The Birmingham Eccentric

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THURSDAY, JULY 21, 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 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 a mechanical situation in the composing room, headlines written by those other than members of the staff cannot be used. Any intentional 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.

Joe J. Jackrabbit, Candidate

Joe J. Jackrabbit, the kangaroo politician, today announced his candidacy for county dog commissioner in the fall elections.

"I believe I'll run on the Democratic ticket," declared Jackrabbit in a fearless statement. "Or no, better make it Republican. Well, Farmer-Laborite, then. Come from a long line of Republicans, but I'm convinced this is a Larmer-Faborite year. Say, what about the Socialists this year? Aw, nerts—three cheers for the Famorite-Larbors!

"I thought a lot about running, for sheriff, but I can't truthfully say that my experience fits me for the office. I know quite a bit about jails, but it's all at one from the inside looking out.

"And as for being a congressman—I never could stand to walk long distances. I wouldn't get half way to Washington before that big corn on my little toe would start pinching again.

"No sir, I'm going to stick to dogs. Stick to dogs and be extravagant—that's my slogan. This year, when the candidates for all the other offices are promising to economize and save the taxpayers' money, I figure there'll be a lot of dough left over for the dog commissioner to spend.

And believe me, I'll spend it! Not foolishly, though. I've got a scheme for putting every man in the county to work! Electricity and your employment problem is solved! I'll hire a man for every dog in the county to teach the dogs all how to imitate Groucho Marx and the four Mills Brothers riding a tandem bicycle down Pennsylvania avenue.

"I have absolutely no qualifications for this office, or for any other. My eyesight is bad, my kidneys weak, and my origin questionable. Besides, I'm afraid of dogs, anyway.

"But I'm a darn good talker, fit in well with any and all groups, parties, factions and political gangs, and will promise to give the Court House away for a block of six votes or less. Raise it to an even 10, and I'll throw the City Hall in with it.

"I moved into the county only the day before yesterday, and expect to move out again the day after election. I have never held public office before, but I've run for plenty and I figure a guy can't *always* get beat. What about the law of averages? Have a cigar? Yo do de do do!"

Village-City Investigation

The Village Commission is to be complimented for its decision to conduct its own independent investigation of the village-city question. Whether the investigation is successful in bringing to light a more comprehensive and accurate picture of the results of the proposed change to the city form of government than has already been uncovered is important, but not so vital as the fact that no matter what form the Commission's report does take it will not be subject to the criticism of having come from a prejudiced source.

The special committee of the Property Owners' Division of the Birmingham Real Estate Board which studied and reported on the question last spring, and the independent groups and individuals which have given their attention to the issue in later weeks, have all made valuable contributions to the village-city literature.

But the mass of figures and opinions accumulated to date, having come from such diverse sources, have tended lately rather to confuse than to clarify the subject, and they need to be correlated and amended by a single and responsible authority. This task has now been assumed by those to whom it belongs—our village commissioners, who were elected to chart the course of Birmingham's municipal craft to the best of their ability through the seas of controversy and into the harbor of greatest safety.

SELF-IMPOSED CAPITAL PUNISHMENT seems to have become the heritage of at least three inmates of the Birmingham police station cell block. Seriously, we had always thought such things were barred here.

POLITICS, politics, politics, more politics, more politics, and then more and more politics—that is what too many units of American government are getting ahead of just a seriously sincere effort on the part of politicians to give statesmanship.

PRESIDENT HOOVER received from Congress $100,000 to be used to pay the transportation charges to return bonus-desiring soldiers to their homes from Washington. Once again Hoover favors the railroads which proves that he really knows "the tie that binds."

PRESIDENT HOOVER last week was given his annual cherry pie from Traverse City, the presentation made by Michigan's "Cherry Queen." The pie was three feet in diameter. It certainly takes a lot of crust to present such a pie to the President of the United States. But Traverse City people are ready and willing to pit their products against the whole country, aren't they?

