a plaintiff in a civil suit in Highland Park, growing out of an automobile accident in which he was involved last summer. He returned from Highland Park about noon, Chief Hackett said, and went directly to the store.

**Frightened By Auditors**

He was seen looking in the windows, but turned back without

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## $100,000 SUIT FOR BALM DISMISSED

**Former Birmingham Realtors Are Principals In Wayne County Case**

A $100,000 suit for alienation of affections brought by one former Birmingham real estate agent against another was dismissed Tuesday in Wayne County Circuit Court by Judge Theodore J. Richter.

The plaintiff was James Campbell, now living at 1240 Collingwood avenue, Detroit, who claimed that Eber H. Langworthy, now of Wayne, stole the affections of his wife, Sarah Campbell, who lives at 664 Purdy street, Birmingham.

Campbell attempted to prove that Langworthy made love to Mrs. Campbell before she had obtained a divorce on July 29, 1929, but the court ruled the plaintiff failed to connect Langworthy with events leading up to the divorce.

The two couples lived near one another on Purdy street here for several years, both husbands engaging in the real estate business. Mrs. Langworthy died in 1927 and her husband later re-married in California.

Mrs. Campbell testified her divorce action grew out of her refusal to sign over to her husband real estate which the two held jointly. The case opened Friday. There was no jury.

## HAVE YOU MET?—

**Mr. and Mrs. Kingsley M. Brown,** who came to Birmingham from Detroit three weeks ago and now reside at 911 Rivenoak road. They have three children, Kenneth, eight years old, a pupil at the Adams School; Kingsley, Jr., seven years old, who is spending the winter in Florida, and Jean, seven months old.

Mr. Brown is a manufacturer's agent.

## MAR. 1 IS DEADLINE FOR DOG LICENSES

The Commission Monday night adopted an amendment to the village dog ordinance permanently extending the deadline for the purchase of dog licenses to Mar. 1. The deadline in the original ordinance had been Jan. 31, and the change was made in order that the village ordinance will carry the same provisions for licensing as the state law.

The Commission also adopted a second amendment which allows owners of dog kennels to purchase a single license for their kennel instead of separate licenses for individual dogs. The fee was set at $15 for kennels of 10 dogs or less, and $1 for each additional dog above 10.

Kennel dogs will have to be immunized before they can be taken off the owners' property under leash, the amendment provides, but not if they are carried away in conveyances for show or breeding purposes.

## FAMILY ROUTED BY $1,500 BLAZE

**Children Carried To Safety As Fumes Nearly Overcome Father, Son**

Damage estimated at nearly $1,500 in the home of Edward L. Bryant, 280 Aspen road, was caused early Friday morning by a fire in which Mr. Bryant and his five-year-old son were nearly overcome after Mrs. Bryant had carried their small daughter, Martha, two and a half years old, safely to a neighbor's home.

Mrs. Bryant first discovered the fire shortly after 7 A. M. when she heard flames crackling in the living room, situated just below the bedroom in which she and the daughter were sleeping. After awakening her husband and turning in the alarm she wrapped the child in a blanket and carried her to the home of William E. Essery next door, clad only in night clothes and a coat.

Mr. Bryant rushed downstairs, and attempted to check the flames with two fire extinguishers. He was nearly overcome by smoke, gas and intense heat, but continued to call upstairs to his son, Edward, Jr.

**Short Circuit Blamed**

Obtaining no response, he dashed up the stairs to find the boy choking and coughing in the smoke-filled bedroom. He seized the boy in his arms, and fled safely to the street below, just as firemen arrived.

They succeeded in confining the blaze to one corner of the room, although the heat damaged draperies and furniture several feet away.

According to Fire Chief Vernon Griffith, the fire probably started from a short circuit in wires leading to a radio located on a bookcase in a corner of the room. The wires dropped down onto papers in the bookcase, he believes, the heat causing them to ignite.

