

The Birmingham Eccentric

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THURSDAY, MAY 4, 1935

The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events which have value and which are written by persons not known to the public. The right to publish is granted as a favor and is not to be construed as an endorsement of the views of the author. The Eccentric is not responsible for the opinions or statements of its contributors. The Eccentric is not responsible for the opinions or statements of its contributors. The Eccentric is not responsible for the opinions or statements of its contributors.

Schools Close May 26

Announcement that Birmingham schools will close May 26 definitely sets up a date that has been, for many years, a matter of considerable local concern. The date is late in May, a few weeks less than the time set for the closing of our schools. It will undoubtedly be acceptable to our citizens with gratitude, especially to those who so earnestly labored to raise funds with which to keep the schools open as long as they will be.

Many sincere and willing hearts and hands have been organized to meet the needs for more funds to keep the schools open. Among them were quite a few men, but most of the credit belongs to the women who did the major work of selling trips, and of pleading with people to pay their taxes. To them we extend the community's thanks.

Members of the board of education, too, deserve credit for their cooperation, as does superintendent Charles F. Cradell, whose tenet of office dating from last fall has been filled with perplexing problems.

And then, of course, we must not forget to recall that most of the school children themselves are glad that school closes May 26—for an altogether different reason than their adult companions. For, we will be late in May is a time when everything outside doors is calling, calling—calling—and we find ourselves to call active bodies and adventurous minds be confined to the stuffy limitations of a few desks and a most severely blackboard?

Lead Em. Governor

Governor Bill Crompton reveals evidence of being extremely disgusted with his present Legislature. Well, when he can for office last fall on the good old Democratic ticket, he must have known that his party had nominated many novices, some of whom are serious, and some of whom never should have been transported to Lansing on a deluge of votes. Therefore, one that in party did win, and he has won an office that he sought four times, it ill behooves Mr. Crompton to show too much discontent over his political fortunes. All he needs to do is to lead—most of the boys will follow.

SOBER, BUT SURELY, at various members of Congress are roped from the anesthesia that has engulfed them since March 4, they will develop in Washington an antagonism to many of the policies of President Roosevelt. Such conditions are inevitable under any form of government. In the meantime, good luck to Hoover's successor—and may his Cabinet contain few splinters.

YOU WANT TO HELP MICHIGAN. You eat sugar. Therefore eat Michigan sugar. This year Michigan beet growers will receive nine millions of dollars from the sale of their crops. Every pound of Michigan beet sugar that you buy helps your own State. Secretly.

THE OTHER CHAP SAYS SOMETHING

WHEN ACTION IS IMPERATIVE!
 Americans would never tolerate a Hitler nor a Mussolini, but in an emergency we can and do do things that even a Mussolini might envy. Right now we have stamped of the wisdom of our American democracy in recognizing the limitations of parliamentary procedure to meet emergency. Therefore we elect our President, now and then, and we give him authority to grapple with serious situations. We did this with President Wilson during the World War. We are doing this now with President Roosevelt. In doing it we are giving the world a striking example of the wisdom of our American system of government in dealing with any serious trouble which only a national emergency could not be taken in the ordinary way by relying upon parliamentary action.—Dick Cook in Hastings-Banner.

THE MILL TAX
 This newspaper never believed that a mill would cover all the tax needs of the State. It is a fact that it could be made to do so. If proper economies could be effected by reduction of expenditures we do not see why the mill tax should be a burden on the school and highway work of the most important agencies of the State and its subdivisions. These subjects appear to be the only ones which are of any political minds, but there is nothing more promising and less meaningful opportunities for curbing them. When they are improved and the printing sharia have been taken upon every unnecessary being of public expense, additional progress of income may be made with better grace.—Don Cushman in Hartford Day Spring Ledger.

STATE BANKING DEPARTMENT WEAK
 Ask the average country banker or ask him to blame for the present condition of his bank. He will tell you that it was the state banking department, which took his bonds, what kind of bonds and where to get them. It's a short story but what are the bonds worth? And now because of these bonds the same state banking department is telling the country banker that he can't open up his bank because the bonds are of little value as bank assets.
 What a banking department!—George English in Huron County Tribune, Bad Axe.

