

The Birmingham Eccentric

(Founded in 1878) Published every Thursday at Birmingham, Mich. in The Eccentric Building, 239-241 North Howard Avenue. Telephone 11, 121.

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Entered as Second Class Matter in the U. S. Postoffice at Birmingham, Mich., May 11, 1878.

Subscription Rates: Single Copies 10c. One Month 2.50. Three Months 7.50. Six Months 14.00. One Year 28.00.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1936

Boy Scouts Observe Their 26th Birthday This Week

This week marks the 26th anniversary of the founding of the Boy Scouts of America. All over the nation the event is being celebrated. Tomorrow night Birmingham will hold a local observance on the occasion with a fitting program.

The value of the Boy Scout movement upon every generation of youth is beyond human reckoning. No one can pre-determine the effects upon boys of the happenings of the moment; under the stimuli of uplifting precepts, of constructive activities, of group life, of a life lived out, and inventoried efforts end, can provide even a guess of the value of training for human beings.

This week we checked with two men whose business takes them into some of the problems of youth that "goes wrong." One of them is Scoutmaster John Hacker, of Birmingham, declared that in his long years of experience in police work seldom do Boy Scouts come under his control.

One's chances of being a good man are enhanced by being, first, a good boy! Young Women Republicans

If ever the youth of this nation needed to respond to the call to alert and active discharge of the duties of citizenship, this is the year. Young men and women, of voting age, standing on the threshold, or in the weeds, of adult life, ought to be concerned about the problems confronting them—solutions for some of which are sought through the policies and operations of State and Federal government.

There is one group of voters that can do much to register public opinion at the polls; we refer to the young women of Michigan. In particular, we refer to Republican young women. They can well afford to stimulate their ranks to take an active interest in the coming campaign's issues and personalities.

There is something wrong with the intellectual cuisine of the whole young world; too many cooks are bringing forth half-baked theories, hard-boiled programs, and scrambled panaces. The eating of which but adds to the world's indigestion.

SATISFACTION is the state of mind you acquire when someone you envy gets a good stiffing.

No Artificial Barriers In Our Public Schools

America's public school system, called the very foundation of democratic free government, is, by virtue of its universal support through taxation, supposed to maintain no social or financial barrier against the students, no discrimination being made except on matters relating to scholastic standing—and that only by a system of credits and passing cards.

It is refreshing, then, to listen to a local school board member, Charles E. Kinnison, praise democracy of an organization such as he did recently when addressing the annual Girl Scout Award at the Community House. Said Mr. Kinnison: "I like you Girl Scouts because you stand for good things for youth, for the family, for the neighborhood, the community, and the public schools.

We commend Mr. Kinnison's viewpoint to all who are seriously interested in maintaining a tolerant atmosphere in our public schools. For it is the free government in the United States. For it is the essence of a method of intellectual development that makes possible the opportunity for adult elevation to responsible places in the social, economic, and political life of a free people.

American Liberty League Should Be Honest

The American Liberty League claims to be, in existence solely for the purpose of preserving Constitutional government. Judging from some of its propaganda, we are inclined to believe that the American Liberty League is leaning too far towards a return to "predatory rugged individualism." Members of both Republican and Democratic Parties belong to this League, it is true; but if the League leaders think they can go back to the unadorned practice of an uncontrolled laissez-faire system, they are only making a detour to national prosperity.

Many of President Roosevelt's ideas for social betterment are decent in fundamental concept—even though so many of his administration hirings are bungling them all up. There is an abundance of everything of a physical nature for everybody in the United States who is willing and wants to work. No man-made force on earth can prevent a free people from attaining either evolution or revolution.

TRADE NOTE: We understand that beer being manufactured by Frank D. McKay's brewery is finding increased sale throughout the southern portion of western Lower Michigan. Probably just one of many items that assure Frank McKay's business is up.

JAY G. HAYDEN, The Detroit News correspondent at Washington, writes that in the coming session of Congress "everyone will be for himself." Honestly, now, Mr. Hayden, do you really call that news?

THE WAY IT WORKS: Demanding bigger and better schools for the youngsters. Seeking a restraining order to prevent school trustees from spending so much money on non-essentials.

THINGS WORK OUT: We fret about a thing over which we haven't the remotest control, only to find it's a good thing we haven't.

IF HE DOESN'T have a good word to say about his successor the change was likely the company's idea.

Practical Paragraphs

HOBNOBBING WITH THE 400 "For many years," said the speaker, "I have wished that I were one of the 400. At last my dream has come true. A month ago I moved to Podunkville. The population is 400. At last my wish has come true. I have wished that I might mingle with educated, cultured, traveled, interesting people. If you have ever entertained such a desire may we suggest that you can have a lot of fun doing almost that right in the town where you are.

