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NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events which are of general interest to the community. All copy must be accompanied by the author's full name and address. If possible, however, to make such successful stories as possible, the author's name and address may be omitted. The editor reserves the right to use any material published in this paper for any purpose. No responsibility is assumed for the return of unsolicited material. The Eccentric is not responsible for the return of unsolicited material.

Schools Open Without Funds
 What about the Birmingham public schools?
 The schools opened Monday, but how long they will stay open is a question for all Birmingham parents, teachers, and to which, in some measure, they hold the answer.

Never has the financial condition of the Birmingham school district represented a less promising prospect than it does now, with the 1933-34 school year just begun. The Board of Education, now literally "broken," first received its first primary fund payment of approximately \$28,000 about Oct. 1. They will not receive sufficient to carry the schools through Nov. 15, but the Board has voted a new issue of scrip which it undoubtedly will use in bills and payrolls in a proportion large enough to spread its primary cash over to the time when tax collections begin in December.

From their financial straits the Board is lined with question marks. The Board of Education's budget calls for a nine-months school term—providing 100 per cent of the taxes are collected, which is admittedly out of the question. A second primary fund payment of around \$10,000 is expected in January, but the burden of keeping the schools open until that time will rest solely on the taxpayers.

The plight of the Birmingham district, of course, is approximately that of nearly every district in Michigan, and it is not impossible that the pressure on the State Legislature will be so great as to force it to devise some means of direct state aid. Just now, however, this does not appear either probable or possible.

The children of Michigan—and those of Birmingham included—seem to be due this year for an educational setback.

Remember Your "Memory Book"
 You hear a lovely song; its melody and its words stir something deep inside you, and for the moment you are extremely content, serenely happy. Gone are the troubles that, a moment ago, were uppermost in your thought; vanished are the petty annoyances of your daily endless routine; for you are momentarily living the song that sweeps into your consciousness. Perhaps, at time goes on, you hear that song again, by the person who sang and played it; or at least it comes back to you from the memory record which you made when you first heard it; and every time it returns you send their memory back to the moment when you are happier for it—and if you are wise, you will recall it often.

It is the same with an incident in your life. One has smiled gratefully for a kind thing you did; another has made you smile because you received kindness from his or her hands; you have made a sacrifice that helped another; you became a victor over a situation that tempted you; you saw a rare sunset, or a landscape; you heard a mother singing to her babe; you marvelled at the beauty that sprang from a thorny rosebush; like the strains of that lovely song, these incidents, you somehow take as a matter of fact may be recalled again and again, for you have momentarily lived them, and from them you may be lifted Heavenward from the toil and strife that are so much with us all.

What a Day!
 This man-made, and too often man-unmade, world, is a queer stage of animated activity. The other day thousands of veterans jammed the streets outside of the American Legion Memorial Hall in Detroit, hundreds to sign up for jobs with the Ford Motor Co. Not many years ago these same men were ordered into railroad cars and ocean ships by the dictates of a world gone mad with lust for blood, and for profits. They were given guns; they were well clothed, and pretty well fed, too. They were made skillful in the art of killing their human life. They are, in peace times, quite skillful in the art of preserving life. But in peace, as in war, they must be led! What a day, and what an hour, for real leaders!

Our Forest Fires
 It is estimated that about 100,000 acres of Michigan wild lands have been burned over by forest fires this summer. Fortunately, not all of it contained large timber. But the constant danger of such conflagrations is a continuing menace to Michigan's magnificent reforestation plans, unless greater care is given to the fire hazard, by tourists who frequent the local popular areas of this great State. Carelessness in the woods, as in the crowded cities, causes most fires. What a tremendous price human beings are required to pay for lazy thinking!

Why a Sheriff?
 Revelations of corruption in Wayne County's sheriff's department offer continued proof that, in most counties, a sheriff is no longer needed in his present capacity. Other law enforcing officers easily can assume his duties. Sheriff's departments are unnecessarily expensive, too easily corrupted in a dangerous degree, and without sufficient responsible supervision of the public. Let's abolish this antique and outworn branch of government.

Members of That Noisy Cult
 Members of that noisy cult up near Algonquin, Michigan, might be "sun-cured" if they were turned loose in one of our native mosquito swamps.

