The Birmingham Eccentric

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TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 1933

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 handed in before noon on Wednesdays. The right is reserved, however, to make such superficial changes in the wording submitted as are necessary to the style of the paper and are required by lack of time, because of a mechanical situation in the composing room, headlines written by those other than members of the staff cannot be used. And no comment reflecting 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.

Roosevelt Reveals Courage

The Eccentric joins with countless American newspapers in the general approval of the tone and appearance comments of President Roosevelt's inaugural address. As we listened to his unfaltering, strong voice coming in over the radio, we imagined the entire Washington inaugural setting, and we could see him in our mind's eye as he tossed his head as he addressed his countrymen. And we admire his courage in calling for a national banking holiday.

We have had personal opportunity to talk to and study the relative personalities of both Franklin D. Roosevelt and Herbert Hoover. We admire the latter for his courage to carry on, even though his plans for economic recovery were thwarted by the traitorous betrayal of so-called "big shots" in business and industry, and we shall seek to cultivate an increasing admiration for President Roosevelt—the American President of ALL the people during the next four years. May wisdom and God-directed courage attend him and his advisors as, with Congressional aid, he seeks to lead the nation toward happier and more enduringly prosperous days.

Protect Your Money

Now that every bank in the United States offers proof that the savings of depositors is at the mercy of an uncontrolled speculator-gambler system of so-called "banking," what are you going to do about it? Has it aroused you sufficiently to take a definite stand for a constructive method of guaranteed deposit safety? If it has, then write or wire Senators Couzens and Vandenberg at Washington, D. C., telling them that you favor one hundred per cent deposit guarantee, at no direct expense to the United States Government.

Do it today—for your tomorrow!

O. P. Needs Cleansing

Up at Pontiac the other night Chase Salmon Osborn, former Governor of Michigan, addressed 600 men and women who had gathered in the annual Oakland County Lincoln Republican Club banquet. Mr. Osborn had journeyed at his own expense from southern Georgia, in the interests of a better Republican party. He was very frank in his open criticism of some of the rascals and renegades who have taken spoils from government via the Republican organization, and stated that the only way to re-establish the party in the public's good graces is to sponsor and stand behind good men and measures. He practically repeated some similar advice that we gave Oakland County Republicans when they held their county convention three weeks ago. The taxpayers no longer are in the mood for "monkey business" by cheap politicians. And that goes for Democrats as well as Republicans, too.

"Closed" Commission Meetings

The City Commission Monday night approved formally another salary cut for city employes. The wisdom of the action itself need not be debated here. Let it be said only that it was necessary and therefore wise.

The manner in which it was done, however, is not so commendable. From first to last, the discussions were carried on behind closed doors. The only thing that took place in the open was the vote, which, after all the private deliberations, was certain, of course, to be unanimous; and even the vote itself was followed by another adjournment into "committee" session for a few more changes in the final salary schedule.

Meantime, while the private discussions were being held, individual members of the Commission were frank to confess to their friends in the street what was going on behind the closed doors, so that it soon got around that the final solution to the salary reduction problem was to be a compromise between two different opinions on the Commission, one as expressed by a group of three members who thought the slash should be greater than that which was actually adopted, and the other by a group of four members who thought it should be less.

It was, in fact, then, a matter of an honest and clear-cut difference of opinion that was up for debate, and not one of personalities. It was a matter for discussion in the open and not in secret. A courageous minority would have refused to allow itself to be closeted behind locked doors, but would have stood forth in the open and looked for public support to aid it in influencing the majority. An equally courageous majority would have only too gladly welcomed the opportunity of stating its case clearly to the people, thereby clinching its argument against the minority.

Certain members of the Commission will defend themselves on the grounds that discussions over salary reductions lead inevitably to such petty personal considerations as to whether this man is worth more than that one, and to whether a policeman with three children ought to be paid more than a fireman with two.

That may be true, depending upon the caliber of the body engaged in the discussion, but is it too much to expect, especially in these times when the interests of the taxpaying public as a whole is entitled to every consideration it can be given, that a group of public officials cannot restrict themselves to the more impersonal questions as to whether this job is worth more than that job, and whether the head of one department is more essential than the head of another.

Other bodies do this, and from them the City Commission might learn some valuable lessons about the conduct of public affairs. We have in mind at this instant the Birmingham Board of Education, which has discussed and voted any number of pay cuts within the last two years without resorting to closed "committee" sessions.

Our City Commission is recruited from the citizens of Birmingham, and thus in reality is "of the people, by the people, and for the people." That is why in practically every official activity they may engage in, they need have no fear of the frank and open presentation of their problems to the citizens who provide the tax funds with which to carry on local government.

