

The Birmingham Eccentric
 (Founded in 1881)
 Published every Thursday, at Birmingham, Mich. in The
 Eccentric Building, 112 North Woodward Avenue
 GEORGE R. AVERILL, Editor and Publisher
 MARSHALL S. PORTER, Business Manager
 PAUL NEAL AVERILL, Editor
 THOMAS W. WINGFIELD, Advertising Manager
 CLAUDE E. WALKER, Production Manager
 Entered as Second Class Matter in the U. S. Postoffice at
 Birmingham, Michigan

SUBSCRIPTION RATES (Outside Oakland County)

One Year	\$1.00	One Year	\$2.00
Three Months	.30	Three Months	.75
Six Months	.50	Six Months	1.25

For advertising rates and information, apply to the
 office by Tuesday noon to obtain insertion for that week.

The Eccentric is a member of
 National Editorial Association, Michigan Press Association, Uni-
 versity Press Club and Oakland County Weekly Press Association

THURSDAY, JULY 21, 1938

NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events
 which have real value and which are written by persons not
 connected with the editorial staff of the paper. All copy must
 be presented before noon on Wednesday. The right is
 reserved, however, to edit and to make such changes as may be
 deemed necessary in the style of the paper and in the
 mechanical situation in the composing room. Headlines written
 by these authors will be printed in the Eccentric. Any
 anonymous reflection upon the character, standing or
 reputation of any person or organization will not be
 accepted unless brought to the attention of the publisher.

Pick up a newspaper, anywhere in the United States, any day in the week, and you will read about fatal highway accidents. The accidents that you read about are not fatal highway accidents, unless the victims are of wide importance, and even the local deaths will get small space unless the people are especially prominent.

There was a time, not so many years ago, when the killing of a pedestrian by an automobile was news. The crash of two speeding automobiles, involving the death of two or three persons, got good headlines some years ago. Today, however, the public takes the highway fatalities as a matter of course, assumes that they are, in part, unavoidable, and in almost every instance acquiesces in the verdict that nobody is to blame.

In a recent study of 965 drivers involved in fatal highway accidents, the Bureau of Public Roads pointed out that only twenty-eight served time in jail and only ninety-five paid fines. More than eighty-six per cent of the drivers were not penalized by the courts in any way. A study of the case histories creates the impression that the penalties imposed by the courts are seldom in "reasonable proportion" to the offenses, but the Bureau does not find fault with the courts, saying that the failure to inflict proper punishment is due to the difficulty of obtaining evidence, sufficient to convict, and also, perhaps, to the lack of a criminal code designed to fit present-day motor-vehicle accident cases.

In regard to many of the highway fatalities, the public takes the view that they are the result of the hazardous hazards of the road. While there is basis for such a conclusion, in regard to some accidents, the fact is that many are caused by failure to enforce regulations set up for highway safety. The careful supervision of the issuance of driver's licenses, rigid inspection and strict regulations of motor vehicles on the highway, and vigorous enforcement of highway regulations will do much to cut down the death toll on our highways. The time to avoid many fatal accidents is before they occur; afterwards, it is too late to do the victims much good.

It is reported that in a metropolitan city high school students will be taught how to talk pleasantly, how to use good English, and how to be at ease in the presence of potential employers and other people.

School officials have been led to institute the new course because of the discovery that many students, otherwise entirely capable, have lost jobs because of an inability to converse coherently or use correct grammatical constructions, some of the students get caught in the presence of others, stammer, stammer, and lose all power of fluent conversation.

It seems to us that the idea has possibilities in the schools of this county. The time has passed when school officials and teachers can be satisfied with summary formation into the minds of children. Education is becoming primarily intended to equip boys and girls for living. Very often, the student could afford to know less about mathematics, language, or history, and more about the art of getting along socially with other human beings.

