The Birmingham Eccentric

Published every Thursday, at Birmingham, Mich., in The Eccentric Building, 229-232 North Woodward Avenue
Telephones 11, 12 and 13

GEORGE R. AVERILL — Editor and Publisher
MARJORIE E. PORTER — Managing Editor
PAUL NEAL AVERILL — Business Manager
ARTHUR M. 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

FRIDAY, JULY 7, 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 Tuesdays. 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 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.

Local Summer Recreation Plan

If you have any question about the value of a summer recreation program for the youth and adults of Birmingham, it ought to be answered satisfactorily when you learn that during the first week of the program here a total of 4,855 persons engaged in its various activities. That is the report of Franklyn Whitney, director of the project.

Five centers of attraction are maintained, where softball, tennis, street dancing, and similar recreations are kept going; the indoor swimming pool at the Barnum school has attracted the greatest number, 2,181 having enjoyed this healthful pastime.

Local organizations and agencies that have contributed both personnel and money to the summer recreational project include the city, schools, Y. M. C. A., Community House, and various Parent-Teacher Association units. E. Wilmer Moody, a member of the city commission, is general chairman.

We suggest that the sponsoring groups maintain full reports of the value of this program, so that in the years that follow an enthusiastic support for its continuation may be obtained.

Birmingham, so far as the record of its youth is concerned, has an enviable status of wholesomeness for taking care of these important human beings; court records show that very few of our youngsters get into difficulty. One of the best safeguards for maintaining this status is the care of youth during the summer vacation period.

Local High School Graduates Suggest . . .

Three girls and two boys, all graduates of the Baldwin high school a year ago, met with Supt. Howard D. Crull, principal Ray H. Beckfold, Miss Emily Walker and Mrs. Carol Darling, teachers, one afternoon last week and talked about "what college has shown me I missed in high school."

Among the suggestions made by the young people were the need of a method of really teaching boys and girls how to study, to budget their time for this imporant purpose; each of the young graduates, now in college, admitted that the high school was too lenient in its scholastic demands, that a firmer method of discipline is necessary to prepare graduates for the semi-adult responsibilities that go with college life.

These boys and girls also suggested the adoption of the essay-method for examinations, holding that such a method begets fundamental thinking, not merely the present "factual-memory" type of examination.

Getting together with its graduates is a fine manner of educational research, and we trust the local school leaders will use last week's meeting as a pattern for future repetitions of the procedure. Everybody knows that a gap now exists between high school and college methods of instruction; perhaps the college leaders can also learn something from contacts with their graduates who, alas! too often find that the years they spent in higher educational shelters have not prepared them for the realities of the world that confound and perplex them when they seek to earn livelihoods.

Brain Hunger

What kind of race would we have if the minds of men and women demanded food with the same insistence that the stomach does?

Suppose your brain, if neglected and forgotten for a day, would set up the same insistent clamor for sustenance that your appetite does. Would you know more, or do you, maybe, take care of the normal craving that visits intelligent minds and see that you provide a diet for the thinking machine?

Truth is supposed to be the goal of education and philosophy, and religion, as well. The truth will "set you free." How many of us realize that the best pursuit of truth comes only when a mind is free of passions, prejudices and popular superstitions? How many of us make any systematic effort to remove these cobwebs from our brains?

RE-FINANCING of the $1,154,466.25 public debt of the Birmingham school district, as is now being considered by the Board of Education, is a move towards economy. Business Manager Louis M. Randall believes that the interest rate can be lowered from four per cent, where it will go next March, to less than the present rate of three per cent. A study of today's investment market provides ample backing for Mr. Randall's belief.

What Should Schools Teach?

Public schools of today are required to perform greater tasks for the development of youth to enter upon the responsibilities of living in a democracy than any other institution, in the opinion of Howard D. Crull, superintendent of Birmingham's public schools. Mr. Crull made this statement in his annual report, part of which was published in last week's Eccentric.

"No longer can we consider educational institutions separate and apart from the rest of the social order, but instead they must be integrated with the activities of the home and other character training agencies," stated Mr. Crull. "While the major responsibilty of child development rests in the home, the schools have the distinct responsibility to correlate their work with the home, so that there will be a constant and uninterrupted development of the child."

