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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1937

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 on a Monday morning, and must be received, however, to make sure sufficient changes in the proof are made before the copy is sent to the printer.

There is something fine and grand in a cause that makes 75 men volunteer every year to sell papers on the streets of Birmingham, in order to get "Goodfellows"!

And Christmas, baskets for men and women, boys and girls, and the time by them for themselves. Known as "Goodfellows," this local group of firemen, policemen, and business men, last Saturday raised \$11,000.00 through the sale of newspapers. It was their record year—and are they all happy!

Just ask James W. Taylor, who has served as leader of Birmingham's "Goodfellows" for seven years—he'll fairly boast his happiness into your ears. And Mr. Taylor's feeling of joy is shared equally by the others who participated in the event last Saturday. Birmingham can well afford to "take off its collective hat" to this group.

The day was long and cold—and it started at five in the morning, too. But those enlisted in the one-day newspaper sale just buttoned their overcoats tightly about their necks, donned heavy mittens, and went to a joyous work.

Many men and women, boys and girls, will have a happier Christmas as the result of the efforts of the "Goodfellows." Thanks go, too, to those who responded by their liberal purchases of the newspapers—sums ranging from a dime to a hundred dollars were paid for a single newspaper. But, after all, the "Goodfellows" were not selling newspapers only; they were offering the public the opportunity of being Good Samaritans, weren't they, after all?

The gift of ten millions of dollars to a national study of economics, by Alfred P. Sloan, Jr., chairman of the board of General Motors Corp., is fitting recognition of the problems that confronts the United States today. How much real and lasting good it will do is a question. Millions of dollars are expended annually in this country by colleges, universities, and private institutions, to study economic conditions, yet little real benefits are obtained.

Until mankind learns more about natural laws of economics (the science of the production and distribution of goods) and their willing to apply these laws, mankind will continue to struggle, and out of recurring depression. This newspaper hopes that Mr. Sloan's foundation will spend some of its time pondering the principles set forth by Henry George, for we hold, with countless others, that Henry George's economic ideas can do more to restore and maintain prosperity than any other set of rules available to mankind.

As an example of real humility (which is one of the foundation stones of true greatness), may we present to you Phil Carey, captain of last season's Baldwin football team? Phil a senior at Baldwin, did a splendid job in leading his mates on the football field this year—and the fact that he is very popular with them suggests that he has characteristics of leadership that will help him all through adult life.

Mr. Cantor's advice to Jews, with slight alterations to suit other religious faiths, can be followed with considerable profit by people everywhere.

Even though they lost a majority of their games this fall, Birmingham's Baldwin High School football players evidenced a great improvement, and the whole school likewise came through with much better feeling than last year.

What Do You Think? That it would adjust, reduce or eliminate special, punitive or class taxation that now hampers or discourages business—such as the capital gains and long-term capital gains tax on corporation surplus?

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THE LITTLE HOUSE WITH THE BIG CHIMNEY

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PEOPLE'S COLUMN The Eccentric's plan to receive communications for this column. All communications must be signed, but signatures will 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.

To the Editor: One of your readers has presented a cogent reason for naming the new highway for Harry Brooks.

The youth, daring, and freedom of Harry Brooks as he used to ride through the beautiful sky over our home was always invigorating and stimulating.

Youth is the embodiment of purity, daring, honesty, and freedom and it has not taken unto itself the stupid craftiness and cowardice that we adults have adopted through routine, vacuous education.

The adults with smug wisdom have boasted courage and valor has become a cabbie's creature, and the present day evils that we would be and have contributed to, would be brought forth by occupying a short ride over a traffic lane named after Harry Brooks, who had youth, daring, honesty, and was positive in his freedom.

Sincerely yours, FENTON R. MATHEWS Brown Street

To the Editor: I agree with Mr. H. D. Fleming when he suggested in his letter of last week that the new Woodward effort should be made in honor of a famed son of Birmingham.

I suggest combining Mr. Fleming's selection with the name of Lieut. Clyde Wood and calling the new road "Brookwood Boulevard," a name that would be fitting to Birmingham as he stated in his letter.

Each boy planned their futures early in life and stuck with their plan until tragedy stopped their career. Clyde was greatly admired by all who knew him and like Harry met untimely death.

We all know he died heroically when he attempted an impossible maneuver to avoid crashing into a huge passenger laden plane. At the time he was instructing other young men in the art of "blind flying," which could be more difficult than that.

Hard Lines "Louise has a frightfully difficult part in the Amateur Society's new production."

"Difficult? Why, she hasn't to say a single word."

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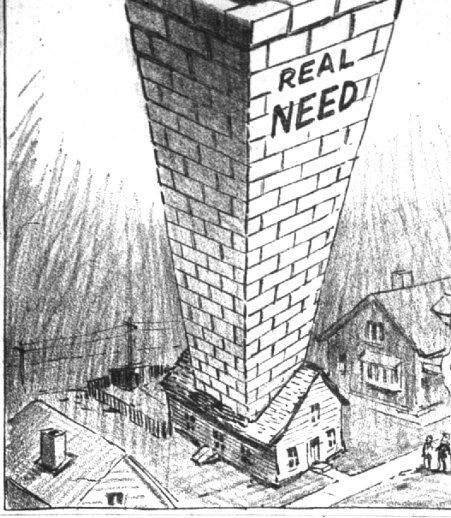
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Do you SPOSE SANTA CAN MISS THAT?

My Country, 'Tis of Thee

T. H. MILLINGTON The Japanese question is now so prominently before the world...

Japanese Expansion That mess over in China appears to be something more than a local affair...

We all know how Japan has sent her young men and women not only to the U. S. universities...

Who Are The Japanese? Scientists seem to agree that thousands of years ago when our ancestors...

It seems that an afternoon newspaper printed an article from Paris, hinting an Italian-French rapprochement...

It was that which was accomplished by the seizure of the paper, we have so far of knowing. However, the incident serves to illustrate the attitude of Germany and Italy toward newspapers.

LET'S NOT get all steamed up about the sinking of that American gunboat in China. Of course, it is a disaster to those involved, and something of an insult to the school likewise came through with much better feeling than last year.

COACH GEORGE WUTSER may be pardoned for feeling that next year's team will really "go to town" —for "go to town" the boys will, if they maintain the same enthusiasm that now envelops them.

THE NATIONAL HOUSING committee, which has Monaghan John A. Ryan as chairman, and industrialists and labor leaders as members, has done an important job of research in uncovering the state of the housing market.

IF investors and investing institutions continued their heavy investments in housing, and government stimulus is necessary, then it is generally agreed the size of the monthly payment and of the down payment must be reduced.

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WASHINGTON LETTER BY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT Roosevelt Plans Housing Boom to Free Capital, Aid Business

WASHINGTON.—Hoping to speed business out of its lethargy the President suggests a 16 million dollar housing boom, and will do his part by conferring with leaders of labor, industry, and finance to try to get the costs of building materials and labor down to a level that will invite capital.

Further inducement of the administration has to be a change in the FIA law, and some method of bolstering the housing market such as capital gains tax exemptions and taxation of income from tax exempt bonds.

Dammed up funds of insurance companies and mutual savings banks are ready to be released into a proper channel and a housing boom might provide that outlet. It is possible private capital will continue to shy away from administration-sponsored projects or deals. In this case it might become necessary for Roosevelt to start a large scale housing program of his own with federal money.

If this happened and if private capital continued their heavy investments in housing, and government stimulus is necessary, then it is generally agreed the size of the monthly payment and of the down payment must be reduced.

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