

The Birmingham Eccentric
Published every Thursday at Birmingham, Mich., in The
Eccentric Building, 25-27 North Woodward Avenue
Telephone 11, 12 and 13

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Entered as Second Class Matter in the U. S. Postoffice at
Birmingham, Michigan

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
(Outside Oakland County)
One Year \$10.00
Six Months \$5.00
Three Months \$2.50
All newspapers and advertising copy must be in the Eccentric
office by Wednesday morning latest for insertion.

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1939

NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events which have new value and which are written by persons not connected with the office of the Eccentric. The right is reserved, however, to delete or to alter the style of the paper and to accept or reject any material. Because of the mechanical situation in the composing room, headlines written by contributors should be in the left margin. Any excessive reference upon the character, standing or reputation of any person or organization will be gladly corrected upon the request of the contributor.

Do you earn \$30 a week?
Do you earn \$1,500 a year?
Then, providing you don't own an automobile, don't own a radio or don't have a telephone, you pay \$183 a year in taxes!
And, if you do have a car, a radio and a telephone, you pay \$200 a year in taxes!
That's the conclusion of Dr. William G. Sutcliffe, of Boston University, given in testimony to the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives during hearings last session on the Social Security Act.

Here's the way Dr. Sutcliffe set it up in figures.

Item	Family	Spends	Share
Food	\$ 564.00	\$ 43.96	
Clothing	192.00	13.17	
Shelter	327.00	93.42	
Fuel/light	75.00	7.99	
Home furn.	62.72	3.57	
Misc.	279.28	21.32	
	\$1,500.00	\$183.43	

Polls have shown that a quarter of the people in the United States are under the mistaken impression that they don't pay taxes. This is largely because they don't pay any income taxes. They, however, pay plenty of taxes in HIDDEN taxes. These are the taxes about which Dr. Sutcliffe testified.

In short, every time you buy a lot of bread, every time you buy a piece of clothing, every time you pay your rent, every time you buy your car or light bulb, every time you buy something for the house, you pay something in hidden taxes.

Government money is raised in taxes. What the government spends comes out of your pocket. Needless government spending is a waste of your money. The national debt is not just a couple of words that mean nothing. It's a debt that will have to be paid in taxes from your pocket or your children's pockets.

Stop reckless spending and taxes will go down.

A northern writer has been counting up the Seven Wonders of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. They are fully as marvelous as the Seven Wonders of the ancient world.

Heading the list is Isle Royale, Michigan's strange new national park in Lake Superior. The island is the last bit of unspoiled natural beauty in the north and northwest. The aboriginal forests, moose herds, narrow and spear-like fjords along the wild coast, beaches where semi-precious stones are found, thousands of prehistoric copper mining pits, and the startling mirages of the region, and next to this unique and hitherto inaccessible spot. Scheduled boat service to Isle Royale is now in effect from Sault Ste. Marie, Duluth, and Michigan's Copper Country.

The second wonder is the 30-mile long native copper mining lode on the Keweenaw Peninsula, with some of the deepest railway and telephone installations on the globe. Nearby are the Porcupine Mountains and the lovely Lake of the Clouds, high up among the peaks in virgin hardwood forest surroundings.

The fourth wonder is the battery of ship locks in Sault Ste. Marie, an outstanding example of man's victory over nature's obstacles, where Great Lakes freighters and passenger steamers rise and descend in a stately and endless procession during the navigation season. The locks are visited by travelers from the ends of the earth. Then come Tahquamenon Falls, in a matchless setting reached only by water; Kitch-iti-kipi, gigantic spring in Schoolcraft County, called by the Ojibwa Indians "The Mirror of the Evening Star"; and the fantastic, nature-painted and carved Pictured Rocks, a mighty wall of 200 feet sheer and 22 miles long, near Munising in Alger County.

Perhaps the greatest wonder of all is Lake Superior, world's largest freshwater body, containing with the other Great Lakes about one-half of all the unsalted water on the earth's surface. Superior is a perfect air-conditioner for the northern peninsula of Michigan, keeping the average summer temperature of the area at 65 degrees and making it a perfect hay fever haven.

POSTMASTER-GENERAL James A. Farley recently stated that "a politician, like a business man, knows that when he gives his word he must keep good on it." That's fine, Jim, and from various sources we do understand that you're rather pretty high in keeping your promises. (President Roosevelt, please copy.)

MANY A LOCAL MAN and woman are grateful for the return of agent parking in Birmingham. We do hope that Police Chief Hackett will get used to the idea, too.

It costs the American woman \$113,000,000 a year to keep her hair waved, according to the American Cosmetics Association, which held a convention in Chicago recently.

Figures show that 39,000,000 women beat a path to 78,624 beauty shops where they spend what money they have to spare for what they are told is an enhancement of beauty, charm and personal attractiveness.

