The Birmingham Eccentric

(Founded in 1878)

Published every Thursday, at Birmingham, Mich., in The Eccentric Building, 328-332 North Woodward Avenue

Telephones 11, 12, and 13

GEORGE R. AVERILL — Editor and Publisher
ALLEN TENNY — Managing Editor
PAUL NEAL AVERILL — Sales and Advertising Manager
ARTHUR N. WINGERDEN — Asst. Advertising Manager
CLAUDE E. WALKER — Production Manager
CLARENCE S. WARNER — Sales Representative

Entered as Second Class Matter in the U. S. Postoffice at Birmingham, Michigan

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

(In Oakland County)		(Outside Oakland County)	
One Year	$2.00	One Year	$2.50
Six Months	1.00	Six Months	1.50
Three Months	.50	Three Months	1.00

All newspaper and advertising copy must be in the Eccentric office by Wednesday noon to obtain insertion for that week.

The Eccentric is a member of: National Editorial Association, Michigan Press Association, University Press Club, and Oakland County Weekly Press Association

THURSDAY, MAY 10, 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.

Vandenberg Fights War Profit

One of the greatest enemies of permanent peace is the profit motive that enters into the making of war. Certain persons and organizations, standing to make huge profits whenever their country engages in warfare with some other nation, are everlastingly at work—insidious, underground method—to bring about strained relations internationally. They and their kind have been on earth for centuries, the profiteering type that sees human slaughter as a means of fattening their own pocketbooks.

For a long time the conscription of men and boys has been the custom in war; when your country became entangled with another, manhood, if healthy and able, simply has been told that "you must go to war." There was no alternative, save a prison camp. For if you refused to become a soldier, then you were construed to be an enemy of your own land.

Now comes along national legislation in the United States which would say to wealth, to capital, to the controllers of industry and natural resources: "If our country—your country—goes to war, we, the government, long having conscripted human beings, will now conscript your wealth, your capital; no longer shall you be able to make huge profits from international slaughter. We shall take the profit out of war for those who possess the wealth, materials, natural resources that are necessary to the carrying on of a war."

Leading those in our Congress at Washington in the passage of this non-profit legislation is Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg, Michigan's Junior member of the Upper House. Every mother and her husband and their sons (and daughters, too), will thank Mr. Vandenberg for his leadership in this great movement to remove the greatest enemy to permanent peace.

Senator Vandenberg thus proves himself more than a member of the U. S. Senate; his labors reveal him as a STATESMAN!

"All Is Not Gold" . . . or Silver

Father Coughlin dealt himself a poor hand in the New Deal when, after spending months to plead for the use of silver in our currency system, he is found connected with the speculators who are trying to "cash in" on the proposition. The Royal Oak radio priest will learn that all successful crusaders and reformers are above the acquiring of monetary profits that might result from attaining the object of their crusade or reform. He has also found that the shrewd Washington politicians who "used" him in the bank crisis, willingly and albeit cruelly let him drop whenever it serves their purpose. Truly, Father Coughlin's predicament proves that "man cannot worship both God and mammon."

Should Teachers Be Politicians?

Dr. Paul F. Voelker, Michigan's superintendent of public instruction, last week implored the State's thousands of school teachers to organize at election time and, by getting behind certain candidates, assure the allocation of suitable funds to keep the schools open. In considerable part, Dr. Voelker's plea is within reason; but his own public utterance on the matter will hardly help the cause as much as a quieter crusade to accomplish the same end. The taxpayers, over-burdened as they now are, will not smilingly approve the teachers banding together merely to sway the legislative machinery of the State.

There ought to be and probably are more subtle methods of persuasion which teachers can use to enlist popular support of the schools; for to organize the whole of the teaching profession into lucre grabbers on a scale suggested by Dr. Voelker will lower the esteem in which teaching should be held. The public schools still endear themselves in the public mind because of the traditional unselfishness that has so long characterized the teaching profession; to do what Dr. Voelker openly demands will stamp the teachers as predatory, and the public reaction to this knowledge may result in less loyalty to the whole school system.

It may be noted, alas, that Dr. Voelker's present attitude seems to have been nurtured by his association with the practical politicians of his Democratic Party in Lansing. We hope the Doctor pauses in his mad rush for mere money, and in the longer view of the public school as a fundamental American institution, changes his mind on the suggestion he has made that teachers organize to sway votes for legislative appropriations.

Those Nudists Again!

