

All of us want to be happy; to be happy make others happy and, as the mirror reflects the image, so will the happiness you create in others become part of yourself.

# The Birmingham Eccentric

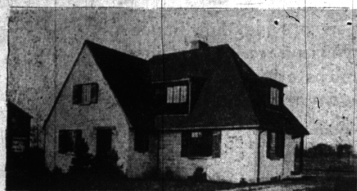
PART THREE

FIFTY-FIRST YEAR—NO. 31

BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1928

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## WHISTLING TILT ENJOYED

County Champion Announced After Contest At Theater

Echoes of the whistling contest at the Birmingham Theater, sponsored by The Birmingham Eccentric, Friday night are still ringing in Birmingham today. Twenty-five dollars in prizes were distributed to contestants and the county champion named.

He is William Dean, a student at Baldwin High School. Dean was given the \$10 prize when the audience decided they liked his tunes better than those offered by Micky McKee, a Western Union Telegraph messenger. However, McKee's melodies were so good that Harry Doyle, assistant manager of the theater, who acted as master of ceremonies, awarded him \$5 as second prize.

Made Them Keep On Although the contest was scheduled to last but 20 minutes, so keen was the enthusiasm of the audience that the whistlers whistled long past that time and the applause seemed to increase as time went on. They were there at all ages. The youngest to take the stage was Jack Mitten, 5 years old, who almost had to stand on tip toe to be seen above the footlights. Jack and Micky managed to get hitched together in one contest and Jack was given more applause. With it came \$3, but Micky was awarded the second place and the \$2 prize.

The distinction of being the loudest whistler in all Birmingham is boasted today by Stan Turner, a junior at the Baldwin High School. This young man came closer to shaking the rafters of the building than any of the other contestants in his division and was handed \$3.

50 Contestants There were fully 50 persons on the stage and their varieties of whistling to the accompaniment of Morgan Caruso at the piano, numbered far more than 50. Stage fright manifested itself in many cases and what would start out to be imitations of a steam boat would end as meek as the baying of a newly born lamb.

The only girl on the stage was Louise Foster, seven years old. Louise came right up when she saw the money being distributed and walked away with \$1. Her whistling attempts and later her singing attempts proved her versatile. A not noisy.

Turner, who took the stage on a dare from his companions, did not keep his easily gotten wealth long. His backers soon became managers after the performance and ordered him to stand treat for audiences for most of the village. Dean put \$5 in circulation and the other \$5 in the bank. McKee, who was loudly applauded by his friends in the Birmingham Motorcycle club, placed his \$7 in the bank.

## SUNSHINE IN DARKNESS

Village Songster Works Gayly Despite Blindness



MR. AND MRS. HAROLD KEAN

who runs over the melodies for him, helping him to memorize his songs. "Three readings of the average popular song are usually enough," Mr. Kean said, "although when I am putting on a program of musical comedies it takes longer."

Revives Musical Comedies In his work at WGHP he often revives old musical comedies. "There is a great deal of interest in old favorites such as 'The Pink Lady' and 'Mlle. Modiste,'" he said.

Perhaps the saddest thing in the story of this Sunshine Boy is the fact that twice he has regained his sight—for a few hours. Two years ago he underwent an operation on his eyes. It was a success. In a short time he would see as other persons. The very day he was on his way to the doctor's office to have his bandages removed he was struck by a motor truck. There was a tremendous nervous shock and his sight was lost again. He may go about the rest of his days in darkness, but to the world he will be known as "The Sunshine Boy"—a singer of jazz tunes.

Broadcasting Five Years For the past five years Mr. Kean has been broadcasting with W.B. WCN and WGHP, and it is estimated that in that time he has memorized 1,300 songs. Besides songs, Mr. Kean often broadcasts trombone and guitar selections. For two years he was known to listeners in at "Walt's Wednesday program of the Sunshine Boy and his guitar."

"It all started as a joke about the studio," Mr. Kean said in speaking of the nickname. "Often the announcer would speak of me as the Sunshine Boy, then I became known for an even disposition and the name stuck." Never in his life has Mr. Kean allowed his blindness to interfere with his plans. Blinded by a childhood accident, he turned to entertaining while still very young. His courage led him to enter a public school that never before had admitted a blind person. Nor is his life today much different from that of seeing persons. Mr. Kean is an ardent movie fan. His marriage is the result of a movie courtship. Often the young couple would be seen going to the Detroit theaters. Through the eyes of his wife he followed the actors, and it was her ability to tell him the story with an occasional whisper and pressure on his hand that led to the romance. The young couple would live in the world of the actors, feeling their every emotion. Now the "Talkies" have come and there is little need of the whispered story, but still the young people are often seen together in the theater—and now there is a third movie fan—Claire Rose.

Enjoys Books "If there is one thing I enjoy as much as movies it's good literature," Mr. Kean said. "I drive people crazy asking them to read to me. I presume it is because I am high-strung and taut from so much memory work and I find books such a mental relief." It was sheer persistence that took Mr. Kean into radio work. "The first time I stood before a microphone I had an intuition that here was my future, and it was. My mother says that perhaps the biggest thrill of her life was the time she tuned in and heard my voice. Now my parents follow my work nightly from their home in Shreveport, Louisiana." His wife, who is a graduate of the Baldwin High School and was known to villagers as Amy Baldwin, is also musical. It is she

## CHANGES PLEA, PAYS \$100 FINE

Chase Ends In Arrest Of Drunken Motorist; Companions Held

Changing his plea from not guilty to guilty, a Detroit man, convicted of driving while drunk before Justice Floyd S. Buck, was fined \$100 with the option of 60 days in jail Tuesday when brought to court by Sergt. Delos Anderson of Bloomfield Hills village. Two companions were fined on disorderly charges.

Clarence Cousinau, who gave his address as the Blackstone Hotel, Detroit, the driver, was nabbed by Anderson after a chase starting in the Hills and ending north of Pontiac.

The officer's attention was attracted to the car when he noticed an erratic course was being taken. He immediately started in pursuit.

The two companions of Cousinau were Eugene Wigginton, who was fined \$25 and Bert Riggs, fined \$50. The heavier fine was imposed on Riggs because he is said to have broken a bottle containing alleged liquor when Anderson drove along side their car.

## Schools Consider Annual Report

Clarence Vliet, superintendent of schools, was authorized by the board of education Monday night, to investigate the cost of an annual report of the Birmingham public schools.

The annual report which will be a survey of activities of the schools during the year and will be in book form for parents of school children, Mr. Vliet said.

Mr. Vliet is to report on prices and similar annual surveys of neighboring schools at the next board meeting Nov. 26.

WE HEARD IT SAID BY— Mrs. Nancy B. Thomas, librarian: "There is one admirable thing about a child's literary taste. He is never influenced by what others are reading, nor by an author. He reads whatever pleases him and him alone."

## November Planting

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