

The Birmingham Eccentric

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Which "Street" Do You Walk?

From
THE ECCENTRIC
Columns of
Long Ago

FIFTY YEARS AGO

The Birmingham Eccentric Band will soon give the ball at Big Beaver Reform Hall.

H. D. Duff has expressed to us his desire that we should do our best to give to the lovers of this street, as are presented.

The Eccentric Band will annually prove troublesome. We show of a couple over six weeks ago, and it is still kept in the right, and we hope it will be the same.

The toll-gate society, created by Mr. Bloomer, has been everywhere in Birmingham, and it will be a comfortable dwelling for the fully enjoyed by its occupants.

Gray A. Square Grant, who is in the plane from which Jessie Duff's letter was written, will bring forth a bill at her command.

To travel the route in the better of the street, it is a present rare from her better of.

It is sweet to hear they the declining days of their life to May they hope for Heaven, and be happy here.

People are making a connection with Birmingham this year. The good folks of the village who annually serve on the election boards have chosen for this year thereby saving the taxpayers about \$250.

In former years members of the election boards got from fifty to seventy-five cents an hour for their work as well as their meals and refreshments at night at the close of voting. Naturally that kept our village and some of the officials sea-sick.

They have all been "turn pumpkins," but these are the potatoes. Our old friend, Mr. Earl Benedict, who has just made of the Presbyterian Church, raised \$7.18 of fine large potatoes for the village.

There are no small ones in the lot, but all above the middle size, and they are very large. They are the best I have seen.

WESTWARD HO!

There's gold in them thar lies!

THE ECCENTRIC

How could I, therefore, cast my vote in favor of any measure which has been brought upon me to do for the repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment? It is my friend of the paper; the friend of the sorrow-stricken. I who have been the only mourner at the funeral of the whole people of alcohol. I who have stood in the crowded court room and heard liquor traders and their lawyers do as much as they could to do to the crowd. I who have seen the father home because of dark deeds done under the influence of liquor.

"I who have listened to the cries of remorse of men in the great cities who in the cup of sorrow liquor, the city, street, home and loved ones and money and decency, and all but an accident, which, what, what, what?"

"Emotion, the great urgings of spirit, of feeling, of impulse, of indignation, of indignation, from the deepest and most powerful creations of the human brain. I who have seen the whole memories stirring every impulse in my being, I strike out hard and hot and fast against the liquor traffic."

MARGARET YOUNG
Beverly Road

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Michigan's Change The Primary

Michigan's biennial primary election passed into history with little dispute last week. As a device for the free and unfettered expression of the people's choice for the various candidates, the present primary system is a huge and often tragic joke. Created to circumvent the old closed convention system of nominating candidates for offices, the primary as it works in Michigan is gradually coming to be worse than its predecessor.

At the first year or two of its use, the primary did accomplish some usefulness for the renovating of popular government. It eliminated some of the old "boss" rule that had grown up in the major political parties, and provided the public with a greater choice in selecting its representatives. This, as one primary election after another, the primary interested in manipulating election machinery became wiser in doing their stuff. Various forms of strategy were resorted to, until only a very small minority of the votes cast may elect an individual to office. The result is incompetent and inefficient administration of the various offices so filled.

As a sample of such maneuvering consider this year's candidates in one of the parties (in Michigan it is generally the Republican) seek an office, and are about evenly matched in their chances to win. One of them lives in Washington and the other lives in Podunk. The Podunk candidate and his friends are making a much more energetic campaign for the office than the result that the vote in Washington is split between two citizens, and that the Podunk candidate wins. It seems needless to dwell further on this phase of the primary's weakness, since every county and state scramble for some years has revealed situations as mentioned above.

Primary government as it has thrived in the United States is in our opinion, surely only one thing there is to be done to break this parcel up into small fractions, creating a government that is sustained by a small minority, and you are doomed to incompetency, inefficiency, dishonesty, corruption, and final chaos. The history of older nations proves this.

Put together in Michigan and correct the weakness of the present primary system by some plan for pre-primary, where an elimination process may be engaged in, finally resulting in the presentation of two parties of its two strongest candidates. Such procedure is necessary if the voters, when they cast their ballots, are going to do so intelligently and with full comprehension of what the candidates stand for.

Or Given Another Chance

The overwhelming vote at the recent primary election of one interested party nominated Norman C. Orr as the Republican candidate for County Executive. Orr defeated the present incumbent of that office, Clarence L. Smith, who himself lost to that office. Now all that Orr has to do is to win over his Democratic candidate, Arthur P. Boque, of Pontiac, at the general election November 8.

It is interesting to interpret in two ways the victory of Republican voters in Oakland County. One is justified with the manner in which Clarence L. Smith is running his office; second, they are willing to give Orr another chance to show that the mistakes of his first term will not be repeated in his second term—if he is elected in November.

The taxpayers no longer are "foolish" in this business of electing Orr. They proved to the world that they would not tolerate an applicant presuming to "play" in the personal conduct of Orr and some of his assistants. Several "pranks" committed by Orr and his staff then were frowned upon by an irritated electorate. It is to be hoped that first lessons are being learned by Orr's County government in the eyes of Oakland County taxpayers. Let the people be focused upon this important office.

The people have given Orr his chance to "stage a comeback"; it is now his entire responsibility to show that he will not misplace their confidence.

