

From a quarter of a century of observation of people and their government, very often moved that we have as much decency in it as we have. The average person shrinks his civic responsibilities plenty; if he did liberate us a soldier on a sentry line he would be shot at sunrise.

# The Birmingham Chronicle

PART TWO

SIXTY-SEVENTH YEAR—NO. 15

BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, JULY 6, 1944

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## Bits of Birmingham

**Birmingham boys and girls**, who have been waiting a chance to buy a bicycle will be happy to know their chances for July are better. The OPA has just announced it will allow 17,500 new bicycles to be placed with the dealers for rationing during July. These will be the adult size bicycles.

Among the nearly 3,000 Birmingham servicemen there are a large number no doubt interested in the new bicycles. A news dispatch out of Washington says: "G. I. low—the common American foot soldier—received new recognition of his services today when President Roosevelt signed a bill granting a \$3 a month pay increase to those wearing the expert Infantryman's and Air Infantryman's combat badge."

Shirts entitled wear both badges will receive both increases. For the first six months of 1944 there were 1,016 arrests in Oakland County and 935 convictions. Prosecutor Donald C. Wood reported Saturday. Fines and costs totaled \$12,238. For the first six months of 1944 there were 1,192 arrests with 1,074 convictions, and fines and costs came to \$9,104.

Mr. and Mrs. Otto Leopold, 644 1/2 1st st., are off on their first vacation, enroute to Houghton by train, bus and car with a party of friends. Mr. Leopold is having his annual vacation from the Birmingham post office where he is a rural carrier.

Traffic across the Straits of Mackinac during the first five months of 1944 was 5 per cent below last year and 51.4 per cent less than in 1942.

**Best Joyce, 391 Hamilton**, should be classed a public benefactor not a public offender. For the Birmingham man was of great assistance to the police department in rounding up two men wanted for car theft in Detroit. He noticed two men asleep in a car near his home and called the Birmingham police who quickly and efficiently rounded up the pair, investigated their record and found they were not only wanted for car theft but also had been in difficulty previously. The pair, Reginald Thomas and Frank Carull, were turned over to Detroit police and the stolen car back to that city to be restored to its owner. But somehow in the reports of the good deed done by Mr. Joyce and the report on the persons ticketed for speeding became mixed up in the Executive. Mr. Joyce's name became listed with the offenders instead of being mentioned for his good deed. The Wanderer hopes Mr. Joyce has not suffered too much inconvenience because of the error for Birmingham is proud of such citizens as he has proven himself to be.

These Birmingham Hi-Twelvers are planning their second annual picnic for Monday evening, July 10, at 7 o'clock at Springdale park. Robert Chissas, committee chairman, promises a lot of fun and good time for the entire party.

Birmingham had a Fourth of July celebration again this year around the intersection of Buick, Birmingham and Yorkshire. Again it was a children's event, but nevertheless it was a good one with Uncle Sam, the Goddess of Liberty, General Eisenhower, and lots of other famous personages of the past and present attending. There were flags and flags, music, parade and lots of fun. More children really did a good job.

The Wanderer is told. Maybe from the ground will come a president of the United States or a woman senator. Mrs. Fred Kennell, 1447 Buckingham, served as chairman of the group starting the program.

One of the women from this section attending the Republican national convention was Mrs. Gladys B. Pike of Southfield Township, who says the convention was both exciting and very worthwhile. She and other women attending thoroughly enjoyed themselves. She predicts a splendid vote in Michigan for Dewey and she anticipates he will be elected with a good majority. Mrs. Elizabeth Fahre, former president of the Women's Republican club of Royal Oak was another woman attending.

Violators of the highway traffic laws don't get along so well in Bloomfield Hills, either, and during the past few days at least two have paid heavy fines for speeding or reckless driving. Birmingham police have been keeping up a constant vigilance for speeders and reckless drivers and other kinds of traffic rules violators and the returns are nearly one a day here. This morning the Bloomfield court Friday Sherman A. Randall, Pontiac, paid an assessment of \$80 upon his plea of guilty to a charge of driving while under the influence of liquor. Joseph Arnold, Pontiac, paid a fine of \$40 for driving his motorcycle north at 60 miles an hour in southbound traffic lane on Woodward avenue. The charge was reckless driving.

This sounds like a happening in the home of the writer of the Wanderer's news flashes: Charles Shain notices smoke coming from the window of an apartment over his store the other night and upon investigation discovered someone had left an electric iron turned on. Result: a burned ironing board and a bit of smoke. Might have been another bad fire.

Those gardeners over on Chester are also growing a bit about their fire crops. And vegetables are growing so rapidly that even the gardeners themselves can hardly believe the results obtained. When ripe tomatoes appear almost every night some are pronounced as good as a bit of lipstick might not have been used by someone wanting to play a prank, or perhaps a ripe tomato may have been cleverly tied to a vine. Any way there are ripe tomatoes in the garden at the G. A. McClain home.

T. Sgt. Gordon L. Drumheller, 238 West Brown street, must be winning this war single handed, at least that is the way it looks here in the Eccentric office. Every time we get a story about Drumheller ready for the linotype operator this week, another public relations release would come in from Birmingham. At last count we had three separate releases on three separate Oak-Leaf Clusters awarded to Drumheller. (See Men in the Service.)

