The Birmingham Eccentric

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CHAS. ROGERS AVERILL, *Editor and Publisher*
ALLEN TENNY, *Managing Editor*
PAUL NEAL AVERILL, *Advertising Manager*
CLARENCE S. WARNER, *Asst. Advertising Manager*

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 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 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.

Each Era Breaks Human Backs

Since time immemorial, the major portion of a nation's human backs have been burdened with the dominance of feuding class. Today we complain about the great load of taxes that have been thrown upon our sagging shoulders, and we criticise those who occupy high places in our form of government. That is all right to do—but we fail to criticise ourselves for not organizing in defense of a grown governmental bureaucracy. As long as man tried to govern, or be governed, his governmental burdens will increase.

Egypt's reigning monarchs broke the backs of hundreds of thousands of their people when they built the pyramids; Chinese dynasties tore the hearts and hopes from countless subjects as the Great Wall was constructed across its borders; and today, as taxes are extracted from people to defray this or that extravagance in government, you have a repetition of the ancient racket of breaking the bent backs of those who support this civilized thing known as government.

Of course, today's treatment is somewhat milder, as tribute is exacted; but there are times when it is just as back-breaking, don't you think?

Dynamite! In Eight Places

If people were warned that there were eight charges of dynamite in as many spots scattered about their floor about their farm, they would be mighty careful and considerably apprehensive. At least they would desire to know where the dynamite was and how great the danger. What would be just common-sense and self-preservation.

If this autumn, at the general election in November, the people of Michigan are going to be handed a ballot with seven amendments to the Constitution of Michigan, also a proposition to repeal the oleomargarine law. Some are more important than others. All of them need careful handling. Before a person votes it is important that he knows what he is voting for or against. This has been demonstrated so many times in both state and federal constitutions that it needs little emphasis.

Briefly, here is a list of the amendments which will be presented to the voters and an explanatory word. Beginning this week, the full text of these amendments, one each week, and attempt to explain what each means, will be published.

Amendment No. 1—Authorizes the Michigan legislature to establish a "liquor control commission" to handle liquor traffic in this state and levy excise taxes. Evidently, this was intended to set up the machinery for liquor control "when and if" the Eighteenth Amendment is repealed, but the amendment does not say so. Some good lawyers believe it is unconstitutional in its present form.

Amendment No. 2—Limits the amount of tax that can be assessed against property to $15 for each assessed $1,000; PROVIDING, the people can by a two-thirds vote every five years increase this amount; also, providing that it does not apply to obligations (bond issues or debts) already existing.

Amendment No. 3—Provides that the Michigan State Senate shall remain as it is and the House of Representatives shall be chosen according to populations. This would give the balance of power to the cities. Clinton county would be joined with some other adjacent county into a representative district—likely Ionia, Shiawassee or Gratiot.

Amendment No. 4—Real estate up to the assessed valuation of $3,000 and personal property to the assessed valuation of $1,000 would be exempt from taxation, EXCEPT as taxation to pay public debts heretofore incurred. This amendment also provides a way of determining the "assessed value" of property by the owner actually offering it for sale at what he claims it should be assessed.

Amendment No. 5—Defines who is a "qualified elector" and provides that township polling places must be located within the limits of a city which has been incorporated from territory formerly of the township. This is for the convenience of township voters living on the edge of a large city or town.

Amendment No. 6—Limiting the power of the governor to grant pardons to persons convicted of "treason, first degree murder and cases of impeachment."

Amendment No. 7—Allowing only people having property assessed for taxes to vote on the "direct expenditure of public money."

Amendment No. 8—Is not an amendment to the Constitution. Instead it gives the people a chance to vote on whether or not oleomargarine shall be sold under present restrictions. Act 55, of the public acts of 1931, defines oleo, provides that it shall NOT be sold colored, and requires dealers to take out a license. This was passed to protect the farmers and dairymen and the butter industry. Its defeat would put oleo back on the market as a strong competitor of butter.

These may not be "dynamite" in all of the above amendments, but there are several of vital importance, especially those dealing with the limitation of taxes, and the limitation of the right to vote.—Clinton County Republican-News.

Shortage In Public Funds

Every once in a while there comes to light from some unit of government in Michigan a shortage in public funds, caused by the delinquency of a trusted official. In practically every case it is made possible because of the laxity of rendering periodical published statements of the receipts and disbursement of those funds.