Civilization Needs Peace Technique

Mr. Paul Harris, expert on international relations, in a speech on "The Present World Situation" in Waterloo, Iowa, discussed four means of preventing war: By disarmament, by international organization, by world education for peace, and by removing the cause of war.

"By disarmament I mean a worldwide reduction of fighting arms, not just the reduction by one nation.

"I, another war occur, we dare not think of the future. War is no longer opposition of skilled fighters. It is in principle 'mass murder'—the technical expert in the air attacking an unarmed population.

"In the last 24 hours our government has spent two million dollars just on the army and navy, and will spend the same during the next 24 hours.

"International organization to prevent war would entail the establishment of a world federation by the 64 powers—15 are already joined together in the League including all but Abyssinia, Uruguay, Russia, Turkey, the United States and a few other less important countries."

A world court, a world bank and an international labor union were other factors for peace discussed by the speaker.

Civilization needs a new technique of adjusting differences, he said, in discussing world education for peace.

"Fighting proves nothing but that one is stronger than the other and that both are fools," he concluded.—Waterloo (Iowa) COURIER, Nov. 1, 1931.

State Paroles

Governor Brucker delights in informing people that "no prisoners will be dealt leniently with by me in the granting of pardons and paroles." Of course, most of that is merely platform politics. Last month of June, according to reliable statistics, 150 prisoners were paroled from Jackson State Prison alone—all part of the regular, lawful, decent and ordinary routine of the office of Ray Brundage, Commissioner of Pardons and Paroles. In granting these paroles Governor Brucker is doing just what former Governors Green and Groesbeck did. Remember this during the coming campaign, please.

You Are Merely You!

You are what you are because of the things you think about. If you would reach a mountain top you must make up your mind to do so, and then your body will accompany your will to suit the thought to action. If you would be happy and contented, you must think about things that make for those qualities of life. You cannot think debasing thoughts and attain exalted heights. It seems to us that the greatest human objective possible is that of so educating ourselves that we can become the master of our daily activities, to guide them into channels of rectitude and good behavior.

Publisher Candidates

Ed Nowack, publisher of a Lansing political weekly newspaper, and Theodore A. Thompson, publisher of the Williamston Enterprise, have announced themselves as Republican candidates for Governor and Lieut.-Governor, respectively, and are entering an active campaign prior to the September 13 primary election. Both men claim no political organization as backing, and pledge themselves to a program of economy—also for re-submission of the 18th Amendment.

THE TROUBLE WITH THE "MAILED FIST" variety of law enforcement urged upon county prosecutors by Governor Brucker is that too many of our law enforcing agencies have suits of armor made of tin. They do a lot of rattling, much squeaking, but are otherwise impractical at protecting the body politic.

OVER 53 PER CENT of Birmingham's population are registered at the Baldwin Public Library, and therefore able to borrow books. This is a high rate of a community's citizenry to be on a library's books, and only reveals that our people spend much of their time perusing the printed word.

All of Us

—By Marshall Maslin

I HAVE YOUR LETTER.

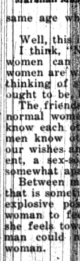
You'd like me to answer the question that you've been asking everybody: "Can men and women be friends as women and women and men and men are friends?"

You know a man, "experienced in the ways of us, all over the world," and he says: "No, it is impossible. Men and women can NOT be friends in that way."

You'd like one more opinion, one more answer.

Of course you know that my opinion is just the opinion of one man, but I think every man has made up his mind on this question and so has every woman. Every vote counts.

And I suppose you are thinking of men and women of about the same age when you ask this question.



Marshall Maslin

* * *

Well, this is what I think.

I think, "No." And when I think that men and women cannot be friends with each other as women are with women and men with men, I'm not thinking of special cases, or of how human beings ought to be, but of how they truly are today.

The friendship between normal men and between normal women is a quiet and stable thing. Men know each other emotionally and mentally, as women know other women; and there is, despite all our wishes and our yearnings to have things different, a sex-solidarity that keeps men and women somewhat apart.

