

The Birmingham Eccentric

Published every Thursday at Birmingham, Mich. in The Eccentric Building, 225 1/2 North Second Avenue, Birmingham, Mich. Telephone 11, 12 and 13

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Entered as Second Class Matter in the U. S. Postoffice at Birmingham, Mich. May 10, 1934

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
(By Oakland County) (Outside Oakland County)
One Year \$1.00 \$1.50
Six Months5075
Three Months2535
Single Copies 10c
The Eccentric is a member of the National Association, Michigan Press Association, University Press Club, and Oakland County Weekly Press Association

THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 1939

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Results of the balloting in Birmingham's annual school election here Monday revealed that 631 electors want to change the District from graded to one of Third Class, while 667 or a difference of 36 did not want the change; that is pretty close. What will happen a year hence?

Ernest W. Seaborn's lead of 771 votes over that of 529 for William A. DeLoe incumbent Board member suggests that the District was determined to make good in the Board's status. In the spirit of good sportsmanship, Mr. DeLoe himself called Mr. Seaborn last Monday night and informed him of the election result; Mr. Seaborn, chief engineer for the Cadillac Motor Co., will bring much executive experience and common sense to the Board.

All in all, the campaign made a spirited impact upon the community; it is regrettable, however, that persons in the dominant factor in it—but we don't agree with those who say it has split the town into two warring factions. Competition in public affairs is good for the public welfare; competition that begets confusion is not so good; so those phases that became confused ought to be washed off the blackboard.

Both sides, we hold, are guilty of a certain amount of foolishness. The fact that those opposed to the change to a Third Class District dragged out all manner of claims that "it will cost us more in taxes," only served to offset the anonymous nature of some of the material disseminated by them in favor of the change.

A calm review of all the tactics during the election suggests that in the heat and fever of even a neighborhood school election exaggerations are resorted to; after the battle wages a while it seems that, in their deep desire to win, all sides to an issue forget the value of calm, objective thinking. But that is part of the process of democracy; after persons in the United States have heated elections instead of heated revolutions, ballots do less harm than bombs and bullets.

In the meantime this District still faces the issue of losing a portion of its taxable area in Bloomfield Hills. If the equities prove that Bloomfield is entitled to win a "divorce," the fact that we are graded or Third Class will not make any eventual difference.

Quite naturally the remainder of the District doesn't want to lose a valuable portion of its assessable property; but the State school laws are so arranged that no District can forever "freeze" its boundaries, which is as it should be.

Now that the election is over, and the new Board will function after July 1, it is to be hoped that the Board, aided by Sup't. Crall and Business Manager Randall, will be able to heal over whatever scars remain, to the end that local students and local teachers will have a successful year ahead of them.

You know, no doubt, that civilization is "facing extinction."

We have it on no less than the word of A "Tough Guy" several experts, who hold degrees from institutions of learning, that war, with economic and political violence, will end what we have laughingly referred to as modern culture.

The funny thing about the situation is that for many years, for one reason or another, the experts have been seeing the finish of "civilization." Whatever it may be, civilization seems to have many more lives than the proverbial cat and, despite the tragic developments that war has brought about, modern people fancy that they have a future in civilization.

Whatever happens in the future, and many strange events may come to pass, you need not worry about the destruction of civilization. What we admire may die, what we like to cherish may expire and all traces of what we adore may crumble into dust. Even so, civilization will still exist for the people who may be around to share it.

Thousands of years from 1939 writers and speakers, who will know little or nothing about the Munich crisis, will tell the younger generation of their day that "civilization is facing extinction." So it has been for many years, and so it will be for many more.

THOMAS J. MOONEY, the California unionist who served 22 years in prison for his part in the Los Angeles bombing feud, talked to Detroit workers Sunday; he pleaded for "unity among workers." He also paid high compliments to Frank Murphy's administration as Governor. Mooney has lived at public expense so many years that budget balancing apparently means little to him.

That the public has lost much of its tendency to regard members of the professions as men set apart is apparent to anyone who has observed the developments in this country. The same tendency has been noted in the public attitude to college and university graduates and the time seems to have passed when a degree means anything to the average citizen.

This has been caused largely by the type of men who have been graduated from colleges and universities or entered upon professional life. The conclusion of the public goes deeper and gives little respect to degrees earned or conferred upon citizens by institutions because, in the lives and services of the representatives thus honored, one finds no clear line of demarcation from citizens of the ordinary stripe.

