"Here people say, I understand that so and so is the story . . ." or "There's a rumor going around about . . ."; much of what is said with these two prefaces is not factual, accurate, at all. Talk thus spread, in war or peace, is "Fifth Column stuff."

The Birmingham Eccentric

PART TWO

SIXTY-FOURTH YEAR—NO. 46 BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1942 $1.50 PER YEAR (In Oakland County)—SINGLE COPIES, 5c

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* * * * *

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Certificates Given To Play Center Sports Champions

Last August, as the Summer Recreation Program sports playoffs rolled around, Director Lloyd Chapman found it impossible to get the medals for the various play center championships because of war priorities in metal. He did procure the necessary medals for the city championships, which were duly awarded Aug. 15 at the Sports Jamboree, but the play center champions were recognized at that time only by having their names read, together with a promise of action later on.

The Recreation Commission shopped around for months in a vain effort to buy medals, before it finally gave up that plan. Then some member hit on the bright idea for a certificate for each champion, printed in red, white and blue as a reminder that delay, after all, had been a sort of patriotic necessity.

This week the championship awards will be made by Mrs. J. Rowland Quinn, Recreation Commission chairman, at the following school assemblies: Thursday, Barnum Junior High and Pierce; Friday, Quarton. Last week, awards were made on Thursday at the Adams Junior High and Baldwin Senior High assemblies.

In the following lists the championship award names are grouped by school assemblies, each student's name being followed by the name of his sport and play center. Baldwin Senior High, Alfred de Nockey (horseshoes, Barnum), Don Turner (horseshoes, Pierce), Rob Watts, (bowling, Torrey), Art Marcotte (bowling, Pierce), Don Clark (croquet, Pierce), Warren Matice (ping-pong, Pierce), Frank Birrell (25 yd. breast stroke and diving, 13-15 age group), Bob Moody (25 yd. breast stroke, 16-19 age group, also underwater swim, 25 yd. and 50 yd. free style, 25 yd. back stroke).

Adams assembly, Fred McMahan (horseshoes, Torrey), Sandy Gruber (bowling, Adams), Fred Pivot (croquet, Torrey), Granville Dance (croquet, Adams), Jack Filkins (25 yd. breast stroke, 10-12 age group, also 25 yd. and 50 yd. free style).

Barnum Junior High assembly, Norma Crouse (ping-pong, Pierce), Betty Lee (croquet, Barnum), Barbara Westerby (25 yd. breast stroke, 10-12 age group, also 25 yd. back stroke and 25 yd. free style), Lois Brown (25 yd. breast stroke, 13-15 age group, also 25 yd. back stroke and 25 yd. free style), Dorothy Jauss (50 yd. free style, 10-12 age group), John Anderson (25 yd. back stroke, 10-12 age group).

Pierce assembly, Joan Allison (bowling, Pierce).

Certificates have also been mailed to the following champions no longer in the Birmingham Schools: Bud Aikens (25 yd. back stroke, 13-15 age group), Russell Baugh (plunge for distance), Bruce Corson (25 yd. free style, 19-up age group), Tim Crull (bowling, Barnum), Don DeLongchamp (50 yd. free style, 13-15 age group).

Quarton assembly, Bob Fowler (croquet, baseball throw), Ardena Snyder (jump rope), Jean Brown (jacks), Mary Jane Hill (running, also broad jump), Nah Mosby (running broad jump).

Parked Car Hit

Gerald Stevens, of 18708 Coyle, Detroit, driving south on Woodward last Thursday, collided with the parked car of Esther DeVault, 612 Wimbleton. Damage was light.

It Does

An expert calculates that 80 per cent of the American women artificially shape their eyebrows. That must take some pluck.—London Opinion.

BITS OF BIRMINGHAM

For some months—in fact, since the latter days of former Supt. Crull's regime—the Board of Education has been thinking of a central junior high school to replace the 3½ junior highs now in operation.

At the present time, Barnum, Adams and Baldwin schools retain the seventh, eighth and ninth grades, while Quarton has the seventh. Several of the teachers have a circuit which they must follow in order that all may get the same program. Think of the waste, for example, in the science program, with duplicate equipment needed in the various buildings!

A central junior high should cost less money and offer a better program. As plans develop, they will be outlined in The Eccentric.

