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Bits of Birmingham

It seems that this column has another anonymous contributor besides that guy who phones every Tuesday evening. (Last week that chap was in jail, or something, for he sent a post card.) Anyway, we received a postal card signed by "The Brewmaster," in which he suggests that there be a contest among the public school children for the best garden produced this summer.

Well, the idea is a good one, even if it did come from "The Brewmaster," and a Harvest Festival is being planned for the middle of September. Read more about it later in The Eccentric.

Volume 65 of the Eccentric has arrived from our bookbinders at the Springport, Mich., (do you know where that is?) and one of the files has been deposited at the public library with our compliments. So, if you want to look up anything last year or any other year, back to 1878, step over to the library.

What is this we hear about our school board president, Lee Joslyn, fattening a small pig in his back yard? Because his is the only house on the street, there will probably be no objection from the neighbors, but knowing Mrs. Joslyn is an outstanding flower gardener, we wonder what will happen should said pig get loose?

Many women have fallen for Marines. Mrs. Earl Bisso, 671 Emmons, did it the week last week. She was down at the U. S. Marine Hospital and slipped on the shiny floor, injuring her spine and head. She and another woman who was hurt in a war plant, then became the only women patients in this big place full of men. After a week, Mrs. Bisso returned home but still "takes things easy."

Patrolman Ralph Bell and Ed Carlson apprehended three boys who had started the engine of a car in Detroit's used car lot, but did not intend to drive it away. That old fascination that mechanical things have for boys—all but a rag picker.

Remember those old-fashioned washing machines that were pushed with a hand lever pushed back and forth? How the boys liked those!

The entire reportorial staff of The Eccentric is embarrassed by the scoop which went down this week. Some car thief drove a car from Pontiac and parked it on Fernside street, not far from the shipping entrance of the Eccentric. But instead of discovering it and getting glory, the newshawks slept and Patrolman Roy Bronsing got all the credit.

The staff did, however, note a certain name on the draft list and prevent the local board from sending a notice to a man who had died two weeks ago.

The rationing board should not have so tough a time when re-strictions on gasoline are eased. Salesmen who need to drive in the course of their work are now entitled to as much as 750 miles a month, or 250 miles more than in the past, according to the dope from Washington.

Lillian Diederich, our Lathrup correspondent, writes from South Carolina that she is enjoying the

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halmy weather. Her son is an air cadet down there.

Boys have been breaking windows in the office of Harold Brook, 908 So. Adams.

Police were notified the other day that some one with truck was dumping rubbish at Lincoln and Hillside. This Wanderer drove down Washington boulevard, near 14-Mile the other day, and was appalled at the amount of trash which people had thrown out into the vacant lots there. If you have rubbish that the City will not pick up at the curb, and which has no salvage value, take it out to the City pit on East Maple avenue, about one-quarter mile past the city limits. The latest dumping place is on the north side of Maple. The fellow who has no compunction about throwing stuff out of his car is a pretty poor citizen.

Mrs. J. E. Lofstrom, 1631 Taunton, lost a tan billfold at Sifers' last Friday.

The food stores did a rushing business last Friday. The stores dashed in to use up the blue coupons expiring on April 30.

We've often heard of men who were beset by dogs and suffered loss of the seat of their trousers, and we had often found it run across a case of it. A dog usually will nip at one's heels. However, last Thursday, Birmingham was interrupted by Ed Smith, 11 years old, of 1520 Ruffner, by a stray bound dawg. Our sympathy to Ed!

A dice game was reported going on last week outside a store on Adams, but officers found it was just some kids rolling 'em for fun, with no money changing hands.

Remember the stories you used to hear about soldiers who went to France and returned home with small fortunes earned by luck with the galling dominoes?

Mrs. Herman Kist, 320 Elm, is minus \$42 taken from a drawer in her dining room.

Ward Smith, 1769 Pine street, has left Birmingham for the summer, going to his haunt at Searus, Mich. near West Branch, where he keeps bees. He has about 120 colonies there, and a cabin, and while he looks after the bees, they go after the clover, basswood and wild milkweed nearby. The greatest bee keeper in the state has three or four thousand colonies of bees. It sounds like a very interesting way to spend the summer, with a little trout fishing thrown in.

The printers on the night shift are getting overworked by the food situation. Only one restaurant is open nights now, and for that matter, the night chef didn't show up, and of course, that same place is closed every Monday night anyway. The boys will have to fry their lyonnaise potatoes over the metal pot on the linotype machines. This town is closed tighter than tight after 11 p. m.

Justice Forbes S. Hassell usually gives the boys a few days to pay their fines but last week, Thomas Devitt, of 659 John M. Clawson, and Joe Fisher, 138 Cot- ture, Pontiac, failed to show up so the court issued bench warrants and the Law brought 'em in. They paid.

Then there was Earl G. Kittle, 38 years old, of 538 Westside, Pontiac, who was arrested the other day for driving while under the influence of liquor. Judge Hassell found out that he had donated a pint of blood that morning and took three shots of whiskey afterward as a pick-me-up, and it was too much for him. However, instead of assessing a \$100 fine Mr. Kittle got off for \$50.

There has been an epidemic of horseplay with bicycles. That is some person or persons grab bicycles wherever they find them, take them for a ride, and then ditch them. The moral, boys, is to lock 'em up or watch 'em.

Don't get contented about those new and different air raid alarms—they're really quite simple. When the siren sounds steady for two minutes—that means ALERT. Traffic continues, but your house lights should go out although street lights will remain on. When the sirens rise and fall for three minutes—that means a full blackout.

take cover; traffic stops. When the sirens blow steadily one minute, then halt two minutes, then blow steadily—that's all clear. A City fire alarm is THREE rings and falling swells, and these last but 45 seconds.