The modern American wife, taking a tip from the predilection of her bald-headed husband for the alluring girls of the beauty shops, puts the beauty shop on her "must" list and keeps a keen and critical eye on her appearance.

Personally, we don't blame the women. As long as men demonstrate their fondness for the form of grace and the face of beauty it behooves up-to-date girls to guard the beauty lines.

There is danger, perhaps, in the belief that is widespread among some women that a trip to the beauty parlor can restore, preserve or create beauty. The beauty folks can do wonders, we admit, but permanent beauty is likely to be the product of something more than facials, treatments, oils and permanents.

The attractiveness of women desire is not altogether the product of externals. The spirit of beauty is just as important. There is more to the inner life than most persons realize and life will become more enjoyable when this is more generally believed and acted upon.

Meanwhile, until the human race reaches a little closer to perfection, we advise women of all ages not to neglect their looks. In a man-dominated world it is important. Do the best you can to take care of the beauty that you have and make up for what you lack by developing graces and charms that outlast appeals that are frankly physical in their nature.

The best day: Today.

The greatest deceiver: One who deceives himself.

The greatest thing: Giving up the most expensive indulgence: Hate.

The cheapest, stupidest and easiest thing to do: Finding fault.

The greatest trouble maker: Talking too much.

The worst bankrupt: The soul that has lost enthusiasm.

The best teacher: One who makes you want to learn.

The most useful part of one's religion: Gentleness and cheerfulness.

The meanest feeling: Jealousy.

The greatest need: Common sense.

—Oman

IF YOU REALLY want to "get into the Yuletide spirit" you have an excellent chance when hundreds of local men and women, boys and girls, gather at Birmingham's official Christmas tree, in the park between the City Hall and the Baldwin Public Library, at 5 o'clock the afternoon of Sunday, December 24. Under the leadership of the Birmingham Musicals, carols will be sung; a nine-piece brass ensemble will play; several choruses and choirs will sing. The great, natural pine tree will be strung with colored lights; just a good, old-fashioned Christmas that should be a grand prelude to Christmas Eve and Christmas Day! Be there—please!

SATURDAY OF THIS WEEK the Birmingham Goodfellows will again have a very successful evening as they sell papers to get money to help needy families during the Christmas season. The Goodfellows will again be led by Jim Taylor, Exchangeite, whose qualities of enthusiasm have played no small part in this annual drive's success. (Warning: Mr. Taylor, aided by at least Howard Wendrop and Ralph Mouthrop, will probably make their annual "raid" upon local businessmen, from whom, for several years, they have obtained many dollars at the point of a gun. Yes Sir, we said "at the point of a gun" . . . or maybe three guns. For two years they have gone berserk, and we do speak from personal experience, too.) So, Sir & Madam, lend your papers and help this good cause, please.

OUR CONGRATULATIONS to neighbor Donald D. James, of the real estate firm of Walsh, James & Wacey, over his election as president of the Detroit Real Estate Board. Mr. James, who lives in Bloomfield Hills, is a civic-minded chap who can bring to his new leadership a batch of ideas that ought to be helpful both to the buyer and seller of land and homes.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS in Toledo, Ohio, have been closed for six weeks, due to that city's inability to pay them. While the situation does create a problem for certain, for certain, the teachers who go payless; we presume that the school heads themselves continue to receive their salaries. All of which suggests that those who are school leaders are far from being infallible, for what has happened in Toledo can happen in any school districts, even right here in Birmingham.

THOMAS E. DEWEY, New York District Attorney, made a good opening campaign speech in Minneapolis last week; he will win much support in his campaign for the Republican nomination for the highest office in this nation. He is a fighter; he is honest, personally; he has a good radio voice and a fine sense of humor; in any event, he will do much to help his Party in the Court of Public Opinion.

SCIENTISTS CONNECTED with the Mellon Institute in Pittsburgh have found that a man's beard is shaved easiest after it has been soaked 180 seconds in water heated to a temperature of 120 degrees. Barbers have known this for years—though some of them let the water get up nearer boiling point.



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 200 words, and must be in the office by Tuesday noon for publication the following Thursday.

Far Eastern Situation

To the Editor:
Just because our minds and hearts are stirred over the horror of the situation resulting from the Far East situation. It does not mean that our minds are tied in this situation. Indeed not.

There is accumulating evidence of pressure for a new trade treaty with Japan to forestall an embargo upon her purchase of war materials, in the United States.

In the Nov. 24, 1939, edition of the New York Times, (Page 10), was this article:

Japan Buys Plane Fuel. Big shipment of aviation gasoline leaves California Port, San Pedro, Calif., Nov. 23. The largest shipment of aviation gasoline in two years is on the way to Japan. The tanker Keshio Maru left last night with 57,000 drums of aviation gasoline—almost 2,000,000 gallons of 92 octane rating fuel. A similar shipment will be made next month. Four other Japanese flag tankers are here to load 300,000 barrels of petroleum.

