

The Birmingham Eccentric

(Founded in 1878)
Published every Thursday at Birmingham, Mich., in The Eccentric Building, 120-222 North 17th Avenue.
Telephone 11, 12, and 13
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Circulation: 10,000
Subscription Rates: (Outside Oakland County) 1.00 Six Months, 1.50 One Year; (Oakland County) 1.00 Six Months, 1.50 One Year.
The Eccentric is a member of: National Editor's Association, Michigan Press Association, University Press Club, and Oakland County Weekly Press Association.

Only Act With Honorable Men

You can trust them and they are. Their honor is the best surty of their behavior even in minor standstillings, for they always act having regard to what they are. Hence it's better to have a dispute with honorable people than to have a victory over dishonorable ones. You cannot trust with the rascal, for they have baseness of attitude. With them there is no true friendship, and their agreements are not binding, however stringent they may appear, because they have no feeling of honor. Never have with such men, for if honor does not restrain a man, virtue will not, since honor is the throne of rectitude.

—Balthasar Gracian.

"Getting The Most Out Of Life"

In The Friendly Adventurer there appears this cheerful, helpful message, titled, "Getting The Most Out Of Life." We pass it on to you, trusting that it will do its little bit toward lifting your burdens. It goes: Charles Darwin, old, tired in the sunset of his life, writing in his diary. We look over his shoulder and read these words: "If I could live my life over again I would make it a rule to read some good poetry and listen to some good music at least once a week. The loss of these things is the loss of everything."

We need a check-up now and then to be sure we are not paying too big a price for the things that men call success. We need a check-up on the worthwhile things of life that we may be passing by because of the press of business.

A story is told of a young man who found a dollar bill on the street. From that time on he never lifted his eyes from the ground when walking. In the course of 40 years he accumulated 23,512 buttons, 15,611 pins, and nine pennies, a bent back and a miserly disposition. He lost the doves of the sunlight, the smiles of friends, the songs of birds, the beauty of the flowers, the sunsets, and blue skies—all for a dollar bill.

We each have two personalities. First, the business personality that worries about bills, meets payrolls, sits up nights with the business, and tries to collect accounts. This personality keeps us rushing about with no chance to rest.

Then there is the second personality. The personality that likes to wade the streams, to stretch out by the campfire and look up at the stars, to browse through the writings of poets and philosophers, to sit quietly at home before the open fire with the lights out, smoking and listening to the symphonies that come to us mysteriously out of the air, to play marbles with the youngsters and to drink in the joys of being alive.

Too often this second personality is buried, stunted, not given an even break. Like Darwin, many of us awake too late to find that the blue bird of happiness is not far off somewhere, but right near at hand, and that it has always been there.

Old John Burroughs gave us the secret. He said, "In every man's life we read some lesson, what is mine? It is this: That one may have a happy and not altogether useless life on cheap and easy terms; that the essential things of life are not to be had for nothing; that one must work for the things that are ready to serve and cheer one, and that a struggle but not a warfare. It is a day's labor, but labor on God's earth under the sun and stars and under other labors where we may think and sing and rejoice as we work."

Let's give our second personality a chance, and live more abundantly.

GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT is for this and for that—not specifically, but just for those things. Even Al Smith, when asked "what you get behind Roosevelt?" is reported to have replied, "I would get behind him, if I knew where he was standing."

THE UNITED STATES has issued 18 special stamps commemorating the federal census of 1930. Some people hope that another stamp will be issued after November 8, depicting Roosevelt in his farewell address.

All of Us

By Marshall Maslin

OUR CAT wasn't feeling well, and you know what it is with cats. When they're sick they want to be let alone. No fussing, no medicine, no interference on any side.

Well, that's the way it was with our cat. He was limping, and he was looking pale and swollen and looked pained. He lay mournfully on the fireplace rug and he wouldn't get up. He'd just climbed up the rose trellis and he'd made his way through a window and that made us think that in one of those trips up the rose bush he'd gotten a thorn into his paw.

So whether he liked it or not, there he was an examination of that leg and he didn't think he could escape it.

And he didn't like it either. Whenever you touched that leg he jerked it away. If you held it firmly and touched it he yowled. He purred and he mewed and he meowed, knowing we didn't mean to hurt him, but objecting to our touching it.

And once he hopped out and hit one of us a wallop on the hand. A black wallop. But even then he had kept his claws sheathed. He'd been so good. It's strange, isn't it, that a wild animal like a cat can be so considerate of human beings?

We couldn't find any harm in the wound, but we decided on some medical treatment just the same. So we got a bottle of blue stain and poured it on the leg. He didn't like it and he acted very humiliated over the situation. That was an awful thing to do to a cat, because he was so proud of his leg and he was so decorative around the place. What a pity!

Yes, it was, but it had to be done and he'd have to stand it. And if he didn't behave himself he could go to the basement.

And the next morning two children came rushing wildly from the basement to report that "our cat has BLUE STAIN!"

He didn't believe it. We did go and we did look and sure enough, our cat had a blue tongue.

He'd been the victim of the inflated leg and he was walking around very nicely this morning. And whether it was blue stain, taken into his leg, or whether he'd given him that cure which he'd never know.

But he'd well again and as cock-sure as ever that he'd been cured by his own good nature.

As long as it was his own good nature, he was grateful. As long as it was his own good nature, he was grateful.

From THE ECCENTRIC

Columns of Long Ago

FIFTY YEARS AGO

Frank and wife took in the

Prison for last week and

enjoyed themselves very much.

On Monday night, the Thompson

and Sam Hall at National Hall

enjoyed themselves very much.

We were pleased to meet with

Miss Lillian Boring, of South

Lyon, Mich. last week.

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we were very glad to see her.

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FRANKIE AND JOHNNIE



The Other Chap Says Something—

HOUSEWIVES SHOULD CALL FOR BEET SUGAR

Trucks heavily loaded with sugar beets are a common sight on our highways these days. Almost everywhere you go, you will find a line of trucks waiting to be loaded with sugar beets.

The farmers of Eaton county for the Lansing plant. The growers have been fortunate in having excellent weather for growing and harvesting the crop but, of course, are still in doubt as to what the price will be. A fair return will mean a lot to many farm homes this winter.

The consumers of Eaton county and elsewhere can contribute a sugar beet to the cause of the farmer by paying up old debts as well as new enthusiasm to stick to the farm.

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PEOPLE'S COLUMN

To the Editor:

None who may vote for the

last proposed constitutional

amendment on the basis of Nov.

8, which proposes to give the

people the right to elect a

governor, should not be

convinced of first degree

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