The bookcase and its contents, including several valuable first editions which Mrs. Bryant had collected over the course of several years, were destroyed, as were a chair, a small table, a corner of the rug and other furnishings.

**Scores Witness Blaze**

The damage to the building was estimated at $350, and to the contents at about $1,150.

Scores of neighbors, including several dressed in night clothing, were attracted to the blaze.

The boy, suffering from the effects of inhaling smoke, was placed under the care of a physician for a few days after the fire, but is now believed fully recovered, according to Mrs. Bryant.

Mr. Bryant is a partner in the recently organized Detroit law firm of Bryant and Hill.

## *Chief of Monroe Schools Hired To Replace Vliet*

**Charles W. Crandell Given 2-Year Contract, Starting July 1**

Charles W. Crandell, superintendent of the Monroe schools since 1925 and a man of 24 years' experience in educational fields, will replace Clarence Vliet as superintendent of the Birmingham school system when the latter's contract expires on July 1, it was announced yesterday by Dr. W. G. Hutchinson, secretary of the Board of Education.

He will come to Birmingham on a two-year contract. His salary for the first year will be $6,750, or $250 more than that now paid him in Monroe. The contract calls for a raise in salary to $7,000 for the second year, although it leaves the board free to reduce this if conditions warrant, Dr. Hutchinson said. Mr. Vliet this year is receiving $6,750, or 10 percent less than the year before.

**Michigan Graduate**

Mr. Crandell, who is 44 years old, is married and the father of two small sons. He is a graduate of the Mt. Pleasant High School and the Central State Teachers College, and holds A. B. and A. M. degrees from the University of Michigan. He has also completed one year of work toward a Ph. D. degree at Michigan.

He began his teaching experience as principal of the Genessee County grade schools from 1907 to 1912. The next four years he served as superintendent of schools in Manton, Mich., and in 1917-18 was principal of the elementary schools in Saginaw.

From Saginaw he went to Cadillac where, until 1920, he was principal of the high school, and from 1920 until 1925 he was superintendent of the system.

The Monroe Evening News, in a recent edition announcing Mr. Crandell's resignation to assume the post here, describes his work there, in part, as follows:

**Growth Cited**

"The Monroe school system has undergone its greatest expansion program in both physical properties and in the scope of the curriculum during the last seven years. Much of this advance is due to the initiative of Mr. Crandell and to the co-operation of successive school boards.

"The completion of the new junior-senior high school building

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## CHILD FUND DRIVE NEARS QUOTA HERE

**Rotary Club Campaign For Crippled Children Within $100 Of Goal**

Within $100 of their goal of $700, members of the Birmingham Rotary Club plan this week to continue their house-to-house canvass for dollar-memberships in the Oakland County Society for Crippled Children, according to Walter Connelly, who is assisting in the campaign.

"To date we have raised $600", Mr. Connelly said. "Four teams have not reported as yet, and others have not completed the territory assigned to them. We plan to continue the drive until we have secured the $100 still lacking."

The Birmingham campaign is part of a county-wide drive to raise $2,000 which will provide medical care and treatment for approximately 175 crippled children in the county.

Dr. Harold R. Roehm, a member of the county executive committee, also chairman of the local Rotary Club's committee on crippled children, is in charge of the drive here.

## *Orpheus Concert To Aid Children's Dental Clinic*

With nearly 300 tickets already sold and others going rapidly, a capacity audience was foreseen today for the concert to be given in the Community House Tuesday night by the male chorus of the Detroit Orpheus Club for the benefit of the children's free dental clinic being sponsored by the Birmingham Exchange Club.

Wide variety features the program, which will include five groups of numbers in which Russian, German, French, Irish, Scotch, English and American composers are represented.

The chorus, recognized as one of the best organizations of amateur male singers in the country, is composed of 43 voices under the direction of Charles Frederick Morse. Dr. William Lloyd Kemp of Birmingham is the accompanist.