The abrupt Japanese trade treaty with the United States expires on Jan. 25. It is important that an alert public opinion our Government that it is opposed to such a move. Each man or woman who reads this should write a letter to any one of the following and firmly say: "The United States should not enter a new treaty which would allow Japan to continue to purchase war materials for her aggression against China."

—Franklin D. Roosevelt, Wash., D. C.
—Mr. Mr. President, Cordell Hull, Wash., D. C.
—Mr. Secretary, Mr. Maxwell M. Hamilton, Chief of the Division of Far Eastern Affairs, Dept. of State, Wash., D. C.
—DOROTHY HYDE PATTISON 287 Paritan.

Mutual Defense Answers

To the Editor:
I think you have strained your reasoning when you compare the control policy of the Liquor Control Commission to "Socialism." If you could take the time to examine the functions of the several state departments you would find dis-

one of comparable situations

Everything from seed and fertilizer inspection to examinations for embalmers falls under your experienced editorial fear.

You, of course, know that the State is engaged in the liquor business for just two reasons—control and profit. State store employees receive the same pay whether they sell a case or a car load of liquor, and all such establishments close within a reasonable time. Obviously, the private vendor is first a salesman; in fact the policy of the Liquor Control Commission, and particularly in the so-called metropolitan area, has made senseless out of many drug, small grocery and confectionery stores which keep open until 2 a. m. solely to sell liquor. We have 10,000 many liquor outlets in Michigan at the present time. Anyone who has been to a State store knows that the number of outlets that were merchandising milk instead of whiskey. In my opinion all liquor sold after midnight is a poor buy for everyone. Assuredly two o'clock liquor is not in the interest of public safety or security. If you are correct and this is "Socialism"—whatever that is—every community has an opportunity through its local governing body and local ordinances to write its own ticket as far as control and personalities are involved. The Liquor Control Commission will always follow the wishes of the home community as affected by resolutions, ordinances etc.

MURIL H. DEFOE, Commissioner.

To the Editor:

Please come down and inspect the new Jewish Community Center at Holbrook and Woodward and give the Jews credit for this fine piece of constructive AMERICAN work. The construction of such a center such as this does more for America than a billion carping criticisms.

CHARLES DONNELLY, M.D.

290 Westminster, Detroit.

Random Remarks

Cordell Hull, Secretary of State: "While figures don't lie, liars will figure."

Paul V. McNutt, Social Security Administrator: "Right now, the best thing I can do is to be a saint, job I can do in the job I'm in now."

George VI, King of Great Britain: "Liberty and free institutions are our birthright which we, like our forefathers, are resolved to maintain."

Benito Mussolini, Premier of Italy: "It has been demonstrated that a fascist state is a normal state of the people."

Elliot Roosevelt, son of the President: "Two great organizations have split all labor in half and now refuse to do anything about it."

Statement, U. S. Chamber of Commerce: "American business men are disposed to move cautiously in adjusting their operations to abnormal war requirements."

Happenings of Long Ago

Fifty Years Ago

Dec. 19, 1889

Will A. Parks was quite successful, fully surprised on Friday evening by 40 of his relatives and friends swooping down on him to celebrate his 30th birthday. He received some useful presents, and after a good supper his guests departed. The cry of his friends was sounded on our streets last Friday evening, and as we thought of the fact that there wasn't a barrel of water inside the corporation our hair stood on end. Fortunately it was only a burning chimney on Clark Harris' house and John Nye distinguished himself by smothering the flames with a peck of salt.

Miss Emma Young returned last week from Kansas where she has been spending nearly a year for her health. The atmosphere of the wild west seems to have agreed with her, and she greatly enjoyed the health speaks well for the Kansas climate.

George Williams has the depot full of barrels.

Twenty-five Years Ago

Dec. 18, 1914

An announcement from Petrograd says Russian forces north of Warsaw have won a decisive victory after piercing the German front beyond Ciechanow and Przemysl. A Russian defeat in western Galicia is claimed by Austria. The official press bureau at Vienna says the Russian wing of Russian army was beaten Dec. 12 and forced to retreat. Nine thousand prisoners were taken. The Russian army, in the tailoring line, is more than making good. They have been fighting for a suit and their price is right and it is almost unbelievable the big volume of trade Mr. Peck has worked up by industry and satisfactory work.

President Wilson, through the State Department at Washington, has served notice on the contending factions in Mexico that continuing the Mexican civil war bullets across the international border at Naco, Ariz., must cease.

Poland is fast becoming another Belgium in point of suffering while the German and Russian armies drive each other back and forth, occupy and reoccupy cities and villages, and inflict on the inhabitants bombardments similar to those suffered in Belgium and northern France. More than 500 Polish towns have been ruined.

