The Birmingham Eccentric

Published every Thursday, at Birmingham, Mich., in The Eccentric Building, 260-222 North Woodward Avenue
Telephones 11, 12 and 13

GEORGE R. AVERILL, Editor and Publisher
PAUL NEAL AVERILL, Business Manager
ARTHUR N. WINGERDEN, Advertising Manager
CLAUDE E. WALKER, Production Manager

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

(In Oakland County)		(Outside Oakland County)	
One Year	$1.50	One Year	$2.00
Six Months	.85	Six Months	1.25
Three Months	.50	Three Months	.75

All newspaper and advertising copy must be in the Eccentric office by Tuesday noon to obtain insertion for that week.

The Eccentric is a member of:
National Editorial Association, Michigan Press Association, University Press Club, and Oakland County Weekly Press Association

THURSDAY, JULY 20, 1939

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.

New Deal Is Starving Labor

Just where the average American worker is going under the program of scarcity and regimentation of the New Deal no one can declare. But a comparison of today, after six years of Roosevelt, with "horse and buggy days," can be made: when reviewed, the picture is disappointing.

Take the case of the chap who works by the hour. True, today his average hour rate may be higher than six years ago; but he isn't allowed to work so many hours each week which, even with extra over-time rates, doesn't give him the full pay that he formerly enjoyed.

Since last October, 44 hours is the limit a man can work in inter-state commerce activities (which includes a majority of workers); after 44 hours' work the employer must pay not less than time and a half for all hours over 44. When this coming October rolls along, the limit is reduced to 42 hours; a year hence to 40 hours.

What happens? Why, quite naturally in today's competitive system, the employer tries to keep over-time charges at a minimum. He must do so, if his manufactured goods is to meet competition. That results in less weekly wage for the employees.

They don't like less money, of course. But what can be done about it? They may ask for still higher hourly rates, but if the employer wants to keep in business he'll not go beyond his ability to make outgo equal income. The employees can do one thing, in our estimation, that will get them more weekly pay; that one thing is to demand from state and federal governments especially the latter less punitive tax and labor laws, to the end that private enterprises will be encouraged, more employment created, bigger payrolls resulting.

Oh, we do not mean to go back to the days when "Wall Street" ran the country! We do not mean to demand the return of uncontrolled speculation of the country's wealth, or exploitation of its workers. Not at all.

But we do demand, in our own case, in the interest of those employees who depend upon our comparatively small plant for a good living, the type of American government that will make us burn the midnight oil to devise merchandise and markets that will increase the size of our payroll.

This cannot be done by the New Deal's program, regardless of what politicians or fair-haired theorists may say.

The recently enacted Wage and Hour Law, the one-sided provisions of the iniquitous Wagner Labor Act and its N. L. R. B., have done more to decrease the workers' wages than any piece of legislation ever devised in America.

The New Deal's tax policies take from the "haves and give to the have-nots"; the result is less and less to take and give. The Wage and Hour Law takes hours from those who have jobs to give to those who have-not jobs. It sounds nice to many—but works a hardship on many more. People who have held on to jobs now realize that the Wage and Hour Law makes them share their labor with those who didn't have jobs. That, again may sound like an altruistic and Christian sharing.

But the facts are that less and less wealth is being created under the New Deal: this means less and less hours for labor to work; if it keeps on, the number of hours worked will decrease in direct proportion to the wealth created divided by the number of persons engaged in creating it.

If we were an hour worker today we would rise and tell the New Deal: "Hey, you, quit raisin' hell with the morale of my employer: quit makin' promises to the farmer and the industrial worker that you can't fill; quit batin' every kind of business because you don't like a few Big Shots: quit wreckin' the self-respect of the masses by quitin' your political exploitation of their human misery; quit being un-American, you New Dealers who never made or met a payroll in your lives—quit being a quitter of Americanism or the masses will quit you in 1940."

OF A TOTAL OF 2,734 GIRLS between 18 and 24 who are employed by the National Youth Administration in Michigan, 90 of them are residents of Oakland County. These girls, otherwise jobless, are employed in many capacities: 1,330 in clerical work., 445 on "nurse-aid" programs, 266 in sewing and weaving projects, 135 in recreational activities, 160 in library and repair work, 122 in nursery schools, 70 in arts and crafts work, 80 in resort training projects, 73 in home economics, and 53 in miscellaneous activities. Too few, we suggest, interested in "home."

