The Birmingham Eccentric

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THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 1933

The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events that have some value and which are written by persons not connected with the editorial staff of the paper. All copy must be presented before noon on Wednesday. The right is reserved, however, to make such superficial changes in the copy submitted as are necessary to the style of the paper and as are required by laws of the state. Because of a special 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.

Protect Your Savings

On page one of this issue of The Eccentric you will find an article on the subject of "Guaranty Bank Deposits," written by T. H. Millington, of Bloomfield Hills. We suggest that you read it carefully, as it is thus learn something of that realm of finance which is now being de-banked. This newspaper for a long time has felt that bank deposits should be guaranteed, and urges upon its readers the value of "striking while the iron is hot" right now and write or telegraph Senators Couzens and Vandenberg to use their influence and ability to safe-guard the public's money entrusted to banks.

Do you know that banking institutions are absolutely necessary in our complex form of life, and that as time goes on all of us again will find it necessary to deal with banks. When that time comes will those who be required to GUARANTEE your funds, if they so wish, or will they be able to repeat the present debacle and leave you "holding the bag"?

Every critical period of human existence is WITH'S time to be more permanently realized in mankind's relationships. Under our form of government we are each given the opportunity to let our public officials know what we want them to do for us. Might now we can ask them to GUARANTEE DEPOSITS. If you wish to be protected during the remainder of your natural life, and wish similar protection for your children's savings, then please forward your written or telegraphed requests to Senators Couzens and Arthur H. Vandenberg, care Post Office Building, Washington, D. C.

Fall Upon Your Knees—

Oakland County today there are 226,357 lots that are delinquent in taxes. In all, they cover 282,086 acres of land. Once they grazed fat and sleek cows, that gave milk to the populace. Now the populace, that expected more than an extra million of people to move into this county, realize how, through hope and optimism, they have in a large part been "milked" and were the cows.

Tonight, in Oakland County, one in every seven men and women, boys and girls, is "living on the welfare." The story of Oakland County may be duplicated in hundreds of other areas in metropolitan centers of America. Back of this sort of speculation are the forces of finance, controlled by "bankers."

Pressure upon Michigan's present tax delinquency; upon the State's ill-supervised banking system; upon the quantity of rotten "securities" that have been legally manipulated into the thread-bare pocketbooks of those who trusted their government and then get down upon your knees, bow your head to the Cross of Good Citizenship, and repeat these words: "Father, forgive me for I knew not what I ought. Give me greater desire to know my government and its problems better; and include within my life's prayer the action necessary to reflect Thee in human relationships. Amen."

—o—

TEA FOR MRS. HOPE F. LEWIS, director of the Birmingham Community House, when she voluntarily took a six-months' leave of absence without pay, for business sense. Both she and Community House board members are to be commended for this mark of economy during these times. The Community House should be kept open as long as possible, and this is practically assured is manifest in the splendid work being done by Mrs. L. N. Pyle, president, and her corps of local aides.

Contemptible and Lousy

Information has come to light alleging that certain big banks are taking unfair advantage of borrowers who, unable to pay their obligations, are being sued, and often losing collateral worth many times more than the loan itself. Such practices are nothing short of being contemptible and consummately lousy. Bankers who take such advantage of stricken patrons ought to be sent to some isolated island in the middle of the Arctic Ocean, there to engage in skinning seals and walruses, instead of human beings. This banking dilemma is bound to reveal the rottenness of our national banking structure.

There are, of course, honest bankers who have, themselves, become the victims of the nation's financial traitors, and these well-meaning custodians of the public funds are entitled to fair consideration; but there are, in high places in this country, groups of crooked bankers who ought to be confined for the rest of their natural lives where they can never get their dirty hands upon another widow's or orphan's mite.

Mankind Is Progressing

In looking through some editorial notes we made many months ago, we came across this brief summary of our own belief on the subject of the financial structure of America. It was true then, and is probably so now, so we herewith record the thought as follows:

The real thing that is wrong with American finance is this: there is too much selfishness and greed within our financial structure—most of which finds its breeding place on Wall Street. Self-preservation is, admittedly, a strong instinct, and most of us possess it; but when self-preservation feeds upon the destruction of others, it no longer remains self-preservation, but becomes general destruction and chaos.

