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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1940

NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events which have value and which are written by persons who can be presented before the public. All copy must be presented before noon on Wednesday. All copy must be presented before noon on Wednesday. All copy must be presented before noon on Wednesday.

The European war presents an opportunity to the nations of this hemisphere to develop commercial ties and there are signs that considerable attention is being paid to the possibilities.

We Must Buy To Sell
 Just the same, never forget that other nations in this hemisphere want to sell a lot of things that the United States has to sell. Naturally, the market that one wants is desired by the others. This makes it difficult to arrange matters so that all nations can profit from developing commercial ties with other American nations.

The United States, for example, would like to sell manufactured goods to South and Central America. In return, they would like to sell something to us. The question is what are we willing to buy.

Inasmuch as it is necessary for other nations to sell their goods somewhere before being able to buy anything, and because European markets are affected by the war, it is obvious that the United States must do some buying if it expects to do much selling.

Most persons examine and treasure expensive gifts or purchases that come their way, but few can tell you anything about the money they handle daily.

The Money You Spend
 It can't be that everyone gets too much money. The complaint is seldom heard. It must be that it goes too fast and its users have no time to get acquainted.

Take the one and five-dollar bills, for instance. (We would take the two-spot, but, according to superstition, it's unlucky.) Not many persons will tell you when the water in Lincoln appears on the five. (It's Lincoln, not the eagle.) There is little doubt in anyone's mind that the eagle appears on one side of the great seal of the United States, but it is not as well known what's on the other. The answer is found on a one-dollar bill, where the reverse of the seal is shown with the date of issue, date of 1776 and the Latin motto, Annuit Coeptis, meaning "He (God) has smiled on (our) undertakings."

If you look closely, you will notice a lifelike sparkle in the eyes of men pictured on the bills. It is this quality that is looked for by government agents in the detection of counterfeit money. The expert portrait engraver can obtain this effect, but few counterfeiters can obtain this effect, but few counterfeiters can obtain this effect.

The myriad of red designs, lines and whorls that add beauty to the bills are put there to make U. S. money hard to duplicate accurately. One of the two signatures reveals that W. A. Julian, not Henry Morganthau, Jr., is the treasurer of the United States.

Little articles like the scales of justice, a key, stars, pearls, leaves and a dozen Latin words all appear on the one-dollar bill. Take a better look at the next one you get. To know your money won't increase the value of it in any of the stores, but it will increase your storehouse of knowledge and afford you more appreciation of these little works of art our government circulates.

The UNITED STATES Department of Justice, on petition of the Jewish People's Committee, has agreed to investigate the activities of the Rev. Charles E. Coughlin, Royal Oak radio priest. The latter appears to be involved in the recently exposed "Christian front" of which group were taken into custody by FBI agents a few weeks ago and charged with planning to overthrow the government of the United States. The results of the department's investigation ought to make interesting reading whichever direction they trend.

GOVERNOR DICKINSON recently sided in with Liquor Control Commissioner Orrin DeMass, against the Governor's old Charlotte friend, Muri H. DeFoe, who, in his capacity as a member of the same Commission, opposed DeMass' liquor from certain distillers. The Governor's opposition to DeFoe, a noted dry, ought to interest the Governor's temperance friends in Michigan.

MICHIGAN has many buildings completed, but unfinished, to care for the afflicted people of this State; Governor Dickinson says the State has no money to equip them. If the Governor really wants to get some money for that worthy purpose he ought to pay some attention to the incompetency and inefficiency of the State's present purchasing methods—that is one important place where he can save money and use it for helping the afflicted.

So GOVERNOR DICKINSON has consulted a Lansing palmett! He is probably too old to take counsel other than a curious interest in such necromancy. It would seem to us. But then, one never can tell, especially in the world of politics. We do know, as do you, that many politicians are interested in palms, only not so harmlessly as our Governor was, of course.

"I wish that you could have been with me the other evening and heard Governor Dickinson challenge Michigan editors to come to Lansing and show him how and where a Tammany gang controls the government of the State of Michigan," wrote Floyd J. Miller, publisher of the nearby Royal Oak Daily Tribune in his "Personally Speaking" column one day last week. "You would have been impressed with his sincerity, as I was. So were most of the people with whom I later talked."

