

The Birmingham Eccentric

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 4, 1935

NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events
which have new value and which are written by persons not
connected with the editorial staff of the paper. All copy must
be submitted by noon on Wednesday. The right is
reserved, however, to make such editorial changes in the
work submitted as are necessary to the style of the paper
and as are required by the laws of the state. It is the policy
of the Eccentric to publish the most interesting and readable
material submitted. No payment is made for the publication
of these stories. The Eccentric is not responsible for the
return of copy not used. No payment is made for the publication
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Shall Our Schools Close?

Unless local school taxes are paid more extensively
this year than last, our public schools will close
February 11, according to statements made during
the past week by the Birmingham Board of Education.

Last year only 40 per cent of the school taxes were
collected. Added to the instance of school scrip, the
public schools were kept open for many months, and
at the end of the school year last June a deficit was
created, which has carried over into the present school
year. This has made the current financial problem
facing our Board of Education more difficult of solution.

In fact, only one method is now reserved for anything
like even a seven or eight months' school program
for this year, and that is PAYMENT OF TAXES RIGHT NOW!

It is useless to argue about the merits of the public
schools. All of us realize that free education is the
very basis of our republic. Without public places
where we can send children for the purpose of teaching
them, our civilization would become chaotic. Our
children would never be able to support themselves
when the time came for launching them upon the
sea of adulthood; and if we want security against
our own old-age problems, we had better pay every
possible attention to educating today's youth.

The solution of the problem of keeping our schools
open is largely in the hands of the public opinion; our
place board members are engaged in this. But to
paign to enlist the financial and moral support of
parents and all who pay taxes in this school district.
If you can pay your taxes, you are asked to do so
now. If you can pay only part of them, you are
asked to do what you can. If you cannot pay your
taxes, and want to keep your children in school, go to
the Board—and if you have children in school, you will
want them to remain there, of course.

Birmingham is not alone in the problem of school
finances. Other sections of Michigan, too, have their
own worries along this line—but none of them are
more worse off than this beautiful, wealthy area
served by the Birmingham School Board.

Do you want your children turned out of your
public schools? Do you want your property values to
decrease by the forced closing of our schools?
The answer is up to you.

Human Nature vs. Legislature

The average employer wishes to provide enough
of labor, together with decent wages, for all his
employees. He wishes to see that his business is
not wrecked by economic decay in his hands. But to
seek artificial methods to bring about this Utopian
condition, without regard for human nature, is to
expect more than can be attained. It seems to us
that no effort to restore prosperity can be achieved
unless success unless government recognizes human
failings, and consequently reconforms its program to
conform to the instinctive urges of the individual.
Prohibition, one of America's greatest efforts to bring
about the millennium, failed because of the limitations
of human nature.

Wise Ignorance

While knowledge may be power, in the ordinary sense,
there are times when ignorance of a thing is quite
valuable. This is illustrated in the case of the American
who was arrested in Paris, and who sought to establish
his identity by claiming himself a citizen of the
United States. "I tell you I am an American citizen,
and you can't stop me," yelled the citizen. "Sing The
Star-Spangled Banner, then," demanded the French
officer. "But I can't," replied the tourist. "Whereupon
the officer merely shrugged his shoulders, smiled, and
said: "All right, you are released. I see you are an
American."

Local Transportation

Without adequate means of transportation, a community
suffers in its contacts with the rest of the world.
No area can exist in isolation. The removal of trans-
portation facilities, for people to always gravitate
toward those places where they can obtain a maximum
degree of comfort and convenience, safety and
general business.

Which brings to mind the local subject of an efficient
and economical method of getting people to and
from the local Grand Trunk station. The commuter
may use the commuter service over that railroad.
A majority of the population in and near Birmingham
have business connections in Detroit. Nearly
every working day many hundreds of our people go
to the Fourth City, there to earn livelihoods. Most
of them drive their own cars. A good many of them
use the Eastern Michigan bus service. The remainder
want and depend upon the Grand Trunk's commuter
service. These three types of transportation are
dependent upon to carry our citizens back and forth
from Detroit, and each of them represents the thing
we collectively refer to as "transportation facilities."

When they become more numerous in their use, they
serve to overcome the city dweller's opposition to
becoming suburban residents, and thus assist in building
up a community.

