

The Birmingham Eccentric

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NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events which are of local interest...

For five to six months The Eccentric has, from time to time, commented upon the all-time record Governor Frank D. Fitzgerald and Frank D. McKay, former State Treasurer...

You will recall that this newspaper and Mr. Fitzgerald have frequently exchanged letters on the subject; you will recall that at first Mr. Fitzgerald disclaimed a close alliance with the Grand Rapids politician; then you will recall...

Over in Lansing is published The State Digest, a weekly newspaper designed especially for people who are interested in Michigan's governmental affairs...

So herewith we are re-printing editor Goodwin's comment on the subject, printed only last week in a small column in the Detroit Press, and a year ago left his A-P job to buy a weekly newspaper somewhere in the southeast...

But let's get down to editor Goodwin's comment of last week; it will give you a bit of the "insider's" view of the campaign, and it substantiates The Eccentric's long-ago-arrived-at conviction that influences like the amiable McKay seldom result in permanent victory...

The Iron Duke Writes A Speech: A platform appearance with and without gestures... (The Iron Duke) Shilson is now writing campaign speeches... As General Manager of the Fitzgerald for governor forces he is doing a bang-up job...

The Digest salutes the Iron Duke with respectful reverence as a master in his chosen field. It yields the palm to him in his line of work. It differs with him in this instance only as a precautionary bit of advice to the voters...

The other night the voters heard the voice of O'Hara flaying Candidate Harry S. Toy. It was therapeutic of O'Hara, sure enough, but the words were the words of M. Shilson. O'Hara served with Toy and Fitzgerald on the administrative board of the Michigan State Normal School...

The issue is proven—good government of and by the people on the one side, and government of, by and for the New Deal on the other. Sharpshooters, much as they would like to pretend not to see this issue, sportsmen would not attempt to...

Pointing out that Toy, as attorney general...

was a part of the Fitzgerald Administration. O'Hara said: "I know every member of that cabinet believe it was a sound, responsible administration. I know every Republican member of that cabinet said so publicly and frequently and I know that no Republican worthy of the name has turned his back up to it."

"I know that as the 1936 campaign approached, newspapermen canvassed various Republican State officers to see if there might be among them one who would seek the Republican nomination for Governor...

"The record we wrote was closed the day we left office. It has not changed in any respect since. If it was good then, it is good now. I resent, therefore, attacks upon that record by one who helped write it and was proud of it."

"What Republican would not resent attacks from one willing to malign his own record and his own activities in a desperate effort to malign the whole party and its record? What conclusion can the people draw from one who is willing to besmear his own record and snarl at those who helped him?"

"Hara pointed out that Fitzgerald, running for Governor in 1936, polled 100,000 more votes than did Toy, running for justice of the Supreme Court in the same election."

"You do not need a Harvard degree to figure what Republican has the voting strength in Michigan," he said.

All of which reads well, but all of which is conceived with diabolical cleverness. Toy is a proud of the record he wrote and had carved on the administrative board as Mr. O'Hara could possibly be. Toy has little to fight with Fitzgerald on that score...

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Toy has spoken much of "McKayism." Maybe he will speak more. That is the real issue in this campaign. Fitzgerald must be saved from himself, for he is so weak to turn from the path he has chosen. Toy and Fitzgerald work together are not based upon what transpired in the open, on the administrative board where even Mr. O'Hara could hear, see and read. What Toy objects to, and what thousands of other Republicans object to, are the things concerning McKayism and Fitzgeraldism which have come to light out of the darkness in which they were conceived.

Neither O'Hara nor Toy acted in that part of the Fitzgerald administration which dealt with hotel room scheming in the night time. They were kept in ignorance. For it always has been and always will be easy to deceive those who trust you hold. Neither O'Hara nor Toy dealt with the infamous prison pardon operations of Fitzgerald and McKay."

The Digest repeats that Toy should not be swayed from his purpose to clean up the Republican party. He should not let his bell weather dissuade him on the ground that it is work only for the opposition or, as O'Hara said, the willingness of a man to snarl at his own record."

Toy's objections to McKayism are the same by which thousands of other Republicans measure Fitzgerald's unfitness. If McKayism is not an issue, if McKay is the pure and unadulterated essence of all that is good and holy, why does his name appear on a platform with his puppet? Why doesn't he come out in the open and definitely align himself with the Fitzgerald fight?"

Even the Iron Duke, who is advertised as "general manager" of the Fitzgerald campaign, will have no part of McKay. Why? What is there about McKayism in the camp of the Grand Lodge which makes it even such a frightful snarl as Duke Shilson turns away in disgust and announces he has not seen or talked to McKay in two years, a statement which is echoed by McKay and which would be true without that confirmation by the grand old Duke Shilson who says he lies or turns his back upon a worthy individual.

The truth about McKayism, the cold, naked truth, will be laid before the voters in Michigan. It may be the means of doing this. If not then still are they in the coming campaign which will not be turned aside by a man who will be determined officials, have been known to help solve many riddles. The Republican party can save itself on September 13. It must act, not because a champion phrase maker turns it has to help a weak man turn down the right road and go back to farming where the destinies of a great state are left in his hands to be toyed with by a man who dominates every waking moment he has.

EVERY TIME HANK GREENBERG gets another home run, the Detroit dailies run headlines across their front pages. That, in a nutshell, reveals the heights of modern intelligence. Not that they would do this in his honors or his headlines—only to bring to the attention of the general public only by people in life warrant equal pay action by newspaper editors. (Now don't come back with that old bromide that "editors give the people exactly what they want.")



