

# The Birmingham Eccentric

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# Sand!!!

(From the Crystal Falls Diamond Drill)  
 What have to say is written in no more antagonistic the circumstances and events cited are only for the purpose of establishing the facts; the suggestions I make are made without personal interest and are born of experience.

I motored nearly 1,000 miles in Michigan during the past 10 days. The weather conditions were such that, while they came earlier in the year than usual, are much different from conditions that occur frequently every winter since I have driven an automobile. Snow and ice on the highways is the condition I am referring to. Snow isn't bad but ice is a menace to an automobile driver every moment the machine is on the highway. Everyone who ventures on a highway in an automobile when the highway is coated with ice takes one's life in one's hands. At no moment is one safe.

Experience has devised a method of making the highways safe; it is by the use of sand and small gravel scattered over the surface of the ice. When the wind is of high velocity, as it was the past ten days, sand to some extent, but a goodly proportion of small gravel with it. The state highway department has rules and regulations for the use of this accident preventive. Its use is placed under the direction of the maintenance department and the men in that department are paid for applying this material to the road. If they neglect to do the work someone is to blame for it; someone is responsible for the loss of life and property resulting from this neglect.

Neglect was very apparent all over the state the past two weeks. I saw automobiles in the ditch in all kinds of shapes and conditions, and I read in the papers of men, women and children injured in these accidents. The loss in property must have been very great, so must the loss in hospital and doctor bills and possibly in some deaths.

In Washtenaw, Wayne and Oakland counties the ice conditions were awful with practically no effort being made to cure them. In each of these counties—in every part of the state—money is being doled out in well-meant relief; thousands of men are being doled out to go to put any of these idle men at work scattering sand upon the ice covered pavements of this state during the cold spell. The regular crews were not doing the work. I motored from Grand Rapids north amid the snow and ice that was appalling, especially along the northern end of the trip. The pavement from Grand Rapids to Traverse City was covered with a light dry snow under which no ice was hidden. I saw evidence of sand having been used in Wexford and Oscoda counties and some south of Traverse City but from there north there was no sand and much ice on the pavement. In Charlevoix county, from AuSable north, the pavement showed evidence of no attention having been given it. The old snow and ice lay upon the pavement. It was rutted and comparatively deep and no evidences were in sight that any attention was being given to the clearing away of the snow that was falling.

In Eaton county, from Brantis north, the pavement contained glacial ice with no attention being given it; no sand, no sign of any attempt being made to secure sand for the work.

Crossing to the north of the straits I found a splendid piece of sanding from St. Ignace's 10' Pouffette but who can remember the name of the contractor of the highway was a disgrace. I met many hunters of the highway and other places, all of them complaining of the ice conditions. They said that U. S. 27 from Houghton Lake north and U. S. 131 from Fife Lake north were just as treacherous as the others and no work was being done. I have only the word of these men; I didn't see the condition myself.

From Blaney to Isabella the pavement was covered with snow and the going was good but from Isabella to Gladstone the condition was a super-disgrace. Automobiles were crawling along at from 10 to 20 miles per hour. At that rate one ran great risk of accident at any moment. In Gladstone county, from Spaulding to the county line, was not much better. Dickenson county showed evidences of sand having been used but not so in Iron, although in the two last mentioned counties the pavement was in such condition that I have no doubt these conditions to bring to the attention of automobile owners who have their rights are being trifled with and their lives and their property are being put in jeopardy by the neglect of those who are paid to safeguard them. It's not a new condition in Michigan. Even in this same neglect has been in evidence, although in some sections it has been made to comply with the requirements. My reasons for reciting the conditions are in an effort to get others, especially my newspaper associates, to take up the cudgel and go after this menace to life and property that is the subject of eliminating it once and for all from Michigan's highways. The same neglect and pavements come frequently; they will not be taken care of unless the people arise and demand the proper care.

So, Mr. Van Wagoner, the motorists of this state demand sand, sand of the common, ordinary variety on the road and pavement immediately upon the condition arising and sand of the personal variety in your make-up to arise about petty and partisan political demands to see to it that your department in its maintenance end is so managed that the lives and the property of the people of Michigan shall be safeguarded. This is not an unusual or an unreasonable demand.

—Thomas Conlin.

# Why Should Thanks Be Given?

Man and woman, human progenitors of that endless cycle of highest civilized life upon which our race created many institutions, many rituals, many forms of worship. Most of their serious effort has been to erect a form of acknowledgment of their relation to and dependence upon what they are pleased to call God. Somehow, even as they grope through the miasma of mankind, there exist very definite laws that create and give an inner hunger for Truth—and they create many ways of revealing their dependence upon the laws of Nature and of God.

Thanksgiving Day is a human way in which men and women seek to manifest their gratitude to God for all the blessings of field and mountain, river, lake, soil, wind, rain, sun, and the things that surround their bodies. While we in this country have created as Thanksgiving symbols the turkey, and all its trimmings, yet there is a deeper and more important significance to the last Thursday in each November than a mere dinner menu.