Thanks For Your Thanks

The publisher of this newspaper has, during the past two weeks, received many bits of praise for his editorials arguing for the adoption of GUARANTY BANK DEPOSITS. Every expression of thanks has been most gratefully received. For the benefit of you who are interested, we will reveal this fact: those who have expressed themselves as favoring guaranteed bank deposits represent EVERY walk of life, from the multi-millionaire industrialist down to the humblest station in life, from United States Senators to township clerks. We venture the statement that nine of every ten interested persons favors guaranteed deposits of some nature. So, Good Friends, thanks for your friendly pats on the back or, as a very great preacher-friend of ours said this week, "flowers for the living."

POLITICAL QUESTION: If former Governor Wilber M. Brucker found it advisable to wander all over Michigan, crowning Queens and making speeches, should any fault be found with Governor Comstock who, after closing every bank in Michigan, runs down to little old Washington to have a good time, even though he leaves behind a muddled Legislature that is trying to solve the banking problem?

THE OTHER CHAP SAYS SOMETHING—

TOO DAMN MUCH POWER

Resolutions have been introduced in the Michigan State Senate providing for an amendment to the constitution making the offices of Attorney General, Secretary of State, Auditor General, State Treasurer, State Highway Commissioner and Superintendent of Public Instruction appointive by the Governor. We sincerely hope that this passes both houses and is submitted to a vote of the people that the latter will have a hand. Such an arrangement would place every important official of the State in direct control of the Governor, placing all patronage at his disposal, and would enable a Governor to build a more powerful political machine than Michigan has ever seen. We, the people, may make an occasional mistake in the selection of state officials, but even that is better than placing too much power in the hands of a Governor.—Bill Berry in Cassopolis Vigilant.

EXAMINE POLITICIANS

Men who are elected to office ought not to be inducted into that office until they have passed an examination which would be designed to discover their fitness or unfitness for the job. If such, reasons the gentleman as disqualified, and take the man with the highest number of votes. This would do doctors, lawyers, nurses and civil service employees. Why should it not be applied to the men who are to decide our legislative, executive and judicial policies? A moron could still be the people's choice, but that choice would have to be vindicated in black and white. In other words we are a strong believer in "get your facts before the jury" rather than a berating of the jury after it has rendered a decision.—F. W. McGriff in Bedford Record.

PUBLIC ENEMY BILL

It is laughable to see the alacrity with which the boys in the big towns saw to it that a "Public Enemy" measure was introduced in the legislature at Lansing. No doubt some innocent legislator was prevailed upon to father the measure under the impression he was safeguarding the people of Michigan from all harm. It's funny nobody thought about a public enemy measure when the dishonest rats who caused all this trouble were sending their white-collared bandits into this and other counties in Michigan, bleeding the people white with their rotten securities. That was the time when this state needed public enemy protection—not now. But sensing that an indignant populace will shortly arise to voice their protest against all this "within the law" scheme of spoliation which has been going on for years, when fear began to threaten their ranks that mebbe some of their victims might lose their heads for the moment and seek personal settlement of the debt—then we see a public enemy law proposed. The legislators will do well if they scan this thing pretty thoroughly before giving it their sanction—in other words, instead of curbing communism as they are being led to believe—it may be directed against the future actions of their own friends and neighbors back home.—Fred D. Keister in Ionia County News.

GUARANTEED BANK DEPOSITS

If we are correctly informed, Canada has such a safe banking system that bank failures there are practically unknown. The system is a national one and every bank in the country, no matter in how small a town it is located, is part of the national system.

The United tates will have to come, sooner or later, to some such system of guarantee of bank deposits. Give the people the assurance that their own great government is back of them and will not let them lose a dollar of their money in the banks and the people will return to their old-time confidence in banks.

Our new congress could do no greater service to the country than to establish some sort of a guarantee system that will insure the last dollar of every depositor no matter in what bank it is deposited. Here, President Roosevelt, is a challenge!—Dick Baldwin in Northville Record.

THOSE DAMN BIG BANKERS

It is beginning to look as though a lot of the loose talk of the past few years about the big city and international bankers was largely true. What they have been able to get away with on innocent depositors money has been something awful, or worse.

The result has been a loot and ruin of many of the country banks, the common people's last resort.

Detroit newspapers are not telling a great deal of what is going on in the financial circles of that city even though they may know as they must.

Isn't it about time that we stopped kidding ourselves and tell the truth?

