The Birmingham Eccentric

(Founded in 1878)

Published every Thursday, at Birmingham, Mich., in The Eccentric Building, 220-222 North Woodward Avenue
Telephones 11, 12, and 13

GEORGE R. AVERILL — Editor and Publisher
EDWIN G. WHITNEY — Managing Editor
PAUL NEAL AVERILL — Business Manager
ARTHUR N. WINGERDEN — Advertising Manager
CLAUDE E. WALKER — Production Manager

Entered as Second Class Matter in the U. S. Postoffice at Birmingham, Michigan

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

(In Oakland County)		(Outside Oakland County)	
One Year	$2.00	One Year	$2.50
Six Months	1.00	Six Months	1.50
Three Months	.50	Three Months	1.00

All newspaper and advertising copy must be in the Eccentric office by Tuesday noon to obtain insertion for that week.

The Eccentric is a member of:
National Editorial Association, Michigan Press Association, University Press Club, and Oakland County Weekly Press Association

THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 1937

NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events which have news value and which are written by persons not connected with the editorial staff of the paper. All copy must be presented before noon on Wednesdays. The right is reserved, 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 mechanical situation in the composing room, headlines written by those other than members of the staff cannot be used. Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation which may appear in the columns of The Eccentric will be gladly corrected upon being brought to the attention of the publisher.

Here's What Happens When Modern Warfare Is Staged!

War is bad enough wherever it occurs but when the fighting takes place within a nation the suffering seems accentuated by the apparent uselessness of the strife.

Dr. Norman Bethune, of Canada, a doctor, saw Malaga, Spain, evacuated by 150,000 people just before the rebel army of Gen. Franco captured the city. His word picture of the scene sketches the terrible inhumanity of battle. Hear him:

"Imagine 150,000 men, women and children setting out for safety to a town more than one hundred miles away . . . no food in the villages, no trains, no busses . . . they staggered and stumbled, feet cut and bruised, while Insurgents bombed them from the air and the sea.

"We counted 5000 under 10 . . . a thousand barefoot . . . many clad in single garments . . . so many distressed cases we turned back to carry the worse cases to safety . . . difficult to choose as our car was besieged by a mob of frantic fathers and mothers who, with tired, outstretched arms, held up to us their children with their faces swollen and congested by four days of sun and dust.

"How could we chobse? . . . many old people gave up, laid down to wait for death . . . decided to take only children and mothers but separation of families was too cruel to bear . . . reached Almeria, filled with refugees, streets where refugees slept, huddled together so closely an automobile could pass only with difficulty . . .

"German and Italian planes dropped ten bombs in center of town . . . picked up three dead children from the payment where they had been standing in line waiting for a cup of preserved milk and a handful of dry bread, the only food some of them had for days . . . the streets were a shambles of dead and dying . . . the mounts of wounded children, the shrieks of agonized mothers rose in a massed cry higher and higher to a pitch of intolerable intensity."

You can thank the Canadian doctor for a realistic picture of population under stress, fleeing from war, and facing death. You can imagine for yourself what another great war means to women and children behind the front, as well as what will happen to the nobility of man when his war machine reeks with the blood of women and children.

No wonder men and women of the world hate war and wish to do anything to prevent it, even to the extent of abolishing armies and navies and trusting to some other means of securing peace. Sad as the picture is, yet it can be matched by one more ruthless, where a modern nation, armed to the teeth, invaded impotent African tribesmen in their homes and gave them a taste of the destruction that civilization uses on those who resist "progress."

Comparing Public Debt

The question is often asked, apropos our national debt; "How does it compare with that of Great Britain?"

Personally, we do not know, but John T. Flynn, something of an authority, recently estimated the debt of England at 39 billion dollars, including 7 billions of local debts. The debt of the United States, he figures, is 51 billion dollars, including 17 billion of State and local debt.

Mr. Flynn says that if our debt was as large proportionately as the debt of England it would be 120 billion dollars.

Advising Congressmen

New Congressmen at Washington were recently given advice by some of the older heads. Here is a sample:

"Answer those letters from constituents the day you get them. Reply first to those written in pencil on tablet paper. They come from somebody at the head of the creek who'll be your friend for life."

Answering letters promptly and sending constituents literature seem to be a popular method to impress voters with the fact that office-holders are their friends and that they are wise.

Officials should be elected for responsibility, however, upon more serious qualifications than the ability of hiring first-class secretaries who can flatter voters throughout the territory with letters and inconsequential attentions.

Another Epic Flight

Three years ago a squadron of six naval planes made a mass flight from California to Honolulu.