True words, Mr. Superintendent. But just how far the schools should go in this direction will always be problematical. In our opinion, the schools will rever reach the ultimate ends of training that lie within their scope, nor will the home; but we do believe that the schools, in their groping around for methods to create the perfect-youth-in-a-democracy, will not forget that some of the old-fashioned idea are worth keeping at, ideas that make for thoroughness in a few subjects; for the danger today, as we see it, in our public school system is the tendency to add too many "extras" to the curriculum, giving youth too much of a superficial smattering of many things.

Grounded well in a few funamentals of scholasticism, your average youth can go into the world and "find himself." Merely to create a "walking encyclopedia" is not the end of schooling; but to create an understanding of fundamentals, to fan into flame the "hunger for knowledge," is the basic need of the early years of youth's school life, we believe. Having done this, youth will satisfy its appetite at the bookshelves and classrooms of education; they will be able to digest what they read and learn—and that's the only proper foundation for the maintenance of lasting democracy.

52,378,026 Church Members

There were 52,378,026 adherents to "organized religion" in the United States last year, according to the Yearbook of American Churches. Referring only to persons thirteen years of age and older, the Yearbook gives the following figures:

32,940,965 Protestants, 15,992,016 Roman Catholics, and 2,930,242 Jews. There were 223,229 Protestant churches, 18,379 Roman Catholic churches, and 4,150 synagogues. In addition, there were 714 Eastern Orthodox churches, 144 Polish National Catholic churches, and 51 Armenian churches.

Dr. Herman C. Weber, editor of the Yearbook, estimates that contributions from Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish bodies amounted to $729,000,000.

Estimating the membership of the Protestant denominations, the Yearbook, which was completed before the three branches of Methodists united, gave the following figures:

Southern Baptist, 4,315,270; Northern Baptists, 1,108,501; the Methodist Church, formerly known as the Methodist Church North, 3,980,230, Southern Methodists, 2,495,100; the Presbyterian Church of the United States of America, 1,326,044; the Disciples of Christ, 1,484,337; Protestant Episcopal Church, 1,361,167; the National Baptist Convention (Negro), 3,437,930; the National Council of the Congregational and Christian Churches, 1,003,079; the Christian Science Church, 202,098; United Lutheran Church, 1,140,962; Synodical Lutheran Conference, 1,024,774 and American Lutheran, 1,024,774.

We can't vouch for the accuracy of the figures, but the Eccentric gives these religious statistics for what they are worth. It might not be a bad idea, however, to point out that religion is not a matter of numbers. It is not necessarily the largest church in a nation, or a community, that is doing the most good. Regardless of the size of the church to which an individual belongs, there is abundant opportunity for the man or woman involved to make effective the religion professed. The success with which this is done by the members of a given church is the test of the worthiness of the church, rather than the number of adherents.

10,000 Shells A Minute

But Rear Admiral Clark Howell Woodward, commander of the Third Naval District, is quoted in a metropolitan newspaper as saying that the United States fleet "could send up a barrage of 10,000 anti-aircraft shells every minute."

This is what aviators would be willing to call "some shells." It might make flying dangerous over the fleet and have a tendency to reduce the accuracy of bomb-droppers. Maybe, after all, this business of sinking battleships with bombs is not the easy job that some people think it is.

Leaders Needed

Our world is not wrong because of mass ignorance of what is needed to cure many of its ills. The real problem lies in the lack of courage on the part of leaders to lead, and followers to follow, the simple paths of personal honesty, decency, and hard work. Especially is this true of our leaders who, placed in the world's places of political, industrial, and social responsibility, have failed to perfect a program of applied idealism.

THE LATE HUEY P. LONG, of Louisiana, raised lots of hell, didn't he? One of his appointees, Dr. James M. Smith, was made president of Huey's State University. Now he is said to have absconded with about a million of the University's funds. Who says higher education doesn't pay well in Louisiana?

THE UNITED STATES SENATE last week voted nearly two billions for relief. That ought to relieve the National Democratic Committee of some worry—or will it in the end add to its worries, as the Republicans begin telling the nation who ought to be the next President?

