

The Birmingham Eccentric

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1938
NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events
which are newsworthy in the local community. The right
reserved, however, to make such editorial changes in the
manuscript as may be necessary to make it readable and
as are required by laws of the state. Because of a
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One of the fine definitions of "thanksgiving" is
this: a public acknowledgment of divine good-
ness and mercies.

We Should Be Very Thankful!
In such a frame of mind, we believe, the annual observance of Thanksgiving Day has become a time for the whole nation to offer up gratitude to a Universal Being for the abundance of life including one's own about us.

Next Thursday, November 24, is Thanksgiving Day for 1938 in the United States. All over the land, a blessed land, too, in spite of certain appearances, people will gather in church, at home, in city and village, upon the farm, in lonely far-off places, to give thanks for the bountifulness of Divine Providence for every good thing they possess. In most of such hearts gratitude for many things will be uppermost in their minds; in too many, alas! perhaps there may not be an abundance of gratitude, for life with many is a terrible struggle, a heart-breaking experience. It might not be so, some day it may not be necessary when mankind learns better how to cooperate in the distribution of the vast wealth it is capable of creating.

We in the United States have much to be thankful for: we have a vast portion of the world's surface, rich in soil and timber, in minerals, in climate. We are not overpopulated; we are 48 states, each in amity with the others; we have a federal Constitution and system of government that is more free than any other in the whole world; we may still speak and write what we think, we may assemble peacefully, ask government to improve our common welfare; we have a vast system of public education, to keep us from going backward to the jungle; and, while in election campaigns one group arraigns itself vigorously against another, yet when election day is past we abide by the rule of the majority, as befits true sportsmanship.

And, not the least of our causes for gratitude, is that, as a nation, we do not hate any group of human beings on earth; we are allowed to worship as we please.

Yes, thank God, the United States has much to be thankful for every day of every year! Let's think on these things, as we stuff ourselves with food next Thursday.

Dear Pedestrian:
Some people think the moth is a foolish creature because it flies into the candle flame and goes up in smoke.

An Open Letter To Those Who Walk
And if you think the moth is a foolish creature because it flies into the candle flame and goes up in smoke, then your accident records are chock full of pedestrians who walked into the path of traffic with the same supreme indifference.

We're sending this special reminder to you right now because this time of year is especially bad for pedestrians.

Earlier darkness makes it harder for the motorist to see you. (Don't forget that he can't see you as clearly as you see him.)

And if you stop off the curb into his path, he may not be able to stop so quickly now because of bad weather and slippery pavements.

By the way, do you pull your head inside your collar like a turtle in bad weather and try to cross the street on your umbrella, thinking it will keep off automobiles as well as rain? You're headed for the vital statistics, if you do.

Our job of teaching children how to cross the street safely is made harder because they're always seeing adults—even their own parents—try to save time in the year-end rush by running against red lights, by crossing in the middle of the block, by not looking both ways.

If they could only see—as we see—the tragic consequences, they'd realize that safe walking habits take but a second, and save whole lives.

—National Safety Council.

YESTERDAY A NUMBER of members of the Birmingham Chapter of DeMolay "took over" the local city government; boys were "installed" for the afternoon in practically every city office. That is good training for citizenship. Who can say that one or more of those boys is not destined to become a great public official as the result of his experience yesterday?

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT spoke the thoughts of all fair-minded people in this nation when he criticized the Hitler government for its barbaric persecution of the Jewish people. Whom the Gods would destroy, they first make mad—that axiom undoubtedly applies to Nazism.

ONE OF THE MOST "hustling" of Birmingham's organizations is the Lions Club. The "feather party" they are holding here tonight, the proceeds of which are used by them in aiding needy local adults and children, attracts upwards of 1000 people.

The effort to understand the working of the human mind has engaged the attention of the most eminent scientific thinkers of all years and while considerable progress has been made one realizes that the field is largely unexplored.

Stick To Your "Hunches"
The other day a group of scientists gave their approval to what is popularly known as a "hunch," a "pre-scientific thought." As explained by the scientists, a "hunch" follows a long period of study but comes into consciousness when we are not conscious of working on a problem. This is logical and fits in with the experience of most persons who observe themselves closely.

We call the attention of readers, and particularly young readers, to the statement that a "hunch" flashes into the mind of an individual after a period of study on a problem. It does not and will not come as a bolt from a clear sky to a mind that has not wrestled with the proposition to which it relates.

Many young people have the idea that luck plays a great part in the discoveries and inventions of the world and while, very often, it seems that chance leads to remarkable developments, a close investigation will almost inevitably lead to the discovery that the individual blessed by the lucky break happened to be an individual who was giving serious thought and study to some problem.

