

BACK FENCING

By
A MAN ABOUT TOWN

▲ Well, another week and no threatening letters or intimations have been directed our way, so we think we'll try to spread a little more town talk, etc. We were told, however, that it was a good thing that we had not used a certain individual's full name last week, because if we had . . . The Eccentric would have been sued for libel . . . and that would have been too bad, with G. R. A. on his way to Europe.

▲ Speaking of G. R. A. (George Rodgers Averill—in case you do not know), it just seems possible that we can get away with a little dose-ling on him, now that he is not around to censor us and the column. Many very flattering reports have been spread concerning his unusual record as District Governor of Rotary, which he has made during his term which is just about to close. On several occasions, out-of-towners have praised his efforts and spoken about the fine work which he has made. He is a fine Rotarian and a mighty fine fellow—even if he does "The Back Fencer" pretty hard about his spelling, etc.

▲ Jim Kelly is working overtime these days and nights. He tells us that he is going to Kalamazoo for a few days next week—a convention or something—and he is trying to get ahead of his work so he'll not feel too badly about leaving a large group of Birmingham folks driving around in their cars without insurance when they say Jim is "To" at conventions, and when he does his Al Johnson number and sings "Mammy"—well, the hotel guests just break down and weep.

Word came from Grand Rapids that beginning the 20th of May, good things to eat will be available in that fair city at a certain place which will be known as Devon Gables Tea Room. We wouldn't be a bit surprised if a certain Laura Connolly, who operates the Bloomfield Hills eating place bearing that name, has something to do with the situation. Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Chapple are the owners of the new place, but—Mrs. Chapple is the former Miss Edna Platte, sister of Mrs. Connolly, and before her marriage last year, was in charge of the preparation of the delicious food which have made Devon Gables of Bloomfield Hills so popular. In case you might be driving thru G. R., stop in at 102 Fulton St., just across from Fulton Park, tell them you're from Birmingham, and you'll be taken care of.

▲ Some very nice news reached our ears the other day. We were told that a certain Wolf, who has been confined to his bed for many a day, is now so improved in health that he is getting down stairs and out on the porch during the warm hours of the day. It is to be hoped that the cheery voice will be heard again out at the Birmingham Golf Club where she spends a good deal of her time while waiting for her golfing husband to get in his rounds of golf.

▲ Office Stinson is really a PROUD daddy. One day last week he was seen exhibiting his bounding baby boy to the passers-by at the main four corners of the town. Traffic was forgotten for the time being as he coaxed his into "do his tricks" for

the folks who stopped to admire him.

▲ Did you hear about the fellow who had his rent home sold out for two weeks and took his two weeks vacation in advance of the regular time and spent it in the mountains? As yet we don't know whether or not he was found. And then there is the new Eastern Triangle in which several families are involved in a moving bee. All have purchased a home but none of them can move into it because the other people can not move out and into the place which they have recently acquired. Who started that "Just Around The Corner" stuff a few years back?

▲ One of the nicest places to listen to the broadcast of the ball game is Fred Young's Shoe Store. If you are real active, you can watch your chance and settle in that big wicker rocker in the rear of the store and park there in solid comfort. . . . and the boys will even furnish the smokes while their packs hold out.

▲ Travelers in Northern Michigan will be glad to learn that the Lakeland Gift Store which is operated by the LaBelle's of Birmingham, will again be open during the summer months, and that Mrs. LaBelle will be there to greet her callers and direct them to the better spots of Northern Michigan.

▲ Despite the fact that Birmingham enjoys one of the highest tax rates of any found in Michigan, it is, nevertheless, one of the very few cities of its size in the State which does not provide municipal garbage collection for its residents. The Annual Clean-Up Week is a gracious gesture on the part of the city fathers—BUT—if it was made a regular monthly service, it would be most welcome by many of the citizens of the town.

▲ Matthew Cammarere, better known as "Matthew the Tailor," was telling us the other day about his native country. While many Italians come to this country and make good in the business world, few of them make a success of business on returning to Italy. Many successful Italians have gone back with nice bank rolls, and have wound up by losing everything but their shirt. American business methods do not seem to work over there, and Matthew, by the way, is mighty glad he is right here in Birmingham doing business in the American way.

▲ We came across a bit of wise talk in an out-of-state newspaper the other day, under the caption, "Thought For Today." The original came from the pen of Charles Dillard and we think it is a gem. We'll pass it on to you as our thought for the day. "If you do it to him, you would have them do to you, and do not be discouraged if they fail sometimes."

Obituary
A young subaltern joined a guard's band of his own lip as yet unaged with the other suspicion of dawn. The adjutant sent for "You must grow a moustache."

"Yes, sir."
"And not one of those Chaplin affairs—a proper moustache."
"Yes, sir."
The subaltern did not move, so the adjutant asked: "Well, what more do you want?"
"Any particular color, sir."

Miss Ethel Bassett Completes 25 Years Service At Shain's

Twenty-five years ago last Saturday Ethel Bassett came to Birmingham and took her first job with the Charles J. Shain drug store. A quarter of a century later, she has happily helped her celebrate her long period of service at the store with flowers and gifts which were centered around a beautiful silver fruit bowl presented to Miss Bassett by Mr. and Mrs. Shain in recognition of the anniversary.

