The Birmingham Eccentric

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THIS and THAT

By G. R. A.

While I have never been a school teacher or a member of any Board of Education, I shall always look back upon the year 1937 as the one in which, alone and single handed, I successfully waged a crusade to improve the American public school system. Not that I upset, completely, the entire curricula of the modern educational factories at all—merely that I did impress upon certain phases of this tax-supported light in a darkened world something of the value of conserving the American abundance.

Specifically, and particularly, I am referring to the fact that the home economics department of the Birmingham public schools, under the able direction of Miss Eleanor Miller, has finally and publicly acknowledged that it now knows how to prepare a tasty sandwich that is large enough to locate without the aid of a biologist's microscope.

You who read this column will recall how, about two months ago, I rebelled openly against the manufacture and distribution of what I termed "sissy sandwiches." At a meeting of local teachers one evening a variety of these sandwiches were served at the conclusion of a program of entertainment in the Community House; prepared by girls under Miss Miller's tutelage; these feminine and sliver and sylph-like remnants of bread, plus numerous fillings or "spreads", were offered the hungry public, along with tea and coffee. At that time I held that no self-respecting masculine appetite could be satisfied with less than 14 of these sandwiches, and that the consumption of 14 of them would be an open violation of the conventions of etiquette. So I pleaded for the conservation of all four crusted sides of sliced bread when made into sandwiches, plus greater thickness.

A few weeks later, at a local Rotary Club meeting, I was presented with what more nearly approached my concept of a lusty sandwich—and carried home two inches and a half of crusts of bread which—like bond ends—held between them a generous supply of bologna. Again, quite publicly in this column, I thanked Miss Miller and complimented her and her class on their evolutionary progress toward frugality and conservation.

But you can't stop the forward march of modern ideas! You can't prevent intelligent people from making improvement, once they tackle the problem at hand! You can't barricade and imprison the American Ideal!

For, Folks, Wednesday evening of last week the local teachers held another "get together", and, of course, served some more sandwiches. While I admit that some of these arrangements of slaughtered bread still bore a relationship to the "sissy" type of sandwich, one of the several food-laden tables bravely presented to the world Miss Miller's latest concept of breaded wedded with stuffing—and it was.

Well, it consisted of two crusts of bread, each a foot in length, an inch and a half thick, plentifully spread with butter, and containing several geometrically segmented squares of meat, salad dressing, jam, and something that tasted okey, but whose elements I have not been able to decipher. Upon this real sandwich, attached with toothpicks, was a paper that read "Exclusively for George R. Averill."

As one of the beautiful teachers, Mrs. Marion Hinkley, escorted me to that table upon which rested that sandwich, I began to wonder why all the attention was being given me. Then the nature of the conspiracy was revealed . . . and I knew that my one-man crusade for bigger and better sandwiches was bearing fruitful success.

And so, to the world I declare: Modern education is making rapid strides toward success; sandwiches are changing from the "sissy" sublime to the less-than-practical!

Hurrah for Miss Eleanor Miller, home economics teacher in the Birmingham public school system who—despite the narrowing limitations of convention—has at last come forth with enough crust to bring about a much needed renaissance in the sandwich-making business!

Here's an olde Chinese proverb: "If you wish to be happy for an hour, get intoxicated. If you wish to be happy for three days, get married. If you wish to be happy for eight days, kill your pig and eat it. But if you wish to be happy forever, become a gardener."

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Chosen For Trip To Scout Jamboree

—Photo by Arnold
Earl Moody, Jr.   Andrew Watson, Jr.

By reason of their outstanding work in scouting, personal advancement in the activities of the troop and their attitude towards their work, Andrew Watson, Jr., and Earl Moody, Jr., both members of Troop B4, were selected by the Lions Club Troop Committee this week to represent their scout unit at the National Jamboree at Washington, D. C., June 30 until July 9.

