Your average man in the service looks forward to that "letter from home" more than he does his paycheck, rest assured of that. He wants, and is entitled, to hear from the folks who symbolize what he is fighting for; so, even though he may not write often, don't let him down. He needs you now, more than ever!

The Birmingham Eccentric

PART TWO

SIXTY-SIXTH YEAR—NO. 8 BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, MAY 20, 1943 $2.00 PER YEAR (In Oakland County)—SINGLE COPIES, 5c

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Bits of Birmingham

A visitor from Texas said they've had no rain there for a couple of months. Just fancy that!

—o—

This Wanderer, being something of an amatur meteorologist, cast his eye at the skies Sunday when winds blew away the clouds and brought warm, clear weather, and said to his spouse: "Monday will be bright and warm. I am sure of it." We were sure, too, for the situation had all the earmarks characteristic of a high pressure area moving in from the west, and that is almost always good for at least two days of clear weather. Came morning and the spouse gave us the razzberries. Was it pouring!

—o—

A well-known pump man who lives at Baldwin and West Maple has been carrying about other people's sumps, but not his own. So when the Rouge gurgled into his basement, it was too late. Rollie admitted the joke was on him.

—o—

This Wanderer fears about the fruit crop. The weather has been so cold and damp that the bees have not been able to get around and do their customary pollinization.

—o—

Does anyone know J. E. Gajdostik, chief pharmacist's mate, U.S.N.? His home address is Delphos, Ohio, but the Navy says his "usual address" is 193 Henrietta, Birmingham, and there is no house by that number.

Chief Petty Officer Gajdostik was awarded the Legion of Merit, degree of Legionnaire, by Vice Admiral Sharp, commander of the service force, Atlantic Fleet. He distinguished himself administering first aid to the injured among the crew of his ship after it was torpedoed. Phone the editor if you know anything of this man.

—o—

They say at the City Hall that Birmingham won't be able to get any street oil this summer. We note in the Royal Oak Tribune that Clawson has been given a certificate for 10,000 gallons to complete black topping started on eight streets last year. However, tar sealer will be put on West Maple, Pierce, Brown and Southfield.

—o—

A reader phoned us to say: "I just saw a funny sight on Ruffner street. The motorcycle policeman just rode by and following him, barking at the top of their lungs, were about 10 dogs." The dogs probably knew the officer was not the dog warden. The warden, if he could ride a motorbike could have fooled those dogs by teasing them along and riding right into the pound, a modern Pied Piper!

—o—

To determine how many passengers were riding to Detroit in every car, a spot check will be made in Birmingham some time soon, and as the cars go by, police will count the passengers. Harold R. Kuder, secretary of the Wabeek Corporation, who is transportation coordinator, has been asked to make the survey.

—o—

Some dry cleaners are refusing to clean certain types of dresses, especially those with a lot of pleats. This Wanderer can see the point, but the over-all effect is not good, for such a policy renders valueless many articles of clothing. One solution might be for the OPA to permit higher charges for garments which require more labor. That would be less inflationary than to force people to buy new clothes they don't really need.

—o—

A woman who had locked herself out of her car called for police aid the other day. Patrolman Bob Dunn went to the rescue and used a tricky little tool which officers seized from a car thief a year ago. We won't describe it, for it might put ideas in someone's head.

—o—

It was quite a gale Sunday. One tree blew down at Henrietta and Townsend; and a large limb descended at Oakland and Woodward. The newly-arrived greenery put a strain on the trees which they didn't have to withstand during the winter.

—o—

A quantity of milk was stolen Sunday from Ward's grocery store.

—o—

Don't get discouraged, folks, about your victory garden. There is still plenty of time to get in all your crops, and it won't rain forever.

—o—

For some reason, the dog bite season was ushered in during the past week-end. No less than four nips were reported to the police. A cat was caught killing some chickens on Ruffner street last Saturday.

—o—

The police have received more reports of window-breaking and rock throwing. One resident declared the other day: "The juvenile problem needs a new approach, for it is obvious that present methods are getting us nowhere. Maybe we ought to organize a junior anti-sabotage unit. Maybe we ought to offer rewards leading to the apprehension of vandals. I think some one in this town ought to consult leaders in other places where they have been successful in combating vandalism, and perhaps we can learn something from them. I realize that conditions are worse generally, but for that very reason, I think we ought to try new methods here."