Last month twelve huge naval airplanes, carrying eighty men, jumped the 2,553 miles from San Diego to Pearl Harbor in a little less than twenty-two hours.

The flight was safely completed, notwithstanding the fact that the squadron ran into a heavy storm. "We hit winds on every side," said one of the officers. "At 9,000 feet we hit a whirl of wind that threw us up like a toy balloon." The airships climbed up into the air and over the remainder of the storm.

Feats like these reassure us that aerial navigation has been successfully conquered. This flight is encouraging, as it follows the loss of several trans-continental passenger planes within the past few months.

She Was a Perfect Sweetheart To Browning

Those who have sometimes wondered why older folks used to talk in such superlatives when speaking of the great love existing between Robert Browning and Elizabeth Barrett understood more about those extravagant phrases after they had seen the picture, "The Barretts of Wimpole Street."

Still it is probably true that the half has never yet been told or portrayed concerning the bonds which united these two. The name of Elizabeth Barrett Browning, whose birth anniversary is March 6th, should go down in history with the great because she so beautifully exemplified "the greatest thing in the world"—love.

Great and beautiful as was her love for Robert Browning, she also lays claim to greatness in her writings. Shaw has said: "The most eminent poet among women is Elizabeth Barrett Browning," and the great Chambers has written, "No writer has exerted a better, gentler, happier influence."

The Britannica reminds us, "She felt for all who are in any way crushed or bruised by the pressure of society."

She was one of the first opponents of child slavery and scourged those who make fortunes out of the sweat, aches and nervous prostrations of little children. "The Cry of the Children" voiced the agony of her soul for the helplessly robbed little ones. She said,

"But the child's sob in the silence curses deeper
Than the strong man in his wrath."

The poem made her famous. However, she considered "Aurora Leigh" which she wrote at Florence, Italy, in 1856, as the most mature of my works, and one in which my highest convictions of work and art have appeared."

With due respect for "Aurora Leigh" and the author's opinion, all those who have experienced the painful joy of true love will be glad that she ran away with Robert Browning and wrote those touching love letters in "Sonnets from the Portuguese."

What poignant anguish must Robert Browning have felt for this perfect sweetheart and brave defender of human liberty when he wrote to a friend:

"God took her to himself. She suffered very little pain, and was spared the misery of knowing she was about to leave us; she was smilingly assuring me she was better within a few minutes of the last . . . Then came what my heart will keep till I see her again, and longer, the most perfect expression of her love to me within my whole knowledge of her. Always smilingly, happily, and with a face like a girl's, and in a few minutes she died in my arms, her head on my cheek. God took her to himself as you would lift a sleeping child from a dark, weary bed into the light."

This perfect flowering of human love expressed itself for fourteen years on earth—and now?

Our 175,000 Taxing Units

The announcement that there are 171,000 different taxing units in the United States sounds awful, but when we reflect that there are about 3,000 counties, many more cities and towns and many more school districts, not to mention other areas created for specific purposes, it is a bit comforting.

The average citizen is usually taxed by the Federal government, whether directly or indirectly, the State, the county, the school district and the municipality, if he lives in an incorporated area. He is not bothered by the other 174,995 units, although willing to admit that he has enough taxes to pay.

The truth of the matter is that the hue and cry about taxes is over-played by business men, mostly of the larger size in any given area, who have the idea that organized government should exist for business and not for the people residing in the territory. The average man, woman or child in this country receives great benefits from taxation—a truth that should not be overlooked at paying time.

We do not imply that public revenue is not foolishly expended. Such a statement would not be true. We do not suggest that there are not too many taxing units or that consolidation in the new era of travel is not in order. Such reorganizations can save considerable money for the taxpayers and should be undertaken as soon as popular pressure is sufficient to overcome the strength of office-holders who might lose jobs.

Europeans Resent Our Attitude

Word comes from Europe that many people over there resent our attitude toward them. From reading our papers they have gathered the impression that all we think of is the political squabbles they have. They say that we apparently forget that life is going on as usual.

Well, why shouldn't we forget? When two men are throwing knives at each other in the front yard, not many people will go out in the back yard to watch a man cultivate pansies.

If a man doesn't want to be considered a cut throat and disturber of the peace, he should quit throwing knives at other people and cease from flinging matches at a gasolene can whose explosion might mangle innocent bystanders and burn those who had to put out the flame.

We would prefer to think of Germany's new housing program, of Russia's campaign against drunkenness, of Japan's advances in education. If they'll just put the hush-hush on the war makers and hook up the loudspeaker to their more wholesome programs, we'd listen to what they want us to hear.