Human beings do view the mountain tops, and unceasingly struggle to gain the lofty view from such heights; occasionally they stumble and fall, but arise, hurt and bleeding, and again resume their upward climb. When viewed contemporaneously, mankind's struggle is difficult and hard, strewn with pitfalls and fields of battle; when viewed from the perspective of Mankind, however, it is revealing progress and will, eventually, offer comfort, security, and happiness to those who are here to enjoy them.

"Keep Us Alive—!"

In these days of national and world-readjustment every reserve of hope, faith, and courage are required to enable each of us to swim against the strong tides of life's demands. We cannot afford to cringe or retreate as we, individually and collectively, wage war on human selfishness and greed—the two evil influences that have brought this great nation of ours to its prayerful knees. With her determination, let us join the old Scotch clergyman who, in a day of great need, asked: "Please, Lord, keep me alive as long as I live."

Wayne County Politics

The Detroit News editorially laments the cheap caliber of the delegates who attended the Wayne County Convention, and suggests that honest and able Republican leadership cannot come out of the metropolitan area. Now that The News has openly confessed its people's apathy toward government, can not The News, with other responsible Detroit newspapers, aid more practically in the task of seeing that better Republicans will control the next County Convention?

ANOTHER YARD AND GARDEN CONTEST, similar to the one held here last summer, is being arranged for by the Birmingham Branch of the Women's National Farm & Garden Association, assisted by local business men and women. That is a fine activity to carry on, as we all know, and from the experience gained last year the coming contest ought to be of greater personal and community value than ever.

MICHIGAN'S CRIME COMMISSION last week reported its findings to the Legislature, recommending numerous prison reforms. Chief among its suggestions was one that pointed out the advisability of segregating various classes of offenders, in accordance with the severity and immensity of their crimes, just as patients may be segregated in a modern hospital. That is a step in the right direction.

JAMES E. VALENTINE is 78 years old, and recently he told an Eccentric reporter that he and Mrs. Valentine have been married 58 years, and that "It's a long time to eat one woman's cooking, but I still like it." Well, if today were February 14, we'd says "What a nice valentine."

AL SMITH IS REPORTED to be quite angry because of some of the Cabinet appointments made by President-elect Roosevelt. Well, it begins to look as though Al will require a new outlook on national politics, too.

THE OTHER CHAP SAYS SOMETHING—

THE CART BEFORE THE HORSE

Governor Comstock was elected on an economy program. Folks tired of Republican extravagance and wanted lower taxes. Back went up and down the state pledging that he would lop off scores of millions of dollars from state and state tax bills.

Actions speak louder than words, used in exuberant campaign promises. The governor has gone forward with a sales tax for raising more funds. And he has ponied expenditures from new governor was a bill or two to show how we could get along, possibly pay some of our bills with less taxes. What a difference of things!

The program Governor Comstock should be carrying out would lead the way to drastic cuts in branches of government in Lansing, so that it would be possible to get along with less government, effectively demonstrate how Democrats can rule without expensive bureaucracy.

We should first determine why we so much government expense and where it can be eliminated the most rapidly. That done, we would be no need for sales taxes or any other form of revenue raising.

Comstock, remember your campaign pledge to economy! Sales taxes are not the need of the hour. But drastic economy in government costs is imperative.—Fred McGiff in Redford Record.

SCHOOL OF ADVERSITY

Those who learned in the school of adversity are apt pupils. Many valuable lessons are impressed upon the mind and when properly applied help to build a firm, substantial prosperity.

Adversity is the true test of friendship—it is the acid test. It weeds out the flatterers and throws the spotlight on friendship.

In adversity a man may lose his friendship, his money and his business, but if he keeps his self confidence he is up before he is down.

Business depression is not a good thing for any country. It is the test of fire and only the courageous survive. Business depression helps business to build on a firmer foundation—they separate the chaff from the wheat and point the way to success.—The Northwestern Weekly (Grand Rapids).

BAD EXAMPLE

It has long been an axiom in this country that the less government the people have the better they like it. Pretty soon everything we do will be controlled by the government, as well as everything we have. Dictatorial powers are being given to Gov. Comstock and President Roosevelt. Officers pay little attention to established laws or the constitutions themselves. Pretty soon the people will take up the same due; and then what?—George E. English in (Bad Axe) Huon County Tribune.

