

# BACK FENCING

By  
A MAN ABOUT TOWN

The papers are carrying headlines which state that the Democrats are again leading in the election returns. It is beginning to look like the folks really like the present set-up and are in favor of sit-downs, a new Supreme Court and all the other things which are now in the public eye. Experience has sometimes proven to have been a sad, sad teacher.

Last week we met several local young men who are employed over in Pontiac at the General Motors Truck plant, shortly after they returned to Birmingham following the sit-down. We questioned every one of them individually, and found that NOT ONE of them was in sympathy with the Union. One said that he had joined under pressure but hoped that the entire situation would soon return to normal conditions. The one new union member said that he had "ducked out" before they had herded all the union men together for the strike. We have often been told about the "strong arm of the law" . . . but it appears that the strength has forsaken the law and become lodged in the lawless.

Many of the local housewives evidently forgot about the Wednesday closing of most of the local food stores last week, and as a result the doors of the closed stores during the afternoon. In a few weeks, perhaps, herding will be remembered and the store owners and clerks can enjoy their half holiday without worrying that some of their customers are being inconvenienced.

We heard about an unfortunate individual who dropped in on our fair city from who do not know where, and had seemingly indulged in at least ONE too many sips of the cup. He made his way down W. Maple Ave., and insisted on calling on the pastor of the local Presbyterian church. It seems that the poor fellow attended the Presbyterian Church back home and had made up his mind that the local minister was just the man to see while in town. He said that he finally found the church but whether or not his visit was welcomed we do not know. We presume Mr. Wright handled the situation in his own diplomatic manner.

We've been told that the cook-in-chief at the Community House was a dandy. On passing the building about 9:30 on Tuesday morning we saw several women hastening towards the building, and they all had those marketing bags in their hands. They evidently "knew their stuff" and were prepared to carry away everything that they saw, which brings up the question—"Which is uppermost in the minds of those attending cooking schools—to learn to prepare new dishes OR carry home an armful of prizes and samples? They are both pretty good ideas, we would say.

One very nice lady who attended the Cooking School was heard to remark that if she could look as nice in that beautiful black gown as Mrs. Harold Dick did, she would go right down to Healy's and buy it. From our observation that would be shooting pretty high.

Mr. George Boutwell, one of Birmingham's most friendly citizens is just getting around after quite an attack of one of the forms of the Flu. That California sunshine must have softened him up so that he just could not stand Michigan's cold March winds. He must have stayed longer these early Spring days are not too enjoyable.

Police Officer Grant Springfield certainly wasn't "monkey-steal" around the other day when he scampered up a tree near the Municipal building to pull down a marooned cat.

We haven't heard of any new "weddings" about to come off, but we guess we were right about Bill Aitken. He admitted it, and has turned up missing, so we suppose "they" are in their honeymoon. How nice!

We dropped in to see Garbo at the local theatre the other evening and sat directly in back of three young women who just had the time of their lives. One was all a jitter and almost wore out the seat during the "TENSE" situations. The second was more placid and seemed to be a bit captivated about the whole thing, and the third was one of those persons who thought the soul-gripping scenes were just too funny herself quite audibly, to the amusement of those seated near her. Just as Garbo was releasing her lover (after a torrid love scene) she exclaimed—"She might be wrong, but I think the gals were darn teachers" . . . having more darn fun.

It was our pleasure to have spent the past week with a family which includes among their number a young lady who is completely blind. She showed me all her books which are written in braille, and explained the system by which the blind can read. We were surprised to learn that many of the most popular books of fiction

are released in braille soon after they are printed. She has read "Gone With The Wind," and said that it required several volumes to transcribe into the dotted alphabet. This blind girl of about 25 years keeps busy constantly with her reading and social activities. She is extremely happy and never complains . . . which brings me out thoughts for the week: Why is it that one who has lost that seemingly indispensable sense of sight can go about her daily life so happy and contented while all about her are her more fortunate fellow beings who can see the beauty and loveliness of this world, but are unhappy and sad? Perhaps we do not open our eyes to the good things about us, but grieve about for something we know not what. Perhaps we should take a lesson from the blind and be happier, more contented . . . more friendly.

## Foremost American Artists' Work Shown At Institute Of Arts

An opportunity to compare the work of the best-known American painters of today with those of yesterday is afforded Michigan this month at the Detroit Institute of Arts, where its Eighteenth Exhibition of American Art will be on view until May 3. In the large exhibition gallery hang fifty-eight paintings by the foremost living American painters—such as Leon Kroll, John Curry, John Sloan, William Glackens, Gifford Beal, and tetra-cos John Carroll. In the two smaller galleries hang thirty-six paintings and watercolors by two famous artists identified with the last century—Winslow Homer and Thomas Eakins.