Between men and women there is an excitement that is sometimes subtle and sometimes obvious, an explosive possibility. It may be possible for a woman to feel toward a man the same friendship she feels toward another woman, but I am sure a man could not have the same friendship for a woman.

* * *

Don't misunderstand me, please. I do not mean that a man can not be friends with a woman. I have woman friendships that have lasted and that, I believe, will be permanent, but they are not QUITE the same as the man friendships. I don't say they are higher in the scale of human friendship, nor that they are lower; they are merely different.

But, finally, WOULD you have things different? Would you change men and women and set their relationship on some other plane than the one we know? Would you sacrifice the dangers and ecstasies of the other relationship between man and woman in order to achieve the quieter, less troublesome friendship of men with men and women with women?

I have tried to answer your question. Will you answer mine?

From THE ECCENTRIC Columns of Long Ago

FIFTY YEARS AGO

The 4:35 train going west lifted a valuable cow from Edward White on Friday afternoon last.

Tom Adams' two dollar bee changed hands, and now Hunter H. Hoffman owns it.

The east end of Merrill street has the largest and handsomest assortment of weeds we ever saw growing in any state.

Ira Slade is making numerous improvements on his house on Mill street, for they will be improvements when they are finished.

Miss Mattie Baldwin of this place and Miss Rhuser of Detroit, both teachers in the schools of the latter place, will vacationize at Duluth and intermediate points this summer.

Miss Zilpha Bayley, daughter of Adams Bayley of Troy, has been visiting her uncle Sidney Bayley of Croft for the past week. During her absence she visited Put-in-Bay island and had a glorious time.

This town owns a first class set of band instruments and the gentlemen of the town fail to use them. Now why can't the young ladies here organize and play as successfully as the Paris young ladies? We wait the movement.

One of our s-m-a-r-t-e-s old gentlemen lately called upon a buxom grass "widder" and after expressing great solicitude and sorrow for her lonely condition, he concluded to make the waste places glad by a good hearty kiss, and thus did she reply, "You miserable old d... get out of here!" and a big wood handled broom helped along the offender to a speedy exit.

Mrs. George Crawford of Iowa has been in town the past week having a good time with friends and relatives in the village and in Southfield. She reports George in good health and not near so bald as he used to be.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

Pontiac boasts of a rye straw seven feet long.

Mrs. C. M. Raynale entertained a number of friends at social dances at a thimble party at her home on Maple avenue, last Saturday afternoon.

The two little lads holding the iron umbrella over the fountain are wearing vests of the finest mesh woven by the active spider, probably the shield their faces from the clouds of dust raised by the gasoline lawn sprinkler.

Automobile scorchers sometimes take their punishment for violating the speed law when there is no traffic officer in sight. Not to pay the penalty to Gabriel Cesra, owner of the Oriental Hotel in Detroit. Monday, while making record time down the hill at Carle City, he lost control of his machine, which turned turtle, wrecking it and throwing Mr. Cesra 10 or 15 feet in the air. He was taken to Brightonk, the W. T. Barbour home, and then to Harper Hospital. Though no bones were broken, the victim of the mishap was badly bruised.

Gov. Warner and family are now at Cass Lake for a few days.

A bad thief tapped the U. of D. Grand Trunk station at Orchard Lake Friday afternoon, while the agent attended to some outside duties. It was Wm. Mingst, the agent, just 8 years ago, when he left the office door unfastened.

The management of the Milford ball team wants it known that the Milford bunch can "lick the Holly crowd at two out of three or three in five, as the fatter may elect. The sporting editor of the Detroit Free Press, acted as umpire. And Milford has already been beaten twice.

Frank and Ed. Shannon had excellent luck fishing at Island Lake. Among the catch were a pickerel weighing 4½ pounds.

FIVE YEARS AGO

Village taxes are being paid at the rate of $1,000 a day, approximately $44,000 have been paid so far, according to Charles Plumstead, village treasurer.

The assessed valuation of Birmingham is $20,496,000 this year as compared with that of 1926, which was $12,700,000. The tax levy this year is $260,000. The rate per thousand is $12.69 dollars more than that of 1926.

