

The Birmingham Eccentric

Published every Thursday at Birmingham, Mich., in The Eccentric Building, 229-231 Woodward Avenue. Telephone 11-12 and 13.
Editor and Publisher: ALLEN TERRY.
Managing Editor: PAUL NEAL AVERILL.
Sales and Advertising Manager: RICHARD S. WOODRUFF.
Production Manager: CLAUDE E. WALKER.
Circulation Manager: CLAUDE E. WALKER.
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 \$1.25
Three Months50 Three Months75
All newspapers and advertising copy must be in the 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 31, 1934

NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events which have new value and which are written by persons not normally connected with the newspaper. All copy must be presented before noon on Wednesday. All changes must be made by noon on Tuesday. It is necessary to send the original copy and one copy as required by laws of the state. Because of the necessity of sending the copy to the printing press, by those other than members of the staff cannot be used. No payment will be made upon the publication of any article. The Eccentric assumes no responsibility for return of any copy. It is requested that the publisher be notified by return mail of any change of address.

Beer Gardens and Youth

Parents of young boys and girls may be interested in the comment of Oakland County's sheriff, Roy Reynolds, that "conditions surrounding many of the so-called beer gardens and youth centers in our County are terrible beyond description; since January 1 no less than 71 cases of gross drunkenness and immorality have come to the attention of our department. Many times the girls in the various affairs are as young as 14 and 15. In the cases of many of these girls they are not bad, fundamentally, at all. They simply go out of an evening with some friends, perhaps intending to spend a dancing hour or two as youth has always done. But when they get into some of these beer-gardens they get into mischief and then all trouble. I'd like to do something to stop this demoralization of our youth."

Well, Sheriff Reynolds, why not do something about it? You lead the way, and the good influences in Oakland County will get behind you. How? Why not something like this:

As sheriff of Oakland County, gather together all the evidence relating to the problem of youth and beer-gardens, obtaining additional information from the various police departments in the cities and villages of the County. Then call a public meeting in Pontiac, to which you should invite representative men and women from every section of the County; they have the several police chiefs, together with city officials, at the meeting.

Make public, in a quiet but effective manner, as much of this information as you deem necessary to stir these mobilized good influences to concerted action. In this manner you will crystallize a public sentiment which should organize to bring about needed reform.

As sheriff, you were elected to enforce the existing statutes. But beyond the mere enforcement of these statutes there is another duty imposed upon you—perhaps the greatest duty of your high office. This is to formulate a policy for your County. This policy system or method for its correction. This concept of your office really makes of your job a high calling, a real public service.

As a Republican hold-over from the last Democratic landslide, you ought to re-double your efforts by the taxpayers who support you. Not alone your office, but that of every other Republican office in this State and County. (Democrats, too, can adopt this plan, for the real discharge of honest and competent public service is what the people are willing to continue in office.)

Perhaps in this agitated movement to bring about a change in connection with beer-gardens, (if that is ever completely possible) we ought to mention the name of County Prosecutor Arthur P. Bogue. When we started to write this editorial we had in mind only Sheriff Reynolds, whose conversation with us one evening last week, prompted it. In spite of the fact that Bogue is a Democrat and a Republican, they ought to be able to co-operate in some way to correct an evil that is becoming infinitely more despicable and intolerant and demoralizing than the old saloon ever hoped to be.

Parents of youth today are much wrought up over the pitfalls that John Barleycorn, as yet uncontrolled since repeal, is placing at too frequent occasions along youth's path. Here's a fine chance for that land-brain's various law-enforcing agencies to get together and clean up an evil situation.

Will they do it? It is for them to make answer.

Our Growing Public Debt

Every time that the United States government issues its regular or emergency business comes from direct or indirect taxes imposed upon the people. The greater the public expenditures, the greater the taxes. The greater the public debt the greater the tax—until there inevitably comes a time when taxes can no longer support the government, and eventual bankruptcy by uncontrolled inflation, or repudiation, comes. (For instance, you know that the Federal Government is unable to obtain funds from usual property taxes, and now financed very largely by liquor revenues and by the issuance of scrip, plus the outright default on its bonded indebtedness.)

What we need in this nation today is a willingness on the part of the Washington government to allow business to recover according to more natural laws of commerce and trade. It's about time to chase the trustees from the Nation's Capital and allow decent and average human faith in human beings to be maintained in everyday transactions of business. Not until we work out our situation, fall back on the old trusts to begin to work out our situation.

It seems to us that such a course of action is necessary right now. Any other course will lead us into State capitalism which is, of course, only another name for a more than mild form of Communism.

In 1932 there were a total of 158,942 prisoners confined in the various State and Federal penitentiaries of the United States. Since each of these prisoners was once an innocent, helpless babe, entirely dependent upon adults, were in the process of growth when each impelled to become a criminal?