HOW LONG WILL IT BE before churches adopt the invention of a collection plate that rings up the various coin denominations? We understand that the bell is adjusted for quarters, half dollars, dollars; but that nothing under a quarter will be sounded.

Pontiac Fell Down On Strike

One day last week strikers lined up before the gates of the Fisher Body Plant in Pontiac and endeavored to prevent persons who wanted to go to work from going to work — even though most of those persons worked in departments not on strike. They were pretty successful in keeping workers from the benches; the reason was that Pontiac's police officers, under orders from city manager William P. Edmondson, had been ordered to leave their guns and sticks at the station—Edmondson having made "a gentleman's agreement" with strike leaders that the latter's men would also be unarmed.

But the strikers, it appears, violated their portion of the agreement; they lined up solidly in front of open gates, allowing no one to enter on foot. They "rushed" automobiles filled with workers, tipping over many, injuring some of the occupants. So manager Edmondson put in a call to the Governor for police aid.

The Governor sent 110 state police over the next day. These young men, trim and healthy, bent on doing their job without fear or favor, upheld Michigan's law and order; all who wanted to go to work were passed through the gates. Strikers were required to stay away from the open gates, and not molest cars carrying workers.

Governor Dickinson acted quickly; the strikers, knowing the state police mean business, maintained decency in their ranks. The mob spirit was quelled. But not because of Mr. Edmondson and his city police although it must be mentioned that Pontiac's police were desirous of maintaining law and order all the time. Sheriff Howarth's men did what they could to handle the situation.

The whole episode smacks of the ineptitude of manager Edmondson and his City Commission to cope with the situation. Their handling of the problem showed how local maintenance of law and order can break down. They ought not allow a repetition of this public shame to be visited upon their city again and we say this without entering into the merits or demerits of the strikers' case against industry.

We are glad that Governor Dickinson, a Republican, was sitting in the seat held previously by Frank Murphy, the chap who tolerated sit-down strikes in Michigan.

Iceland's "Horse-Sense."

Senator Gerald P. Nye, of North Dakota, takes the example of small Iceland, which exists without an army, to condemn the "world-mad armament race."

Senator Nye considers this "plain everyday horse-sense" on the part of a people who are "not quite so much removed from the possibility of foreign attack as is the United States."

The Senator's remarks look like nonsense to us. With 120,000 people, Iceland has absolutely no chance to protect itself. Consequently, there is little use to attempt the impossible. If a greater nation decides to acquire Iceland, there is nothing under the sun that the Icelanders can do to prevent it.

If the people of the United States are content to be in the same position, then they should follow the example of the Icelander and the "plain every-day horse-sense" so greatly admired by the Senator from North Dakota. We do not believe that the people of the United States entered the "world's mad armament race" through choice but rather under compulsion and in the necessary preparation for the defense of their country.

Surprise! The bathroom isn't the most dangerous room in the house.

Where Home Accidents Occur

Legend, ugly rumors and old wives' tales to the contrary, the bathroom actually was the scene of fewer home accidents than almost any other rooms in the house in a study of 4600 home accidents occurring in Chicago.

The 1939 edition of Accident Facts, the National Safety Council's statistical yearbook, reports the study and ranks the rooms of the average house with respect to the number of accidents that occur there, as follows:

Stairs and steps	23	per cent
Yard	19	" "
Kitchen	13	" "
Living room	9	" "
Porch	7	" "
Bedroom	7	" "
Basement	6	" "
Others (dining room, bathroom, pantry, vestibule hallways)	11	" "

"However," the safety council's experts said, "don't let the figures fool you into believing there isn't a real danger of electric shocks, falls, slipping in the bathtub or gargling from the wrong bottle when you're after the mouth wash."

Here's some news for the boys and girls of Birmingham who have had trouble in buying garments to fit them.

New Sizes For Children

After measuring 150,000 young Americans, the U. S. Bureau of Home Standards has set up new standards for child garments, based on height and hip measurements.

For boys between four and seventeen there are thirteen "regular" sizes, thirteen "slims" and thirteen "chubbies." For girls there are twelve of each group.

This will be helpful if the manufacturers adopt the regulations, which it is believed they will do. Maybe, in a few years, boys and girls will be able to buy clothes that fit—they won't have to wear some of the outlandish rigs that we have seen.

SOME DAY THE BUSINESS LEADERSHIP of this country will become as zealous to crusade for better social and political conditions as they are to promote the sale of the things they manufacture. When that day comes you may be sure that success will attend their efforts. For your average business leader has a more reliable brand of merchandise to offer than do most of the social and political reformers who confuse public thinking.