Before leaving for the nation's capital the boys will spend two days at Camp Brady, Detroit Boy Scout Camp, where they will join other scouts of the metropolitan area on a train for their part in the Jamboree. They will go, in a body, on a special train to Washington.

The two boys were chosen to make the trip by the Lions Club Scout Committee composed of Arthur Wingerden, Heber Gahm, Donald Perry, Joe Stutte, Andrew Watson, Sr., and E. T. Engel.

RESUME SPECIAL COURSES TUESDAY

Enrollment In Special Interest College Classes Kept Open To May 4

With the close this week of the first installment of the Eight-Week special interest Course of the local Community College, enrollment for the second series of courses will be open until Tuesday, May 4.

According to H. F. Boer, director of the College, those enrolled in the first period are automatically re-enrolled in the advance courses of the subjects. Anyone not previously enrolled may sign up for the courses if they have had adequate preparation or are specially interested in the subject.

Sewing, knitting, dramatics, public speaking, shorthand, typing, sociology, psychology, book keeping, accounting, mathematics and interior decoration are subjects to be offered on the second eight week schedule.

Additional information may be secured or enrollment may be made with Director Boer at Baldwin High School, this evening or Monday evening between the hours of seven and ten P. M.

STUDENT CONTROL DAY AT BALDWIN FRIDAY

Tomorrow is Student Control Day at Baldwin high school and Don Clark, Senior Class president, has been appointed as principal with Miss Mildred DaLee acting as secretary, replacing Mr. Melvin Hart and Miss Ester Rainey, respectively.

Members of the faculty will spend the entire day in Ann Arbor attending the Schoolmasters' Club meetings. Only Baldwin seniors will serve as teachers and students who ignore usual regulations will be given a zero for the school week.

Have You Met?

Mr. and Mrs. Norman P. Guild of 1666 Birmingham Blvd.? Mr. and Mrs. Guild, who are the parents of three children, Norman, six, Nellie, four and Joseph, who is ten months old, have come here from Detroit to make their home.

Mr. Guild, a native of Lake Charles, Louisiana graduated from Louisiana State and is now the Detroit representative for the Lindell Drop Forge Company of Lansing. Mrs. Guild is a native of Detroit.

Bow And Arrow, Primitive Weapon Of Man, Returns To Favor In Sportsman's World

Editor's Note: It is instinctive with Americans to adopt sports in which some object is hurled, driven or otherwise projected through the air. With the rapid growth of archery in the country and the development of a powerful local team, The Eccentric requested a member of the Birmingham club to relate some of the past and present history of the sport. The writer, who prefers to remain anonymous, presents the following story.

Back in the good old days of 1926-29 and in the early days of the past depression, some dozen men in the State were interested in the bow and arrow as a sport. A recreation, a hobby or as a pain in the neck, depending on the view-point. This was the beginning of the second wave of popularity of the bow. Second wave, because the Indians used to use it, you know. During the last Sportsmen's Show early this month, the Birmingham and Detroit Archers attempted to add to the general hilarity by daily exhibitions of shooting and as it happened, there were several Indians from up-state also on the program. On the whole they were rather contemptuous of our methods and ability to shoot game, even if they did admire our tackle. We dismissed the criticism with a shrug, and true to human nature, took their appreciative "Ughs" to heart. We fondly hoped that these members of a primitive civilization were impressed with

our modern technique but when one of us fell in the bait casting pool, to the delight of the Indians, we gave up.

How, why or when that original dozen or so beginners became interested in the bow is forgotten. Perhaps one of them met a good Indian, or more likely, some one happened to come across a copy of Maurice Thompson's "Witchery of Archery." That good little book is the archer's primer and inspiration and has been the cause of much other-wise good lumber being whittled into bows and arrows.

