BACK FENCING

By A MAN ABOUT TOWN

Must be the March winds have been too cold lately, as the chatter has not been quite so general these past few days . . . . . and when the Back Fence is deserted and the folks don't talk, it just leaves us sort of stumped for news. ▲▲ Who thought that the quiet city of Birmingham would be the scene of a sit-down strike? . . . . . but it did happen. Last Saturday the carpenters decided to cease their hammering and the screeching saw was silenced over at the new apartment building adjacent to the Community House. Some one told us that they saw a bunch of "foreigners" hanging around the place . . . . . and by that term we think they meant folks who were not local people. Imported "pressure men" seems to be the usual thing in the newly created Sit-Down Strikes. And now we hear that the lumber men are DEMANDING something or other from their bosses. What and who will be next, we wonder. ▲▲ A very successful woman who operates a very popular eating place out in the Hills is said to have jokingly (?) told her employees that she thought a trip to Florida would be just the thing in the event of a sit-down strike. ▲▲ The Russel Hardmans, who formerly resided in Birmingham while Russ was managing the Goodyear Station here, and who moved to Poughkeepsie when another transfer came along, have moved again—and this time it was Elmira, N. Y. Join Goodyear and see the States, might be a good slogan. ▲▲ Word also comes from the Omer Lewis', and we find that they are enjoying themselves on the beach at Miami, Florida. It seems that more Michigan folks are taking their vacations in the early Spring than ever before—and it is not such a bad idea—we are thinking. ▲▲ One of the real features of the Girl Scout Banquet which was held last week was the total absence of speech-makers. Fact is—there were no speeches—and that is an innovation . . . . . and a good one. The girls sure pre-ned "tame" after attending Father and Son banquets which were so popular a few weeks ago. A group of Boy Scouts returned the favor—and served the Girls and their parents—and did a good job of it, too. ▲▲ Do you remember way back in the dim, dim past, when the grocer boy came to the house in the morning and "took the order" and then returned in the afternoon with the groceries? Those were the days—and we remember when Dad or Mother paid the bill, the grocer man always sent home a "bag of candy" for the kiddies at home. Well, smiling Mr. Levinson, who owns the big white front department store on Woodward seems to still "treat" his customers that way. We saw him handing out some gay little kerchiefs to some kiddies the other day—while the Dad was over at the cash register getting his change. It really seemed good to see the friendly-old-time store keeping in evidence again. ▲▲ Carl Strand, the head man of Strain-Steel, was heard to remark the other day in response to a question put to him that he did not think that Mass Production would ever become a reality in the construction of homes. He said that pre-fabricated homes were also out of the question as far as supplanting the present type of home construction. Europe has given such methods a rigid trial, and found many production to be unsuited to home building, except where a large group of homes are being built by one organization, at one location and at the same time. "Was interesting to hear his version of the question. ▲▲ We were glad to hear that the teachers of Birmingham are to get a raise in salary, beginning next Fall. We were told a short time ago that some of our school teachers were getting less salary than the local police officers. That seems rather out of line to us (Not that the boys in blue are being over-paid) due to the fact that teachers MUST spend considerable time and money in educating themselves so that they might properly guide our children in their educational life . . . . . and what GOOD soldiers our teachers were—during the recent depression. ▲▲ Ed. Whitney, the southern gentleman who edits The Eccentric, became the PROUD Father of a third son last Friday afternoon. One of the crew in the newspaper office passed on the information that Whitney sent the following telegram to his Father regarding the blessed event: "A third son, Craig Allen, was born today at 4:30 P. M. Mother and Son are doing fine, Father—unconscious." Suppose that there had been hopes for a Daughter—this time? One wag said," TWO more and you'll have a basketball team." ▲▲ New houses going up all over town—and the more of them we see, the more wonderful they prove to be. Wonder what our fore-fathers would think if they could see the new, modern homes of today. Truly, this is a great age we are living in . . . . . which leads us to a thought for the week. No matter what may occur to halt our progress temporarily—we can always think back to earlier days when life was a real struggle . . . . . and we MUST realize that NOW is a great time to be alive . . . . . and that there are opportunities which we can enjoy today—and tomorrow—which are most interesting and enjoyable. And so—until next week—Keep On The Right Side Of the road.

PLENTY OF SNAKE

Chicago.—An eighteen-foot snake would be plenty long to satisfy the average man—but—so the director of the Lincoln Park Zoo, Floyd S. Young. The zoo had ordered a Malay python from Germany, through an importer, specifying that it was to be 25-feet long, and paying $350 for it. When it arrived, it was only eighteen feet long and was rejected.