ROOSEVELT VS GOD GOLD!
 In our times has challenged with power and authority the great god Gold? Only Roosevelt. Do you suppose he did this with the assets of the Treasury, or with the assistance of his own financial advisors? I can assure you that he did not. Mr. Woodin is a very nice gentleman, and he will make a good, cautious, and conservative Treasurer. But anyone who thinks that Mr. Woodin did not have some pills to chew up and swallow his spine when Franklin Roosevelt's impious hand against the god of Gold, doesn't know Mr. Woodin.—Dearborn Press.

City Commission Records

The decision of the City Commission not to include in its new budget an appropriation to provide for the newspaper publication of the minutes of its meetings is a fair step in the direction of economy. True, it will deprive the people of a service of incalculable value. This newspaper is, to a degree, in an embarrassing position in opposing the move. It derives a profit from printing the minutes, and will be disappointed to lose the business. It will be far more disappointed, however, to know that the city fathers have taken the attitude that their actions at all times will be above the need for that close and constant public scrutiny which is made easy through newspaper publication.

Granted that taxpayers, interested in knowing how their money is being spent, will be able to follow the Commission by attending its meetings in person, or by examining the clerk's records; still, neither method is very practical, and what will actually happen is that the public will lose interest, simply because the means of keeping that interest alive will no longer be available, and local government will find itself drifting one step farther apart from the thing it is governing.

Publication of its official proceedings is, in a very comparable sense quite like placing insurance on a piece of property. It guarantees a form of protection to the taxpayers who are able to observe what the elected officials are doing by an examination of records created by the officials themselves, and it also guarantees to each official a protection against misrepresentation to the public.

The Eccentric has always stood for the fullest expression of publicity for business transacted by public officials. It believes that the out form of government can exist and improve only by bringing the public and the government into closer understanding of their mutual problems. And this newspaper has expended, in its efforts to keep the public informed of its various governmental activities, many times the cost of publishing official proceedings. This is not an attempt to cajole or influence the city commission into reconsidering its apparent decision to discontinue the publication of its proceedings; but it is forth to point out that this form of economy is not economy in the long run and most than cancelling an insurance policy, especially in times when the public wants and is entitled to every avenue of information about their government that is possible and practical to obtain.

Lansing Politicians

Devious and winding are the ways of some politicians. You may recall that early last fall a group of Michigan weekly newspaper publishers interested themselves in Michigan State College affairs at East Lansing, taking the position that politics dominated the campus, resulting in the dismissal of three faculty members. At that time one Joseph A. Baldwin, a young lawyer, was hired by former attorney-general Paul Voorhies to make an "investigation," to be conducted fairly and impartially. Baldwin, paid with State money, spent many weeks in the building, and his report was made public. Since then, he now admits, he destroyed the report on the advice of Mr. Voorhies. Thus, you see, Baldwin conducts an "investigation," gets together a "report," never files the report publicly, but uses it as a device to aid in firing three faculty men, and then destroys the report so that the special Legislative committee investigating the fracas cannot see it. Such activities are the manifestation of cheap political antics, and serve to render one sort of "white wash." If the average citizen was able to see and understand the devious and winding ways of certain politicians, well, . . . what would happen, anyway?

TWO WEEKS AGO, in an editorial titled " . . . As One O'Brien To Another," we published a letter from Loren O'Brien, of Manton, Michigan, who sought to defend attorney-general Patrick H. O'Brien as a good Democrat. In that comment we referred to Mr. O'Brien as "editor of the Manton Tribune." We reminded the Tribune for that remark, as we are reminded this week by Cecil B. Herridge, the current publisher of the newspaper in question. We certainly agree that the average newspaper today should be kept as free from unnecessary encumbrances as possible—so please excuse us, Mr. Herridge. And good luck to you, too, Loren O'Brien!

MICHIGAN NOW has a beer bill. At last there is legal sanction to manufacturing, selling, and drinking stuff that has been consumed in the past as it will in the future. Wonderful are the workings of lawmakers!