Fred Ring, the Allegan nudist leader, plans to re-open his camp this summer; he says that he will enclose the place with a wire fence, so prowling strangers will know that "private property" exists—and in and on this private property, it is supposed, the boys and girls who believe in wearing only nature's clothing, will absorb the sun's rays. Ring, you may recall, was sentenced to 60 days and fined $300 or last fall on the charge of indecent exposure; he is now waiting to appeal the case to the State Supreme Court. (Economic note: in these hard times it is difficult for many people to obtain clothing; therefore when the nudists voluntarily refuse to wear clothing that is news. Still, and however, doesn't this fit into the government's endeavor to have nature provide us with less and less?)

Pillaging Government

Lobbying by individuals or small groups of people has been done by man ever since he organized government, and gave that government the power to levy, collect, and spend taxes. But lobbying by large organizations and sections of this country did not become widespread until the income tax levy was instituted by Congress, with the alleged purpose of reducing the immense war obligations. This new source of revenue, creating the largest single federal fund yet devised in our nation, soon attracted special predatory interests; and, as you may expect, there arose within Congress certain types of politicians who, playing to some section or group for their own political salvation, soon set up the custom of diverting huge sums for some cause or group.

Among the larger groups to make their imprints on this income tax source, (since not all of it was being used for war debt retirement) were the various agricultural groups; from being furnished free seeds to the idea of buying up their surplus crops, this new form of pillaging the federal treasury grew and grew, and grew. Other groups, including many industries, soon learned "the ropes," and on one plea or another were able to obtain staggering subsidies from an overflowing coffer supported by income taxes.

All of this resulted in the ability of some States to receive much more than they paid in total federal taxes. For instance, Idaho, at one time paying less than a half million to the federal treasury, actually received back in various forms of aid more than ten times that sum; Michigan, at one time paying over 45 millions into Washington, received back less than ten millions of dollars. It was a nice "system" for certain organized minorities to obtain through Congress enormous sums, and it was accordingly a nice "system" for certain politicians to get into office on. If you lived in an agricultural section, you would put up a campaign howl for more help for the farmers, and they would elect you; then, along with other "farmer" Congressmen, the newly elected chap would band together and make a raid on the treasury for the farmer. Other types of Congressmen would band together for their own special supporters back home, until today every section of the country is organized against every other section—each trying to get its hands on the federal appropriations.

Such procedure, of course, is just like the days in most of the country's heavily populated areas when, almost over night, real estate speculators tried to turn every cow pasture and every woodlot into a subdivision. To make the real estate sell better, they would petition for all manner of public improvements, sewers, pavement, lights, etc., etc., with the result that a huge indebtedness was created—and now in many localities we have more delinquent taxes than collected taxes. People signed every sort of petition for these improvements, not knowing, and some of them hardly caring if they did know, that eventually they, themselves would have to pay.

In this manner, modern governmental administration has become too often a mere device for organized minorities to pirate profits from the pocketbooks of the disorganized individual taxpayer. It has drifted us rapidly into a nation of irresponsible spendthrifts; unless the moral tone of the citizenry and their elected officials increases, our nation and most of its States and counties will enter immediate bankruptcy.

That $38,000,000 State bond issue, defeated last Monday, was a sample of this drift toward political piracy. How long can we endure, if we continue the administration of government by predatory organized minorities?

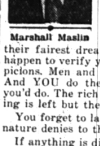
Eaton County's Problem

Eaton County, over near Lansing, is offering two of its well known citizens as candidates for high State offices. Frank D. Fitzgerald, genial Secretary of State, is seeking the Republican nomination for Governor; Luren D. Dickinson, famous dry and several times Lieut.-Governor, again asks the people to elect him to that office. Of course, two candidates from the same county for these two offices can hardly expect to win—the remainder of Michigan would not look with approval at such a slate on election day. It seems, then, that Eaton County Republicans have a task on their hands to eliminate Mr. Dickinson, since Mr. Fitzgerald was in the race long before the very excellent gentleman who lives on a farm near Charlotte.

All of Us

By Marshall Maslin

DO YOU believe that the longer a man lives the less chance he has for happiness—the more he will learn of the meanness, the nastiness, the general worthlessness of the human race?



Marshall Maslin

Do you want to argue the subject?

If it's all the same to you I'd rather not.

