The Birmingham Eccentric

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GEORGE R. AVERILL, Editor and Publisher
MARJORIE E. PORTER, Managing Editor
PAUL NEAL AVERILL, Business Manager
ARTHUR N. WINGFORDEN, Advertising Manager
CLAUDE E. WALKER, Production Manager

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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 Wednesdays. 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.

. . . On Naming Elton R. Eaton

Alas! alas! alas! . . . oh, just a couple more alases. Just when the editor of The Eccentric completes years of research into a proper name that will describe an able public official, he is misunderstood when that name is made public.

Oh, alas! again.

Two weeks ago, in another column we said: "Rep. Eaton, of Plymouth, is all on fire with a desire to make the State's income equal its outgo. He wants less taxes. He is so full of crusading energy that I have started calling him 'Dynamite'."

And, Readers of The Eccentric, what do you think Mr. Eaton (who also publishes The Plymouth Mail), did? Nothing less than "blow up" in his editorial column last week and inferentially accuse us of base intent. In spite of the fact that we used simple words, and some years ago gave him a modern dictionary, plus many educational talks we have given him, he seems unable to understand plain English.

Oh, shucks! and another alas!

Just read what Mr. Eaton said last week. We quote:

"The editor of The Plymouth Mail is not sure whether he has been complimented or slandered by an editorial paragraph appearing in last week's issue of The Birmingham Eccentric. George Averill is the editor and publisher, as readers of The Mail well know. Editor Averill, who has delighted in hanging the hides of numerous high-up public officials on the picket fence where they have withered and blown away, declares that henceforth the editor of The Plymouth Mail is going to be known to him as 'Dynamite.' If it was not for the fact that Editor Averill has buried so many public officials and others so deep in the bowels of the earth that they have never been able to worm their way back to sunlight and fresh air by the use of similar pet expressions, his newly applied nickname might be accepted as sort of a compliment. But knowing what has happened in the past and how he accomplishes his purposes, the editor of The Mail is going to shy a bit away from this newly applied nickname. Of course if he means that the writer is 'Dynamite' to a lot of four-flushing, cheating, good-for-nothing political quacks, and the type of despicable government they typify, the nickname will be graciously accepted. But for the present the fingers of both hands will remain crossed."

Of course, if Mr. Eaton insists upon withdrawing the loveable appellation of "Dynamite," reluctantly we will do so. In that case we'll offer "T. N. T.," or "Nitroglycerine," or—and Heaven forbid! "Atom Buster."

So, Mr. Eaton, take your choice.

And please tell us you love us still. (And no puns on the last word of the last line, either.)

Uniforms For Baldwin's Band

Anything that will develop a real "spirit" in a public school is a good thing for the students of that school. Few people will question the logic of this statement. That is why, so many local persons believe, the movement here to get new uniforms for the Baldwin high school band will react very favorably upon the minds and hearts of Birmingham's school children. That is why so many local men and women, aided by many of the students themselves, intend to make the March 1 subscription band concert a success. They intend to see that not less than $1200 is raised to buy 50 new maroon and white uniforms—to take the place of the present uniforms that are 11 years old.

A good band means a lot to this community; under the direction of Arnold Berndt, we have a good band. New uniforms for the band will do much to improve the band—not only in appearance, but in "spirit." For it is only human to feel better in a new suit, isn't it?

So here's hoping the March 1 concert is a success.

SPRING FLOODS again menace the Ohio River valley. Why is it that people who live on the edge of a dangerous river refuse to move upon higher ground? People who live in the shadow of a volcano flee when it erupts, but move back when it becomes quiet? Is the profound human belief in eternity one that, sub-consciously, denies death by such dangerous living? Is the human concept of death merely a delusion, and such dangerous living human proof that mankind really does believe that life is uninterrupted and eternal—though its form may change?

"KEEP HYDRANTS Clear of Snow" advises Birmingham's fire chief, Verne Griffith. You're doggone right about this, Verne.