The American Appeal
 Vernon J. Brown, keen newspaperman and State Legislator of Mason, Ingham County, whose articles on State government have been published in this and many other Michigan journals, makes a frank and able analysis of the people in the American States. He has experienced hardships during the past four years. What he says on the subject applies to every other nation, too. Here is Mr. Brown's exposition of our troubles:

"According to James Truslow Adams in Harper's Magazine, independence and vanity are two of the outstanding characteristics of the American people. Mr. Adams writes, 'Some time ago a group of advertising men listed in the order of their appeal the motives which excited the greatest influence on the mass of our people. They all agreed that the trait in American mentality which should be aimed at to get the largest sales results was snobishness. Other highly classed traits were vanity, the wish to have some article be caught others had it, fear of what the neighbors might think, the desire to make a show without real basis, and so on. In fact the character of the American citizen as envisaged by the national advertiser is a sorry specimen of spiritual shoddiness; and the advertisers know their business.'"

There is one of the reasons for the depression; and the latest theory is that instead of one depression we have enjoyed three—an economic depression, a political depression and a character depression.

The three are intertwined and perhaps should be listed in reverse order. Because America left the simple life and she is a heritage of honesty, industry and thrift we have tolerated dishonesty in our officials. We were not terribly shocked over the disclosures of graft and corruption in the Harding administration. No one was hanged for stealing off the government during the war. In fact many of our largest fortunes were made by means of unfair war contracts.

Because we have declared in personal integrity and tolerance with which political corruption was accepted the financial structure of the nation became afflicted with the same disease. Crooked bankers, Wall Street gamblers, conniving politicians—all were accepted in good society. Even after being caught many of them are still respected. Everyone seems bent on individual gain. No one expressed concern over the dishonest means used to obtain those gains.

In our private lives we bought cars we could not afford because a neighbor had such a car. Because some foolish girl pledged her salary two years in advance to purchase a fur coat the girl at the next desk could not risk being outworn in extravagance. That same thorough spread to business and into government circles. Because New York City had a new boulevard Detroit, Chicago, Lansing, Mason and Podunk demanded the same thing, no matter how many bonds had been issued. Because the Second National Bank had a 21-story building the Sixth State bank dipped into the money of its depositors to erect a building 22 stories high.

Snobishness and vanity should have no place in American life. This is a republic. If any nation should be democratic it is America with a heritage of democracy. Andrew Jackson, Abraham Lincoln, Benjamin Franklin and other historic figures should have taught us to prize the homely virtue of thrift, industry and honesty.

If the codes adopted under the NRA do nothing else except lead us back to fair practices in business America will be absolutely honest in business and in our private lives for a period of 12 months a multitude of economic and political ills will vanish.

Grand Juries May Help
 Governor Covert's statement that the Detroit grand jury investigation of bank closings is useless and a waste of public money is correct—after the investigation has gone a certain length. The real value of such hearings, (since it is hardly expected that anyone will go to jail), lies in the airing that is given to the situation. The general public becomes informed, and thus strengthens the foundations of our economic life; persons directly connected with responsibility for wrong-doing or bad mismanagement are held up to the public view and will be prevented from future relations with depositors' funds, and in general errors of the system are exposed, perhaps later to be remedied by legislative action. After grand jury investigations, though they are often preceptive of actual results, when they are held openly, and not in secret, do have a beneficial effect on the relations of people and institutions who, under a political system, are custodians of the public's private and public resources.

All of Us
 —By Marshall Maslin
 IF I RAISE my eyes from the typewriter on which this is written and lift them toward the tall building that is just across the way, I can see a man working, and washed in a narrow ledge over to dip a rag in a bucket. He moves his arms freely across the glass. He straps the water away. He polishes the glass. He works as casually, as indifferently as if he were standing far below on the solid sidewalk. I couldn't do that. I'm sure I couldn't. Although he might tell me, if I asked, that I could do it if I HAD to do it. He might remind me, too, that he wears a safety belt. And now I notice that narrow strip of leather attached to him and to two rings on the sides of the window. He is safe, he says, as long as I see. Yes, I see. Yes, I see that the fear of high places, the danger of working on a narrow ledge, is given to a man by so simple a thing as a strong leather belt. And I see, too, how much of the fear he has, if only he will devise for himself a Safety Belt or remember that just in the nature of things nearly all men have a Safety Belt that will carry him safely in the high places of his life.

