

A man ought to read just as inclination leads him; for what he reads as a task will do him little good.—Samuel Johnson.

SIXTIETH YEAR—NO. 17

T S and THAT

By G. R. A.
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, June 28, 1937.
In order to give you an idea of the comparative shortness of distances in Europe, let me inform you that our speedometer registered but 1142 miles since, ten days ago, we left Cherbourg, France. In those ten days we zig-zagged our way through much of Normandy into Paris, travelled across France through the war-torn areas of Chateau-Thierry, Reims, Verdun and St. Mihiel, into the rough, Colmar, Mulhouse, to the city of Basle, on the French-Swiss border, to Zurich for a brief stop, to Lucerne for one half day, thence to this lovely city of Geneva, known to most of North America as the home-town of the League of Nations. One certainly can see more from an automobile in any land—and especially Europe, than from a train. I know, for before joining up with my family, as you all know, I went over some of this same territory, including Rome, Florence, and Venice, in Italy. So, with all the verve vigor I possess, I explore the continent in a trip to Europe to bring you our cars—on the whole, you will not only see more, but will see it well. At least this has been our experience to date.

It was after three o'clock Wednesday afternoon, June 23, when our family—my wife, two boys and I—left our Paris hotel for further adventures. We had spent the noon hour with the bells of Port Huron; Mrs. Avelin with John and Susan, had luncheon with Mrs. Weil at the George V. Hotel, while Bill and Jim may recall their time in my time in Italy in company with the Weils. That Rotary meeting, incidentally, is to become an historical one in Rotary international circles, for at it decorated the French and American Rotarians were presented to Will E. Maier, retiring President of the Rotary, in "Maison de la Paix" of Paris, de President, to Ed H. Johnson, immediate past-president of the Rotary movement, to Chesley R. Perry, Secretary of Rotary International, and to Howard Kinsinger, a member of the Secretary staff. Bill Maier's decoration was that of a Commander; when you consider that there are only 102 Frenchmen who have received this valued decoration, you may understand how much honor is esteemed by the French Republic. I was fortunate enough to be able to take pictures of the entire affair, and will send them to Chicago for publication in a forthcoming issue of the Rotary magazine. (I guess I have heretofore stated that I have assisted Leland Hess, editor of the magazine, in taking pictures of the Rotary Convention at Nice—and I still have the photographs of the convention and a number of other countries I have yet to visit).

But let me get on to the battle-line area of France, that is where my family is now headed as we endeavor to reach Chateau-Thierry before June 30th. The trip out of Paris was made without difficulty, and we passed the famous hour of the "Miracle" over the Atlantic. I stopped the car to take some pictures of the field, and almost before I had applied the brakes a fine looking, natty attired French girl rushed over to the car and, in word and gesture, sought to sell me a ticket to "go up in rain. Monsieur!" thanked her with a smile, (although the children would like to have gone up, of course), and continued on my way. Roads in France are good, though mostly narrow; the smaller towns, however, which the roads run through their houses along narrow streets, in huddles, for practical purposes are all very narrow. The roads are so narrow through them; even on the open highway they are all a super-highway in Europe such as we have between Detroit and Canton, where the trees are cut down. But there is one grand thing about French, Swiss, and Italian highways, where they are bounded by many fine and old trees; much of the time you are motoring beneath trees whose lofty branches meet in arches over your head—and just after we passed the Le Bourget airport came to a street of road, perhaps a mile in length, whose towering trees, (trees that grow on the side of the highway), make you think you were in some sort of an arboreal wonderland; it reminded me of a trip about twenty years ago, when "Muri" H. DeFoe, Charlotte newspaper editor, and drove from Detroit to Grand Marais, in the Upper Peninsula, and while driving through the woods, came to a road where the trees arched over head, and I stopped the car for

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The Camera

Pictures Depicting Birmingham at Turn-of-Century Win Week's Camera Contest

This week's prize in The Eccentric's camera contest goes to Albert J. Bodine, native of this city, who submitted a series of pictures of "the little village of Birmingham" which were snapped over 30 years ago. All of the photographs shown here are familiar to the "old timers."

Mr. Bodine, proprietor of Bodine's Book Store, was born in a house where Sibley's State now stands. He attended the old Hill School and his brother, William E. Bodine, was the first graduate of the Birmingham School, finishing in 1880.

