

The Birmingham Eccentric

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THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 1940

Over in Birmingham's Community House Monday afternoon several hundred women spent most of the afternoon playing bridge. But it wasn't an ordinary bridge party. It was part of a local program to raise funds for one of the most helpful of social programs...

A Starr That Shines Brightly! The ladies were doing their bit to raise funds to assist in supporting the Starr Commemorative, that famous school for underprivileged and slightly mal-adjusted boys, located on the edge of Albion, Michigan. Founder and head of the Commemorative is Floyd Starr...

It happened to the editor of this newspaper to introduce many illustrious persons to audiences: among them are United States Senators, Governors, college and university presidents, and mayors...

A group of Michigan editors has organized themselves for the purpose of combating bossism in this state. The organization is known as the Michigan Fourth Estate Group...

These editors mean business and the citizens of this fair state may be assured that their organization is no fly-by-night outfit. It is organized for long-time activity and is a non-partisan group which does not plan to endorse candidates or make party issues...

Perhaps the congressional committee investigating the "pipeline to God," Royal Oak Daily Tribune. Do you know what the southern Negroes call the federal government's WPA program? Over at the Community House Monday noon...

Meaning of W. P. A., South from the Benson Vocational & Agricultural School, of Moselle, Miss.; the spokesman for the group, between rendition of Negro spirituals, gave a number of facts about the south, among which was his explanation of WPA. "The southern Negro can't vote because no matter how much he learns the white folks never agree that he can give a proper interpretation of the Constitution—and so the Negro has no power in government; one result of this is the lack of public schools for colored boys and girls. Lots of Negro children have an exclusive control of the public schools in the south for their children. So we Negroes have come to call the WPA the White People's Association."

An Ignoramus able a person to distinguish between epithets and reason when considering any matter discussed. Usually, it humbles those who begin to know some of the little truth that human beings have been able to discover...

SENTENCING OF FORMER Judge Minton, of New York, to the federal penitentiary for accepting loans, unpaid later in many cases it is reported, from clients whose cases were looked upon favorably in his court, suggests one important social business—judges never would have been able to become corrupt.

Criminals, like honest and law-abiding citizens, have no mysterious origin, but are "home grown." J. Edgar Hoover, America's Number One G-man, who fixes responsibility for crime within the family circle in his current Rotarian Magazine article on juvenile delinquency.

"Character, good or bad, gets its original set at the dinner table, in front of the dining-room fire, in the basement workshop or playroom, even perhaps in the woodshed—wherever parents and their children meet live with one another, react on one another." Hoover tells Rotarian readers. Very few parents consciously and willfully instill criminal tendencies in their youngsters, he says, but criminal tendencies are picked up outside the home because of improper child-rearing training.

"Boys seek the street and the outside, and become receptive to the criminal ideas and ideals of tough pals or gangs, usually for just one reason: somehow, whether because of indifference, ignorance, laziness, or stupidity, the home and parents have failed," he reasons out of 15 years' experience based on hundreds of cases. "That this is true—and discouraging—is shown in the fact that throughout the past year the largest number of individuals arrested by ages fell in the 13-year-old group, while those 18 years old at the moment. One out of every five boys arrested was under 21 years of age."

"The greatest of all recipes for crime prevention is understanding of boy nature by older people, especially parents. It is chiefly from homes where misunderstanding or indifference occurs which drive boys into haphazard relationships outside, that the men are recruited whom we of the Federal Bureau of Investigation later know, and conduct nation-wide hunts, as kidnappers, murderers, forgers, thieves, rapists, and other public enemies," G-Man Hoover asserts.

If the Governor of Michigan adopted a "holier-than-thou attitude toward an ordinary newspaper editor like me, he probably would get away with it. Chances are he would be right. But when he tries this on such an outstanding churchman as Reverend John E. Marvin, editor of the Michigan Christian Advocate, that's a horse of a different hue. It is harder to make that stick.

Many serious-minded church people feel that the Governor was downright insulting when he advised the editor to pray and urge that he be "forgiven" for an editorial that was critical of the Governor.

It is quite possible that Gov. Dickinson has made a mistake. It does not seem likely that the people of Michigan, when they elected him lieutenant-governor, also declared that anyone who should question him on any issue should thereby be branded as un-Christian.

The editorial which so aroused the Governor (and probably his "advisors") was a calm discussion of the situation which faces the State of Michigan. But it stirred the executive into making the charge that Rev. Mr. Marvin had been "influenced by certain elements."

"The identity of those who influenced the editor is not for me to say, but let us pray that in doing so they will receive the guidance of God in directing his writings and acts," Governor Dickinson said.

How many men, even the Governor of Michigan, could assume that he is the chief "holy man" of the state and that such a leading minister as Mr. Marvin needs advice on when and how to pray, is the height of effrontery.

In an interview the Governor said further: "We know where we are going in Lansing, and Mr. Marvin's editorial will not change our course."

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ONE SIDE, GENTLEMEN



Happenings of Long Ago

Forty Years Ago April 24, 1890 The Birmingham Improvement Society regret their inability to present their play as advertised at Franklin, owing to absolute refusal of the star of the play to appear before the crowned heads of Franklin.

Forty Years Ago April 25, 1915 When the Birmingham public schools reopened Monday at the close of the spring recess, it will be with the assurance they will remain open until the expiration of the full nine month term on June 15th. This assurance will go on, provided last Thursday when the State Loan Board in Lansing approved the Board of Education's request.

Forty Years Ago April 23, 1915 Electric cleaner for rent. \$1 per for a loan of \$20.00.

From the Women's Angle

By NELLIE HURLEY MINNIE Even worse than going to the dentist. I hate having my picture taken. It's no laughing matter, either, for once you've been frightened by a camera you aren't likely to forget it. There was a day when I was carefree and young and happy. I went blithely about my business, never caring a fig for the unimportant things in life. And then I had my picture taken. I've never been the same.

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I'll Leave It to You

By JOHN DENLER Every so often I find myself in a home where the wife does practically all of the talking and her husband just sits around like a bump on a log and says nothing that is worth anything to speak of.

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Knocking on Wood!

with JOHN H. HARWOOD

Informally Speaking Most congressmen, dealing with agricultural problems, think that farming is all about. Some of them have even planted window boxes.

The allies seem to be having a lot of trouble picking the right cabinet ministers, but the soldier at the front, who has a date with a bullet, isn't much interested in who puts him on the back.

You had better remember to keep your shirt on during the heat of the presidential campaign unless, of course, you have already lost it.

Civil Service "Massachusetts" As long as we, as a nation, can laugh, we are not lost. John City has a sense of humor; proved by the fact that for 157 years, the politicians have been milling around trying to operate the government, with seldom the people becoming so disgraced or incensed as to revolt.

Then why all the furor? Why the criticism? This isn't the first time we have heard bad meedricity of our public affairs. The answer is this: The situation of our country is just an ordinary man, and didn't assume the air of one good and holy there would be no fuss and feathers. But the governor is not an ordinary man, and didn't assume the air of one good and holy there would be no fuss and feathers.

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SIGNATURE LOANS TO SALARIED EMPLOYEES WITH SATISFACTORY CREDIT RATING Wabek State Bank of Detroit BIRMINGHAM OFFICE—WABEK BLDG. FERNDALE OFFICE—141 WEST NINE MILE RD. MAIN OFFICE—FISHER BLDG., DETROIT DOWNTOWN OFFICE—FORD BLDG.