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 4, 1889

A trio of handsome young ladies from Detroit spent last week at the National Hotel and during that time made many sketches of the beautiful landscapes which surround our handsome "loveliest village of the plain." The hearts of many a Birmingham boy beat fast as the artists walked by but twas no use. The ladies were out for business and had no time for foolishness.

There's no use talking, we feel our semi-annual spell of hard times coming on and if we are obliged to trot out in double harness the old original blue X, our delinquents will forgive us and pass in their dollars as usual. Try it once and see how openly ye poor editor will smile. Look at that date after your name on the paper and if it is passed you owe us and we will thankfully accept the amount due us and as much more as you wish to contribute.

Organ avenue doesn't furnish all the pugilistic news, for one day last week an organ man called upon a lady on the south side and proposed to take her organ away for non-payment of dues. The good lady sat down upon the organ and the scheme at one and the same time, while the man of the house lifted up the o. m. and deposited him in the street. All discord is harmony once more.

John K. Adams has a fortune in Grand Rapids real estate, made by a happy speculation. Good boy, John.

John H. Snow held his second annual picnic last Saturday and entertained a real nice crowd of folks, who all voted it a most enjoyable affair. A. Bayley was there, and was full recovered from his late excitement and great rush.

A baby boy in Troy is a great affair, but when you have it managed exclusively, run only and ordered by the Hon. A. Bayley of Troy then you can safely bet that the affair is a great success. It's a boy.

Miss Kate E. Robinson, one of Detroit's fair and gifted teachers, was the guest of Miss Mamie E. Utter last week. A most delightful time was had.

Twenty-Five Years Ago
July 10, 1914

Frank Yeager, "First aid to the afflicted," with James W. Cobb, fire chief, helped to celebrate the 4th and also boom the baseball attendance by furnishing to the multitude a water battle stunt. It was a first-class exhibition of nerve, determination and bull dog grit. Ray Hamlin, with Harry Johnson and Bob Allison, represented the South. Harry Cockerlin, with Ray Clark and Walter Thornburn, were in the North. Both sides were game and slowly approaching each other until only some eight feet apart, an inch stream of water was poured into each side, neither yielding until the waterworks became tired and shut down and the battle declared a draw by the delighted spectators.

The Lake Orion Park Association for every Saturday during July and August, says they will be Carnival Saturdays. Every Saturday night during this period is to be a feature with a gift for everybody. This week, a carload of watermelons go free. Oh! Pshaw! Read their Advt. this week. It's new. It's great.

Mr. A. R. Nelson and family of Pierce street have gone for two or three weeks to Mexico—No! Not to Huerta, Mexico, where there is bloodshed and much shooting, but to peaceful, lovely, quiet and home-like Mexico, in New York.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Bunyen and family with Mr. and Mrs. George Bunyen of Sanilac Co. celebrated the 4th and made a week end visit with A. Bunyen and family on Brown street. Did they have a good time? Did the eagle scream! Just you ask 'em.

J. F. Rundel had a little auto experience last week. Rundel was in the machine that ran amuck last Friday evening south of Pontiac. A bursted tire caused the auto to jump the curb, split a granite horse block and cut off an eight inch poplar tree, which fell on the auto. According to all rules, every man of the four was due to be killed, but fortunately all were merely bruised. "Have a ride with me?" said a friend to Julius yesterday. "Not on your life. Never again for me."

Five Years Ago
July 5, 1934

F. E. R. A. recreation program begins; will last eight weeks. Barnum swimming pool and five programs will be open daily except on Saturday and Sunday. Miss Miriam Brown, physical education teacher on Birmingham public school faculty is general supervisor, heading staff of 18 persons. Government to pay salaries of employees. City is asked to give $459, to finance supplies for program, including sports equipment, first aid kits etc. Citizens appeal to commission, at Monday meeting.

New peddler ordinance submitted to City Commission by Mayor Harry Allen. Revised proposal for curbing door-to-door hawkers is drawn up by attorney. Vote expected on Monday. Bill similar to that introduced by merchants.

City Manager James W. Parry urges state to end delay on Woodward avenue. Completion of wider highway along Grand Trunk right-of-way is asked in letter to Van Wagoner, Highway Commissioner. Federal funds are suggested.

