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The Birmingham Eccentric

BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 1939

PART TWO \$2.00 PER YEAR—SINGLE COPIES, 5c

Stories of Strange Lands and Daring Souls Offer Antidote for Spring Fever

By Linda Moore Comes the first day of real Spring. The air is balmy and soft; the tree buds shine red in the sun; the robins dig for worms in the green, green grass and sing from the tree tops. Your mind wanders from your work and you begin to think wistfully of the North Woods (forgetting the black flies and mosquitoes) or perhaps you think vaguely of sailing round the world or going to live in Tahiti. If none of these things is practical, the best thing is to read one of the new tales which are being written or set up housekeeping in strange corners of the earth.

Young Dwight Long in his book, Seven Seas on a Shoestring describes how he bought the tiny 32 ft. ketch, Life Hour, and set off on a five year cruise that took him to strange ports and far places. He sailed into adventure from Seattle and had enough excitement to last three lifetimes. Once a destroyer missed running him down by the way, another time the boat was almost flooded by her own pumps and then lost her mast in the middle of the sea. The Zenland had had in 60 years. An altogether exciting and adventurous tale.

Another way of getting away from it all is to find a nice little place in the tropics somewhere—or at any rate someplace where the sun shines on blue water and palm trees. Health and Jefferson Bowman contemplate on the Caribbean and found the isle of their dreams in Tobago, in the West Indies and wrote "Island in the South Seas" which tells what they did to make a home there. They wrote, they explored their hearts content, visited great sugar and cocoa estates and had a grand time generally.

Cranbrook Student Wins in National Home Competition

NEW YORK—First prize of \$1,000 for a distinguished low cost single family dwelling of Middle Western design has been awarded to Harry Weiss of Kentwood, Ill. and at Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills, Mich., by a jury of nationally known architects. Mr. Weiss's entry was chosen as winner of first honors in the second and culminating stage of a \$100,000 nationwide housing contest organized by the Productive Home Architectural Commission.

Michigan was well represented placing four \$100 prize-winners in three sectional groups. Also from the Cranbrook Academy, Henry Erlendsen Hebbel, winner in the Middle West, and Redford Moore, winner in the South, Walter Preston Hickey of Birmingham, Michigan won with an entry in the Middle West. The late Kenyon of Detroit won in the Northeast.

Mr. Weiss's economical home was designed, in accordance with the rules of the Competition, to make it possible for moderate and low income families now moving to the city to become owners of small garden homes within comfortable distance of urban jobs. Aim of "Rurbanites" The Weiss design belongs in the growing new "rurban" (rural plus urban) trend toward practical planned dwellings, which help carry part of their cost through vegetable gardens, poultry houses and sheds for small livestock, and kitchens designed for canning and preserving. Defense of urban life against economic insecurity is the aim of the "rurban" architects. Under their plan, the city's cash income is provided by the husband's city job in an apartment or apartment house. The wife is enabled to save money and gain security by raising and processing food from its own soil using the modern household equipment.

About Your Public School

This information is furnished by the Birmingham Board of Education in cooperation with The Eccentric.

Q—What are the general tendencies of growth in membership of the public schools of this district, particularly as they relate to elementary and secondary levels? A—The secondary school membership continues to grow in numbers. In a forecast of membership it is estimated that the membership in grades 10, 11, and 12 will be 210, 662, and 662, respectively. The membership in Birmingham High School enrollment will reach 900 in September of the 1939-40 school year. Unless there is an unusual growth in the community, indications are that the first six grades in the elementary schools will continue to show slight decreases through the first six grades of the declining school population in the elementary schools is national in scope.

The membership in Birmingham elementary schools shows a decrease of 29 pupils over the past two years.

Tennis Team Wins Opening Match by Defeating Ecorse

The Birmingham tennis team emerged victor in its first match of the season as it defeated Ecorse 2-1 last week.

With Spinning the only winner in the singles, the doubles teams came back and swept both double matches and assured Birmingham victory.

In a best two out of three games, Spinning swept through his match with R. Jones winning the first two games, although he was extended in the first set to 11-9. He won the second set at 6-3.

In the number two singles, Stutte was defeated by H. Jones of Ecorse in three games. H. Jones won the first set 6-3. Stutte came back in the second set to fight it up by winning 6-4. H. Jones won the final set and match at 6-2.

In the final singles match, Seavitt of Birmingham, was defeated by Seavitt of Ecorse in straight games as Seavitt took both sets at 6-0.

In the number one doubles match, Pearsall and Platt defeated Neal and Lucas in two sets. The first set going to 6-4 and the second 6-1.

The number two doubles team also won its match as Pierce and Borden defeated Piroos and Callon 6-2 and 6-1.