Recently it was discovered that the former treasurer of Saginaw County was short $51,000.00 in his funds, committed over a period of six years. Had that official been required to publish, annually at least, (just as the state treasurer is required to do) a complete report of his receipts and expenditures, the shortage would either never have occured, or would have been discovered when it was still a small sum.

The publication of official reports relating to public funds is the best insurance the public can ever get that its taxes are being properly accounted for. It is like adequate fire insurance—and cheap at any price.

Circuit Court Commissioners

Nomination of Earl L. Phillips, able Pontiac attorney, for re-election to one of the two county offices of Circuit Court Commissioner, is being received happily by his many friends throughout the district. For the past four years Mr. Phillips has graced the office he occupies, his host of admirers point out, without a vestige of criticism directed at his way. Persons interested in maintaining the high caliber of service in this important office are offered an opportunity of doing so by approving Mr. Phillips November 8. At the same time they will find another Republican name, that of Harry J. Merritt, of Royal Oak, for whom they can also vote at the same time.

"HOOEY" P. LONG, one of Louisiana's United States Senators, has come out with a plea to "throw out the modern bathtubs—restore the old-fashioned washtub, because a poor man has no business with a bathtub." The southern politician thus maintains his constant ridiculous pose before the public. One might easily suppose that his frothing at the mouth was caused by his swallowing of the soap.

In times like these—
It behooves us
To Be Hoover!
(GRA)

HUMAN BRAIN AND BRAWN from every country in the world, almost, were pitted competitively from July 30 to August 14 this past summer, when the Xth Olimpiad was held at Los Angeles. There you might have seen human bodies engaged in making trained muscles perform in feats of strength, skill, speed, and endurance. Some day people will pay as much homage to feats of the intellect.

THREE MEN WERE DISCOVERED in a rowboat off the Massachusett's coast, believing themselves on the way to Boston. The men were going ashore for help because their schooner had become disabled. Would you not agree that Providence had a hand in effecting their rescue by an incoming steamer?

"HOP IN THAT ZOOMER and tell Old Nick you've got to get a late photograph of that famous croaker of the late 20th Century," shouted the ethereal editor of Tabloid Sputters to a reporter, in the year 1999.

NOW THAT THE PRIMARY election is over, Michigan's army of unsuccessful office seekers can settle back into the perpetual opportunity to serve, as good citizens, the government they sought to administer.

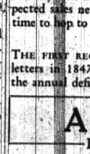
AFTER 17 YEARS OF WAITING, brewmasters of the country will meet in Detroit this week to discuss expected sales next year. They've been waiting a long time to hop to it.

THE FIRST REGULAR postage stamps were placed on letters in 1847. That date marks the beginning of the annual deficits in the Postoffice Department.

All of Us

By Marshall Maslin

THINGS WE COULD DO WITHOUT
Arguments over religion.



Marshall Maslin

Ants in the sugar.

Hay fever.

The memory of that time your best girl wouldn't give you the last dance.

Hot weather.

Nightmares.

Kibitzers at cards or any other form of life.

Fried eggplant.

Weighing machines.

Lumpy mattresses.

The need of insurance.

Boredom.

Home brew fanatics.

Advertisements on home town motion picture screens.

Procrastination in answering letters.

Useless apologies.

Crying over spilled milk.

Any practical joke.

Contagious gloom.

Autos honking at midnight.

Cats fighting outside the bedroom window.

Debussy's "Afternoon of a Faun."

Very hot weather.

Advice you didn't ask for.

High horses, or high dudgeon.

Humble pie.

The wrong side of the bed.

Noses out of joint.

Green eyes.

Sour grapes.

From THE ECCENTRIC Columns of Long Ago

FIFTY YEARS AGO

Southfield boys are fond of velocipede riding, and a goodly number of machines are in use.

F. E. Bell, near Crawson, is now called to dinner by a fine improvement just put in by Supervisor Clements, a patent dinner bell.

Quite a celebration of a matrimonial nature is on the tapis, though verbal! Instead of attending a seminary at Adrian, as was planned last week's issue, Miss Mamie Ulrey is attending Miss Hall's school at Pittsfield, Mass.

Hon. R. E. Frazer of Pontiac will address the Republicans of Farmington at Clinton Hall this evening.

Jimmie Wooster, a young son of E. S. Wooster, cut his left hand very severely one day last week with a corn cutter, while playing with his brother in the field. He drove to town alone, called on Dr. Post, who took several stitches in the wound, and then started for home. He didn't take another stitch, and was answered by the plucky lad, "Just as you like, Doctor, I can stand it." Such grit is a youngster of his commendable. Let us hope that in life's journey on Wednesday, Sept. 20, and we heartily wish them much joy.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

Time to see that your poll tax bin is full to the brim.