KEEPS VOW

New York.—Mrs. Josephine Aurelio vowed that if the two of her five sons who went to war in 1918 were returned safely to her, she would attend church three times a day until she died. They came back safely in May, 1919, and Mrs. Aurelio kept her vow, only released when she recently died at the age of 67.

For as little as 25 cents you may insert a CLASSIFIED AD in the columns of The Eccentric. Try one when you want to buy or sell, locate a house or sell one, or for hiring a maid. Telephone 17 before Wednesday noon, each week. —(Adv.)

Artist Supplies
Drafting Materials
Greens
175 Maple W.

SEAL SALE HELPS HER

"I'm all toes to run and play again like other kids," this cheery, crippled schoolgirl, Mary, told the Michigan Society for Crippled Children. The Society's Easter Seal Campaign, continuing until March 28, is for the benefit of Mary and 15,000 other crippled kiddies of this State.

New Federal Air Commerce Head

Shown above after he took his oath of office is Fred D. Fagg, Jr., newly appointed head of the United States Bureau of Air Commerce. Fagg, nationally known aviation authority, succeeded Eugene Vidal, who resigned.

Polo Benefit for Starr Boys

BARONESS LILLIAN von Manteuffel presents a good luck horseshoe to Donald Brian of Starr Commonwealth for Boys. The Baroness is serving on the committee on arrangements for a Cornell-Detroit benefit polo game for Starr boys, to be held at the Coliseum, State Fair Grounds, Detroit, Friday evening, March 19th, at 8:15. Tickets are available at Grinnell Bros. Proceeds will aid homeless, friendless and delinquent boys.

HOW I BECAME A RADIO STAR

By FRED ASTAIRE

FRED ASTAIRE

It never occurred to me that I would ever do any radio work until a little more than a year ago, when the producers of the Gulf Parade prevailed upon me to come to New York and do a series of eight appearances on the program between motion picture assignments.

Previous to that, I had always centered my attentions on one thing at a time, whether it was the stage or the screen, and had felt it was best to continue that way—devoting myself exclusively to a single medium. Only a few months afterwards, I was offered, and found myself doing, a thirty-nine week series of programs heard every Tuesday night over the NBC-Red Network. In it, I am surrounded by some of the most brilliant talent in radio—Johnny Green's orchestra, Charles Butterworth, Francia White and Conrad Thibault—and the show still has twelve weeks to go.

It is certain that, in this series, my experience both on the stage and in pictures has been of tremendous help. And I did it give people who have seen the films a chance to visualize me dancing on the set. Just as was a tremendous aid in preparing for the microphone those things people would prefer to hear me do.

That background in entertaining people started when I was eight. I began dancing then in my home town, Omaha, Nebraska. It continued through vaudeville days, and when I appeared in musicals like —Page Seven, Column Three Funny and Lady, and "Lor Gwilliness Sake." It was strengthened by frequent appearances in London and on the continent, where I took vehicles like "Smiles Face," "The Band Wagon" and "The Gay Divorcee," after they had succeeded on Broadway.

The motion pictures, too, had a great deal to do with acquainting many people with anything I might subsequently do on the air, and pictures such as "Flying Down to Rio," "The Gay Divorcee," "Top Hat," and "Swing Time," proved valuable source material for radio programs.

It was a head of manipulations said splendid man that RKO, who make my pictures, found a way so I could rehearse and appear on the air while doing a picture. You'll be surprised, too, if you were to know how much rehearsing goes into sixty minutes before the microphone.

I've enjoyed radio as much as any medium of entertainment with which I have been connected during the years of my career. You see, I've had a swell time of it and hope that broadcasting will attract a good deal of my interest for years to come.

HAS 109 CHRISTMAS

Boston.—Although 108, vigorous old, Mrs. Rachael Waldfogel celebrated her one hundred and ninth Christmas with the "grandlittle members of her family"—four daughters and a son, sixty grandchildren and thirty-five great-grandchildren. She was born on Christmas day 108 years ago at Czestochow, Poland.

UNBOLTS CAKE

Grand Rapids, Mich.—Convinced that a metal bolt from her electric mixer was in one of the thirteen fruit cakes she had baked, Mrs. Louis H. Hase took them to Dr. G. Spurlouge for an X-ray. Fining the cakes apt, Dr. Stonehouse proceeded to X-ray them and found the missing bolt. He received one of the cakes for his Christmas.

Heard at the Show.

"Why didn't my dog win a prize?"

"He failed on legs—not long enough."

"Well, they touch the floor, don't they?"

Died on Day Set for Death

Recipient of a threatening letter setting a date for his death, Delcis F. Teed, above, 40-year-old relief administrator of Butler county, Mo., ignored the incident. But seven days later, Teed died suddenly in his office at Poplar Bluff on the date marked in the letter. Officials started an investigation in an effort to clear up the strange case.