Can You Take It?

Disraeli, the great English statesman, was once laughed at and ridiculed when he attempted to make a speech. He had to sit down without finishing, but not until he had said, "Gentlemen, the time will come when you will hear me." The time did come when the whole world was glad to listen to what Disraeli had to say. Do you envy those who can take criticism smilingly, courageously? Often they are angry or quavering inside—even as you and I.

Joe Cannon was once making a speech. Some of his friends in the audience sought to throw him off track by razzing him. One called out, "Joe, you've got oats in your pocket." "Yes," said Joe, "and hay-seeds in my hair."

Had he resented the razzing he would have lost part of those who were for him. As it was he gained some who had been against him.

A person who can take criticism and, regardless of his inward feelings, resolve to get some good out of it can some day be master in greater situations. Sometimes our best friends are those who demand the best of us.

People's Column

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

The Eccentric,
To the Editor:

I was present at the recent meeting of the American System Advocates. The dissenter who said they was not given a fair opportunity to express his views is not quite accurate in his statement. He made a sizable speech. Afterwards when he seemed disposed to prolong mere agrument he was asked to sit down. The hour was late, there had been several speeches, and the audience was growing impatient. The one who spoke after him from the audience happened to be a teacher from Detroit. He said simply that he could not see democracy in the General Motors' sit-down strike, when 3000 union men were able to keep 35,000 satisfied workers from their jobs. The courts were rendered helpless.

The President of the United States, who put pressure upon General Motors for the settlement of this strike, would now make the Supreme Court more helpless to protect us from the encroachments of our socialistically-inclined government. The precedents which this glib New Dealer claim in the acts of Lincoln and Grant in adding new justices are just misleading statements, for neither Lincoln nor Grant did more than appoint new members to fill vacancies.

The American System Advocates will do a great patriotic service if they will do their bit towards awakening the people of this country from a mesmeric sleep, induced by a personality craving for personal power. It differs from the other dictatorships only in degree, not in kind. If we do not keep wide awake now we will before we know it, as Mr. Millington puts it, "sign away the deed to our liberty."

Calvin Coolidge in an address at William and Mary College in 1926, said: "While we ought to glory in the Union and remember it is the source from which the states derive their chief title to fame, we must also recognize that the national admin stration is not and cannot be adjusted to the needs of local government. It is too far away to be informed of local needs, too inaccessible to be responsive to local conditions. The states should not be induced by coercion or by favor to surrender the management of their own affairs."

Gilal M. Gamber,
730 Wallace Street.

Editor,
Birm. Eccentric
Dear Sir:

In my opinion the city commission rendered a real service to the children of this community during the past Winter by providing adequate lighting facilities for skating on Quigley Lake.

Hundreds of boys and girls, as well as many adults, enjoyed extra hours of vigorous outdoor sport as a result of the council having installed lights on the lake. I believe it was one of the most worth while projects sponsored by the municipal government in some time.

Now that Winter is ebbing fast our thoughts naturally turn to providing some sore of sport, or recreation for our children during the coming Summer months. I for one, and I know others who are of the same opinion, believe that the city government should undertake to provide swimming facilities for youths, and adults, too, during the hot, sultry days.

The logical place for swimming, it seems, is the Barnum School pool. Again, I suggest that definite action in making available this swimming pool for a period of at least ten weeks be taken NOW.

Yours Truly,
John F. Staples.

Editor:
The Birmingham Eccentric:

I feel that your paper is a little unfriendly toward "The Townsend Plan." I speak for One hundred members in Birmingham Club. We are sorry there seems to be a fear that the Townsend plan might go through. It will. It is getting stronger and stronger, the people are awakening up to the real reason for it. We believe in Dr. Townsend. He knows what he is doing, and millions of people believe in him. Nothing worth while ever happened in this country of ours, that the founder of it were not "crucified" by politics and the newspapers. What they don't understand or want, they do their best to kill. Dr. Townsend to my mind has a wonderful plan. The biggest thing this country has taken up for the good of all people. "God is for it who can be against it?" I am sure in time your paper will have some good news to tell the people. It is worthwhile trying and the only way to find out—go too it.

It will hurt nobody, do a lot of good.

A Townsendite proud of it.
Also a friend of The Eccentric.
Mrs. Mary A. Stewart
128 E. Brown Street.