The truth comes out sooner or later and the later it comes the worse it is for all of us. The real truth a year or more ago would have saved a lot of trouble. Had we known we might have been ready for the onrush at least.—George English in Huron County Tribune.

GIBRALTAR!

FROM THE ECCENTRIC COLUMNS —of Long Ago

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

FIFTY YEARS AGO

Almost maple sugar time.

When you are determined get married always stick to a n news send your future mother-l to tell the minister engaged perform the ceremony that y have changed your mind.

Another column we publish the annual report of the financ of the corporation of this villag The fact of the village being o debt, and a small balance i the treasury is evidence of prosperous condition of affa when we take into consideratio the fact that no taxes we levied upon our citizens during t past year, the expenses of th streets and sidewalks being pa by the liquor tax. A careful pe sual of the report is well wor the time of every prudent citize

A young man with a guileless face and a bland smile put up at the National hotel over Sunday and on Monday asked mine host Dadow to cash an accepted draft for $50, on a New York bank, for him. Ned demurred and the young man sauntered around, casually inquiring of several of our prominent business men if they wanted to cash his draft, and after doing some trading with Dr. Silber he presented the draft which was finally accepted, but not money paid on it, the balance be promised him in the evening when he should return. Suspicion pointed Ned Dames to telegraph to the bank in New York in regard to it, and he promptly received an answer that no such number or denomination of the check he described had been issued to them. The young man was promptly arrested by Officer Beadle and was examined before Squire Bodine, pleaded not guilty and was remanded to jail. He gave his name as Bull, and it looks as if he had made a "bull" in the business of bulldozing Birmingham.

The hotel in Albany has a knot hole at every window for guests to let themselves down by. The proprietor has been offered $50 to descend this way from the third story window, but he declined with thanks.—Detroit Free Press.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

Please remember that Levi Nixon is to go round on wall paper.

Mrs. Edward P. Smith has rented at a new $750 Ford model. You will see him spinning around town in the very near future.

The progressive pedro party given by the L. O. T. M. M., Tuesday evening last, was a success. Nine tables were played. The ladies prize was won by Mrs. Mudge; second, by Mrs. Cavell Smith. First gentleman's prize by C. C. Wilson; second, by W. Cobb.

One of the pleasantest events of the season took place last Saturday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. I. Travis. A progressive pedro party was given in honor of Mrs. Truax-maker, Mrs. E. E. Vallier, of Racine, Wis., who is soon to go to her western home after a few weeks of visiting. A dainty lunch was served is which Mitchell's up his reputation in the ice cream line. A beautiful piece of genuine Truax-make of hand painted china was won by Mrs. N. T. Shaw; Mr. George Wilson also won a piece of the better set of the same design.

The consolation prizes were awarded to Mrs. D. M. Johnson, a valuable silver jewel case, and to Neal genuine blown in the glass booby prize, was won by Landlord Wooster, and was a pack of cards to practice up with.

A new baby boy at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Thurlby this week. Mother and son getting along finely.

There is a little matter that some of our subscribers and advertisers have seemingly forgotten about. To us it is necessary, our business. We are very modest and don't wish to speak about it.

AT THE THEATRES. Lyceum. Cole and Johnson in their musical comedy, "the Shoo Fly Regiment," will be the attraction at the Lyceum for one week, commencing next Sunday afternoon. These seven comedians are considered comedians as colored entertainers and the cleverest popular song writers of the day. Among the big song hits they have written are "Under the Bamboo Tree," "The Congo Love Song," and "The Maiden with the Dreamy Eyes," featuring by these farceurs in their latest comedy.

—o—

FIVE YEARS AGO

B. S. Meirow was elected first president of the newly formed Lions Club of Birmingham at the luncheon yesterday noon at the Colonial Tea Room. The Lions Club is an outgrowth of the Young Men's Service Club which has passed out of existence.

A landmark in Birmingham for 50 years, the small white frame church of the First Baptists on Willits and Bates streets is being dismantled today in preparation for the contractors who will soon start on the new $150,000 building on the same site.

Birmingham is to pay its last tributes to Harry J. Brooks, the pilot who lost his life off the coast of Melbourne, Fla., Feb. 25, with a memorial service in the Kunsky-Birmingham Theater at 1:30 P. M. today, according to plans announced by E. T. Ellerby, village president, and Charles A. Bingham, a life long friend of Brooks. Stores and offices in Birmingham are to be closed from 1:30 until 2:30 P. M. and flags will be at half mast.