Assembled from various collectors and museums from all over the country, the exhibition marks the resumption of one of the Institute's most popular events which until 1932 was held each spring for seventeen years. The usual admission fee of 25 cents is charged to defray expenses, and an evening catalogue is available for the same amount. Thursdays are free, both afternoons and evenings. Admission is free after 6:00 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings.

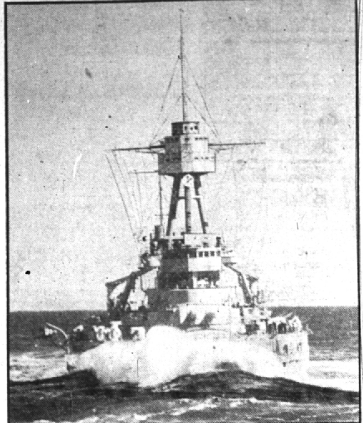
Of special interest not only to exhibitors but to every one interested in modern art and the modern age will be a series of four free illustrated lectures by Mr. Edgar P. Richardson, assistant director, on "An Analysis of Modern Taste. The lectures will be given in the museum lecture hall at four (4) different evenings during the American Exhibition—April 9, 16, 23, and 30.

## Comes Spring and the Army's 1937 'Dodo' Class Gets Aerially Under Way

The flying cadets of the army's "Dodo" class are the beginners, the first two departments give the cadet instruction in those subjects essential to the development of the airplane pilot and military aviator, while the military department is maintained to prepare the student for the duties of the regular army air corps officer or an officer of the organized reserves.

All cadets, arbitrarily, are qualified men. All have completed two years of college work or have passed an examination providing equivalent tests. All

## Envoy to Coronation Naval Review



Chosen to represent the United States in an international naval review off Southsea, England, May 18, in connection with the coronation of King George VI, is the battleship New York, shown above. Dispatch of the ship will be in response to an invitation by the British government to the United States and other foreign nations to participate in the review. The New York was the flagship of the American Squadron in the World War.

## Only 19, So He's Still Growing!



This business of growing up is really getting to be something for 19-year-old Robert Wadlow of Alton, Ill., shown above visiting with a friend. Robert is now 8 feet 7 inches tall and is still growing. Although his family has been opposed to his traveling with a circus, Robert has just signed contracts calling for appearances in New York, Boston and Brooklyn, in a "dignified" act.

**NO CHANCES**  
Cowboy: "My pedner and I are taking a trip through the desert next week. He's taking along a gallon of whiskey for rattlesnake bites."  
Visitor: "What are you taking along?"  
Cowboy: "Two rattlesnakes."

**HIS REST DISTURBED**  
Sergeant: "You're late to go on guard. What's the idea?"  
Private: "I overslept and . . ."  
Sergeant: "In all that bombardment?"  
Private: "I'd be sleeping yet if some guy hadn't been writing a letter with a scratchy pen!"

## Random Remarks

**Francisco Franco, rebel Spanish general:**  
"The Spanish Civil War is not essentially a class struggle; it is more a contest between the forces of good and evil."

**John L. Lewis, labor leader:**  
"If we can establish industrial democracy in the United States, we can insure the continuance of its political democracy."

**Frank Murphy, Governor of Michigan:**  
"The law should be obeyed and there should be no disobedience of court orders."

**Irving Lorge, doctor:**  
"People are never too old to learn. The mind does not deteriorate with age."

**Italo Balbo, Italian Governor of Libya:**  
"Italy proclaims herself a Mussulman power without falling down on her tasks and duties as a big Christian power."

**Wm. E. Borah, U. S. Senator from Idaho:**  
"Until you destroy the monopolistic control of the economic affairs of the United States, you are not going to have order and law."

**Arthur Vandenberg, U. S. Senator from Michigan:**  
"Such situations (sit-down strikes) cannot be successfully controlled with guns and bayonets."

**Franklin D. Roosevelt:**  
"The dangers of 1932 are again becoming possible; not within this week or month, perhaps, but within a year or two."

**William Green, president, A. F. of L.:**  
"An enlightened judiciary can be obtained at this time only by the infusion of new blood."

**Richard Sandler, Swedish Foreign Minister:**  
"A strong Britain constitutes a bastion of peace."

**Fiorella La Guardia, Mayor of New York:**  
"Anyone who has handed out as much abuse as I have can take it."

**Will Durant, author:**  
"Only ten per cent of our population passes through high school and that ten per cent breeds the least of all."

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