**Contest Winner**

The club attained its rank among the nation's best by winning first place in the international contest for male choruses in Buffalo in

(Turn to Page 2, No. 5)

FURNITURE STORAGE
159 Brownell Phone 7024-W4
—Adv. 21tf

FIRE, AUTOMOBILE, BURGLARY INSURANCE. Alva BONTA Thos. H. Cobb Insurance Agency, Phone 2027. 39tf

Charles W. Crandell

## TAX DEADLINE FALLS TUESDAY

**Township, Village Delinquents Face Penalties After Mar. 1**

Village and township officials were putting forth parallel efforts today to make delinquent taxpayers aware of the saving they can realize by taking advantage of the four days for paying their taxes before the rolls are closed Tuesday, Mar. 1, preparatory to being returned to Pontiac as delinquent.

Both township and village taxes will become delinquent on that date. Village taxes normally become delinquent on Nov. 1, but this year the county treasurer allowed the rolls to remain here to give the village opportunity to collect as large an amount as possible.

When the rolls are returned to Pontiac, the county applies a 4 percent penalty on all taxes, including both township and village, in addition to an interest fee of three-quarters of one percent per month. Both townships and village are concentrating on collections these last few days by emphasizing the saving open to taxpayers by avoiding these penalties.

Nearly 1100 letters have gone out from the village offices, pointing out this saving to owners of delinquent improved property and to all taxpayers whose delinquency exceeds $100. The response to date has been highly satisfactory, according to Village Treasurer Charles E. Plumstead, who said that nearly $1,000 in cash had been received as a direct result of the letters up to today.

In the township officers, Mrs. R. Margaret Plumstead, the treasurer, urged taxpayers to pay any portion of their bill they are able.

"We are prepared to receive part payments on any tax bill which cannot be paid in full", she declared, "and are especially anxious that school and township taxes be paid before the deadline. Township and school district governments will be seriously handicapped unless taxpayers generally take advantage of these last few days of grace."

## STATE NURSERYMEN HONOR R. J. CORYELL

Signal honor was bestowed upon R. J. Coryell, local nurseryman, when he was made an honorary life member of the Michigan Nurserymen's Association at its annual convention in Detroit last Friday. Mr. Coryell, a charter member and former president of the association, is the second Michigan nurseryman to receive that honor since the organization was formed in 1910. "For valuable services rendered and inspirational leadership given," were the words used in extending Mr. Coryell the honorary appreciation. Mr. Coryell was formerly president of the Birmingham Board of Education, and supervisor of Bloomfield Township.

Dancing Friday evenings at K. P. hall. —Adv. 46*

Barry's Cedar Island Lake. Old time and modern dances, every Saturday night. Largest and best hall in Oakland Co. Equipped with Microphones. Admission, 50c. Ladies free. —Adv. 46*

A Sparkling "The Queen's Husband." —Adv. 46

## ELLERBY WILL OPPOSE ALLEN AGAIN MAR. 14

**Enters Race Against Village President, Who Defeated Him In 1930**

**6 OTHERS SEEK OFFICE**

Harold T. Ellerby will again be a candidate for village president against the opponent who defeated him for the office two years ago, it was assured yesterday afternoon when he accepted petitions nominating him for the office in the annual election Mar. 14.

Mr. Ellerby, who served three years as village president from 1927 to 1930, when defeated by Harry Allen, the present incumbent, by three votes, was the last of eight candidates to enter the campaign for seats on the Village Commission.

Mr. Allen is a candidate for re-election along with three other members of the present Commission. They are Charles E. Lewis, Walter Connelly and Dr. Fred L. Tucker. The four together represent a majority.

**Miss Hanley Unopposed**

Of the other three candidates, two are former commissioners. They are J. Harry McBride, who also was among the last to accept his nomination, and T. B. Smith. The eighth candidate is E. W. (Cy) Osborne, who is making his first bid for favor with the village electorate.