It is that, beyond the control or manipulation of mankind, there exist very definite laws that create and sustain life, whether it be animal, mineral, or vegetable. Certain minerals, wherever they may be found on or in the earth, always present the same identical crystal pattern, proving the universality of the law governing inanimate bodies. The seed of a carrot, an onion, a delicate flower, each absorbs through its life processes substance from the soil, the sun, and the air, and each grows into the stature and fullness of its own identical kind. The tiny babe, absorbing the food given it from a common source that is universal throughout the world, grows to the stature of a man or woman in accordance with a universal design.

This continuous and uninterrupted flow that certain very definite and inalienable laws, beyond mankind's control or manipulation, swells humanity's gratitude toward the Giver of all. Thanksgiving Day is merely a time when, in our thinking, we may pause and ponder the glory of the Universe in which we are living.

Not only is Thanksgiving Day really a time when we should heap upon the table the harvest of abundant crops, but it should cause us to make known our gratitude for these harvests by creating, within our own so-called civilization, humanitarian and loving customs that shall become Universal Social Laws.

Then, under such Universal Social Laws, the human race is guaranteed the crystallized pattern whose dimensions are the measure of Happiness, true breath of Brotherhood, and the length of Eternity!

Blessed, indeed, is the true perception of Thanksgiving Day.

# Cigarettes & Coeds

Three weeks ago at Ann Arbor the annual meeting of the University Press Club of Michigan was held. Editors from every section of the State were in attendance, as were some of the students at certain sessions. Spoken of in the subject of cigarettes, John Pope, editor of the Grandville Star, has this to say about some of the co-eds who were present when Donald Richberg, NKA general counsel, spoke. Publish Mr. Pope: "In the second row there three cigarette smoking coeds—who some day expected to be editors of a newspaper. Their display of indifference about what the meeting was all about was so conspicuous that they were in the presence of a federal agent, in the presence of gentlemen—and ladies, their flippant attitude and behavior would at once discourage any publisher from offering them a situation on his editorial staff. Opposite these girls was another type, a young lady of about the same age. Keenly, humbly, and sensibly she stood up and plied a question to Mr. Richberg, which almost stunned him for a correct answer. This is the type of girl any publisher would gladly employ—the other never."

# Centralizing Our Schools

Michigan's superintendent of public instruction, Dr. Paul Oelker, advocates the placing of every school in the State under one central board, presumably that of his own office. His idea is to govern "from the top down." The Doctor means well—but does not know everything that he some day will learn about government. He is a theorist who is just cutting his eye teeth in politics—he admitted this very thing to a few weeks ago in Lansing, when we suggested to him that "the State Administrative Board is having a lot of fun taking you down the line with political maneuvering that seeks to have you believe that promises are actually synonymous with performance.

# How to Raise More Taxes

- State tax, freight tax.
- Tax on beer and ale.
- Face tax, wear tax.
- Tax on every sale.
- Car tax, war tax.
- Tax on gas and oil.
- Tax on the boy out in front.
- Tax on all who toll.
- Sport tax, war tax.
- Tax on quit claim deeds.
- Dog tax, hog tax.
- Tax on widow's weeds.
- Tax on every automobile.
- Tax on transportation.
- Tax on every blooming thing used by this generation.
- It makes there is just one thing to do.
- The total taxes greater.
- And that's to give us folks a break and tax the legislator.
- Herb Davis in the Lake County Star.

# AN EDITOR SPEAKS

There is a belief in many quarters that newspaper men are liars. It is a belief that is entirely without basis; that they would rather print something interesting than something strictly true. Don Marquis, widely known as the "father of the newspaper," has this to say on the subject, and he speaks our sentiments exactly: "The constant aim of the part of editors to protect their own only protection if there is any, is to conceal any sort of error that might reflect on the facts; if they do not, they have been led by some more or less interested party whom they credit. The reader would be surprised to know how many lies are handed out to reporters and editors in the course of a day's work. I have observed that it is the very people who give out tales that do not square with the facts who are always saying: 'You can't believe anything you see in the papers nowadays.' (Coronado (Cal.) Journal)

# A STRANGE SIGHT

The long-expected special session of the legislature to consider the proposed new judicial system convene in Lansing on Wednesday, November 22. We trust there will not be too much lifting of the eyebrows because it is the twin threats to society—liquor and welfare relief—that necessitate the convening of the lawmakers. When we listened last Autumn time to high sounding phrases appraised to the best and purest in human nature to arise from the depths of despair and go forth to a new and more

# Poems That Live

**THE WORLD-SOUL**  
 He serveth the servant,  
 The brave he loves again;  
 He kills the weak and the weak,  
 And straight brings them again;  
 For gods delight in gods,  
 And give out tales that do not square with the facts who are always saying: "You can't believe anything you see in the papers nowadays." (Coronado (Cal.) Journal)

# Sage Sermonette

A wise man once said, "Selfishness is the chief cause of all our troubles. It is the only way in which we can live our own way and be satisfied with it." —Balph Waldo Emerson

# One Minute Pulpit

Praise ye the Lord. Praise Him in His sanctuary. Praise Him in His firmament. His power.—Psalm 150:1.