Exploits of such men as the late Dr. Saxton Pope and "Art" Young as well as our own Judge Harry S. Hulbert and Mr. G. D. Pope added interest to the general picture and soon we find two separate groups shooting here in Birmingham. A vacant lot on Bates St. provided a range for one, while the other group was shooting on Haymon St. In the fall of 1931, these individuals met at the home of Mr. J. R. Searight and formed a club which they called the "American white fly," which gave indications of shooting and as it happened, their keepers by their nationality.

In outdoor quarters are on the second floor of the Briggs building over Cunninghams Drug Store. For an outdoor range the City Commission kindly allowed the Club to use a parcel of vacant land on Lincoln Ave. and of late a parcel on Cranbrook Road, south of Lincoln.

(Continued on Page Two)

DEBT FUND, TEN YEAR PLAN TIE SCHOOL TAXES

Delinquent Total Of Past 7 Years Unavailable For '37-'38 Use

Last week, The Eccentric published a story on the board of education's proposal to increase the school budget approximately $35,000 for the 1937-38 year to meet increased operating expenses. Since a number of local residents and taxpayers have questioned why delinquent taxes could not be utilized to meet the suggested increase, The Eccentric asked Business Manager Louis M. Randall, of School District No. 1, to explain the situation.

Mr. Randall pointed out that the school board has on its books at the present time a total of $489,279.92 in delinquent taxes due over the years 1929-36. However, he said, $371,655.49 of that amount has been pledged to a debt sinking fund and cannot be used for any other purpose. Before the school refunding plan was initiated, the school district had defaulted in the amount of $367,600 in bonds and $102,392.50 in interest and the State Public Debt Commission would not grant approval of the refunding plan until the $371,655.49 in delinquent taxes had been ear-marked to meet this obligation, in part.

Since there is remaining $117,624.43 in delinquent taxes, it has been suggested that collections from that amount be used to meet the proposed increase in expenses. Mr. Randall explained that the Moore-Holebeck bill, recently enacted, places a ten year moratorium on all delinquent taxes prior to and including 1932. Pending on the state legislature now is Bill No. 237 which provides a similar ten year moratorium on all delinquent taxes for 1933-34-35. Enactment of this bill into law means that a person may take ten years to pay off his delinquent taxes without penalty and leaves only 1936 delinquent taxes unaffected.

It would do no good to refer to the records in the county treasurer's office to find out who the delinquent tax payers are, Mr. Randall asserted, since there are no teeth in the law compelling a person to pay his taxes at the present time. Moreover, the board of education is not a tax collection agency, he said.

Mr. Randall stated that this information gathered from assessing units within the county indicated that there would be little, if any, increase in the assessed valuation of property next year, due to adjustments in some of the older properties. This, he said, eliminates any possibility of increased revenue from such a source.

In 1929, the school levy was $400,268.39, the assessed valuation figure was $21,155,855 and the mill rate was $18.92. In 1931, the school levy had dropped to $389,235.73 while the assessed valuation had soared to $20,518,459, giving a mill rate of $12.51. Last year the school levy was $200,618.97. The assessed valuation figure for 1936 was slightly in excess of 15 and one-quarter million and the mill rate was $13.00.

Lions Entertained With Talk On Bees

Speaking of bees as a hobby and form of industry, Kenneth McVittie, chief probation officer of Oakland County, gave an interesting address at the weekly meeting of the Lions Club, Wednesday noon at the Community House. Mr. McVittie was introduced by P. G. Burnett, program chairman.

The speaker traced the history of the bee and their productivity, explaining that bees were not natives of this country. Contrary to the belief of the Indians who called them the "American white fly," bees came to this country from Spain. At the present time, he went on to say, they are known to their keepers by their nationality.

Mr. McVittie, who makes a hobby of working with bees, said that there were 800,000 bee keepers in the United States whose bees yielded, with the aid of modern bee husbandry, over 100,000 tons of honey annually.

Y. M. C. A. CAMPFIRE MEETING ON MONDAY

Leaders of four groups of Y. M. C. A. boys, which meet at the Adams and Barnum Schools, have completed plans for an outdoor program at Springdale Park on Monday, May 3. It is expected that over 100 youths will gather at the park to cook dinner over a fire and enjoy a campfire program of stories and songs following the meal.