If a man feels that he is doing his best, he has a Safety Belt. If he believes that the work he is doing is of some good in the world, if he is sure that his work is a necessary part of other lives, if he can tie himself somehow to the solid structure of life, then he has a Safety Belt. If he can say to himself, "I never happen to me now. I have had the best of life. I have done my part, I am glad that I have been alive," then he has a Safety Belt that will not part and let him fall into cynicism and despair.

I look through my window and see a man working with a Safety Belt around him—and I know that he is like all the rest of us, working on a high place, but he is safely on as long as he remembers that Safety Belt.



The Other Chap Says Something

THIRD PARTY TALK
 There is considerable speculation in the state as to whether or not Michigan is ripe for a third party. Many people seem to feel that the Democratic administration continues to be the failure it is at present. Independent voters—of which there is a considerable number—are not going to be any more enthusiastic about a return to power of the Republican factions than they are of the Democratic factions. These independents, mugwumps, or whatever you wish to call them, feel that both parties have fallen down on the job and that neither is likely to give this state the type of administration needed. They believe that a vigorous third party concerned more with good government and less with political subterfuge might make a strong bid for recognition in the next campaign. Dick Cook in Hastings Banner.

PUBLIC CONFIDENCE
 There is just one thing wrong with conditions in America today. That one thing is the loss of confidence by the people in the administrators of government affairs. You can talk all you want to about this cause and that cause of the depression but there is no other cause than this one: officialdom has for years been conducting the very thing that now exists. So much has happened and so many things been revealed of rottenness in government affairs that it is with the greatest of difficulty to find a citizen these days who holds public administration in the same high regard as prevailed years ago. The word "racket" as used these days is a misnomer for it signifies all that is wicked and sinful in business and politics. Ashamed as we are to admit it, it looks very much as though "racketeers" have gained the upper hand in America today, dictating to us what we shall do and what we shall not do. The work of government is first and foremost to restore public confidence in government.—Elton R. Eaton in Plymouth Mail.

PEOPLE'S COLUMN
 The Eccentric is pleased to receive communications for this column. Only communications must be signed, but signatures will be kept confidential. Letters must be limited to 100 words, and must be received by Tuesday noon for publication the following Thursday.

NRA AND THE SCHOOL BOARD
 To the Editor:
 Interpreting the spirit of NRA naturally involves School Boards as well as all others that allocate jobs. Spreading and sharing the work is the subject of the hour. The School Board wants precedent, the Detroit Postoffice has set about 23 of their married women employees because their husbands were also employed.

AUTUMN
 We are grateful for autumn. We are grateful for the softening haze that relieves the sharp outlines of fields, shores of crows and spreads over elderly bushes heavy with black clusters—far from an interim rest in the crisp evening—for the smell of ripening fruits and the tangy smudge of burning leaves—a wonderful flight of the mallard into a golden evening sun—for the quivering, eager setter, staunch before a covey—for the coloring of the maple, blushing at the careless hands of the cricket and crow—the quail from the wheat stubble—for the thunder of the partridge heralding a courting number—flying geese arrowing southward—for the scariat of the sun and the realization that it is autumn—on a mantle place in winter—for the sight of a caterpillar crossing an intervening stream—on a weed stalk—for the traceries of floating web in the morning light—for the certain realization that approaching Winter's death is not a permanent death in Nature's plan. I could name many, but Old Dame gathers strength to push the crocus through, thawing soil.

We are grateful for Autumn.—Fred D. Keister in Ionia County News.

IT'S ABOUT TIME
 Billy Sunday is quoted as saying he will quit preaching prohibition and return to his first love—preaching the gospel, which is equivalent to saying he will try and get people cleaned up on the inside instead of the outside, which is the very thing the Master emphasized over and over again, and it's what this old world needs more than anything else.—J. E. McMillen in Linden Leader.

RUSHING RUSSIA
 Some of those well versed in international affairs are warning our leaders at Washington to recognize Russia. They contend that it is a matter of time before a reward in the way of increased trade. It is alleged these same diplomats give comment that the R. F. C. loan Russia \$100,000,000, so that they will be able to buy the goods that we can spare. It is known much about this recognition stuff but we do recognize the fact that the home description of trading in this manner. We have heard something about other loans being made under even more favorable conditions with dire results to the part of the one hundred million dollars that give comment that the banks in Michigan and we KNOW that trade would improve in our country. R. G. Jefferies in Lowell Ledger.

