The Birmingham Eccentric

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 2, 1934

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 presented before noon on Wednesdays. The right is reserved, however, to make such superficial changes in the work submitted as are necessary to the style of the paper and as are required by laws of the state. Because of a mechanical 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.

No War For Us In U. S.

WHILE IN THE END all nations will probably be welded into a form of brotherhood, right now it is well for the United States to maintain its position of comparative isolation from Europe. If you are a member of a quiet, peace-loving family, and the neighbors down the street start a family row, you would not think of interfering with them. If other nations want to fight one another, outside of indirect moral suasion, our country cannot stop them. Right now Europe is seething with unrest, and in the dissipation of this energy some trouble is going to occur, perhaps more assassinations like that of Dollfuss.

We engaged in the World War as "a war to end war." Our people gave money and lives to assist in beating Germany. We have not been paid back for the trouble we took, either. Perhaps it is just as well that we never will be paid back—for it will be cheap experience if our leaders realize that our people don't want to step in and help some other nation, or nations, fight out a war that is caused by the political ambitions of chaps like Hitler, Mussolini, Stalin, and those babies in France.

Concerning Your Freedom

HERE IS A THOUGHT that you, as a lover of freedom in a so-called democracy, ought to read and treasure for the great truth that it so fittingly expresses. Especially appropriate is this thought when, as you witness the tendency of NRA to over-ride the Constitutional rights of so much of business and industry, you are reminded that the newspapers of America refused to approve an NRA code that did not include within it a reiteration of the Constitutional guarantee of freedom of press and freedom of speech. Please read, then, the following statement which, while it may seem to relate to a business in which you are not engaged, yet quite vitally concerns your very freedom as citizens; it was written by an Englishman, Richard Brinsley Sheridan, and is as follows:

"Give me but the liberty of the press and I will give to the minister a venal house of peers. I will give him a corrupt and servile house of commons. I will give him the full swing of the patronage of office. I will give him the whole host of ministerial influence. I will give him all the power that place can confer upon him, to purchase up submission and overawe resistance; and yet, armed with the liberty of the press, I will go forth to meet him undismayed. I will attack the mighty fabric of that mightier engine. I will shake down from its height corruption and bury it beneath the ruins of the abuses it was meant to shelter."

That County Reform Plan

Harry Myers, most excellent and able editor of The Lapeer County Press, is vigorously opposed to the proposed State Constitutional Amendment relative to county reform. Mr. Myers holds that the smaller counties cost no more to operate, proportionately speaking, than larger counties. He feels that the Amendment has been hatched up by Detroit to harm the out-State areas.

Personally, we partially agree that Mr. Myers' declaration regarding costs may be fairly correct; but we would remind him that the Amendment, if it never consolidates counties, but is able to eliminate many expensive township and other units of government, will be a good move for the taxpayers. So we suggest that he consider it from this angle: that the Amendment, as we understand it, does not change a darned thing if it is passed; all it does is to make it possible for a county to reform some of the present expensive machinery of government, most of which now lies in the existence of unnecessary units, plus the fact that the modern county is without responsible, centralized management.

There should be a fusion of the functions of a Board of Supervisors with that of the administrative agencies of county government, such as the sheriff, auditors, clerk, treasurer, etc.; there should be a responsible, centralized agency in control of the methods of levying and collecting and spending taxes. The present set-up is inefficient, expensive, and uncontrollable by the voters. It ought to be changed, when, how, and as the people desire. And this change is only possible by adoption of the Amendment in November. Let's forget Detroit and—as Mr. Myers puts it—"dynamic and defaulting Detroit," and consider the Amendment solely upon its need and its merits.

Nudism In France

PARIS THEATER managers are opposed to the movement to eliminate nude girls on their stages and music halls. No effort will be made to "clean up" as is now going on in the United States. "If nudism on our stages must go, then we'll insist that all nudes, in statue and in painting, on streets and in art galleries, must be draped," shout the managers. Can fifty million Frenchmen be wrong, after all?

ONE SLIGHT REASON for the annual postoffice deficit, whether the Postmaster-General be a Republican or a Democrat, is the fact that the holder of that high cabinet office is always "on the go", making political pilgrimages.