Now that the scientists have given their endorsement to the "hunch," may we not suggest that some eminent group of thinkers devote their talents to recognizing the intricate value of intuition—another valuable and much misunderstood possession of those keen enough to make use of it?

The National Typewriter and Office Machine Dealers Association recently held a convention in New York, A.

Should We Buy Anything Abroad?
The resolution was presented to the convention, pledging all members of the group to handle only American merchandise, but was subsequently amended in the face of Canadian opposition, to merchandise "manufactured in North America."

The resolution was vigorously upheld by some of the delegates but in the end, was overwhelmingly defeated. The reason why it was defeated, it appears, according to some dealers, was that the United States exported \$1,356,194 worth of typewriters in 1936 and imported only \$91,312 worth in the same year. In other words, there was no use to throw away nearly \$12,000,000 worth of foreign business in order to get \$91,000 worth of business in this country.

The same lesson applies to some other interests in the United States which are insistently advocating the use of nothing but American goods. These people lose sight of the fact that if the United States is to sell its farm products and other manufactured goods abroad, it is absolutely necessary for the people of the United States to buy some foreign goods. The fact is more imperative because of the creditor position of the United States and it is about time for the people of this country to understand it.

The trend of recent political shifts, whether one realizes it or not, is toward a distinct regrouping of the voters of the

Political Shifts
United States. Leaders on both sides of the present debate are urging voters to place the good of the country above party considerations. It is a sign of the weakening tie that heretofore have bound voters to their organizations.

One does not profess to know the future and consequently we have no idea where the drift will end. Let us hope, however, that it will move toward well-defined national policies, championed by able and sincere advocates, and that the people of the nation will be able to make an intelligent choice of the courses presented to them.

That is the democratic process. Somehow or other, we believe it will work well in America and prove sufficient to solve our problems.

We recall that not so many years ago, one of the worries that beset us was the fear that the supply of coal would give out and that the world would have to look to the sun for a source of energy.

It now appears that the White House, according to a report on "The World Coal Industry" that the International Labor Office is preparing, the world reserves of anthracite and bituminous coal will last thirty-seven centuries at the average annual extraction rate for 1925-1935.

Coal For 3,700 Years
The report puts the world's coal reserves at 4,600,000 million metric tons, with about half of it in the United States. Although the United States has the highest total reserve, it also has the highest extraction rate, but even so, the American reserve, at the present rate of extraction, is said to be good for 3,600 years.

ACTIVITIES of the Women's Christian Temperance Union are not being abandoned in Michigan, as the story in last week's Eccentric revealed, when Mrs. Dora Whittemore, president of the Michigan W. C. T. U., addressed a local group. The speaker of beer parlors, poorly operated dance halls, and similar Birmingham retreats that are scattered over Michigan's landscape is not doing much, in our opinion, to make today's youth characterful citizens. Operators of such places will do well to maintain the highest possible standards, or some day public indignation will rise up and close them.

BIRMINGHAM MERCHANTS are sponsoring a Christmas merchandising campaign that offers many rewards for local children. The campaign should stimulate local people to "buy at home" as much as possible. Will your boy or girl win one of the high awards?

LEISURE ought to be a by-product of industry—never of loafing.



HAT HAZARDS

FOR GOSH SAKES!
WHY DIDN'T
SOMEBODY
TELL ME
ABOUT THESE
PERISCOPE
LONG AGO?

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits Of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric—
The Items That Make Up The Historical Background
Of The Birmingham Of Today.

Fifty Years Ago
Nov. 22, 1888

Mrs. Henry Blumberg has returned from a visit to Greenville, N. D. Dances and Frank Hagerman are in carabos on a floating mat on the bridge on Saginaw street. If successful the water will be tamped up town to their respective places of business.

James Edmund is around again after a brief but severe illness.

The residence of Mrs. Cromwell has been repaired by the veteran artists, Paint & Staley, and it makes a very decided improvement to the property.

The Post family had a reunion yesterday.

We learn that our Baptist friends are about to make a much needed improvement, by putting in a new baptistry.

Mrs. E. J. Poppleton returned from her Boston visit on Saturday, Nov. 10, looking remarkably well after her sojourn at the "hook."

The grange will confer the first degree next Saturday evening, at which time there will be a feast. All members are requested to be present and have a good time.

The Franklin band boys gave their third annual Thanksgiving hop at National hall, Thursday evening, Nov. 22, Detroit music, and 75 cents pays the bill.

The Ladies' Working society of the M. E. church has furnished plans to decorate the M. E. parsonage and divers persons have contributed the labor necessary to speed it on and the improvement now presents a handsome appearance.

The Women's Foreign Missionary Society met with Mrs. M. E. Johnson yesterday (Thursday) in the home of Mr. J. S. Dunham.