William Asler, of this city, was among the 16 young men who passed the Army Air Corps tests conducted last week in Pontiac. Another test is being arranged for July 27.

It was just a case of too much speed for these three listed as having been stopped by the traffic violator's department of the police force: Victor J. Basso, Royal Oak, 45 miles an hour in a 30 mile zone; Harold A. Snyder, Pontiac, 50 miles in a 35 mile zone, and Hazel

Batty, Birmingham, 50 miles in a 35 mile zone.

"So John McKee lost that tomato race?" questioned a Victory Gardener this week after he had written about those big tomatoes John McKee has been raising, and also about fine tomatoes in some other parts of town. John really did have some fine tomatoes but the back garden at his home on North Woodward has proved too shady for the tomatoes to ripen and S. K. Thingstad, 212 Aspen court, walked off with the prize for the first ripe tomatoes of the 1944 crop. The new champion turned to the early Stokessdale variety this year and also decided to use large size plants. His first picking was made June 28.

Copies of the Birmingham (England) Gazette and Birmingham News are being received every now and then by Birmingham (Michigan) residents from friends and other American servicemen in England. The papers, usually just four pages in size, with all stories and notices written rather short and to the point, and with advertising handled the same way. War news predominates the front pages.

Storrs J. Case, of 1060 Winthrop, has been appointed advertising manager for Plymouth division of Chrysler Corp. It was announced recently by Joseph Arnold, Plymouth general sales manager. Case has been in automotive advertising, promotion and advertising work since 1923. He joined Chrysler in 1939 as merchandise manager of the Toledo Division and was appointed to the staff of A. vanBerkze, vice-president of Chrysler, in 1944.

Then there is the story about one of the men who was playing a local golf course the other day and after having taken two healthy swings at his ball, missing each time, remarked: "Gee, this is a tough course, isn't it?"

Joyce Webster, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arroy H. Webster, 1025 Fairfax road, was hit by a street car on Tuesday while attempting to make a left turn on Woodward east block South of Seven Mile road. The street car was going south. Miss Webster, who was thrown out of the car, suffered a broken collarbone and a cut knee. She was taken to St. Carmel hospital for emergency treatment. The car, which was driving alone, was completely demolished.

Otto Bender proved a highly interesting and entertaining speaker at Monday's Rotary club luncheon at the Community House when he told Rotarians of "The Mexico the Tourist Solom Sees." He is a member of the lower part of the great country and of his experiences there not so long ago.

The Thursday evening "family dinner" at the Community House on July 13 is to be the final such event until fall, it was announced today. During the remainder of July the Community House will be open evenings only on appointments.

Give curious neighbors an eye treat next time you take home a box of candy for the wife—take it to the Eccentric office. It's a new wrapping, advises Daniel W. Nelson, WPB chairman. By this little stunt, he says, you will be doing the patriotic thing by giving wrapping paper, of which there is none for purposes not otherwise provided for. Nelson, in a special appeal to retailers and shoppers, suggested customers make their purchases from used materials, carrying out paper bags home to store to pack their purchases in, and accept manufacturers' packages unwrapped.

Lakes and parks in the Birmingham area were crowded almost to capacity Tuesday as thousands of persons found their way out-of-town for the Fourth of July vacation. Golf courses enjoyed their heaviest play of the season and other sports also drew thousands of persons. Bathing and fishing had their thousands of followers. Not only were the public beaches and picnic places crowded on Tuesday but also on Sunday, July 2. The largest of the season thus far for a Sunday on the Oakland county lakes.

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Several fires, most of them considered minor in as far as loss is concerned, were reported by the fire department for the first few days of July. On July 1 there was a rubbish fire at 918 East Maple and on the same day a grass fire was reported at the Holmwood house on West Maple. July 2 a rubbish fire was reported at 697 Southfield and a garage fire at the Hubert F. Burr home at 875 Vinewood. Fire Chief Vernon Griffith reports the latter fire may have been caused by children playing about the place. On the evening of July 4 there was a grass fire at the intersection of Maple and Hawthorn. An awning fire at the Osborne store also brought a run from the fire department. This fire, which may have been caused, it is said, by a cigaret butt.

Leon de St. Nicholas, of Leon's beauty shop, is one of today's faster tomato growers. Tuesday evening Leon got only joyous setting two tomatoes out of his garden but he made a complete salad of produce from the garden, and ate it.

Women of Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Bloomfield Village and other places are advising today that the Red Cross Surgical Dressing department needs more women workers and needs them better. The work will be under way on Monday evenings at 7:30 o'clock until 9:30 and on Tuesdays from 10 a. m. to 4 p. m. Women are reminded by the committee that here is a chance for them on some work that is greatly needed. Thousands of young men from this area are now on the battle fronts and some of the very surgical dressings made here may prove the means of saving some local boy's life, it is said.

Birmingham residents, and especially the younger crowd will remember Carlton E. Herbie, Birmingham, who sang quite a bit at school and other places around Herbie is now at Greer-Lake getting his boot training for Uncle Sam and tomorrow night at 8:30 o'clock is to be heard on "West Youth Navy" program. Station WXYZ is to carry the program, which will go over when it is termed a world-wide hookup. Herbie has a brother in England and is dedicating his number to him.



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