National Emotions

TIDES OF A sentimental emotion sweep over nations when war is declared, so that otherwise pacific persons are often loudest in their waving of the flag, and most of the population is chloroformed with patriotism that makes the carrying on of further bloodshed possible. It becomes "unpatriotic" to talk against war—you are placed in prison for the duration of the conflict if you are caught talking openly against the war of the moment. In a milder way, but of the same genesis, it has been unpopular to talk against many of the radical policies of the Roosevelt administration—for the great public, about as unthinking in times of peace as in times of war, just won't listen. That's really what makes self-government so hard: simply because too many of those supposed to participate in "self-government" just won't bother with it all.

Personal Success

Benjamin Franklin, among his many accomplishments, was probably the daddy of what may be called American thrift. He was, above all things else, a most practical man when it came to matters of business. He knew with exact mathematical precision, that two plus two equals four in affairs of one's personal livelihood, and he adjusted his decisions, his procedure, to the exactitude of a table of numbers. For instance, observe how he guided himself in regard to income and expense:

Make a full estimate of all you owe and of all that is owing to you. Reduce the same to note. As fast as you collect, pay over to those you owe; if you can not collect, renew your notes every year and get the best security you can. Go to business diligently and be industrious—lose no time—waste no idle moments—be very prudent and economical in all things—discard all pride but the pride of acting justly and well—be faithful in your duty to God, by regular and hearty prayer morning and night—attend church and meeting regularly every Sunday, and "do unto all men as you would they should do unto you." If you are too needy in your own circumstances to give to the poor, do whatever else you have in your power to do for them cheerfully—but if you can, always help the worthy poor and the unfortunate. Pursue this course of life diligently and sincerely for seven years, and if you are not happy, comfortable and independent in your circumstances, come to me and I will pay all your debts.

A DETROITER WAS FORCED to accompany two armed bandits to Birmingham recently, where he was then relieved of $1,200 in cash that he was about to deposit in a Detroit bank. Which, in a way, is more than ordinary news. Not so long ago, you may recall, you used to lose your money after you had deposited it in some (unknown to you) insolvent bank. (For a kindly and benevolent State and National government allowed you to believe the banks quite solvent.)

SOME DAY, WHEN the Roosevelt administration really comes out in a big brother sort of way for labor unions, we wonder just how it will settle a major strike such as has been raging in California. By that time the Army and the Navy may be unionized to such an extent that it, too, will cause General Johnson and Labor Secretary Madam Perkins some concern.

NOW THAT THE RETIRING president of Lions International, speaking at Grand Rapids recently, declared his organization opposed to race suicide via the birth control rate, we shall expect Birmingham Lions to live up to their leader's policy in this respect. Question to all Lions in good standing: Have you a little lion, or lions, in your home?

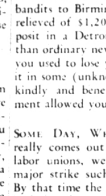
HERE'S A GOOD QUESTION to ask Governor Comstock as he campaigns for re-election this fall: Governor, why did you use your high office to call off the State Grand Jury proceedings at Mason, when it appears as though your own administration was becoming a part of its program of investigation?

NOW THAT THE BARNUM swimming pool is open to the public, the opportunity is open to each of us to make a big splash and a clean get-away.

All of Us

By Marshall Maslin

After many years I decided to go back to smoking a pipe again . . . It seemed a good idea . . . Those fellows in the advertisements who sit in an easy chair and read a book and smoke a pipe always look so placid and so comfortable . . . And the old prospectors who advertise smoking tobacco on the radio have such friendly, easy-going, tolerant voices. . . . Perhaps a pipe and a package of tobacco would make ME placid, comfortable, friendly, easy-going and tolerant of everything. . . . It takes so little, far less than one thinks to change a fellow. . . . So I'd get a pipe.



Marshall Maslin

But I haven't noticed any great difference, and I hardly believe anybody else has, either. . . . We may not become "fixed" at birth, but it does not take very long for us to become whatever we are to be. And I suppose it was asking too much of a pipe to do all that . . . I like the thing, to be sure, and, marring the number of matches it requires and the number of times you have to clean it, I find it a pleasant experience, smoking a pipe again—and I've trained it so it doesn't burn my tongue. And I polish it on the side of my nose as other pipe smokers do.