Without indicating that the legal profession has lost in popular esteem to a degree more marked than the others but more to illustrate the point, we call attention to the case with which any man or woman of fair intelligence can be admitted to practice law in the courts of our country. All that is required is a certain scholastic standing and a perfunctory and meaningless exhibition of character.

As a result, the legal profession has been weakened by the admission of lawyers who have little to contribute to the profession. The apparent sole aim by the possibility of using the professional position to secure money. The apparent sole aim is to get fees, regardless of the effects of their acts upon the law and legal system, which they neither respect, revere nor seek to uphold.

This observation has been applied to all college and university graduates by Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, president of Columbia University, who deplores "the contemptuous graduation from colleges, and often from professional schools, of youths of most uncertain character and shocking manners, who receive academic advancement on the sole basis of having, in more or less mechanical fashion, complied with certain examination tests."

This eminent educator, who thinks for himself and expresses his opinions with a vigor that is refreshing, whether one agrees with him or not, insists that intellectual tests should rank first in estimating the educational progress of a student. In the first place he puts "evidence of character building," and in the second, "evidence of good manners and respect and concern for others." He insists that no student should be admitted to any kind of intellectual performance of any kind should win advancement or graduation.

Recently four designers were awarded prizes of \$1,000 each for their contributions to the American consuming public through the aid of their artistry to commercial products.

Three men and one woman received awards. Adrian, of Hollywood, was credited with tremendous influence on the activity of the needle trades for his design of the refrigerator, and Walter Teague was included in the group because he developed a "super-camera."

The lady, Merry Hull, was honored as the originator of the "finger free" glove, which, it was said, introduced the first new feature in the glove industry in 104 years and was the only radical design in glove design in 3,000 years. The designer of the glove, which she had contributed to the American consuming public, which is a good idea. The hope is that the taste of the people, in commercial things, will be raised to higher levels and that there will be an appreciation of the artistic in commonplace things.

"Do you read the Bible?" This question, asked in a crowd, will produce interesting replies if the truth be told. There are some people in our communities who think themselves "superior" because they have a scant reliance upon the book that is still the world's best seller. They fancy an independent aloofness, but, in reality, there is another explanation for their failure to give the Word of God a trial on its merits.

Any number of our best citizens can, and will, testify to the great influence this book has exerted upon their lives. They know that their study has brought them values not equalled by any other publication. As a matter of selfish "profit," basing their testimony solely upon the "returns," they will utter thanksgiving for the Bible reading habit.

SUNDAY, JUNE 18, is "Father's Day." It is a day when Mother and the kids are supposed to treat Father kinder than ever, or sumpin'. We rather enjoy that annual Day—it really gives an opportunity to appear important.

ALONG WITH MANY OTHERS, we question the use of corsages for these youngsters when they take a girl to one of those "formals." Once we paid three dollars for such an ornament and vowed, when we learned that our oldest offspring had incurred the debt, that the next time such a thing happened it would be only when we foot the bill for flowers for our daughter's wedding.

EFFORTS TO CUT DOWN the number of cases of rabies among Oakland County dogs will be part of this summer's program by the Oakland County Board of Health, according to Dr. A. V. Murtha, of Pontiac, president. Attempts to have dog owners cooperate with health authorities to inoculate the animals against rabies infection may eliminate the annual quarantine, believes Dr. Murtha.

BOTH SIDES of the local argument on changing Birmingham's school status were laughing at the intellectual versatility of County School Commissioner E. J. Lederle. Three versions of the situation and would probably come through with a fourth if asked, they said as some of them gathered at the election headquarters Monday night.

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
June 18, 1889
Capt. Bigelow wants those memorial flags returned immediately. Anyone wanting four—new rooms, furnished or unfurnished, can get their heart's desire by sending in a stamp column and following directions.

The smile that reaches clear round back of all school children's ears is caused by the fact that there are only about two weeks more teaching.

Prof. Hawkes has been engaged for another year—a very wise choice on the part of the school board, who have their eyes and ears open for anything that will be of benefit to our school.

The Parker block, along with the addition to Hagerman's store, is now a trifle over one story and a half high. The presents are coming in appearance. When finished this block will be an ornament to the place, and a building to be proud of.

John McCarroll of Southfield thinks there is nothing like onions. He raised over a hundred bushels of the tearful bulbs last summer, and on Tuesday, May 28, his wife presented him with a 10-pound daughter. Onion seed is now worth \$19 per bushel in Southfield.