ROCKING THE COUNTRY

My Country, 'Tis of Thee

(Continued From Page Nine)

changing Administration. So the opportunist politicians rode into office and then began official debasting of anybody who had any wealth left, forgetting the parable of the talent. The New Deal Religion was proclaimed, in which the laity and the fuddlers are the faithful congregation, the successful producers of employment and wealth are the sinners, the More Abundant Life is God, covetousness and vilification the gospel, and the Ten Commandments, as well as the Sermon on the Mount are being rewritten. Therefore we have heard such terms as "Economic Royalists," "entrenched greed," "business not for profit but for service." Yet all the time the only way the Administration can get money to carry out its objectives is to borrow from the very men, women and institutions which it vilifies.

New Victims

But bankers, mortgage lenders, landlords, and general employers and employees having been annihilated metaphorically speaking, for the benefit of the dear masses, new victims had to be found. So the Supreme Court and the Constitution have been selected for attack and are now held to blame for preventing the miracle Cure-All still in the magician hat in the White House. That this Court has hitherto been the highest citadel of justice and equity in the land is of no consequence. The Court is "evil." Not only are the judges said to be too old, too old-fashioned, too reactionary, but their personal characters, professional integrity and social pasts are attacked with no attempt to detailed particulars, lest damage suits be incurred, but by innuendo. An example of such innuendo is Mr. Corson's letter in last week's Eccentric from which I quote: "I would suggest that all citizens before expressing any opinions would acquaint themselves thoroughly with the past histories, personal and social both, and political philosophies of each of the Supreme Court Judges." Signed, Mrs. H. St. Corson. I trust Mrs. Corson is not concerning from the public and damaging information.

Men in high office having taken the oath to defend the Constitution now suddenly find it "outmoded." In unrestrained language Court and Constitution are condemned as a "stumbling-block to progress." What about the progress made in the 150 years of the life of the Constitution? What have the critics done that is better? What do they offer instead with any proof that it will serve us better? What other country has done so well? I do not see the critics leaving this country for other lands more to their liking, so I must conclude that they still think America is pretty good. If forced to leave the United States is still considered a punishment, and foreigners still risk life and deportation by illegal entry.

In the meantime, the country has acquired a crushing national debt and a tax burden, which, of course, income-tax-free public servants with depression-proof salaries do not feel, but which the benighted producers of employment, wealth and capital must pay.

Who and what will be the next victim of attack? It cannot be the President nor the Congress, for they are always and properly subject to criticism. That is a fundamental Democratic prerogative reclaimed by the sovereign people. It is one of their effective weapons against official supremacy by the public servants. Have we then topped the ladder of ascending scurrilous characterassassination in our determinant to blame others? Or can we go still higher?

The only authority, in the same higher plane as the Supreme Court, the Congress and the President is the People themselves. Will we turn our vile tongues inward upon ourselves? Will we search our own hearts and behavior in sincere endeavor to find solution? If we will not, then the only higher Being in America is GOD. Will we stop short of blaming God? Or, like Job, will we curse Him; but unlike Job, failing to repent, will we go on to the finish as did Russia and Germany, leaving only a God-forbidden land and a government-enslaved people?

What is the answer? No government can be any better any purer, any more honest than its people. If American Democracy is to survive, respect for government and the Courts is to be reestablished, we must turn the searchlight upon ourselves. If we want to abolish poverty, we must stop intimidation of men with capital and genius for creating employment. Idle capital, idle labor, crying need of enterprises, the three things necessary for activity are all here. There is more work to be done than there are men to do it. Why the idleness? Intimidation by uncertainty is the spring from which it flows.

If we want honesty and square dealing we must start with ourselves. Laws cannot do it. Government cannot compel it. How can the uneducated portion of our people have respect for law and the courts when people in positions of honor and responsibility, from the President down, brazenly cast their destructive criticism of Court and Constitution? If fear we have sown to the wind and shall reap the whirlwind.

Belittling the courts begets incence by lawlessness. That is what makes this attack upon the Supreme Court so dangerous to the preservation of our institutions, and a most sinister threat to the very life of the nation.

Conquering the depression, harmonizing our discords can be accomplished only by the people themselves. Such human qualities that spring from courageous hearts and minds. If I were a preacher or a priest I would preach the gospel of Jesus Christ as never before, as the only means of salvation, not to us as individual men's souls, but of this fairest, once the happiest, land in the world; the source of more blessings and benefits to the other lands than any other nation on earth.

May God help us.

Night Mystery

Something about the quiet of the evening,
When day with all its bustle and its cares
Has sped, and night has stolen unawares
Upon the earth—something that breathes of peace
And strange and mystic beauty comes to me.
Perhaps it is the widespread velvet mantle of the night,
Or the soft sweet rhythmic soughing of the breeze,
Wending its transient way among the trees
That captivates my soul and makes it hark
To these vague fascinations of the dark.