Happenings of Long Ago

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

FIFTY YEARS AGO: Hurry for the ladies! Ladies to the front. After this little Sarah Ennis will collect your monthly dues to the Improvement society, so please have your nickels ready for the fair collector and not hinder her when she calls.

The loser of the pocketbook advertised elsewhere is a worthy young man, a very hard working, sober, upright man, to whom the loss of so much money is a great misfortune. The finder should use no time in restoring the cash to its owner.

On the steamer Cole, the day of our excursion, a small basket was lost. It contained a red and white napkin and a white-handled knife. A white shawl was folded neatly and laid under the handles of the basket. Please look at this office and obtain a suitable reward.

A worthy old lady of Big Beaver recently asked a citizen of Troy if both Whitehead and Mitchell were Democrats. On being assured that Whitehead is a staunch Republican, she said "Great Scott! I thought they must both be Democrats by the way they don't tell the truth."

Perhaps no jollier crowd of people ever met together in Franklin than the invited guests who gathered at Mr. Middley's Tuesday evening, at which time Mr. Benson Mitts of East Saginaw and Miss Effie Middley were united in the holy bonds of matrimony. Over 40 guests were present and everything passed over just twice for anything. The attic was numerous, attesting to the popularity of the happy pair.

The high school opened up on Mrs. Mary Hamilton was arranged for the day, announced that when this altered curriculum goes into effect it will meet with your approval and support.

On the occasion of a picnic at the house of James A. Kelly versus alleged poker players, the recovery of funds said to have been lost in games, has been discontinued. The defendant failed to appear.

Bayard Matthews, arrested on charges of jumping a board bill of Mrs. Mary Hamilton, was arraigned before Justice Campbell. Matthews pleaded guilty and in default of five dollars and \$37.75 costs, was committed to the jail for 20 days.

A recent Woodford avowed has been poisoning about with the weasels and the high cost of living and recently, when the cook was gone for one day, announced that he was going home to have a good old-fashioned brawl and milk diet for one day at least. But in calling as the different store where such things are usually kept, discovered that the local supply had exhausted and that their wasn't a bottle of milk to be had for free.

UNDER THE SECTION \$130,000.00 altogether is available. Of this amount about \$4,000.00 may be spent to adjust any single commodity that is out of balance. The first two days of the wheat export subsidy plan was in operation FSCC bought 400,000 bushels, and sold 61,000 bushels. Last year FSCC spent \$45,000,000. This year \$78,000,000 was available to the agency July first. Since that time \$4,800,000 has been spent, not including the \$150,000 advance for the purchase of wheat.

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

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

712 Harmon Avenue Birmingham, Michigan September 2, 1938

Dear Sir: Since a very large proportion of the area of the City of Birmingham is unrestricted except as for the zoning ordinance, I believe owners of property protected by the zoning ordinance will be interested in the Provision of the Federal Housing Administration Enactment Manual in Part II, "Protection From Zoning Ordinance Influences," articles 226 and 227, of the manual.

This feature has a total weight of 20, making it one of the most important features in the Rating of Location. It is a subject of considerable importance, but they do not represent all of the protection which is available under the zoning ordinance. Where little or no protection is provided against adverse influences, the proprietor must be hesitant to make a correct rating of his location.

Protection in the form of zoning restrictions is becoming almost universal. The best artificial means of providing protection from adverse influences is through the medium of appropriate and well drawn zoning ordinances. If the zoning ordinance is carefully established and if the provisions of the ordinance itself have been well worked and drawn & on a thorough knowledge of conditions existing in the city and those which will most probably exist in the future, and if the zoning ordinance receives the backing of public approval, an excellent basis for protection against adverse influences exists. If the ordinance has been drawn with little or no real understanding of its purpose or a genuine desire to promote orderly city growth, or if it lacks public approval, the chances are that it will offer little protection against adverse influences to residential properties. Even when an executed, investigation must be made to determine whether or not the provisions of the zoning law are enforced. It should be given little consideration by the Valuator in the valuation of properties. For the most part, protection from adverse influences is attached by the Federal Housing Administration to near large metropolitan centers than in places having smaller populations and less rapid growth. Absence of zoning may be a proper basis for refection in the former case, but would not cause refection in the latter type of case.

This agency of the U. S. Government, with all the money and facility for study, concludes that variance in the strict enforcement of the ordinance is sake to protect values. Yours very truly, Allen John Hart.

The Editor of The Birmingham Eccentric, Birmingham, Michigan Dear Sir: May I take the advantage of your letter column to make this comment relative to Mr. John R. Westenhaver, who is candidate for Sheriff in Oakland County?

My mind has been in constant contact with the name of Westenhaver for the past eight years and upwards and during that time he has served all our legal needs in Oakland County. He is exceptionally capable, possesses executive ability and is entirely reliable. Our acquaintance with him has been for the past eight years.

George A. Dondoro, M. C.

Advertisement for WABECK STATE BANK BIRMINGHAM, MICH. The advertisement describes the bank's services, including deposit taking, loan making, and trust services. It mentions that the bank is a member of the Federal Reserve System and has a capital of \$1,000,000. The bank is located at 712 Harmon Avenue, Birmingham, Michigan.

Advertisement for WASHINGTON LETTER BY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT Surplus Commodities Corporation Helps Farmers Sell Wheat Abroad. The advertisement describes the services of the corporation, which helps farmers sell their wheat abroad. It mentions that the corporation has a long history and a wide network of agents in various countries.

Advertisement for Taxes - The Public's Biggest Bill by B. Raymond Pittman. The advertisement discusses the importance of understanding tax laws and provides information on how to reduce tax liability. It mentions that the author is a tax expert and has written several books on tax law.