Because I know you would be able to pile up such a mass of examples, so many stories of viciousness and ingratitude, betrayed friendship and beastly selfishness that I'd be licked before I started. And soon I'd be infected by your pessimism, and I'd start to match dirt with dirt, sad tale with sadder tale and end by having a lower opinion of life than you.

Sometimes it does seem that life is a trap in which men lose their fairest dreams, their better selves. Things do happen to verify your saddest thoughts, meanest suspicions. Men and women confirm your unhappiness. And YOU do the very things you never dreamed you'd do. The rich soil of you washes away and nothing is left but the infertile rock.

You forget to laugh! You lose the one talent which nature denies to the animals and gives to man.

If anything is divine in man it must be that gift of laughter. It came late in our growth, but since it is ours alone it was surely meant to be used. It was intended as our last cartridge against fate—to be used against our own pessimism or against the villainy of others who have forgotten, as we have, to laugh.

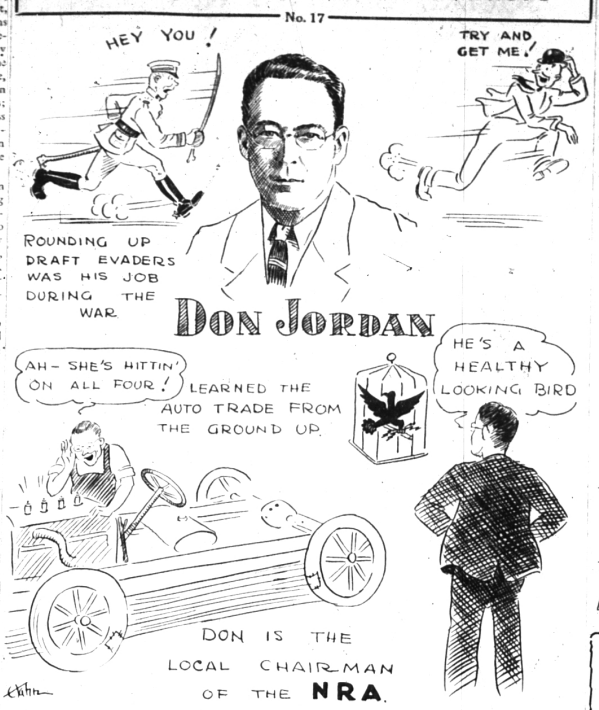
I believe man has a Laughing Spirit within—and that the gay Spirit of Laughter is his guardian angel. That angel has laugh wrinkles about his eyes, his mouth turns up in merry fashion, his nose is a perky pug, he is freckled and he can wiggle his ears.

But his great wings spread wide over the earth and his laughing eyes miss none of the odd foolishness of men. He sees them scrambling for fortune and favor, he sees them forgetting the best and sweetest part of themselves—and then he laughs!

And that laugh, beginning in gentle thunders, becomes a mighty clap of mirth and echoes to every corner of the world and starts all men to laughing again as they did in the childhood of the world. And when they laugh their guardian spirit is happy again, for he knows his children are as they were always meant to be—at ease on the earth and glad to be alive.

Birmingham Business Leaders

No. 17



Don Jordan, Birmingham's Chevrolet dealer, entered the retail sales branch of the automotive business permanently only after spending 15 years in other capacities in the industry, from factory worker to plant executive.

His first automobile job after leaving high school in Detroit, where he was born, was in the technical service department of the Packard Motor Company. That was in 1911. He stayed there two years, then knocked off a year to attend the University of Michigan.

Back in Detroit again, he got his first taste of retail selling while with the Chalmers Company for three years. From Chalmers he went to Ford, where he learned enough about the factory and machine shop to be able to open an assembly plant for the company in Portland, Ore., in 1919.

Shortly afterwards, he was appointed assistant general sales manager in charge of all Ford tractor and truck sales—a job which naturally took him thousands of miles from branch manager to branch manager in every part of the company.

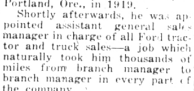
He left this in 1926 to enter his first retail sales room venture, known as the Tucker-Jordan Company, which was located at Mack and Lakewood avenues in Detroit. Four years ago he came to Birmingham and has been dispensing Chevrolets here ever since.

If Don weren't known widely as a business man—which he is—he would certainly be known as a promoter of community enterprises. He was executive chairman of the celebration welcoming the inauguration of Grand Trunk commuter service here 2½ years ago, has headed Y. M. C. A. and tax collection campaigns, and since last fall has been general chairman of Birmingham's NRA committee. This last was not dissimilar to the job he had during the war when, as a first lieutenant attached to the adjutant general's office in Detroit, one of his principal tasks was to round up draft-evaders.