A Nation-Wide Housing Problem

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

Editor,
Birmingham Eccentric,
Birmingham, Michigan.
Dear Mr. Averill:

The following article might be interesting to the Eccentric readers.

Bombs to Japan and Bandages to China

China's plight has touched the heart of America and thousands of dollars have been contributed for food, medicine and relief work. However, our position in the conflict is no compliment to either our humanity or our intelligence. Our purchases for relief cannot atone for our financial and economic support of the Japanese armed forces that are daily causing further toll of death.

We are doing too much to cause the injuries we aim to relieve. Japanese shrapnel, hurtling through the air to kill or maim, is made from scrap iron gathered and shipped by American junk dealers. Japanese planes, manufactured in America, are fueled with gasoline, nearly all of which is purchased here in this country. High explosives made and shipped by Americans are killing untold numbers of mothers and children daily. Flames and poison gas made from American chemicals, snuff out the lives of many. We supply Japan with the motor equipment which helps here to out-maneuver the Chinese.

These are facts, taken from the records in Tokyo and Washington, and from eye witness statements of unbiased American correspondents, missionaries and businessmen in China.

Is it wise to aid in building an empire with almost unlimited man power, industrial resources and a clear ambition to control the Pacific? Washington is spending billions to build up our armament to protect ourselves against the potential enemy we are now strengthening.

The remedy is obvious! Stop this traffic in death from which a handful are making a profit in order that your bandages may not be needed.

Dorothy Hyde Pattison,
187 Puritan.

North Platte, Neb.
July 16th, 1939.

To the Editor:

Just before leaving the house for this great M R A adventure Mr. Hardeman told me that you would like to have news for the Eccentric of what is going on in California the next three weeks. So I am settling down a few facts.

The special train carrying 250 passengers from New York, Boston, Philadelphia and other points in the East to a meeting for Moral Re-Armament in the Hollywood Bowl, Hollywood, California, and a ten day World Assembly for Moral-Re-Armament at Del Monte, California, left the Grand Central Station, New York City, on Friday, the 14th of July, at 11:35 p. m., E. S. T.

Mr. E. St. Elmo Lewis of Detroit joined the contingent at Detroit, while I got on at Toledo.

Delegations of citizens greeted the train as it passed through Erie, Cleveland, Chicago and Omaha. At Chicago six coaches were added to the train with one hundred Canadians. Additional passengers from Winnipeg and Minneapolis came aboard at Omaha.

I heard one of the Canadians say this morning that it was "really caring" what happened to the people of our country that was taking them from their homes, at great cost, in all the heat, the three thousand miles to California. It is that spirit that is making M R A possible.

The meeting in the Hollywood Bowl, which seats twenty-three thousand people, will be a Call to the Nations for Moral Re-Armament. The proceedings will be broadcast throughout the country. Delegations are coming from many countries. Over two hundred and fifty have already come from Great Britain, France, Scandinavia, Holland, and other countries of Europe. A group of nineteen Japanese headed by Taka Sumi Misui, mother of Baron Mitsui, arrived on July 12th in Los Angeles. Other groups have come from China, Burma and Australia.

Several hundred people have left in motor cars from many parts of America to attend the meeting. Mrs. Henry Sanger, her son and two daughters of Grosse Pointe, have driven out. There will also be factory workers from Frederick, Maryland; Bethlehem, Pennsylvania; Anderson, Indiana; Minneapolis, Minnesota, and other cities.

Moral Re-Armament has been described by Dr. Frank N. D. Buchman as "the spring-board to a new civilization. It is a world force adequate to banish war, create peace permanent, and meet any crises that may arise. Three great tasks confront this generation: to create peace and make it permanent; to make the wealth well work of the world available to all and for the exploitation of none; and with peace and prosperity as our servants and not our masters, to build a new world, equal to the future, bring in the Golden Age."

"Today we face a new war, it is not nation against nation, but chaos against God; and Moral Re-Armament is a national necessity if we are to win the war against chaos. It is a race with time to remake men and nations. It must move with blazing speed."

"M R A is the people's mandate for a change of heart in our land. It is a message for every nation, by every nation, to every nation."

M R A is too new thinking, the new Christian, the new leadership that everybody wants.

What we need is a new pattern for the nation designed by God and worked out by everybody."

Very sincerely,
Jeanette H. Hargreaves,
Cranbrook Road.