Patrolman Ralph Appell gets this week's accolade for courtesy to the public Tuesday morning when riding the police motorcycle on Woodward avenue, he noticed a couple of elderly women timidly waiting to cross at the Maple intersection. He parked the bike and escorted them through the traffic.

Hazards are not so great at that hour, however, as they are earlier when the commuters dash to the station. Residents of various sections have worked out routes to the station by which they avoid traffic lights and gain that extra 30 seconds!

We note that Elbridge G. Dewhart, last of the National Photo-graphic Guild of Detroit, which is one of the leading camera clubs in the nation.

We note also that a Detroit official of the Victory Garden program has suggested that the OWI be checked on the garden staff it is handling out, such as "water and weep now," as pointed out in this column last week. Many experienced gardeners do not do much serious planting until May 10, although they are getting busy with such peas which may be sown early.

The Wanderer got his garden plowed last week and with today's balmy weather, he was tempted to play hooky and start the season. He was unfortunately run over by a piece of well-rained sandy loam—no roots, no soil, no stones to grow in. He was fortunate in that he got tomato plants and the like will double their price this year? One citizen, hot under the collar, phoned to complain about being charged \$9 a hundred for seed potatoes.

Sam Gawne, who has just been commissioned a lieutenant junior grade in the Naval Reserve, was in the anxious seat for a few days. His commission did not come through, and meanwhile the draft board was working it.finger. While sympathetic, the draft board has no power to defer in these cases after the nick of time, the appointment arrived.

One of our prominent citizens who is inclined to be absent minded at times tells a good one on her. After making a pile of money in a telephone booth, she started to walk out and thought she felt a workman outside. She started again and felt another tug, and then asked the man "What do you want of me?" "Why, nothing, lady," he replied.

Then she looked closer and found she had taken the telephone receiver, put it in her purse, and snapped it shut!

Mrs. Ralph Yonker is much interested in the Culbertson plan for World Federation and has published a chart showing graphically the proposed set-up. The chart was submitted to Mr. Culbertson who OK'd it with minor changes.

Elden Auker, the former Tiger and St. Louis pitcher, talked before the Exchange Club Tuesday evening, relating anecdotes out of his 11 years in big league baseball. With the Army calling so many men, the teams will have to scratch to finish out the season, he opined. He concluded by inviting the Exchanges to come over to his new home on Glenhurst and help him cultivate his victory garden. Auker quit baseball to nurse work vital to war industry; last week he turned down a baseball bid with the best salary offer since 1937.

The City Commission has OK'd for another year the sale of drinking water to the Birmingham Golf Club. They pay twice the normal rates.

Concern was expressed Monday night about water standing in the unfinished basement of the proposed Calvary Baptist Church, which was recently halted by W.P.B. However, it was reported that the congregation planned to push the dirt into the excavation to make it safe.

A mother phoned us: "My two children have been kidnapped and I just found an easy way of keeping 'em. (Continued on Page 6, Part 2)"

Concert of Choirs Held on Sunday Very Successful

By F. A. PROTHEROE

National Music Week was auspiciously ushered in on Sunday evening at the Baptist Church with a very impressive choir festival.

Under the sponsorship of The Birmingham Musicals and the chairmanship of Mrs. D. L. Tate, five Birmingham choirs aggregating 75 voices, combined and gave a large audience the inspiration and thrill that can come only from a large choir splendidly organized and directed in the churches' most inspired music.

The choir was those of the First Baptist Church, with Mrs. Harold Strong, director, and Mrs. Walter Turner, organist; the First Methodist Church choir with Victor Ulrich, director, and Oscar Schmidt, organist; the Episcopalian Episcopal Choir with Waldo Felch, director, and Gail Fairchild Blaine, organist; the Lutheran Church choir with Jessie Clark Copp, organist-director, and the First Presbyterian Church Choir with Mildred Green Ritter as organist-director.

The program opened with a group of organ numbers by Mrs. Copp which brought out the great beauties of the Baptist organ and showed Birmingham's musical life richer by the addition of this fine organist. Victor Ulrich, our very capable high school conductor, then directed the massed choirs in "The Prayer of Thanksgiving," always a welcome number on any program. In it Mr. Ulrich brought his choir from the soft beginning in the male voices to the glorious climax on the words "Jesus, take us free," with consummate skill. In the second number, "In the Night, Christ Came Walking," he again displayed a fine control over his singers, bringing out dramatic contrasts in this difficult eight-part number. He then led his high school capella choir in the always welcome "Adorems Te," "Beautiful Savior" and the exquisite "Hear My Prayer, O Lord." In this latter number the trio of girls' voices was especially effective with their lovely tone qualities.

Two Favorites Mrs. Turner played the offertory and Mr. Ulrich again directed the massed choir in two favorites, "The Star in the East" and the Matthe setting of "The Lord's Prayer," both impressively done with an accompaniment by the organ. Then ascended the rostrum and led the singers through a vigorous and stirring "Hallelujah" chorale, and singers and audience alike are already looking forward to another choir festival in Birmingham.

Leads Nation Michigan leads the nation in tin can salvage and has the best quota performance of any state in household fats collections, according to reports submitted by Kenneth M. Burns, chairman of the State Salvage Committee, to Capt. Donald S. Leonard, Director of Civilian Defense. Since the report was compiled, however, fats collections in a sharp drop and a new appeal has been issued for this vital war material.

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