Saturday, the deadline for filing nominating petitions, found three other present office holders unopposed for re-election. They were Miss Irene Hanley, who was assured of a second term as village clerk, and Mrs. L. N. Pyle and Russell Gore who were re-elected by default to two-year terms on the Library Board.

Although personal friends of Mr. Ellerby and Mr. Allen will undoubtedly wage a brisk campaign in their favor, it appears unlikely that either candidate will strive personally for victory. Although he entered fairly early in the race, Mr. Allen was reluctant to accept his nomination, and Mr. Ellerby, synonymous with his acceptance yesterday, announced he intends to leave in a few days for Florida, to

(Turn to Page 2, No. 2)

## CITY PETITIONS READY TUESDAY

**Bloomfield Commission To Be Asked To Call Re-Incorporation Election**

Petitions requesting that a special election be called to vote on the re-incorporation of Bloomfield Hills Village as a city are expected to be presented to the Bloomfield Hills Commission at its regular meeting next Tuesday night.

The petitions were placed in circulation two weeks ago following a meeting of about 30 officials and private citizens of the village when the proposition was discussed and appeared to meet almost unanimous approval. Only 100 names are needed on the petitions to make calling of the election mandatory, and it is believed that they will be obtained without difficulty.

The election could not be called until 70 days after the petitions have been filed. A charter commission of nine members would be chosen at the same election to draft the new city charter and set a date for the election of the first city administration.

Proponents of the move see an advantage in the saving of taxes now paid to the township, and elimination of duplicate services in several offices.

## TOWNSHIP ELECTION CHAIRMEN NAMED

Appointment of election board chairmen to preside at the polls in the Bloomfield Township primary on Mar. 7 was made by the Township Board Tuesday as follows:

Clare Stewart, precinct 1; Mrs. James Cobb, precinct 2; Mrs. William Blumberg, precinct 3; William R. Campbell, precinct 4; W. E. Barton, precinct 5, and William E. Story, precinct 6.

The chairmen will name their own assistants later, after conferring with the township clerk.

McKEE SERVICE—2 STATIONS
N. Woodward at Harmon and S. Woodward at Lincoln. Purol and Sunoco Gasoline and Oils. Call 87-J for Tire and Battery Service. —Adv. 41tf

# Felonies Charged To Fred E. Fisher And Irving Zeigler

**Fisher Forged Endorsements, Zeigler Stole Christmas Money, Doty's Report Declares**

## POOR RECORDS, BAD LOANS CITED

**Fred E. Fisher, 687 Townsend street, and Irving Zeigler, a former teller in the closed First State Savings Bank of Birmingham, were to be arrested today for alleged felonies cited by Judge Frank L. Doty in his report on the results of the grand jury investigation of the bank's affairs, issued last night.**

Fisher, who had no official connection with the bank, forged the signatures of J. A. Mercier and Charles W. Burton to notes totalling $3,000 which he renewed from time to time, the report said. He will be charged with forgery, and Mr. Mercier will be asked to sign the complaint, according to Prosecutor Clarence L. Smith.

Zeigler used $2,900 of the bank's Christmas Savings Fund, the report charged, and will be held for embezzlement. The money has been repaid to the bank by the former teller's father, but, said the report, "we feel that this crime can not be overlooked, and the mitigating circumstances mentioned above are not for the consideration of the grand jury but are rather for the trial court."

**Books, Records Scored**

Although the report shows the investigation revealed no further instances of dishonesty in the conduct of officials or employes of the bank, the institution is severely criticized for its "loose and inadequate methods of bookkeeping," "scanty and uninformative" records, "extremely ill-advised loans," and "improper extensions of credit."

More than $5,000 was withdrawn from the bank by officers and employes "on the eve of the bank's closing," and, in some cases, even after the doors were no longer open to the public," the report shows, and orders the money returned.

The report cleared Thomas H. Cobb, president of the bank, of any improper acts, but criticized him for allowing "some of the customers of the bank to impose upon his friendship and confidence, which they abused to their own advantage and the bank's disadvantage."

