The Birmingham Eccentric

Published every Thursday, at Birmingham, Mich., in The Eccentric Building, 220-222 North Woodward Avenue
Telephones 11, 12 and 13

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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 Wednesday 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, SEPTEMBER 8, 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.

. . . And So WAR Came Unto the World

Another great war is upon Europe, and upon many other far areas of this good earth. Millions of lines have been written and spoken against war, yet periodically it sweeps its hand of death over vast populations, causing inestimable loss of life and property.

Only 25 years ago most of Europe was plunged into the World War; in 1917 the United States got into it. In 1918 Germany acknowledged its defeat. Then came the Treaty of Versailles—an instrument that laid much of the groundwork for the present war.

Personally, this newspaper does not believe that even a majority of the German people want war; but they are living under a regime of madman Hitler, whose fanatic ideas thrive only upon the lust for power; for, we profoundly believe, Hitler and his chief aides are men who cannot endure the quietude and decency of peace—so, against every note of decency, they have plundered and taken over neighbor States until, in their present attack upon Poland, England and France cannot stand idly by and see the democratic ideals destroyed. So, last Sunday, these two latter countries declared themselves at war with Hitler (not with the good Germans themselves, although they must be butchered in the efforts to defeat Hitler).

The United States is a neutral nation. Every effort will be made by our government, President Roosevelt has stated, to keep us out of Europe's fight. Let us pray that this will be so —and in praying let us also act and talk in a manner that will promote neutrality. Or else, alas! our own youth will have to march off, as in 1917, to "make the world safe for democracy."

Your Day!—Mr. and Mrs. Birmingham

Citizens of Birmingham are proud of their City. They take pardonable pride in its beautiful homes, its neighborly spirit, its many-sided local government. They wish their community to grow and prosper; they willingly lend a hand when some worthy project is sponsored.

Birmingham people, on the average, manifest a highly intelligent viewpoint on public matters, largely because they are mentally equipped to do so. When elections arrive, they do go to the polls in goodly numbers.

But, on the whole, do Birmingham people really understand and appreciate all the problems of local government? Are they aware of the existence of the many City-operated public services that are rendered 365 days of every year?

The answer to this last question is decidedly NO! The same may be said for every community in the land.

But Birmingham, knowing this, is really going to do something to correct the situation.

That "something" is the coming Civic Loyalty Day, Saturday, September 16, when hundreds of local men and women, from every section of the City, will put on a program that is dedicated to making "better local citizens." By achieving this local goodness, it naturally follows that "better local citizens" are better State and national and even international citizens.

So, Folks, please set aside September 16 as a day when you will enter into the spirit of Birmingham's Civic Loyalty Day. After all, it is YOUR DAY—a day in which you, as free citizens in a free government, may appraise and improve your place in a democracy.

A Skeleton Excites Scientists

Archaeologists and anthropologists all over the world are excited over the discovery of the skeleton of a child in a cave on the face of a high cliff in middle Asia.

Ordinary individuals, not knowing where the human race is going, much less where it came from, are somewhat immune to the excitement, but experts say that it proves that the Neanderthal man was widely dispersed.

Never before had such a skeleton been found between Europe and China. The Neanderthal man, who existed about 100,000 years ago, was the huntsman of the old Stone Age, bringing down mammoths and other game and using crude stone instruments.

THIS IS BEING WRITTEN Monday afternoon, with the fate of Europe still hanging upon the thread of Hitler's whims. Will there be war when this reaches you Thursday? Probably even Hitler doesn't know at this very moment, Monday. Upon such fragile threads of whim and caprice . . . and hate and greed . . . do the very destinies of our nations hang today.

Parallel vs. Angle Parking

For some weeks merchants of nearby Royal Oak have been openly espousing a change from parallel parking back to the former angle system. Two weeks ago four of Royal Oak's seven Commissioners voted to make the change, and provided their reasons for so doing.

On and after September 29 angle parking on Birmingham's Woodward avenue will be changed to parallel parking, according to the terms of a State Law passed by the Legislature last winter. The State police are charged, in the Law, to eliminate all angle parking on State trunk line roads, which the local Woodward highway is, and will be after the new Hunter Boulevard is opened in a few weeks.