Mr. Wilson For State Office

Here's a thought for Oakland and out-State Michigan Republicans to consider. It comes from the pen of William H. Berkey, Cassopolis publisher, and concerns the possible candidacy of Mrs. Matilda Dodge Wilson, of Rochester, for nomination at the Flint Republican State Convention this month for the office of member of the State Board of Agriculture. Mrs. Wilson held that office some years ago. Here is what Mr. Berkey, himself a member of that Board, writes on the subject:

"As the time approaches for nomination of state officers we are impelled to suggest to the Republicans of Michigan that they again nominate Mrs. Matilda Wilson of Rochester for Member of the State Board of Agriculture. Mrs. Wilson served a term on that board and gave to its work and to Michigan State College such earnest and intelligent service that she was renominated by the Republicans two years ago, but was defeated as a result of the New Deal landslide of that year. This year there is every evidence that the Republican ticket will be elected in April, and we believe the party can render no better service to the State or to Michigan State College than to return Mrs. Wilson to the position which she filled so satisfactorily. Chas. Downing, present member from Monroe county, intends to retire, and inasmuch as he is the only member from southeastern Michigan, it is only logical that one of the candidates this spring should come from that section, and Mrs. Wilson's location in Oakland county answers that requirement. As a member of the Board who served during the whole of Mrs. Wilson's term and had opportunity to know of her interest in and work for the College, we commend her to Michigan Republicans for nomination and to all voters for election."

Mr. Kinnison Will Be Missed

Resignation of Charles S. Kinnison from the presidency of the Birmingham Board of Education is, we feel, a distinct loss to this area. Mr. Kinnison has a long and enviable record of community service in Birmingham, and his friends regret that other pressing duties have made it necessary for him to depart from an activity that means so much to Birmingham and adjacent areas.

Since 1935 Mr. Kinnison has been a member of the Board. During the "hard times" of the recent depression he rendered splendid service in the sale of scrip, to keep the schools running. Countless other services were his, too. Even though not an official member of the Board, his interest in the public schools will no doubt be sustained as a private citizen, and as the years roll on he may be trusted to give a good account of his response to the demands of good citizenship.

A Boost For Advertising

When a newspaper editor writes about advertising, the reader is apt to think his remarks are colored by self-interest. The other day, the Federal Home Loan Bank Review declared that "the newspaper is the most effective and favorite advertising medium of progressive savings and loan associations throughout the country."

A poll of nearly three hundred selected associations showed that fifty-five per cent of their advertising dollars went for newspaper space and that seventy-two per cent of the associations rated newspapers as the most effective advertising mediums.

Urging all associations to give more attention to advertising, the Review said it should have a definite place in the yearly budget and the money available should be divided among the different media upon the basis of known results.

This, we presume, is what might be called impartial observation. Advertising, very effective when intelligently used, is often injured by the disappointment of those who do not give sufficient attention to their advertising.

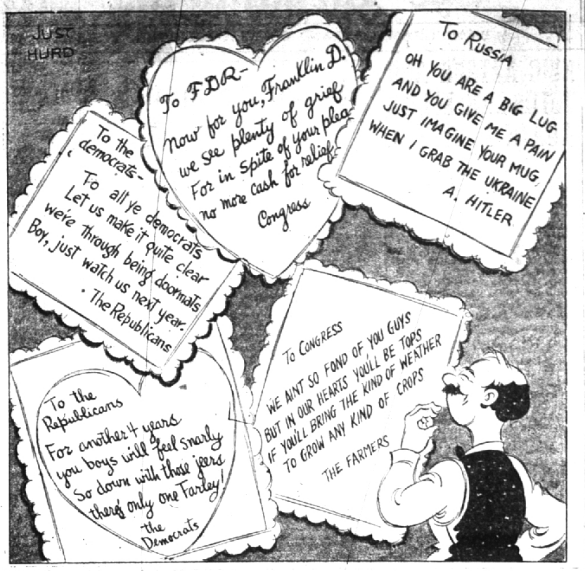
BIRMINGHAM'S MID-YEAR Baldwin high school graduating class was told some good old truths two weeks ago by Dr. Paul L. Thompson, who addressed them when they received their diplomas. Said Dr. Thompson: "Youth today rolls its own morals. Society today wants men and women who, when society is going downstream, can swim upstream. Young people today must discipline themselves so that in the future they will become livable people." Wise is the young boy or girl who can understand and apply the wisdom of this truth.

LAST WEEK, under a proclamation issued by Governor Fitzgerald, was "Eat More Beans Week." The Governor is interested in the matter because Michigan is the leading bean-producing State in the Union, and every mouthful of beans eaten helps Michigan's agricultural areas. Trying to decrease Michigan's cost of government is also an idea of the Governor's; that will allow everybody to put honest "pork" in his beans.

