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THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 1934
NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish articles of events which have news value and which are written by persons not connected with the editorial staff. The right is reserved, however, to make such editorial changes in the work submitted as are necessary to the style of the paper.

This week's "guest editor," in Mr. Averill's absence, is Joseph A. Sturgeon, editor and publisher of The Delta Reporter, of Gladstone, formerly field manager of the Michigan Press Association. Mr. Sturgeon is recognized as one of the most ardent crusading newspapermen in the state. The editorial next week will be written by Harry M. Royal, editor and publisher of the Ottawa County Herald.

GREETINGS! As I write these lines, sitting in my office just some 420 miles north of where I expect to reach you when the rain is splattering against the window panes. Yes, it is raining here, too, perhaps even colder than the weather you are experiencing, but we expect that the weather in your section is not so bad. The thermometer is running to extremes and the last few days have been reasonably warm. Hot and cold. Let it be a much like that.

THE INVITATION to write this department was accepted by Mr. Sturgeon. I please me to have the opportunity to "chat" with the readers of The Eccentric. You see I make no pretense of writing editorials. Instead it is my usual practice in each issue of The Eccentric to discuss various topics of current interest, leaving the opinions (if any) to the discriminating judgment of those who read. With Elbert Hubbard, I believe "if I supply a thought, you may remember it or you may not. But if I can make you think a thought for yourself, I have indeed added to your stature."

By way of establishing my earlier acquaintance with you beautiful little city, I may say that I spent several years as a resident of Detroit, during which time I witnessed, first hand, the first growing pains of our community and have watched it, through frequent visits, undergo a sensational development as a thriving community. Then came the depression. But we didn't talk about that.

It was during those days, back in 1920, that I first met your progressive publisher, George R. Averill, embarking on his first attempt in the newspaper field. I kept pace with that of the community. I was more truthful to say that the newspaper set the pace.

THE ECCENTRIC consisted of four pages of home print. The paper was not ready for publication until after four pages of ready-printed news. Averill hit his stride. The paper was ready for publication month to month—and early in the 20's took its rank among the largest and better weeklies of the state.

YOU CITIZENS of Birmingham may be interested in Michigan on the shores of Little Bay de Noe. The city was opened up in 1887 by the flour mill leaders of Minneapolis, who built a railroad to this port between East and West. In those days the city was boomed as a resort center. The location is well adapted to the business of the resort.

fed to serve than the pastors of our Christian churches.
Annabelle Wallace McLeay, writing for the League of Women Voters, laid in the Eccentric:
"The League believes that American public life suffers from the indifference of public opinion to government."

That is only too true. It took a serious setback in our economic life to make the people realize that they, "the people," were the Government. Some day I hope to see public opinion sufficiently aroused to compel the Congress to enact a law making the conscription of wealth as essential as the conscription of man-power. It is ridiculous to believe that the same Government that has the power to throw the flower of its nation's life into an armed soldier can not avail itself of its economic power without paying tribute in the form of excessive profits.

That is the way our system has worked. And now we are witnessing the effort to establish a New Deal. President Roosevelt has appealed to the popular faith, and his efforts are receiving the benefit of public support. Despite this the speculators and the gamblers, all those who thrive on man's misery, are making the going tough and history must be left to record the success or failure of the attempt to make life in these United States worth something to the lowly as well as the fortunate.

THAT ARGUMENT down in Lansing over the so-called small loan interest rates illustrates the injustice of our system. More of the poor citizen must be on politics instead of justice. The poor citizen must pay something like 42 per cent interest for the money he borrows from these loan sharks. The law says banks may not charge more than 7 per cent, and those of means were known to get it for considerable bank investigations. But a citizen of less means must pay 42 per cent.

THE GOVERNOR vetoed one law, passed by the last year session, which would have lowered the rate of interest on small loans from 42 per cent to 18 per cent. The Governor vetoed it because it would have ruined the small loan companies. Now he is opposing legislation to lower the rate of interest on small loans. All consideration, you see, is given to the profits of those in the business. For the citizen caught in the grip of sickness or unemployment, sympathy.