We have heard it rumored that the superintendent and pupils of the high school have purchased a flag, raised a pole on the balcony, and hereafter on legal holidays and state occasions, the Birmingham high school will float the star spangled banner. Seems as if some of the pupils ought to have and interest enough in the affair to have given us the particulars for publication.

The concert which was to have been given by the Franklin cornet band at Southfield Center on Saturday evening last, was postponed until Saturday evening, June 22. The management wish to assure the public that the postponement will result in a more practical and consequently a better entertainment when it does come off.

Two-Five Year Ago
June 19, 1914
Birmingham was certainly a very busy little town on Saturday night. The St. James Hotel helped to give up things.

Owing to the visit of Mister Humidity in our midst last week we omitted the most important item of the week, the story of Mrs. Will Van Every received visitors also—twins, a boy and a girl.

Some very worthy improvements are being made around the city. South of the D. U. R. station, with the street well sodded, cement curbing in front of some very pretty shrubbery and in front of the city hall, the teams and careless men from driving over the grass, the D. U. R. has had a very busy day.

Last Tuesday noon residents of Union and Pierce streets had the time of their lives. The night of our efficient Deputy Sheriff Brey foot-footing it down Union street, he was called to a hurry-call from residents of Pierce street, who had discovered a civil war. It was said a woman was causing a delinquent boarder to leave the house, and at the point of a huge butcher knife, Deputy Sheriff Brey locked both hands in his belt and kept on to release them in the afternoon because those who complained were not to be taken into consideration.

Mrs. Martha Worth has sold her home on Woodward avenue to Lester Hancock and Robert Hanna.

Charles Beals, son of Mr. and Mrs. Beals, was born on Monday, June 15, 1939.

When Is a Worker a Farm Hand? That's Question Before Congress

WASHINGTON.—When is a worker a farm hand and when is he a city wage earner? That is the question that a congressional session is being waged over that question.

The question is being asked about the wage-hour law, which states that any person employed in an agricultural business is entitled to the provisions of that law.

When that law was drawn up, it exempted farmers and their employees from its provisions. It also took in a number of non-farm workers whom it was never intended to cover.

Along with these amendments, there came proposals that people employed in agricultural product processing plants be exempted also. And it is over this question that the fight is now being waged.

AS it stands now, the wage-hour law exempts the agricultural workers employed in the "area of production" of any given commodity. Now, the act does not define what an "area of production" includes; so, Wage-Hour Administrator Andrews has ruled that insecticides, tobacco processors who work within 10 miles of the place where the crop is grown, or who work in towns of less than 2,500 inhabitants.

But efforts are now being made to apply the exemption to people who are employed in any sort of agricultural processing plants whatever. This would include fruit and vegetable canners and packers, tobacco strippers, and even—

Mrs. M. W. Beals, left Tuesday to be the wireless telegraph man on the steamer, City of Mackinac. We hasten to say Eugene Brooks is not a sufferer from gall stones and was not attended by Dr. Raynald, but by Dr. J. L. Campbell.

Now watch out for June brides. This is the beauty month of Birmingham. Just the month of roses.

Five Years Ago
June 14, 1934
An adjustment in the salary schedule for Birmingham public school teachers, designed to more nearly equalize the present salaries on the basis of preparation, ability and length of service was adopted last night by the Board of Education. The adjustment entails an increase in the salary appropriation for 1934-35 of \$4,682 over the 1933-34 appropriation, and will result in larger pay envelopes next year for 57 of the 89 teachers on the staff.

With only a handful of citizens at a public hearing Monday night, the City Commission adopted a budget for 1934-35, which provides for expenditures of \$219,000 and a tax levy of exactly \$300,000.

Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills boys shared generously in the awards for the year at Cranbrook School when they were distributed at annual Awards Day exercises Saturday morning in the school auditorium by Dr. William O. Stevens, headmaster.

Distribution is expected to be available without prescriptions within a few days at six Birmingham stores, the proprietors of which were appointed last Friday by the State Liquor Commission as "specially designated merchants."

The Board of Education Monday night voted to apply to the State Debt Commission for permission to issue \$20,000 in scrip after July 1, the beginning of the new fiscal year. The scrip is to be known as Series E, would be secured by 1934 school taxes.

Distribution of a 10 per cent dividend promised for this month to depositors of the First State Savings Bank will begin Monday. It was announced definitely yesterday by C. Henry Purdy, receiver.

CONGRESSIONAL COMMENT

by Representative GEORGE A. DONDERS
17th Michigan District

Rep. George A. Donders
17th Michigan District

Economy Is Sidelined: Appropriations, always voted by others about to be voted indicate that the total for the fiscal year 1940 will exceed that of the present year by nearly a billion dollars. This will be the result of the most strenuous efforts on the part of many Members of Congress to curtail government expenditures.