While Royal Oak's problem is not complicated by any trunk line issue, the arguments for angle parking set forth by the four Commissioners may have some Birmingham value, so we are publishing them, as follows:

"Inasmuch as we are all agreed that parallel parking looks better and seems more up to date, it is necessary to bring out clearly some of the important reasons for wanting the modified angle parking.

"Every city larger than Royal Oak has to use parking lots with fees or parking meters or both. People who can afford to pay for parking are particularly pleased with parking meters, they prefer that system over any other.

"People in business who are making good profits are not as much concerned over the parking problem as are those who are continuously looking for those extra sales which help them to stay in business. It argues that we should think primarily of those who require maximum consideration.

Parking Meters—

"We will need parking meters some day, we hope, but that should not happen until every other scheme has been tried and found to be unsatisfactory. By insisting on parallel parking we not only deprive ourselves of convenience, but we hasten the day of parking meters.

"Those commissioners who have voted for modified angular parking are fully aware of all the advantages and disadvantages, but feel that the average shopper and the average business is entitled to the consideration which permits free, quick and easy parking.

"When some of the older buildings are eliminated and the space is used for 'pay' parking lots; when we can afford an adequate police department to enforce the parking ordinance as well as the speed limits, then we might have parallel parking. For the time being it is expedient to avail ourselves of all available room and to keep parking free of charges of any description.

Shoppers Want It—

"To be considerate of those who are not in the best financial circumstances will harm no one, but will bring satisfaction which cannot be bought.

"No matter how often we go over the problem to get the concensus of opinion, we find that the people who support our business houses, those who do the actual shopping, want angle parking. Those who very seldom shop themselves and those who are only interested in speeding through the town recommend parallel parking.

"We would certainly like to believe that most Royal Oakers are interested in the lowest tax dollar and when we take that thought into careful and detailed consideration, parallel parking won't stand up after five minutes of debate."

The nation should be grateful to Samuel H. Kress for his contribution to the National Gallery of Art, founded through the generosity of the late Andrew W. Mellon.

A Gift To The Nation

Mr. Kress has added his collection of 375 paintings of the Italian school, together with 18 pieces of sculpture, to the fine group of masters donated by Mr. Mellon. The Kress collection has been valued at $25,000,000 and is the first important acquisition by the gallery since it was founded.

Success

Thirty years ago a boy in his teens wondered if the day would ever come when he would own an automobile.

Now, we find the hero of this little story of success a prominent and successful business man. He has a large family, including several boys and girls in their teens. He now owns two automobiles.

Gone are his childhood dreams and the wonder whether he would ever own an automobile. Now, he wonders when he will get a chance to use one of the cars.

CHIEF OF POLICE John P. Hackett, in an interview in last week's Eccentric, said that Birmingham is free from the numbers and bookie rackets—at least right now. The Chief ought to know, don't you think?

BIRMINGHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS open for the year next Monday, and for nine and a half months local youngsters will be subjected to the civilizing program of scholasticism. How fine it would be if every parent visited each teacher who contacts daughter or son, thus doing much to make teachers feel that a personal contact and helpfulness of thought exists between home and schoolroom.

SINKING OF THE ATHENIA will not help Germany in the formation of world opinion regarding her cause in this war. As the war proceeds, many similar stupid acts of the Reich will be broadcast to the world; right now, it seems to us, observers must be made to realize that Hitler and his aides are mad, crazy, fanatical, bestial, perverted emotionally, sadistic, and downright hellish.

FOR THE THREE YEARS of 1936-38 Michigan prisons received an average of 2,500 persons annually. At the end of 1938 the total prison population was 7,311, of whom 176 were women. 47 per cent were first-termers; 22 per cent were serving a third sentence or more. Crime really doesn't pay—either for those in prison, or society that has to support them.

Harvest

Congressional Comment

by Representative George A. Dondero 17th Michigan District

Congressional Appropriations: The first session of the 76th Congress appropriated $14,061,598,619, the largest sum ever made available to the departments and agencies of the Federal Government for expenditure in peacetime history.

