BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

(Founded in 1878)

Published every Thursday, at Birmingham, Mich., in The Eccentric Building, 210-212 North Woodward Avenue.

Telephones 11, 12, and 13

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Entered as Second Class Matter in the U. S. Postoffice at Birmingham, Michigan

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

(In Oakland County)		(Outside Oakland County)	
One Year	$2.00	One Year	$2.50
Six Months	1.00	Six Months	1.50
Three Months	.50	Three Months	1.00

All newspaper and advertising copy must be in The Eccentric office by Wednesday noon to obtain insertion for that week.

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 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 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.

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

Manager Parry Admits A Point

Village manager James W. Parry has acknowledged this recently arrived at conviction: that it is out of order for the village of Birmingham to use or lend any of its equipment for the purpose of partisan politics.

This new civic light that has flooded the consciousness of Mr. Parry is the result of a two-page document distributed in Birmingham Monday of last week when the annual village election was being held; the document was mimeographed in the village office the Sunday previous to election day, with the full understanding and consent of Mr. Parry. As you may recall, the two-page affair was captioned: "Re-elect The Present Commissioners."

Of course, no one questions the correctness of manager Parry's furnishing of statistical information to those who ask for it; but when it comes to using village-owned equipment to turn it out on, one should not be surprised to learn that such action meets with the disapproval of many citizens. There may be some excuse for appointive governmental employees seeking to aid the passage of an impersonal progressive issue or legislative proposition during an election, but such aid ought to stop when it comes to the business of electing officials by the use of property held in common community ownership.

This newspaper has been assured by manager Parry that none of the former village commission was responsible for the use of the village mimeograph in getting out the partisan document. We are glad to know this, as are all citizens interested in free government—regardless of the side they may be on at election time.

If manager Parry is so highly interested in getting statistical information to local taxpayers, as he seemed to be Monday of last week, we join many others in suggesting that he conform to the Charter provision calling for the gratuitious distribution of his Manager's Report to every local taxpayer; certainly, with all the help he has in the Municipal Building, he can get out sufficient mimeographed copies to supply those to whom the Charter looks for the support of governmental business.

Tax-Collecting Methods

Considering the progress made by tax-spending bodies of the various units of government, one must admit that the tax-collecting ends have been utterly stupid in their inability to devise practical methods of collecting. To expect people of every class to come through with comparatively large sums of money once or twice a year has resulted in greater tax delinquency—even in prosperous times. We suggest that Birmingham, through the effogts of village assessor Albert W. Noonan, treasurer Charles Plumstead, and manager Parry, invent a more satisfactory method of collecting taxes. At least four periods each year should be included, allowing for the budgeting of the householders' tax expenses.

IF THERE IS ANY SINGLE THING that needs taxing in the affairs of Michigan, it is the state banking laws. Too many instances of financial dereliction have been revealed during the past year in banks under state supervision to make people feel as safe as they should. It is a compliment to our federal government that but few national banks have been forced to close their doors. After all, laws are no better than their enforcement.

DETROIT'S INDIGENT families are being added to the welfare list at the rate of 100 each day, bringing the total number now provided for to 27,000, it is reported by John F. Ballenger, supt. of welfare. Detroit's unemployment plight presents a most serious problem to our form of capitalistic government. Who will rise to the type of leadership necessary to lead our country back to a semblance of prosperity?

JUSTICE MAY BE BLIND, as the copybook writers have tried to make us believe; but in these days of prohibition violations one would be excused for thinking that the blindfolded lady once in a while winks an eye.

OUT IN HASTINGS, Nebraska, it is reported that two old-fashioned sod houses are still in use. No matter how humble they may become, these two houses will always have plenty of "long green."

IT HAS BEEN SAID that New York's magnificence is due to its skyline. Which provokes us to believe that the average person's magnificence is due to his sky-line.

HAVE YOU HEARD the latest in humor—the listerine laugh? It goes like this: ah, ah—ah—ah—ah, ah, ah!