**Cites Dimmick Loans**

Among the specific instances of indiscretion on the part of officers in making loans, Judge Doty cites that in which Guerdon L. Dimmick, Jr., a former resident

(Turn to Page 2, No. 1)

### Text Of Grand Jury Report On 1st State Bank

**The complete text of Judge Doty's report on the First State Savings Bank grand jury investigation follows:**

Examination of the affairs of the First State Savings Bank of Birmingham, Michigan, has been completed with the possible exception of the calling of witnesses not available to the Grand Jury at this time by reason of their absence from the state. If the testimony of these witnesses proves to be of value, this inquiry will be reopened.

The officers of the bank were: Thomas H. Cobb, president; Arthur C. Peck, cashier; Robert C Peck, assistant cashier.

The directors of the bank were: Thomas H. Cobb, T. R. Smith, Will W. Masters, David H. Ladd, Arthur C. Peck, Frank Schlaack, W. B. Harris, E. W. Ilett, Robert C. Peck, H. W. Rainey.

**$150,000 Surplus**

The bank was capitalized at $200,000, with a surplus of $150,000. Most of the stock was held by few people, Thomas H. Cobb having 1,000 shares, Mrs. Thomas H. Cobb, 530 shares and Charles Toms, of Lansing, Michigan, 930 shares. Some of the shares of Mr. Cobb were purchased as late as 1931. The par value was $20 per share, the book value $40. The bank was originally organized with a capital of $20,000.

Apparently the methods of book-keeping and banking practice did not grow with the bank, as we were hampered and delayed in our investigation by the loose and inadequate methods of book-keeping employed. The records of the bank were scanty and uninformative and did not materially assist us in our examination.

Loans to officers, directors and employees in no instances exceeded the statutory limit. In many cases, however, they were extremely ill-advised and individual instances of what we believe to have been improper extensions of credit will be noted later.

**Withdrawals Scored**

We regret to report that certain of the officers and employees withdrew funds on the eve of the bank's closing and, in some cases, even after the doors were no longer open to the public. A list of these individuals and amounts withdrawn is given below:

| | |
|---|---|
| Mary A. Cobb | $1,345.11 |
| Mary A. Cobb | 162.79 |
| John Gregory Peck | 4.00 |
| Dorothy Lee Peck | 6.15 |
| Ruth Mae Peck | 21.00 |
| Esther E. Peck | 7.38 |
| Theodore C. Peck | 8.75 |
| Alice E. Slack | 2,456.00 |
| Norma L. Martin | 873.00 |
| Betty Jean Parmenter | 111.68 |
| Mrs. E. A. Parmenter | 170.68 |
| Robert C. Peck, Jr. | 17.28 |
| Jacqueline Villa Buck | 3.26 |
| Thelma Zeigler | 9.66 |

In our opinion a preference was granted to these individuals and they are directed to return the sums withdrawn by them.

**"Indiscreet" Loans**

In addition to the foregoing, there were many withdrawals of substantial amounts in the closing days of the bank. These withdrawals

(Continued on Page 3)

BARGAIN RENTALS
Fine 8-room home, all burner, 2 baths, large lot on corner, $100 month, or will rent furnished for $125. On lease. Another 8-room house on corner, lots of shade and shrubbery, 5-car garages, $60. Half double 4-room house, $40. Another, $25. 6-room cottage, $25. House in terrace, $35. Another, $25. Call or phone us.
J. B. HOWARTH & SON, TEL. 321
Real Estate General Insurance
—Adv. 45tf

The Senior Play—Next Thursday. —Adv. 41tf

LOST!

Your dog, purse, keys? Let the want ad columns of The Eccentric help you, it's the best lost and found station in town. Your chances of recovering lost valuables are increased a hundred-fold if you list it in the Lost and Found columns.

Or if you have found something of value that someone would gladly pay a reward for recovering, a small ad will bring them to you.

*Phone 11*

The Birmingham Eccentric