There is no group in America which is being held to such high standards of ethical and physical performance as the editors of daily newspapers. Lawyers can bungle cases, politicians can connive, even doctors can break the law, with practical impunity. Doctors can kill patients, (nearly) all of them, with little or even fake therapy, also break the law, and few of them are ever hauled even before their own ethical tribunals. The clergy can fumble along for years, doing a progressively less effective job, without losing a iota of the respect for the cloth. But the press, dealing with the most elusive factors of all and with great temptation to fudge, is held strictly to account.

Critical Of Newspapers
 It seems that John Collier, Commissioner in charge of Indian Affairs, wanted to prepare Indian youth to earn a living and sought to introduce courses to train them in repairing automobiles. The Indian Bureau teacher, however, had trouble with the venerable Navajo headman. He refused the course. He asked, "What good will such work do when the white man and his cars are gone?"

For the past two weeks this writer has been roaming about Michigan, most of the time within the area where lakes, the hotel, resort and recreation business is predominant. It is interesting for the state where, except for what can be gained from the highway tourist, nothing is counted upon from the summer vacationist, to observe how the different towns are reacting to this great and growing industry—the business of serving the tourist and the vacationist.

Take any one of the half-dozen north and south arteries of tourist travel, and profile from town to town, stopping off at nearly every one. Here a few are making feeble efforts to serve the travelers. There, perhaps in a smaller and less favorably located town, the whole population appears awake and alert to every possibility.

Most of these towns a few years ago appeared dormant. Some of them are still doomed unless enterprising inhabitants take account of their opportunities. Many already have snapped out of their lethargy and already have made great strides. Let's take a few samples. Not so many years ago the writer made an overnight stop at Gaylord. The evening was spent in conversation with the town banker. He was very pessimistic. The stores along main street were drab, wooden structures, offering poorly selected stocks of merchandise, rents were terribly low, property could be bought for a song, the bank was fighting on its loans and new construction was something not being undertaken. Today there is not a more attractive main street in Michigan. Nearly every store has installed a new floor, modern stores with alert merchandisers, offering well selected and complete stocks of merchandise, are the rule. There are many attractive parks, newly painted dwellings, gay streets, excellent restaurants, lots of modern tourist apartments, make Gaylord an outstanding town. That highway travelers have it spotted was evident on each of two visits there during the past fortnight. Gaylord likewise is making tourist strides.

A half-dozen years ago the little town of Boyne City was a desolate place. Ruins of old mills, debris from years of logging operations, tottering walls of an old iron and steel mill, vacant houses, sand trails for side streets, such a town is just a few years ago. Today there is more activity there than in Boyne, in many a city of twice its size. Instead of vacant houses and no improvements, the homes are being modernized, new fronts are replacing old lumber-jack style stores, streets are paved, the beach is being cleared up, a fine park in the theater, modern in the last resort, showing the new pictures, is playing to packed houses and business is good.

Comparisons are odious. It is not safe to mention the names of many other towns still asleep, many of them more advantageously located than the ones just mentioned. What makes the difference? Just the people who live in the towns, the merchants and the townspeople have awakened. In the others they still sleep.

As for the state at large, it too has a stake in all this awakening. Revenues of the state are largely obtained from the retail sales tax and Michigan gasoline tax. Much of this cash, under the terms of the southern compact, goes to units of government as aid to the localities, and to replace the property tax for improvement and maintenance of roads and streets, finds its way into municipal treasuries.

Anyone who was in the north over the recent holiday weekend can readily understand how well the "realism" of the state means to all, whether they live in the southern counties or in the north. In the lake and stream areas, vacation travel is the life blood of local business. The remainder of the state, it is a welcome stimulant to business and a Godsend in the way of increased revenues collected by the state at large, but finally find its way back to support local schools and to improve county high schools. It is non J. B. Brown in Ingham County High School.

Prime Minister Chamberlain sacrificed Foreign Minister Eden to promote his policy of a negotiated peace with dictators Hitler and Mussolini.

The British made an agreement with the Italians, to take effect in the future—when the Fascists had won the war in Spain for the Rebels. The time is indefinite yet.

The ousted Eden has at last begun public criticism of the foreign policy which is being followed by the Premier, he says, "becomes indistinguishable from defeatism, if so, we should then merely be retiring in good order from position to position until the battle is lost."