Don is also president of the Oakland County Automotive Trade Association which is charged with enforcing NRA automobile code regulations throughout the county

Jest For Fun

One Good Asset



"But how could you marry a man you knew to be a burglar?" asked the judge.

"Oh, I thought he'd be so quiet about the house," explained the witness.

—o—

Bargain Hunter

Although she may already own
A dozen adequate chenille
Bath mats, no dog sighting a bone
Could possibly contrive to feel
The swift elation that is hers
On finding still another mat
Reduced. Her easy-going purse
Capitulates at once. And that
Is only weakness Number One.
Bargains in pots and pans and frocks
And hats, she harvests by the ton
Along with half-priced shirts and socks,
Which she imposes on her spouse.
It makes no difference whether they
Are needed in her bulging house,
She always buys them anyway
And grieves her husband through and through,
Though local merchants love the zest
With which she turns her home into
An overcrowded magpie's nest.
—Margaret Fishback in "Life"

—o—

Famous Firms
Tall & Thin

—o—

Not Necessary

Slothful Soph: Doctor, I would like to have you come over to the fraternity house for dinner.

Doctor Donner Wetter: Thank you, sir, but your classroom work is satisfactory already.

—Williams Purple Cow

—o—

Close, Anyway

Diner: This isn't chicken broth, is it?

Waiter: It's chicken broth in its infancy, sir. Made from the water the eggs are boiled in.—Arizona Kitty-Kat.

The Other Chap Says Something—

NEW BLOOD

Young republican voters all over Michigan are getting under way in an attempt to assist in building up more pressure in the boiler of the party engine. Young Republican Clubs are being organized daily at enthusiastic gatherings. Three have put in their appearance in Ionia county.

The republican party leaders quite rightly are welcoming this movement. New blood is needed to revitalize republicanism. The party's councils need to be liberalized somewhat.

We do not wish to be considered as advocating a "clean sweep" with the result that all new faces will be seen in the circle around the sachems' council table. For in spite of the wave of New Dealism that has swept the country we are not yet convinced that the past contains no merit.

Let the republican party of Michigan and elsewhere rebuild its structure using the cornerstone and keystone of experience that can well be supplied by the younger generation of voters.

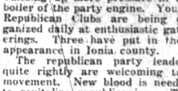
Farty leaders will secretly admit that they missed a bet by allowing a generation of young men and women grow up without having made a gesture in their direction.—Fred D. Keister in Ionia County News.

HELPING DEPOSITORS

How many million of people would receive relief if the government pays off bank deposits of $2,500 or less has not been presented in figures, but there is one phase of the situation that is surprising if not startling. Such a payoff would take care of 96½ per cent of all bank depositors. The reason for this is that 96½ per cent of the depositors have only 23 per cent of all the money on deposit, and that 3½ per cent of the depositors have 77 per cent of the money on deposit. Another figure as to how many depositors would be given relief shows that it would be 19 out of every 20.—Harry L. Izor in Durand Express.

The definite indications are now that Alex Groesbeck will soon toss his hat into the ring as a candidate for governor. In fact he is reported as having told Senator Orr within the past two weeks that he expected to run. Recent newspaper interviews with the ex-Governor point in the same direction—He will run and win.—Geo. English in Huron County Tribune.

ALMANAC



"Who spends before he thrives will beg before he dies."

MAY

7—Submarine sinks the Lusitania, 1,193 die, 1915.

8—Mt. Pelee erupts and kills 30,000 people, 1902.

9—Admiral Byrd flies across the North Pole, 1926.

10—Gold Spike joins Central and Union Pacific Rys. 1869.

11—Irving Berlin, noted popular song writer, born 1888.

12—U. S. Fleet bombards San Juan, Cuba, 1898.

13—Capt. John Smith settles Jamestown, Va., 1607.

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

'Nother wedding soon.

Horse thieves are as thick as bees in the clover.

Rochester is able to "Hello" to most everybody now.

Opdyke has a new parrot story. Look out for him boys.

Mrs. Arthur Ford, girl, eight pounds. Art. feels big. Nuf ced.

Some of the friends of Mrs. Ennis having learned that she is trying to make a rag carpet, have decided with her consent to meet at her house on Friday, May 18, to assist her in sewing carpet rags. The ladies are all invited.