The choice of an architect to build a new school, which is good to build first, and plans for the school building to be issued next will be discussed at a special meeting of the Board of Education tonight. Five architects have made applications for the job of constructing the school.

Birmingham police began this week to enforce rigidly the one hour parking limit for automobiles in the business section. To enforce this law it will be required the constant attention of one policeman. The reason for the strict enforcement of the one hour parking rule is to allow a greater number of customers to be served by the various stores in which they trade.

The width of Woodward avenue through Birmingham was definitely established at 100 feet, at a meeting of the Administration Board held in Lansing Monday of this week. At the same meeting plans were resumed for the Ford to provide a parallel highway 204 feet wide over the present Grand Trunk right-of-way, when that utility is moved to a point east of its present location, at some future date.

"As If" It Could

A Harvard astronomer believes Mars is inhabited by intelligent beings and that they are signaling to us. They probably are going to try to sell us some of their bricks, just let us see if we didn't notice them.—Detroit News.

SAY AU REVOIR, BUT NOT GOODBYE!

The Other Chap Says Something—

TWO MORE FOR VANDENBERG

We have been asked, what the early political maneuvering, mentioned recently, was all about. Frankly, it would take more of a political prognosticator than the writer of this column to tell, but partly it is because there are two or three men in Michigan who would like to wear the Senatorial toga which now graces the manly form of Arthur H. Vandenberg of Grand Rapids. Mr. Vandenberg is now serving his first term, and has in that brief time developed more influence in national affairs than usually comes to a first term. It is nothing than Mr. Vandenberg has done as a United States Senator that has marked him for political sacrifice, for he has been efficient, but rather because he has offended politically in certain quarters and because a certain political machine covets his place for their own organization.

We have known Senator Vandenberg for a number of years, and we approve of him, so much so that we were for him for United States Senator and so announced ourselves long before he would consent to become a candidate. His work as a Senator has justified our judgement, and we have no hesitancy in joining with Murl DeFoe of the Charlotte Republican-Tribune, George Averill of the Birmingham Eccentric, Pat O'Brien of Iron River and a lot more country editors in saying that we are for Arthur Vandenberg to succeed himself regardless of what the politicians want. It's a long time yet until the primary of 1935, but when we say we're for a man, we stick.—Wm. H. Berkey, in his column "Our Own Mixture" in the Cassopolis Vigilant.

TWO PARTIES NEEDED

If Michigan is handicapped politically by any one thing, it is that one political party has dominated the elections. The factional strife within the party has been costly for the state. The competition has been one faction as against another. The one getting into power was forced by considerations of political expediency to build up an organization to combat the opposition from the faction out of power. Much of this has been done by additions to the state payroll. This practice has been followed by all of the recent administrations.

Competition between two parties will help offset this expensive practice. Leaders will be forced to seek candidates on the strength of their respective abilities to deal with the problems as they come up. At present these concerned with getting on the band wagon of one candidate or another are actuated by the desire to ride with the winner, regardless of qualifications.—Joe Sturgean in Delta County Reporter.

DRYS & WETS

In answering the question as to "who made John D. Rockefeller, Jr., wet" the Christian Century, an undenominational paper, in evading any responsibility says the sin, if sin it is, at the door of Herbert Hoover, which to say the least is a measley crawfish way of getting out of the hole. Every dry knows as well as every wet that when we voted the saloons out of business we failed to supply any substitute for the millions of men who from time to time congregated in them. To be sure, the old saloon was not ideal in many respects, but it was the best the age afforded. Just the opposite of the church, for they were always open to the public, while the church is closed to the public six days in the week. The church has not in all things been "as wise as a serpent and harmless as a dove." And as for John D. Rockefeller, Jr., the Christian Century makes a big jump in the dark in dubbing him "A WET." If the adherents of the church are in the large preponderance, what harm can come out of submitting the referendum to the masses? It is their inalienable right, and calling any man or woman "wet" simply because they favor a vote on the wet and dry question savors of the dark ages, and is no credit to the church, regardless who voices such a thought.—J. E. McMullen in Linden Leader