"Likewise I wish you could have been with me for the three days during which I attended an annual meeting of the Michigan Press Association. If you could have talked with the same state officials, legislators, public employees, newspaper men and others in close touch with state affairs, you would have felt, I am sure, as I do about the whole thing. There is something decidedly rotten in Michigan."

There are sharp differences of opinion in Michigan as to whether the Governor does or does not know what is going on. My own feeling is that a very honest and sincere gentleman is being fooled by the group in actual control. Under the circumstances, there is no reason why he shouldn't be. Governor Dickinson thinks Fitzgerald is honest. He is, of course, but that leads him to all kinds of wrong conclusions.

"The spotlight of publicity is shining on the political bosses of Michigan in a way that they have never experienced before. And it hasn't started yet. But already they are squirming."

"So, naturally, they adopt the methods of denial and defense that have proven useful in the past. One of these tricks is to demand elaborate and detailed proof. If this demand can be voiced for them by an honest governor who is reluctant to believe evils about anyone, that's swell window dressing for him."

"But," you may ask, "isn't that exactly what any innocent man or group would do? What move is there except to demand proof from those who accuse you?" In that, my friends, lies the excellence of this move. It is exactly the one that honest men would take. That's why it's so simple.

"All you have to do is to compare this situation with other smelly ones in other states. Then you get more of a proper line-up on it."

"Did you ever hear that the guy named Al Capone was supposed to be a vicious Chicago character, responsible for crimes of every hue? Did you ever hear that under Boss Pendergast, the political affairs of Kansas City were a stench in the nostrils of the whole country? Did you ever hear of these things hundreds, perhaps thousands of times. Matters were so notoriously bad that newspapers and magazines were full of them for years. Yet, what was ever 'proved' against either of these men in court? The long and the short of it is that they were never convicted of any crime. They were never convicted of any crime. They were never convicted of any crime."

"When you consider cases like these, you realize that the proof for 'proof' may be just a sign means of trying to shut up critics."

"It won't work in this case because too many people, including some fifty Michigan newspaper publishers, are going to keep hammering at this situation until they get somewhere. They are going to see that facts are brought before them and if we knew enough facts, that we would know what to do with them. We need a leader and plenty of publicity. What are you going to do about it?"

"I have a suspicion that in this particular instance, Governor Dickinson was pushed into a situation that was not of his own making. It is not the first time this has happened."

"The Governor, in my challenge, made much of the fact that he had invited an unnamed editor to come to Lansing at the Governor's expense to 'show me how a Tammany gang controls Michigan.' The editor, after several exchanges of correspondence, had refused to accept the offer, the Governor said. The natural inference of the editor had been unable and so had been driven to retreat."

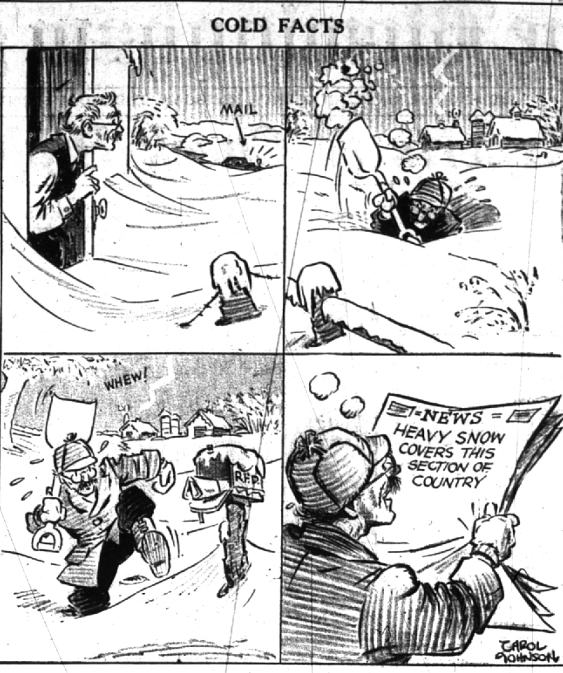
"The truth of the matter is that the editor involved had never criticized the Governor nor made any charges. The whole affair developed from a public hearing of the discussion of the Governor. Some subscribers to the paper had criticized the Governor; other had defended him. It might have been a smart trick to try to put these words into the mouth of the editor and to make him defend them. It is not the kind of maneuver which Mr. Dickinson would ever think of. If you wish to ask, 'Well then, what did think it up?' go ahead and do so. Provide your own answer, too. You're as good a guesser as I am, and probably both of us would be pretty correct."