TEXAS HAS A GOVERNOR, W. Lee O'Daniel, who was elected last fall because he had a swell hilly-billy band. Flour-salesman O'Daniel last week granted a 30-day reprieve to a Negro who is under sentence of death. The Governor extended the Negro's stay upon earth "so that he may suffer the fear of death." Now good Texas citizens rise up against such saddistic tendencies in their Chief Executive. Moral: You can't expect complete culture and decency from a Hill-Billy.

DETROIT'S COMMISSIONER of Police, Heinrich A. Pickert, told Birmingham Exchange Club members last week that the evils of gambling and liquor will never be solved until the public determines to cooperate with lawful decency. Will anyone say that the Commissioner's reasoning is incorrect?

FEBRUARY 14 POSSIBILITIES



Congressional Comment

by Representative George A. Dondero 17th Michigan District

To the Editor:

Binder twine, which has been on the free list since 1894, will be subject to a duty of two cents a pound if the Congress approves H. R. No. 3313, which I have introduced in the House of Representatives.

This bill provides as follows:

"That (a) paragraph 1005 of the dutiable list of The Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new subparagraph:

"(c) All binding twine manufactured from New Zealand hemp, henequen, manila, isle or Tampico fiber, sisal grass, or suan, or a mixture of any two or more of them, of single ply and measuring not exceeding seven thousand feet fifty feet to the pound, all the foregoing, two cents per pound."

"(b) Paragraph 1622 of such Act is repealed.

"Sec. 2. The amendments made by this Act shall apply to articles imported or withdrawn for consumption or use after the day following the date of enactment of this Act."

The Department of Correction of Michigan reports that the importation of binder twine increased from 13,348,588 pounds in 1929 to 47,989,080 pounds in 1933. Approximately 80 million pounds are now being imported yearly. The importations for the month of June, 1938, alone were 18,481,931 pounds.

The imposition of two cents a pound on binder twine will not raise the price of twine to the farmers because this protection would allow the manufacturers in the United States to produce this twine in a quantity which would keep the price down to the present level.

This bill would not prohibit the importation of raw materials which enter into the manufacture of this twine, but retains them on the free list.

In Michigan the amount of twine sold has been reduced from 10,107,692 pounds of the value of $594,571.09 in 1935 to 5,668,616 pounds of the value of $339,644.68 in 1937. The number of inmates employed has been reduced from 259 to 143. At the rate of increase in the importations of this product, it will not be long before it will be necessary to close this large factory and scrap the costly machinery now being used.

Binder twine is the only product of our prisons in Michigan which can be sold to private industry. It has been the endeavor of the Department of Correction to provide work for as many inmates as possible as one of the factors of rehabilitation, and the manufacture of binder twine has for many years been one of the largest of the prison industries. The State of Michigan has a large investment in this industry, estimated to be over three-quarters of a million dollars in machinery and equipment, raw materials, and finished goods. It would suffer a great loss should it be forced to abandon the binder twine industry.

Sincerely yours,
George A. Dondero, M. C.

RECIPE FOR LONG LIFE

FLINT (MPA)—"Rest—take a nap daily." That is the formula which Mrs. Frances Speir, 1107 Matthews Street, Flint, says has helped her reach the age of 93. She celebrated her 93rd anniversary and the opening of the new year in one big celebration.

Random Remarks

Bruce Barton, Member of Congress, from New York:
"Congress is an exceedingly friendly body."

Mme. Chiang Kai-shek, wife of Chinese leader:
"We Chinese are weak on management."

William H. Leahy, Chief of Naval Operations:
"Battle efficiency of the fleet is believed to compare favorably with that of other major powers."

Norman Thomas, Socialist leader:
"We have more unemployed than all the rest of the world put together."

William E. Levis, President, Owen Illinois Glass Company:
"A patent isn't a grant to some one to do some thing, but a grant to exclude others from doing it."

Raymond Cooper, Master, New York State Grange:
"We are suffering far more from the unseen taxes than from the seen."

Marriner S. Eccles, chairman, Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System:
"The three main factors necessary for the creation of real wealth are man-power, natural resources and capital."

Yakichiro Suma, counsellor, Japanese Embassy:
"We Japanese are not under the illusion that we can conquer China. That is not our aim and never has been."

D'Noticia, one of Managua, Nicaragua's leading newspapers:
"Neither Hitler, Mussolini, nor Stalin, but Roosevelt."

George Bonnet, French Foreign Minister:
"All the forces of France on land, on sea, and in the air, would be used spontaneously and immediately for the defense of Great Britain in the event of unprovoked aggression."

George H. Davis, president, Chamber of Commerce of the United States:
"The American people are demanding a fair deal for business."