MR. DEFOE, Charles's well-known editor writing some weeks ago, said he was "one of our Michigan newspaper men who ever says a good word for Senator Couzens, whose courage is refreshing if occasionally wrong." I claim to be a friend of Defoe, because I see in Couzens the type of leader the nation needs, and I make no apology for the occasional mistakes. If there were no Couzens, we would ruin the small loan companies. Now he is opposing legislation to lower the rate of interest on small loans. All consideration, you see, is given to the profits of those in the business. For the citizen caught in the grip of sickness or unemployment, sympathy.

THE CWA was excusable only as an emergency move. Intended for the less fortunate out of employment, the flood of money turned loose immediately became a means of keeping his job and political spoils in the hands of the few. He has not in terms of humanity instead of dollars. He has not in terms of humanity instead of dollars. He has not in terms of humanity instead of dollars. He has not in terms of humanity instead of dollars.

But now the trend is to the other way. Some of the cities of Gladstone will be turned back into farm lands, to be sold by the Government. Some of the cities of Gladstone will be turned back into farm lands, to be sold by the Government. Some of the cities of Gladstone will be turned back into farm lands, to be sold by the Government.

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THE CITY OF Gladstone has registered an increase in the taking of each census (6,170 in 1930) and is one of the cities of its class that did not suffer a loss of population due to the trend cityward already alluded to.

LITTLE MENTION has been made of politics and parties. Both are in need of change and reform. The writer is a political independent. I have attended a few political conventions (Republican and Democrat) and am disgusted with the antics of the great and near-great. The Republican Party needed chastisement, national attention, and a new direction. It is in need of a new direction. It is in need of a new direction.

THE DEMOCRATIC national administration has broken away from the party government that has been developed here in Michigan. The Democrats were apparently ill-prepared to assume the leadership of the nation. The Democrats were apparently ill-prepared to assume the leadership of the nation. The Democrats were apparently ill-prepared to assume the leadership of the nation.

"FINE FEATHERS DON'T MAKE FINE BIRDS"
HELL NEVER GET ANYWHERE WITH PA FEATHERS LIKE THOSE!
CODE INEQUALITIES TO SMALL BUSINESS
The Other Chap Says Something—
ENDURING MEN
I ran across a paragraph in a house organ the other day that bears upon the idea of these depressions being necessary to develop a sturdy racial character. It reads:
Back in nineteen-twenty nine we were at the peak, a noted American made the prediction that we would have one hundred years of uninterrupted prosperity.
Bruce Barton asked C. Barton, what he thought of the statement, and received this answer:
"There will not be a century of uninterrupted good times because the universe is not arranged on that basis. What is taking place on this earth is a great experiment in the development of human character. The Creator is not interested in money or markets, but in more enduring men.
"Such men are not developed when everything is easy. They seldom come out of the countries where the sun shines every day. Trials develop them. As long as the present Divine plans continue to operate, we may continue to have enough set-backs to keep the race from going altogether soft.
The depression, after all, was probably good for us. It taught our leaders a lot, and it drew from the gold. It made us more human and broadened our vision and emphasized the philosophy of service. It sharpened the minds of our executives. It made us face and solve tremendous problems in our individual businesses. It built big, more enduring men. Men who fit to face the problems of a new day.—Tom Conlin in Cry.

ALMANAC
MARCH
5—Merry Widow Hats make their first appearance, 1927.
6—Ring Lardner, humorist and writer, born, 1897.
7—First telephone patent is issued to Bell, 1876.
8—First bridge over Niagara River is opened, 1855.
9—Rained battle of Monitor vs. Merrimack, 1862.
10—Germany declares war on Portugal at last, 1916.
11—Starr of Great three-day blizzard New York, 1888.

Our Scrap Book
THE MILLENNIUM BEGINS
The millennium begins this afternoon.
Gangsters will disappear and criminals, finding no more profit in the primitive path, will turn sharply to the right on the straight and narrow one. Bootleggers will be remembered only as cigar-store Indians are.
Taxpayers will be relieved of the burden of their taxes and taxes paid on liquor, gambling and for an erigled nation.
The unemployed will all go to work making beer, wines, whiskey for an erigled nation.
Boys and girls will stop drinking. The home will be protected. Mothers' tears will be dried away. And, finally—temperance will be restored to a too long interrupted land.
These promises have been made. The date of their fulfillment is at hand.
Prohibition is over and truth, goodness and beauty begin.
The Millennium begins this afternoon. The Millennium begins this afternoon. The Millennium begins this afternoon.

