

Youth seems to be in a hurry to reach maturity, and seems in a hurry to reach old age; so much hurry, so little real headway.

SIXTIETH YEAR—NO. 31

The Birmingham Eccentric

BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN. THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1937

PART TWO

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P. T. A. HEARS HOBBY TALK

Link Parent-Child Interest, Says Scientist In Brief Address

A linking of the interests of parents with those of their children, by means of a mutual hobby, was the goal of the talk delivered by Theodore Czerkowski, natural science instructor at Brookside school, Tuesday night, to members of the Quanton school Parent Teachers' Association. Mr. Czerkowski, who was introduced by Mrs. William Essery, called his address "Natural Science Hobbies for Parents and Children."

Beginning with practical suggestions to enable parents to take advantage of the child's first interest in natural science, the speaker defined hobbies as a leisure time activity. He explained that they might be made casual or thorough, as the child's curiosity increased.

There are three stages to a hobby, he explained. The first is "Exploration and Manipulation; Mechanistic or Practical and Reflective or Intellectual—the latter, of course, being an adolescent stage."

"As a promoter of religion, science naturally leads to a sense of the vastness and mystery of the universe to the child," he further stated. From this he spoke briefly on the value of practical work in natural science in which parents may unite their own interests with those of the children, to mutual advantage. They include a study of astronomy, birds, fish, animals, insects, trees, indoor plants, geology and weather charts.

The address was concluded with the suggestion of a practical bibliography. He also stressed the fact that Birmingham offered many means of obtaining information of amateur scientists, as would be demonstrated by the various exhibits which would follow the speaker.

The youngest collector to exhibit was James Thomas, a specialist in Quanton school, who specialized in stones. Two other stone collections whose owners were of high school age when they were made were those of Bert Cole and Noel and Laurie Walker. These last two also exhibited field mice.

Other collections loaned for the evening were those of Andrew Watson, reptiles, insects and specimens of pressed flowers; George Woodford, insects, and Robert Howland, insects.

Under the auspices of the Cranbrook Institute of Art, the following were shown: water color studies of local landscapes by Wallace Mitchell, Ann Binkle and John Binkle; animal sculpture by Betty Kingensmith.

Other exhibits of this sort included: a portfolio of tree sketches by Elizabeth White; paintings by Roderick and Alice Thayer; nature photographs by Harold Corson; a chart of the food preferences of winter birds, compiled by Albert Stoll Jr. and trees and books through the courtesy of the S. S. Kresge Co.

The Cranbrook Institute of Science loaned its collections of bird-nests, arrow heads and material on plants, leaves and fruit, as well as books and pamphlets. Miss Adeline Cooke, head librarian at Baldwin Public Library, loaned appropriate books, and books were also shown by the Quanton school and LaBelle's book store.

Mr. Ned Long, head insects and a collector's kit; Mrs. Thomas Navin and Clarence Heth displayed Indian relics. Samuel Knowlton loaned his telescope and Mr. Czerkowski also showed a telescope which was made in a boy's camp, by Richard Folz.

Not in Sound-Proof Vaults
Tourist—"How's business hereabouts?"

"Native"—"It's so quiet you can hear the notes at the bank a block away drawing interest."—American Boy.

BITS OF BIRMINGHAM

Coming out of the City Hall Monday night one could hear, high overhead, the sound of wild geese honking their way southward. In the partial moonlight the flying squadron of feathered animal life shone a cold white-grey against the black sky. So, within the City sleeps, other forms of life on this earth have their problems of finding a home, too.

Destruction of numerous houses along the old Grand Trunk right-of-way is going on preparatory to the task of completing the new Woodward avenue super-highway through Birmingham. Some of these houses have stood as habitations for human beings for more than a half century. Their removal suggests, again, that life holds nothing permanent except change. Like generations of human beings that come and go, homes live their day—"So fleet the works of men; back to the earth again; ancient and holy things fade like a dream."