A few years ago, when this commuter service was
opened, it was the object of a great festival. Former
Governor Brucker and many railroad and public
officials took part in the gala program arranged for
the occasion. Visions of a greater population were
created in the general public's thought. Birmingham
had been given, along with many other Oakland
County communities, a real metropolitan commuter
service.

To get from local homes to the Grand Trunk
station on East Maple avenue is the present problem.
As a local reader points out in a letter published this
week in our "People's Column," some commuters
drive their cars to the station in the morning, leaving
them there until their return at night; some have
their wives drive them to the train; and others depend
upon local taxi service.

Providing efficient and economical motor trans-
portation service to the station within Birmingham is
a problem that ought to receive careful local official
and citizen attention. True, there is a limited amount
of this type of business to be had; and the routing of
it should be such that neither the taxpayer nor the
cabman nor the whole general public is made to suffer.

In our opinion, the city commission can, in solving
this local problem, do an unlimited amount of good
for the upbuilding of Birmingham and vicinity.

"But," Mr. Butler

Nicholas Murray Butler, Columbia University's
president, is opposed to criticism of the government
in public schools that are supported by taxation.
Mr. Butler feels that undue criticism by certain
types of teachers will undermine faith in and support
for the public school system. Mr. Butler, from
whose institution of learning most of the present
leading "braintrusts" have come, will perform a
signal service to his country if he will be more specific.

A Fine Appointment, Governor!

Our congratulations to Governor Frank D. Fitzgerald
for his appointment of Thomas Conlin, of
Crystal Falls, to the State Prison Board!

We have known Mr. Conlin for many years, and we
know of no man in Michigan who would be a better
Board member than the Upper Peninsula newspaper
publisher.

Mr. Conlin has lived a long time upon this planet
earth, and "knows his way around" in matters re-
lating to government; he is a man of great social
vision; he knows of the burden that has been placed
upon the backs of the taxpayers by the expense of
the State Prison Board; he is a man of great sym-
pathy to the problems of the honest public official
—but he also is a sharp and firm critic of the double-
dealing "tax-eater"; he is courageous and sincere.

As long as Tom Conlin is connected with the
State Prison Board, it is our humble opinion that
nothing will come to pass that reflects anything but
credit to the new Governor.

A 1935 Psalm

Although not wholly justified, there is enough truth
in the following verse, contributed to The Springfield
Union, to cause people to cast a searching glance
toward the Democratic Party's leadership in high places.
The verse is titled: "The 1935 Psalm," and goes:
The politician is my shepherd;

I am in want.
He leadeth me to lie down on park benches;
He leadeth me to the still factories;
He disturbeth my soul;
He leadeth me in the paths of destruction for the
party's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow
of death,
I anticipate no recovery, for he is with me.
His policies and his diplomacies, they frighten me.
He prepareth a reduction in my salary, and in the
presence of mine enemies.

He annoetheth my small income with taxes; my
expenses runneth high.
Surely unemployment and poverty shall follow me all
the days of my life,
And I shall dwell in a mortgaged house, forever.

A FRENCHMAN, out hunting rabbits, leaned his gun
against a fence. A rabbit, chased by the hunter's
dog, leaped the fence, but struck the trigger, causing
the gun to kill the hunter. Thornton Wilder, the
author, would catalogue the hunter's death among
the reasons he set forth in his very great book, "The
Bridge of San Luis Rey."

THE TRIAL OF HAUPTMANN, charged with being the
leader of a baby-slayer, is attracting much attention
in New Jersey. Hundreds of correspondents and
sight-seers are drawn to the scene of the law's effort
to prosecute Hauptmann. It is one way of maintain-
ing the American version of "A Roman Holiday."

IT IS POSSIBLE that certain types of bold newspapers,
notorious for their lack of decency in invading people's personal
affairs, may have created the bold, audacious method
of certain types of sensational politicians? For in-
stance, there is much difference between the tactics
of Walter Winchell and Huey P. Long?

GERTRUDE STEIN is a female writer who seems to
have a stuttering connection, and if we are correctly
informed by being correctly informed, she, that is
Gertrude Stein who is correctly informed, and none
other and no one or two or three else's, is afflicted
with—but, anyway, whatthehell.

SECRETARY OF WAR GEORGE H. DERN has caused the
creation of a separate division of our land
fighting forces, and that information ought to be
every loyal American who knows anything about the
ability of airplanes to carry passengers—and ammunition.
We believe that a week from next Saturday the Ladies Library
Society hold their annual election
of officers for the coming year.
Lively times anticipated at the polls.