Five Years Ago

Dec. 20, 1934

Repeating the functions it performed at Thanksgiving time, the Community House is serving as the center for the distribution of baskets of Christmas food for indigent Birmingham families.

All taxicabs operating in Birmingham are to be equipped with fare meters within 30 days, in accordance with a resolution adopted by the City Commission Monday night.

Christmas will come three days early for the 325 Birmingham boys and girls who will be guests at the Lions Club's fourth annual Christmas Party for needy children to be held at the Birmingham Theatre at 10 a. m. Saturday.

Property owners who object to the city's plan to reconstruct and expand its sewage disposal plant on the present site have been invited to meet with the City Commission Monday night, Jan. 1, when the Commission will attempt to answer their objections.

George S. Messersmith, Assistant Secretary of State: "Reconstruction after a great war is a stupendous task."

Knocking on wood!

with JOHN H. HARWOOD

INFORMALLY SPEAKING
Frankly, this statement doesn't know what the Republicans can do for the country. It has already said just about all the saving it can stand.

"The Nobel people will probably offer no peace prize this year. At least, though, they could post a reward for the dove."—Detroit News.

"An average American is the one who can't afford to be with-out the new model car, neither can he afford to own one."—Greenboro, Ga., Herald-Journal.

A FINAL SHOWDOWN
"Well, cleverly" camouflaged, sometimes goes its way for years, unchecked. Long entrenched wrong has been known to hide behind the bench and claim, "I'm legal"; practice behind the public and cry, "I'm religious"; wear a blue tie and shout, "I'm patriotic." But at last a disclosure comes and an outraged people pick up their own arms and smite the evil thing."—Edgar DeWitt Jones.

ABOUT THE INDIANS

Elton R. Eaton, writing in his column in the Plymouth News comments on the oft-heard suggestion: "It looks as if it's time to give the Stars back to the Indians." "What about the Indians?" Rep. Eaton asks, and he points out that if Michigan is to give back the stars, a group of Redskins would have to be imported to run the State government, because there are about 10,000 Indians here, while there are more than 18,000 on the State payroll.

He goes on to suggest that instead of trying to teach them to live like white men, it would be better to encourage them to go fishing and hunting guides, and to relearn their ancient crafts.

COST OF STRIKES
This observer wishes some one could set him straight on the cost of strikes. In the recent 56-day ordeal in Detroit, 55,000 Chrysler workers and 15,000 Briggs people were idle, it has been said. Add up their wages and you have the minimum loss. Another viewpoint holds that the company will make almost as many cars this year as if they had not been on strike for the work season will be extended further in the summer; and that the forefired first-month salaries are valuable. You figure it out.

SIGN OF THE TIMES
Birmingham is included in the Detroit area where certain manufacturers, contractors and unions are allegedly conspiring to effect monopoly in the tile industry, according to the Detroit newspapers. If it is true, no doubt much tile has been laid in homes in this city at a higher price than if competition had existed among those in the business.

But an indictment is only a charge, and not a conviction. Yet, it is a sign of the times.

American business is honeycombed with monopoly, quasi-monopoly and price-fixing. Solve this problem and you have removed one of the really great obstacles to real prosperity.

DEAR SIR:

Anent your paragraph last week regarding off-misspelled words. Here are some words often down-right misspelled especially at this Christmas season: a candle, as everybody knows, is a candle. However, a candlestick is the thing you put the candle in. A candleholder is a person who holds a candle. And, incidentally, candleabra is pronounced candle-sabra, not candle-abra.

PHIL LOUGHRAN

CANDIDATE DEWEY

Young Mr. Dewey has given a speech, and that fact alone is business news—in a word, has begun his campaign for president. Compared with other like conditions, Mr. Dewey is a tenderfoot and in, a mere stripling. But don't underestimate the man nor his chances.

After all, an election is a popularity contest. One doesn't have to be a great statesman or a very brilliant to be president, as the records show. Nor is age necessary. A resolute and a good field were 49 when sworn in. Pierce was 48, Cleveland was 47, Grant 45, and Roosevelt, 42. Mr. Dewey is 37.

He is already far ahead of other Republican candidates in the hearts of the people, as the polls show. He seems to have that spark of personality which has so often formed his job so outstandingly that the public thinks more highly of him than most other politicians like Senator Vandenberg. Maybe the average American thinks that politics is a racket which Mr. Dewey will be able to handle with ease.

Congressional Comment

My position with reference to the National Labor Relations Act was made public on Jan. 10, 1938, nearly two years ago, when I wrote to President Roosevelt regarding the act which I believed should be taken in order to improve public conditions. "With a desire to be helpful," I then said, "I submit a resume of public opinion as it exists at the present time in my Congressional constituency."

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