Greater truth in advertising is one of the world's needs. Not only truth as it is applied to commodities sold in the public market places—but a type of truth that stands behind every political party's promise. Really, manufacturers of quack medicines promise no more than your average politician.

The Birmingham Eccentric

14 PAGES, PART 1

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THIS and THAT

By G. R. A.

As you gaze up into the lovely blue sky during the coming summer, to thrill at the ease and grace of some beautiful bird as it wings its eternal way through the infinite sky-ways; and, as you gaze, should you see the bird suddenly turn a couple of abrupt flip-flops . . . or should it suddenly fly straight upwards . . . or should it appear to do a dance in a sort of suspended mid-air position . . . or should it gasp out its last breath and plunge earthward . . . should the bird do any of these things, what do you suppose will be the cause? My only notion is that it will have encountered some form of wit, half-wit, logic, foolishness, intolerance, or other type of political oratory being radioed during the campaign. If you see any such antics in bird-land, please let me know, so that I can get in immediate touch with those birds down in Washington.

IF I SHOULD DIE TONIGHT

If I should die tonight
And you should come to my cold corpse and say,
Weeping and heartsick o'er my lifeless clay—
If I should die tonight
And you should come in the deepest grief and woe—
And say: "Here's that ten dollars that I owe,"
I might arise in my large white cravat
And say, "What's that?"

If I should die tonight
And you should come to my cold corpse and kneel,
Clasping my bier to show the grief you feel,
I say, if I should die tonight
And you should come to me, and there and then
Just even hint at paying me that ten,
I might arise the while,
But I'd drop dead again.

—Ben E. King.

The room gave off the atmosphere of lavender and old lace. The antique whatnot stood in the corner, presenting an appropriate background for dear old grandma. Not a sound was heard save the clicking of her knitting needles, the creak of her rocking chair, and the methodic ticktock of a grandfather clock as it relentlessly marked off the hours in time's endless flight. With childish curiosity, mingled with filial admiration, little Alice sat watching the purls and stitches and other antics of grandma's deft hands. "Why do you knit, dear grandma?" asked the child. Gazing upon her innocent descendant, and smiling tolerantly, the dear old lady replied, "Oh, just for the hell of it, dear child."

Now that we are in an election year, and numerous and varied politicians will be seeking your vote, please remember that not all of them will tell you the entire truth. Try to recall the case of the vehement candidate who, referring to the other candidate's misstatements, thundered out, "Are you going to take this lying down?" Then a deep voice from the rear of the hall echoed back, "Of course not, the shorthand reporters are doing that."

Sentencing the first mate and chief engineer of the Morro Castle two and fours years, respectively, to prison for their negligence in line of duty was proper, in my humble estimation. And I speak from some personal knowledge, having been a chief engineer of ocean-going steamers before I entered the newspaper business. But I disagree with the mere fining of the steamship's company's official who allowed—in the name of selfish economy—that boat to sail with the lives of hundreds of passengers at the mercy of an unseaworthy craft. He, too, should go to prison. Under the maritime laws of this nation, licensed officers aboard vessels are supposed to know when the facilities of navigation, under their respective jurisdiction, are fit or not. The navigating and of the ship is supposed to know something of seamanship, of the waters in which they are licensed to navigate, and of the fitness of fire-preventing and life-saving apparatus entrusted to their care.

The engineer's department contracts to furnish power to the vessel's propeller, and otherwise to maintain machinery aboard the craft in such degree of efficiency that life and property are as secure as humanly possible. Evidence given in the Morro Castle case shows that both navigating and engineering departments failed to measure up to their responsibility to the steamboat inspection service that granted them licenses. The Morro Castle, in its apparent condition, should never have sailed from port until put in ship-shape for sea. I recall a time when, as chief engineer of a boat owned by the United States Shipping Board,

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GIRL SCOUTS HOLD HONOR COURT FRIDAY

Badges Awarded For Tests Passed During Year; Nearly 300 There

HONOR MRS. NAVIN

Birmingham's Girl Scouts, together with their parents and Scout advisors, staged an annual Court of Award last Friday night at the Community House, and awarded a total of 170 badges to girls who have passed various tests during the year. The meeting was ably presided over by Mrs. F. W. Dubois, local Girl Scout Commissioner. Nearly 300 were in attendance. A supper preceded the program.

One of the features of the evening was the presentation of a "Thanks" merit badge to Mrs. Thomas R. Navin, leader of Troop 6.

In opening the meeting Mrs. Dubois reviewed the activities of the local Girl Scouts during the past year, and referred gratefully to the help given in establishing the summer camp and cabin on city property at Springdale Park. Numerous local individuals, together with help from the Lions club, built a kitchen on the original building last fall. "Only a fireplace is needed to complete the camp cabin," stated Mrs. Dubois.

There are six active Birmingham Troops, consisting of 200 girls. Many of them were present, attired in the natty green dresses of the Girl Scout movement.

A brief address was made by Charles S. Kinnison, of Hawthorne road, for many years interested in local youth organizations, and at present a member of the Birmingham Board of Education.

