

The Birmingham Eccentric

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NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events which have news value and which are written by persons connected with the editorial staff of the paper. All copy must be submitted before 10 o'clock on the day preceding publication, 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 crowded situation in the office, the Eccentric cannot be held responsible for those stories which are not published. The Eccentric is not responsible for any person, firm or corporation which may make a statement in the Eccentric. The Eccentric is not responsible upon being brought to the attention of the publisher.

Just A Few Items Of Great State Interest

News Items: Frank D. McKay, the Grand Rapids inefficient ex-State Treasurer, and reputed patronage boss of Michigan Republicanism, is the possessor of many friends. For instance, we learn that he has induced former Governor Fred W. Green to participate in a stock issue in the re-organization of the old McKay & Gay furniture factory in Grand Rapids; Mr. McKay is on close terms with Michigan's present Governor Frank D. Fitzgerald; Mr. Howard Lawrence, chairman of the Michigan State Central Committee, and receiver for delinquent banks in Grand Rapids and another Saginaw, has been appointed State Banking Commissioner; Mr. Lawrence is a former private secretary of Governor Green's; (unless Mr. Lawrence, whom we like personally, resigns his chairmanship of the Michigan Republican State Central Committee, he is doing any amount of good master James A. Leroy, who heads the National Democratic Party.)

Social Items: Frank D. McKay, last week while spending a bit of his time in Florida, heard that Governor Fitzgerald might appoint Abner M. C. Taylor, deputy Banking Commissioner, to succeed resigned Commissioner Rudolph Reicher, so McKay flew straight back to Michigan to enjoy the zero weather of his native State. So Governor Fitzgerald appointed Mr. Lawrence instead of Mr. Taylor. (Question: Is Governor Fitzgerald only kidding about civil service for Michigan?)

Political Item: Governor Fitzgerald was scheduled to speak at Lincoln Banquet in Grand Rapids last night, February 8, along with Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., Senator Vandenberg, and others. The Governor the day before had crowned a Winter Sports Queen in Petoskey, and left there Friday night for Grand Rapids, but failed to arrive in time for the banquet—in fact, didn't arrive at all. The next day the Grand Rapids Press printed the governor's "JUST ADMICTION: We think a governor of Michigan should live that after he leaves a Winter Sports Queen and starts for a Lincoln banquet at which he is to speak, he can excuse his failure to arrive with an explanation as clear as the Queen's blue eyes and as honest as Old Abe, instead of leaving it to friends to pass out an explanation which has a "mild" odor.

Historical Item: Michigan newspapermen will remember when the editor of The Eccentric, during the election campaign two years ago, asked the then Secretary of State Frank D. Fitzgerald if Frank D. McKay would have any influence during his administration, if he, Fitzgerald, were elected. Candidate Fitzgerald answered our open letter with an evasive, yet mock negative.

Poultry Item: Chickens come home to roost.
Prophetic Item: Never count your chickens before they are hatched.
Culinary Item: Politics serves up more baloney than butcher shops.

Religious Item: "How long, oh Lord, how long!"

The May 5th Tax Sale

On May 5 the State of Michigan will offer, for the first time since the Spring of 1932, the tax delinquent property for sale. Hundreds of thousands of property descriptions will be offered, as Michigan officials serve notice that no longer can it withhold the statutory requirement that debtors meet their legitimate obligation to support government.

Personally, this newspaper has been, and still is, sympathetic to home owners who cannot as yet meet their tax obligations; we feel that times get better and these home owners are able to meet their delinquent tax obligations, the State can afford to give them opportunity to do so; therefore, the State can withhold from sale after May 5 those descriptions where people show a willingness and near ability to pay up, but in cases of property, unimproved, and used for speculation during the recent boom period, we feel that this type of land should be sold May 5.