—o—

We ran into Mrs. Thomas Navin, who is back from Florida, where she has an orange grove. The crop was very heavy this year, she said; on her city lot where there are 25 trees, the yield was estimated at 40 crates (which are a little smaller than the usual wooden orange box.) You can pick oranges off the trees for $1.75 a crate.

—o—

Several opossums have been seen about town and a car killed one Thursday at Landon and Woodward. A number of 'possums have been seen rambling around at the City yard near the railroad.

—o—

Lee Gunn, who has been at Fort Wayne, Ind., as a Federal civil service engineer (you will perhaps remember when he left as City building inspector) underwent an oneration last week at Pontiac and is recovering nicely. Ben Holfus is also recuperating from an operation.

—o—

Workmen have been doing a lot at the Birmingham Theatre, modernizing and redecorating. The front doors have been removed altogether and the entrance done over with a red glass-like "marlite." The walls and murals have been retouched, the draperies cleaned, and considerable paint spread about.

—o—

Last week, we called the school superintendent's office and were told that the Monday following Memorial Day would be a holiday. Now, word has come through that Monday is not a holiday in the State school calendar, so classes will be held after all. Sorry, kids!

—o—

In our story about the runaway steer last week, it seems that our informants forgot to mention D. E. Joyce. This man is the real hero of the incident, we are told.

—o—

James C. Allen has passed the State bar exams to qualify as a lawyer.

—o—

This Wanderer never before knew how tuna fish were caught until he saw a movie Tuesday at the Exchange Club meeting. After a school of fish is located at sea, one man stands at the bow of the ship and tosses out big mackerel for bait. As the tuna rush in, the men, standing close to the water, elbow to elbow on a long platform, cast out big feathered hooks at the end of poles and lines. As fast as they can be hauled in, the big fish are jerked overhead and dumped on the deck behind. There are no barbs on the hooks and the fish fall right off. It's really mass production. Rice A. Howell arranged the show; if you want a program for your club, contact Mr. Howell and he'll give you the name of the projectionist.

—o—

The rationing office is now established at 116 South Woodward in the store between Max Broock's and Olsen's Market. Nearest parking lot is on Hamilton street, around the corner from The Eccentric office. A small restroom has been established for the help, and Mrs. Helen Genung is hoping some one will loan them a day bed, two comfortable chairs and a rug.

—o—

Daine W. Millman, 1260 Yorkshire road, last week was accepted as a new member of the Birmingham Rotary Club. He is a sales representative for the Aluminum Company of America, and was proposed by Rotarian W. Glen Harris, First Presbyterian minister. That gives the club 48 active and three honorary members.

—o—

With their usual friendliness and hospitality, men and women of the Birmingham Lutheran Church Thursday night of last week put on one of their highly palatable public dinners. It was well attended—perhaps the rationing problem added a few extras, but this Wanderer (who never will cease to praise the good food the ladies make and offer) thinks that, rationing or no rationing, that kind of dinner will always be well patronized. Why don't they have them every week or two?

Harry D. Long, 16 years old, of Walled Lake, was arrested here last week for reckless driving. The Juvenile Court will administer justice.

—o—

When a dog fell into a pond back of 556 Oak street, Patrolman Leo Stiers and Malcolm Ross went to the rescue.

—o—

Is the City going to start more rigorous enforcement of the dog ordinance, which requires people to keen their pets restricted to their own property? At the City Commission meeting Monday night, one taxpayer complained: "We don't own a dog, but we have about eight all the time." To which H. H. Corson, acting City manager replied, "Dog complaints are increasing and the Police Chief says he is going to cut them down."

—o—

The dog ordinance is much like the bicycle ordinance; many people pay little attention to it because it doesn't mean much if you violate it. Has anyone paid a fine in recent years for letting his dog run loose?

The kids apparently think it's great sport to elude the police as long as possible in buying their 25-cent bicycle licenses, for they are warned in the schools that their bikes will be impounded if they don't get their tags, but every year, the officers go around and nick 'em up by the dozens.

—o—

Mrs. Julio Andrade's daughter parked their car outside Baldwin High the other day and from a purse left inside, $6 was extracted by some unprincipled person.

—o—

Correction: to the four dog bites mentioned earlier in this column, add three more just reported to police. The worst week in several years—unprecedented for May.

—o—

A Michigan-wide campaign to get people to turn in their unused milk and beverage bottles is supposed to start Monday.

—o—

Do you have any games you don't want, such as cards, checkers, etc? Students are collecting them at Baldwin High on behalf of the Red Cross, which will distribute them to Army hospitals in this area.