Machine may finish sewers here. City finds hand labor too slow on Woodward and Adams road projects. Work begun last winter, under C. W. A. Advertisement for bids is started.

Henry M. Foley Jr. is given scholarship by Board of Regents at University of Michigan. Baldwin High School graduate has chance for four-year award.

July Fourth passes uneventfully here. Heavy traffic keeps Woodward avenue jammed, as result of perfect weather. No injuries and few accidents reported. Clubs and resorts in district report record attendance.

L. P. Maloney of Detroit reports $1,200 holdup here. Says bandits drove him to Birmingham after robbery at bank entrance. Car is left to victim.

Children in public schools increase by 42 over past year. Census reveals 3,026 students.

Prescription for Peace

Queried the student: "When do you think there will be peace in Europe?"

Replied the professor: "When Franco's widow tells Stalin on his death bed that Mussolini was assassinated at Hitler's funeral."

We Believe It

It is estimated that men on this continent annually pay $750,000,000 to barbers. And if you don't believe the result is worth every penny of it, just riffle through the pages of the old family album. —The Hamilton (Ont.) Spectator.

Stamp Plan May Be Employed to Lick Cotton Surplus Problem

WASHINGTON.—Passage of the new agricultural appropriation act means that a more determined drive to solve the ever-pressing cotton problem will be made during the next 12 months.

It probably means, also, that relief clients will be given considerable quantities of cotton textile goods—shirts, cloth, and other items—under a variation of the stamp plan which is currently being tried out for the distribution of surplus food stocks.

That forecast can be made because of the phrasing of the appropriation act.

• • •

ROUGHLY, some $50,000,000 will be available to spend on cotton, if the Department of Agriculture decides to use, for that purpose, all the money it legally may use. Foremost on the program, of course, is the export subsidy plan which Secretary Wallace has been pushing lately. But the law provides that not more than half of the total sum spent on cotton may be spent on the export subsidy plan.

Consequently—assuming that the department uses all the "cotton money" available—around $25,000,000 will be on hand to spend on some other program. What other programs are in sight?

There are only two of any consequence. One is the general program of research, by which the department's experts try to find new uses for cotton and seek to promote the use of cotton in the fields thus uncovered. That program is pretty extensive, and will ultimately yield some important results; but, at the most, it will take only $6,000,000 or $7,000,000 this year.

So there will be something like $18,000,000 which can be spent on the cotton surplus. And the only other plan on hand is the relief stamp program.

To date, the stamp plan has applied only to foodstuffs. Relief clients buy, at face value, stamps which can be used to purchase any type of food. With them, they get a number of free stamps, which are good for the purchase of foods officially listed as "surplus commodities." These stamps are good in any grocery store, and from present indications, the program may do much to relieve the country of surpluses in certain lines.

To make the stamps apply to cotton, however, would complicate matters—partly because grocery stores do not carry cotton goods. That would mean that the program would have to be extended to department stores.

• • •

FURTHERMORE, raw cotton is not sold over the counter the way the surplus foodstuffs are. There would be a tortuous and involved trail to follow—from the cotton field through the cotton mills, down to the factories where cotton cloth is made up into articles of wearing apparel, and thence through the wholesalers and jobbers to the retailer.

Setting up a system to move cotton goods by the stamp plan would call for study and planning all along that trail.

But, since the department has a good many millions of dollars to spend on cotton surpluses, it probably will go ahead with the job.

CARS THAT PASS IN THE SUMMER

Congressional Comment

by Representative George A. Dondero (17th Michigan District)

Requisites for Recovery: Howard Coonley, president of the National Association of Manufacturers, recently speaking before the Harvard Business School Alumni Association declared that the three main requisites for recovery are these:

"No modification or repeal of a single legislative enactment will restore confidence and bring recovery. What is needed above all else is a clear, definite, and unequivocal recognition by both administrative and legislative branches of the national government that the private enterprise system is the fundamental basis of our future prosperity and progress, and that it must, therefore, be preserved, protected and encouraged.

"Investors, large and small, must be encouraged to put their savings into private enterprise by giving them an opportunity for a return commensurate with the risk involved.

