

# The Birmingham Eccentric

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1936

**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 before noon on Wednesdays. The right to use the copy, however, is reserved. Changes in the character of the work presented are necessary to the style of the paper. Mechanical situations in the composing room, headlines written in a way that has no meaning, and any other mechanical errors, any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or personality of any person, or any other matter which does not appear in the columns of the Eccentric will be gladly corrected upon being brought to the attention of the publisher.

## How We Shall Vote On Those State Amendments

Next Thursday when you cast your vote, among matters before you will be the four Amendments to Michigan's Constitution, each designed to change this important document in some respect. In glancing through our exchange newspapers last week, we came upon an editorial written by Schuyler L. Marshall, of the Clinton County Republican-News, published at St. Johns, Michigan, which we believe merits printing in this column for the general reader's guidance for decisions by our readers.

Mr. Marshall, one of the most able and prominent of Michigan's newspapermen, knows whereof he writes. We agree with him exactly regarding his opinions on three of the Amendments, those labelled No. 1, No. 3, and No. 4; because we live in one of the State's larger cities, and we are in accord with him wholeheartedly on Amendment No. 2, which refers to a change of government in counties. We believe that Amendment No. 2, when intelligently presented to the people, can bring to congested counties some tax relief in the administration of county matters. No. 2, even though we do so with some degree of hesitancy.

But we concur with editor Marshall in his summary of the other Amendments, and herewith present his views on them, as follows:

**Amendment No. 1**—To permit firearms and other dangerous weapons seized in or near buildings to be introduced in any criminal procedure.

The purpose of this Amendment is to give evidence to crooks, bandits and gangsters. The present law requires a search warrant describing what the police are looking for. If they accidentally find guns, bombs, explosives, blackjacks, or other paraphernalia employed by crooks, it does them no good unless they have prepared a search warrant. It is a search warrant. The new amendment would allow police to testify to this fact and introduce the gun as evidence.

We shall vote "Yes" on 1 Amendment.

**Amendment No. 3**—To exempt foodstuffs from the sales tax.

This is a dangerous proposal. It may effect the entire constitutionality of the sales tax. Michigan but recently adopted a 15-mill limitation amendment to relieve real property. The sales tax was thus forced to take its place. It is true that food is a necessity of life. The same thing can be said of clothing, shelter, and other things. Except exemptions are stated, the whole sales tax might be kicked into the discard with nothing to take its place. Schools, hospitals, care of the needy and other necessary functions of government hinge on sales tax revenue. If the sales tax SHOULD BE LOWERED, let the legislature accomplish it by CHANGING THE RATE FROM 3 per cent to 2½ or 2 per cent. Don't monkey with this new machine which Michigan has just established. It is dangerous.

We shall vote "NO" on No. 3.

**Amendment No. 4**—To remove all taxes from real and personal property after December 31, 1937.

Who is back of this No. 4 amendment? No one seems to know. It is a vicious attempt to trick the state into a state of financial chaos. Its sponsors are keeping quiet. No one can even guess the full significance of this amendment. It might relieve all railroads and public utility corporations of their taxes. This would wreck the primary school fund. It provides that an income tax, several times defeated in Michigan, MIGHT take the place of present real and personal taxes. It would take all the tax moneys into the hands of a state administration to hand out to the counties and other subdivisions of government as it sees fit. It would take all taxing power away from counties, cities, townships, and school districts and place them in the mercy of Lansing politicians.

We shall vote "NO" on No. 4.

## Partisanship Can Be Honorable

The people of this county, like those of other areas in the United States, take their politics seriously, and in the opinion of some observers from other nations, too seriously.

We have no criticism to make of the man of woman who is "wrapped up" in admiration and enthusiasm for a candidate. This is an inevitable adjunct of our political system, which depends, in part, for its success upon the activity of ordinary people.

"Taking sides" is not to be denied. There is nothing wrong in doing so. The evil that sometimes follows is due to the character of the individual rather than to the advocacy of a candidate. There are partisans who play the game with much honor and there are others who do not play the political game, or any other, as a gentleman should.

**STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER MURRAY D. VAWGONER** is of the firm belief that "the driver is the weakest factor in the highway safety equation." So what?

## November 3—The Crossroads In America's Political Destiny

Only a few days remain for the beating of the political toms, as of various candidates, from President down to the humblest county office, plead their cause before the American public opinion. By this time, of course, you have pretty much made up your mind as to whom you shall vote for; you are for Roosevelt or Landon for President, for Fitzgerald or Murphy for Governor, for Brucker or Brown for U. S. Senator, Dondoro or Allen for Congressman, and so will vote for those on his ticket.

Perhaps you will split your ballot in various ways; a Republican here, a Democrat there, and NUSJ on occasion; you may have made up your mind completely, and will "vote 'er straight," or perchance you will wait until you are in the silence and sacredness of the voting booth to make your final selections.

If you are a real American—regardless of how you vote—you will be in the voting booth November 3! That's the most important thing, after all.