European appeasement, to which Chamberlain still hopes of improving British relations with Hitler, is the cause of our present predicament at the expense either of our vital interests or our national reputation, or our sense of fair dealings."

DRIVING SOUTH ON U. S. 10, above Flint, the halter was observed a car ahead with the halter on the porch. That Saturday afternoon, sitting next to us, caught our thought, or we caught hers—for she smiled and said, as we passed the car and saw it was filled with laughing colored folks, "that car's number seems to have a relationship with some kind of a game I have heard Negroes like." It had, for seven is one of two numbers that mean luck to anyone playing "craps"; the other number is eleven.

JAMES ROOSEVELT, apparently, will not have to depend upon Old Age Security to keep him out of the poorhouse. That Saturday Evening Post article in Jimmy's ubiquitousness in selling insurance insures him against poverty. If the Roosevelts keep on, perhaps they alone may be able to cut down the national debt by the government's "cuts" from their income taxes.

People's Column
 The Eccentric is pleased 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 accompanied by a return address for publication the following Thursday.

Birmingham, Michigan
 July 18, 1938
 Editor,
 Birmingham Eccentric
 Dear Editor:

I have been wondering why a progressive and up-to-date newspaper like the Birmingham Eccentric is not interested in and boosting for the General Welfare Act. This bill was introduced by Charles N. Crosby (Democrat), of Pennsylvania, Feb. 2, 1937, and is being held in "cold storage" by the Ways and Means Committee because it might interfere with the operation of the Social Security Act, which was sponsored by the present administration.

Members of the present businessmen of the United States believe that the passage of H. R. 4139 would result in a "gold standard" which would provide employment for and reduce crime among the youth of our country, eliminate the debt, and bring prosperity and happiness to all citizens of the United States.

Our fathers and mothers who took part in the Revolution, and who were not able to care for ourselves will not have to be sent over the hill to the poorhouse, nor accept the dole of three dollars per month as is now the case in some states. Army and Navy and other industrial concerns are pensioning off their employees after a certain number of years' service, and there is no good reason why "industrial soldiers" who have served the country so well, and who are the finest on earth, should not be entitled to a pension, especially when it is being paid by the Government on a penny.

The bill says, "There shall be created in the Treasury Department a fund to be known as the General Welfare Fund."

This money is to be raised by a tax on the estate of those who die, which gives a much broader tax base and is much simpler and less expensive to administer than the "transaction" or Social Security tax, and it is claimed it would make a reduction of from 30 to 45 per cent in individual property taxes.

Money so collected to be prorated to the country up to six, 60 years of age or older who have no criminal records and who agree to furnish testimony as to the making plans for younger men and women who are now on relief. This money would accept the pensions, and the money so distributed would stimulate business and bring prosperity to the whole United States.

There are now about 175 Congressmen in a hearing on this bill—67% Democrats, 20% Republicans, 13% Progressive and 10% Independent. But the Street Bankers and the mortgage companies are taking over the homes of the poor people who have no means to go into effect. Think it over.

Respectfully,
 W. H. HARRISON
 Los Angeles, California.

To the Editor
 of the Birmingham Eccentric:
 As a taxpayer and a resident of Wilts street, I would like to know if you are the most objectionable advertising signs on the corner of Woodward avenue and Wilts street.
 As I remember, a promise was made to village officials last summer that the signs would be removed during the following winter if I allowed to stand until then. Am I right about this?
 Also, I would like to inquire why the sign company is allowed to burn the sign screenings from the street and dump them on the street sidewalk. It is a disgusting sight to people passing by on foot and in cars. They are not attractive to the attractiveness of our city, whether walking or riding.

PARAGRAPHS
 The Political Game
 It is interesting to note how politicians bury the hatchet because they have an eye to grind.—Detroit Free Press.

Reverse Order
 An Atchison man is sending his son to college in reverse order of his son's last year's clothing.—Atchison Globe.

Not In U. S. A.
 It seems clear that parity does not exist in the "very top" of Virginia.—Pilot.