Hundreds of "No Hunting or Trespassing" signs were used by the Eccentric during the past month, used by local anti-hunters to prevent bird hunters from running over their property. Within few miles of Birmingham, on nearly every side, there is plenty of open space that is part of the natural beauty of the city. In and around the city are many fine bird sanctuaries; and the predatory-sportsman instinct of human beings has been known to take advantage of life exists. Just another outdoor attraction for persons who like to live away from a teeming metropolis.

This Wanderer would mention any name, but he did discover more than one member of more than one Birmingham service club, who were at the meeting Tuesday noon at the Community House. There were about 120 Lions, Exchanges, and Rotarians present. (Do you know of any local people who ever go to sleep in church?)

TRI-CLUBS HEAR RADIO REPORTER

Birmingham Service Groups Addressed By E. A. McFowl

"Little known facts about Detroit" a five-day per week radio program given by E. A. McFowl over station WJL, was the subject of a talk when Birmingham's three service clubs, Lions, Rotary, and Exchange, met at the Community House Tuesday noon. The day's program, under the auspices of the Exchange Club, was in charge of Exchange Guy W. Jensen, who introduced the speaker.

Mr. McFowl, serving in the capacity of a radio reporter, told his local audience of many experiences he has had in running down various items for his interesting broadcast. He touched on phases of Detroit's civic and social life, including brief references to immigration, Michigan Historical Society, the marajunna cigarette, evil, police activities, the milk supply, and numerous other subjects.

In his present radio role, Mr. McFowl's sponsor is the Industrial Morris Plan Bank of Detroit.

Preventing a Fire
A man was running very fast up the street when a policeman prevented him from crossing the road as vehicles approached. "What's the hurry?" said the constable, "Going to a fire?"

"Well, not exactly," was the reply, "I was going to prevent one; the boss said that's what he'd do if I was late again, and I was hurrying to the office in time!"—Montreal Star

J. H. "Tom" Sheridan, local realtor, is a lover of bird hunting and bird dogs. This week he was showing a small photograph of some pheasants that and Myron E. "Shorty" Snyder shot—"Just 17 miles west of Mt. Clemens." (Which happens to be just three miles east of Birmingham.) This reporter failed to learn who got the birds—the men or the dog.

E. A. McFowl, radio reporter who spoke here Tuesday noon at the monthly meeting of Birmingham's Exchange, Lions, and Rotary Clubs, didn't leave the building until 12:25; he arrived at the Community House at one o'clock. A motorcycle police escort had been given him to aid in keeping the appointment. Guy W. Jensen, who introduced him, had ridden in from Detroit and actually listened to Mr. McFowl's broadcast over his car radio—then 35 minutes later met him for the first time.

Don Bell, son of S. O. Wylie Bell, local funeral director, Tuesday noon wanted to meet an expert on lizards: "I saw a 7-inch black lizard this morning at the Bull farms, on 14 mile road near the Birmingham Golf Club property," explained Mr. Bell, "and it is the first time I know that this part of the earth supported such a creature. It had four legs, many feet, one head and tail, and one body. I know it wasn't a small lizard, because it had no flapping ears." The lizard may be seen at the Bull farm, where it is being kept in a bottle.

Earl Boice and his son, George, made a record-breaking kill Saturday when hunting pheasants near Brighton. Among the birds they bagged were two pheasants, one of which was a 27-pounder. The bird had a big edge over the average size. Besides being the largest reported to this office in the season, the pheasants are the largest ever shot by the lucky Boices.

REPORTS FAILURE TO CLAIM FUNDS

Old Age Payments Still To Be Made Under Social Security

Many persons in the Pontiac area who are entitled to lump-sum payments under the social security act have failed to receive their money due them, it was said today by Walter B. Redman, manager of the old-age insurance building office in the Peoples State Building.

"Early this year the field research of the social security board estimated that during the calendar year there would be about 620 claims for lump-sum payments filed in the district served by the Pontiac office," Mr. Redman added.