The first picture shows the old National Bank and Hagerman's drug store, now the site of the Birmingham National Bank. Note the old-fashioned, ornate oil street lamp in the foreground. The upper floor of the hotel was used for dances and parties while Hagerman's Store also served as the postoffice.

The second picture shows Frank Ford's palatial residence on Saginaw Street, now Woodward Avenue. The same is now the site of the Temple. The third picture, showing a view of Potomac Street, was taken from the corner of Potomac Street and Henretta Street, now Saginaw Street, where the corner of the Potomac Street was frequently asked because of the narrowness of the street. It was known as "the Potomac" and was named after the Potomac River.

H. Irvin, Jr., A. Brush's store on Saginaw Street, shown in the fourth photo, stood where Huston's Hardware store is located. Saginaw then was a toll street with gates at about the 14-Mile Road to the South and Manor Road to the North. It costs seven cents to pass through.

Jim Heattie's livery stable with Nat Ford and his seven children is shown in the fifth picture. The sixth snap shows Mattie Baldwin, well known resident of this city, seated in her surry prepared for a spin. She was instrumental in starting the first rotary here and she contributed the property for Baldwin high school which was named after her.

The original First Baptist Church, standing on the site of the present church, is shown in the seventh picture. The last photograph shows the old Mill Pond, which was used for swimming in the winter and camp picnics in the summer.

CRASH INJURES YOUTH
Crack-Up Occurs Saturday Near Cranbrook And 14-Mile Roads
Edward J. Sharpe, 20605 14-Mile Road, escaped with deep cuts about his face and neck Saturday noon when he crashed his low-winged, yellow monoplane in a ravine just west of the intersection of Cranbrook and 14-Mile Roads while attempting a turn at a low altitude.

Mr. and Mrs. Elton F. MacDonald, 440 Lake Park drive, Mr. MacDonald is a partner in the sales promotion firm of Capple and MacDonald, in the General Motors building, Detroit. Mrs. MacDonald, who attended Mrs. Lamson's School for Girls, in Kentucky, says that she chose Birmingham as her prettiest and most generally satisfactory community in the Detroit region. They have one son, Robert, who is five months old.

Have You Met?
Mr. and Mrs. Elton F. MacDonald, 440 Lake Park drive, Mr. MacDonald is a partner in the sales promotion firm of Capple and MacDonald, in the General Motors building, Detroit. Mrs. MacDonald, who attended Mrs. Lamson's School for Girls, in Kentucky, says that she chose Birmingham as her prettiest and most generally satisfactory community in the Detroit region. They have one son, Robert, who is five months old.

Birmingham's Midget Mansion

SEWER WORK \$100 PER LOT

Residents Of Highland View Section Given Cost On Project

A report, compiled by the city engineering department and setting forth the probable cost of new sewers in the Highland View section of the community, was submitted by City Manager Donald C. Egbert to members of the commission Monday evening.

According to the report, it will cost the city to lay a sewer line for every two inches of rainfall per inch, are installed. The area involved includes Mohegan, Madison, Rivensack and Kenesaw Streets.

A heavy downpour Monday evening, July 12, flooded a number of basements in the Highland View section and resulted in a committee, composed of E. G. Gove and William Levy, appearing before the council the same evening to request municipal action on the matter.

At that time City Manager Egbert pointed out that the only way the city could take would be the levying of a special assessment to cover costs of installing new sewers. Such a levy, he pointed out, could be carried out only if all property owners in the area affected paid their assessment in advance of the work.

The commission agreed to have the engineering department prepare an estimate of the costs when Mr. Gove and Mr. Levy argued that the levying of such an assessment would be an assessment upon the individual costs.

Grant Quilt Claim Deed
Mr. Egbert stated that he was in receipt of a quit claim deed from the Grand Trunk Railroad for 92 yards of land which will provide an opening for Hamilton street to the New Woodward Avenue.

Golf Match Won By Local Exchanges
Exchanges of the local and Farmington clubs engaged in an inter-club golf match the past week at Glen Oaks Golf and Country Club with the Birmingham group coming out the winner, 29 1/2 to 25 points.

Matco scoring was used to determine the victors. John Fend, of the Farmington club, was low gross with 76 while Robert R. Allen posted a 77 for the local golfers. Forty took part in the 18-hole play while over 50 members of the two clubs enjoyed dinner at the club following the match. The Birmingham Exchanges will play their next club match early in September.