The following table shows a break-down of the amounts of money made available for each department:

Agriculture	$1,391,193,433.00
District of Columbia	52,386,688.00
Independent Offices	2,298,240,640.00
Interior	223,288,005.00
Legislative	22,556,079.00
Navy Department	825,942,201.00
State, Justice, and Commerce	123,730,220.00
Treasury and Post Office	4,836,097,211.00
War Department	549,019,562.00
First Deficiency	23,765,041.98
Second Deficiency	204,420,059.89
Third Deficiency	225,347,110.82
Urgent Deficiency	3,099,377.00
Emergency Relief	1,822,557,150.00
Relief Deficiency	825,000,000.00
Insect Control	1,750,000.00
Labor Department	30,831,470.00
War Department, non-military	306,182,464.00
War Department, supplementary military	293,895,547.00
Employees Compensation Commission	2,000,000.00
Treasury, Printing, etc.	276,400.00
Petroleum Commission	20,000.00
Total	$14,061,598,619.69

For the purpose of comparison, the following table shows the total appropriations of previous recent Congresses:

1st Session, 74th Congress	$10,459,756,227.21
2nd Session, 74th Congress	10,129,710,521.78
1st Session, 75th Congress	10,252,892,556.60
3rd Session, 75th Congress	13,371,001,048.88
1st Session, 76th Congress	14,061,598,619.69

Increase over previous high $ 990,697,570.81

At the present time there is a prospect of gross revenues from all sources to be used toward these expenditures of about $7,000,000,000, including postal revenues, leaving a net deficit in sight of at least $5,000,000,000.

At the end of the fiscal year 1939, the Federal direct debt increased $3,264,792,095; and liabilities of Government corporations increased $4,500,000,000. We are now permitting the R. F. C. and other subsidiary corporations to borrow money directly with a Government guarantee. If debts of these corporations increase at the same ratio as during the past fiscal year, the total increase in debt in the current 1940 fiscal year will approach ten billion dollars.

At this time the public debt is $40,661,264,822 and that of Government corporations is in excess of 13 billion dollars; a total of more than 53, almost 54, billion dollars. It is estimated that assests of Government corporations will reduce this gross total to a net public debt of about 45 billion dollars.

Increase in Employees: The following table gives a year-to-year history of the increase in the number of employees in the Federal government from 1930 to 1939, both years inclusive:

1930	560,456
1931	571,368
1932	570,000
1933	577,170
1934	580,181
1935	751,269
1936	810,418
1937	871,236
1938	855,210
1939	925,260

In 1939 the number of employees in the Federal Government increased 70,050; if the same ratio of increase prevails in the current year, there will be approximately one million employees on the Federal payroll by the end of the 1940 fiscal year. The Federal list of employees has been increased 355,000 since March 4, 1933, an increase of over 60 percent.

Veterans in Michigan: According to figures compiled by Millard W. Rice, legislative representative for the Veterans of Foreign Wars, 199,364 Michigan residents saw service in the World War and it is estimated that 156,128 veterans now reside in the State. According to the same source, 11,763 of these Michigan veterans are now receiving compensation, pensions, or retirement pay. In the United States a total of 4,697,994 were called to the service; 4,026,480 are now living; and 385,656 are now receiving compensation, pensions, or retirement pay.

The Story of Naaman

The International Uniform Sunday School Lesson for Aug. 13

Text: II Kings 5:1-10, 14

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NAAMAN, "captain of the host," of the king of Syria, was a great and honorable man, but he was a leper. A famous preacher has turned these words the other way to make a very interesting point, namely, that though Naaman was a leper he was a great man and an honorable captain, and that from that fact men may take heart to conquer their handicaps and their weaknesses and attain real distinction and triumph. It is probable, however, that Naaman's greatness and distinction had come to him before he was smitten with leprosy; and the leprosy, because of that fact, meant only the greater tragedy.

In Naaman's household was a little girl who had been brought captive when the Syrians had invaded Israel. This captive maiden might naturally have had no interest in Naaman's leprosy, or she might have had even the vengeful feeling of delighting that a great Syrian of the armies that had torn her from her home had been smitten with affliction.

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BUT the little maid may have received kindness in the household of Naaman, or she may have been of a loving and forgiving disposition. At any rate, she spoke to her mistress and assured her that if Naaman were with the prophet in Samaria (that is, in her own country) that prophet would heal him of his leprosy.

