*"It has been ably stated that "democracy is the only form of government that is willing to turn man on the loose in mankind's struggle for a better life." That statement, of course, assumes that individuals will participate, intelligently, and with tolerance, in the give and take processes of self-government.*

# The Birmingham Eccentric

PART TWO

SIXTY-SEVENTH YEAR—NO. 4 | BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 1944 | $2.00 PER YEAR (In Oakland County)—SINGLE COPIES, 5c

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| **RUG CLEANER** | |
| Pints | .59 |
| **TAVERN DRY CLEANER** | |
| Gallons | .83 |
| **TAVERN Furniture White Gloss** | |
| 8 ounces | .57 |
| **BUG-A-BOO** | |
| Pints | .49 |
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| **GARDEN SPRAY** | |
| 4 ounces | .50 |

Greens QUALITY
Woodward and Maple

## Bits of Birmingham

**George E. Baldwin, of Orchard** Lake, and Charles J. O'Connor, of Avon road, are wondering just how long they can endure the piscatorial vanity of a local man they always thought was their friend: J. Darby Taylor, of 636 Wimbleton road. Each of these men, it must be admitted, has done considerable fishing in days gone by; each excelled in certain phases of the angler's art, too. O'Connor, perhaps not having as many total hours in as the other two, yet brought many fine specimens to his net; when it came to draping large and lusurious angleworms on a hook, he had no peer. Baldwin, a fair trouter, won his medals catching bass, pike, and other occasional muskellunge on the French River. Taylor, of course, was considered a better hunter than a fisherman, though he is reputed to have brought home many pounds of the aquatic species. A few weeks ago Mr. Taylor, with his wife, went to St. Petersburg, Florida, for a vacation, also to improve Mr. Taylor's health. Recently he sent to Baldwin one of those small, four-page "tourist come-on" pamphlets, across the top of which was headlined: "Darby Taylor Lands Record Tarpon on Fly Rod." And right there is where the strength of friendship is being tested. Taylor, you see, apparently has taken advantage of his isolation from O'Connor and Baldwin by claiming to have caught a giant tarpon. This agree Baldwin and O'Connor, announces their own international piscatorial standing; they are even considering taking the matter up with Washington . . . or maybe Peoria . . . even Big Beaver. Anyway both have violently declared that they will not vote for J. Darby Taylor this year for President.

—o—

**Beginning May 1, Airplane** stamp 2 in War Ration Book Three may be used for buying one pair of rationed shoes, OPA announced. The new stamp and Airplane stamp 1 will be good indefinitely. Stamp 18 in Book One will expire April 30. From May 1 through May 20, children's low-priced shoes (maximum $1.60 per pair) in sizes 8½ through 12, and Misses' and little boys' shoes in sizes 12½ through 3 will be ration-free.

—o—

**An immediate appeal to Oak**land county farmers and fruit growers to file requests for aid of Jamaicans in producing muck crops, canning crops, vegetable truck crops, and in thinning and picking fruit, is cited by A. R. Love, state emergency farm labor supervisor. Requests should be filed with the county agricultural agent, Karl D. Bailey, in Pontiac, or by phoning Pontiac 32564. Mr. Bailey announces a meeting for farmers to be held at 8 p. m. Friday, April 21, at the West Bloomfield Township Hall, located at the intersection of Lone Pine and Orchard Lake avenue, 5 miles southwest of Pontiac. At this meeting organization will be set up to secure Jamaican help, and possibly set up a labor camp for housing. Fruit growers are urged to appear at the meeting in person to file their labor requests.

—o—

**Mrs. James Alta, 412 Hanna** street, believes, now more than ever, that this is a pretty small world after all. Sunday night she received a person-to-parson call from her husband, Cpl. Alta, who is stationed at a point of embarkation. After accepting the call another voice was heard on the phone and said, "This is Pvt. Buckeridge speaking." It was finally decided that Pvt. Buckeridge, who was trying to get his parents, the J. O. Buckeridges, of Brookside drive, Birmingham, had been given the wrong line. All ended well and the boys both soon had their calls through to the right parties.

—o—

**Leonard Loewen, proprietor of** Leonard's Barber Shop, recently installed a special chair for children's hair cuts. It is an exact duplicate of a man-sized chair but is built for smaller occupants and, of course, is elevated to a greater height. It looks like the board sitting days are over for the younger patrons of the tonsorial trade.

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**A group of students from Wil**son school, Detroit, entertained at the St. Elizabeth's Branbank home for the Aged, Bloomfield Hills, Sunday afternoon. Monologues, dialogues, accordion solos, singing and dancing were rendered before the group. Mother Teresa would like to have other programs, such as this, given at the home. Anyone wishing to entertain may call Mother Teresa, Birmingham 2432.

—o—

**E. H. "Pete" Fletcher, 2215** Tottenham, recently was in Washington and, as a guest of Congressman George A. Dondero, attended the annual Lincoln Day Assassination program, presided over by Mr. Dondero. Writes "Pete": "Our District should be proud of our Representative. He is very sincerely interested in his work and his responsibilities, and is well regarded by his colleagues."