—o—

As far as this Wanderer is concerned, this new War Time is the bunk in the winter. Michigan rightly should be on Central time. Eastern time put us an hour ahead; War time now puts us two hours ahead. It's all right in summer, but what sense is there in everybody arising in the dark in the winter? Enough people had to do it under Eastern time.

It's going to be great fun for those of you who like twilight golf and such. Our almanac reveals that on June 25, the sun will not set until 8:51 War time, meaning that it will still be twilight after 10 p. m. The almanac says "end of twilight 11:23 p. m." but that doesn't seem possible. If this keeps up, ours will soon be the land of the Midnight Sun.

—o—

In the last war, the slogan was "Keep the Home Fires Burning." We are looking for a song any day now: "Turn Out the Lights."

—o—

Patents have been issued to Ronald J. Waterbury, front fender for an automobile, and to Harold W. Kost, knob attaching fastener.

—o—

Many a husband has the strategy of the war all figured out but can't devise a trap to catch that mouse in the basement.

—o—

We wrote last week about a book the Government was giving away to certain interested people. This Wanderer was interested and Rep. Dondero sent the book, bound in cloth and the size of "Gone With the Wind." No wonder government costs are rising! The volume is entitled "Climate and Man" and contains a vast amount of information. For example, we found that the average date for the last killing frost was May 11 and Oct. 8. That's for Pontiac, which is colder than Birmingham; in other words, tender plants may be set out in your garden with those dates in mind, and if the average holds true, your tomato plants will escape the frost.

—o—

Included in the list of prospective jurors for February are: Helen Mosher, of Birmingham; John C. Ott and Gladys Pollock, of Southfield; Ruth Allen and Bernice Demond of Southfield Township. Names are chosen at random from lists of taxpayers.

—o—

Charles Turner, Birmingham's stellar young violinist who is a student at the Detroit Institute of Musical Arts, tried out Saturday in the competition for a Juliard School of Music. He won it, and if he can win the district and national auditions, he will get the coveted scholarship to this New York school. Celia Merrill and Phillis Ahlers are studying at Julliard. Charles has also been busy at benefit musicales; one was a Red Cross affair at Grosse Pointe; another was a U. S. O. affair in Detroit.

—o—

One of our subscribers, Wendell Lund, 680 Linden road, is being sued. Mr. Lund is director of the Michigan Unemployment Compensation Commission, and the Commission recently laid off Thomas F. Carson, "deputy executive director," at $6,600 a year (Mr. Carson is also said to be a Birmingham resident, although he is not listed as a telephone user) Mr. Carson says Civil Service protects him and he wants his job back.

—o—

A divorce suit has been filed by Mrs. Augusta F. Merrill against William M. Merrill.

—o—

Mrs. H. A. O'Dell sends us this note:

"Once upon a time, umpteen years ago, a group of students lived in one of those dear, delightful brownstone fronts in New York City. They were students of the various Fine Arts—music, art and theatre. I know where of I speak because one among these ambitious hopefuls was I. Another, an especially gifted girl, was a harpist. She had just emerged from years of musical study in a convent.

"She rose to the top of her profession and played with our own Detroit Symphony Orchestra for many years under our beloved Gabrilowitch. She is now a very successful teacher. She is Helen Burr-Brand, of Detroit.

During this last year she has—to quote from her note to me—"given birth to two concertos. One for harp and one for piano."

The real point of this story is to inform our Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills music lovers of a musical treat to take place on Feb. 20 at the Northern High School in Detroit. At 8:30 on that date, the W.P.A. Orchestra, Valter Poole conducting, is to play Mrs. Brand's piano concerto with Margarete Gordon as piano soloist.

Helen Burr-Brand's concerto is only a part of a most interesting program. All things considered, our own Detroit artists, the W.P.A., a newly-born concerto, all under the auspices of the Pro Musica Society and the Tuesday Musical and all free—Feb. 20 promises to be a real treat. Northern High school, Woodward at Clairmont at 8:30 o'clock.

—o—

A rarin'-to-go gardener writes us: "Next week is about the right time for prospective gardeners to plant tomato, cabbage, pepper and other seeds in flats in the house so they will be ready to set outdoors when the proper time arrives."

—o—

A Patrolman Bob Emmett is convalescing from pneumonia.