Wilson Jenkin, Maurice Geisel, Ronald Erickson and Robert Erickson are the four leaders who will have charge of the outdoor assembly.

GIVEN PLAQUE AWARD

—Photo by Arnold
Donald Clark

DON CLARK WINS COVETED HONOR

Memorial Board Picks Boy For Scholastic And Athletic Work

Donald Clark, Baldwin senior and son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward S. Clark, 692 Oak Street, yesterday was unanimously picked by the George F. Johnson Memorial Board to have his name inscribed on the plaque, given in honor of the late high school athletic director, for his proficiency in scholastic and athletic work. Clark is the first high school student to be so honored in the past three years.

Providing the necessary qualifications have been met, a Baldwin student is picked annually for the honor but the requirements are so high that no award was made during the past two years. Five other students have won the coveted honor since 1931, two vying for the award in 1933.

Clark has established an enviable record in school work and in (Continued on page two)

MRS. JOHN ORMOND HEADS INSTITUTE

Is Named General Chairman Of 2-Day Assembly On World Events

Sponsored by the Women's International Educational Council of Detroit, an institute of World Events will be held on May 5 and 6 at the Central Y. W. C. A. of Detroit.

Mrs. John K. Ormond, 627 Waddington Road, is the general chairman for the institute while Mrs. Fred Farrar, 252 Brown St., will preside at next Thursday's luncheon featuring and address by Prof. Preston W. Slosson, of the University of Michigan.

To this Institute are invited all women of the state who wish to discuss the political and economic ways of the world, and to strengthen and implement their resolve that the Will to Peace shall be developed.

While the Institue is sponsored by the Education Council, the following state organizations are interested and urge their members to attend; the Council of Federated Church Women, the Evangelical Women's Union; the Fed. C. T. U., the Y. W. C. A. and the A. A. U. W.

The program opens at 10:30 a. m. each day. There will be round table discussions where the technique of group leadership and the national policies that lead to peace and war will be analyzed. At the luncheons and at dinner interesting speakers will attract men and women who cannot attend the sessions.

On Wednesday, "The Mediterranean" will be the subject of the one o'clock luncheon address. At dinner the same day, Prof. Hayden of the University of Michigan will speak on "Japan and Russia in the Far East." Mrs. M. R. Keyworth, president of the State Federation of Women's Clubs will preside. Prof. Slosson will tell at the Thursday luncheon of "The Search for Security."

EXCHANGITES HOST TO ROYAL OAK MEMBERS

Members of the Royal Oak Exchange Club were guests of the local Exchange Club at their weekly luncheon meeting at the Community House, Tuesday noon.

Musical selections by the trumpet trio of Baldwin High School and individual club announcements comprised the program for the day. Dr. J. B. Wood, program chairman, presided at the meeting.

ORDINANCE ON STREET TRADES IS APPROVED

Annual Licensing Required For Selling, Delivering Periodicals

Birmingham's city commission Monday evening unanimously passed a "street trade" ordinance regulating the kind of work boys and girls may engage in on city streets and setting age limits and hours during which they may be employed. The ordinance, revised following a public hearing at the council meeting a week ago, also requires the annual licensing of youths selling or delivering newspapers, magazines, or other periodicals.

The ordinance prohibits girls under the age of 18 and boys less than 12 years of age from obtaining licenses to engage in any street trade. No youth under 17 years of age shall be allowed to sell or deliver any article between the hours of 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. and no youth under the same age shall be permitted to engage in any street trade during school hours unless legally excused from school. It is further stipulated that no boy under 17 years of age shall be employed in such occupations for a combined school and work period of more than eight hours during any one day.