—o—

**On April 2 a baby girl, Shirley** Irene, came to brighten the home of Mr. and Mrs. Maurice H. Smith, Bennaville avenue.

—o—

**The Wanderer wandered out** about the city a bit the other day and learned that a fire extinguisher (of all things!) had been stolen from a local apartment house and that its valuable chemicals had been wasted by the miscreant who sprayed the liquid on the sides of a private home. The fire extinguisher later was found, recharged and placed back in position in the apartment house, for use there in case of fire. And now (and one can hardly believe it) the same extinguisher has again been stolen.

—o—

**Postmaster Joseph Byrne, who** has been vacationing in Florida, is home looking "fit as a fiddle" and has been busy receiving welcome from his many friends. "Joe's looking great!" is what people are saying about the postmaster these days. And Mrs. Byrne was with her husband on the trip and says she enjoyed every minute of the vacation.

—o—

**Richard Norton, Detroit, an ac**tive Rotarian and a past president of the Detroit Rotary club, was the speaker Monday evening at the meeting of the Birmingham High Twelve club. He spoke on "Mexico" and interested the club members with bits of information about the nation south of the border. There were 65 club members present.

—o—

**Leo Paquette, Detroit, was Mon**day noon's speaker at the Rotary Club luncheon at the Community House, discussing interestingly "Facts About the Distiller's Part in the War Effort."

—o—

**At this week's meeting of the** Birmingham Exchange club, the club voted to purchase three target rifles for use of the Birmingham Rifle club in its program of instruction for young men about to be called for war duty.

—o—

**More workers for the Red Cross** surgical dressing room at the Community House are still urgently needed. Effective this week the new schedule for the workroom will be: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, from 10 a. m. to 4 p. m. and Monday and Wednesday nights from 7:30 to 9:30 o'clock.

—o—

**Listening to a radio program** from Hollywood the other day a local resident was startled a bit to hear some young soldier mention that he was from "Birmingham, Michigan." The listener did not hear the name mentioned.

### Highlife

It's a sure sign of pleasant weather when steeplejack Arthur Snyder climbs the flagpole (which see) of the tallest building in Des Moines, Ia., for the annual renovation.

## Birmingham Soldier In Italy Says People At Home Should Not Complain

Birmingham people have no cause to complain about the war and all the restrictions the war is bringing this country and the world, declares S. Sgt. Maurice E. Thompson, 715 Pleasant road, in a letter just received by his wife. Written on stationery given the soldier at Greenville, South Carolina, Army Air Base, the letter says in part:

"My Dear Wife:

"Don't let this stationery fool you for right now I'm perched somewhere in Italy. More I can not say, but it's better than not knowing where I am at all.

"This letter will probably take a little longer to reach you, but I feel like writing more than just a page and so I'll have to sacrifice time for space.

"I feel so sorry for these poor people here, and especially now that I've been able to see with my own eyes. When I get back home I don't ever want to hear anyone gripe about rationing or having to walk to where they want to go.

"For since I've been here I've seen men and women forced by necessity to stand outside of the mess halls and take what is left; children in bare rags roaming the street in search of food and shelter. Shoes are something out of the ordinary, and even those are made of wood and paper, plus an exorbitant price (1500 Lira). These are good people here and I admire and respect them very much.

"For if people can still sing as they go along their work, if people can still smile and show good spirits when their loved ones have been blown and crushed to death, if people can still carry on, starting all over again from less than nothing, then all is not lost, and these people will rise again to their rights, the rights to think and act as men who love and cherish freedom.

"More than once I've heard someone remark 'why do we have to go overseas to fight,' but every day I thank God that America does not see or have this befall her. I thank God each day that I am here, able to do the little that I can, for I know that had I stayed in the States like some are doing I would never again be able to walk with my head up."

In another letter received Monday, Sergeant Thompson said he was now a tomato-picker on one of Uncle Sam's big planes.

**4-H COUNCIL MEETS**

At a recent meeting of the Oakland County 4-H Club Council, under the direction of Ray Fletcher, 4-H club agent and Harry Woodward, home extension agent with Grace Fuller of Oxford acting as chairman, plans were made for organizing and carrying on local 4-H clubs in definite areas of this county during the summer.

(See the Eccentric Want Ads)

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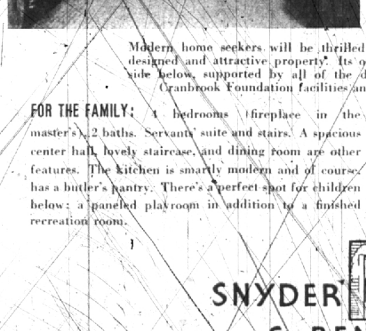

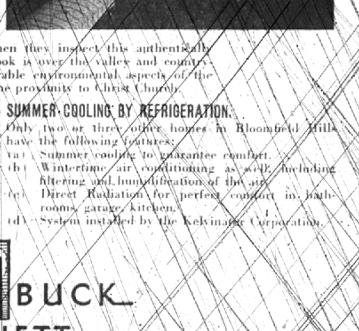

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