

The Birmingham Eccentric

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1936

NO MATTER HOW MUCH WE MIGHT TRY TO SCRAMBLE THE ALPHABET AT THIS TIME OF YEAR, WE COULD NOT PERFECT IT INTO A SENTIMENT THAT WOULD EXCEL THE ANCIENT AND OLD SAYING, WHICH GOES SOMEWHAT LIKE THIS: MAY THE NEW YEAR BRING TO YOU EVERY GOOD THING . . . AND BY THINGS WE MEAN NOT ONLY HEALTH AND SECURITY, BUT ALSO GOOD NEW FRIENDS, BETTER OLD FRIENDS, AND AN ADDED PLENTITUDE OF MENTAL SERENITY AND SPIRITUAL PEACE.

A Zoning Ordinance Will Protect Your Residence
Are you really interested in aiding your City Commission in the protection of property values in Birmingham? Would you like to do your part in setting up a plan that will attempt to regulate, so far as possible, the expansion of the commercial and industrial activities, insofar as they relate to their encroachment upon strictly residential areas? Then you should attend the public hearing Monday evening, January 11, when your elected local officials will consider the proposition of a Zoning Ordinance; the meeting will be held in the City Hall, at eight o'clock.

Birmingham is a residential community, and makes no bid for industrial growth, but this growth is growing rapidly, and there always is the problem of protecting residential areas from the blight of undesirable buildings. This is the reason for a Zoning Ordinance.

Your City Commission will appreciate your citizen interest at the meeting January 11.

Hats Off To Heads!
Congratulations to Charles Boynton and Mary Stunck, Baldwin High School seniors who graduate in January, and are valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively, of their class. This signal honor means that they were serious and sincere in their school work; undoubtedly each of them sacrificed many "good times" for the sake of study; and they have formed the invaluable habit of "carrying through" in the matter of personal responsibility. Their parents, too, should feel proud of them—not to forget their teachers, either. Since high school football players are given a banquet by their parents, why not stage a similar affair for the successes made by boys and girls upon the field of study?

The Upkeep After a War
It's not the cost of war so much as the upkeep that works havoc with the nation's monetary plans. For example, there were 280,164 men engaged in the Spanish-American war, of whom 9,599 were casualties. Today 227,229 veterans are on the pension rolls, drawing about \$100,000,000 a year.

The Civil War has been over more than sixty years but in 1931 the pensions being paid amounted to some \$120,000,000.

For Husbands Only
By a formal vote the French Senate has resolved that the "husband is the head of the family" with "the choice as to where his family shall reside."

So much for the law. What many American husbands would like to know is the methods to be adopted by French husbands to convince the wives that the husband is the head of the family.

So many of the valuable things of life are free that one wonders why so many are willing to slave so frenziedly and so selfishly for the things that are not so valuable. After all, money is not worth more than money, or other material possessions that so easily pass away?

Do You Need Proof Of The Value Of True Prayer?

A great deal has been said and printed about the National Preaching Mission. Even the practical Edison, before he died, said, "We need to catch up spiritually."

There is considerable praying done on and off in this community. A good deal is done on Sundays and some at midweek services. Undoubtedly many, many silent prayers go out into the everywhere every day as joys come and problems arise.

Why do people pray?
John Edwin Price who writes for newspapers reaching over a million readers in the United States and Canada was recently asked "Why do you believe in prayer?"

His answer follows, in part:
"I believe in God as a personal, intelligent, Creator and Ruler who, by His word, has manifested Himself in much the same manner as to a radio singer's voice and personality."

"I believe that as there is a purpose for heat and a purpose for cold and a purpose for seed-time and moisture and harvest, so there is a purpose for the world as a whole."

"I believe that since I am a part of the world and its plan as a whole, that there is something God had in mind that He wanted me to do and when He let me be born."

"Now if I were a manager of men and I wanted to see them get certain results in a program I had started I would not leave them alone, unable to communicate with me."

"Since God put me here (without consulting me) to do something He wants done, I don't believe He has left me alone without any way of getting more definite instructions or help from Him. I wouldn't be so foolish, and He is (from many evidences) wiser than I."

"That is one matter-of-fact, practical reason why I believe in prayer. Another reason is that I have prayed for special guidance in time of need and have been given it."

"At times when I have done all I could to meet a situation I have prayed for help and found it was not long in coming."

"Of course one must 'pray in faith' believing that 'faith without works' in faith's redemption is no good."

RFK Has Fine Record

Unless authorized by Congressional action the RFC will cease making new loans on January 31, after which it will complete authorized loans and liquidate its investments.

It might be well to know just what the RFC has done in the year since it was first set up by President Hoover. Exclusive of advances to other governmental agencies and for relief purposes, the finance corporation has loaned \$6,308,871,407 in the recovery program. Chairman Jesse H. Jones assures the taxpayers that it will end its work without loss to the treasury and with a small profit.

Also, the organization has a surplus of \$115,000,000, chiefly representing the difference between interest rates on money borrowed and money loaned although the fund also includes, we believe, some profit made on the resale of securities taken in by the government in its relief program.

The RFC has been the chief agency in "balancing out" financial institutions and large industrial corporations during the depression. It made loans to 7,481 banks and it is a matter of record that the banks have repaid 89 per cent of the sums advanced to them.