The ordinance makes it unlawful for any individual, firm or corporation to employ or permit to be hired, any minor thirteen years of age to the terms of the law. Conviction for violation of any provision of the ordinance by an adult person carries a fine of not less than $25 nor more than $100, or 30 days in jail. A $25 fine, ten days in jail, or both is the penalty fixed for violation of the ordinance by persons between the ages of 17 and 21 years. Any child under 12 years of age who violates the ordinance shall be dealt with as a juvenile delinquent.

Choose Board Members

The commission named Scott Hersey, Louis Hascall and City Assessor Elmer Haack to serve on this board of review. The trio will meet May 11 to review the assessed valuation figure placed on Birmingham property for the 1937-38 fiscal year by Mr. Haack.

Buy Golf Banner

R. L. Gainer, representing the Oakland Hills Country Club, addressed the commission, requesting them to place a banner welcoming and directing visitors and guests to the National Open Golf Tournament which will be held at the club early in June. The council voted to appropriate a sum not to exceed $40 for the purchase of two banners to be placed across the street at the intersections of Maple and Woodward Avenues, and Lincoln and Woodward Avenues.

Miss Jennie L. Eales Succumbs Yesterday

Miss Jennie Louisa Eales, 78 years old, died yesterday at 4:45 p.m. at the Arnold Hospital on Seven Mile Road following a protracted illness. Up until the time of entering the hospital two months ago she had resided with her nephew, Howard Estes, of 492 Rivenoak St.

Miss Eales was born in Port Huron Nov. 23, 1858. She resided in Oakland County during the past 20 years, coming to Birmingham from Farmington about 20 months ago.

Surviving are a sister, Mrs. Ida Estes, of Alpena; and four nephews. Funeral service will be held tomorrow at 3 p.m. from the Manley Bailey Funeral Home. Burial will be in White Chapel Memorial Park with Rev. M. Hamilton Aulenbach officiating.

SCOTS' ANNUAL DINNER AND DANCE ON FRIDAY

The annual dinner-dance of Birmingham Scots will be held in the local Masonic Temple, Friday evening at 6:30 P. M. Scotch fare will be served those attending the affair, while plans are being completed to have Scotch songs and readings during the evening.

Arrangements are in charge of John Ross, from whom tickets may be obtained. Harry Clark is also handling ticket sales and distribution.

NEW SCHOOL HEAD

R. H. Bechtold

FLINT PRINCIPAL TO BALDWIN HIGH

R. H. Bechtold Will Replace Melvin C. Hart for 1937-38 Year

Ray H. Bechtold, principal of the Longfellow School, of Flint, has been engaged as principal of Baldwin high school for the school year 1937-38, according to an announcement issued by the Board of Education yesterday. Mr. Bechtold will assume his new duties in September with the opening of the Fall term. He replaces Melvin C. Hart, who for the past 16 years has been principal of Baldwin.

Mr. Bechtold comes to Birmingham with outstanding qualifications and recommendations. He holds an M. A. degree from Columbia University in the field of secondary school administration and his records in both the Michigan and National Educational Association are outstanding. He is a past president in the Michigan Educational Association department of secondary school principals and a member of the tenure committee of the National Educational Association.

A member of Kappa Delta Pi, honorary educational society, Mr. Bechtold has been with the Flint public school system since 1927 and during the past ten years he has been actively engaged in activities of the Flint Teachers' Club being a past president of the organization. In civic affairs he has been actively associated with the Flint Y. M. C. A., Boy Scouts, Boys' Council, and the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

NOTED ARCHITECT SPEAKS TONIGHT

F. L. Wright To Lecture At Cranbrook Pavilion At 8:30 P. M.

Under the auspices of the Cranbrook Academy of Art, Frank Lloyd Wright, distinguished American architect and pioneer of modern architecture, will speak at an open meeting in the Cranbrook Pavilion this evening at 8:30.

Mr. Wright, who is internationally famous, has been distinguished for his work in creating the plans for the Imperial Hotel in Tokio, Japan and for work in the middle-west of this country. In America his work is known as the new school of the middle-west while in Europe it is the American expression in architecture that he has created.