GETTING BACK HOME

Vacations are nice, but did it ever occur to you that whether you are at home following the old grind or galivanting about the country or visiting some friends you have to pretty much make your own "good time." The old earth is too busy with its trials and tribulations to give up its time to the pleasure of anyone. Wherever you are, whoever you see—they're occupied with their own problems. They can give you a passing acknowledgment and after that must turn to their own lot, be that mirth or sorrow. So, it doesn't so much mind where you happen to be you get out of it just what you put in. If it's at the old grind stone the return is just in proportion to how you turn it.—Tom Conlin in Crystal Falls Diamond Drill.

INFLUENCE

The influence of a word once spoken is of a dual accomplished, be it good or bad, is unending. Some people seem to think that evil is more persistent than good. Not so. Evil may be more blatant. Because it is offensive it is more obtrusive. Perhaps the forces of evil are more active. That puts it up to you, my Christian friend. Without question the forces of evil are not united. However, if you would uproot the weeds as persistently as you uproot potatoes, the former crop would not exceed the latter. If you properly prepare your ground, sow good seed, and carefully cultivate, a good crop is assured. See to it, then, that your influence is for good, and with all your might oppose that which is wrong. Don't lie down on the job. An old lady who was never known to speak evil of anyone was once asked what she thought of the devil. She replied, "Well, he is very industrious."—Lapeer County Press.

The "Big Shots" Say:—

Albert Einstein, German scientist:
"Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile."

Henry Ford, auto manufacturer:
"These national conventions are not so important as they are made to seem. They can give the people nothing and they can take nothing away from the people."

Charles G. Dawes, retiring head of the R. F. C.:
"The recovery in the depression will start from the bottom up, not from the top down. That is what past experiences show."

Eduard Herriott, French Premier:
"The declaration of the six powers at Lausanne makes the ultimate European settlement conditional upon eventual understanding with the United States."

Dr. Madge Macklin, eugenist:
"Many domestic servants cannot pass a mental test for a nine-year old child but are self-supporting, useful members of society. It is folly to promote the extinction of morons."

L. J. Dickinson, U. S. senator, Republican Convention keynoter:
"Directly and indirectly, the Federal government has, during the last three years, poured into the agricultural industry nearly one billion dollars."

Eric Geddes, former British cabinet minister:
"I find that most men like straight, blunt dealing if you can say things in a nice way, preserving the correct attitude."

Charlie Chaplin, comedian:
"I am reputedly a comedian but after seeing financial conditions of the world, I have decided I am as much an economist as financiers are comedians."

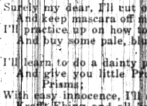
Arthur Henderson, British delegate at Geneva:
"The moment is driving at which great decisions must and will be made."

Theodore Roosevelt, Governor-General, Philippine Islands:
"In the United States we have an entirely wrong viewpoint regarding the Filipino people. Judging the Philippines by Manila is like judging the United States by New York."

Jest For the Fun of It

Return Trips

What have you called your new novel?



"Boomerang." It keeps coming back to me."

—o—

Pleasing the Masters

Surely my dear, I'll cut out paint,
And keep mascara off my lashes;
I'll practice up on how to faint,
And buy some pale, blue sashes,

I'll learn to do a dainty pout;
And give you little Prunes and Prisms;
With easy innocence, I'll doubt
Krafft-Ebing and all isms. . . .

No more, you'll hear me gaily swear;
By 10 o'clock I'll try to slumber;
And then . . . I bet I'll get the air!
You'll chase some hotter number.

—E. L. in "Life"

Pent-House Garden

He had gone into the manager's office to inquire if he could have the Saturday morning off for the purpose of digging up his garden.

"But, my dear man," said the manager, "Smith told me only a day or two ago that you hadn't a garden."

"Well, then" was the reply "someone must have taken it off the window-sill."

—o—

Famous Firms
Time & Tide

Right

"All women are biased."
"Yeh! Buy us this and buy us that!"

