

# The Birmingham Eccentric

Published every Thursday at Birmingham, Mich., in The Eccentric Building, Woodward Avenue  
Telephone 11, 12 and 13  
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## Over in Wisconsin in the little city of New Richland, comes a story which has been

### The Congregation Gave Their Preacher A Good Cow

of business. It seems there was a local preacher who had a large family. His salary was small. He, like many of the rest of us, had difficulty in feeding his brood. He conceived the idea that if he had a cow the milk would go a long way toward lowering the cost of his family.

No... one member of the congregation gave the preacher a good cow. Another member volunteered to furnish hay; another straw for bedding; and still another living near the preacher, offered barn room for the cow. The cow gave more milk than the family required, so the preacher started selling the extra milk. Inasmuch as he did not have a dollar invested in the cow, feed or barn, he was unable to buy another cow. He urged other members to furnish more feed and more straw to care for the two animals.

Soon his small number of customers in the immediate neighborhood were all supplied. He looked for more. He found he could not get them to quit their regular milkman (a member of the congregation who looks like a pro) at cut prices. One Sunday he even preached a sermon about profiteers. It was very evident he was hitting at the regular milkman in his congregation.

The milkman in the congregation did not like the idea. He got mad. He talked with other members of the congregation. He showed them that he had to buy and pay for his cows. He had to buy feed. His barn had cost him plenty. He, too, had children to feed. It was impossible for him to meet the competition of the preacher who had cows, feed, straw and barn room all contributed. The milkman, who had been a good contributor to the church, said he would have to stop giving to the church which had a preacher who cut his milk prices and preached sermons calling him a profiteer.

The members of the congregation saw the justice of the milkman's argument. They decided this wasn't fair. So they quit furnishing hay, straw, and the owners of the barn asked the preacher to pay a small rent for the pasture his two cows look up. When that happened the preacher soon discovered that the expense of keeping two cows was so great that he had to raise his price to the same as that of the regular milkman charged.

The moral of the incident, we think, is plain. When the government goes into business and offers something for a lower price, it is because the taxpayers of the nation are furnishing the "cows, hay, straw, and barn room." If one of the "cows" dies, the taxpayers are expected to furnish another. The best news in St. Johns, there are some homes being offered to the highest bidder which a government agency has had to take over on loans made which were too high. The same thing is happening in thousands of cities and towns. It is happening on farms and in all sorts of business. The loss is charged back to the taxpayers.

The Tennessee Valley Authority with the government furnishing everything, writes off a loss of \$1,000,000 in a single year something that no private company can compete with anywhere. The milkman could compete with the preacher. Very sincerely yours,  
Charlotte H. Ormond,  
1227 Waddington, Rd.  
Mrs. Ormond's article follows:

According to the Gallup Poll the people of America are at last aware of the fact that our supplies are annually helping Japan in her aggression against China by furnishing the greater part of the supplies necessary to prosecute the war. 72% according to the poll, are in favor of forbidding the shipping of arms or ammunition to Japan.

### "Old Man Accident"

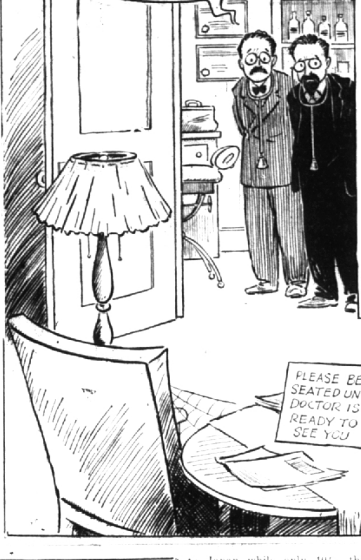
Old Man Accident led to no less grow under his feet last year (1938) as he peddled his deadly and fatal machinery. The National Safety Council's annual report on his annual yearbook "Accident Facts, just off the presses, records that accidental deaths occurred as follows during 1938:  
16 every 2 minutes  
11 every hour  
200 per day  
1,800 each week  
94,000 killed for the year  
Non-fatal injuries suffered in accidents occurred at an even more startling rate:  
1 every 3 (three) seconds  
17 every minute  
1,000 every hour  
24,000 each day  
170,000 each week  
Rife the three methods for the year  
The Council added the cost of last year's accidents at \$3,300,000,000. This sum covers the cost of all accidental injuries, plus property damage from motor vehicle accidents and fires.