Fishing Licenses

Persons who like to hunt in Michigan annually pay about 10 per cent of the Department of Conservation's revenues, while fishermen pay but 29 per cent. This information comes from headquarters at Lansing, and shows that the hunt in the Michigan is carried by those who like to spend their own money on the sport. It is a good thing that the hunt in Michigan is carried by those who like to spend their own money on the sport. It is a good thing that the hunt in Michigan is carried by those who like to spend their own money on the sport.

Paralaf's

Paralaf's is a new and revolutionary medicine for the relief of rheumatism, neuralgia, sciatica, and other painful conditions. It is a powerful analgesic and has been found to be effective in a wide variety of cases. It is a new and revolutionary medicine for the relief of rheumatism, neuralgia, sciatica, and other painful conditions.

"Politico-Legionaire"

Demands of the "politico-legionaire" that the United States government pay him his bonus, as set forth in the American Legion resolution adopted at Portland, Oregon, are beyond consideration at this stage in our national economic system. This newspaper has often declared that, as far as the "spoils" of war are concerned, the soldier always gets the least end of it.

We often have lamented the lack of consideration shown toward veterans by the modern business and industrial world in deciding them with jobs that are in no way commensurate with their condition. It is not only of our own generation—for every post-war period brings into existence a similar firm gratitude of the possessors of wealth for those who protected them on battlefields. There is a time for the payment of funds to our soldier-veterans; a part of it has been acknowledged in bonuses already paid, and the remainder must await the funds that are available. President Hoover reveals high courage in his frankness to the American public upon the subject of a soldier bonus payment. The best thought of the American Legion is probably with him, too.

The World's Matchless Fraud

Ivar Kreuger, the so-called "Swedish match king" who killed himself some months ago, is reported to have left his estate \$193 million in the red. Kreuger for a year or two before his ignominious departure from the Swedish throne had accumulated a fortune of \$100 million of francs, "a builder and promoter of empires." He was Kreuger restored; even Midas' touch was not more golden than Kreuger's. Now the whole world knows what a fraud he was; truly, there are times when truth is stranger than fiction. And Ivar Kreuger, head of the world's greatest match combine, was (through a striking fraud) not an even match for the world's greatest match combine. Actually, he was a successful than the humblest itinerant merchant who honestly plays his trade. Kreuger is the world's most modern proof that "all is not gold that glitters."

Welfare Funds Scarce

Funds with which to carry on welfare work during the coming winter are going to be scarce. Already Detroit is worrying about this problem. Oakland County, too, has need to be mindful of this ever-increasing burden. The welfare work of this county has been carried on wholly by agencies whose funds were raised by community drives. Now the problem is so great that only the tax-paying powers of government can cope with it. The best solution, of course, is in giving incentive employment to people. And that is more than a mere local problem.

All of Us

SOMETIMES it seems that there's a gate—a wide, high, thick gate—between children and grown-ups. Even between children and their parents. The children are always trying to open it, to peak into, to get through. They pretend that the gate is there, but it isn't. No argument about it. The children have their own lives. They live reasonably in their own worlds. And when they are left alone, as they too often are not, they are happy—even in their quarreling. In "The Golden Age," Kenneth Grahame remembers how he and the other children were held together by the stupidity of adults who could do nothing about it. They were left alone, as they too often are not, they are happy—even in their quarreling.

The Parable of the Talents

The man who went and hid his talent in the earth, and who became history's most familiar example of unfaithfulness and folly. The man who went and hid his talent in the earth, and who became history's most familiar example of unfaithfulness and folly. The man who went and hid his talent in the earth, and who became history's most familiar example of unfaithfulness and folly.

Jest For the Fun of It

Keats For The Wrong Animal
Really, he said, admiring her bold and shrewd face, "one of the things that was skinned for a matter of economic and social justice, it was taken from him, and given to those who had the courage to do it. It was a matter of economic and social justice, it was taken from him, and given to those who had the courage to do it."

The Other Chap Says Something

ELECTION SPIRIT
There certainly is plenty of election spirit in Birmingham this year. The good folks of the village who annually serve on the election boards have chosen for this year thereby saving the taxpayers about \$250.

The "Big Shots" Say:

Yasuya Uchida, Japanese Foreign Minister
"Japan has been forced to adopt necessary measures for the prevention of wanted attacks upon important rights and interests vital to her national existence."

Paul Reynaud, former Minister of Finance for France
"We never speak of peace in France except with enthusiasm. We suffered too much from the war."

Alfred E. Smith, new editor of the renewed OUTLOOK
"The only book ever read through was 'The Life and Battles of John L. Sullivan.'"

W. Nottaki, photographer for Japanese scientists observing the eclipse
"We got it all. We are the only ones who got the whole eclipse from start to finish."

Robert A. Smith, who recorded the eclipse from a plane 20,000 feet up
"I followed the path of the tip of the shadow for more than 100 miles."

Joseph Herzog, new novelist
"We now buy one suit of clothes and eleven neckties while formerly we bought eleven suits and 100 neckties."

Ted Cook, columnist
"The country still has faith in the rule of the people if it's going to elect next."

Bonito Mussolini, Italian Dictator
"I am a baffled dictator."

J. A. Stender, English journalist
"Parliament without newspapers would be only a secret debating society."

Abraham Flexner, doctor
"The world is not yet civilized. The world is not yet civilized. The world is not yet civilized."

Lewis E. LaVea, warden, Sing Sing prison
"We cannot put with pride to any of our 'successful graduates' but for every man who comes back, three do not."

Alfred E. Smith, former Governor of New York
"This country today is sick and tired of listening to political campaign orators who tell us what is wrong and what is right."