THE REPEAL

Thirteen years ago the nation took on the 18th Amendment. On Monday the house of representatives, for 13 years the bulwark of the drys, handed the issue back to the people. The repeal of the amendment has been voted by both the senate and house and now goes back to the states for ratification. If 37 states ratify the amendment national prohibition will be a thing of the past.

In three years the wet forces have come from behind. Three years ago Seymour H. Person of this district and Jesse P. Wolcott of the seventh district startled the drys by defeating two of the staunchest prohibition advocates in the nation. Louis B. Crampton and Grant M. Hudson, defeated three years ago, went down to defeat again last year.

Since 1930 a dry majority in congress has been changed to a wet majority. In the greater number of instances the membership has remained the same but the congressmen, because of convictions or political expediency have changed their minds.

Change is constant in nature and in government. Thirteen years from now we may change back again and prohibition, coffee and tobacco along with liquor. The prohibition issue is not yet determined. Liquor has been an issue for centuries and will probably continue as an issue.—V. J. Brown in Ingham County News.

HIDE AND SEEK

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

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

To the Editor:

The other day I heard the suggestion that the elevated tank to hold a reserve water supply be torn down. It would seem that after spending the money to build it and maintain it this long, that it would be wise to keep it.

Fire is again and once again the disastrous result when adequate protection was available should be kept. In the case of a big fire such as burned the Lawson home last week, every bucket-fighting, all possible is not too much to be possessed by a community.

If and when the time completes the road over the old railroad right-of-way, the tank should be moved as a part of the improvement, I respectfully make this suggestion to the proper authorities.

NORMAN LYLE,
1337 Yorkshire Road.

JUSTICE COURTS

To the Editor:

As a citizen of this community for some few years, I view with no slight interest whither we are drifting. All life seems to be made from hopes and dreams, yet the actuating promises that move us are born of material results, and it is of these I would speak.

No longer are we, the citizens of Birmingham, to be known as villagers. All that remains is that we put the charter in active force on election day and a new metropolis is born, I don't think! We still have a far more important duty to render our new city and state in the selection of officials who shall govern us in the legislative, administrative, and judicial branches of government. Through these only can the spirit and intent of the new charter be interpreted; not the least of these is the judicial.

No doubt there will be many apply for recognition at the polls for "justice," or, should I say, the office of justice, holding with their many wives, but only one can be chosen.

Through the organization of David Levinson as justice in the township, he has made himself available for the position of city justice. Judging from the record he has made in handling those cases that have come before him in his court, as well as his concern for his fellow-taxpayers, as a member of the Bloomfield Township Board, his insight and ability to see through the plans of those who do not wish to be responsible for their actions in their respective offices, because they would not be political expedients, his courage to do the right thing regardless of adverse criticism, his friendly and humane attitude toward his fellows and fellow citizens, his life-long residence here, as well as his judicial temperament, are, in my opinion, sufficient to command him to all our citizens.

It should be remembered that influence of a political entity, that is no more, will seek to retain its favor in the community and will do the time for some deal in Birmingham.

We need prudence and fearlessness, as well as mercy tempered with wisdom and justice in our office. I trust that Mr. Levinson shall receive the mandate for the execution of these duties.

LOUIS C. HOFMAN,
1305 Cedar Drive.

DONDERO'S VOTE

To the Editor:

The only comment that I can make on the Free Press notice of Sunday is—that it was a terrible shock to me to note that our new congressman, Dodero of Royal Oak, voted against the economy bill of President Roosevelt which included, not only the logical reduction in the extravagant way in which the politicians of our National Government were handling the veteran's bonus, but also included a reduction of 15 per cent in the salaries of congressmen which I believe are now $10,000 a year, plus many additional expenses, such as traveling, secretaries, etc.

Your paper in this most critical period will do untold good in publishing facts of this nature concerning our new representative in the National Government.

H. N. DAVOCK,
641 Dewey Street.

DONDERO'S VOTE

Attached is a copy of my letter to Mr. Dondero regarding his vote on the economy bill.

I have no objection to the publication of this letter, and I hope The Birmingham Eccentric will bring out editorially the disastrous effect of not balancing our national budget and that it can only be done through drastic reduction in all departments, including the Veterans Bureau.

The letter to Dondero follows in full:

"As a resident of Oakland County who voted for you and as an ex-service man who served in France a year, I wish vigorously to call to your attention my inability to reconcile your negative vote on the Economy Bill with the exigency of the situation.