Personally, this newspaper regrets that the conduct of the Roosevelt administration during the past three and a half years has been such that we cannot espouse the cause of a man who, while he has been imposing order in the country with human rights, hasn't thought through, in a characteristic American way," the issues of the day.

We base this statement upon considerable study and observation of the Chief Executive's actions; as they have sought to change so abruptly social, economic, and political phases of American life. As we cast about for some brief, descriptive words that summarize the Roosevelt philosophy, we think of that startling utterance by one of the President's closest advisors, Mr. Rexford Guy Tugwell, former professor of Columbia University, and now in charge of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Here is what Mr. Tugwell, from the profundity of his theoretical pigmature upon earth, has stated as his creed:

"I am strong  
 I am big and well-made  
 I am broad and lean and nervous  
 I am sick of a nation's stench  
 I am sick of property's Czar  
 I have dreamed my great dream of their passing,  
 I have gathered my tools and my charts;  
 My plans are fashioned and practical,  
 I shall lead the star of slaves—make America over!"

That is the philosophy of a man who, himself, never made and met a payroll in his life; a man who has received his financial support from the public tax roll; a man who lives in a world of Utopian theories; a man who would by the sheer power of mere wishing, seek to cause a hundred year old oak to grow in a decade, instead of a hundred years!

President Roosevelt has stood by Prof. Tugwell during the latter's connection with various departments of the Washington government; while we respect the President's loyalty to his friends, we cannot overlook his departure from Constitutional legal considerations, and his theories of this handsome Columbia ex-professor.

And so, in making up our mind on how to vote next Tuesday, November 3, we shall go into the voting booth and mark our ballot for a party and for men who, believing in the evolution of a nation through the agency of a Constitutional government, are opposed to men and parties who, in Tugwellian language, seek to "make America over" in the blue-print rooms of intellectual theories.

Our only regret is that the real and great Democratic Party is not being represented at the polls November 3.

## The Needlework Guild Needs You, Dear Sir, Dear Ladies!

You, Dear Sir, and Dear Lady, wish to make glad the heart of someone less fortunate than yourself—someone right here in Birmingham? Would you like to perform a real service which, though small so far as your means are concerned, will do tremendous good for others? Then, Dear Sir, Dear Lady, do this!

Here's how you can do it: Purchase two articles—whether they be articles of clothing for a boy, girl, man, or woman, or something useful in a needy home—and turn them over to the Birmingham Needlework Guild, for distribution locally.

That's all you have to do to make someone less fortunate than yourself, happy. Oh, there are plenty of "cast-off" things given to various agencies for distribution to others, and in their way, these articles are filling a great need in human relationships; but there are few agencies set up to obtain and distribute BRAND NEW THINGS, and the Needlework Guild leads the procession in this type of friendly sympathy.

If you were a needy boy or girl, man or woman, and had never been born by another, wouldn't your reaction be finer than though the article had been part of the discarded belongings of another? You just bet that you would feel more keenly the joy of possession of something NEW!

Our Needlework Guild was started in England in 1883, and this movement has swept over the whole world since; there are 740 branches in the United States. Last year the Birmingham branch collected and distributed, through the local Community House, 1384 garments, all of them NEW, ranking Birmingham second in the world in this work in Michigan, for the smaller communities.

The Birmingham branch has 615 members, with Mrs. Carleton Patterson as president; Mrs. Alfred LaBelle, vice-president; Mrs. Marvin Kirn, secretary; and Mrs. Sidnor Gilbreath, treasurer.

Winter is at hand, and with it comes the need for many new garments. Help us help the needy. If you can foretell what tremendous uplift and regeneration can come to those who receive from your bounty an article, however inexpensive, that you contribute to this worthy cause.

If the Good Samaritan mood is upon you, Dear Sir, and Dear Lady, who are purchasing TWO BRAND NEW ARTICLES and then get in touch with one of the above-mentioned local committee members of the Needlework Guild?

If you respond to this urgent call, no doubt the Angel Gabriel will dip his pen into Heaven's ink and record your name in the Good Book of Good Samaritans.

## PARTING OF THE WAYS



## PEOPLE'S COLUMN

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

October 26, 1936.  
 To the Editor:  
 Facts and claims put forth by opposed factions in the Presidential campaign are so tangled by propaganda, that the average citizen who has not yet decided how to vote for his best interests, will find it almost impossible to decide rationally, if he allows his ears to be deafened, and his eyes to weary, with the radio blarney and the printed statements that flood this country now.

Why not do some thinking of one's own, to find out what will best serve him, his family, and their interests?  
 Without overlooking, or even slighting, the merits of either candidate for the Presidency, none of whom appear to have any chance of election, it seems that the citizen desiring to make his vote count practically, should consider only the Democratic and Republican candidates. If he will try to consider their respective merits, impartially, for a moment, what will he find?  
 On the one hand, President Roosevelt, a man who from his birth has been sheltered, having all the material benefits that inherited wealth can supply, without need for them. Theoretically, he is not against him, of course. But manifestly they have presented him with the facts of his life, and the great majority who have to work and struggle for all they get, will not be so easily fooled. He does not understand many questions now being asked of him as to any definite future plans.