Miss Jessie Bonstelle, famous person actress, is to be the speaker at the dinner tomorrow night at the Pine Inn to be given by the Rotary Anns of Birmingham. Plans were to be completed today for the affair by those who are working on the committees.

Enlarging its floor space to almost double the former capacity, The Birmingham Eccentric today is taking the building adjacent to its former office on North Woodward avenue which was occupied by the Braun Lumber Company.

ParaLaffs

Never

He and may get her independence from England but, mark our prediction, she'll never have as much fun fighting with anybody else.—Judge.

Recognized

After close scrutiny, Japan decides to adopt the Manchukuo infant. The rest of the world also recognizes—its parentage.—The Washington Post.

The "Big Shots" Say:—

Mme. Paul Dupuy, wife of French newspaper publisher, visiting America:

"One thing the great war taught us was not to believe we could put a label on a nation and make it fit everyone."

Ignace Paderewski, Polish pianist:

"The machine, apart from displacing its creator, has in general destroyed something which is the most important factor in the life of civilized man—beauty and a sense of profession."

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

"Our national income now is about equal to the taxes of the people, city, state and national, together with the interest falling due on private indebtedness."

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

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

COMMENDS EDITORIAL

To the Editor:

Have just read your editorial in issue on the subject of "Let's Guarantee Deposits." (Feb. 23, 1933).

Well, good for you. But don't let that end it. Every issue should carry more of the same.

When I saw you about six months ago, if, at that time every one able to talk intelligently had stood up and raved about guaranteeing of bank deposits to the men who were up for election or for re-election, instead of "are you wet or dry?" or some other non-essential issue, perhaps by this time we would be ready to commence getting somewhere.

According to what I have read, Vice-president Garner is a fanatic on this subject so that is at least one thing in his favor.

But it is to the newspapers of the country that we must look for the necessary push to get anywhere on the subject. This country is in a nice predicament today because of the kind of banks we have.

Did you hear of that comment by the European banker who said "Your American bankers are not what we call bankers at all. They are merely speculators trying to make money for themselves and associates with funds intrusted to them by innocent and betrayed depositors."

How could it be put more correctly and concisely? If the banker is successful you can get your deposit back. If not, you are merely out of luck.

The next thing to stop is the installment plan of selling expensive things to people who cannot afford them but go heavily into debt "keeping up with the Joneses."

R. W. YEATS,
226 Granada road,
West Palm Beach, Fla.

EMERGENCY BANK LAWS

To the Editor:

If the legislators of the State of Michigan have been tardy in handling our banking emergency, they have now some good examples of how they can and should act.

President Roosevelt in his first hour of office accepted the responsibility of individual leadership. The Governor of New York has been given emergency powers. In the State of Michigan an emergency power must be granted to the state executive and his officers.

It is not now the time to criticize or blame any of our fellow citizens. Those who withdrew gold from our banks were seeking safety. They who closed the banks of Michigan thought that a short holiday would cure the hysteria.

Michigan bankers can take proper steps only under orders from public authority. Instead of criticism of bank officials there should be appreciation. They have performed their duty of handling deposits for the benefit of community business.

The banks must now convert their invested assets into a currency to carry on business. A perfect arrangement is possible only after time has elapsed. The people will cure this situation when they bring back to the banks their currency and gold they are holding.

The people used their power to drain the banks until they crippled their own banking system. They must give power to state authorities to handle an emergency they themselves have created.

YOUNG C. SMITH,
480 Pierce street.

Jest For Fun

An American Folk-Song

Our future achievements grow ever obscurer;
Economies irk us, wherever we are;
We spend as we go, and get steadily poorer—
But we have a car!

The old winter clothing gets thinner and thinner,
And chicken on Sunday has vanished, alas!
No more do we order ice-cream for our dinner—
But watch us buy gas!

The probes of collectors we skillfully parry;
The doctor and dentist get little from us;
The only insurance we manage to carry
Is that on the bus.

Then step on the gas, and sin worry's deferment;
Our taxes are due, and our stock's below par,
And if we should die, there's no cash for interment—
But we have a car!

—Corinne Rockwell Swain in "Life"

Famous Last Words
Cash & Carry

Not Specific Enough

The diner had lingered a long time over his meal because he had requested the manager to forward him a message that he was expecting from a friend.

After a while a page-boy came to his table with a folded piece of paper.

"Your message, I think, sir," said the boy.

"Yes, and about time, too," snapped the diner irritably. "Didn't the manager describe me so that you could find me?"

The boy shrugged his shoulders helplessly.

"Yes, sir," he said, "but there are so many people in the restaurant with big red noses."

—Answers.

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.