I would rather have the love and respect of my children than the same qualities from all but a few adults. Children are penetrating in evaluating grownups.

The Birmingham Eccentric

PART TWO

SIXTY-SECOND YEAR—NO. 30 | BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1939 | $2.00 PER YEAR—SINGLE COPIES, 5c

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Mrs. Shain Gives Views on World Problems

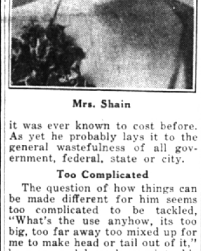
Ties Still Bind U. S. to 'Worn-out Europe,' Is Opinion

(Editor's Note—In all of Birmingham there is no more avid student of foreign affairs than Mrs. Charles I. Shain. A University of Michigan graduate, she taught history for a time. For 18 years, she has led a women's discussion group here with world problems as its raison d'etre. Her observations printed below are of a miscellaneous nature.)

BY RUTH SHAIN

Preoccupied with our own national worries, the average American citizen can find little time or inclination to worry about other people. He decides that a job well done at home is all the contribution he has wisdom and strength enough to make. Such an attitude needs no further explanation or justification. However, as it gets harder and harder for the individual to keep himself, his family and his business right side up, he begins to wonder why it is so much more difficult and perplexing to succeed now than it used to be.

Perhaps this citizen then begins to analyze his position. If he goes far enough he will wonder whether there is a tie-up between some of the disorders he faces, and the problems and discouragements other peoples face. He will realize, too, perhaps, that all kinds of government cost him more than



Mrs. Shain

it was ever known to cost before. As yet he probably lays it to the general wastefulness of all government, federal, state or city.

Too Complicated

The question of how things can be made different for him seems too complicated to be tackled. "What's the use anyhow, its too big, too far away too mixed up for me to make head or tail out of it," he says, and he relapses into his usual state of irritation and depression.

Like this average American, all of us wonder how on earth we can be of any use in world situations of this magnitude, and whether or not just being nice people in a nice little town is, after all, not the best we can do. We are aware of the disruption of all kinds of trade relationships between countries. We are not much inclined however, to credit this disruption to conditions elsewhere in the world. We generally conclude that we need not be greatly influenced by "other peoples' wars," and subside again into indifference, yet how can we avoid being influenced when all peace time activities the world over, trade, education, music, art, travel, science, leisure, are subordinated to the terrific drive of securing greater military strength for all of us.

"Raw materials for war;" turn war around and it spells RAW. "So," as Professor Shotwell said, "at a time when science can open the doors of prosperity to all mankind, we are held back from our heritage by having to choose cannon instead of bread, and battleships instead of universities. The thing to observe is that this choice applies to the United States, who feels the peace of the Western hemisphere is her responsibility. Wars in Europe and Asia have affected us tremendously. Since 1918 we have battled with fierce internal problems that haven't been closely tied up with post-war conditions elsewhere. We have had your esteemed palladium of liberty and local gossip to our home. My regards to you and, indeed, to the entire community." Thus peace has been restored to the Wells home, and all is well.

—o—

Birmingham teachers attended a two day "institute" (anyway, they used to call it that) in Detroit last Thursday and Friday. One of the speakers devoted time to "Charm and Personality," and told the teachers not to walk like ducks, not to sit with clasped hands.

—o—

Joe McDonald, local youth attending Alma College, is included on the honor roll for last semester. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Ira A. McDonald, Route 3, he attained a 2.63 average.

—o—

Arthur J. Brandt, Jr., of Birmingham, is one of the 51 University of Michigan students selected to take part in the pilot training program sponsored by the Civil Aeronautics Authority. Selection was made on the basis of scholarship and physical condition. Training will include 72 hours of ground school and 35 to 50 hours of flight instruction. Brandt is a senior in the College of Engineering.

—o—

According to a listing in the phone book, if you want to do any gravelin' see Roy Gravlin.

—o—

Tooting Lane is a very small thoroughfare, but this wanderer noticed the other day that it has just about the biggest street sign in town.

—o—

Although ready, day and night, Birmingham's firemen worked at fires only 4 hours and 30 minutes during September, saving buildings valued at $55,000. Total loss for the month was $220. What are the firemen going to do when their fire prevention program is 100 per cent successful and there aren't any more fires?

—o—

We had thought that tile roofs lasted just about forever, but we noticed that workmen have pitched to the ground the green tile roof on the Bender-Warrick office, 131 Pierce, and are replacing it with composition shingles. After much thought, there is but one conclusion which can be drawn. The roof must have leaked.

—o—

Birmingham has an excellent Girl Scout movement, yet what is commendable is that all leadership is home produced and without salary.

—o—

It seems that Exchange Club members had a contest in April to predict the outcome of the American League, E. W. Osborne, William Olsen and Fred Douglass made six correct placements. Six members had not a single placement correct, among them J. H. Sheridan, who won a "booby" prize.

—o—

William McIlroy, 168 East Brown, asked the City Commission Monday night to grade 1½ blocks at the end of Villa road. Told the City preferred to do the job right, using gravel, and that the property owners must pay for original improvement, McIlroy said he would talk it over with the people who want the work done.

We Heard It Said By:

William M. Story, postmaster, Bloomfield Hills: "Golly, if Birmingham gets another highway cut-off or two around it, will they allow parking at all on old Woodward avenue? Personally, I don't mind the parallel parking, but I do hear lots of others complain about the difficulty of getting their cars into the space—this is especially true of women motorists."