There is no use in government "kidding itself" about speculative property being withheld from tax sale. But every consideration should be made to the legitimate home owner, upon investigation of each case. The Eccentric sympathizes with all debtors, but also agrees with those who hold that government must be carried on by support at tax collecting time.

Laugh At Politicians, Too

and don't please don't . . . forget, Dear American Citizen, to enjoy a few good laughs during the coming Presidential campaign. Of course, the issues are of tremendous importance, very serious in nature. But if you really want to enjoy your life to the fullest, train yourself to view the national election, spelling binding with a sense of humor; after all, you pay plenty to see less humor on the stage.

WHEN AN AIRPLANE crashes too many people allow themselves to become fearful for the safety of air travel. Air travel is safer, per capita of those who use it, than many other forms of travel. Don't let an airplane crash scare you from enjoying a soar through the clouds.

Tugwell Should Be Removed From High Public Office

Dr. Rexford Guy Tugwell, the fiery pro-McCoy disciple of the Hoover administration, wants a law passed that requires unanimous action on the part of the U. S. Supreme Court in declaring statutes unconstitutional. The Columbia professor argues that Congress should be allowed to pass any legislation it wants, and that such legislation should stand—unless the U. S. Supreme Court Justice agrees that it is unconstitutional.

In other words, Dr. Tugwell is willing to have majority rule determine what legislation shall pass Congress, but demands that judicial interpretation of it shall be unanimous.

The dear Doctor (a young fellow who has never yet had to make and meet a payroll), really shows that what he wants is . . . well, New Deal Legislation kept inoperative and free from Supreme Court interpretation.

And this, too, in spite of the fact that the framers of our constitution created three separate and distinct branches of free government, the legislative, the executive, and the judicial.

We suggest that Doctor Tugwell transplant himself to those areas on the earth where his dictatorial and regimented ideas have already rooted themselves. It's too dangerous to keep in high places in our American concept of self-government.

They Ask For Work—And They Get WPA!

Our nation celebrates George Washington's, birthday Saturday.

What a long way our people have strayed from the original path chartered for the nation by those hard-working pioneers who, asking only for work, held a democratic civilization out of a howling wilderness of virgin natural wealth!

Instead of demanding a chance to work, too many people now are demanding a subsidy from government. These people, whose votes are desired by politicians, are offered governmental assistance in the name of humanitarianism—when most of these people really only want a market for their goods and services.

Two things are wrong with the United States; one of them is taxation and the other is its almost complete ignorance of the fine art of predatory politics.

Too many people accept economic and social panaceas with the same expert rapture and faith that a Fiji Islander would show toward the tribal medicine man's boiling pot of bones, herbs, sea shells, glass beads, and other physical stuff that he mixes in his brew.

Sometimes we wonder if Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, Hamilton, and other early leaders were alive today and again offered us their best thoughts for the cure of our ills, would we wonder if more of our people wouldn't be just about as apathetic, inert, and disinterested toward them as they are today.

Honoring A Pioneer

Plans to honor an Oakland County man, the first Attorney-General of Michigan in 1836, are suggested by W. T. Miller, of Ferndale, an authority on early Oakland County history. Mr. Miller would use this Michigan Centennial year as a vehicle for paying belated respect to the man who played a large part in the formative stages of this Commonwealth.

The man is Daniel Leroy, whose body now lies in a poorly marked grave in the village of Fenon, in Genesee County.

Daniel Leroy was a lawyer of great intellect and character. He left a lasting imprint upon Michigan's legal past. We agree with those who suggest that his memory be recalled in suitable form during this year. The Oakland County and Michigan State Bar Associations can dignify their profession if they carry out a memorial program in honor of the almost forgotten first Attorney-General of Michigan, who was appointed while he lived in Rochester by the then boy Governor, Stevens T. Mason.

How we DO things: Half believing the jokes about the dumbness and crookedness of the politicians. Electing these politicians to do our law-making for us.

