The Birmingham Eccentric

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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 Tuesdays. 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.

The Hour Of Bereavement

Life is exemplified in the art of living, of being, of doing—and then of passing on to that inevitable land from whose shore there is seldom a return. To be born, to live an hour or a hundred years—or some age between—that is life as all of us know it. And during the interval between birth and passing on many are our experiences.

In Birmingham and vicinity this week there is much happiness, much gaiety, much hopeful expectancy of the future; in very few homes is there enduring sadness, and in fewer an immediate reaction to tragedy. All of us who are adults have recollections of other days of sadness that came to us, and few there are who, at some time in their lives, have not been bowed down beneath the weight of tremendous personal sorrow. Yet, Time, the great healer, carried us along, and came the day when the deepness of a sorrow was buried beneath the surface of immediate pursuits, and once again we were able to go on from day to day in the business of living our lives.

It is almost futile to extend one's sympathy to others who, in the hour of their own personal tragedy, weep deeply and silently as they grieve over the loss of a loved one; and yet the extension of sympathy is about the only thing one neighbor can do for another on such occasions. For the ones in sorrow, if it be parents, his and her sustaining uplift and help is the inner faith that has been nurtured through the years, and the personal memory that, as parents, they have labored and loved and sacrificed that their son or daughter might become a useful member of society.

In Birmingham today there is a deep community sympathy for Mr. and Mrs. Earl W. Lackie, of Frank Street, whose 18-year-old son, Don, was drowned in Lower Long Lake Monday afternoon. Don was a member of this year's Baldwin High School graduating class.

Just why Life should graduate this young man from temporal to eternal things is beyond human perception; but perhaps the tragedy that has befallen him may, as his classmates go out into the world, cause one or more of them to receive a mental and spiritual leavening that may result in their becoming crusaders for a great cause—and thus Don's passing will not have been in vain.

In the meantime, Birmingham laments his passing, and to his family extends heartfelt sympathy in their hour of bereavement.

High School Honor Society

To those Baldwin high school graduates this year who were elected to membership in the National High School Honor Society, we extend our warm congratulations. To be included in the 12 who were selected from this spring's graduation class, out of a field of 130, is a distinct honor, and one we are sure will linger in memory so long as memory lasts.

As you may recall, this honor was bestowed not entirely for scholastic standing, although that was a sufficient requisite, of course; but the qualities of leadership, of service, and of character were also included in the test of acceptance for the Honor Society.

The ceremony in the high school last Friday, when these boys and girls were made members, was, indeed, very inspiring. We suggest that at the next one more parents be invited—not only the parents of those who will be elected next year, but the parents of undergraduate students; by witnessing this ceremony these parents may be inspired to inspire their own offspring to exemplify the four attributes in such a degree that their children may be accepted into the Honor Society at the conclusion of their high school days.

While high scholastic credits are valuable to every boy and girl, they cannot take the place of the qualities of character, of leadership, and of service that the world so sadly needs. More parents, we firmly believe, will be able to appraise the fine work of teachers by attending such a splendid ceremony as that which embraces membership in the Honor Society.

More honor to the National High School Honor Society!

And may more boys and girls qualify for future membership in that excellent recognition of the good qualities of American citizenship which is the foundation stone of the edifice of this Honor Society—and a real guarantee for the perpetuation of self-government.

A TAX ON THE INCOMES of people in Michigan will not cure the problems at all. Already the U. S. takes plenty in that respect. What we need right now in every State in the nation is LESS taxes that go to office holders. Every public official is paid from TAXES. There are too many of them for the country's good.

Labor And Business Should Not Fight

The best interest of the people of the United States will be served if capital and labor manage to get together and solve their problems through mutual give-and-take.

In struggles between capital and labor, there are some tactical advantages on both sides. Capital can very often win by throwing workers out of jobs when the men need employment to support themselves and their families. Workers, on the other hand, can enforce demands when peculiar circumstances jeopardize large investments if a shut-down results.

Occasionally, a manufacturer, facing union demands, does the unexpected. This is illustrated by a pie-maker of California, who was selling about a million dollars worth of pies a year. Employing eighty-five people, one hundred per cent unionized, R. H. Bradley, of Los Angeles, faced declining business and because "labor rulings were practically operating the shop," decided to quit.