People's Column
MY FRIENDS
VACATION
 Illustration of a man relaxing on a beach chair, with a sign that says "VACATION".

Congressional Comment
 by Representative George A. Dondro
 17th Michigan District

WASHINGTON LETTER
 BY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
Debt May Mount to 40 Billions— Still Not Be as Big as It Seems

WASHINGTON—It is widely predicted that the new non-inflating program for 1938-39 will send the total public debt to \$40,000,000,000—and there are interesting sidelights on this figuring.

The debt at the end of the fiscal year 1937-38 was about \$10,500,000,000 more than the war-time peak. But it represents a loss of an annual interest charge of \$28,596,000,000 in August, 1919. The annual interest charge was \$1,034,000,000 and although the debt was \$37,165,000,000 on July 1, 1936, the annual interest charge for the preceding year was about \$550,000,000.

The reason for this is that the interest rate in 1919 was 4.78 per cent as compared with 2.576 in 1938.

ONE of the most cheering items in the Treasury's balance sheet is the unusually large current working balance. Just now it is \$1,985,000,000 and so adequate that even with the \$1,500,000,000 spending program in action, it will not be necessary to borrow any more money until September of this year at the earliest.

Random Remarks
 Luther A. Weidle, dean, Yale Divinity School:
 "Faith is a way of using knowledge."
 Roger W. Babson, statistician:
 "America is faced with either a spiritual revival or a revolution."
 Malcolm P. McNair, professor, Harvard Business School:
 "Continued business depression will lead almost certainly to a dictatorship of the economic planners, supported by the vast army of those who have access to the public purse."

Jobs 'n' Jest
 MAX BAER says he is signed to fight Joe Louis—why should he worry?—why should the answer will line up on the right, when and children first, and not proceeding, please.

WABECK STATE BANK
 BIRMINGHAM, MICH.

W. M. CORNELIUS
 FRANK COUZENS
 LEONARD L. HEALY

HENRY T. EWALD
 G. B. JUDSON
 W. R. YAW

"Your Bank in Birmingham"
 COMPLETE BANKING FACILITIES

Happenings of Long Ago
FIFTY YEARS AGO
 Last week Sunday, James O. Beattie had a writ of *habeas corpus* to serve on James Gray of Troy for Robert E. Grimes, to recover a twin binder, curtains, a set of knives and some under tissue. Gray had the articles in question locked in a room in his house and a guard threatened to blow Jim into eternity if he broke the door. Jim began making noise and was wondering whether the law would uphold him in knocking in the door or not, came back and sought telephone assurance and comfort from Lawyer Jacobs of Pontiac. He returned to the scene of the trouble when this time was successful. Law suits without number are threatened.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
 It is expected that the property owners of Purdy street will appear at the next meeting of the Village Council to urge the opening of the street between Frank and George streets. This condemnation proceeding is being held in the name of the city. The street has been blocked about long enough, so the neighbors think.
 What a day was "One day last week, by courtesy of Jim Valentine, we went over the old stamping mill around in glow. We're cramping tonight on the old cramp ground."

FIVE YEARS AGO
 Birmingham schools to open September 11; low tax rate seen as work is begun on budget. Crandell urges last year's standards be maintained. Citizens urge early opening. Who and Feery would operate on broad curriculum at start. Teachers paid \$2,800. Tax levy to be about \$100,000; bond opposa variable rate; will levy 6.5 mills for operation. Debt service item cut.
 Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills gift tax report. Will appeal to State from county equalization figures. Both cities get boosts.
 Expert leads Copson's work. Jubenville, former comptroller of Oakland Motor Car Company, makes report to Commissioner A. J. Brandt, clearing city treasurer of criticism.
 Local swimmers defeated in first meet by three points. Birmingham Athletic Club to Fisher team. Meet scheduled Friday night with Pontiac tankers.
 Dividend payment is nearly finished. 80 per cent of payoff completed. Unpaid depositors are urged by bank officials to present their claims.
 Plans for police raid win favor. Commission approves proposed county system but without decision to participate.