Farmers Complain to Government About Landlords, Tractors, WPA

WASHINGTON.—What are the principal woes of American farmers? Tractors, landlords, and the WPA, if the correspondence in the files of the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Agricultural Economics forms an accurate indication.

The bureau gets these documents—many of which are written in lead pencil, some of which are ungrammatical—in an accidental fashion. Each year the bureau sends out a questionnaire to some 22,000 farmers. And a lot of the farmers use the back of the blank to record their comments and complaints.

What the farmers write, however, provides an interesting cross-section of the American agricultural mind. It tips the government off on what farmers are thinking about the state of the nation—and just life in general. Let's look at some of the beefs.

* * *

A KANSAS farmer, for instance, writes as follows:

"There is a condition existing on farms in this locality which can work no good. I am contributing to the evil along with the rest. Five of the farms listed in this report are usually vacant or occupied by temporary residents wholly or in part on relief. What takes their place? The farmer who has a better foothold rents another farm, buys a tractor and combine, puts a larger area in small grain, and runs two farms instead of one. It may be modern but it doesn't have a very bright future."

An Iowan contributes this:

"To survive it becomes necessary for us to use tractors and farm at least 200 acres alone to make it. Hired help difficult to secure at less than WPA prices, consequently the farming operators are turning to labor-saving machinery in so far as possible."

And an Illinois farmer says:

"Our hired man is hired the year round at $40 per month. Says he believes he will join WPA's who he says have short hours, off days, plenty of leisure, and always looking for surplus relief stuff and get paid for following the lines of least resistance."

* * *

OVER and over these notes recur—too many tractors, too many small farms being combined into large ones, too many tenants being driven onto relief.

Some blame pure human cussedness, like the Illinois farmer who—after discussing various reasons for the shortage of hired men—makes this observation:

"Then we come to the individual who is too lazy to work. He gets in an auto and either sells stock foods or patent medicines or some other worthless things and he always finds plenty of suckers to bite on the bait he has to offer. The man that owns a farm in these days is considered of no consequence. All he is good for is to slap a good stiff tax on."

Jots in Jest

ILLINOIS police arrested a blind man for driving a car. He said he could feel his way along, which is better than some women who just hope their way along.

* * *

Night baseball may put major league team owners back into the money. But it might just show them that the ladies are bosses, and the ladies like Robert Taylor.

* * *

The country is still on its ear about a possible third term for FDR. Pretty soon now, somebody will ask him about it.

* * *

Those of us who are still alive, now that July 4th has gone by, can relax. We'll probably live until Labor Day.

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
July 18, 1889

Friday evening, July 26, the Franklin band boys will give a grand bowery dance at Franklin. Good music has been engaged for the occasion and a good time to all is guaranteed. Ice cream, lemonade and refreshments of all kinds will be served and the bill is only 50 cents. A cordial invitation is extended to all. The band will discourse several of their celebrated pieces of music and do all in their power to entertain their guests. Everybody we have heard say anything about it indicates their intention of going.

Not long ago Mr. Thomas Cook made a trade with Mr. L. Converse of this village and thereby became the owner of the McLaughlin lots on Pierce street. Last Saturday Ed Chatfield bought these lots for the low price of $750.

A nice lot of ponies attended by some western calf boys, who will no doubt some day prove themselves to be cow boys, passed through here Tuesday en route for the north.

D. M. Dory of Southfield was engaged at Greenwood cemetery last week placing a neat and substantial tombstone to the memory of Robert Calvert.

The question of water is being earnestly discussed, and we hope the powers that be will act and give us a supply of water in some way or another that will put Birmingham well up to the front with her other enterprising sister villages.

Elijah Lee, a resident of Bloomfield since 1835, died at his residence in Birmingham July 15, 1889, at the advanced age of 86 years, 7 months and 17 days.

Twenty-five Years Ago
July 24, 1914

Votes for women received a severe jolt at our annual school meeting held last week, if the attendance of women entitled to cast their ballot is taken as an indication of interest in matters pertaining to vital child government and political welfare. One woman voter attended the school meeting. More than 200 women voters were entitled to vote.

Rev. F. F. Kraft made a most thrilling capture of a runaway horse last Friday; the horse was walking away when the brave act occurred.

Supervision of Baldwin park is greatly needed. This pleasure spot is fitted with swings and seats, is the play spot of many children. Experts in child-life have found that youths require as careful training in the art of playing as in the learning of any trade.