SLOT MACHINES
 We were asked the other day what we frequently voiced our objection to slot machines. The argument was advanced that a lot of people like a mild form of gambling and that they were a necessary attraction at summer resorts or have a number of other reasons why we have opposed slot machines and will not bother you with them. I could name many, but there is one great reason for opposing them that most people overlook; and that is that the peo-

SCORES COMMISSION
 To the Editor:
 I wish to congratulate you on your progressive spirit, in that you are not only an editor and publisher, but also a poet. Well, with lots of good subjects, give us some more. I could name many, but I will mention only two at present, that are tried and found faithful. These men are Mr. Maynard Lewman and Mr. Luther Hancock.

JOHN MCCARROLL,
 431 Park street.

FOUR WRINGS ALWAYS MAKE A RIOT.
 A capitalist is a guy who earns his money by the sweat of your brow. We know a fellow who goes to bed early that he never gets to read the next morning's newspaper until the next morning.

ParaLaf's
 A Cure
 Another suspicious thing about Russia is that she isn't trying to borrow money from us and pays cash for everything she buys. Judge.

Slips-Up
 In America, prosperity is again beginning to make its appearance in the head-lines. It is somewhat slow, however, about making its appearance in the bread lines. Dublin Opinion.

Of Course
 It was, of course, before the days, or nights, of the automobile that you man with heads on their shoulders were thought to be able to keep out of trouble. Boston Herald.

FROM THE ECCENTRIC COLUMNS OF Long Ago
 Site of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric—The Historical Background Of The Birmingham Of Today.

FIFTY YEARS AGO
 A new windmill of the latest improved pattern spreads its graceful arms to the gentle zephyrs on the roof of the new building. Carter is the architect and it is pretty near perfection.

Will Wright, an ex-convict, known by the Muskogean baseball club passed through town last week on route for Dayton, Columbus and Cincinnati. O. for the purpose of playing ball with clubs at the aforementioned cities.

On Thursday last, Charles McKay was assisting to put down a drive well on Fred Voorhis' place in Troy, when he got his finger lacerated in the pipe in such a manner that the first thing he knew he was minus one finger. It hurt like lightning, but Charlie will recover.

We never said a word yet about how Caneel Sayer, a short time ago went into the general store of J. R. Corson & Son, picked up a revolver and immediately shot a hole through the door of the store. The thing had been strong enough to have shot further, we could perhaps have had a hole through the boy or two opposite. After laying the weapon down, Caneel gave will to understand that it was a very careless act to leave loaded pistol around.

J. F. Gibson Lakes Mr. F. Haggman's place of the Birmingham of this place.

Reports from various parts of Troy seem to indicate that a certain renowned citizen of our peaceful burg got lost coming home from the defuncted candidate—Harry J. Lee, but at Rochester last week. He aroused the good farmers of the district upon the fact that he was in the dead hour of the night inquiring the way to Birmingham. Like the other virtuous slumbers in the dead hour of the night, he was naught but just had plenty and was confident that his folks could find him who he was when he got home.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
 President Daines received many compliments for his attention to village business this year.

Charles Stinchfield will have his first Bloomfield Hills home lighted by electricity as soon as the St. Clair Edison Company can turn up the lights.

The Eccentric was late one day last week, not on account of Labor Day, but because the United States Express company used up 23 hours carrying the papers 10 miles. And the package bore a "Black" label, too.

Eight Birmingham young men have organized a dancing club and plan a series of parties in the J. & S. hall this winter. Dates will be announced later. The young men offer a pound box of candy to the person tendering the best and most appropriate name for the club, time of the party.

The Birmingham police department is to be the first one to occupy the new Municipal Building. It is announced today by President H. T. Ellerby. Moving of the department from its temporary quarters on Henrietta street will be started Oct. 1. It is planned.

WABECK STATE BANK
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GREEN STATE BANK
 "Your Bank In Birmingham"
 COMPLETE BANKING FACILITIES

Famous Films
 Shoes & Stockings
 Life Lines from "Life"
 All we can say to indicated bankers is: "You made your bid; now go lie out of it."
 When it comes to Communists, Boston Herald.

SCORES COMMISSION
 To the Editor:
 I wish to congratulate you on your progressive spirit, in that you are not only an editor and publisher, but also a poet. Well, with lots of good subjects, give us some more. I could name many, but I will mention only two at present, that are tried and found faithful. These men are Mr. Maynard Lewman and Mr. Luther Hancock.

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