Confining his remarks to the girls themselves, Mr. Kinnison said, "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. Your membership is open to all, for there are no barriers of family, wealth, and other material matters, that prevent girls from joining your great organization. Girl Scouting makes for a good, clean democracy; it offers opportunity for happy and interesting girlhood, thus preparing you for the sweetest type of good womanhood. Mere money doesn't guarantee contentment in life. Girl Scouting develops programs that make you honestly curious and sincerely useful."

Mr. Kinnison closed his talk with the reading of a poem that he wrote for local Girl Scouts a year ago.

The Girl Scouts staged several interesting program features, including group singing, first-aid work, an elaborate presentation of the serving of a formal dinner, and folk-dancing.

Members of the local Girl Scout Council include, besides Mrs. Dubois, Mrs. Richard Fowler, deputy commissioner, Mrs. Craig Richey, secretary, Mrs. Archie Utter, treasurer, Mrs. Eric Hyde, who acted this year as chairman of the committee that selected girls for the Court of Award, Mrs. Clark Coulter, Mrs. Guy Jensen, Mrs. W. C. Russell, Mrs. Walter Elliott, Mrs. Floyd Franklin, Mrs. Ruth Saunders, and Mrs. Lee A White.

Five per cent of all funds raised to carry on the local Girl Scout activities is sent on to the national headquarters, for which plentiful supplies of literature, programs for Scouting, advice, and training personnel are received. The remainder is used entirely to carry on work in the various Troops, for the camp, and for office supplies of a purely local nature.

Erma Lowrie Has Hard Time Managing Aunt's Ghost

Now just supposin' you were confronted with a situation such as Erma Lowrie had to face.

One morning Erma awoke to find herself in possession of a lovely country estate but obliged by the terms of a will to live on it constantly for one year. Shucks! that wouldn't be difficult to do, would it?

But just a minute, please. We forgot to tell you that the house was haunted by a deceased aunt and that a phantom tiger appeared at midnight in order to regain a mysterious collar of pearls stolen from its neck years before. Now, do you envy Erma?

Well, to go on with the story, one dark night . . . but, here, before we know it we'll be telling you all about that great mystery thriller, Tiger House, the Senior High play to be presented on Thursday night, February 20th at 8:15 o'clock in the Baldwin High School Auditorium.

Incidentally, Tiger House, with its breath-taking scenes interwoven with a delightful thread of romance has been played professionally all over the country. Everywhere it has been tremendously successful. It is with the assured guarantee of the play's background that Miss Ruth Hall, Director, has selected it;

Challenges Capital To Take Lead In Recovery Move

(Editor's Note: A people in possession of political freedom are destined to win, through the maneuvering and chicanery of politics, eventual economic freedom. In times of economic stress, a hungry stomach and a cold back will in the contest of intelligence vs. immediate self-preservation; a man, in the apparent hopelessness and helplessness in which the vagaries of a predatory competitive system bring him, often gives silent or active assent to governmental methods that, in times of prosperity, he would revolt against.

There are business and financial leaders in the United States who are able, by pooling their brains and their capital, to outwit the braintruster and the demagogue in restoring prosperity to a stricken people. Such leadership has been responsible for the great growth of the United States; the demagogue, the braintruster, have done pitifully little to raise the structure of enduring economic prosperity in any nation.

Today, our nation faces the problem of determining whether or not business and financial leaders, of their own free and voluntary accord, will do the job that the great mass of people **demand** shall be done!

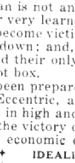
The average man or woman is not an economist, an expert on constitutional law, or very learned in the realm of finance. But he and she can become victims of systems that are out of joint and broken down; and, in their efforts to preserve themselves, they find their only sword and buckler lies in the American ballot box.

The following article has been prepared by Mr. Millington at the request of The Eccentric, and is respectfully submitted to men and women in high and low places in the general interest of aiding in the victory of intelligent planning as against political and economic despotism.)

IDEALISM GONE MAD

The slogan that won the presidential campaign in 1912 was **"The New Freedom."** At that time the national debt was just under one billion dollars.

The slogan that won the Reelection in the presidential campaign in 1916 was, **"He Kept Us Out of War."** At that time the national debt was 1¼ billion. At the close of the war it was 25½ billions.



T. H. MILLINGTON

The slogan that won the presidential campaign in 1932 was **"The New Deal."** At that time the national debt was 19 billions. Today it is 31½ billions; and according to Henry Morgenthau's testimony before the Senate Finance Committee it will be 35½ billions by July, 1937.

Morganthau Testifies

On Jan. 17th last, Mr. Morganthau, Secretary of the U. S. Treasury, appeared for a hearing before that committee on the state of school authorities will make it possible for Scout Uniforms to be worn by School pupils who are Scouts, practically universally affiliated with church organizations in the three great branches of religious faiths, Protestant, Catholic and Jewish. In many Jewish synagogues there will be Scout services on Friday evening, February 7.

Celebrate In Schools

Monday, February 10, will find the Scout Anniversary being celebrated in public and private schools. There will be many Scout assembly programs on this day. The permission