BIRKLEY—An ordinance banning commercial trailer camps in Birkley was passed by the city commission last night. The ordinance will permit a house trailer to be used as a dwelling for four weeks only on occupied premises where the resident approves, providing the trailer occupancy is not for hire. The trailer resident will be required to secure a permit from the police department and the permit may not be renewed within a period of 12 months. No occupied trailer will be permitted otherwise.

KEFOG HARBOR—The West Bloomfield Township fire department responded to an alarm at 5:30 p. m. Sunday to the home of John Trolie, 3069 Orchard Lake road, where the roof was ablaze. Damage was slight, being estimated at from \$5 to \$10.

Conference Selects Auto Plates for 1940

Secretary of State, Harry F. Kelly, called a conference to discuss use of auto license plates for 1940, type of lettering, scheme of numbering, safety features, etc. Participating in the conference were Col. Heinrich A. Pickett, Commissioner of Police of Detroit; Jerome Borders, secretary of the State Sheriff's Association; Richard Hartst, general manager of the Automobile Club of Michigan; Oscar G. Olander, State Police Commissioner and J. E. Murphy, head of Michigan State Industries.

At an earlier date, the official color scheme for 1940 plates was decided upon in order to notify neighboring states of the choice so as to protect its use for Michigan. The 1940 plates will have black lettering on an aluminum silver background. This color will harmonize well with any color of car, be free from glare, and save a saving in the state of between \$8,000 and \$10,000 per year will be effected in cost of enamel.

PONTIAC—Falling to observe the approach of eastbound Chicago passenger train No. 34 over the Grand Trunk at 8:50 a. m. Friday, Morris Newhouse, 31 of Waterford Township was killed on the Williams Lake crossing between Drayton Plains and Waterford. Newhouse was driving toward the Dixie highway on his way to work in Pontiac. The approach of the train at this point can be seen for some distance. The train, in charge of Conductor G. A. Jackson, Pine Lake, and of George Kaufman, engineer, Muskegon, was a half hour late and was making good time. It struck the automobile squarely and carried it down the track nearly half a mile.

Auto Racing to Open With Event Sunday at Milford

Milford, April 27—Automobile racing in Michigan, will start for the season with the 1939 Inaugural Races to be staged on the Oakland County Fair grounds one-half mile dirt track, at Milford, Mich., Sunday, April 30.

This is a new scene for auto racing in Michigan and the afternoon's program of six events should prove thrilling to the followers of the sport. Entry blanks have been received from some of the top-notch drivers in Michigan, as well as surrounding states.

Windy Jennings, a long time favorite driver, will flag the big cars and "Sundrily" Ellis will amuse the cash customers with sideline patter as well as racing facts, over the public address system being installed.

According to M. H. Moore, Detroit promoter of the race, this is the forerunner of a minimum of five such racing bills, in Michigan and the afternoon's program of six events should prove thrilling to the followers of the sport.

Reminiscent of Early Birmingham

This quaint old farm house has been remodeled with modern conveniences but still reflects the atmosphere of antiquity.

In a setting of large trees behind a white picket fence, overlooking the Rouge as it winds its way under the bridges and through Birmingham's Natural Park... The house contains four bedrooms and two baths.

Due to the scarcity of old homes of this type in high grade neighborhoods, we consider the price of \$6000 to be under its market value. Early action is recommended.

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ORCHARD

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Two-Story Plan

Two successful plans were for a two-story house constructed of plywood. In a large room on the first floor is planned the dining space, with the other side allotted to a utility studio with a work space and a potter's wheel occupying space in the center of the room under windows looking out on the south side upon a terrace and gazebo area. On the northwest of the rectangular living section of the house is the kitchen and laundry. At the northeast is space for storage and heating.

The second story is planned as a leisure floor providing bedrooms for the owner and his wife, and his son and daughter, with living room and bathroom. A one-story wing extending to the north from the western half of the house is separated from the kitchen by a roofed porch. Space for garden tools joins the porch and is convenient to the kitchen on the other side. A feed room is planned between the cow shed, and space for 24 chickens lining the western wall at the end of the wing. Between the hen space and the eastern side of the wing is the garage opening at the end of the wing. A garden, an orchard and a pasture are planned on the grounds.

Many of the first stages of the Competition, Chairman Frederick L. Ackerman of the New York City Housing Authority, Mr. Baker Brownell, head of the Department of Contemporary Architecture, Northwestern University.

582 PURITAN ROAD

Many of you who watch this fine home during construction know its superlative quality. Most of you saw its beautiful decorations—the four rooms, Bedrooms and two Baths in pastel tints; the paneled library and cheerful living room; inviting Living and Dining Rooms and scenic kitchen.

There are no signs today of its one year occupancy. Immaculate housekeeping and pride of ownership reflect constant care—the lawn and gardens are beautiful, too. Priced at \$19,500, we want you to see this outstanding value today.

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