Of course, we are not familiar with the conditions which led to Mr. Bradley's decision. He says he "tried to be fair" with organized labor, but in view of all demands "the business wasn't worth the effort." He dismissed his employees and closed his plant.

Usually, we are in sympathy with the demands of labor. However, we recognize that sometimes unjust demands are made and that, in some instances, the employer is compelled to grant them in order to avoid serious loss. In the long run, however, it will not pay labor to demand too much or other employers might follow the example of Mr. Bradley.

Innocent Men Serve Terms

In March, a man was convicted of robbing a bank in Nebraska. He was "positively identified" by employes as the robber. Although the bandit insisted that he never had been in the county of the robbery, he was, nevertheless, sentenced to a term in prison.

A few days ago, two men were captured after robbing a bank in Iowa. They gave written statements, describing bank robberies in four or five states, and the confessions were so accurate that officials became convinced that innocent men had been convicted for their crimes. As a result, Joseph Murray, of Sioux City, Iowa, has been freed. In addition, three other men now definitely declared innocent, will be freed in a few weeks from the Kansas penitentiary. They had also been convicted of robbing banks and were serving sentences of ten years or more.

The conviction of these innocent men illustrates again the mistakes that can be made in identification of persons accused of crime. Luckily for the men involved, the guilty parties were apprehended before they had served much of their sentences. However, a grave injustice has been done to the four men. They deserve the apology of society and some form of restoration.

A Highway To Alaska

An international highway, connecting Seattle, Vancouver, and Fairbanks, is under discussion, with some consideration of the source of funds for the construction of this highway.

In some Canadian quarters the idea is advanced that the United States might be asked to make a loan to assist British Columbia in constructing the fourteen hundred miles of highway that are to be built in that Province. Under proper safeguards and in view of the possible defensive value of such a highway to the United States, the loan might be feasible.

Already, according to reports, half the mileage of the proposed highway has been constructed, mainly from Seattle and Vancouver to Hazelton, B. C. Within the borders of the United States and the Yukon, Alaska, boundaries, there is close to two thousand miles of the proposed highway within Canadian territory. Some financial assistance is probably necessary if the Provinces are to construct their sections of the highway.

We hope that means will be found to speed up construction of the proposed highway. In fact, we see no reason why the United States should not extend assistance to the Provinces in the form of loans. The same idea, apparently, could be applied to the nations between this country and the Panama Canal. Modern, improved highways, through Mexico and Central America, might be valuable adjuncts to the defenses of the Canal zone. Subject to proper arrangements with Canada, the proposed highway might be of great value in regard to Alaska.

Britain Instructs Women For War

Declaring that there is no reason why women should not serve in a modern army, War Minister Leslie Hore-Belisha, of Great Britain, announces that he will raise an army of women as part of the British war machine.

While there is no intention of putting women in the trenches, it is planned to drill them so that they can assist in time of war. The women would be trained "in various tasks so that on mobilization women could supply the military requirements for various non-combatant duties."

The fact that Great Britain is willing to contemplate the training of women as a part of her war machine, indicates, at least, that to the British war is not an impossibility. It also illustrates how far ahead of the United States the British are in planning for their defense.

THE NATURAL PROBLEMS relating to sex will be taught New York Lutheran youngsters, according to action recently taken by the United Lutheran Synod in that area. Well, much information of less value is taught youth, so why not arrange to give them a few natural life-facts, on a dignified, decent basis?

MADAME FRANCES PERKINS, U. S. Secretary of Labor, has sailed for Geneva, Switzerland, to attend an international labor conference there. In the meantime, let's hope that her absence provides an opportunity for some readjustment of labor difficulties in this country.

Congressional Comment

by Representative George A. Dondero, 17th Michigan District

There is only one way to determine whether legislation is sound or unsound and that is to examine the results. Recently I sent down to the Department of Labor for some figures. I also sent over to the Document Room for a copy of the Wagner Labor Relations Act. I wanted to know what we had accomplished through the passage of that Act; whether the object, as expressed in the Act itself, had been attained.

