

The Birmingham Eccentric
Subscription Rates
Annual \$10.00
Semi-Annual \$5.00
Quarterly \$2.50
Monthly \$1.00

"The End"
A young Budapest printer, unable to endure earthly existence after his lover had quarreled with him, swallowed thirty separate pieces of type, and died. The thirty type letters spelled his girl's name. You may interest you to know, too, that "30" is the printer's term for "the end." This is because the modern typesetting machines can set a maximum line of type 30 picas long, and no more.

People Are Funny
A few years ago it was mighty unpopular for any person to interfere with "progressive" people, even the increasing tax burden that was being added upon the public. A few months ago it was just as unpopular to suggest public improvements that carried additional tax costs. Today, it is very unpopular to point out that some of the "improvements" going on are harmful to the taxpayers' pocketbooks. People—even artists—can be born, grow up, do to war, raise hell in general, have a little peace, enjoy a brief respite of pleasure, enjoy alternate cycles of prosperity and depression, and, (paradoxical as it may seem) never really live. The all-wise of that word. As the professor might say: "We include in our list of what to learn and more, until we haven't time to include in or learn anything more about nothing."

Where Is Money Coming From?
Governor Comstock, aided by attorney-general Patrick H. O'Brien, wants to bond the State for \$30,000,000, to be spent on new institutions, or additions to existing ones. With "progressive" people, even new employees would be required to help pay for it—which means more jobs for the Democrats. In a State where tax delinquency increases each year, how does the Governor expect to get the money? Elected on a program of strict economy, Mr. Comstock is proving that a pre-election promise is seldom a post-election performance.

Roosevelt Supports Religion
One most important thing for which the American people can be grateful is that President Roosevelt believes in Jesus Christ and the value of church attendance. We hesitate to think that might happen to religious freedom in the United States. Mr. Roosevelt, who has been given greater dictatorial powers than any other President, was built along the lines of a Stalin, a Hitler, or even a Mussolini. Our nation will somehow struggle through to victory because it retains its fundamental faith in the efficacy of Christianity.

A Baby Greater Than War!
On his tip-toes, the great Mikado, ruler of Japan, stole up to the side of his brand new and only son's crib on Christmas—so that the next heir to Japan's throne would not be disturbed. This same Mikado, in the face of the potential dangers that his military colleagues are predicting, is about to send his only son to the bedside of sleeping Mars. For fear of making this greatest of all slaugthers, if only Truth and Love were as revered as the personality of little babies! This would Mars be allowed to slumber longer on his bloody couch.

Nature Can't Be Cheated
Strange, indeed, are the results of much of human activity—even when one form of philosophy is actively, its disastrous results are made manifest when least expected. Take the federal government's aid to cotton growers, when, to keep the price up, the growers were given bounties to destroy their crops. This meant that hundreds of thousands of acres of land formerly planted to cotton were not cultivated this past season. Now, when the usual cotton crop is to be harvested, there is so much less to be done that 200,000 tenant families who have always depended upon working in the cotton fields, are about to be dismissed of their holdings by the beginning of 1934. It is to be hoped that the federal government, now observing what takes place when deliberate efforts are made to deprive an abundant Nature of her offerings to human beings, will not continue offering bounties to encourage crop or stock shortages in a land where people will need food, clothing, and shelter.

What Are Republicans For?
In a recent speech before the Young Republican club of Ponton, Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg gave the following explanation of what he saw as the reason why it is the Republicans' duty to do, to justify their existence as a political party. "As far as this newspaper is concerned, we don't care if the Democrats stay in office forever, or if the Republicans do; or some other party whose name we do not even know today. What we want is results; and the party that can give them to the average man and woman is the party to have in place of the present one. But Senator Vandenberg has some definite ideas of what the Republicans can and should do. He is doing a lot of those things himself. They have no relation to just getting into office so as to provide jobs for the boys." They are based on real service to the public.

It's TOO BAD that Mr. Roscoe B. Huston, Democratic acting-postmaster of Detroit, was arrested for drunkenness Christmas eve, together with his secretary, Alice J. Boyd. One would naturally suppose that a man of Mr. Huston's prominence would consider his public appearances to be harmless phases of "post office" fun. But, apparently, he was delivering, in person, a special package from John Barleycorn.

Next Year the Detroit Tigers will be directed by a young fellow named Mickey Cochran, a former star catcher for Connie Mack's Athletics. We hope Mr. Cochran becomes as popular and well-liked as his famous colleague, Mr. Mouse, for certainly a Tiger Mickey ought to be more ferocious than a mere mouse.

Henry Ford and General Johnson seem to be getting along better at a distance now. Ford has done more for his country than Johnson could possibly do if he lived several hundred years. This fact seems to be recognized by the NRA, and it argues better success for the cause of social justice in the old U. S. A.

We HOPE THAT THE WOODWARD AVENUE section of the proposed Detroit subway is made deep enough so that, when it is abandoned, it may be used as a subterranean reservoir for the pumping Great Lakes water to the north Detroit suburbs.

We SUGGEST A NATION-WIDE movement to eliminate the use of the initials U. S. A., and instead spell out the United States of America. It is about time to cut out all the useless use of initials, don't you think?

ILLINOIS, which has capital punishment, electrocuted three men last week for brutally slaying an 82-year-old woman. Does capital punishment deter such crimes? Of course not.