On Saturday night last, as Theodore Wilde and a young companion were coming to town, they overtook a man between here and the toll gate, riding on a white horse. When the equestrian saw them, he jumped from his horse, leaving it standing in the road, and ran across the fields toward the railroad. The boys brought the horse to the National Hotel where it was recognized by Ned Daines as a valuable animal belonging to George Hicks of the Waverly House at Pontiac, to whom Ned telephoned at once. Meanwhile the man was shadowed by George Wright, and finally brought up at the National, where he was detained until Mr. Hicks arrived, when he was promptly identified as the man who had hired the horse in the afternoon to ride around Pontiac. He was taken back to that place for safe keeping.

Mr. and Mrs. Tib Boyd had a grand dance with their horse and buggy on Sunday last. The bit broke and left the spirited horse to tear around in Stanley's door yard at his own sweet will, while Tib yanked frantically at the lines and Mrs. B. calmly climbed out of the back end of the buggy. The buggy was considerably debilitated when they got through, but no other damage was done worth speaking of.

Twenty-Five Years Ago

Pretty cold again Monday morning.

Are we ever going to quit buying coal?

Miss Carrie Blodgett forsakes dear old Birmingham and has gone to Goodrich for her future home. Good bye, Carrie, we shall miss you and always remember you with the best of thoughts, seconded by everyone in the village.

W. C. Burt, owner of Linda Vista in Bloomfield Hills, once the John Daines farm, is making so many beautiful improvements that his pleasant home is attracting much attention of all passers by. Take a look at Linda Vista as you ride Northward.

Clarkston had a hail storm last week that smashed every window in the village on the west side of the house. Mr. Ben DeLisle, who clerks for J. F. Wooster, had to go home for a short vacation and do right away the necessary repairs that the storm caused. Great damages were done to Clarkston and vicinity.

What promises to be one of the best golf clubs in the country was formed one day last week at Bloomfield Hills. The location of the links is on the Knight farm, which consists of 115 acres, Bendlow, the Chicago golf professional, who has been engaged by the club, says that the links will probably be the finest in the United States.

The many Birmingham friends of Miss Bertha Park, will be gladly surprised and pleased to know that she is now a full fledged M. D., a doctor of medicine. She graduated from the Denver College of Physicians and Surgeons, last Thursday, May 13, and with honors.

Five Years Ago

Birmingham, according to a report filed two weeks ago, with the village commission, and brought to light in open meeting Monday night by President H. T. Ellerby, now faces the unique situation of collecting between $35,000 and $50,000 for work which it has done during the past year for various individuals and organizations.

Petitions of Guy W. Jensen for reelection to the Birmingham board of education are filed today. This places three persons in the field for elections June 10. Ray Palmer, whose term with that of Mr. Jensen's expires June 10, again seeks election. The third member in the race is Mrs. Cora Farrar.

Resumption of work on the widening of Woodward avenue between Royal Oak and Birmingham and the completion of the new Grand Trunk right of way is predicted today by Kit F. Clardy, assistant state's attorney general, to start in about two weeks. He basts his opinion on the belief that a decision will be handed down by the Federal Court at an early date.

One Minute Pulpit

Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God.—Psalm 146:5.

Life's Little Laughs

Vertebrazen

She—Women are no longer the timid, yielding creatures that they were. They are showing a lot more backbone.

He—Yes, I've noticed that at dances and on the bathing beach.

Right In Her Line

Flapper—That rich fellow I met last evening is a wonder.

Gold-digger—Well, introduce me; I work wonders.

WABEEK STATE BANK

WABEEK BLDG.

BIRMINGHAM, MICH.

DIRECTORS

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

"Your Bank in Birmingham"

COMPLETE BANKING FACILITIES

MICHIGAN BELL TELEPHONE CO.

"YOU'RE CONNECTED!"

This wife and her husband discussed having a telephone. They considered the convenience . . . the social and business advantages . . . the protection to life and property that a telephone affords. They compared its value with its moderate cost . . .

Now, their telephone is connected. The installer is leaving. From this minute on, the family can reach relatives and friends easily and quickly . . . can keep in closer touch with business associates. And, in case of fire, accident, sickness or prowlers, they can summon aid instantly by telephone.

You can have telephone service for as little as $2.50 or less a month. Call, visit or write the Telephone Business Office to place an order. Installation will be made promptly.