It was creditable to Naaman that he should have listened to the little girl's suggestion. Captains of hosts have not always been as considerate, and we like Naaman all the better on that account. When he told the matter to his king, the king gave him a letter to the king of Israel and gave him also great presents of silver and gold and raiment that he might bring these to the king of Israel. In turn, the king of Israel was greatly troubled by these things. He had no power to heal Naaman of his leprosy, and it looked to him as if the king of Syria was seeking to create a quarrel with him, possibly as a pretext for invading his kingdom.

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IT was under these circumstances that Elisha heard of the matter. So Naaman came with his horses and chariots to the door of Elisha. He may have expected that the prophet would come forth and bow before his greatness and give him obeisance. But instead, Elisha sent a messenger, who did not even bring a very conciliatory message, for he told Naaman that as a means of his cleansing he must go and wash in the Jordan seven times.

Can we wonder that Naaman was exceedingly angry! He of course thought that Elisha would greet him differently and with great ostentation tell him what he should do. Moreover, he was furious at the slighting of his own land, and he said, "Are not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel?" It was true, too, for these streams were rivers running from the mountain, whereas the Jordan was sluggish and muddy.

Naaman was ready to go back to Syria in disgust, but he had a wise servant to whom he was wise enough to listen in spite of his anger. The servant reminded him that if Elisha had demanded of him some great thing he would have done it. Why should he then not do this simple thing that Elisha commanded? So Naaman went and dipped seven times in the Jordan, and his leprosy was healed.

What a wealth of teaching there is in such a lesson! How much greater are goodness and humility and common sense than pomp and splendor and the magnificence of armies and commanderal

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 of Birmingham Eccentric
Dear Sir:

If the five Japanese beetles found in Birmingham are not exterminated promptly it will not be long before the city has to contend with 5,000.

Birmingham has always appealed to prospective homeowners and renters as a desirable and attractive suburb. It would be a pity for our lawns and parks to be destroyed and the trees denuded. Localities in New Jersey and Pennsylvania where there have been Japanese beetles present a distressing picture.

The beetles may be only in one or two sections now but in an incredibly short time they will have spread over every part of Birmingham if they are not checked.

Government agricultural experts have reason to know what we are up against and we should take their advice. I write this both as a property owner and as a citizen.

Yours truly,
Charlotte G. Denfield
384 Lake Park drive.

CIVIC LOYALTY DAY, Sept. 16

1288 Cedar Drive,
Birmingham, Mich.
Sept. 4, 1939.

Editor:
The Birmingham Eccentric,
Dear Sir:

I will appreciate sufficient space for the following which you may entitle "World Enemy Number One."

Today people in general are saying, "Keep us out of War." It will be grand if we can stay out of war and I hope we may properly do so.

If Great Britain, France, and Poland can handle the situation to a victorious end, which means the crushing of Hitlerism, all well and good. But if help is needed during this struggle, we should remember that this new war is only the result of an incompleted job in 1918.

Hitler gone insane with a desire to dominate all of Europe and his military mad organization are the World's Enemy Number One. No substantial peace terms could be accomplished with such a government organization. This organization must not be allowed to continue.

If and when, Great Britain, France, and Poland need help, we should give it. A job properly done now will assure our children that their children will not have to engage in war.

CLARENCE A. WALKWITZ,
1288 Cedar Drive.

Formerly 1st Lieutenant, 24th Engineers American Expeditionary Force, and survivor of the Troopship Tuscania sunk by German U Boat 77 north of Ireland on Feb. 5, 1918.

CIVIC LOYALTY DAY, Sept. 16

Editor of The Eccentric:

Last Sunday I attended an early Mass, and after the priest read the Epistle and Gospel, he told the congregation with great solemnity that England had declared War a few hours earlier.

The aptness and timeliness of the message in the Epistle and Gospel for the 14th Sunday after Pentecost, which was written nearly 2000 years ago, struck me so forcibly that I shall, with your permission, present a few excerpts that are particularly pertinent to today's international tragedy.