The first four lines of the Wagner Labor Relations Act read as follows:

"The denial by employers of the right of employees to organize and the refusal and employers to accept the procedure of collective bargaining leads to strikes and other forms of industrial strife and unrest."

That Act was passed to bring industrial peace to our country. What it has actually done, however, has been to destroy whatever industrial peace which might have existed at the time the act was passed. It was approved by the President on July 5, 1935, and has been operative during the years 1936 and 1937.

In 1936 the number of strikes in this country numbered 2,172. In 1937, a year later, the number of strikes rose to 4,650, or more than double the number of strikes the year before. That is not the saddest part of the tale, however; the distressing part is that in 1936 the strikes involved 788,000 men, who lost a total of 13,900,000 days of pay. In 1937, last year, the number rose to 1,-875,000 men who were rendered idle and a total of 28,000,000 man-days were lost to the laboring men of this country. The Department of Labor is just now closing its books, hence the 1937 figures are its best estimates.

Apparently what we intended to accomplish when we passed the act has not been done, but what has resulted is entirely the reverse. Everybody who reads the press knows that instead of industrial peace we have had industrial warfare during 1937. It is my humble judgment that before a happier day comes to this country industrial warfare will have to cease. Long ago a man who sat in the Congress of the United States told his countrymen, and he was quoting from the Bible when he made the statement, "A house divided against itself cannot stand."

Today capital and labor is divided. Government is divided, and even labor is divided against itself. If progress can come to a people under such conditions, then the whole philosophy of the Man who walked this earth 2,000 years ago and died on the cross, and who taught the children of men to "Love thy neighbor as thyself," is all wrong.

What we need is more cooperation between the laboring man, the employer of labor, and business and industry generally before better conditions will return to this nation.

Recently, in cooperation with Rep. Dingell, a film showing the sources of materials used in the manufacture of automobiles was shown to Members of the House and Senate. In announcing the picture I pointed out that "From Maine to California, from Florida to Oregon and Washington, come 'materials'; from forest, farm, and field; from mines and mountains, liquids and solids, from below the earth and above it, come 'materials'—showing agriculture, business, and industry interwoven, inrelated, and dependent on each other." The showing of the picture was to impress upon the nation's lawmakers the far-reaching nature of the automotive industry and bring about a realization of the wide-spread effect of any legislation adversely affecting Michigan's great industry. It is my desire to keep the laboring men in our section employed and this was the motive behind my interest in the picture. In addition to calling the subject to the attention of the House, I again spoke prior to the showing of the picture of the committee room of the Committee on Ways and Means of the House.

Jots 'n Jest

WITH cooling summer drinks now colored in every rainbow hue, the girls have another excuse to go home mad at the hostess if she fails to match their pastel costumes.

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Drive-in theaters are being built so that you can sit in your car and watch the flickers. This gives you a chance to take a ride around the block during the travelogue.

• • •

The kids who rejoiced at their release from education a few weeks ago are already campaigning for a trip to the lake where school chums are vacationing.

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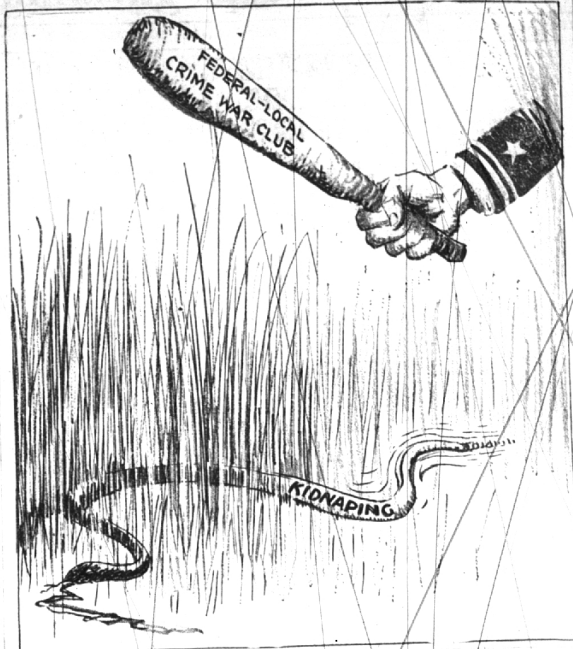
Sometimes you have cause to wish that angling companions concentrated fishing activities on minnows. They couldn't very well tell you about the "big one" that got away.