THE ONLY REAL GUARANTEE for economic security is applied unselfishness.

Republicans On Trial

In Michigan today we have a Republican administration at Lansing, together with an almost entire Republican Legislature. Next Tuesday, when the legislators assemble in Lansing to perfect means of tax relief for all sections of Michigan, it will put Republicanism, as a party, virtually on trial. That is to say, it will give the predominant party in Michigan a chance to prove its oft-repeated utterance: "Elect us and we'll protect you." We hope Governor Brucker will meet with success in every responsible suggestion he outlines in his message next Tuesday. There is an election in November, and the eyes of every good Michigan citizen are on the special session. Truly, here is an opportunity for Republicans to deliver the goods.

Close To People's Hearts

Few newspapermen in Michigan live closer to the hearts of their people than Murl H. DeFoe, of Charlotte. That is why, upon many occasions, he writes paragraphs in his Republican-Tribune that touch deeply the human emotions, as in the following of last week:

When the west bound Wolverine pulled into the Michigan Central station Tuesday morning a casket was taken off the train. Two score and more of loving friends did what little there was to do in removing the casket from the coach and lifting it into the waiting funeral car. Surrounded by friends all that was mortal of Mrs. W. B. Fulton, who died Friday in Florida, was back home. The homeward trek marked the close of a saintly service and it was to honor the memory of this loving wife and mother that these friends without any program made their way to the station. The magnet was a common desire to pay tribute to a family in every way worthy of this quiet demonstration of unfeigned affection. It was one of those sympathetic gestures of neighborliness that give quality and sweetness to small towns.

The New Gambling

Policy, the shell game, roulette, craps, horse-racing, lottery, are all officially wicked gambling.

Yet all the money lost in all of those diversions for the past fifty years is a mere bagatelle to what has been lost these last two years by following the siren voices of prosperity statesmen, economists, and investment experts.

Instead of paying for the twenty-billion-dollar crap game our leaders indulge in, why not give the public a run for its money in a legitimate Government Lottery? It would satisfy the gambling instincts of people who now clutter up the business streets with superfluous new shops that flutter for a month and die.

Of course such a suggestion is un-American. It is too open, fair, honest for a government of the people as they ought to be, for the people who know the ropes, by the people who grab the reins.

A WRITER COMES FORTH with the knowledge that our ancestors once used much copper in their kitchens. It now requires less than a plumber to observe that the ancestral fashion is coming back—as any modern police captain knows after locating one of his men in the culinary department of elite homes.

"SCIENCE CAN'T PAINT lillies but can put blush on peach"—newspaper headline. Science may make the peach blush, but it takes more than one drug-store to bring a ruddy complexion to a home-maid variety of peaches.

HOW CAN POLICE Commissioner Watkins place an officer in front of every blind pig in the Fourth City? With less than 3,100 men on the department, won't Mr. Watkins have to call in a few thousand citizens for volunteer duty?

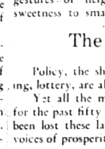
IT IS CLAIMED that average boys and girls in this country are getting two more years of schooling than in 1914. Well, with so many more wars and battles to learn about, is it any wonder?

All of Us

By Marshall Maslin

I'D JUST finished telling a lie.

And for some minutes I sat there waiting for the "reaction." . . . You know, waiting the way you do when the doctor sticks some vaccine into your arm and you wait to see it swell up and hurt and look all red and ugly.



Marshall Maslin

No reaction at all. Not the tiniest bit. My conscience showed as clear as if I'd never told a lie in all my born days.

You see, a man I know had just asked if a young couple I know were going to get a divorce already.

Well, it wasn't any of his business. If there was any gossip there and I knew it, as it happens I would, it didn't belong to him. He wasn't any old friend. He wasn't an expert on married psychology. He couldn't help them by knowing. He was just nosey, curious, just wanted to know. So I lied. I gave the long how and tall explained with convincing detail just how happy those two young people are. I proved to him—absolutely—that those two didn't even dream of divorce.