"CROWLEY RULES State Can't Own Pipelines"—the Attorney-General was referring to use of them for oil and gas, Mr. Huckle, and for no other commodity.

You go to a big church if you go to hear what the minister has to say. It's small one if you go for fear of what the members have to say.

AFTER ALL, THE FACT that she is a widow with 4 children is a better reason than we usually have for putting a person in office.

DEMOCRATS HOPE for a short session of Congress. So does most of the nation—not only this year, but in future ones, too.

SPINSTER: A woman who was too timid to be chased by a man until it was too late for her to catch him.

Practical Paragraphs

THEY MAY STOP YOU FROM MAKING A LIVING, BUT—
 Certain forces and conditions may sometimes stop you from making a living, but not from making a life.

A few years back when everybody was rushed with the thought was often voiced, "I'm too busy to live." People often deplored the fact that humans with all their hopes and dreams were as much slaves to the needs of the body as are the animals. Animals spend most of their waking hours foraging for food.

Most men up to recent years have spent most of their waking hours expending their energy for food, shelter and clothing.

They have dreamed of the day when they would be different. Discoveries and inventions would shorten working hours and by mastering machinery they would liberate him from his dependence upon time to master life.

Work plays a useful part in developing personality. However, many men used to dream of the time when the machines would so lift the load from their backs that minds would have more time to roam in the vast, uncharted, mysteriously little known realms of thought and experience.

We are on the verge of entering into that period! Time will tell.

People's Column

The Eccentric is pleased to receive communications for this column. Communications should be signed and limited to 500 words, and must be received in the office by noon for publication the following Thursday.

Birmingham, Michigan
 February 12, 1936
 Mr. George R. Averill, Editor
 Birmingham, Michigan

Dear Sir:
 As one of the taxpayers of our city there are certain questions that I would like you to publish in your paper and have the city officials answer by the same means. I appreciate the fact that the office of Commissioner in Birmingham is not a monetary office and also that some of the commissioners are devoting their time and best efforts unstintingly to the cause of our city, but I would appreciate an answer to the following questions:

First, I am told that the monthly payroll of the City of Birmingham is \$8,000 per month or approximately \$100,000 a year. To me and to a lot of other taxpayers for a city of this size it seems to be excessive and I would like you to ask the city officials why we have such a large payroll and what is the money spent for each month.

Second, it is my understanding that Mr. Scott Hersey is still being retained on the city payroll in an endeavor to collect delinquent taxes. Is it necessary for Mr. Hersey to be retained and if so how much delinquent taxes is he collecting per month to justify his monthly stipend?

Third, I understand that several thousand dollars is being expended in the proposed installation of a Municipal Electric Light Plant. How much has been expended to date and when will we get the report? Personally I do not see the necessity for this city to install a Municipal Electric Light Plant. The rates that I am paying the Detroit Edison for a two month period are less than what I paid for one month when I lived in Toledo, Ohio, for a good many years, and we have more modern electrical appliances than I had when I was in Toledo, therefore I would like to see a report investigate the advisability of a Municipal Light Plant, which I presume would be financed from the Washington P. W. A. trough. It would be much better for the city officials to study the comparative rates that are being charged in neighboring states.

Fourth, there is a Spring Election coming up very soon, and as a taxpayer I expect and hope that the budget would be financed from the city officials. I would like to see this budget under last year's conditions. I know whose terms expire on the City Commission this year, but I suggest in the interim, would it be better to let those whose terms do expire, cultivate a greater respect for the citizen's pocketbook.

Now, if there were no other sound and economically minded citizens in the community who would favor them to accept the office.

I myself, am not seeking any office because of my inability to do it, but I would like to support to anyone who will come out on a program of more efficiency and economy.

I would appreciate a reply in your paper to the above questions.

Very truly,
 HARRY A. STONE,
 No. 547 Riveroak.

Notes in Jest

TO conform with the tenor of his remarks on subjects pertaining to American playwrights, that English playwright should spell his name "Pehaw."