From the Epistle:

Brethren . . . Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfil the lusts of the flesh . . . Now the works of the flesh are manifest; which are, fornication, uncleanness, immodesty, luxury, idolatry, witchcraft, enmities, contentions, emulations, wraths, quarrels, dissentions, sects, envies, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like; . . . But the fruit of the Spirit is charity, joy, peace, patience, benignity, goodness, longanimity, mildness, faith, modesty, continency and chastity.

From the Gospel:

At that time Jesus said to His disciples, No man can serve two masters; . . . You cannot serve God and Mammon. Therefore I say unto you, Be not solicitous for your life, what you shall eat, nor for your body, what you shall put on . . . Behold the birds of the air; for they neither sow, nor do they reap, nor gather into barns; and your heavenly Father feedeth them . . . Consider the lilies of the field . . . Be not, therefore solicitous, saying, What shall we eat? or what shall we drink? or wherewith shall we be clothed? for after all these things do the heathen seek. For your Father knoweth that you have need of all these things. Seek ye therefore first the Kingdom of God, and His justice, and all these things shall be added unto you.

GERTRUDE CORSON,
336 W. Maple Avenue.

CIVIC LOYALTY DAY, Sept. 16

To the Editor:

In this letter I would like to call attention to some grammatical inaccuracies that we hear all too often. In the fall of 1902 I started a crusade against those who said "how" for "what." The old people told me I could not do anything about it, and I don't know that the credit belongs to me. All I can say is that I have not heard anyone make that mistake but once in over 35 years; that was about a year ago in Detroit.

The first mistake that I will call attention to in this letter is that many say "I have saw him" when they should say "I have seen him." It is high school graduates in particular who have this habit. They seem to have the impression that the word "seen" should never be used. Also, we often hear it said, "He is light (or) dark complected," when they should say "complexioned." Those who do this mostly belong to the old school.

Now I come to one that has started quite recently, but it is spreading like an epidemic. They say "I imagine so" or "I imagine not" when it would be more correct to say "I think so" or "I think not." It is never advisable to use a long word when a short one will take care of the situation just as well and, in this case, much better, because what I imagine may be altogether wrong. But those who make this mistake think that it is ultra-genteel.

I come now to my last complaint. There are two words in the dictionary that have become well-nigh obsolete. I mean "stupid" and "stupidity." We hear nothing but "dumb" and "dumbness." This is enough to make Noah Webster turn over in his grave. Not only do we hear it in conversations, but the best publications transgress also. The first time I ever heard the word "dumb" used to mean "stupid" was only back in 1904. A preacher, speaking of a young man who did not come to church very often, said, "Oh, well, he is a dumb sort of a fellow anyway." My pastor told me in the year 1900 that he had seen, in his time, new words come into use and other words change their meaning. It may be, however, that there was no more justifiable in his time than it is now in our time. Certainly it is not a person's fault if he was born deaf, dumb, or blind. Helen Keller had all these afflictions heaped upon her, but, with the help of a friend and sympathizer, she has become a very intelligent woman. It is no more right to call a person who is stupid, dumb, than it is right to call one who is dumb, stupid. No two words have a more widely different meaning. It will reflect on this generation if we permit the custom that now prevails to become permanent.

As for me, I cannot be true to the best that I know unless I rub it in whenever I can. "By thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned."

CHARLES MARTIN,
R. F. D. No. 3,
Birmingham.

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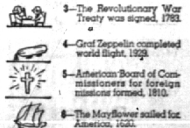

"An empty purse fills the face with wrinkles."

SEPTEMBER

3—The Revolutionary War Treaty was signed, 1783.

4—Graf Zeppelin completed world flight, 1929.

5—American Board of Commissioners for foreign missions formed, 1810.

6—The Mayflower sailed for America, 1620.

7—Queen Elizabeth of England, born, 1533.

8—Huey Long, Louisiana senator, shot, 1935.

9—French troops stopped the Germans at the Marne, 1914.

CIVIC LOYALTY DAY, Sept. 16

A Reluctant Fox

The V. W. H. (Cirencester) met at Mimety Old Inn on Saturday. A Filisteridge fox was chopped. Another fox was found at once, but was reluctant to leave covert, and, going away eventually around Coatley, he was killed near East Court House.—London Times.

CIVIC LOYALTY DAY, Sept. 16

A FRIENDLY BANK

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