* * *

Back in Sunday school, long time ago, I was taught that it was a terrible sin to lie. My teacher said small boys who lied never got to Heaven. The Heaven she talked about didn't have any bicycles or sleds or fishing pools, or other advantages of the sort, but such as it was, it wouldn't be mine if I told lies.

There I had just learned to lie, just gained that sense of power a person feels when he discovers he can twist the truth and make people believe it—and she told me it was wrong.

But I've just lied and it doesn't hurt a bit. And suddenly I remember the definition of a lie that I heard from a college professor. He smiled cynically once and explained that "a lie is withholding the truth from someone who has a right to know it."

* * *

A lie is telling a sick man he is well when he has a right to know he is ill. It is telling a well man he is sick when he has a right to know he is well. It is telling a traveler the wrong road to his destination. It is telling a purchaser that his purchase is perfectly safe—when it isn't. It is telling people that human beings are wicked when they are good, good when they are wicked.

Telling the truth to a gossip is worse than a black lie; telling a lie to a gossip is better than the lukewarm truth.

Guess that's why my conscience didn't hurt me.

From THE ECCENTRIC Columns of Long Ago

FIFTY YEARS AGO

Kingdoms bring cares.
.....and is going out like a lion.

Oxford Journal says, "Let the kids make up a town ticket." Bless us! We trust they have moved away all their (k) navin kids ere this.

Tommy Laughran, formerly of Birmingham but for two years of Bay City, arrived home last week for a short visit. He informs is he has been "slinging the rag", whatever that is, we don't know.

Alex McKinney of Southfield lost a cow by eating too much meal. Dr. James Warrington was called in and the cow died. This was a surprise, for the doctor's success was almost assured ever since he saved a poisoned woman's life.

We don't want to dabble our fingers in the mud and mire of the Southfield Ditch affairs, and positively and pre-emptorily refuse to publish any article thereupon which may reflect upon the various interested parties either for or against the undertaking. This is as fair for one as it is for the other, and our many warm friends in Southfield willl surely support us in our action in the matter. Correspondents will please paste this in their hats for future reference and thereby save us the trouble of cutting down their manuscript.

The various township boards will hold their annual meetings for the auditing of accounts, etc., on Tuesday next, Mar. 28. All parties who have been adjudged damages from having sheep killed by dogs during the past year will do well to be on hand to show the township board to their satisfaction that the dog or dogs which killed their sheep are either unknown to them or owned by irresponsible parties.

The Bloomfield board will meet at the office of John Bodine in Birmingham. If you have an account against the township, bring it in that day. Make a note of this.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

The Franklin and Troy dancing parties are heartily enjoyed by Birmingham visitors.

Can't something be done to stop the use of the dangerous Flobert rifle in the hands of our careless boys? Everybody is in danger.

"A Day for Local Option in Michigan", Sunday, Mar. 24, 1907. A sermon on this will be preached on the above date in George Bingham's hall at Franklin. Come.

Fontiac means business in suppressing gambling. William Toynton and John Sutton were fined last week by Justice Snowdon $50 each and "Fatty" Martin, a helper, was let off on suspended sentence.

The ladies of the M. E. church have reason to be proud of their very successful St. Patrick's banquet held at the church parlors last Monday evening. Dr. Ryan of Detroit presided as toastmaster and made the hit of the evening. All toasts were entertainingly responded to and everybody had a most enjoyable social evening. The attendance nearly put the promoters into a state of panic by their numbers. Tables were reset and all supplied and more tickets could have been sold as many disappointed ones were turned away. Financially, socially and oratorically, the event was satisfactory to all. Next year the ladies propose to lay covers for 200. The Irish day is a big thing for the Birmingham M. E. ladies. —Bless 'em.