"It may have been a coincidence that this development came right after the Republican state chairman admitted that Frank McKay was paying a lot of party bills, but that he didn't know what bills McKay was paying. This was followed by a McKay statement by the Michigan Fourth Estate Group asking whether McKay was paying bills out of his own pocket, or whether he was using contributions from Michigan citizens was a sad confession of McKay's dominating influence in Republican affairs."

"Now don't ask me 'What's wrong with that?' I couldn't stand it."

MANY MICHIGAN REPUBLICANS attended the Detroit Downtown Republican Club's banquet one evening last week. Quite a little money, we understand, accrued to the Club's treasury from the sale of beer sales, to be used by certain Republicans in their 1940 political campaign.

JUST WHY SOME MICHIGAN bankers and brokers should hold a "testimonial dinner" in honor of a man who has lost his job, we can't understand. If Dankeil has lost his job, why should taxpayers ought to dine him—not a bunch of bankers whose vaults may, or may not, hold some of the State's funds.



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's Note—Following are some of the letters received by the editor. "What Responsibility Have Newspapers in a Self-Government?" delivered by Mr. Averill, last Saturday evening.

Dear Mr. Averill,
 My husband and I greatly enjoyed your radio talk Saturday night. It was well timed and had been longer. We know you have the courage so now more power to you!
 Sincerely,
 Bernice A. Brook
 Bloomfield Hills.

Dear G. R. A.:
 I agree with you that it is up to the citizens to take action towards better government, but they need a leader. We the public, don't know how to go about leading ourselves. Of course Michigan government is a mess and if we knew enough facts, that is, enough to make a good case against the present mess, we wouldn't know what to do with them. We need a leader and plenty of publicity. What are you going to do about it?
 Sincerely,
 Justin P. Buckridge
 Birmingham

Dear Mr. George R. Averill, Birmingham Eccentric:
 I want to tell you how much I enjoyed your radio talk last Saturday night. It was well timed and had been longer. We know you have the courage so now more power to you!
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Knocking on Wood!
 with JOHN H. HARWOOD

INFORMALLY SPEAKING
 The trouble with the people these days is that the producers shoot too many scenes and not enough takes.

The President evidently hasn't told Mrs. Roosevelt that the third term. No woman could keep a secret this long.

A skull was found in Oklahoma recently which experts say probably was that of the first white man in Indian territory. The skull showed several deep dentures. Below it that he was a married man.—Altoona Tribune.

I'll Leave It to You
 (An essay on the high price of pretzels)

By JOHN DENLER

I am not bragging but I have had quite a number of letters from people who apparently read the stuff I write asking me everything from what color my eyes were to how I changed my mind. I write sitting down or standing up. I decided that, rather than to settle the matter by answering each one separately, I'd try to put down a few facts here and there. Ever since I've had a yen to write, I've been putting me in just about the same class with 125 million other Americans. First I tried writing on the wallpaper, but this didn't work very well because in those days I was so busy that I couldn't find time to give up my writing. I tried to erase it the eraser left a smudge that sort of interfered with the pattern. So I gave that up.

When I was about five years old the family had a blackboard and a box of chalk and I started to work all over the place. I was five and a half I got to sneezing about three quarters of the time so my mother and father would have to find out whether I had a cold. The doctor said I had chills and advised me to see the doctor. So that was the end of that.

But I was undaunted. By the time I was in the second half of the first grade I was doing a first-class job of writing in textbooks (the ABC's, remember), and this continued up to the time I entered high school and had to buy my own books and figured I'd better just write on plain paper for a change.