J. P. H. Sherman while painting J. P. Cranich's house, fell 20 feet from his ladder and was banged up considerably.

Miss Frankie Gibbs closed her school last week with appropriate exercises and picnic.

There is no use in evading the question of colored hosiery any longer, for it has returned to prominence and stockings of the most brilliant hue will be the fad for summer wear.

The Warren Watchman says: "Agent Bellows' cat caught a snake last Friday and after playing with it a bit, put it in two and ate several bites. The part with the head on (about six inches) crawled about 20 feet and lived about two and a half hours; would have gone farther but the cat brought it back and it finally died near the tail part."

Five Years Ago
July 21, 1934

Crash victims are improving, but Peggy Chalmers, Ted Hammond are reported still in danger.

Police still seek hit-and-run motorist; claim Pontiac man fled crash leaving injured passenger behind. Officers said without trace of Frank Dudad, 44 years old of 19 Beaudette street, Pontiac, who is sought as hit and run driver following a collision Monday afternoon at Woodward and Hamilton avenues.

FERA playgrounds program planned; pool benefit set. Lions club takers a hand and free swim fund; government may give funds for recreation. Applicants for jobs as supervisors or instructors in the proposed playground program are asked to register with Charles W. Crandell, superintendent of schools, any week day.

Police open campaign to curb speeding; center drive on residential districts at request of commission; warn young drivers.

Oliver H. Kirk and Walter R. Rayhel are new heads of the Exchange and Lions clubs respectively. F. Morse Cook, principal of Adams School, is named to head of the Rotary club.

Clarence Vliet assails Birmingham's new budget. Commissioner says he would have voted "No" on $290,000 levy. Tax rate to be $15.81.

Congressional Comment by Representative George A. Dondero 17th Michigan District

Spending and Lending: Appropriations for this session of Congress will probably total $13,000,000,000. This sum is about $3,000,000,000 short of our entire national debt when President Coolidge left office. This sum represents twenty per cent, one-fifth, of the income of all the American people estimated for this year. This sum tops the appropriations for both the 2nd and 3rd sessions of the 74th Congress by $2,000,000,000.

But this is not all. President Roosevelt has now proposed legislation authorizing the issuance of Treasury-guaranteed bonds totaling $3,860,000,000. Out of this huge spending and lending fund the President proposed to lend millions of dollars to Latin-American countries whose bond issues are already in default. The latest available figures on Latin-American bond issues in default, as reported by the Foreign Bondholders Protective Council, Inc., show $1,653,000,000 already outstanding in the United States with $1,300,000,000 in default. This proposal met considerable opposition and it is not now likely to be included in the legislation, if passed.

There is this significant difference between the loans previously made to Latin-American countries and the loans proposed by President Roosevelt. The bonds in default were bought with private funds and private investors are out of pocket. The loans the President proposed to make would come out of the pockets of the taxpayers of the United States and if there is default again, and the past record seems to positively assure such default, the loss will fall upon the taxpayers.

At another period in the history of the United States the taxpayers of the United States loaned billions to other foreign countries. These debts, although 20 years old, remain unpaid.

Just a Few Figures: The deficit for the past fiscal year, 1939, was approximately $3,500,000,000; the national debt was in excess of $40,000,000,000. There is a prospect of a public debt of $45,000,000,000 on June 30, 1940, with contingent liabilities of possibly $7,000,000,000 or $11,000,000,000 more.

Ten Billions for Relief: A Treasury report reveals that between April 8, 1935 and May 31, 1939, $10,697,832,482 was expended by regular and emergency government relief agencies for relief purposes. Over half of this, or $6,527,573,917 went to the W. P. A. At the beginning of this period, 1935, according to American Federation of Labor figures, there were 11,233,000 unemployed; according to the same source, 11,195,000 unemployed in 1939.

WABEEK STATE BANK OF DETROIT

To Further Serve Our Community

WE NOW MAKE
AUTOMOBILE LOANS
PERSONAL LOANS
MODERNIZATION LOANS
F.H.A. MORTGAGE LOANS
Reasonable Interest Rates Favorable Repayment Terms

YOU NEED NOT BE A DEPOSITOR
Call or write any of our offices for complete information

WABEEK STATE BANK OF DETROIT

MAIN OFFICE IN THE FISHER BUILDING
DOWNTOWN OFFICE IN THE FORD BUILDING
BRANCHES IN BIRMINGHAM - FERNDALE