FIVE YEARS AGO

Promptly confronting the possibilities and perplexities awaiting them in village possessions, the new Commission, in their four o'clock inspection Tuesday, found in Birmingham's 27 acres of idle park land the outstanding point of interest. A worn out steam pumping system, which they are agreed should be dispensed with, a combination fire department, police department, jail, dog pound and public library crowded into inadequate space, drainage problems and small inperfections in mechanical equipments, received their due consideration as well.

Water, the old familiar bone of contention, was one of the first subjects considered by the new Commission Monday night when a letter from the Detroit Water Board was read stating that it was about to enter into a contract with Royal Oak which would give Royal Oak exclusive use of the Detroit water supply through this territory.

Robert K. McClellan was appointed assessor for the village tax roll this year at the meeting of the Village Commission Monday evening. Mr. McClellan has had two years experience in this work, and it was because of the splendid work he did during his former appointments that he was re-appointed.

Plans are maturing rapidly for the fourth annual Roll Call of the Community House Association of Birmingham, which will this year extend over a period of one month ending on May 19. April 28, the birthday of the Association will be celebrated with a fitting party honoring those individuals and groups of the community, who by their interest and support, have made this project of broad community service possible.

This Is Right

They tell us that adapting ourselves to the depression is merely doing without what our grand parents never had. Well, one of the things they never had was a depression like this one.—Judge.

PARADISE LOST—1932

The Other Chap Says Something—

LET US SUPPOSE

Suppose that Herbert Hoover were a private citizen and that in the midst of the economic gloom which shrouds the country he had come forward with a series of proposals so clear cut, so sound in principle, so promising of satisfactory results as to have won the acclaim of scientific bankers and business men and the support of Congress. Would there not be universal demand that he be made the next President in order that the mind that devised this program should be at the service of the country carrying it into effect? Well, here is Herbert Hoover's program. It is so clear cut, so sound in principle, so promising of satisfactory results that it has won the acclaim of scientific economists, the approval of practical bankers and business men and the support of Congress. Is he to be denied credit merely because he brings the program forward as the President of the United States and not as a private citizen? This program can not be expected to go forward of its own momentum. it must have direction, stimulation and guidance. Who better qualified to carry it through to the achievement of which it is possible than the man who devised it? —Grand Rapids (Minn.) Independent.

SHOWMANSHIP VS. ABILITY

In Seattle, a city of 365,000 population with budgets amounting to about $27,000,000 a year, one of the candidates for mayor, in a campaign to impress the voters, dressed himself in a shirt and sandals, hitched a rope to an unwilling goat and appeared at a public gathering as "Mahatma Gandhi."

This "high-speed" boy who is the director of a jazz orchestra described himself as "the personality candidate", and has been treating the public to musical entertainments as a part of his campaign. How far would the tactics of this individual get him if he sought the management of a private business with a $27,000,000 turnover—or even a $250,000 turnover? But in political affairs, this line of attack frequently gets by. "Big Bill" (Thompson and "Bossy" Gillis are notorious examples.

The American public is clamoring for economy in government and good management. But before economy and good government are possible, the voters, themselves, must learn to distinguish between showmanship and real ability.—Hasting's Banner

BRUCKER HAS CHANGED

Governor Brucker is a changed person since he reached his decision to call a special session. The action has brought out his real character. He is not discouraged by the preliminary threats which always mark a special session. The governor welcomes the clash of opinions and if we are not mistaken many people are about to change their present ideas about the calibre, capacity and courage of the Saginaw Legionnaire. The legislator who is going down to the special session at Lansing to delay or obstruct by indifference or petty sharp shooting will find himself facing a foe who knows what it means to be under shell fire. Governor Brucker, win, lose or draw, is sincere in this action and the public is going to expect the same quality of consideration and respect from the legislature toward the executive.—Murl H. DeFoe in Charlotte Republican-Tribune.