WASHINGTON LETTER

BY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Surplus Commodity Corporation Will Lessen Bumper Crop Difficulties

WASHINGTON.—The threat of bumper crops to the administration's farm program is somewhat lessened by the funds of a little known agency, authorized to buy and distribute surpluses, the Federal Surplus Commodity Corporation.

Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace has recently asked the FSCC, which in 1935 became a bureau of the department he heads, "to make a thorough survey of the situation in each of the 48 states to determine whether additional supplies of farm commodities beyond those now being consumed are needed to keep families of unemployed workers adequately nourished and adequately clothed."

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AS in the case of the recently authorized purchase of nearly 125,000 barrels of surplus wheat flour which represents some 575,000 bushels of wheat, FSCC purchases are calculated to assist state relief administrators in supplying the consumer needs of the unemployed, and at the same time put a wedge under prices that slide off as crop surpluses stack up.

Unannounced, but under consideration, is a plan for FSCC to buy cotton which will be used in comforter covers and bed ticking for distribution to the unemployed on relief. In 1937 the FSCC bought about 340,500 of cotton fabric when cotton production climbed to an all-time high of 41,000,000 acres.

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ALTOGETHER in 1937 FSCC spent over $15,000,000, mostly on such foodstuffs as apples, beans, oranges, peas, potatoes, prunes, rice, milk, butter and eggs, oats, rice and figs.

Whether or not it will become the policy of FSCC to concentrate its buying power in those counties where natural elements threaten to upset AAA so-called "balanced economy" cannot be ascertained.

But the corporation is singularly adaptable to the need, which may become urgent, for further control over the agricultural controls already set up.

Random Remarks

F. H. La Guardia, Mayor New York City:
"Everybody is labor's friend in October. Why, it's nauseating to see some of these political cockroaches coming around posing as friends of labor."

Marriner S. Eccles, chairman, Federal Reserve Board:
"I have yet to hear of any organized group of industry, or labor, proposing to making a serious study as to how their policies and practices may contribute to economic balance."

Clarence D. Deck, Attorney General, State of Kansas:
"It has been my experience that the public gets about what it demands from law enforcement."

Charles Evans Hughes, Chief Justice, U. S. Supreme Court:
"For the law is naught but words, save as the law is administered."

Dennis Chavez, U. S. Senator from New Mexico:
"Italy and Germany every day and every night are sending propaganda to South America in the Spanish and Portuguese languages."

Dewey Short, Member of Congress, from Missouri:
"We didn't have an election in 1936—we had a public sale."

Warren Austin, U. S. Senator from Vermont:
"Spending, lending and busting business paves the way to autocracy."

Maury Maverick, Member of Congress from Texas:
"Pit is time this House quits four-flushing and bally-hooing."

John J. O'Connor, Member of Congress from New York:
"The head of one of our great departments is a registered Socialist."

Emory S. Land, chairman, Maritime Commission:
"South America is rapidly becoming our best customer."

Franklin D. Roosevelt:
"It is in keeping with the pledge of the American Republics to settle by peaceful means the international differences that may arise among them."

William Bullitt, Ambassador to France:
"Americans cannot accept the idea that war is inevitable."

Cordell Hull, Secretary of State:
"For four years, our Government has been engaged in a major effort to reopen the channels of trade."

Alben Barkley, U. S. Senator from Kentucky:
"The Senate will realize how difficult it sometimes is to avoid answering a newspaper inquiry."

Arthur M. Hyde, Secretary of Agriculture under President Hoover:
"After five years of planned economy, instead of recovery, the foundations of free government have been undermined."

Consular Representatives of 28 Nations in Alicante, bombed by General Franco's airplanes:
"Unfortunately the attack was in the center of the city, far from military objects, and the victims principally were civilians."

Robert F. Wagner, U. S. Senator from New York:
"The world we live in is a troubled world. Autocracy is temporarily ascendant."

W. Russell Bowie, Episcopal rector:
"A revolutionary name that sounds very well applied to your ancestors becomes a term of scorn when you fasten it on your neighbor."