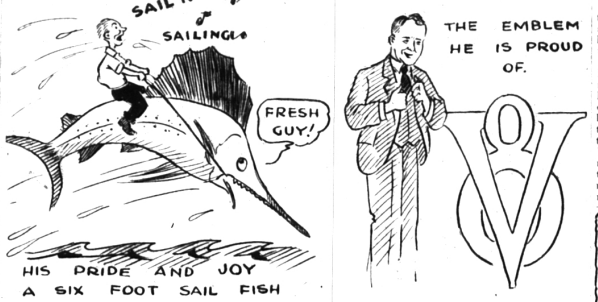
But those other pipe smokers will not let me be. . . . They're always asking me what brand of tobacco I'm smoking. They sniff doubtfully before they ask me, and they sniff disdainfully afterwards, because it's never the kind that THEY smoke. If I smoke Blackstrap they smoke Tannery Special. If it's Tannery Special I'm trying they wouldn't smoke anything but Motorman's Glove. And if mine is Honey Boy theirs is Gang Fight. . . . And theirs is the best-darned tobacco any man ever crammed into his old jimmy-pipe and mine would make an elephant hate me for a million years. Theirs is fit for the angels and mine would drive all the devils out of hell. If I tried theirs just once I'd never use those hoof parings that are in my pipe now. . . . Just try it and see. Just a pipeful. So I do try their stuff, and I'd just as soon smoke gunpowder and asafoetida.

Cigar smokers aren't like that. Nor cigaret smokers. Nor the old-time chewers. . . . But pipe smokers are a different breed. Every one of them's a born missionary, a nicotine propagandist. . . . And despite myself, I think I'm slipping. Come around some day and try a pipeful of my Whittler's Delight and that stuff you smoke will never taste the same again.

Birmingham Business Leaders

No. 29

E.W. (Cy) Osborne



E. W. "Cy" Osborne began selling Fords for a Royal Oak dealer just after the War, found both the job and the product to his liking, and has been selling them ever since. He has been Birmingham's Ford distributor continuously since December, 1921, except for two years when he operated the branch agency in Auburn, Ind.

Cy was born in Detroit and attended the public schools there, graduating from Central High School. Later, he attended Michigan State College for two years, and lived for seven years in Royal Oak, where, before the War, his activities included building houses and selling real estate. During the War he was in training at Camp Upton, on Long Island.

Cy served two years on the City Commission, and was a member of the City Charter Commission. He is a past president of the Birmingham Exchange Club and a member of the American Legion.

Golf is his favorite recreation, and although he's not proud of his game, the service club tournaments usually find his score somewhere among the low eight for the Exchangites. He is proud, however, of a six-foot sail fish he caught in 1929 off the coast of Florida, and has it stuffed and mounted in his sales room.

Cy's nickname is purely a boomerang. As a youngster in Detroit, the story goes, he found boyish delight in sitting on a board fence and calling "Hello, Cy!" to the farmers as they rode by to market. He did this so often that his companions on the fence began applying the name to him, and his friends have known him as "Cy" ever since.

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

Spring poetry is bad, obituary poetry is worse, but the campaign poetry of today is absolutely alarming. When you twist the English language around so as to rhyme with "Hendricks" it's going to strain the mastheen, sure.

When the "Kazoo Band" gets loose nights, it makes a man envy his deaf neighbor.

For sale: The nicest old white oats you ever saw; 100 bushels for sale by G. C. Gibbs, near Big Beaver. Call on him for prices.

Those fried cakes over on the town line are good, especially when they are washed down with bottled cider. Fact—been there—tried it.

A traveling theatrical company has been on the boards at Pontiac for the past week and one night they played "Ten Nights in a Barroom," and it is alleged that one of the principal actors, who was to take the part of the "drunkard," was so anxious to perform his part well that he got "hilarious" in dead earnest, overdone the matter entirely, and now the Pontiacers are laughing about it.

Will YOU look and see if your garden rake has the name of Whitehead and Mitchell handsomely marked on the handle? If so, 'tis ours and we want it—oh so bad.