In practically every community in America large enough to support a newspaper there is a place where you may meet the best people. At this place you not only become acquainted with them but you may even come to understand them better than their nearest relative ever did. The place is the public library. Here are biographers waiting to present to you the rare souls of all ages.

You may meet discoverers, poets, scientists, statesmen, engineers, judges, musicians, artists, sculptors—in fact men of nearly all trades and professions. Their introductions or biographers will tell you things that will reverse many of your preconceived notions, their defeats, their joys and their sorrows. In many cases you may examine their thoughts as they have set them down with great care for you to peruse.

Do you like humor? Go down to your meeting place here in our Baldwin Public Library and sit awhile with Mark Twain and let him delight you with his inimitable humor and great philosophies who have truly lived. Or take again the life of the One who spent much time in "doing good." As you mingle with the great and good—the real leaders of a free nation—a moment and realize that all they enjoyed and suffered and yearned for is your heritage as truly as though you were the last slave on earth. But you are in a better position. You can enjoy their silent comradeship knowing that you can share their wisdom with others. And when you have been so lifted up and helped by hobnobbing with the 400 that you DELIGHT in talking with others, you will be in the mood to so live that in parting you too, may leave footprints on the sands of time. . . . at least in your own home town.

THE PLACE FOR THIS FELLOW



PEOPLE'S COLUMN

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

February 6, 1936 Birmingham Eccentric. Dear Sir: I've just listened to Walter Huston read Lincoln's Gettysburg address over the radio and it came to me suddenly that Lincoln must have sounded a great deal like our own Franklin D. Roosevelt, or maybe I should say Roosevelt sounded like Lincoln. And did you ever notice the likeness of their speeches? I mean their choice of words and phrases. Lincoln said and I believe Roosevelt knew, "that this nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom." Those words are as true now as they were when Lincoln spoke them.

Sincerely, MRS. JEANNE ROBINSON Birmingham, Mich. Editor, Birmingham Eccentric. Dear Sir: As an old reader of the Eccentric, I have been very much interested in the articles which appear from time to time, particularly as mentioned in the column, Birmingham Before Today. I would regard that there were two of them in the same predicament so why single one out? As to John Harris, I knew him well. He was a respectable, good-looking, honorable man and I never heard him alluded to as Darky Holland.

Signed: An old neighbor of both John and Abe Harris and a friend to the bad? ROSE HARPER, Troy, Michigan. R. F. D. No. 2, Birmingham, Mich. Feb. 4, 1936. Mr. George R. Averill, Birmingham Eccentric, Birmingham, Mich. I was very much interested and amused in an article grazing one of the pages of the Eccentric in last week's issue. If you will recall the very timely suggestion about the birds, I am your good friend Robert McClellan, he is to be congratulated indeed, in calling our attention to the attention of our people at this particular time.

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Regarding the second letter, I did not intend to ridicule or "poison" Kitty Castled. I merely mentioned some of her peculiarities as I might have done in telling about some other person who happened to be cross-eyed or the possessor of a large nose like him. In writing about Martha Baldwin, who she is honest in treating of them in the manner of walking and characteristic dress with the very kindest of words.

'My Country, 'Tis of Thee'

A Political Puzzle The passing of the Bonus Bill is now history. The spectacle of the Congress coming to life and the presidential veto is an intriguing one. Has Mr. Roosevelt lost control of his rubber-stamp Congress? Has J. P. Morgan, who has just voted against the President's veto but is expected to vote over it, turned against President Roosevelt? Why was the President's veto such a feeble affair—only calling attention to his reasons in his last spring veto? Does the answer to all these questions lie in his personal station, his great admiration for the President, or will you have to find the money?

What a chance for Patman and his paper-money gang! What a chance for the rest of the dollar, of some other form of inflation. Perhaps this is the lineup: If, as Secretary Morgenthau admitted in his recent statement to the Senate, at some time he feared he would have difficulty in his task of financing the 10 1/2 billion, he would have possibly chosen would ensue, Congress should yield to inflation, possibly choose would ensue, Congress should yield to inflation, possibly choose would ensue, Congress should yield to inflation.

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My Valentines

He used to send me valentines A long time ago When he and I were young, And all the valentines he sent I treasure now among Some other little keepsakes In an inland rosewood chest. Alas—time changes many things. He sends me valentines no more. No doubt he thinks they're stupid, "Hearts and roses and a cupid." But I would sally miss those valentines. Excepting that another gentleman Now sends me valentines each year. And underneath the verse I find "This verse, "With love, for Mother Dear." —Beatrice McDonald.

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