

The Birmingham Eccentric

(Founded in 1873)
Published every Thursday, Birmingham, Mich., in The
Editorial Building, 235-237 North Woodward Avenue.
Telephone 11, 12, and 13

Subscription Rates
(In Oakland County) (Outside Oakland County)
One Year \$2.00 One Year \$2.50
Six Months \$1.00 Six Months \$1.25
Three Months .50 Three Months .60

THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 1934

NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events
which have news value and which are worthy of serious study
connected with the editorial staff of the paper. All copy must
be submitted before noon on the day preceding the issue in
which it is desired to appear. The Eccentric is not responsible
for the return of unsolicited material. The Eccentric is not
responsible for the return of unsolicited material. The Eccentric
is not responsible for the return of unsolicited material.

On Behalf of Graduates

By this date, most of the commencement orators have
deflated and cleared themselves of the scene, leaving
countless thousands of high school and college graduates
clutching diplomas in a foggy air of hope, despair,
aspiration and bewilderment. Their performance this
year, on the whole, was about the same as usual.

Today's graduates will find, as other graduates have
found before them, that human accomplishment is in
the great rank and file of people isn't a very stupendous
thing. They'll find that, though progress is made, it's
made painfully slowly from day to day.

Peace—At A Price

Anyone who believes that from the beginning of time
the World War was fated to come, is in an illogical
position even to hope for a warless world. But he who
regards all wars as a direct condemnation of policies of
participating nations can build an optimism around a
conviction that men, being, thinking animals, need
not forever blunder into bloodshed but some day will
consciously choose courses of action that prolong peace.

These policies will lead to war. That war will take
30 million lives, cost 400 billion dollars, snare the
morals of civilization, precipitate a world-wide depression.
If these policies are not pursued, 30 million lives will
be saved, civilization will proceed without interruption.
And with the 400 billion will be able to give a \$2,500 home, furnished with \$1,000 worth of
furniture, and five \$100-acre tracts to every family in the
United States, Canada, Australia, Great Britain, Ire-
land, France, Belgium, Germany and Russia; to put a
\$5,000,000 library and a \$10,000,000 university in every
city over 20,000 population in the countries named; and,
furthermore, establish a fund which at five per-
cent interest will for all time pay a \$1,000 annual
pension to 125,000 teachers and 125,000 nurses.

With the question so posed, would there be any
certainty that the nations of 1900 would have been willing
to sacrifice even cherished national aims for the benefits
of peace. But would they? With thousands of
manned men yet living and fleets of merchant vessels
travelling in harbors to remind us of the cost of the last
war, we of 1934 persist in desiring that we are crystallizing
into an ironclad peace treaty, but we are not. Realistic newspaper correspondents each morning scan
dispatches, ready to hasten to the cradle of "the next
war"—a war that admittedly will bankrupt civilization.

It can, of course, be avoided—at a price. The price
is that nations learn how to live and let live, even

though it involves relinquishing of what in an early
day of relations between individuals was called
"rights." Men of goodwill will continue to believe
that some day governments, having weighed the case,
will elect to do this.—From THE ROTARIAN
Magazine.

"Closed" Commission Meetings

The City Commission Monday night approved for-
mally another salary cut for city employees. The wisdom
of the action itself need not be debated. 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.

Meaning, while the private discussions were being
held, individual members of the commission were being
forced 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 de-
bate, and not one of personalities. It was a matter for
discussion in the open and not in secret. A courageous
group of three members who thought the slash
closed behind locked doors, but would have stood
forth in the open and looked for public support to
aid 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 con-
siderations 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 it is 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 impor-
tant 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 Com-
mission 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 "com-
mittee" sessions.

Our City Commission is recruited from the citizens
of Birmingham, and thus is really "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 presen-
tation of their problems to the citizens who provide
the tax funds with which to carry on local govern-
ment. (Reprinted from The Eccentric of March 9, 1933.)

It is no surprise to students of the times to learn
that the quantity of bootleg liquor distilled and sold
in the United States exceeds that which is legally dis-
tilled and sold. The same looseness of citizen-support
to law is in evidence now that was during prohibition.
There always will be, until human nature changes, for
people to whom it will be to gain advantage of the law
if they can obtain some selfish gain.

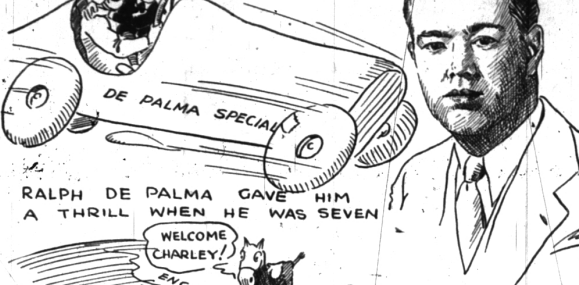
It is no surprise to students of the times to learn
that the quantity of bootleg liquor distilled and sold
in the United States exceeds that which is legally dis-
tilled and sold. The same looseness of citizen-support
to law is in evidence now that was during prohibition.
There always will be, until human nature changes, for
people to whom it will be to gain advantage of the law
if they can obtain some selfish gain.