The words that froze on the old man's lips—"Now, when I was a lad, we had real winters."

Indiana inventor devises an electric manurrier. Until we were given a layer before the soil shall refuse to believe that a machine can churn.

That chem. "Neutrality Bill" can't refer to fire-eating Senator Borah.

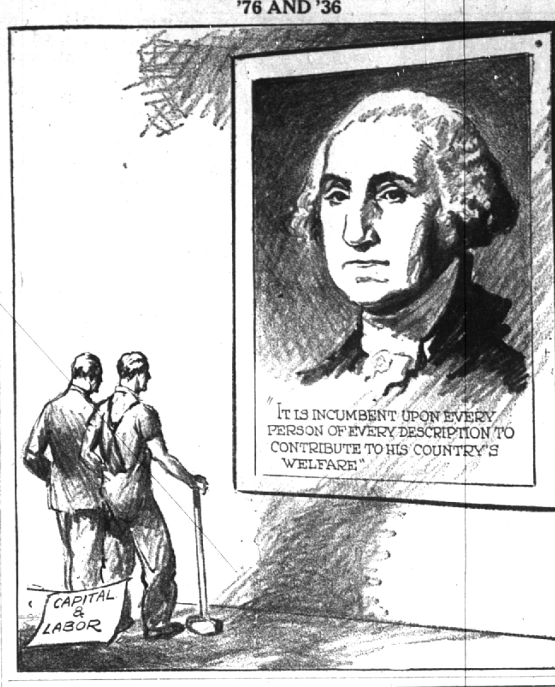
If there's anything to be charged that midwestern footballers were given a layer before the games, that buddy gives them a chance to brush up on "Sweet Adelaide."

Memento

It's just a little candy box of gold And rose—you sent it once when I was ill; It's just a little candy box of gold And rose—the colors of the dawn. I ate up all the candies, but I still have the box to thank you for a while— To hold my pins and handkerchiefs, and to keep my things in order.

And calls to little trifles for my own needs. It also calls to mind again your smile. I guess a fairy helped you when My very favorite colors—gold and rose.

—BEATRICE McDONALD



'My Country, 'Tis of Thee'... The Other Chap Says-

By T. H. MILLINGTON

Turn on the Spark
 A photograph of an automobile I designed and built back in 1904, with my oldest son in the driver's seat trying to reach up to the steering wheel, hangs on the wall of our dining room. I frequently look at it, because to me it represents a certain phase of human experience—the lesson of the endless trouble follows when the great events of the world are the obvious.

Administration Unfavorable
 I don't like the attitude of the Administration in business, but I don't believe that, as some cranks claim, it is taking orders from either Russia or Germany. I believe they are doing the best they know how, but they are not turned on the spark—the spark of co-operation. They are engaged in a struggle to have now lost their temper, so that they call names at the slightest provocation.

They Bite the Hand that Feeds Them
 They have apparently forgotten that the classes they condemn and denounce are the very people whose money is loaned to the Government on its notes and in fact, but like mad dogs, they bite the hands that feed them. They are engaged in a struggle to have now lost their temper, so that they call names at the slightest provocation.

Car Wouldn't Start
 My friend Charlie and I had driven the new car down town to surprise the natives, and parked it in front of the Athletic Club, where we had dinner. Automobiles were rare in 1904, and the brand new shining car, to the flattery of our concert, attracted a lot of attention and we were more or less the center of things. So naturally, when at last we left the club to drive away to our homes, a crowd of fellows came along and joined the crowd on the sidewalk to view the great event.

The only self-starter in those days being a good right arm, I engaged a crowd of fellows to hold the starting crank. The engine was a 5 1/2 x 6 1/2 cylinder vertical affair with 65 pounds of compression. It started on a cold frosty night, was a job for a strong man only. It would get started, though, and the whole car with my spinning. So Charlie tried his hand, but he succeeded no better.