One rush ride was heard to say on Saturday that it would be a fine thing to pave Woodward avenue. Twould be nice, but need workers and teams.

Clifton asks, "Can't we have Standard Time here?" Blow the whistles at 7, 12 and 6 Standard, and stop this wrangling question Local or Standard Time.

Fred Hartel is proud of his developed cow 8 years old and but 28 inches high. She goes around to the country fair in a little crate, which two men lift into the baggage car with ease.

Mr. and Mrs. Clark Nevins and Will Barton of Wilsonville, Ont., are visiting their sister, Mrs. S. L. Clark of Willits street. The Kline Ed's country were like they like the Lord's country better.

The old Fifth Michigan cavalry, one of Custer's fighting regiments, held a reunion in Detroit, Sept. 26, and old comrades and incidents told once again were actually believed to be true (as they happened). Well, the boys of 61 are getting to be more than they usually receive.

Last Tuesday was Pioneer Day at the Women's Club. All old ladies were invited, refreshments were served by the Misses Post and stories of the days told. The youngest members of the club enjoyed the day as much as their elders, and each vied with the others to do honors to the pioneers.

FIVE YEARS AGO

Work will start immediately on the new Quarton School, at Chesterfield and Oakland, following the awarding last night of the bids on general contracting, plumbing and heating.

Birmingham merchants today received a letter from Congressman Hamilton F. Kiefer, inviting a meeting at the Baldwin High School at 8 P. M. next Wednesday to discuss plans for a prosperity Week, which is believed will be the biggest event of its kind in the history of the village.

An informal meeting of all property owners to be affected by the proposed widening of Eagle avenue between Southfield and Adams avenues is called for 8 P. M. tomorrow, in the Baldwin High School. The meeting was decided upon by the Village Commission following the report of its engineering Monday night by Village Manager James W. Parry.

Plans for the annual reception and dinner to be given tonight by the School Board to the teachers are complete today. The dinner at 6:30 P. M. will be followed by dinner and a program at 7 P. M. in the Baldwin High School auditorium.

Lloyd L. Stanley was elected commander of the Charles Edwards Post of the American Legion at the annual election held last week at the Community House. He succeeds Leon Fox, who was commander last year.

Plans are nearing completion today for the annual semi-annual meeting of school superintendents and principals of Oakland for the first time in Birmingham on Thursday at the Baldwin High School.

Work is under way for placing the original students' names on the flags in the center of the quadrangle at Cranbrook. A large square slab, giving the opening date, flanked by four small ones representing "knowledge," "citizenship," "athletics" and "art," comprises the central design.

Senator James Couzens decided this week when interviewed in his new office on Bates street that the Birmingham of the future will be similar to the better suburban towns outside of New York, Boston and Chicago. He sees continued growth, more dwellings and a more pronounced self-consciousness.

NOTHING PARTISAN ABOUT HIM

The Other Chap Says Something—

TOWN BEAUTY AN ASSET

In spite of the apparent commercialism of the age in which we live, it is evident to an observer that the American people are developing a greater appreciation of the beautiful. This is not confined to the wealthier classes, but extends to the great masses in the towns and villages, and in the rural districts.

New towns and new sections of older ones are being laid out with wider streets, with provision for larger lawns, more trees, shrubbery and flowers, and a more attractive setting generally.

New houses show better architecture and better harmony with their surroundings, while unsightly yard fences have largely disappeared. The net result of all these modern developments is more beauty. And aside from the satisfaction which it affords the eye, it pays in dollars and cents.

Beautiful cities, towns and villages attract people. They attract tourists, and they attract trade. It is natural that a person selecting a trading center will choose a town that is beautiful and clean in preference to one that is unsightly and dirty, if other conditions are anywhere near equal.

Therefore, it behooves the authorities of any community, as well as each individual citizen, to make the most of their opportunities for improving the appearance of the place in which they live. Beauty and cleanliness are a town's best assets.—The Culver Citizen, Culver, Indiana.