Flag Day, 1938

By RAYMOND PITCAIRN
National Chairman Sentinels of the Republic

"This flag which we honor is the emblem of our unity, our power, our thought and purpose as a nation.

"It has no other character than that which we give it from generation to generation.

"The choice is ours."

To every American that statement by Woodrow Wilson still carries a message which the years cannot dim. It votes not only the significance of our flag, but the reason for formal observances in its honor on June 14 of every year.

All Americans know what character preceding generations have given our flag.

They know that men who loved freedom more than life died, a century and a half ago, to make it the emblem of liberty.

They know that the sons of those men made it the symbol of hope and freedom to the oppressed of every land.

They know that succeeding generations carried it westward, through forest and prairie, over desert and mountain, until its protection spread across an entire continent.

They know that men died under its folds to make other men free; that a generation still with us bore it overseas, to blazon there its constant challenge to tyranny.

These are traits of character which successive generations have woven into our flag. They have fought the good fight; they have kept the faith.

What character will Americans of today weave into that glorious fabric?

Will they give it a new lustre? Will they brighten the colors that stand for strength and purity and hope? Will they continue the good fight to keep the American spirit free, to keep opportunity ajar, to maintain equal justice for all? Will they, too, keep the faith?

These are the challenges that Flag Day brings us annually.

And still, in the war-time words of Wilson:

"The choice is ours."

Try an Eccentric Classified Ad for quick results

Happenings of Long Ago

Fifty Years Ago

Our street sprinkler languished one day, but since then new life has been inspired into the "masheen" and it sprinkleth like a city apparatus.

Our village is well filled with a goodly number of ladies and gents, delegates to the Detroit district Sunday school institute, held at the M. E. Church this week. Rev. John Hamilton is busier than a bevy of killing snakes, all on account of attending to his duties during the institute and looking after and caring for the wants of the guests who are in our midst.

We hear rumors of a most distasteful affair which took place on Saginaw street last Sunday evening, and if the persons concerned were more than mere children we would cheerfully give their names in full. These boys are giving promise of a horrible harvest in the near future and a repetition of that Sunday night affair will greet with a response from us which will astonish the good people of this town as well as Detroit folks.

Johnnie Crawford is building a new home and Lew Simpson is engineering the job, carefully assisted by Willie Carter and George Wright. If you want to see improvements, fasten your optics on the Crawford estate.

Twenty-Five Years Ago

The brick work on James F. Wooster's new store on Woodward avenue, next to the hotel, is fast reaching a finish, and this is the first new store building to be put up in lo! these many years. New store buildings with offices or living rooms overhead would be immediately filled if our moneyed people would build them. The post office department wants suitable office room and there is a tenant for ten years, right on the start.

Well now, wonders will never cease. One day last week Mrs. E. W. Reynolds of Armada celebrated her 77th birthday by autoing over to the home of her brother, John D. Evans. As if that was not enough ruling, she came to Birmingham with John and called on many old friends. Bigelow and Mitchell were especially favored. There is brightness and cheerfulness and good will to that lady which will never die.

That, after motoring the miles from Ann Arbor in the rain Monday, the worst roads are within our own limits, is the opinion of H. George Fields, the builder and contractor. Mr. Fields says that even excepting the bad stretch south of Royal Oak, Birmingham still has the worst roads in the state.

Five Years Ago

Appointment of city officials is again deferred. Vleit's absence from special meeting causes postponement in ten-weeks swimming period. Bathing will be free says Engel, supervisor.

Bank payment expected to begin within ten days. 25 per cent dividend, releasing $500,000, awaits approval of comptroller.

Commission acts Monday on tax suits. Stevens will withdraw petitions if interest levy goes into budget. Hearing is postponed.

Sewage plant to be talked. Public officials meet here tonight for public works discussion.

School elections set for July 10. Scarcity of candidates for board is marker for campaign as deadline nears.

Crandell pay issue is settled. School Board fixes maximum and minimum salaries for superintendent.

One Trouble With Bridge

There are 6,000,000 bridge players in the United States, says an authority on the game. Of this number a great many take it so seriously that it is not a relaxation.—Detroit Free Press.

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