In addition to this work Mr. Wright has written several books, chief among them being, "An American Interpretation of Japanese Prints", "Essays on Architecture," and "Experimenting with Human Lives." He is a native of Richland Center, Wisconsin, studied civil engineering at the University of Wisconsin and began his first practice in Chicago in Chicago in 1893, at the age of 24.

Pine Lake Country Club To Open May 8

Pine Lake Country Club opens on May 8. All departments of the club will be functioning Sunday, May 9.

One innovation that is of particular interest is the open air dance floor, located on the top of the bluff overlooking Pine Lake. Combined with it are three shuffleboard courts.

Pine Lake commences its thirty-sixth year with the strongest cash position in its history, and with but few vacancies in its membership.

The official staff consists of Mr. Duncan, manager; Miss Kinney, hostess; Jimmie Anderson, golf professional; Ed Payne, tennis instructor and Vic Mendes, swimming instructor.

Recreation Plan Budget Is $2,000

Howard Crull Named General Chairman of Program for Summer

Y. M. C. A. PLEDGES $300

Executive Committee of 5 Chosen at Meeting Tuesday

Setting up a budget of $2,000 for the three-month experimental recreational program for this city, eight members of the general committee designated to formulate plans for the project met at the Community House Tuesday evening and named Howard D. Crull as general chairman.

Other members who will compose the executive committee include, in addition to Mr. Crull, Harold Webster, in charge of program activities; Mrs. Julia K. Lally, secretary; P. G. Burnett, treasurer; and W. E. Moody, publicity chairman.

Representatives of the Y. M. C. A. pledged $300 to aid the program, matching similar donations from the city commission, board of education, and the Community House. It is proposed to raise the balance of $800 by popular subscription during the latter part of May. Plans were laid for a meeting at the Community House on May 14 to which representatives of all local clubs and groups will be invited. A complete report on the program will be presented at that time.

Mr. Crull pointed out that the recreational program is strictly a civic activity and is not affiliated with any group or organization. He urged the support of every Birmingham resident in making the project a success and adding a community life in this city.

The budget covers the period June 14 to Sept. 15 and allows for the employment of a trained athletic instructor during that time. If the experimental period proves successful an attempt will be made to place the program on a year around basis.

Those attending Tuesday evening's session included: C. J. Shain, who served as chairman for the evening; Howard D. Crull, Harold Webster; Mrs. Julia K. Lally; Mrs. Rufus Jones; Mrs. H. S. Burlingame; Ray Peck; W. E. Moody; and Ray Palmer.

Three-Day Campaign By Solicitors Nets Under $1,000 for Community House Drive

Three days of intensive soliciting on the part of captains and their workers have produced disheartening results for the Community House Roll Call, according to Mrs. W. C. Byers, general chairman of the drive. Fighting inclement weather Monday and Tuesday, the campaigners worked untiringly but less than $1,000 had been turned in to the treasurer Wednesday night.

Despite the poor showing to date, Mrs. Byers asserted leaders of the campaign, instead of being discouraged, have determined to redouble their efforts to attain the $10,400 goal set for the 1937-38 fiscal year.

Mrs. Byers pointed out that if, at the close of the drive this Saturday evening, the budget requirements have not been met by closely approached then one of two things will have to be done;

either the Roll Call must be extended until sufficient funds have been taken in, or a second drive will have to be initiated this fall if the Community House is to remain open.

It is reported that many business establishments have advanced the point that recent sit-down strikes have seriously affected their trade and that, in consequence, they are not in a position to contribute as freely as under ordinary conditions. However, business is again in full swing and indications are that a sustained rise in trade is in the offing. In view of this and the fact that Birmingham gave approximately $3,000 to flood relief fund, Mrs. Byers asserted that it seemed only logical to expect residents and business houses here to support the focal point of civic life in this city—the Community House.

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