ALL OF US
By Marshall Maslin
YOU HEAR people say, "I can't do that. It would be beneath my dignity."
But what do they mean when they use that phrase? What is a man's dignity? And what are the benefits of it? Is dignity a manner? Is it a position in life? Is it where you stand or what you do?
For me, I think of dignity as an inward state. No tilt of the chin. No arrogant squaring of the shoulders. No coldness of the eye. No extension of the external power or position or money. . . . I think of it as character, as nobility of spirit, as strength of mind, as something that is a part of the soul. It is something you put on as you do a coat of armor. That you wear when you are in the crowd and take off when you are by yourself. . . .
It may be serious, but it is not solemn. It may be laugh and shout and rollick without abating its essential self. It may play the joyous fool and still be dignified. . . . You may find dignity in a tiny baby, in a tumbling puppy in a spirited horse, in a man who may reach his enormous trunk to you and receive a peanut and taken from him. A man may be caged and yet his dignity is not lessened. That you wear when you are in the crowd and take off when you are by yourself. . . .
When we say, "I can't do that because it would be beneath my dignity," nine times in 10 we are not thinking of the deed itself, but of what people of other men's opinions.
We lose our dignity when we speak of it. It is a word that had better not be spoken. It is a thought that should not come into our minds. . . . Dignity serves no one. It lives and that's enough.

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
Gen. Spring,
Keep your eye peeled for the blue.
Winter put in some pretty good ticks towards the last.
Tracy Randall and Halleck Gibbs are selling a car and very desirable pillow sham holder and are canvassing in this vicinity. They are gentlemanly young men and deserve to be well treated whether you wish to purchase or not, but if you try to be bold, you will surely like it.
The pupils of Miss Lockwood's singing class attended her concert at Pontiac last week and participated to a certain extent. John Wilde is rapidly coming to the front as a fine tenor singer, and Sam Slade was successful in sustaining his already established reputation as a basso.

FIVE YEARS AGO
A galloping company of about 1000 corvets happened on Mr. and Mrs. N. T. McHenry on Tuesday night of last week and surprised both parties very much. The man's hand, Sherman's new canvas on the floor, everybody happy and glad, good time.
Last week we carelessly omitted to mention the fact that two brand new houses will be placed in the homes of John Davenport of Bloomfield and Will Parks of Troy. Beautiful invites are out in pure Irish green.
Ice and sleek Tuesday morning and typical Michigan weather. Miss Edna McRobert entertained Thursday night last.
Don't forget that the Franklin orchestra will give a concert at the Patrik's hall at the Franklin public hall Wednesday evening, March 17. Beautiful invites are out in pure Irish green.

THAT'S THE WAY OF FREE ADVICE
I've been offered a job twice. But since I do not admire Rural Life, I must acquire acreage in Central Park, or be satisfied to mark Time, until the currency gains some real authority. —Margaret Fishback in "Life"
Famous Firms
Slight Error
"Had a main had time at the Drake's dinner, I told Mrs. Drake how well she looked in a bustle."
"Wasn't wearing a bustle." —Harvard Lampoon
Ruth: "How do you know he was drunk?"
Doris: "Well, he shook the clothes-tree and then started to feel around the floor for some apples." —Brown Jug
No Sleep on Eve
The while I envy Mother Eve Her gals dress and finished tact, I wear my hair upon my sleeve. Although I know it for a fact That simple-minded girls who do Are apt to live the life of Croesus. —Margaret Fishback in "Life"
Elastin The Lily Maid
My hips are thin and my cheeks are pale, And I'd like to see Mae West in jail. —M. F. in "Life"
Har Duty
Rastus, a dandy, was sent home from school the first day just following note from the teacher:
Dear Mrs. Jones:
Please give your Rastus a bath. He smells something awful. —Teacher
Dennis Teaching Authority
My Rastus ain't no rose. Don't smell him. Larn him. —Northwestern Purple Parrot

Jest for the Fun of It
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One Minute Pulpit
"Thy faithfulness is unto all generations; thou hast established the earth, and it abideth."—Psalm 112:20.

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