SUFFERS CONCUSSION IN FALL FROM TRUCK
Marie Watkins, 18-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Watkins, of 952 Edgemoor Ave., returned home from St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital Tuesday after a period of observation following an accident Saturday afternoon when she fell from a truck in the city.

Sharp, who is 21 years of age, purchased the ship from a Pontiac flyer several months ago. He attempted a flight Saturday night but crashed a wing in landing. Since that time the plane has been hauled out to a vacant field and took it out for a few minutes before the crash occurred.

Wife of W. Smith, 424 S. West Street, Royal Oak, witnessed the accident and rushed the injured youth to a local physician. Sharpe probably saved his life to the fact that a wing of the ship clipped a tree as the plane "panicked" to the ground spinning it around and preventing the craft from plunging into a ditch a few feet ahead. The pilot was thrown out of his seat as the ship spun around.

She told a reporter of The Eccentric that he had been given a student permit to fly but that he had crashed the monoplane. He was powered by a 125 horsepower motor capable of doing 170 miles an hour. The youth stated that he would junk the ship but continue to fly.

Repair Of Baldwin Roof Is Planned
Tentative plans for construction of a new roof on the Baldwin high school building were presented to the board of education Monday evening by Worden and Price, architects of the building. A complete study of the problem recently.

A spokesman for the architectural firm pointed out that the parapet wall of the building is in such a bad condition that the entire roof is in serious condition. The school board instructed the firm to submit specifications for the work to be done. The work will be completed for as soon as plans are completed. It is hoped that the construction nearly completed by September 10.

Edward J. Sharpe, 20605 14-Mile Road, discovered that the law of gravity still holds good. His low-winged, yellow monoplane crashed in a ravine near the intersection of Cranbrook and 14-Mile Roads, as he lost flying speed attempting a turn. He escaped with several deep cuts about the face and neck but his ship was wrecked.

Proposed School Budget \$243,361 For Fiscal Year

COMMUNITY HOUSE TO CLOSE ON SATURDAY

Miss Julia K. Lally, hostess at the Community House, announced today that the civic center will close its doors Saturday and suspend all activities for the following Labor Day, September 7. During the five week interval the House will undergo considerable renovating. Furniture will be upholstered where necessary, several of the rooms will be redecorated and some painting will be done. The past year has been one of the most successful since the House first opened.

TRAVEL TALK OFFERED CLUB

Charles J. Shain Is Speaker At Rotary Luncheon On Monday

Interesting side-lights of his travels through Europe during May and June were revealed to Rotarians by Charles J. Shain at the Monday luncheon of the club. President J. Mark Hardin was in charge of the assembly. E. G. Whitely serving as the day's program chairman.

A. S. BROWN IS VICE-COUNSEL

Local Resident Is Named To Diplomatic Post In Mexico

Somehow on the road between here and Mexico City a very excited young man, who was driving along towards the fulfillment of what might almost be called the dream of a lifetime, was Mr. Brown has recently been appointed vice-counsel.

He graduated from Cranbrook in 1931, entering Princeton with the express purpose of studying for the diplomatic service. After receiving his diploma from that university in 1935, Mr. Brown studied at a consular training school in Washington for a year.

While in Washington he took a competitive examination for the position which is now on his list to fill. The written part was given in March, and the oral section was not administered until August of the same year. Completing his studies, Mr. Brown returned to Birmingham to begin the long wait. He worked as a reporter on the Pontiac Press for a year or more in the interim of this month to be exact.

Group To Consider Plight Of Family

A meeting to discuss ways and means to alleviate the acute distress of a family here consisting of a mother and two children has been called by Mrs. H. H. Corson for Friday evening at 8 p. m. in the First Baptist Church. The session will be open to those constructively interested in such human problems.

Mrs. Corson, who was treasurer of the relief organization formed here in 1921-22, points out that the family in question is homeless and completely dependent on state emergency relief. The family receives \$11 every two weeks for food and \$10 per month for rent but this is far from adequate to care for a family of six.

J. B. HOWARTH & SON
General Insurance
1500 Woodward Building
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Box Springs Replaced and Restored
Royal Mattress
Ad. 1714