It is no surprise to students of the times to learn
that the quantity of bootleg liquor distilled and sold
in the United States exceeds that which is legally dis-
tilled and sold. The same looseness of citizen-support
to law is in evidence now that was during prohibition.
There always will be, until human nature changes, for
people to whom it will be to gain advantage of the law
if they can obtain some selfish gain.

It is no surprise to students of the times to learn
that the quantity of bootleg liquor distilled and sold
in the United States exceeds that which is legally dis-
tilled and sold. The same looseness of citizen-support
to law is in evidence now that was during prohibition.
There always will be, until human nature changes, for
people to whom it will be to gain advantage of the law
if they can obtain some selfish gain.

Birmingham Business Leaders

No. 23
STEP ON HER RALPH!



CHARLEY! WELCOME TO ENGLAND
HE MADE A TRIP TO EUROPE JUST TO SEE A HORSE RACE

CHARLEY HAD TO KEEP HIS WAIST LINE DOWN WHILE AT CULVER

Charles L. Winningham, president of Birmingham and Kinston-
smith, the local Hudson Motor and Torrance distributors, develops
an immediate liking for anything that travels fast, be it animate or
inanimate.

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
Miss Lizzie Glennie of An Sable
has been visiting her grandpa, M.
I. James, the past week.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
Wednesday, June 30, for some
people, invitations are out for the
annual St. James' fair. Numerous
public benefactors. He building
two handsome houses in that
snagly big hole on South-
side avenue. One house is well
under way. T. H. Bookham being
the boss carpenter. The other will
soon be started. No one but L.
could conceive of such a good way
to fill an unsightly hole in the
ground.

THE OTHER CHAP SAYS SOMETHING
The Dickinson Family
Society can not afford to ignore
the mating of halwits, imbeciles
and morons. Take the Dickinson
case for example. This Mason
family will cost the city ten thousand
dollars before the last one
leaves the city. The mother at
least is a half-witted mother,
committed to Lapeer but because
of crowded conditions she is
now in the county jail. Happily
for society the mother and all
the children with the exception
of the son now in jail have
been sterilized. If the exception
does not receive the same treat-
ment society will probably pay a
costly price.

OUR YOUNG PEOPLE ARE ALL RIGHT!
We never saw a speaker get
more attention than was accorded
Lewis Jarrendt of Pontiac in his
talk on the flag before Holy High
School Monday. It was so hot,
almost anybody would be excused
for inattention, but our
congregations hung every word
that the speaker said. Don't tell
us that there's anything the matter
with our young people.—Joe
Hogg in Holy Herald.

Jest For the Fun of It

"Do you think I might sing in public now?"
Not So Good
Self-lavishing
Young Man (meeting his fiancee)
"Would you like to have dinner with me tonight?"
She (concluding the tussled, haughtily)
I suppose you would like your ring back.

"Yes," answered the singing master, "I don't see why you shouldn't join in singing the national anthem."
The Painters Are With Us
Cans in the kitchen, planks in the parlor.
They talk and they chew and they spit and they swear.
As they spatter their trademark hither and there.

"Double ignorance is where a man is ignorant of his ignorance."
JUNE
Napoleon takes a real licking at Waterloo, 1815.
19-Carpenter plague hits Burke, N. Y., 1921.
20-Remarkable meteor seen over New England, 1860.
21-Wm. Penn. founder of Pennsylvania, reaches U. S., 1682.
22-H. Rider Haggard, noted novel author, born 1855.
23-Hading is abolished at Annapolis academy, 1872.
24-John Cabot discovers N. American continent, 1497.

WABECK STATE BANK
WABECK 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.

THERE ARE PLENTY OF "BIG ONES" IN MICHIGAN WATERS
But fishing is only one of the varied attractions Michigan offers vacationists. The Great Lakes themselves, and 5000 inland lakes and streams, present opportunity for almost every known water sport. And for those whose chief interest is golf, tennis, riding or other land sports, Michigan is an unexcelled playground.

Michigan's tourist and resort business brings large sums of money to the state each year. It provides employment for thousands, and greater prosperity for all of us. We can increase that business further by telling out-of-state friends about Michigan's vacation advantages and by spending our own vacations here.
And, no matter which part of Michigan you visit this summer, banish worry by telephoning home and office frequently. Call ahead for reservations, or to tell friends you are coming. Long Distance calls will add but little to the cost and much to the enjoyment of your vacation.