—o—

The seige of Singapore, Corregidor, Tobruk, Smolensk and the other hot spots has its counterpart in Birmingham. It might be called "The Seige of 819 Kuffner Street." A vacant house at that point is the object of attack by neighborhood children. Three youngsters were nabbed for breaking windows and destroying six rolls of wallpaper. The old Plumstead house, that brick structure at East Maple and Hunter boulevard, has also been peppered and its windows are pretty well gone. This is all pure waste. How about it, kids? Why not swear off at least 'til the war is over?

—o—

A call to police Saturday from a Linden road resident informed officers that two dogs running at large caused an accident at Maple and Linden.

—o—

Sgt. George Stephenson, Friday, collared two boys on the roof of the building at 123 West Maple, which houses the Liberty Cleaners. They were pouring water on passersby below.

—o—

Our weekly dog communique should also include the following strange report made to police by a Lakeview avenue resident: "A stray dog is at the vacant house at Harmon and Lakeview, tearing shingles off. He has one caught in his throat." The shingles were on the house's sides, and it is suspected that a squirrel may have been inside. The dog, a "police" dog, was owned by a Royal Oak man.

—o—

Commissioner Ray A. Palmer returned to his chair at the Commission Monday night after an absence of several weeks, part of which time he spent in Florida. He is looking well. Harry Bissett was away Monday night.

—o—

Unless there is a spell of cold weather which looks as though it might hold, the 1942 Ice Carnival is melted out.

—o—

Here we were, getting along nicely with Batan pennins and spelled just that way, when the AP and UP dashed forward with a new spelling, Bataan. Who put that new "a" in Bataan? It must have been General MacArthur, with the "a" standing for Action.

—o—

This Wanderer has always wondered—how they built a church steeple. Now we know, having observed the construction of the new Lutheran spire out West Maple. Scaffolding is built, surrounding the steeple, which is formed of vertical pieces of wood. The scaffolding goes right to the top.

—o—

The tire business is not so good any more, as you may have heard, and the Goodyear station, corner Pierce and Martin, is the first casualty. The station is going out of business, but not for a month or so, this Wanderer was told.

—o—

Howard Holah came into the office Monday afternoon, muttering under his breath. He was mad in a quiet way. Some sonuvagun stole the Red Cross donations bottle from the lobby of the Birmingham Theatre. "Can you imagine anyone as mean as that?" he asked. In defense of our local citizenry, he opined that some out-of-towner was responsible. Out-of-town patronage is heavy at the theatre; more than half, you may be surprised to know.

—o—

Under the new draft regulations, deferments for financial dependency are being tightened. That will probably hit men whose wives are working; also, it may affect men hereabouts whose wives have independent incomes. On the other hand, a wife may be a millionaire's daughter but still receive no independent income, and in this case, her husband would probably be deferred, according to this Wanderer's speculation.

—o—

Coit Allee has a new lighter which never fails to awe the spectator. After the primary flame gets lit (which sometimes is no small task) a special tube shoots flame out to the side, making it possible to use the lighter for a pipe. It sounds something like a miniature blow torch, and frankly, if this Wanderer handled Coit's insurance, he would cancel it. The thing looks dangerous.

Fire From Incinerator

There was a fire last week at the E. H. H. Graf home, 519 Wimbleton. It started from defective insulation around an incinerator, and firemen estimated damage at $25.

Possibly He Did

That scientist who says most of the world's successful men are short, probably means in a bear market.—Waco News-Tribune.

Modern Miracle

This is a rapid age. Sometimes the coming man has passed out of memory before the general public has heard of him.—Los Angeles Times.

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In the Quarton District. Four bedrooms (two take twin beds) is impressive anytime when the price is only $9000. Freshly decorated inside—the outside was done last summer. You'll like the sense of freedom and space this home provides on its large corner site. Living room (19 x 20), lavatory, pantry. Includes stove and refrigerator and some insulation.

OVERLOOKING THE COURSE

As far as the eye can see there's a cleared vista ahead to the putting greens—fairways and yes, even the sand traps too! Brick construction—large size 90 x 185, the porch has a three-way exposure. Large sun room, large living room (14 x 24), 3 bedrooms and dressing room. You can't go wrong on this at $10,850.

EXCEPTIONALLY INTERESTING

Is this distinctive residence fabricated from hand-pressed brick and cut stone. A giant wrought iron entrance gate will tell you it's not just another house. Four bedrooms, two baths, sewing room, modernized from beginning to end. $13,250 is the price. All inclusive payments $82.50 and only $3000 required to complete the sale. You couldn't begin to rent this home as cheaply as you can own it.

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