

The Birmingham Eccentric

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If the average person knew as much about the good things in life as about the bad, the world would be much better.

SIXTIETH YEAR—NO. 7



By E. G. Whitney

Mrs. Gladys Heine, who greets you with a smile when you step across the post office here, spent several weeks in Mexico last Fall touring the country and observing interesting bits of life in the land of Chili and silver. While browsing through a Mexican magazine, Mrs. Heine ran across several pictures of "Oweny", greatest dog traveller in the world and recipient of a medal from the Emperor of Japan.

Mrs. Heine dug up the life story of this dog for our benefit and we gladly pass it along to our three regular readers.

One wild, history night in '28 there strayed into the work-room of the Albany, N. Y. office a bedraggled, shivering mongrel resembling an Irish Terrier. Unnoticed, he found a soft spot on a pile of mail bags and fell asleep. Discovered later on, the outcast was about to be dispatched when the clerk, who probably understood dog language, was impressed by his friendly look, appealing wag of tail. The pup was given a reprieve and allowed to remain in the building, the clerks feeding him. Soon he had won the friendship of the whole crew and he was formally adopted and given the name "Oweny."

Oweny was more than a mere dog. He had a yen for adventure and soon sensed it was safe for him to go wherever mail bags travelled. First, he ventured on short train rides, always in the mail car. Gradually he stretched his trips to two, three days—then to weeks, always returning to Albany. The crew affixed a tag to his collar with his name and address. Oweny's fame began to spread.

Once he disappeared for an unusually long period. Word reached Albany he was in a railroad lumber camp. The president of the company was appealed to and he ordered a train crew to seek him out and return the dog to the nearest post office. Oweny extended his travel from coast to coast. Postmasters adopted the practice of attaching a tag to his collar. He went to Mexico and came back with a silver pipe affixed. Before long it was necessary to substitute a harness for the collar. Then his champions vied with one another in presenting the mongrel with discs and medals attesting to his visits. The high spot in Oweny's career came in 1895 when, returning from a trip to Alaska, he hopped a boat for Japan where his presence aroused so much curiosity that he was taken before the Emperor who presented him with a medal. From the Orient he continued around the World, returning to Albany 132 days after his trip.

His bed was always a mail sack, his friends the post office men. At the end of his world excursion he was placed on exhibition with 200 medals in a public hall. At a San Francisco show he won a silver medal with the wording "Greatest dog traveller in the world." In 1897, traveling without credentials, he was shot and killed for a homeless stray. His body was mounted and sent to Washington, D. C. His remains recently were on exhibition at a post office display in San Diego, California.

By Jane E. McClilla

Birmingham college students are continuing to bring honor and joy to the home town by doing great things at their respective schools.

INSURANCE WEEK SUCCESSFUL IN STATE



Above are seen the men responsible for a successful Life Insurance Week in Detroit and the state, May 17 to 22. This committee is co-operating in the national movement during the week to place emphasis on benefits of the institution of life insurance. Above, A. Heald (seated right) is the general chairman. Standing left to right are: Donald MacMahon; Eugene B. Meek of Bloomfield Hills; Charles R. Eckert; and Hugh C. White. Howard B. Knaggs (seated left) is also president of Qualified Life Underwriters, Inc. of Detroit.

... of the Michigan Press Association. LANSING—Paralizing Governor Murphy's labor relations bill (House Bill 571) which would invest the state executive with authority of a strike dictator is a milk control board bill (House Bill 368 by Hatch, Priest, Jarvis and Schneider) which would give the state authority to fix the price of milk.

Both measures are far-reaching in their proposals to increase state powers.

What the labor relations bill would do to industrial centers, the farm control bill would do to rural dairy centers. Both would set up the state government as a mighty arbiter between labor and the producer.

"Farmers Near Strike" by Edward Roy McDougall of St. Clair, vice-president of the Michigan Farmers' Union, which is urging enactment of the milk control bill. "Farmers are on the verge of a strike in Michigan."

Opposing the price-fixing plan are the National Milk Producers Association and the State Milk Producers association, whose officials believe that government tinkering of the law of supply and demand would merely increase prices, lower demand, and leave the producer no better off than he is today.

As this news letter pointed out last week ago, the agitation for minimum wages, maximum hours and other benefits to industrial workers, is now being carried on by a state statute without a similar agitation being started among farmers.

Reorganized State Fair. Governor Frank Murphy's inaugural message to the legislature gave consideration to governmental reforms and social legislation, but omitted reference to farm needs.

Formerly mayor of Detroit and governor of the Philippines, Murphy has devoted a major part of his time since the inaugural January 1 to problems of Michigan cities.

A few days ago he re-organized the governing bodies of Michigan's two agricultural fairs, declaring that the agricultural character of the state has been slurred and subordinated in the industrial areas of the state.

Liquor Control. Sale of liquor by the glass in restaurants, excepting those specifically voting against it, would be permitted in Michigan under a bill favored by the House liquor traffic committee. It would set up a \$500 annual license fee for taverns selling beer, wine and liquor by the glass and would prohibit sale of liquor to persons under 21.

Twenty per cent of the voters of any community could initiate a primary election on the question of sale by glass.

Since the days of King Louis XIV of France, who imposed bone-dry prohibition on the French post at St. Ignace, Michigan has been shabby, rather than an outstanding achievement of the state.

BAR BANQUET SPEAKER. President Roscoe O. Bonisteel, of the State Bar Association, will address a banquet arranged by the Macomb County Bar Association at St. Joseph Sanitarium in Mt. Clemens, Thursday, May 27 at 6:30 p.m. Members of the Michigan County Bar Association have been invited to attend the meeting, which is held under the auspices of the State Bar. A round table discussion will precede the banquet.

SENTENCED TO READ BIBLE. Paterson, N. J.—Convicted for alleged "violations of the State 'public enemy' law, three men were sentenced to serve three months and to read a chapter of the Bible each day they are behind the bars. According to Police Recorder Vincent C. Duffy, who sentenced the men, "If we had more of God in our hearts, there would be less of crime and less of this type of case in our courts."

Michigan Mirror

NON-PARTISAN STATE NEWS LETTER

By GENE ALLEMAN

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