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Monday construction of new County building seen as needed project. PWA gives \$100,000. Enthusiasm shown by "drive" opens. 108 Birmingham men meet at Community House Monday for largest rally in 25 years.

Better times shown by Red Cross drive. Chairman of Pentecost and County chapters report better prospects. Mrs. J. W. McNair, California drive, first to turn in membership for her township this year.

Let's give away turkey at annual party scheduled for Monday night. Mrs. J. W. McNair, California drive, first to turn in membership for her township this year.

Property owners to hear Louis Palmer, president of Michigan Real Estate Association in Div. 1. Prof. James K. Pollock, of the University of Michigan, denounces S. S. Nationality Act and defends League of Nations in lecture here Friday.

Teachers discuss schools at Lions club meeting and new process of education during recent times.

Mrs. Walcott of Southfield avenue, left the first of the week for Jacksonville, Fla., where she will spend the winter.

Mrs. Hazel Hamilton is now competing at the Eccentric office.

Mrs. W. T. Barlow of Blair Park, recently presented the Edgewood Library with 40 volumes.

By exchange of pulpits, Pastor H. G. Powers of Moscow preached in Birmingham Sunday last and Rev. C. E. Wakefield in Moscow.

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WASHINGTON LETTER

Advance Information on AAA Rules of Special Value to Wheat Farmers

WASHINGTON—Chief difference between the 1939 and 1938 AAA programs is that this year farmers can know in advance of planting season what they must do to comply. Last year winter crops were planted before the AAA program was announced.

This advance information is of particular value to wheat farmers. Last year, since there could be no actual allotments of acreage, available funds for parity payments were a portion of the AAA allotments. Each wheat farmer who co-operated in reducing acreage of other crops which he had not planted before the AAA allotments were announced was given his share of the parity payments funds at the rate of 12 cents a bushel. This was based on a total wheat crop limit of 62,500,000 acres.

This year wheat farmers who co-operate with the specified allotment plan will receive payments at the rate of 17 cents on the bushel and the total wheat "acreage goal" for wheat is shaved to between 55,000,000 and 60,000,000 acres.

Also in 1939 farmers may earn pin money for the first time by building check dams for control of erosion and sewage of irrigated crop land. Previously co-operation in soil conservation practices was hyoid but was not on a paying basis. The rate of payment for applying limestone to build soil has been increased in some areas.

The national crop goal for 1939 is between 270,000,000 and 280,000,000 acres to be planted in soil-depleting crops for \$5,000,000 acres less than last year. The fund for parity payments will be \$500,000,000 this year as before. In addition there is \$212,000,000 to be distributed in price adjustment payments, on cotton, wheat, corn, tobacco and rice.

Crop payments on 1939 acreage allotments will be made at the following rates: 2 cents a pound on cotton, 8 cents a bushel on corn, 17 cents a bushel on wheat, 10 cents a hundredweight on rice.

This year as last, farmers who exceed acreage allotments will be subject to what are called "partial performance deductions," when at the following rates: 4 cents a pound on cotton, 50 cents a bushel on wheat, 10 cents a bushel on corn, and 80 cents a hundredweight on rice.

The need for some control of acreage planted to commercial vegetables developed when it was found that farmers who found it profitable to reduce acreage planted to major crops in compliance with former AAA programs, simply increased their production of commercial vegetables.

If farmers find a way to get around the 1939 allotments there may be more special allotments for isolated problems such as the special celery program initiated last year. It was estimated that in 1938 there were 150,000 acres in 15 celery producing counties in Florida.

Progress means that Congress will retain its prerogatives of willing legislation.

Sumner Kenney, Premier of Japan: "The ultimate purpose of our present military campaign is the establishment of a new order that will insure the permanent stability of East Asia."

Neville Chamberlain, British Prime Minister: "To my mind, it is perfectly clear that the Spanish question is no longer a menace to the peace of Europe."

Herbert Lehman, Governor of New York: "Under democracy, the state is the servant and not the master of the people."

Dan Casement, president, Farmers' Independent Council of America: "The only way to 'right the farmers' wrongs' is to demolish the unworkable structures with which the Government has sought to 'aid business.'"

Albert Sarraut, Frenchman: "Peace will be assured only to the extent that people defend it and show themselves capable of doing so."

James A. Farley, Democratic National Chairman: "A dominant party, for its own permanency or salvation, needs a stout opposition to keep it on its toes."

It Is: "There may be a good time coming, as a financier has assured us, but all we can say is that it's a good time coming.—The Humorist."

O. K. With Us: "The number of murders committed at the bridge tables is less than 1.2 per cent of those that ought to have been committed.—San Diego Union."

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