WE AGREE WITH all President Roosevelt's friends
who oppose the use of his picture in connection with
liquor ads. We suggest that all pictures used in fu-
ture liquor ads show both of John Barleycorn's horns,
as well as his devilish smile.

FARMERS WILL CONTROL Michigan's House of Rep-
resentatives when it is convened this week, reports
from Lansing indicate. After some of our out-
rigger State friends feel that the Big City is grinding them
under foot.

PLANS TO BUILD many dams to harness the water
power of the Mississippi River are being fashioned
in Washington. Which will cause many private
utility companies also to say: "Damn it!"

"GIANT METEOR FLARES AT NOON Over Three
States" read a headline in The Detroit Free Press on
day last week. The dispatch failed to identify it
either as General Johnson or Huey Long.

Birmingham Business Leaders

No. 50

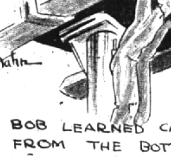
FIVE BUCKS
AN THE JOB
IS YOURS!



IT COST HIM \$500 TO GET
ONE OF HIS FIRST JOBS.

RB. Bob MILKS

OWNS TWO POPULAR
SERVICE STATIONS IN
BIRMINGHAM



BOB LEARNED CAR SERVING
FROM THE BOTTOM UP.

Although only 27 years old, R. B. "Bob" Milks, local service station proprietor, already has more than 10 years of automobile servicing experience to his credit. Bob was born in Manchester, N. H., and at the end of that time he entered the employ of the Standard Oil Company. After serving as assistant manager for several months of one of the company's stations in Detroit, he was transferred to Birmingham, and managed a station here for a year and a half before entering business for himself 2 1/2 years ago. He now owns two stations, one at Woodward and one at Merrill street, and the other at North Woodward and Harmon avenues. Bob was married when he was 17 years old, and has an eight-year-old daughter. When he isn't busy working or entertaining her, he probably finds him watching an athletic contest some place. He's a rabid hockey fan, and also enjoys baseball and football. For his own exercise, he finds swimming most satisfactory.

FROM THE ECCENTRIC COLUMNS —of Long Ago

Bits Of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric —
The Press That Made The Historical Background
Of The Birmingham Of Today.

FIFTY YEARS AGO
New Year's Eve last night, a select crowd from the surrounding communities gathered at the National Hotel, entertained at cards, after which all partook of a dainty luncheon.

Cal. B. Jenks is home for the holidays. The way Holly and Fenton crowd over each other is a terror to the natives. Scott Woodruff, while hunting rabbits one day last week, accidentally shot himself dead. The charge entered his neck, cutting the jugular vein.

Archie Hatch with a pistol, Jack Hobbs had a race down Main street one day last week against a horse driven to a cutter, and strange to say, he won the race by a lip.

We believe that a week from next Saturday the Ladies Library Society hold their annual election of officers for the coming year. Lively times anticipated at the polls.

The band boys have got their heads together once more and calculate to hold a good band in the near future. We understand some of the business men are at the helm and there is no reason why we can't have a little music once in a while. The boys dispensed some fine music at the Leap Year party Tuesday night.

THE ONLY light in Birmingham Sunday night last on Maple avenue west was the M. E. Church outside light—and it was very very dark too and storming, why.

On New Year's Day the M. E. Church held the first of its series of social meetings in their hall in the Ford block, and it proved to be one of the most enjoyable and successful events of the season. About 50 including members and their invited friends, with games and social conversation, while away the dying hours of the old year, and with laughter and joy, and a hearty welcome in the year 1935. Refreshments were served by the members. The members are congratulating themselves upon the success of the affair and are entering upon the new year with new year with no end to their enthusiasm.

Mrs. Minnie Wilson gave a very elegant party Tuesday evening at her home on Merrill street. A select crowd from the surrounding communities gathered at the National Hotel, entertained at cards, after which all partook of a dainty luncheon.

Mrs. Mary Barclay Poppleton, 1180 Woodward avenue, Detroit, much as we need social security for old age, it is going to be very slow in coming. Come it will, through the good judgment and vision of our leaders, but not through any "social" visionary schemes as the Townsend plan of California—Dick Baldwin in Northville Record.