—o—

Is invasion of Europe near? If so, our medical corps must be ready to take care of the wounded, and the Birmingham and Bloomfield Red Cross units have received new large quotas of surgical dressings. HELP IS NEEDED NOW to do this work, according to Mrs. Frederick Clifford Guest, who is in charge at the Community House. Workers have dwindled in a disappointing fashion this past week. Monday night, the hours are 7:30 to 9:30; Tuesday, it's 10 a. m. to 4 p. m., and a nursery is operated from 10 to noon. Sewing ability is not needed.

—o—

Looking out the side window of our office, one of the hired help noticed that a couple of men returned to their car and changed their coats and hat around a couple of times, each time going away very mysteriously. Then the puzzle was solved. They made several trips to the liquor store, each time getting a pint. They probably figured that after driving all the way out here from Detroit, they wanted to make the trip "worth while."

—o—

A war-bond selling contest has been announced by Miss Eleanor Stanton, manager of the Bloomfield Theatre. To the girl selling the most in the month, a beautiful doll will be given; to the best boy salesman, a baseball with autographs of all the Tiger players. The applications and money should be brought to the theatre where the bonds will be written.

—o—

Postmaster Joe Byrne is looking for men clerks and carriers from 18 to 45. The pay is 75 cents an hour, from 40 to 48 hours. Five mail men have gone into the armed forces; a sixth, Andrew Thompson, had to quit because he was a tool maker.

—o—

A week from Friday, six professional gardeners from the Bloomfield Hills Horticultural Society will give demonstrations of planting and other gardening techniques at various gardens about town. Watch next week's Eccentric for details.

—o—

The "Brewmaster" writes us a card and asks about that contest he proposed last week. Well, Sir, if we thought people were in a contest frame of mind at this time, we might do something about it. The entry fee of war stamps would probably be contrary to postal regulations, however.

—o—

A reader writes: "Who can tell us where to get poles for string beans and tomatoes? They must be at least six feet and sturdy enough to carry their load through a storm."

—o—

We've heard tell that a local minister had a gift of some stocky tomato plants which he promptly set out. Next morning they were black into death from the frost—another case of "he wins who waits." What we wantta know is how he got into his land without sinking in to the ankles!

—o—

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Charmatz have sold their home on Dorchester and are moving to Toledo. This Wanderer is sorry to see them go, for Charlie was a live wire in organizing the local camera club (a war casualty) while the Mrs. was chairman of the AWVS theatre booth war bond saleswomen.

—o—

A local housewife called on us yesterday, much upset because her neighbor not only refuses to prepare her tin cans for salvage, but won't even rinse out her jars and cans to make them sanitary. "I got so tired of seeing that mess right under my nose—I mean those filthy cans and jars in the yard next door—that I got a basket and put them out on my own curb. What a place to breed flies! I think we ought to have an ordinance prohibiting leaving unrinsed cans around." She brought in copies of Time and Scientific American in which was related the findings of doctors at the University of Cincinnati. They found evidence to support a belief that polio can be spread by houseflies. "I think everyone ought to feel the same as I, because flies can travel a mile or two," she said.

—o—

Just an altogether too brief a bit of praise for Al Melgard, a personal friend of this Wanderer, who came to Detroit's Olympia last week to prepare the musical score for the circus now being offered there. Mr. Melgard is resident organist for Chicago's big stadium, where is located the world's largest organ, an instrument which, when every one of its 880 stops is turned on, can simulate an orchestra of 2,500 men. He never turns on all its power, as it would blow the windows out of the immense building. Mr. Melgard, a life-long musician, is musical director for the Norris Co., owners of the Chicago and Detroit stadiums, as well as more than a dozen others scattered over the nation. He calls Arthur M. Wirtz, a Norris partner and executive head, "my boss"—authough between the two is the relationship of strong personal friendship, built up over the last 14 years. Mr. Melgard is said to be the only organist who really has mastered the big Chicago organ—and he does this despite the loss of the index finger on his left hand, an accident that occurred some years ago when he was tinkering with a little band-saw in his home. When Sonja Henie made her first nation-wide tour, she demanded that Mr. Melgard personally accompany her troupe, and play the music. He has played music for the great political conventions in Chicago since 1932. He has a summer cottage at Hamlin Lake near Ludington, Mich., and fishing is one of his strong hobbies. Modestly, though, I can say he mostly depends upon me to catch trout for him.—GRA.

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