WE'RE COMING BACK STRONG

The economic depression from which the United States is just emerging is the seventh major attack of "hard times" that this country has been through in less than a hundred years. The people who are scared almost to death for fear that America can't come back are not a bit worse scared than were the same type of timid-minded folk in each of these previous panics. But, as we all know, America came back after every one of them, and came back stronger than ever. The first financial crisis was in 1837, when practically every bank in the United States suspended payment, half of the property in the entire nation was sold in bankruptcy proceedings and there was no work for anybody and nobody had any money. But we came back so strongly that in less than twenty years our national wealth had been multiplied by three.

We came back from the crisis of 1857, went through a terrific and devastating Civil War and again much more than doubled our national wealth in the course of sixteen years. Then we had the panic of 1873, and that was followed by another great revival that again doubled our national wealth, until the panic of 1893. We came back from that one richer than ever before, and we did the same thing after the crisis of 1907 and of 1920. Everybody knows how rapidly our wealth increased between 1921 and 1929, how prosperous everybody was in those fat years. There is only one way to foretell the future, and that is by studying the past. It is as certain as anything can be that we are coming out of the present crisis toward a greater and more widespread prosperity than we have ever known. And if we have any sense we will take greater precautions against another depression than we did against this one. —Muskegon Heights (Mich.) Record.

Jest For the Fun of It

Some Connection

Warden: "What is your occupation?"

Convict: "Composer of popular songs."

Warden: "Put him in the copying department."

Miranda: "Well, did you all find a job?"

Sambo: "Yeh: You starts to wukk tomorrah."

—Harlemania

Smart Son

Harold: "Mummy, we're going to play elephants at the zoo and we don't have any."

Mother: "What on earth can I do?"

Harold: "You can be the lady who gives them peanuts and candy."

Yearly It Gets Larger

"I remember when I was a lad," said the old salt, to Betty, "I had to fight for my life with 16 cannibals, and only one got away—"

"But," objected Betty, "last year you told me it was eight cannibals."

"Yes," he said. easily, "but you was too young then to know the whole horrible truth."

Noah Numbskull Wants to Know:

What kind of cows give milk of magnesia?

If your engine is missing would you call the police?

If the river feeds the ocean, who will water lily?

Is a wing nut a crazy aviator?

If you buy a clock on tick, will it pay for itself in time?

Famous Firms

Sweet and Low

Detonation

That great burst of indignation you don't hear these days is the public's reaction to the shocking reduction in baseball players' salaries.

—Judge

Is the Even—?

The Optimist: "By the way, Mary, did you put my cooking outfit in the bag? I'll want to fry some of the fish for lunch.

His Wife: "Yes, dear, and you'll find a tin of sardines there too."

She: "Tired of living? You want to die? Have you picked your method of suicide?

He: "No. I can't decide between lightning and earthquake."

—"Everybody's Welcome

The "Big Shots" Say:—

Will Rogers, comedian:

"The trouble in all these great big cities is that a couple of people can be dying next door and their neighbors don't know anything about it."

Upton Close, student of Oriental affairs:

"Eventually, say in ten years, the Chinese will expel all foreigners from China."

Fred A. Britten, Republican congressman of Illinois:

"The Disarmament Conference will not even make a good looking bubble; it can but end in a fizzle.

George E. Emerson, director of physical education, Boston University:

"The modern co-ed is learning to judge her health, not by the mirror, but by her general pep, vitality and healthy mental attitude."

Kermit Roosevelt, son of the former President:

"I am one Roosevelt who doesn't get a kick out of politics. I have never held a political office and never intend to hold one."

Kenkichi Uyeda, Japanese commander at Shanghai:

"The Japanese army is here hoping to hasten the recovery of normalcy and did not come primarily to wage hostilities."

Wang Ching-Wei, President, Executive Department, Chinese Nationalist Government:

"They may occupy our cities but every man everywhere will resist. Japan may send millions of troops but shall find it impossible to subjugate China."

Austen Chamberlain, former Chancellor, British Exchequer:

"I have never known, except in the great war, the world outlook so unsettled, so many problems urgently requiring settlement and so little agreement among the parties concerned."