—o—

Ardent Morning Dry

Mr. Smith suddenly made up his mind to take music lessons. When he had settled himself at the piano on the first morning his teacher said to him: "Now, Mr. Smith, will you take an octave first?"

Mr. Smith shook his head. "It's very good of you, madam, but I never touch alcohol before midday."

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, and must be in the office by Tuesday morning's publication the following Thursday.

FOR REPEAL ONLY

To the Editor:

As Michigan chairman of the Women's Organization for National Prohibition Reform, I wish to reiterate what I have already stated in regard to the Organization's stand on the National Parties' platforms. I wish to emphasize the fact that this has nothing to do with candidates for Congress, state offices and the Legislature. We will endorse any candidate who openly favors repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment, Republican or Democrat.

Again I repeat—be he Republican or Democrat.

MRS. FREDERICK M. ALGER,
Detroit, Mich.

Our Scrap Book

PLAYING TO A PACKED HOUSE

We were gradually working into the extreme Middle West, and when we were to give a performance in a town in Kansas, the manager of the theater said to Nobles and myself, "If you want to pack this house tonight, just get the city band to play out in front of the theater from half-past seven to eight o'clock. By that time you will have the whole town out. And," he added, "they won't cost you a cent; all they ask is that you let them in to see the performance."

I hunted up the leader of that band and he was sure that his boys would be delighted to play. All they wanted was to see the show afterward, and they would use their instruments as a passport into the theater. At half-past seven the band, resplendent in their uniforms, struck up a march and for half an hour entertained the audience that gathered in the street; but no one seemed to be enthusiastic about entering the house. Finally the leader of the band said, "Guess we'll go in now."

The theater was a ground-floor one, long and narrow, and had a number of windows on one side, not far above the ground. The band passed in, I went to the music room to tune up my fiddle and had been there perhaps ten minutes, when the call-boy came running back and said, "How many men are there in that band?"

"Oh," I said, "perhaps twenty."

"Well" said, "about a hundred men have already gone in with their instruments!"

"That's impossible", I replied, "I'll go and investigate."

As I entered the theater, I noticed a man come in with an instrument, immediately go to an open window and hand it to a fellow outside, who went round to the front door and came in with it; he in turn handed it to someone else outside. If I hadn't closed the window the entire town would doubtless have viewed the performance, and all for the half hour's work of the band!—John Philip Sousa, in "Marching Along."

ParaLaffs

The Real Job.

The hard job of Big Men is to straighten out the mess without surrendering any of their advantages.—Shreveport Journal.

Practically

It is stated by no less than Ogden Mills that capital in the hands of a few men is much more productive than in the hands of countless thousands. Our situation, therefore, is practically perfect.—The New Yorker.

We Would.

We never had much of a yen to watch a Kentucky derby, but we would like to get a look at some of the people who christen the horses.—Cedar Rapids Gazette.

Draw Your Own Conclusion

Butler (to new cook)—Mind you, I'm not saying anything about your cooking, but there's a tetanus tin in the soup and crackers in the dining room tonight.—Humorist.

Crushing Retort

First Chorine (quarreling in dressing room)—Not only that, but you get uglier every day.

Second Ditto—Another thing that I can do and you can't.

Louisiana has the greatest extent of navigable water and she possesses also the greatest area of alluvial land.

It Isn't

Whatever it is that makes the tired business man tired, this year, it isn't business.—Dunbar's Week.

An Important Point

A teacher gave the following problem to her pupils: If a woman gathers five eggs a day, how many eggs would she gather in a week? After studying for a few minutes, William, with a puzzled brow, inquired: "Teacher, do hens lay on Sundays?"—Indianapolis News.

Sounds So

"You might say," John Masefield says, "that poetry is the wine of the universe." True enough, but we rather wish so much didn't sound like the whine of it.—Boston Herald.

Prompt!

British physicians are trying to diagnose the disease of which Shakespeare died. Prompt medical attention of this sort ought to be appreciated.—Dallas News.