"So far only 60 claims have been filed indicating that some 620 other persons who were expected to seek these lump-sum payments before the end of 1937 still must do so although the year is nearing its end. Any person who has been employed in an occupation included in the social security coverage is entitled to a lump-sum payment if he has reached the age of 65 this year," Mr. Redman added.

"Employers may file claims in behalf of these workers for whom no further contributions are to be made under the federal old-age insurance plan, once such employees reach the age of years. These workers are entitled to a lump-sum payment equal to 3 1/2 percent of the wages they have received while working this year in occupations covered by the social security act.

"Similar claims may be made in behalf of all persons who have died this year after working in covered employment. Relatives or the estates of such persons may claim these payments which are also 3 1/2 percent of wages paid. It is not necessary to hire an attorney or an expert to file these claims, our office is prepared to give all necessary services in this connection," Mr. Redman added.

An Honest Dollar
The pompous judge glared sternly over his wig at the tattered prisoner, who had been dragged before the bar of justice on a charge of vagrancy. "Have you ever earned a dollar in your life?" he asked in scorn. "Yes, your honor," was the response. "I voted for you at the last election."—Atlanta Two Bells.

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CRITICS LAUD LIBRARY BOOK

Three Prominent Authors Contribute Works To Fall Lists

You may be sure that at least one of the three new books at the Baldwin Public Library is so new that it hasn't yet reached all of the dealers who will eventually stock it. However, members of the large and enthusiastic followings of the three authors will undoubtedly suffer a delay, anticipating the "Raman holidays" that will be in store for them when the books arrive.

Oliver LaFarge calls his latest work "The Enemy Gods." Two gods are struggling in the soul of one boy, two languages, two personalities, two powers. Which shall win, white man or Navajo? Moccasin or stiff-shoe? The teachers at the Indian school who want him to forsake his tribal ways and become a short-haired "Jesus boy," or the deep call of the blood that drums to him in the rhythmic beat of dancing warriors?

This silent conflict continues in to his manhood. It is still raging one night in the mountains, when he and the Navajo girl are marooned by a cloudburst. The Christians have taught him of sin. But she is of his own race, proud and understanding, more than a mere woman.

Here is a genuinely American novel, presenting the drama of an alien race in a land once theirs; the story of a man fighting to bridge the abyss between two worlds.

No less an authority than William Lyon Phelps pronounces Booth Tarkington's latest collection of esthete short stories—"Unique and marvellous. . . . There is nothing in the world like his humor, his accent and choice of words. . . . If you've never heard of him do, I pray you, bag or borrow or steal a copy and become acquainted at once with this wonderful gentleman."

Those who have read in magazines of the startling adventures of the impulsive Mr. Rumbin, dealer in objects d'art, of Howie, his humble combination of contact man, co-exhibitor and janitor and the lovely and resourceful secretary, will agree with Mr. Phelps, and pronounce "Rumbin Galleries" one of the best works of the gentleman from Indiana.

John Drinkwater's fabulous pen is responsible for the third book. He calls it "Robinson of England."

H. G. Wells Gives Lecture In Detroit

H. G. Wells, who recently arrived in New York from England for his first American lecture tour, will speak in Detroit in the Masonic auditorium on Saturday, Nov. 6, at 8:30 p. m. It will be the only appearance in Michigan of this famous author, philosopher and scientist, who is giving but six lectures. His subject will be "The Brain Organization of the Modern World."

Mr. Wells, described by Anatole France as the greatest intellectual force in the English-speaking world, has to his credit 76 books ranging from history, biology and science to fiction, (innumerable pamphlets, treatises and magazine articles dealing with present-day social conditions, several short plays and three movies.)

The world community of tomorrow will be the general theme of Mr. Wells' talk, in which he will give us a glance at things to come, as he envisions them. Prophet, as well as author, Wells for years has taken keen enjoyment in dealing in futures. Even his great study of the past "The Outline of History" was written with an eye to the future.

In 1901 Wells was succeeded because he prophesied successful flight long before 2000 and in all probability before 1950. He took his first airplane ride only 11 years later.

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