"Labor relations are disturbed because of a national labor relations act which started on three false assumptions:

"First, that conflicts between employers and employees are inevitable.

"Second, that employers are almost always unfair to employees.

"Third, that it is the duty of the government to take sides in disputes between employers and employees."

Recently the Republican Members of Congress presented a 12-point program for recovery which very definitely includes these three requisites for recovery. Among the points were the following:

"Repeal the repressive tax on undistributed corporate earnings, which has proved so harassing and dangerous to business, large and small.

"Revise the remainder of the Federal tax structure to eliminate or modify provisions retarding business recovery.

"Amend the National Labor Relations Act by clarifying the mutual obligations of worker and employer and the duties of both toward the public in order to end the present paralyzing discord.

"Define specifically the area of government competition with private enterprise so that business may be able to create jobs with some certainty as to the future.

"Clarify Federal rules and regulations so industry and business may know what to expect."

In my judgment the Republican Congressional program constitutes a constructive proposal for national recovery.

WPA Costs Climb: In 1935 the WPA will cost the taxpayers of the Nation $2,250,000,000, which is nearly one billion dollars more than WPA cost in 1936! and it exceeds all former WPA expenditures, $1,896,447,000 being spent in 1937 and $1,472,499,000 in 1938. Judged by the amount of money expended for WPA, our unemployment problem is twice as serious as it was three years ago.

Some Sharp Stabs: The New Republic, a decidedly pro-administration publication, has this to say with reference to the economic situation in this country:

"We can no longer say that the United States is merely sharing in a world wide depression; the figures of the League of Nations show that nearly every other industrial country in the world is doing better than we, some of them tremendously better."

The Nation, a magazine which has been a strong supporter of the administration, sums up our economic situation and comes to this conclusion:

"What we need is not a continuation of this administration but a different kind . . . one that is progressive and also capable of economy and efficiency and constructive concentration on the economic problems that menace the very existence of the Republic."

Words and Deeds: Attorney General Frank Murphy now advocates a drastic reduction in Federal, State and local payrolls to the extent of a billion dollars a year. As Governor of Michigan, Murphy increased the number of State employees from 15,585 to 17,558 and the State payroll was increased from $1,448,089 to $2,114,309. The words and deeds do not match.

Random Remarks

J. Edgar Hoover, Chief, Federal Bureau of Investigation:

"Women commit more crimes of violence than men, and they are more venomous."

Wendell L. Willkie, Utility executive:

"A few bankrupt counties would be an enlightening thing."

William B. Bankhead, speaker, House of Representatives:

"July 15th is the tentative date we hope to get through on."

John W. Hanes, under-Secretary of the Treasury:

"We are on the move in America and my hope is that as we move we move together."

Benito Mussolini, welcoming 20,000 Italian soldiers who fought in Spain:

"Comrades, the fatherland salutes you after thirty months of victorious war against the democracies and bolshevism."

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.

To the Editor:

The sudden death of Patience Ackles (Mrs. U. S. Ackles) is a severe loss to our Red Cross group in Birmingham. Mrs. Ackles did a fine piece of work as Captain of the workers in the east half of the Barnum School area during the Roll Call last Fall.

But it is her inspiration and leadership of the newly organized Junior Red Cross in this community that deserves special mention. This program had the co-operation of Superintendent of Schools, Howard D. Crull, and the teachers, Mrs. Gertrude Cromie in the Adams and Miss Margaret Cook in the Baldwin High School. But this program of Service Health, Co-operation and World Friendliness needs an active, interested enthusiastic lay leader to work with the teachers and be willing to give the co-operation needed in the development of the plan of work.

This young matron with her vivid personality and intelligence won not only the confidence of the senior workers but that of the 50 or 60 boys and girls interested in Junior Red Cross. She relieved me of practically all concern over the program, and had the initiative and dependability to work it out with the Red Cross office in Pontiac, the local teachers and the boys and girls. Her work was one of the best bits of volunteer service I have ever seen. And I am so glad I told her many times in the past months, how much I appreciated her acceptance of the full responsibilities of the work, and its happy accomplishment.

MRS. H. H. CORSON,
Red Cross Chairman
for Birmingham.

A FRIENDLY BANK — 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