BITS OF BIRMINGHAM

Birmingham residents who move away, many of them, don't like to lose contact with their friends here, so they keep on buying The Eccentric. The other day a note from Sidney A. Wells, who now lives in Glencoe, Ill., read: "Because on account of I catch h--- every Friday for not bringing home the ECCENTRIC which doesn't come on Thursday, I herewith tender my check for $2 for which you will please send to enhance our military defenses prodigiously, for one thing.

Nothing New

There is nothing new in what Hitler is doing. It is as old as savagery. The new thing is the recognition of the substitutes for war. We strive by all that is in us to destroy time and space and yet refuse to recognize our common interdependence.

Perhaps we can remain neutral; at least we must **never** send another expeditionary force. But if this crazy of all craziest wars goes on we may find ourselves facing a new alignment of powers. Russia looms very large in the news of today. She will find friends in unexpected places. From within our own country to say nothing of other western countries, she may derive a great deal of backing. A vigorous Russia, plus Germany, may seriously menace our democratic way of living right here. We want to remain aloof from all this provided we can safely do so. History doesn't give us many clues to follow. Every sort of specialist tried to figure out reasons for getting us in the war of 1914.

Some assert that international bankers and munitions-makers were solely responsible; others that our enormous economic state in an Allied victory furnished the underlying motive; others that the submarine campaign which sent our cargoes and people to the bottom was the chief reason. This very divergence of opinion seems to prove that no well defined single set of circumstances can be called the sole reason. If this country is to retain control over its own destiny, it must figure it out on the basis of an equation in which we are one of the factors. We have to understand better our place in a **peaceful** as well as in a warring world. Our traditional fear of "foreign entanglements" has prevented us from openly cooperating with other powers to better world morality and world order.

Anti-War Feeling

Our morning "gallup" shows us that overwhelmingly we are against the dictator powers. We believe that laws should be obeyed —even international laws, — but we haven't dared act as though it were any of our business that dictator racketeers and gangsters are terrorizing other countries all around us. At least we haven't done anything openly about it. The State Department has had to proceed by devious routes to "file" our national protests.

Public opinion has moved, however, although reluctantly and slowly to assert that the dictators of Germany, Russia, and Japan and probably Italy may have us to reckon with after all. By January, 1939, two out of every three persons said they would join in a movement to stop buying goods made in Japan and Germany. This two thirds of the "public" agree that we should support policies which, since they give **substantial assistance to Britain and France are anything but isolationist or impartial.**

So we do find there are ties that bind us, economic and psychological to worn-out, old Europe. We may be called upon in the uncertain future to make our leadership felt. There will be little doubt when peace comes (If the Allies win) that we will see that we really have a stake in the peace. We should assume the responsibility of teaching the world by example, how to make that peace permanent.

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Local Archers Await Hunting Season Nov. 1

Several members of the Birmingham Archers club are looking forward with great interest to the date Nov. 1, for that marks the opening of the two-week period when archers alone will be privileged to stalk deer in the north woods.

Planning to hunt deer with bow and arrow from the local club are Irving Allen, Birmingham; Dean Firth, Franklin; Nelson Reid, Highland Park; Ralph Conzelman, Detroit, and several others.

Ninety-five licenses have been taken up at Lansing to date compared with 35 issued at a slightly later date last year. Seventeen district conservation headquarters throughout the state also issue the special licenses. Only applications for such licenses may be obtained from local license dealers.

General increase interest in archery has been reported by some enthusiasts who have spent the summer learning the knack of bending the longbow and polishing their marksmanship on silhouette targets. Modern hunting bows requiring a pull of 75 pounds are rated superior to Indian bows, and modern steel-tipped arrows feathered to whirl in flight and cut like a twisting knife are also considered better than those of the redmen. A good archer is said to be able to shoot effectively up to 50 yards.

Archers out for deer and bear are sporting in more than the break they give deer, in having to stalk with greater skill and in usually killing cleanly if they score a hit at all. They also forfeit the opportunity to get a deer in the regular season. In 1938 in Iosco and Newaygo counties 227 archers killed eight bucks.

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WE HEARD IT SAID BY—

Fire Chief Verne Griffith: "People save money by the use of approved composition shingles instead of wooden ones. The insurance rate here for wooden shingles is 22 cents a hundred, while that for approved shingles is 16 cents a hundred on frame houses. Strangely enough, I have wooden shingles on my home. When my home was being built the builder said he hated to put anything but wooden shingles on a Cape Cod house, so I let him go ahead. I wanted to see just how they stood up and what the risk was."

Must Buy Doors At Municipal Bldg.

Doors on the police and fire department garages at the Municipal building have deteriorated and must be replaced, City Manager Donald C. Eckert told the City Commission last night. He reported that prices on steel doors ranged from $1,078 to $2,423, leading to a decision to buy cypress doors from the Moulthrop Lumber Company for $602.49. Five doors will be bought, and also one oaken door for the entrance to the police department.

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Briarbank No. 2 adjoins the easterly boundary of the original Briarbank development, just south of Bloomfield Hills Country Club. It has winding drives—stately towering trees. There are some hilltop sites—some wooded sites and sites on a busy babbling brook.

The prices are extremely low—(they cost no more than a good lot in Birmingham)—moderate restrictions. If you are not yet ready to build, you may select your site now and pay for it on the budget plan.

A visit to Briarbank No. 2 may be arranged at your convenience or full particulars may be obtained by telephoning our office.

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