NEATH THE SHELTERING PALMS!



FROM THE ECCENTRIC COLUMNS — of Long Ago

Hits Of News Blended From Old Files Of The Eccentric— The Items That Make Up The Historical Background Of The Birmingham Of Today.

FIFTY YEARS AGO
 Of all the noblest of careers, the new salary is destined to take the lead this summer. Coming—the. . .

FIVE YEARS AGO
 Miss Mabel Brown, kindergarten teacher at the Adams School, has been appointed to the assistant principalship of the Adams School, according to the report of the Board of Education Monday evening.

TWO WEEKS AGO
 The Eccentric's circulation reaches 1250 this week and spreads in 28 states and 3 territories. . .

PRODDING LANSING
 If ever a slow-moving organization, or balky horse, has undergone severe criticism and had fire lit under it, then most assuredly the Michigan Legislature has been prodded along. Practically every newspaper in the state of Michigan has been clamoring for the speedy movements of the two houses at Lansing. About all the information one can get out of the state halls about the delay on one thing and another is an elaborate explanation of the dilly-dallying that seeks to place the blame on someone else.—E. J. Chelle in St. Ignace Republican-News.

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PEOPLE'S COLUMN

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

PROHIBITION
 To the Editor: I noticed in the last issue of your paper a letter by one Phyllis Huston regarding the future actions of the Allied Youth in Michigan. I would like to express my personal view on this same subject.
 America is wet, almost dripping wet at present, and the Allied Youth or any other group is silly in trying to slow America as Miss Huston remarked "the evils and vices of liquor." The last 10 years have been 10 years of bootlegging, crime, and prohibition is generally accepted as the main cause. Perhaps if Miss Huston would read reports of the Grand Jury (and other bodies) for Prohibition Reform and read reports concerning crime, lawlessness, and death from alcoholism in the prohibition and prohibition era she also might see the subjects in a different light. Leading prohibitionists have admitted failure of the 18th amendment. It is of course, it must be admitted, keeping one's name in print is tantamount to a certain class of people, regardless of whether it is in the paper because of the name or even fair ideas. I wish the Allied Youth or I, any one going to make any difference of course. The point is, I'm the only one of the two who seems to be right.
 DOB BLES,
 Bloomfield Hills.

Jest For the Fun of It

Questionable
 "How old would a person be who was born in 1897?"
 "Man or woman?"
Loss It, Please
 Who started this "Glamor" Some movie-star, damn him! Who played in an amov. Quo talkie. Now, all lips are vivid, Eyes straggled and lascivid, And faces pale, livid And chalkie.
 Each woman goes mystic And tries to make this stick With weirdly artistic. A mood has attacked her And poses attract her.

MEMBER FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK SYSTEM

Do you know . . .
 that we are the **Only Member of the Federal Home Loan Bank in Oakland County?**

There are 66 Building and Loan Associations in the State of Michigan. 20 are members of the Federal Home Loan Bank. **WE ARE ONE OF THE TWENTY.**

The Federal Home Loan Bank is a U. S. GOVERNMENT INSTITUTION, and as a member of this system we offer—

1. A maximum degree of safety to savers and investors.
2. A profitable return on your investment.
3. A DEFINITE plan for accumulating money.

We have money available to loan on improved residential property.

OAKLAND BUILDING & LOAN ASS'N
 143 EAST MAPLE AVE. BIRMINGHAM, MICH.

DOES THE GRAIN OF YOUR HAIR BEAR STRANGE DIRECTIONS?

Do you suffer from "whirls" of hair on your chin or neck? Does the grain of your beard run every which way? If so you have difficulty shaving and our message is very important to you. Thousands and thousands of men share your trouble but have found permanent shaving comfort with the Probak double-edge razor blade.

You may ask us why this blade is particularly suited for men with hard-to-shave beards. There is a sound reason. The Probak has an entirely different type of edge than is found on any other blade. You need only try Probak to learn for yourself. We positively guarantee to give you a degree of shaving comfort previously enjoyed only by men with average beards. Prove this. Buy a package of Probaks tonight.

PROBAK BLADES FOR GILLETTE RAZORS