DO YOU PRONOUNCE it "rough" or "cog," when you refer to Rev. Charles E. Coughlin, the radio priest? One way it may connote "spewing," the other merely a part of a machine.  
BIRMINGHAM'S BOARD of Education is about to launch this into a study of the many problems and themes of instruction given to boys and girls who attend local public schools. The Board, to date, has been interested largely in administrative and expense items relating to the system. Now, and quite properly, they want to get acquainted with just what the idea is being presented to our youth. Perhaps they wish to know whether "New Deal arithmetic," or just the old-fashioned kind, is used in the textbooks.  
WITHIN THE NEXT YEAR, two many of Michigan's school districts, including Birmingham, will be hard pressed for funds with which to carry on. If you want more data on the local problem, just ask some member of the Board of Education; they include Lee E. Joslin, Ernest W. Seaborn, J. H. Ross, J. Mark Harbin, Earl C. Potter, as well as Sup't. Howard D. Crull and Business Manager Louis M. Rowland.

PEOPLE WHO WORK on NEWSPAPERS spend much time in recording the activities of people, in a meeting of the Board of Education. It is a good plan, too, when you remember that only ten persons attended the annual meeting June 10,

## Out of Patients

NO ONE SEEMS TO WANT A GOOD DOCTOR ANYMORE



Fifty Years Ago  
August 1, 1889  
Monday evening A. R. Tripp and wife came to the city... Former race driver had been with auto industry since 1903.  
Shunts plea on Woodward.  
Amok? tenses highway project.  
"Cap" fund contest to close Monday. Next issue will announce winner in competition for temperance money.

## 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.  
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Communist Domination: The House committee investigating the Russian situation...  
Charles Walton, a State director of the Federal Theater Project...  
Twenty-Five Years Ago  
Gas coming Birmingham...  
Deputy Attorney General...  
Rev. S. S. Clark of Detroit...  
W. P. A. Employment Statistics...

## People's Column

The Eccentric is pleased to receive...  
All communications must be...  
Letters must be...  
The Editor:  
Dear Mr. Ayerll: You know how terribly anxious I am that we should stop arming Japan in her war against China. It looks as if any action to prevent this would have to be delayed at least six months and a great deal can happen in that time. I am sending you some "facts and figures" on this question.  
I believe there is more at stake than the destruction of the Chinese, bad as that is. Our interests as a nation and possibly our future prosperity and even the lives of our sons are also at stake.  
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## Agricultural Department Attacks Farm Program With 3-Part Program

WASHINGTON—A glance at the figures is enough to show that the major problems of agriculture are still far from solved. That, of course, explains why this year's agricultural appropriation bill carried the largest sum in its history.  
Heavy carryovers of crops, expanding export markets, expanding domestic production—these are the three points which the department takes in the big-scale production commodities such as wheat, cotton, corn, and pork.  
To meet them, the Department of Agriculture has turned to a three-part program. It seeks, first, to adjust production so that the gap between what is grown and what can be marketed profitably is narrowed. Second, it is trying at least to show what remains of the export market for surplus crops. And third, it is trying to increase domestic distribution of the surpluses.  
COTTON is a case in point. Since 1932, the carry-over from one year to the next—that is, the part of each annual crop which is neither sold abroad nor consumed at home—has never been less than 3,500,000 bales, and it has on occasion risen as high as 9,600,000 bales. Total stocks on hand at the end of 1938, thus, stood roughly at 15,000,000 bales; all of which is piled up in addition to the year's production—which, itself, is more than enough to meet the year's requirements.  
The nation's consumption of cotton since 1932 has ranged between 5,300,000 bales and 7,900,000 bales; its exports have been dropping until the figure for 1938 is estimated at less than 2,500,000 bales; and only once in the years since the New Deal came in has production been under 10,000,000 bales, while it has frequently been far above that.

## Jobs in Jest

TWO Louisiana co-eds staged a duel with pigs. Time was given each to get a pig. John Mellera is overcast—Birmingham's first reported production in which to operate.  
A fellow, riding a mule, nearly escaped police who were chasing him through a southern state. That country had been the victim of male we know.  
Mussolini and Hitler vow they want peace as any price. But they admit that the price might be war.  
ALMOC  
Many can shuffle the cards that cannot play well.

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WE NOW MAKE  
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DOWNTOWN OFFICE IN THE FORD BUILDING  
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