Problems in Truth

Each generation of human beings is afforded an opportunity to learn the various arts and sciences that have been explored by mankind, to the end that these arts and sciences may be made increasingly helpful to the world. Take mathematics, for instance. Here is the most exact science known to mankind. One learns its usefulness and dependability is equally substantial in any position of the globe. The student who uses it carefully to measure for a great bridge in Africa will meet with the same success that comes to the engineer who does the same thing in Alaska. Absolute mathematics always brings the same answer; two plus two always equals four.

Similarly, mankind has discovered that certain exact moral truths exist, and when applied bring certain definite results. "Honesty is the best policy," because, as two plus two equals four, honesty applied in human existence equals happiness, peace of mind, friendship, dependability, success. Honesty applied in Africa is the basis of this human objectives just as it is the basis of them in Alaska. Dishonesty applied to human existence is like trying to make two plus two equal four—that is if you imagine the above-mentioned good qualities will come to you by being dishonest.

Of course, human beings are often sorely tempted to wander from the path of honesty because they think that the end justifies the means. They forget that beyond man-made penalties for infractions of the law there are universal penalties, from which no man can escape wrong-doing. And, while God himself does not inflict these penalties, they come into human experience simply because people wander from His protection.

While it is true that the subject of mathematics taught the same world over, and earnest teachers also seek to teach Truth universally, human beings do not apply Truth as loyally as they do mathematics. And this unwillingness to apply Truth is what brings most of the trouble into the affairs of mankind. What a pity that each individual should not absorb and apply Truth as it so willingly does mathematics.

In a vain effort to "manipulate" Truth, mankind resorts to all manner of legislative, administrative, and judicial machinery. When one method fails, he institutes another. He changes his tools, but not himself, he works hard to create a square hole, but uses a round drill. It is like a person who, unable to solve a problem in simple arithmetic on a blackboard, calls for pencil and paper—erroneously assuming that he can solve his problem by merely changing his tools. He may learn that his mind, not his tools, needs changing, needs adjusting, needs correcting.

And so goeth mankind, amusing itself with too much superficiality, too little thought being directed to fundamentals. A few people learn how to live; too many learn how to die. There is a very real similarity in this comparison of mathematics and Truth. Happy, indeed, become those who learn the relationship between them, and then commit this knowledge to daily life.

Let's Not Detour Too Much

Governments are like railroad crews and train dispatchers. The taxpayers climb aboard, wanting to go to some place. Perhaps they buy tickets for a specific destination. The train starts, travels two hundred miles and meets a washout. It is routed over a detour, eventually to get back to the "main line" again. What happens if the dispatcher goes to sleep, or succumbs to a whim and sends the train over the road, or the crew assents, of course, for its job is merely to keep the train moving. The passengers remain on the train, for it is their only "home" for the while. And, besides, they think they are getting back to the "main line."

Some time they are getting back to the "main line" of the ride, overpower the crew, and take over the train, and run their own train. That has happened in many countries. Let us hope that the train of the government of the United States, as it detours through "depression washout", takes the best and safest route back to the main line of life, stability, of rugged honesty and individual integrity—of less racketeering in either public or private business.

CLARENCE V. LIBKE'S National Recovery Service Board

and some nasty things about the NRA. Some of them were corrected, quite true, and ought to be corrected in General Johnson's department. But the nation also knows that Mr. Darrow is a pro-socialist and takes his criticism with a grain of salt.

All of Us

By Marshall Maslin

READER: You take things too seriously. You must be a solemn fellow.
WRITER: I hope you don't mind if I disagree. I don't think I take things too seriously. But even if I do, how else is one to take things? You're just laughing your way all through life.
READER: Why not? The world is a good sport and very useful, and they lighten life for us all around them.
WRITER: That's true, they do. But even a laugh, now that I am older, it may be a most serious thing, a laughing because it sees into the heart of things.
READER: You're quibbling again; you're just trying to be smart.
WRITER: I'm not. I think every man and woman MUST take life seriously. If you are frivolous. If you don't miss the cream beneath the froth, if you don't dig down to the bedrock of living, you float on every vagrant breeze or an idea or an years.
READER: How can any man follow any charted course through this life? The forces in which he lives are so mighty and so subtle that he is humbled. He's fooling himself if he tries to be too serious.
WRITER: Nevertheless, a man or a woman is playing a game—and what is not, if he must take the rules serious, obey them, then he must try to exhaust every possibility of the game and enjoy the full. But you must not let it become the major element in his life. My idea is that a man must not take things too seriously. He isn't particularly important, but some things he does and the thoughts he thinks ARE important.

READER: You remind me about that old saying that life is a tragedy for those who feel, a comedy for those who think.
WRITER: Yes, but everybody both thinks and feels. You say, "I wouldn't have said that if I didn't feel it." I wouldn't . . . But don't take things too seriously.

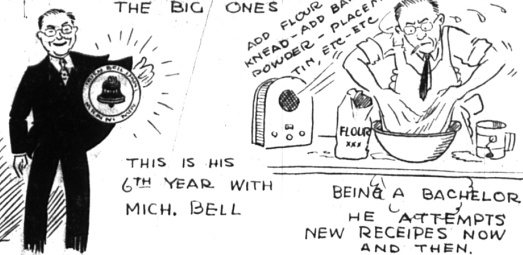
Birmingham Business Leaders

No. 20
ON BOY!