The Pontiac papers, the Gazette and Bill Poster, are each disputing that the other has a thousand circulation, while the Eccentric pounds along with its 47 quires weekly.

Vague rumors of a desperate fight at Clawson reach our ears. The principals in the affairs are two prominent young men of that place. Each scored a clean knock down and the fight was "bonton."

While the funeral services of Mrs. Hale were in progress near Big Beaver last week, a team belonging to Merritt Chase broke away from the place where they were hitched and after making things extremely lively among the other teams for a few minutes, ran about two miles and were stopped. No particular damage.

The one-third off on dress goods and one half off on buttons are taking the goods off lively at Corson's.

25 YEARS AGO

A lady writes as follows:—"Why not arrest some of the spitters on the sidewalks? Several persons have been arrested and fined for violation of the ordinance against bicycle riding on the sidewalk. Let the good work go on. An old woman escaped injury by a two inch margin the other evening. She was on the walk near the park and the bicycle rider was going at full speed."

The darky who sighed for a "hundred water millions" should have a place on Wall Street; for there they have more than a hundred watered) millions.

Prof. Saltzer's new home in this village is a beauty. Its style is ornate, it is made of cement veneer and its beauty will at once attract your attention. It is certainly an addition to the many beautiful homes in this village.

The new cement seat put out by the Village Improvement society seems to find favor with those who wait.

Greetings from Miss Martie Sly and Mrs. Grace Bruce Dennis all the way from Wilkesbarre, Penna., comes to Ye Editor Mitchell. Thanks girls, we were young once ourselves and came through Wilkes-Barre a flying.

Now here is the very latest thing to steal we ever heard of—a whistle from an engine. Jim McKinley is red hot over the fact that when he came to start his engine, stored at Eugene Smith's warehouse, some dodgasted thief had stolen the whistle slick and clean. Jim only asks a three minute interview with the thief.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Eddy, of East Orange, New Jersey, have had a few days' pleasant visiting with Dr. and Mrs. N. T. Shaw. Mr. Eddy is buyer for the big Marshall Field Chicago store, stationed in New York, but however avows that to live in Birmingham is happiness.

Passers up Woodward avenue have been appalled by the mass of Canada thistles near where the old toll gate stood. The township highway commissioner was appealed to in vain, but an appeal to the owner of nearby property brought the order to cut at his expense.

5 YEARS AGO

Varied and various are the communications that reach the average newspaper office. Recently we opened a letter from a local person who seems to lament a change that has come over Birmingham. It said, in part: "We found it a friendly little town 10 years ago when we first moved here, but now that it has become a rich man's town I'm not so sure about it. Thanks for the sample copies of your newspaper and the next time my husband gets drunk be sure and give us a friendly write-up."

James Anderson, Jr., for the past eight years Birmingham's chief of police, yesterday afternoon tendered his resignation to Village Manager James W. Parry, to become effective on the latter's own option.

A transcript of testimony taken at a coroner's inquest at which Royden MacKillican, 22-year-old Detroit worker, was found to have been justified in the shooting of Walter Balko, Birmingham landscape gardener, is being awaited this week by an attorney representing Balko's three brothers.

By unanimous resolution passed Monday night by the Village Commission, work is proceeding today preparatory to laying an 18-foot strip of pavement on Lincoln avenue from Pierce street to Southfield avenue.

Mrs. Florence A. Mudge, 68, of 888 Ann street, well known villager, believed to have been a victim of the heat wave, was buried Wednesday in Greenwood Cemetery.

Jest For Fun

Big Business

Old Gentleman: Didn't I give you a nickel just now on High street?

Tramp: Yes, sir; I've got a branch office there.

Famous Firms
Tried & True

Directory

Guest (to host in new home)—Hello, old pal, how do you find it here?

Host—Walk right upstairs, and then two doors to the left.

—Cornell Widow

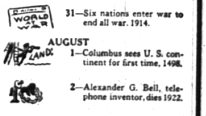
So Would You

Proud Mother—Yes, he's a year old now, and he's been walking since he was eight months old.