Nicholas Murray Butler, president, Columbia University:
"There is no pioneer place in a democratic system of government for a party which has as its sole aim the benefit of any particular element within it."

Hu Shih, newly appointed Chinese Ambassador to the United States:
"Time and geography are on our side, but victory can only come if we fight on."

James E. Freeman, Episcopal bishop of Washington:
"Proud isolation is impossible if the freedom we cherish to worship God according to the dictates of conscience is to be preserved."

Robert A. Taft, U. S. Senator-elect from Ohio:
"I am not a candidate for President in 1940."

WASHINGTON LETTER

BY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

AAA Marketing Quotas for Wheat? Growers May Get Chance to Decide

WASHINGTON.—AAA conducts its own popularity poll whenever it submits marketing quotas for a vote.

This year the cotton growers voted to have them. The tobacco and rice growers voted against having them.

A referendum on quotas for wheat will be held this year for the first time, it estimates indicate there will be another surplus crop by the first of July.

It is estimated that we need 720,000,000 bushels of wheat when this year's crop is harvested to satisfy our needs for export and for domestic consumption. If it is reported that the 1939 crop will not exceed this estimate by more than 35 per cent, marketing quotas will not be submitted.

Some variance is expected in domestic consumption which may range from 650,000,000 bushels to 700,000,000 bushels a year. Exports vary from 50,000,000 bushels to 100,000,000 bushels a year.

* * *

ALL wheat growers subject to quotas would be allowed to vote in a referendum and if approved by a two-thirds majority, the quotas would apply to anyone who produced more than 100 bushels of wheat. Excess production would be taxed at 15 cents per bushel.

It is altogether likely wheat farmers will accept the quotas. By co-operating with soil conservation, they can get loans on their wheat as it is. The loans have averaged from 52 per cent to 75 per cent of parity price, or about 49 to 60 cents a bushel. Farmers have seven months to pay off the loan with 4 per cent interest, after which they can claim their wheat collateral.

If quotas are not voted with a surplus crop in sight, the government will not make any wheat loans in 1939 regardless of whether the individual farmer is or is not co-operating with the rest of the AAA program.

If quotas are voted, the individual farmer who may not wish to keep within his marketing limit can still get loans on his wheat if he has more than he can sell or use. Those who do withhold wheat from market in compliance with quotas will be able to get a more generous loan than those who do not. But loans will be available to all. With the price of wheat hovering around 60 cents and often dropping below the loan rate, the advantage of continued loans will be a great inducement.

* * *

AAA officials are pleased to think the loan program has served as a graphic illustration to farmers of the sins of overproduction. They say that when a farmer finds himself with 1000 bushels of wheat on hand at harvest time, and can dispose of only 500 bushels of it, he begins to realize the error of his ways. But if he seals the 500 bushels excess, gets a loan from the government on this wheat, and faces the necessity of sacrificing his wheat or paying off the loan at 4 per cent by May 31st of the next year, he is even more impressed.

Finally when spring comes and he has paid off his loan and has the 500 bushels of wheat back on his hands again, the object lesson is complete. It is timely, too, winding up as it does just before the new planting season begins.

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
Feb. 7, 1889

If there is anything in our quiet village to be ashamed of, it is the hoodlum element that we have within our gates. They gather around church doors after the evening service and disgrace themselves, their parents and their church by their low, vile insinuating remarks and then shout and yell in chorus worse than any gathering that ever met in Birmingham. Shame on you, boys! If you have no respect for yourselves, remember you have parents and perhaps friends. You will not keep the latter though if you persist.

F. B. Hanterson is fairly making the Brummitt Gallery in Pontiac howl with business. He has all the improved apparatus and paraphernalia necessary in this business and uses them unsparingly to please his customers. We predict for Frank unbounded success and an increase over even his many customers.

Mr. George C. Randall was in town over Sunday, the guest of his son, Horace. This good old man looks well and hearty and were it not for his old enemy, rheumatism, he would be as spry as that fine boy of his.

Herman Peters has bought of Peter McKay the house and lot on Pierce street near the old Hubbard place, and his parents will henceforth occupy the place.

The reckless way in which Sam Martin is trading off his property makes his neighbors rise, wipe their chins, and wonder if it is his trip to the sunny south that causes it. Tell us, Sammy.

One of our Royal Oak friends rises to inquire why those Southfield ladies should steal his dog. Any information on the subject would be appreciated.