SMALL TOWN IS NECESSARY

Two things have come out of the depression that are worth noting. The large centers of population have discovered that they cannot get along without the country. The small communities have discovered that they can make their own life without much worrying concerning large cities. For long it was a habit of big cities to display airs of superiority to the so-called "rural communities." They have pretended to believe that the small towns were passing into eclipse, and that people would flock to big cities and make them more and more important and influential. And, also, a lot of "country" people, lured by the glamor of the cities, have left the countryside. They have discovered many of them too late, that life in the small communities has a thousand advantages not possessed by large centers, and that the mush-room development of big cities has been a bad, not good thing. Today the small city is taking on a new dignity and individuality. We see everywhere the proof that the small community is realizing its possibilities, forgetting to ape the manners of the more artificial "centers of population," and attending enthusiastically to the duty of building a destiny for itself. As the small community becomes strengthened, and the farm community becomes more independent, the large city will prosper too. What we need in America is vitality of individual effort, and this is what the small city will give in the next generation as it did in the past. The disillusioned folk who thought that the bright lights were what made life worth while, will be drifting back to the country, eager to capture once again the peace the sincerity, the integrity, the quietness that abides where neighborliness and friendship is possible.—Herald, Slayton, Minnesota.

OPPOSED TO REPEAL

George Averill, in the Birmingham Eccentric, delivers himself of the following pronouncement regarding the never-ceasing problem of the liquor traffic: "We are opposed to outright repeal. It would return conditions even worse than the old saloon. Let's be sane in judging prohibition's success or failure to date. Prohibition has itself not failed; only human nature has failed. But, human nature must be met practically, with due regard to its limitations." With these views as its background, the Eccentric is inclined to put a measure of confidence in the Hoover program. Which is to give the wets a little of what they want. Dont get switched off, George. The thing is impossible. There are a dozen eternal principles that may not be sacrificed. First is the moral truth, more unchanging than the laws of the Medes and Persians, that right cannot compromise with wrong. And you have admitted that prohibition is right. That being true, either the wets or the drys must ultimately win. That is the whole issue. Which shall it be, George?—E. O. Gildart in Utica Sentinel.

Jest For the Fun of It

Oh, Pardon Me

"I saw you in town last night with a lady."

"That was my wife."

"But I thought you were divorced."

"Yes," said That was my wife."

Consolation

A girl who knows
What lips are made for
Has all her theaters
Tickets paid for.

Girls won quote Dickens
Are not the first pickin's.

A girl who laps and baby talks
Goes out for rides but never walks.

And men who spend their money freely
Went out of date with Horace Greeley.
—Evelyne Love Cooper in "Judge."

Famous Firms
Paper & Pencil

—o—

Important!

"Let me know as soon as you arrive."

"I will write."

"And if you have forgotten anything—"

"I will wire."

"If you want money?"

"I will telephone."

—o—

1st She—Was he fresh?

2nd She—I'll say! I hadda slap him three times before I gave in!

—o—

Epitaph For An Advertising Copy Writer

Born 1902
Died 1932
A nice piece of copy but
As usual
A terrible layout.

—o—

Burning Evidence

"Every window in your house was lit up last night. Did you have a big party?"

"No, but my wife is returning from her holidays today and if she notices the small consumption of gas, she'll be suspicious."

The "Big Shots" Say:—

Gordon L. Hefstetter, director, Employers' Assn. of Chicago:

"The only thing to which a racket can be compared accurately is that equally revolting and deadly thing, a cancer. It is eating its way into the tissues of our industrial and commercial life."

Herbert Hoover, president, United States:

"We are not a party to the Versailles Treaty and its limitation on German arms. That is solely a European question."

Joseph V. McKee, mayor, New York City:

"I do not mind people taking a shot at me when I know I am right. If I am wrong, I will put my house in order."

Inazo Nitobe, member Japanese House of Peers, now in this country:

"Japan does not consider herself guilty of having violated the treaties, even when they are literally interpreted and much less so when they are interpreted in a statesman like way."

Mahatma Gandhi, beginning his voluntary starvation:

"I shall make a superhuman effort to retain my grip on life. I am as anxious as anybody to continue to live."

Benito Mussolini, Italian Fascist Chief:

"Any doctrine which starts from the initial postulate of peace is foreign to Fascism."

"Lefty" O'Doul, Brooklyn left fielder:

"The Japs are crazy about baseball. I am going back there next winter to teach them how to bat."

Franklin H. Martin, of the American College of Surgeons:

"If everyone in the country submitted himself to physician for periodical examinations, say twice a year, there would be practically no deaths from cancer."

Carveth Wells, author and lecturer, just back from Russia:

"You don't know how well off you are. Get someone to pay your expenses to Russia and you will be back here in six weeks."

William Allen White, Kansas editor:

"It is a political leader's business to explain himself, his causes, his policies and his aims to his constituents."