CLARENCE V. LIBKE

HE SPENDS HIS LEISURE TIME IN THE TROUT STREAMS LURING THE BIG ONES



HE ATTEMPTS NEW RECIPES NOW AND THEN.

Clarence V. Libke, local manager of the Michigan Bell Telephone Company, is one of Birmingham's most versatile business men. He can—and does, on occasion—cook his own meals, and eat them. He makes his bed regularly, if not daily, and sews buttons on his shirts and branch for a month. He came to Birmingham last Nov. 1. "Lib" was born in Somerset, Wis., and lived in Indiana, Illinois, and Ohio before moving with his family in 1914 to Gaylord, Mich., where he has since his home ever since. After graduating from Gaylord High School, he spent a year at Albion, from where he transferred to the University of Wisconsin, and graduated in 1927. He prepared for the United States foreign service, but after passing entrance examinations he learned that the waiting list of other candidates was so long that it would be at least two years before he would be given an appointment. So he gave up looking for another job. The one he found with Michigan Bell, which proved to be permanent. "Lib" is a member of Sigma Chi Fraternity and the Birmingham Rotary club.

FROM THE ECCENTRIC COLUMNS—of Long Ago

Bits Of News Cleared From Old Files Of The Eccentric—The Items That Made Up The Historical Background Of The Birmingham Of Today.

FIFTY YEARS AGO
Rochester has got it—the roller skate craze.

The prospects for a good hay crop are simply immense. A Pontiac milkman used one of his customers for libel. That ends it. . . . We'll never say anything about the mpmwms in our milk.

On the evening of Decoration Day, Mrs. J. W. Perry gave a dinner at the home of Mrs. J. W. Perry. Both young and old are most cordially invited. Vocal and instrumental music, refreshments, and a prize drawing.

Holly is a prohibition town, five barrels of whiskey arriving at Davidsburg, marked to a fictitious name, paralyzes the inhabitants of both places, as the goods were taken away after dark, and the surmise is that, without a doubt, they went to the prohibition town of Holly.

This is a fish story, but a true one and can be proven. Not long ago Mr. J. W. Perry gave a mess of those truly "fishy" white fish to J. W. Hall's family, for the table. There was no fish in the stomach of one, a plain hand gold ring. Query, did the fish eat the owner of the ring, or was the ring only?

Only two more ladies straw hats at half price and nine 25-cent scarfs at five cents each on Carson's.

Look at the date on your paper, if the time has passed, O, U, and we know what to do with the money.

TWENTY FIVE YEARS AGO
Mrs. Jane Roche is in very poor health. She has been quite bed-ridden, but at this writing is slowly recovering.

School is beginning to show signs of closing. Junior Ex-Thursday night, and preparations for the graduating exercises fill the air.

Messrs. Luxworth and Teahorn, well known, got a big 2 1/2 inch flowing well down near Utica one day last week for a delighted farmer, but at John Artzgan's, 3 1/2 miles east of Utica, in cleaning out an old dug well, they found down the hole, or crack of batter that accidently got away

ALMANAC

- MAY**
 - 28—Agassiz, noted scientist-educator, born 1807.
 - 29—Douglas Fairbanks, athletic actor, born 1894.
 - 30—First observance of Memorial Day, 1868.
- JUNE**
 - 1—Census shows U. S. population 12,866,070, 1830.
 - 2—Maine first state to prohibit liquor, 1851.
 - 3—Hahnemann, Swiss physician, born in Santago harbor, 1758.

One Minute Pulpit

And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath.—St. Mark 2:27.

Transferred Spawns
For some time now these mid-geet cars have been furnishing fun for the columnists. The latest story is that a traffic officer noticed one of them jumping along the street in a kangaroo-like manner and called to the driver: "What's the matter with that car?" "It's all right, officer," came the reply. "I've got a little touch of the hiccup, I'll be over it in a few minutes."

Just a Little Too Far

The newweds were receiving a little conventional advice from the minister. First the husband was charged with his responsibilities, and then the wife's turn. "You must love, honor and obey your husband," droned the parson, "and follow him wherever he goes." "The wife looked aghast," "Fancy," she exclaimed, "and him a deep sea diver!"

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

NOTICE

The following changes in charges and rates for certain types of telephone equipment and service become effective on the date of the first bill to each subscriber on or after June 1, 1934:

- The charge of 25 cents per month for hand telephone sets will be discontinued after it has been billed for a period of 18 consecutive months. On hand telephone sets now in service for which the charge has been billed 18 months or more, the 25-cent charge will be discontinued with the June, 1934, bill for service. On all other hand telephone sets, now in service or installed hereafter, the 25-cent charge will be discontinued after it has been billed 18 consecutive months.
- Rates for all classes of rural line service will be reduced by 25 cents per month, except that no rural line rate shall be reduced to less than \$1.50 per month.

MICHIGAN BELL TELEPHONE CO.