The Red Ribbon Reform Club gave an entertainment at their hall on Friday night that tested the capacity of the house, the people being packed in like sardines in a box and judging by the unlimited amount of applause, the evening was a great success both financially and artistically. The play was Baker's powerful temperance writing, "The Little Brown Jug."

Twenty-Five Years Ago
Feb. 6, 1914

Without doubt, more new people will come into Birmingham this spring and summer than any previous years ever passed. The signs show this. Newcomers here are the families of Mr. A. S. Guimeraes, in the beautiful new brick dwelling on Harmon street and Mr. A. S. Hollyhead in the brick home just west of the bank. Both families are from Detroit and are to be gladly welcomed in any community, and we are certainly glad they wished themselves here.

Sunday last was an unlucky day for Charles Newman, who lost a cow and the bovine was worth a "C" if it was worth a penny. Foresters of America will please notice that the meetings have changed to the second and fourth Friday nights. Our next meeting will be held Friday the 13th and don't forget that date and be sure to turn out on that night, as we have special work.

All members, Knights and Ladies of Birmingham Temple No. 94 Pythian Sisters are invited to attend a sleight ride party to George Dawson's tonight, Friday. Meet at the waiting room at seven o'clock. There will be pot-luck refreshments. All ladies are asked to furnish something.

V. Nixon has his annual bonafide and regular 25-per-cent-off sale commencing tomorrow. Value is in cents and means just what he says. He cordially invites you to step in and allow him to show you whether you are from Missouri or not.

C. E. Jones of Daines street has a real grievance and he is justified in his claims. With all due respect to Standart, of Whitehead and Standart, Jones is continually being taken for Standart. It's rough on Standart, too, who is really much better looking than Jones.

Five Years Ago
Feb. 8, 1934

Birmingham schools receive $10,000 in state aid. Check arrives as Board of Education prepared to warn of probable closing. Cash was nearly gone, Randall averred.

Mrs. L. N. Pyle is again elected to head Community House. Five other officers are chosen: Mrs. E. W. Osborne, Mrs. Walter G. Faist, Mrs. Fred W. Johnson, Mrs. Harry Allen and Howard D. Crull. New members on Board of Directors will be Mrs. Harold L. Blood, Mrs. Robert W. Chissus, Dr. John S. Lambie, H. Kenneth Bingham and Mr. Crull.

Local schools plan several new C. W. A. projects. Will file application for funds in supplementary program today. Remodeling of rooms at Hill, Baldwin, Quarton, Pierce and Barnum is included.

James W. Parry, city manager in Birmingham since 1927, is elected president of state managers' group at annual convention.

Club to sponsor free programs. Three-act comedy on Friday night will open series offered by Fellowship Club. Wesley A. Gibbons, committee chairman, announces that everyone is welcome. Idea started last year, as activity for the unemployed.

Fires cause of $14 damage here in January, as result of seven alarms during month.

Lloyd S. Linton, assistant to Thad D. Seeley, First National Bank receiver, not related to him, letter reveals.

Washington and Lincoln

By RAYMOND PITCAIRN

Again the American people celebrate, this February, the anniversaries of our two greatest Presidents.

Again we refresh the national spirit of freedom, unity and patriotism by honoring the memory of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

For these are the men whose lives did most to create and preserve our Nation. These are the men who gave lasting reality to the conviction that all men are created equal and that government of the people, by the people and for the people should not perish from the earth.

These are the men who could thrust aside offers of longer terms or greater power in their determination that democracy should endure; who could live as well as speak the noble ideal of government administered "with malice toward none; with charity for all."

These are the men who urged: **"To the support of the Constitution let every American pledge his life, his property and his sacred honor;"** and insisted: **"Let there be no change by usurpation."**

These are men to whom strength was a commitment to straightforwardness; to whom patriotism transcended both party and ambition; whose demand was **"a standard to which the wise and honest can repair."**

These are men who believed that the preservation of liberty and the destiny of our government should be "entrusted to the hands of the American people," and who could fling the challenge: "Is there any better or equal hope in the world?"

America at this time can welcome a re-baptism in the clear springs of patriotic memory that rise from these two anniversaries. Our objective, as a people, has not changed with the years. It is still to preserve individual liberty, to strengthen national unity, to reject all attempts that would array group against group, and to work, instead, in effective concord, for the greater happiness and increased well-being of our Nation and all her people.

And by the steps and the spirit with which our leaders, as well as our people, approach that objective, may be judged the sincerity of the tribute offered our two Great National Heroes.

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