The government, during the past few years, has also advanced money through other agencies to individuals, both on the farm and in the city. While there may be some loss in this enterprise the record of repayments at this time is encouraging and the rising trend of values indicates a possibility, at least, that the loss, if any, will be comparatively small.

Education Is Valuable

One of the greatest tributes to the value of education is in the fact that uneducated men of wealth and influence often give of their time and means that others may have an education.

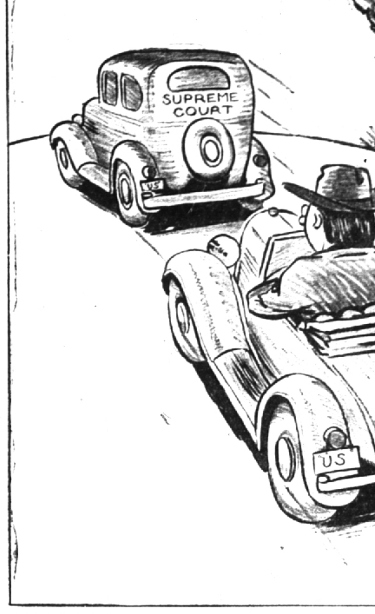
They know how handicapped they have often been for lack of learning. They know that the bit and miss method of gaining an informed mind misses a lot and takes the seeker after knowledge up many blind-end roads that are well marked in regular education.

Joseph Pulitzer was such a man, known during his lifetime as "the foremost American newspaper man." He became the owner of the St. Louis Dispatch and also the Evening Post, merging them into the Post-Dispatch. He became very wealthy and bought the New York World and, though it was a bad day when he made it one of our great newspaper institutions.

Mr. Pulitzer was the child of a Jewish father and a Hungarian mother. Uneducated and poor, he came here at the age of 17. Starting work as a reporter for the Westliche Post of St. Louis, he soon became manager and part owner.

About this time, he began to have political influence among German-Americans. A few years later he was able, as a Republican, to nominate Horace Greely for the Presidency. However, he later joined the Democratic party. Although elected to Congress, his many publishing interests decided him to stay in business.

A PASSING THOUGHT



WASHINGTON LETTER

Farm Tenancy Problem to Get Government Attention in 1937

BY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON.—The tenant farmer has been told that he is not to be forgotten by Washington in 1937. Just what will be done to improve his condition, however, has not been definitely decided.

Farm tenants in the south, where tenancy is more prevalent, were disappointed if they expected that out of the recent Washington meeting of the president's special committee of Farm Tenancy would come the promise that they might in the future buy farm land on government credit.

Secretary Wallace, as chairman of the committee, made it clear that he thought the problem too big to be solved simply by spending \$30,000,000 a year on farm land every year to help farmers buy land.

Wallace has been criticized by many who thought the AAA was too expensive when judged by the results of crop control. He is inclined to bargain a little more closely with the money he will have to spend next year.

There will, however, be some extension of credit to tenants who want to buy farms, and tenant farmer loans probably will be made through the machinery already set up by the Farm Credit Administration.

More than that, the government will have to find a way to venture into a new field in an effort to control the rocketing of land values by speculation.

Wallace is concerned with the current instability of farm tenancy. He is trying to work out a plan which will keep farmers on the land they till and give them

The Other Chap Says ---

SPEAK WELL OF YOUR TOWN
This is your town. Speak well of it. Speak well of its people and its institutions. Practice praise instead of fault finding. Despel the blue and old man gloom by tuning your mind to the better things, to the things that tie you to and detain you in his community. This is home, and home is just what you need.

Port Huron officials that if that was their attitude he would spread the news far and wide. He has his point, for the appointment of Blackstone to the presidential committee.

"JUST THINKS"
When a girl says she is unwilling to war, we sometimes suppose it is a compliment.

Read your newspapers carefully, and you will find that a greater percentage of the horrible crimes committed are pulled off by men passed from person.

'My Country, 'Tis of Thee'...

By T. H. MILLINGTON

The 1937 boom is it coming? How soon? How big? That is the question in the minds of everybody who is worrying the Administration.

Everybody who has anything to say is a firm believer of a boom in 1937. It is true in every other corner, stocks to real estate. So why not give the public the little bit of information that is available?

What are the chances? The economic conditions are not so bright as they seem. The boom is not so certain as it appears. The Administration is not so sure of itself as it seems.

Some of the other factors for the boom are the power vested in the Administration. The control over the heads of such government institutions as the Federal Reserve, the Exchange Commission, the Federal Reserve Bank, and the Federal Reserve Board, are all in the hands of the Administration.

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Random Remarks

Simon & Schuster, Inc.
I would suggest that you should not be too sure of the boom in 1937. It is not so certain as it appears.

H. L. Mencken
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Edgar Dale
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Mrs. John Passer
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Eamon De Valera
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Maxim Litvinoff
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Leon Blum
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Arthur H. Vandenberg
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André Maurois
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Elmer C. Lawton
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H. G. Wells
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John J. Pershing
The boom is not so certain as it appears. The Administration is not so sure of itself as it seems.

"Happy New Year"
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