FROM THE ECCENTRIC COLUMNS —of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric—The Items That Make Up The Historical Background Of The Birmingham Of Today.

FIFTY YEAR SAGO
Rough day, last Sunday. Practice making a 4 instead of a 3. Going to make New Year's calls this year? First snow of the season, last week Sunday.

John F. Peters, W. T. Barbour and Mrs. Currow. Number please. The lady owner of a long sleeve right hand glove, can get it by calling at the Eccentric office.

What used to be the big white building on the hill just north of the Center, now owned by John D. Vhay of Detroit, was burned to the ground Christmas Day. Loss \$5,000. While carrying out a gasoline stove that caused the fire, Mr. Vhay collected with his hired man, Theron Vaughan. Gasoline spattering on Vaughan's clothing got afire, burning him severely. Mrs. Vhay and a two-week old babe were carefully taken to the Stinchfield home across the way, none the worse for the excitement and loss.

FIVE YEARS AGO
A brief report today from James Colquhoun, acts the Christmas mailing rate is 20 per cent higher than any other year. The Christmas mail continues to bring extra business but letting up considerably, he says. The holiday mail handled now is entirely new. "We will be able to make a detailed report of the large increase this month before two weeks. Checking up will require considerable labor," Mr. Cobb said.

Buried in Birmingham during 1928 sets a new record today. Building permits filed in the village office today, \$2,315,700, a total of \$1,911,900 and defeats the previous record figure of \$2,062,700 for 1926.

Extensive improvement program for Birmingham in 1929, but all of which good impart to all which may entail the expenditure

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Showell are having a splendid holiday season. Detroit, and enjoying city life hugely.

An independent early closing movement for the next few months is to be resumed by some of our merchants. That's right, give the clerks a little relaxation, and take a little rest.

The Pastime Dancing Club, an organization of the younger class, has been reorganized and is now a delightful and successful party in the "J. S." hall on Tuesday evening of last week.

The wedding of Mabel Toll and Charles Porteous was celebrated Wednesday evening at the home of the bride's parents. As brother Roseau says, "Let the good work go on." So to press too early for particulars.

The entire telephone force, the Misses Gertrude Anne, and Miss Slaley, Yuletide and a very merry and grave, wish to return their sincere thanks for generous and helpful Christmas remembrance from Messrs. Frank W. Floyd.

Sage Sermonette

In silence mend what ill deform thy mind, But all of which good impart to all thy kind.—Sterling.

ALL OF US

By Marshal Maslin
I NEVER SAW you before, and I may never see you again. But you're no stranger. You are a human being. I can see you are... You have two eyes, two ears, a mouth, a body, a right hand that clasps mine strongly, a personality that is all your own. You have lived fully, and take your face as relaxed, two lines on each side of your mouth... You are no stranger.

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

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

C. C. C.
To the Editor: After reading the letter of Mr. Knowledge Gail in a recent issue of your paper, I should like to make a check to the people of Birmingham some of the slight variations that Mr. Gail made. In speaking of the Civilian Conservation Corps as a "welfare" in a manner that seemed to portray an extreme dislike of the entire outfit, I think Mr. Gail does a great injustice to the Corps. By giving only one side of the picture, he has created an extremely black outlook. I might ask why Mr. Gail did not mention a few of the facts that mean taking it and keeping it and not crabbng at every slight inconvenience that arises. I am not disputing any of the statements Mr. Gail makes about his camp, because of these I have no knowledge. But perhaps he realized that these conditions are temporary, as even he will admit, he could "make it" too.

So, people of Birmingham, do not judge the Civilian Conservation Corps as the plans made for company dances, the use of the company trucks at almost any time desired, and a group of barracks that have everything that could possibly be wished for comfortable living. No one expects the slight hardships expected as his due, but nevertheless as comfortable a winter habitation as many a man would work and not spend their time in the pursuit of some "good book" ever.

W. WARD CONWELL, Co. 1017, C. C. C., Birmingham City, Mich.

Jest For Fun

Nonchalant
Explorer: Once a lion was so near to me that I would feel his breath on my neck.
Friend: What did you do?
"Pushed up my coat collar."
"Where Do You Keep Your Securities and Other Valuables?"
—I the Guaranty Trust Company of New York.
I keep my rubber plant upon the radiator in the sun.
And when I lay me down to sleep I pray the Lord my soul to keep, I keep my liverwurst and beef and "Camenbert" and Roquefort here.
Inside the ice box, which is hot, I foolish or unlikely, I say "You must admit I shyly wanton wiles, My nods and becks and wreathed smiles, Such as they are, I keep on tap For use when I exceed the law. Of this, the apple of my eye, And him I keep as often by my side as I can get him by. My teeth, my nails, my health, my hair, I keep in shape as best I can, Which seems a reasonable plan, And though it's possible I've missed Some items from this modest list, Of valuables with which I'm blest, You needn't fret about the rest." —Margaret Finkham in "Lifer"

GOODFELLOWS GRATEFUL

To the Editor: On behalf of the Goodfellow Club of Birmingham, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the hundreds of persons who contributed this year to the Goodfello's cause. Their kindness made it possible for us to bring happy Christmas to more than 200 families at Christmas time. —VERNON W. GRIFFITH, Chairman, Goodfellow Club.

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