Veteran Enthusiasts
 Now, if the reader should happen to be a veteran automobile enthusiast of the vintage of 1904, he will know the mortification occasioned by the jibes and suggestions from our audience. "Get a horse!" "Have you got any gasoline?" etc. Worst of all, we were utterly unprepared for the heavy work for we were in swallow-tails and top hats—a combination of incongruity which made the audience. Some of the suggestions made, I know now, were so absurd and sympathetic, but they made us furious then. We could see no good in any help, considered it a personal affront. We knew it all our selves.

Exhausted and Astonished
 Finally, exhausted, in a high state of perspiration and temper, we had not done. We did not have the spark turned on.

That is the trouble with business today. Capital has the spark turned off. Confusion, fear of the future, fear of the acts of an experienced administration, and more or less helpless and witless Congress leads men of means and experience to keep their money idle.

Employment of labor is a much more potent argument than are Constitutional abstractions.

Mike O'Shaw obtained a position in an observatory and went to the office of the time watching the professors at the telescopes.

One day a professor walked in, went to a telescope, and began to make observations. Just then a star fell. Mike gasped.

"Beverly, that was a fine shot sir," he said, with great admiration. "Any way, he hardly had time to take aim at it."

Happenings of Long Ago

FIFTY YEARS AGO

Watch for spring.
 The Cemetery Association will give an entertainment in the near future.

Board of Supervisors have ordered the wind-mill in the Pontiac court house yard taken down. We almost all thank to Mrs. W. A. Parks, a son. The little stranger was proud to be able to tip the beam 11 pounds, and Will is proportionately happy.

One of Big Beaver's best citizens has young a recently granted franchise by spirituality, and dove head first into his front window, smacking his head, and cutting his face quite badly.

Charles R. Hoffman, for many years office clerk, has resigned at the depot, has resigned his position, and will hereafter devote his whole time to farming. He has traded as barber. Joseph Phillips will take Charles's place, and so on. Mr. Mitchell for the price given and may Birmingham always be the pride of Old Oakland.

Mr. J. W. L. Hoffman, for many years office clerk, has resigned at the depot, has resigned his position, and will hereafter devote his whole time to farming. He has traded as barber. Joseph Phillips will take Charles's place, and so on. Mr. Mitchell for the price given and may Birmingham always be the pride of Old Oakland.

Twenty-five Years Ago
 Owing to circumstances, I have abandoned the petitioning business and hereafter will give my attention to auctioneering and respectfully solicit your patronage. We almost all thank to Mrs. W. A. Parks, a son. The little stranger was proud to be able to tip the beam 11 pounds, and Will is proportionately happy.

Well, the annual masquerade ball of the ladies was quite a pronounced success as expected. There were sold 82 tickets, and 200 present. There were Indian, Mexican, Don Juans, hobos, Jew dukes, counts, no counts, etc., among the ladies were queens, knights, and all of them that go to Huebner, as an excitable Hebrew was immense, and Mr. Fred Tamm and Little Don Plumstead were Mutt and Jeff took the bun. The affair was managed right, the music was fine and everybody said they had a bully time.

Although more than 40 signatures have been secured on a petition seeking to rescind the Board of Education act which abolishes baseball as a sport at Baldwin high school, it seems unlikely that the petition, now being circulated among the high school students here, will have any effect.

William Coit Ales, a member of the law firm of Warren, Hill & Hamlin, Detroit, Monday was appointed a member of the Village Planning Commission to succeed John A. Wendolph, resigned.

With the close of the time for filing of petitions for election to the five municipalities, there will be filed at the spring election, March 9, nine candidates had qualified, Mrs. M. E. Larson, village clerk, announced Saturday.

Monday night, March 2, at 8 p. m. for \$100,000 bonds will be offered for sale by the Village of Birmingham School district and numerous bidders will be on hand at the regular meeting of the school board.

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