"I feel that you are in Washington as our direct representative and that you are therefore entitled to know the attitude of as many voters as possible.

"Since yesterday, when the newspapers published your name as one who voted no, I have talked to a number of people, not one of whom approves of your action.

"May we have your full cooperation in the immediate future on all economy bills in order that our national budget may be actually balanced.

"I can assure you that all Oakland County is watching."

F. B. SMITH, JR.,
528 Ridgedale Avenue.

GUARANTEED DEPOSITS

To the Editor:

You have asked me for my opinion of the guarantee of bank deposits by the Federal Government which you have been advocating for some time. To discourage withdrawals and hoarding of money in times of financial distress it seems plain that some method should be devised to insure the confidence of depositors in all banks.

Doubtless the best financial minds of the country will arrive at some such system, but it appears to me that a general guarantee of deposits by establishing a fund to which all banks would be compelled to contribute would encourage unsound banking methods on the part of poorly managed banks at the expense of those well managed. I recall that this was the chief objection to this guarantee of deposits advocated by the late William J. Bryan in his advocacy of such a plan in the early years of the present century.

I understand that it is proposed to meet this objection by more strict supervision of all banks, but I fear that as it is seemingly impossible to avoid the creeping in of politics this would to a large extent prevent such strict supervision. Such has been the experience in nearly all attempts of governmental supervision in banking and other activities.

Some eight states adopted the guarantee of deposits but all were forced to abandon the project as unworkable. Is it not reasonable to assume that, should the Federal Government guarantee deposits and throw around the banks so strict a supervision that poor banking methods would be abolished (an almost impossible task) it would practically amount to the Government itself running the banks and not the local directors and officers selected for such purpose?

And are we prepared to have our Government go into the banking business to that extent? Is it not true that the American people as a whole still believe in Individualism and while the theory of Collectivism is favored to a larger extent now than before must it not come through voluntary and not coercive measures? Anyway, I am glad to leave the question to wiser minds.

J. B. HOWARTH,
505 Pierce Street.

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 YEARS AGO

Old Phil's Birthday at Library Hall this evening.

Found on March 4, a pin and bow. Call and pay, prove and take away.

Forgot all about that beans and molasses candy scrape, girls. Try us again.

Master Ira Render of Southfield is the owner of a handsome silver watch of the best Elgin works.

The Ladies' Aid society of the Baptist church will give a maple sugar and pancake social in the near future.

Members of the Birmingham Horse club should pay their dues ($1.00) to M. K. Taber immediately. He's ready and willing to receive anything in the shape of money.

There's a puzzle in our advertising column this week. It puzzles every body to understand how Whitehead & Mitchell can sell Warner's Safe Kidney and Liver cure, for $1.00 per bottle, when it is sold the world over for the advertised price of $1.25.

J. R. Logan has sold his beautiful little residence on Stanley street to Mrs. McKinney of Redford. Frank Young's mother-in-law. Mr. Logan will buy another lot and build thereon. That's the kind of a man to help a village. Hope he'll sell out and build every spring.

It was a bonnie Pontiac girl and she was promenading in the hall with Mitchell during one of our recent hops. "Why, Gawge!" said she "aint you ashamed; you're a married man!" "No, I aint," responded our truthful junior without a blush, "and I never wanted to be until this blessed moment." "Ah! Now Gawge," she warbled in response, "don't give it to me in such big chunks."

Ladies' hose reduced to 13c. Mittens, children's hose and other knit goods will be closed out cheap. L. T. Furman.

A million dollars in gold was shipped from England to this country a few days ago.

—o—

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

New books in the library, "The Fruit of a Tree," by Edith Wharton, "The Mississippi Bubble," by Emerson Hough.

The murder of that Denver priest brought forth the statement that the American headquarters of anarchists is in New Jersey. It is also the place where most of the undesirable trusts are incorporated.

Say! John M. Beddow closes out all of his remaining stock of his grocery store at auction Friday March 20th. Sale is absolute. The stock ought to be gobbled up by people who say they wish to sacrifice everything regardless of price. See big bills. Something there you need every day; regardless what goes, shoes, felts, rubbers, dry goods, hose, horse blankets, sweat pads, patent medicines, 150 lbs. Epsom salts, bbl. Venetian red, linseed oil, etc., etc. Something there you need every day. Go.