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 300 words.

A CRITICISM

To the Editor:

When my last copy of The Eccentric came, I read Part Two, as it was on top. Finishing it, I then found another Part Two, instead of Part One. Either your automatic paper-folder slipped a cog, or your human folder was looking across the street while working. Mistakes will happen in the best regulated printing offices, as elsewhere.

No harm done, except that I was twice confronted by the headline "Expecting Too Much", in your editorial columns. I suppose a newspaper publisher may do as he pleases with his space. But why, oh why, disfigure your clean white columns with boiled owl? Your own preamble shows that you do not approve it. Your reading public does not need it.

In such a community as ours, those who do not approve the policies of President Hoover would not express themselves in the silly and offensive words of the unknown Bucklin Bridget-Gazette. The article, or whatever it may be called, is not even funny, and it is so full of malice and false innuendo that it is scurrilous, if the author knows what that means.

The "form" of it, being a parody upon the Lord's Prayer and the Twenty-Third Psalm, makes it still more offensive to the average reader, who, even if he does not himself use those beautiful prayers, still feels reverence for them as he may recall hearing them at his mother's knee in childhood. Irreverence, insult and bad taste make the utterance you quote as mentally nauseous as the skunk's stink is disgusting to one's nose.

No person, office holder or not, is beyond criticism, if offered honestly, intelligently and constructively. But to encase abuse in a smear of words that give neither amusement, instruction, nor sensible suggestion, indicates mental bankruptcy.

To so attack the President of the United States is cowardly. He cannot personally strike back. Maybe his office boy will embalm the effusion with paste-pot and scrap-book.

For nearly three years Mr. Hoover has carried a tremendous burden, working primarily for his country, with no thanks, but with all the breaks against him. Regardless of the result of the coming election, I predict that in a year from now, whether President or private citizen, he will command the admiration of his countrymen and of the world because of his real accomplishments.

Get hence, or elsewhere, Bucklin Bridget-Gazette! But get understanding!

W. C. HARRIS,
Quarton Road.

HIGHWAY FUNDS

To the Editor:

Allow me to discuss with you the diversion of highway funds to other channels. I trust you will tear down my arguments and write me the result.

The State of Michigan's first duty is to her people and her second duty is to her people's property. Employment must be given to the workers before state money can be used for bond investors and property delinquents. The construction dollar now being used through state contractors and returned to the working man in wages actually averages 8 per cent of the contract price.

I have been told that 40 per cent of the Oakland County tax money being collected at present is being spent on welfare and charity work. Every man who is now working on a state highway construction is a potential taxpayer and the huge majority of them are actual taxpaying farmers—56 per cent to be exact. Take away his job, check and you are adding his name to your welfare list.

The status of the American working man has been threatened while he has patiently waited for the opportunity to maintain the stability that honest labor and State is best equipped to offer the workman the maximum benefit from highway tax money.

The fan-fare of trumpet, pulpit and press that sent him to France 14 years ago is mockery not only to him now but to the generation that has followed him. It is not the wage earner's fault that our tax system has collapsed of its own weight. It is not his fault that our country's wealth has been grabbed by the few and much squandered in foreign markets when more than 90 per cent of our production is consumed in our domestic market. Should this wage earner be asked to patiently and give up what little present wage is left to save a few bank mortgages and development projects?

When the wage earner's pay check was cut, our domestic system of distribution began to totter and when his pay check stopped our distribution system collapsed. His hands are the circulating medium for business. The public and private monies available for distribution to the wage earner must be distributed in pay checks and not in welfare doles or tax receipts.

Is it too much to expect of the press that it might occasionally at least forget its fight for political domination and take instead a stand for a fair and unbiased presentation of these facts? The diversion of highway funds is one question that deserves thoughtful consideration from the point of view of the wage earner as well as that of the bond holder.

M. W. COCHRAN.
Bloomfield Hills.