On the other hand, Governor Landon seeks election as the Republican candidate. He is a self-made man, who has worked among the workers, and has achieved a commendable standard of success. His better public career has brought him to his present office, where he has sought to better the interests of the people of Kansas as far as he can know at this distance. No one can hold him as a mere political official, his so far gone mind, swayed or misled by the propaganda of the campaign, have been plain and direct, and exhibit a common-sense attitude toward life in its private and public aspects. He says he is not satisfied with present conditions and trends, and explains his objections. He also makes definite statements as to his own policies, which in his mind are chosen against anything that has happened since 1870.

William E. Borah, U. S. Senator from Idaho, "What we have learned how to make automobiles, we have not learned how to use them."  
 Charles W. Taussig, Chairman, National Advisory Committee, National Youth Administration. "The preservation and reinforcement of our democracy should be the major objective of education."  
 Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States. "A prosperous world has no permanent room in it for dictatorship or for war."

**Random Remarks**  
 H. L. Mencken, newspaper writer.  
 "This speech is not the prerogative of wise men only; it is also a precious possession of fools."  
 John S. Blaik, 623 Oak St.  
 Sam W. Gumpertz, circus manager.  
 "About all you see in a clowning man, are four feet and five teeth."  
 Alfred M. Landon, Republican candidate for President.  
 "The New Deal is going to be beaten for the single reason that you and I can realize that the old can be done."

Sinclair Lewis, novelist.  
 "The country it will come as a result of the activities of the unemployed, who will mindlessly choose against anything that has happened since 1870."  
 William E. Borah, U. S. Senator from Idaho.  
 "What we have learned how to make automobiles, we have not learned how to use them."  
 Charles W. Taussig, Chairman, National Advisory Committee, National Youth Administration. "The preservation and reinforcement of our democracy should be the major objective of education."  
 Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States. "A prosperous world has no permanent room in it for dictatorship or for war."

Cordell Hull, Secretary of State.  
 "In the long and dreary history of war no one has yet been contented by force."  
 Fritz Kreisler, Austrian violinist.  
 "There will always be a great evil in the world, even if our civilization is destroyed."  
 George A. Dorwin, writer.  
 "What we have learned how to make automobiles, we have not learned how to use them."  
 Charles W. Taussig, Chairman, National Advisory Committee, National Youth Administration. "The preservation and reinforcement of our democracy should be the major objective of education."  
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Truism  
 I always find that if I chatter up my mind With van and dull imaginings, The finer thing, Escape my wings.  
 —Beatrice M. Donald

No Sight Intended  
 Teacher Robert, I saw you put a package of cigarettes in your pocket. Give them to me.  
 Robert: Here's a're, Miss Grimm. I had only offered 'em to you, you snickered.  
 —Beatrice M. Donald

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

By T. H. MILLINGTON

**ForeSight and Hindsight**  
 Looking through THE ECCENTRIC since the writer of 1932-33, I find that some gloomy forebodings were expressed by the editor, Mr. M. George R. Averill on February 20, 1935. At that time, subsequent political events have proved the correctness of his view. He said:

"In an effort to bring much comfort and convenience in human affairs, the activity of organized government was in the United States, and is rapidly changing from a nation of independent, powerfully active citizens, to a nation of passive citizens who are willing to support a governmental machine that runs and operates on the basis of a simple money, that as a nation we are going by a different road, but will still have government, and will still support by taxation what will still be human progress. What we need is legislation by a representative body, and a government by the government."

The writer of the above, there is no dispute that, for the Supreme Court, Mr. Roosevelt would have been discredited, if not disgraced, by the next four years. It should be recalled, there is no definite plan, promise or statement of the President for the next term. He is surrounded by his followers, and his statements by the Supreme Court, which will in any means possible seek to nullify the President's action, and to nullify the whole show.

His reelection would be a sad evidence that a great people, with the greatest and most virtuously exalted principles of government and the last stand on earth of a real free government, is no longer equal to self government.

It would feel coming generations, with their wealth and high achievement, instead of strength and man, enervates him so that his words are empty, and his action and progress become their own frustration.

But I cannot believe that the American people are so led and no longer able to run their own affairs.

**Performance**  
 The following executive and legislative acts during the Roosevelt Administration have been declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court:  
 1. Federal Trade Commission Act, January 7, 1935.  
 2. Joint Resolution of Congress authorizing the Gold clause in existing Government bonds, February 18, 1935.  
 3. Railroad Pension Act, May 6, 1935.  
 4. National Industrial Recovery Act, May 27, 1935.  
 5. Frazier-Lemke Farm Mortgage Moratorium Act, May 27, 1935.  
 6. Removal of Federal Trade Commissioner Humphrey by President Roosevelt, May 27, 1935.  
 7. Agricultural Adjustment Act, January 6, 1936.  
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**President's Oath of Office March 4, 1933**  
 "I, FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT, do hereby swear that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

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**WABECK STATE BANK**  
 BIRMINGHAM, MICH.  
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 "Your Bank in Birmingham"  
 COMPLETE BANKING FACILITIES