HOW ABOUT 1935?
As the new year beckons with hope it might not be a bad idea to have the individual reader of The Lapeer County Press to take off a little time from the daily routine and think about life and some of its problems.

Many of us have been so engrossed in the tasks impelled upon us by the economic necessity of earning a livelihood that we have drifted a bit in our thinking and have lost sight of the enduring aims of human existence. We have been warped in our judgment by the huge dollar value that has been placed on everything in this country.

It might pay us to re-evaluate the purposes of our existence and more orderly existence that depends upon fundamental and essential values. Let us turn our eyes to the future and see what we can do to better our human contribution to general welfare and to strive to take some part in a program that should improve social conditions now, rather than hereafter.

Let's do some straight talking. Quit kidding yourself. Look carefully into your participation into the activities of the race around you, and decide whether you have been an asset to the people of this community or a form of human that is preying upon others and upon you live. Analyze your business, social, cultural and individual life and see what you can do to better it in the past and the possibility of reaching a successful goal in the future. Think about it and do what you think you ought to do in 1935—Harry Myers in Lapeer County Press.

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

The Eccentric is pleased to receive communications for this column, but space is limited. Letters will be kept confidential upon request. Letters must be limited to 500 words, and must be in the office by Tuesday morning for publication the following Thursday.

To the Editor:
I am imposing upon your time and space, but I am sure you are seeking the aid of your valuable publication, as well as your people's social and economic betterment, in bringing to the attention of a large number of our citizens whose desire to improve the general conditions in the City of Detroit, and also our honorable City Commission, the pitiful lack of adequate and reasonable transportation facilities to and from our beautiful railroad depot.

I am far lacking in appreciation of the fact that the issue raised with regard to taxi service, in general, is not a new one, but is a desirable, but I cannot but feel that the more important feature involved is being overlooked by both Mr. Ross (President of the City Commission) and the City Commission. I have in mind what I stated off to say, viz. adequate and reasonable transportation facilities to and from the Grand Trunk Railroad station, not only from the center of the city but from the residential districts, as well as from the business districts. A dependable and comfortable service being rendered by the railroad depot, but extended, through general patronage and encouragement.

Personally, I consider this service the greatest single asset enjoyed by the City, if we are to grow and extend into a big and better Birmingham. It is an admitted fact, I believe, that this service has been and is being operated at an actual loss, a fact seemingly not fully appreciated by our citizens, not only those who, as previously mentioned, find it necessary to make daily trips to and from the depot, but also the merchants and others vitally interested in encouraging the locating of new families in our city.

I submit, however, that this cannot be accomplished by setting up barriers in the way of excessive local transportation charges for services to and from the railroad depot. As matters now stand, at least as one of our taxi companies as mentioned, it costs more to move to and from the depot than it does to move to and from the center of the city. This is a fact, and it is a fact which interested citizens may be heard, as it may be that some method other than meter, such as a flat rate, would be more equitable and reasonable service, as due our present residents and lending aid in encouraging new residents.

Years for a bigger, better, and more available Birmingham. ANOTHER COMMUTER

Life's Little Laughs

No Entomologist.
Diner—"What's this in my soup?"
Diner—"Don't ask me, sir. I don't know one insect from another."—Sydney Bisset.

Only Half True.
"I hear you and your wife had words."
She did, I still have mine."

George's Guess
"Oh George," she giggled as she cuddled closer. "I wonder how anyone could be so stupid as to make the heart grow fonder?"
"I guess," replied George, "that must mean the absence of a third party."—Boston Transcript.

Fisherman's Luck
Friend—"I think the man you married is a splendid fellow."
Angler's Daughter—"Ah, but you should have seen one that got away."

Rough Customers
Storekeeper—"Any orders while I was out?"
New Assistant—"Only one, sir. Two gentlemen ordered me to put up my hands while they took the cash register."—Montreal Star.

LONG DISTANCE RATES ARE SURPRISINGLY LOW

for 35¢ or less
during the NIGHT hours

(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 Rates
FLINT
JACKSON
LANSING
Saginaw
PORTRAND
ANN ARBOR

The rates quoted above are Night Station-to-Station rates, effective from 8:30 p.m. to 4:30 a.m. In most cases, Night Station-to-Station rates are approximately 45¢ less than Day Station-to-Station rates.

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

MICHIGAN BELL
TELEPHONE CO.