BEATRICE McDONALD

Random Remarks

Amos Pinchot:

"The duty of Congress is to keep Mr. Roosevelt from destroying Democracy and setting up personal government."

Hilaire Bilioc, British author:

"Religion is the main determining element in any country."

Albert W. Beaven, preacher:

"If church and school cannot arrive at a worthwhile public opinion, the death knell of Democracy has been sounded."

Henry Ford, auto maker:

"International financiers are behind the labor unions because they want to control industry and kill competition."

Samuel B. Pettengill, Congressman from Indiana:

"I can only express my profound belief that a packed jury and packed court and a stacked deck of cards are all on the same moral plane."

E. Stanley Jones, Missionary:

"Christianity must assume a new aggressiveness. It must abandon its attitudes and with moral boldness undertake to show the way out."

Erma E. Voigt, Dean of Women, Ohio University:

"Girls haven't changed fundamentally. It's really the world that's no longer slow."

Stafford Cripps, British leader in government:

"We're witnessing the most magnificent subscription that would suicide past yet made public in any country in the world."

James G. Harbord, Major General:

"If there is ever another big military explosion, no matter what the wife, the little man in the street, the dangers it generated, cannot was backed. would threaten every land on the small and fearfully interrelated world of today."

Happenings of Long Ago

Fifty Years Ago

On Thursday March 17th, at ten o'clock a. m. on the premises two and one half miles south of Birmingham on the Southfield road, Charles Castle will sell two five year old colts, Hambletonian and Handy Andy blood, respectively, two other colts, cows, sheep, hogs, farming implements, household goods etc. George Foster will wag his celebrated jaw, and A. L. Means, in the capacity of clerk will see that you settle for what you buy.

If you want those cane chairs reseated, take them to John Harris neal Library Hall and Fred Davis will do the business in elegant shape for a little money.

The infant son of Mr. and Mrs. James Johnsfon, of Southfield, died on Sunday and the funeral was held at the house on Thursday last.

B. J. Foster-Kelly is stuck on Oakland County Fruit Tonic and recommends it to suffering humanity.

We learn that S. T. Boyd has resigned farming and let his farm to Minor Spencer.

Twenty-Five Years Ago

Robert Moore's son of Troy, last Sunday night brought his best girl up to church, and tied the horse along the side of Shain's Rexall store. After service resorting to the rig his surprise was great to discover that some thief had stolen the rig. The sly rascal had cut the sleigh bells off and laid them carefully by a tree, and so far that is all that is known about the case. Sheriff Tripp is investigating, and we are sure he will get prompt results.

Miss Martha Baldwin has gone to Elgin, Ills., to help her cousin, Mrs. W. Adams, celebrate the latter's 90th birthday.

Eugene Heth who has been visiting his parents on Maple ave. left on Saturday last for Montgomery Ala., where he will give exhibition flights in a bi-plane.

Wanted—Married man with no children, to live in tenant house. Man must understand farm work and milking. Address box 419 Birmingham or phone 14-F2.

The Ladies Aid of the M. E. church will hold a food sale March 16 at Hoge's hardware store. All kinds of food to be sold and orders will be taken. Phone 69-J.

The school bonds for $15,000,000 sold at a premium of nearly $200 to Detroit brokers.

Born, to Mr. and Mrs. Earl Barr, a daughter Mother and daughter doing as well as expected.

Lloyd Peck accompanied by Arthur Meker started for Kelso, Wash., last Friday. We will miss Lloyds smiling face and wish him every success.

Five Years Ago

Vaughan defeats McClellan by 155 votes in primary election. Bayle, Anderson, and Wilson win.

Gilbert Hopper dies in Ohio after an attack of bronchial pneumonia.

Three hundred and twenty-five dollars raised in Y campaign.

Six mile an hour speed limit lifted by village.

Short days returns precipitate school crisis.

Zeigler, former state Bank aide admits $2,000 theft; will hear sentence Monday.

Eight candidates vie for four village posts.

Bank pushes opening plan.

Community House announces plans for celebrating birthday anniversary.

With a charming air of romance and pleasant sentimentality, the company were discussing how each married couple among them met.

"And where did you first meet your wife?" the little man in the corner asked.

"Nowhere," he replied solemnly. "She overtook me."

WABEEK STATE BANK
BIRMINGHAM, MICH.

Directors

W. M. CORNELIUS — HENRY T. EWALD
FRANK COUZENS — GEO. B. JUDSON
LEONARD L. HEALY — W. R. YAW

"Your Bank in Birmingham"
COMPLETE BANKING FACILITIES