The high point in my writing career came when I wrote my first theme for freshman rhetoric at the University of Michigan. The title of it was "On Taking Down a Professor." Well, the professor read it aloud to the class, and it was all about how I was overbooked. The professor told that the professor couldn't figure out where the screen-came in. Then finally he got to the last sentence which read: "And only yesterday I saw them taking down the screens." Well, the professor left his face and he put the thing down on his desk and he smiled. I like to think that it doesn't have anything to do with taking down the screens. Darned if I don't. And he gave me an "A" on it.

And right then I decided that the way to become a writer is to pick your subject, then write about something else.

SYPHATHY FOR FINLAND
 What we are now about to witness will probably bring down upon the head of this commentator a shower of bricks, but that very fact proves our point.

If we get involved in the present war it will be because we are intensely sympathetic for England, France, and their allies, because we are possessed and motivated for our enemies and fearful for our own safety. A good example of this is the fact that we are about to see the present sympathy for the brave Finns.

Mrs. Richard Hatch is very ill with a very severe attack of the grippe and this causes Richard to stay at home to the sad disappointment of his many patrons.

Don't forget the Troy oracles' grand social hop at National Hall Friday evening, Feb. 21. All are invited and a good time guaranteed.

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Why Not Raise Taxes?
 Raise taxes? That may sound like a ludicrous suggestion to many people at this time, or at any time, but there is an angle involved that is often overlooked.

A great segment of our population thinks a big spending program is a grand thing. They like pump priming, more jobs, more armaments, more aid for the farmer; more care for the aged, the blind, the needy, the underprivileged. The huge increase in governmental expenditures during the past 10 years has been felt by the taxpayers, yes, but not enough to make the general public realize that all these things cost money. The real price has not been felt because the activities have been made possible to a great extent by borrowing money. In 1931, the national debt was almost \$17,000,000,000. Now it is almost \$45,000,000,000.

If, instead of going into debt we had financed at least part of these great governmental undertakings by passing on the cost immediately in the form of higher taxes, perhaps Congress and the Administration would not have been so free with the spending.

Five Years Ago
 Feb. 13, 1935

A farmer tells the following true story: He went into a market in an adjoining town and bought a roast for his Sunday dinner. He came to 85 cents. He found his way home he couldn't find his roast. Searched all over himself, turned up his pocket inside out, but he found the roast in his overcoat pocket, and that made him look into his pocketbook and there he found his roast beef for his Sunday dinner. This is a true story and only a few years ago it was common.

Mr. and Mrs. M. Levinson are home again from Rochester, Minn. Mrs. Levinson is very much better and will soon regain her usual good health. Mr. Levinson is back in the store again and is pleased to see his many friends. While in Rochester he saw the old thermometer at \$42 living below zero, and he says, "Believe me, it was some cold."

Five Years Ago
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The action of the Board of Education in authorizing \$20,000 for the purchase of a new building, committing itself to an operating deficit of at least \$41,500 for the year, even if 60 per cent of the taxes are collected, has resulted in the resignation of Charles S. Kimmon as publicity agent for the School Board in its re-stimulation campaign.

The Rev. Dr. M. S. Rice will address the annual conference of the Father and Son banquet to be held in the Community House Monday evening, Feb. 25.

Positive proof of the ability of City Commissioner Luther Heacock as an administrator is being furnished by the Birmingham Hardware store window. It is a huge pipe 34 inches long and weighs 124 pounds. It was speared Tuesday through the lee of a private lake near LaPore.

Trains At Night
 I want to tell you how the trains go rushing past. Cutting their way through the stars of the night. The long black caravans that move so with their rows of little windows glowing.

I like to hear the engine whistle pierce the deep thick silence of the night. Its echoes lingering along on the busy air.

The smoke plumes slowly mounting the very sky.

To shadow the brightness of some low hung star.

I want to always live where the crossing is.

And the trains of the lonely night go hurtling by.

BEATRICE Mc DONALD

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 DOWNTOWN OFFICE IN THE FORD BUILDING
 BRANCHES IN BIRMINGHAM - FERRAIDE