Our village is without street lights, and all those depending on the acetylene plant, are "in the dark." It is reported that the company will not continue to furnish any more light at all, as it is a big losing investment. The plant is said to have cost the promoters $8,500 and it is said that it can be bought for $1,000. There is a chance for someone to speculate.

One of our leading grocery firms cut a fine cheese last Saturday night that was loaded. Dr. T. W. Shaw cared for seven victims during the following Sunday. Monday noon, Editor Mitchell dropped in this busy place, no one being near to warn him. As usual Mitchell sliced off a generous slice and with a handful of crackers got a good start on his dinner. Dr. Shaw just then accidentally dropped in and sounded the alarm. TOO LATE! Did Mitchell get his? Go ask him.

It takes nerve to build a house in the winter time such as we have had, but Irving Baily, on Pierce street, has it and has just enclosed and shingled a large addition to his home.

—o—

FIVE YEARS AGO

About 10 A. M. of thereabouts every Saturday for the last three years there has been a decided absence of children about the streets of Birmingham. Questioning has revealed the "hangout" of many of them. They are to be found, absorbedly listening at the now famous "story hour" at the Baldwin Public Library conducted by Miss Gertrude Molody.

Announcement is made today of the appointment of Robert R. Allen, realtor, to the office of secretary and manager of the Oakland County Savings Association by the Board of Directors. He will assume duties immediately.

The basket ball dance held Friday night in the Baldwin Auditorium was attended by approximately 150 persons. Letters were awarded members for both girls and boys teams. Waltzing and fox trotting contests were entered with enthusiasm by many couples. The former was won by Doris and Roderick Cox and the latter by Avis Gravlin and Amber Peterson. Music was supplied by Maxwell Gall and his orchestra.

ELECTION NOTICE

To The Electors of the City of Birmingham,
County of Oakland,
State of Michigan.

Notice is hereby given that an election will be held in the City of Birmingham, County of Oakland, State of Michigan, on

Monday, April 3, 1933

for the purpose of voting on the following question, to-wit:

"Shall the proposed charter for the City of Birmingham drafted by the charter commission elected on the 6th day of September, 1932, be adopted?"

And for the further purpose of electing the following officers provided for in said charter, to-wit:

Seven (7) Commissioners
Two (2) Members of the Library Board (3 year term)
Two (2) Members of the Library Board (2 year term)
Two (2) Members of the Library Board (1 year term)
One (1) Justice of the Peace
One (1) Associate Justice of the Peace
One (1) Constable

Notice is further given, that all candidates for said offices must file petitions signed by not less than Twenty-five and not more than Fifty qualified electors of the City, in the office of the Clerk of the City of Birmingham, on or before Five o'clock in the afternoon, Eastern Standard Time, on the 18th day of March, 1933, and must also at the same time sign a statement of candidacy. Forms of petitions and statement of candidacy may be secured from the Clerk of the City of Birmingham.

Said election will be held at the following polling places:

Precinct No. 1— Voting booth at the corner of Harmon and Woodward Avenues—is all that territory bounded on the north by City Limits, on the east by Woodward, on the south by Maple Avenue, on the west by City Limits.

Precinct No. 2— Voting booth at the Adams School—is all that territory bounded on the north by City Limits, on the east by City Limits, on the south by Maple Avenue, on the west by Woodward Avenue.

Precinct No. 3— Voting booth at the Municipal Building—is all that territory bounded on the north by Maple Avenue, on the east by Woodward, on the south by Lincoln Avenue, on the west by City Limits.

Precinct No. 4— Voting booth at the Wylie Bell garage, east side of Elm St., 150 ft. south of Maple Avenue—is all that territory bounded on the north by Maple Avenue, on the east by City Limits, on the south by Lincoln Avenue, on the west by Woodward Avenue.

Precinct No. 5— Voting booth at the S. W. corner of Lincoln and Woodward Avenues—is all that territory bounded on the north by Lincoln, on the east by City Limits, on the south by City Limits, on the west by City Limits.

Polling places will be opened at 7:00 A. M. and continue open until 8:00 P. M. Eastern Standard Time.

GEORGE R. AVERILL,
Secretary for the Charter Commission for the City of Birmingham, Michigan.

Date: March 9, 1933.