When a representative of The Eccentric asked Miss Bassett about the changes she had witnessed in Birmingham since she first came here, she recalled that the community had grown from a small village in the horse-and-buggy stage to a thriving city of motor cars. "The store was a hang-out for a long time," she said. "Why some of the boys and girls that come into the store now are the children of the children that came in for sodas and candy when I first started working here. I've seen more than one romance bloom right at this soda fountain," she remarked at the same time nodding to the daughter of a mother and father who used to drop in at the drug store years ago for ice cream cones.

As she stopped to write on a box, she called him by name, just as she does many of the other customers who come in.

"Within a year after I first started working here I knew everyone in town," Miss Bassett said, answering a question on this point. "Now it's a little hard for there are so many people coming in and out that it's pretty difficult to keep track of them."

Her hobbies are swimming, horseback riding and bowling, and on her vacation she makes a point of getting away from Birmingham, and taking a motor trip into the mountains of the West.

For 25 years The Eccentric has enjoyed a PRINTING & PUBLISHING plant. That's a long time to be in one type of business. If you want GOOD PRINTING done QUICKLY and WELL—

will conduct their second monthly service of worship at the Brethren Home on Sunday night at 8:45. Great scenes from the life of Christ will be portrayed by lighted pictures, readings, anthems and a brief message. Care leave the Church at 8 o'clock. Mrs. Sinsley will lead the Junior Society which meets at 3 o'clock on Sunday, assisted by Peggy Jensen.

PRINTING done quickly and well by the Brethren printing office in Downtown Birmingham. For list of prices, printing, visit the number 11. —(Adv.)

Miss Ethel Bassett and her family are shown in a photograph. The photo shows a group of people, including Miss Bassett, standing together.

Miss Ethel Bassett is shown in a photograph. She is a woman with short, dark hair, wearing a light-colored dress.

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The BOOK SHELF

Late Book Reviews and
Literary Criticism
by Doris Flint

THIS YEAR'S PULITZER PRIZES

Tiny Margaret Mitchell scores again with her huge yarn when she wins the Pulitzer prize for the most distinguished work of fiction for the year 1937. These prizes in Journalism and in letters established by the late Joseph Pulitzer in a bequest to Columbia University, New York City, are awarded annually by the trustees of the University on recommendation of the advisory board of the Schools of Journalism at Columbia. Probably no one will quarrel with the judges in their choice though some may feel right certain that there were other novels of last year which "best presents the life and sphere of American life" but those few will find it very difficult to talk down the multitudes who are strong for "Gone With the Wind." Have you read that Miriam Hopkins will play the role of Scarlett in the movie which is being made of the story. Clark Gable will take the part of Rhett Butler and Leslie Howard will make a perfect spines Ashley Wilkes. The too good Melanie will be portrayed by the sweetheart of the movies, Janet Gaynor.

distinguished work in the drama, in poetry, biography, history and other prizes are given in the actual field of journalism. This year's poetry prize went to Robert Frost for his "Further Range," which is by far the best work of poetry for the past season and since the death of Edwin Arlington Robinson. Frost is clearly the foremost living poet. Previous awards in this field have gone to Edwin Arlington Robinson (three times), Edna St. Vincent Millay, Stephen Vincent Benet and Robert Frost. The Drama Award went to George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart for their "You Can Take It With You." "Strange Interlude," "Green Pastures," and "Street Scene" have all been selected at different times. Everyone is pleased with Van Wyck Brooks' splendid book "The Flowering of New England" which was awarded the history prize. Though one does not think of the book as a history, yet it is, since it traces the development of literary New England from its very beginning to the present day.

Allen Nevins received the Biography Award for his "Hamilton Fish: The Inner History of the Great Administrator of the Charles Daniel Batchelor of the New York News was given the \$500.00 for the best history of the year. It is the story of a hard-labeled "War" enticing a boy labeled "Come on to the front" captioned "Come on to the front" captioned "I used to know your father." The best editorial was written by John Whitefield Orens of the "Baltimore Sun."

Clerke's Week Specials on MEATS & PRODUCE

FANCY FRESH DRESSED STEWING

CHICKENS & POTATOES

A downright thrifty price for milk fed stewing chickens of this quality! Plump and full of flavor! Ideal for fricassee, pot pie and tasty chicken salad. Take advantage of this week-end value.

23¢ lb.

Picnics SWETS CHICKEN "S" . . . lb. 19¢	Veal Roast BONELESS . . . lb. 23¢
Beef Roast BEST CUBED . . . lb. 19¢	Sliced Bacon SUGAR CURED . . . lb. 29¢
Genuine Spring Leg o' Lamb . . . lb. 25¢	Haddock Fillets GENUINE 2 lbs. 25¢
Genuine Spring Lamb Loin Chops . . . lb. 39¢	Boiled Ham Swift's Premium . . . lb. 45¢

FANCY SOUTHERN NEW

POTATOES

A value almost too good to be true! Fancy New Potatoes less than 3¢ a pound! Better hurry . . . they'll go fast at this remarkable price!

10 lbs. 29¢

Bananas GOLDEN RIFE 4 lbs. 23¢	Maine Potatoes U.S. NO. 1 GRADE PECK 43¢
Yellow Onions NEW FEAS 4 lbs. 19¢	Winesap Apples 3 lbs. 25¢
New Cabbage . . . lb. 5¢	Oranges JULY FLORIDAS EXTRA LARGE doz. 45¢
Fresh Peas FANCY CALIF. . . lb. 10¢	Tomatoes FANCY OUTDOOR lb. 19¢

A & P FOOD STORES

TUNE IN EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT—A & P BAND WAGON FEATURING KATE SMITH, AND A BIG CAST—WJR, 7 TO 8 P. M.