William E. Borah, U. S. Senator of Idaho:

"There is no reason under the sun for this depression except the unwise and vicious policies of the government of the world."

Ernst Lubitsch, film acter:

"Many great actresses are not beautiful women but they have beautiful voices and when you hear them speak, you forget what they look like."

E. M. House, confidant and advisor to President Wilson:

"Normally the country is approximately forty-eight percent Republican and forty-two percent Democratic. The election is determined by the ten percent whose votes fluctuate bewteen the two parties."

Walter F. Waters, Commander, B. E. F.:

"I feel that the fight for the bonus is over. We have won it and another march on Washington would not mean anything."

Frederick E. Murphy, publisher Minneapolis Tribune:

"On self-reliant agriculture depends American prosperity."

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

The Eccentric is pleased to receive communications for this column. All communications must be signed, but signatures will be withheld upon request. Letters must be limited to 500 words, and must be in the office of the Eccentric for publication the following Thursday.

BOY SCOUT LECTURE

To the Editor:

I would like to call to the attention of folks interested in Boy Scout work the fact that on Friday evening, at 8 o'clock in the Community House, J. Heaven, scout executive of the Detroit headquarters staff, Boy Scouts of America, will give an illustrated talk on the directing and operations of scout troops and scout work.

His remarks will deal particularly with the functions of various directing heads from the District Committee down the line to sponsoring groups and troop committees.

Many people would do more scout work if they knew more of what it is all about. Here is an opportunity to learn more and find out in how many ways you can be of assistance. A good troop committee is of as much importance as a good scoutmaster.

I heard Mr. Heaven give the lecture last spring before a scoutmasters training group and was so impressed with it that I asked him to repeat it this fall for us, which he kindly consented to do.

So even though you are not contemplating real active participation in scouting, you will appreciate the information gained and find it most interesting.

A special invitation is extended to the fathers of scouts, as well as to sponsoring groups and troop committees, to be present.

J. F. WENZL,
President, Birmingham District Committee, Boy Scouts.

YERKES THANKS FRIENDS

To the Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my friends in the 17th district for their support in my recent campaign for a congressional seat. I did the very best I knew how. I fought a clean, hard battle for the nomination, based on my own qualifications, not the disqualifications of other candidates.

I believe I made a host of friendships, friendships that I will not allow to die simply because I was defeated. These friends and the knowledge that I fought the good fight are my compensations and I feel more than repaid for the time and the energy that I expended in the act.

I hope my friends will support George Dondero. His honesty and reputation are above reproach. His sincerity is unquestioned. He is a man and a statesman and in these troubled times it is well worth any effort we may put forth to have men like Mr. Dondero in Congress. I urge all my friends to support him for Congress. We must make our stand against those who would break our government to pieces.

I have offered my services also to the Republican Party. I believe in the soundness of its national programs and in the ability of its leaders to better conditions. Their program is based upon sanity and common sense and not upon empty promises and vote-catching planks. The Republican Party needs your loyalty and I urge you to support it now as you have in the past.

Again, my thanks to you all. I have no regrets—and I hope that you, too, are satisfied that your vote was not wasted.

ROBERT G. YERKES

GARDEN CONTEST

To the Editor:

Birmingham has much of which to be proud. A particular cause for pride is its unusually large proportion of public spirited residents. The garden contest, recently concluded, says just cited as a splendid example of what may be accomplished when a community is blessed with such citizens.

This extremely worthwhile project was well conceived, intelligently managed and generously supported. Earnest words of praise and appreciation are due the members of the various committees, the judges and the contributors.

While those fortunate enough to share in the awards have particular cause for gratification, from a broader viewpoint this was a contest from which every participant drew profit, as did the community as a whole.

This contest was so fruitful that should it be made an annual affair it is not unreasonable to hope that within very few years Birmingham may be known far and wide as "The City of Homes and Gardens."

EDWARD T. ATHERTON
444 Baldwin Avenue.

ParaLaffs

Certainly In

Just as an initial remedy for the depression the R. F. C. acting for the U. S. A. is certainly putting its O. K. on a lot of L. O. U.'s. —Wichita Eagle.

At Least

In some respects the idea of fingerprinting children seems to be a good one. At least it will settle the question as to who used the guest towel in the bathroom. —Philadelphia Inquirer.

We Can

The news that 25-cent George Washington coins are now in circulation leads us to believe that we can look for financial relief from a new quarter.—Pathfinder.

If

Japan is for law and order in Manchuria if she issues the order.—Manila Bulletin.