Bored Visitor—Really? He must be awfully tired.

—Lafayette Lyre

ALMANAC



"If you would make an enemy, lend money and ask it again."

JULY

30—Pneumatic tires for automobiles first used, 1892.

31—Six nations enter war to end all war, 1914.

AUGUST

1—Columbus sees U. S. continent for first time, 1498.

2—Alexander G. Bell, telephone inventor, dies 1922.

3—Judge Landis fines Standard Oil 29 millions, 1907.

4—Special Delivery service started by P. O. 1889.

5—Cornerstone of Statue of Liberty is laid, 1884.

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.

TEMPERANCE EDUCATION

To The Editor:

I wish to unite with the other citizens of Birmingham who have expressed surprise and regret because of your policy regarding liquor advertising in The Eccentric.

We have heard you speak on the public platform against the use of alcohol and have read your editorials accurately portraying the effects of the use of alcohol on the human organism as well as the social organism and believe that these represent your personal attitude toward alcohol. The findings of science and the conclusions of logic stand squarely back of this attitude today in spite of all the popular liquor hysteria which has manifestly been created for commercial purposes by liquor dealers who will make and are making tremendous profits out of the weakness and misery of their fellowmen. Liquor was presumably returned to MEET A DEMAND but instead we are witnessing an effort by liquor dealers, hitherto unequalled in commercial history, through advertising, to CREATE A DEMAND.

There is a principle set forth in the Holy Scriptures which helps to solve many perplexing problems of human conduct by warning against the folly of "doing evil that good may come." The island of Porto Rico recently legalized a government lottery. The Governor of the Island who signed the bill says he is opposed to all forms of gambling but the people want the lottery and the proceeds are to go to combat tuberculosis. The question is rightly asked, "Is tuberculosis which merely kills the body so disastrous to the race as a habit which destroys moral fibre?" And the reason so many of your friends regret your liquor advertising policy is that it is encouraging the use of a narcotic which generally results in the formation of a habit that is harmful to the body and in addition generally enslaves the will and often prostitutes the soul. And once the habit is formed, temperance instruction is of little or no avail in securing the release of the victim. How can you be sure that the citizens of Birmingham who are encouraged to drink alcohol by the advertisements in The Eccentric will all secure the temperance instruction made possible by your liquor revenue? And if all of them do receive this instruction how can you be sure that, in spite of this best temperance instruction that can be given, of those who form this habit one or more may not be ruined by alcohol?

Of course, there are other newspapers which come into our homes which may or may not carry liquor advertising. But The Eccentric is our Birmingham paper and has or should have its special sphere of influence in Birmingham. For this reason we ask the above questions, assuming that you are willing to shoulder your responsibility for this influence in our homes.

J. CLIFFORD MATHEWS,
Pastor Southfield Reformed Presbyterian Church.

One Minute Pulpit

Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men—Proverbs 4:14.

Bismuth, a metalic element, was possibly known to the ancients, but was first clearly distinguished from tin by Basil Valentine in 1413.

WABEEK STATE BANK

WABEEK BLDG.

BIRMINGHAM, MICH.

DIRECTORS

W. M. CORNELIUS — HENRY T. EWALD
FRANK COUZENS — GEO. B. JUDSON
ARTHUR J. LACY

"Your Bank in Birmingham"

COMPLETE BANKING FACILITIES

MICHIGAN BELL TELEPHONE CO.

LONG DISTANCE RATES ARE SURPRISINGLY LOW

for 80c or less,

between 8:30 p. m. and 4:30 a. m., you can call the following points and talk for three minutes for the rates shown. Rates to other points are proportionately low.

From Birmingham to:	Night Station-to-Station Rate
MENOMINEE	75c
SAULT STE. MARIE	75c
MILWAUKEE	70c
CHARLEVOIX	70c
CHICAGO	70c
CINCINNATI	70c

The rates quoted above are Night Station-to-Station rates, effective from 8:30 p. m. to 4:30 a. m. Night Station-to-Station rates are approximately 40% less than Day Station-to-Station rates, in most cases. On calls costing 50c or more, a Federal tax applies.

For fastest service, give the operator the telephone number of the person you are calling