# THE ACID TEST

Education is dependent upon the very industry which has been taught will underpin both his physical and mental well-being.—Grafton County Herald.



# The Other Chap Says Something

glorious nationalism, we little dreamed that the time would ever come again in this country when John Barleycorn and his boon companions, Human Misery, would occupy the center of a legislative stage. Something seems to have gone wrong with the program that was to rescue the nation from the shambles of Republican misrule. The man who would see to it call in the prophets.—Ionia County News.

# THOUGHTFUL CONDUCT

The true gentleman in like manner carefully avoids whatever may cause a jar or a jolt in the minds of those with whom he is cast. All clashing of opinion, or collision of feeling, all restraint, or suspicion, or gloom, or resentment; his great concern being to make every one at ease and at home. He has his eyes on his company; he tends towards the bashful, gentle towards the distant, and merciful towards the absent; he can respect to whom he is speaking; he guards against unreasoning allusions, or topics which may irritate; he is seldom prominent in conversation, and never wearisome. He makes light of favors while he does them, and seems to be receiving when he is conferring.

# PUBLIC DEFENDER

(Circuit Judge George W. Sample of Ann Arbor in an interview with the Ann Arbor Tribune recommends several drastic changes in present criminal procedure. One of his main suggestions is to have half crime is the election of a "Public Defender." Judge Sample says: "Our country needs a 'Public Defender' would be a capable attorney, elected by the people who would serve in the criminal cases for the defendants. He would take the place of the defense lawyer who is appointed to protect the interests of the state and the people the same as the prosecutor who would serve in the case of the defendant. He would receive his salary from the state if he believed the respondent innocent of the crime charge, if guilty he would receive nothing. To him who secures their charities. Their arms fly open wide, but their hearts are shut." —(Circuit Judge George W. Sample in the Ann Arbor Tribune.)

# THE INCONSISTENCY WILL BE APPARENT

Realizing the dire need of many Michigan schools for immediate financial assistance, and disregarding entirely the moral issue that is involved, there is something that does not ring true to American principals and ideals in supporting the state grade schools through liquor taxes.

# Paraloffs

"Civilization is under construction. It is a process of building. The trouble is that the knocking does not mean riveting.—Norsk Virginia-Pilot.

# THE TROUBLE

The trouble with a lot of zoning concerns is that they are gone before you have a chance to collect from them.—Jackson News.

# 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

Trade is picking up. Don't forget the music. Bert Baldwin was home one day this week of his vacation. He looks sober enough, and has other strong symptoms of matrimony. The reason that James Harbison has a brand new bridge is safely repairing all the bridges within a mile of his place is because his wife's new daughter has safely arrived at his house and the pilgrimage to see the wife one is great.

The Thanksgiving party at National Hall on Thursday evening last, under the auspices of the R. S. club, was the most successful party of the season. 113 couples participating. The music was first class, and the company orderly and happy. The next hop will take place on Friday evening, Dec. 6, at the Elks Club.

Married at Nov. 21, 1933. Rev. William Rimer, William Barleycorn and Miss Frank Nixon of Southfield. The bride, the unexpected visit of a friend to his friends who added a social time at dinner. They enjoyed for Detroit. They have the best wishes of their friends for long life and happiness in Christian love.

That "then" party on Mill Street Saturday night last was a very enjoyable affair, but some music and the unexpected visit of a friend to his friends who added a social time at dinner. They enjoyed for Detroit. They have the best wishes of their friends for long life and happiness in Christian love.

# TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

No man saving "Shut the door" since Mr. Wilkinson has placed at the library. There is a good fire, a rocking chair, and any number of late magazines at the library. It is warm, cozy and comfortable. Robert Hanna's family moved into their new house on Ann Street Friday. The house is a fine example of home built blocks, heated by gas, and the bathroom is finished in the best of materials. The whole makes it a very nice home. The whole house is wired for electricity.

An unexpected pleasure was given at the Presbyterian congregation last Thursday week at their Thanksgiving sermon when Mrs. M. M. the shadow had entirely passed.

# ALL OF US

By Marshall Mainlin  
 MY FRIEND, there was nothing I could do. You were grieving, your heart was wounded, and none of my poor, stumbling words could help you at all. One you loved and gone you were lonelier than you ever had been in all your life. And so, when I met you on the street and shook your hand, there was nothing for me to say. We gripped hands and I said I was "sorry," and you knew I meant it. We gripped hands and I said I was "sorry," and you knew I meant it. We gripped hands and I said I was "sorry," and you knew I meant it.

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