Try an Eccentric Classified Ad.

SEE WHAT $1 PER WEEK BUYS!
GENUINE NEW ROYAL PORTABLE WITH TOUCH CONTROL

Finest, most up-to-date portable on the market! Actually easier than writing by hand! With Royal's sensational Touch Control, you can instantly adapt the key-tension to your exact finger pressure! Many other exclusive Royal improvements. Costs only few cents a day.
MITCHEL
Type. & Office Equip. Co.
150 N. SAGINAW ST.
Pontiac

Writer Seeks To Compare Two Cities

Mayor John E. Martz forwarded to this paper the past week a letter from R. W. Hunter of Glasgow, Scotland, inquiring about original settlers of Birmingham and their descendants. Mayor Martz in acknowledging his appreciation for the interest shown in the city by Mr. Hunter, forwarded to him the address of The Eccentric, and other information.

The following is a copy of the letter received at the mayor's office:

680 Clarkston Road,
Glasgow, S. 4, Scotland
3rd February, 1937

The Mayor,
Birmingham, Michigan
U. S. A.

Dear Sir,

While away here from Vancouver, B. C., Canada, I am writing some articles for the press and would like to feature one on Birmingham, Mich. For publication in Birmingham (Eng.) newspapers. In order to facilitate such, I would greatly appreciate if your publicity department were interested in sending me along a few particulars, folders etc. and, if available, a couple of photos one town and one country—which would be suitable for publication. At the same time it would be of great interest to know who founded Birmingham, Mich., and how it got its name. Particulars of any, or the number of your citizens born in Birmingham, Eng. and details of any one who has made good will be well received. If there happens to be a Scottish society in your city, the Secretary thereof, might perhaps be good enough to send me along a few things about Birmingham, Mich. Scotsmen of interest to the Scottish press. A snap or photo suitable for press reproduction of yourself would also be much appreciated. Your publicity department might also be good enough to tell me of the newspapers—the names of them—published in your city.

With expression of my appreciation,

Yours very truly,
(Signed) R. W. Hunter

Rare Skill

While in Switzerland, a traveler was about to make an ascent, when he thought it might be well to inquire about the ability of his guide.

"Is he a thoroughly skilled climber?" he asked the hotel manager.

"I'll say he is," was the reply. "Why, he's lost two parties of tourists down the mountain side and come back without as much as a scratch himself."

Save on Floor & Trim Varnish!
DU PONT
1793 FLOOR & TRIM VARNISH
Parks Coal Co.
283 Brownell Phone 2020

For varnish protection at low cost, use Du Pont 1793 Floor & Trim Varnish. A tough and durable varnish that adds beauty and insures long life to floors and woodwork. Wears long—costs little.

THE FREE TRIAL PLAN IS MARVELLOUS!

That's the delighted comment of users who are taking advantage of this special trial offer to prove in their own homes how helpful and how cheap to enjoy ever-ready hot water service with the famous

Consumers Special gas WATER HEATER
TRY IT YOURSELF

Without any expense to you—no "strings", no rental costs or other expense of that sort, we will install a Consumers Special Automatic Gas Water Heater. "Try" before you buy"—after a liberal trial, if you decide to keep the new heater, you can buy it on the new Economy Purchase Plan.

Economy Purchase Plan
For less than 10¢ a day
Payable Monthly

The economy of this heater is a delightful surprise — its patented principle of heating water with a tiny gas flame and storing it like a thermos bottle is the secret of its popularity in thousands of homes.

TRADE IN YOUR FURNACE COIL AND OLD HEATER

What to do with your old heater or furnace coil? Easy! — we take them both as part payment. Get rid of that wasteful furnace coil — that eats up a ton of fuel out of every five you use for house-heating. Get rid of the bother and expense of older ways. This better way is yours to enjoy —use this Special offer to do it!

Come in—or phone—see the new heaters—let us show you how easily the FREE TRIAL plan works.

CONSUMERS POWER CO.
348 E. MAPLE Phone 1174

EVERYBODY'S SPRUCING UP!

Spring is in the air! Off with the dark, heavy clothing! On with the smartly tailored suits and gaily colored dresses that have been given shop-new beauty through the medium of modern dry cleaning!

Clothes properly dry cleaned with safe fluids that remove the dirt and stains but not the "life" of the fabric, stay clean longer. Our dry cleaning service helps you to be inexpensively smart at all times.

TELEPHONE 9011 DELIVERY SERVICE
MATTHEWs
Exclusive LADIES & GENTS Tailoring
FURRIERS
CLEANING - PRESSING - REPAIRING