When this was written, five appropriations bills had been signed by the President and a number of others had been passed by the House or were in conference.

The following table affords a comparison of appropriations for 1939 and 1940 for the bills already signed.

1939	1940
Independent Offices \$1,600,691,214	Treasury-Post Office 1,503,442,074
War Department 1,008,898,824	Navy Department 627,587,194
Interior Department 145,726,913	1940
Independent Offices \$1,668,218,340	Treasury-Post Office 1,700,015,054
War Department 1,008,898,824	Navy Department 723,049,151
Interior Department 172,679,765	

In not one simple instance has an appropriation been increased. These five bills represent an increase of \$588,000,000 over the 1939 appropriations. The Independent Offices bill more than \$67,000,000; for the Treasury and Navy Departments, more than \$200,000,000 more; for the War Department, \$48,000,000 more; for the Navy, nearly a quarter of a billion dollars more; and for the Interior Department, \$27,000,000 more.

Although the House has held off two of the appropriation bills below the budget estimates, the Senate increased the appropriations for flood control and river and harbor improvements by adding \$50,000,000 to the War Department Civil Functions Bill.

The House kept within budget estimates and vote down the proposal to increase the bill. Since then a Senate appropriations subcommittee has eliminated this \$50,000,000 item.

Capitol Kiwanians Meet: Members of the Kiwanis Club of Detroit are members of Kiwanis International meet on the second and third days of the convention in the private dining room of Hon. William B. Brewster, Speaker of the House of Representatives, at the last semi-monthly meeting of the group was attended by the following:

Sen. Claude Pepper, Florida; Sen. Alexander Wiley, Wisconsin; Sen. Robert R. Reynolds, North Carolina; Rep. Joshua L. Jones, Wisconsin; Rep. Chas. H. Leavy, Washington; Rep. Stephen H. Wiser, Illinois; Rep. Ralph E. Church, Illinois; Rep. J. Francis Harter, New York; Rep. John J. Starkman, Alabama; Rep. Pete Jaraman, Alabama; Rep. Wm. Frank, Alabama; Rep. Wm. Ben Gibbs, Georgia; Rep. Martin J. Smith, Washington; Rep. Karl E. Mundt, South Dakota; Rep. George A. Brown, Michigan; Rep. George W. Gillie, Indiana; Rep. Clyde T. Ellis, Arkansas; Rep. Landale G. Sullivan, Missouri; Rep. Charles L. Gifford, Massachusetts; Rep. Sam



WARM ENOUGH TO GO WITHOUT A HAT

Hobbs, Alabama; Rep. Fred Bradley, Michigan.

Random Remarks

Walter F. George, U. S. Senator from Georgia:

"I will fight against going into war and I will fight against being dragged into a state of war."

Walter H. Crover, Secretary, United Lutheran Church:

"The establishment of diplomatic relations with the Vatican would constitute a positive interference with the American principle of separation of church and state."

Benito Mussolini, Dictator of Italy:

"Tomorrow, as yesterday and always, we will go against death."

Eve Curie, famous woman, scientist:

"We speak of democracy here today feeling that within a short time we, in Europe at least, will be obliged to sacrifice peace to save democracy."

Allen W. Barkley, Democratic State leader:

"My prayer each day is not 'Lord, show me a spot that I may put Democrats on it.'"

John J. Pelley, president, Association of American Railroad:

"The trouble with the railroads today is they do not take in enough money, due in part to unequal competition of other forms of transportation."

Hugh S. Johnson, former General:

"We can't keep out of war if we remain as helpless as an oyster on the half-shell and as noisy as Mrs. Grundy."

Hsiao Chi San, Chinese official:

"In our country, we are building a new nation while resisting Japan."

Eduard Benes, former President of Czechoslovakia:

"Europe will not collapse; it is just now in a new great fight for democracy and freedom."

Herbert Hoover, former President:

"Small wars we will always have, but I think we are going to miss a general conflict."

Jots 'n' Jest

IF Hitler throws Goebbels out of Germany, he might have a future as a jockey.

The author of the income tax law which presumes a youth of 18 to be self-supporting never raised a family.

A New York policy king operated for 14 years without an arrest, which proves there's safety in numbers.

That noise and fury coming from a group of ordinarily peaceful citizens may be merely New Year's resolutions breaking up.

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