

# The Birmingham Eccentric

PART TWO

SIXTY-SEVENTH YEAR—NO. 41

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## Bits of Birmingham

The Army outumbered the Navy Friday at the Ice Carnival, but the Navy proved the better on skates. Noted on the ice were Al Larson, Bill Wells and John Gillespie, the latter a former president of the Student Congress. The Navy's lone skater was Paul Westery, home from Denison University, Granville, Ohio. He proved a clever figure skater.

One of the city's big tractors was used to clear the snow off Quanton Lake for Friday's Ice Carnival and the youngsters who were why rinks for skating, tracks for racing and rinks for hockey cannot be maintained regularly at the lake. They also suggest that the rinks be flooded smoothly each cold night to insure better skating. The Wanderer was out to the lake Friday and found the ice nearly ten inches thick, with spots quite free from cracks and rough spots.

Harvey E. Whalen, an Ex-Birminghamite, now residing in Pasadena, Calif., is a self appointed California correspondent for the Eccentric. This week the Eccentric welcomes three items from Mr. Whalen, who has contributed to the paper many times. How about some of the other Ex-Birminghamites dropping us a few lines?

The Birmingham Council of Veterans' Affairs has called a meeting for the evening of Jan. 11 at which time permanent delegates from various member groups are expected to attend and participate, according to the general chairman, L. A. Cady, commander of the Birmingham American Legion. Invitations have gone to all civic organizations to participate in the permanent organization.

New Year's Day in Birmingham was cloudy, with a bit of snow now and then and with the weather not too cold for winter. The day previous was a bit warmer and the driving was rather difficult on most roads. Main state trunklines were in fair condition both days and traffic was fairly heavy. The wind became brisk and the weather turned decidedly colder New Year's evening and before morning Tuesday the mercury had consoed to 5 below at several points in Birmingham.

Down in Detroit they have a city ordinance which provides that property owners who do not clean the snow from their walks or make them safe with salt or ashes within 24 hours after a snowfall may be sent to jail for six months and fined \$100. Birmingham has a number of property owners who are not showing their walks this winter. The Wanderer does not know what penalty the local ordinance provides in wishing property owners could make a New Year's resolution to handle that bit of work better during the remainder of the winter. Plowmen of the street plowing crews likewise could do a favor if they would shovel out the street crossings instead of plowing them full of snow.

Efforts that the Eccentric put forth in connection with the recent 'Bluff' Bank rally were appreciated, Harry D. Hoy, chairman of the blood donor service of the Oakland County Chapter, American Red Cross, writes this week. "Without the fine continued publicity through the news and advertising columns of the Eccentric," he writes, "we would have failed completely to secure the quota of blood which is necessary if our armed forces are to be adequately supplied with this life giving substance. Many thanks and may your paper continue in 1945 with the same service to the community at large as it has always made. It is truly the unifying agent which joins together the various widely-separated districts and sections of the Birmingham community."

With the hunting seasons over for the present this halting of the sale of ammunition to hunters effective Jan. 1, 1945, was not taken so hard by Birmingham nimrods, but the Wanderer just wonders how much worrying they are doing about the supply of shells for use later on in the year. The effect of the newest order of the war production board will be to cut off all sales to hunters and to reduce the amounts of ammunition available to farmers and sportsmen. The WPB halted production of all civilian ammunition because of the sudden increase in military requirements.

Birmingham public schools are to share well in the \$310,029 the state is contributing to Oakland county public schools to start off the new year. A total of \$4,884,408 is being distributed to schools on a statewide basis as the first allotment of state aid for the season. Checks are mailed to county treasurers and then distributed to school districts.

The government departments regulating this and that chose the happy holiday season to tell Birmingham residents, along with those in the rest of the country, a lot of things that upset folks generally. First, came that startling announcement that those meat and food points so carefully saved for a needed occasion were no longer worth the paper they were printed on. And at the same time came word that remaining points would be worth less in foods. That was at Christmas and at New Year's the word came along that shoes likely would have to wear longer. News trickled out at Washington that some sort of slowdown on shoe wear would have to come this year for there were not enough shoes to keep everybody, includ-

ing the servicemen, in their normal supply. Maybe the two-quarter plan may have to be changed, word from Washington said, along with changes in government policy may come an order instructing shoe manufacturers to make more shoes for children. There are now three shoe stamps valid for immediate purchase—if one has not already spent them—and those are expected to remain valid for some time.

Since Michigan began a regular program of acquisition of public frontage on lakes and streams four years ago, the conservation department has secured public access to 126 lakes, 39 trout streams and seven non-trout streams. During the past two years 37,991 feet of frontage were bought on 53 lakes; 75,350 feet on eight trout streams and 800 feet on two non-trout streams. Birmingham residents are enjoying fishing on many of these lakes and streams. Frontage is purchased with ear-marked funds from the revenue for fishing licenses.

The Oakland County Sportsmen's Association is completing plans to send 40 Oakland county boys to the conservation department training school on Higgins Lake next summer. There will be about a hundred Michigan boys at the school, Detroit being sent with another large group coming from clubs affiliated with the Michigan United Conservation Clubs.

A few of the new automobile license plates are appearing on the streets of Birmingham as the early birds are getting set for the new automobile. The WPB halted production of all civilian automobile license plates on March 1. Sale of the 1945 license plates began Tuesday morning of March 1. The Pontiac and Royal Oak branches of the office of the secretary of state. The 1945 plates are black letters on an aluminum background and only one plate is being issued for each car. Half year licenses will be sold starting Feb. 1. These plates will have aluminum colored letters on a black background and will expire Aug. 31. And when one gets his new auto plates he must place the new number on the cover of his gasoline coupon book, according to orders of the OPA, but need not insert the new number on each individual stamp.

It does not always pay to jump at conclusions, and when the telephone rings in the middle of the night, it is not always the wrong number, or had news. Says Geo. W. Forrester of 565 Brown Street, because recently, when the telephone awakened him from a sound sleep at 2:30 a. m. and he crawled out of a warm bed, and sleepily went down stairs to answer the phone, muttering to himself about the "blankety blank fool" who would call at such an hour, and then found out that it was news that his son, Lt. Warren C. Forrester, a bomber pilot, had landed an hour before at Miami, Florida. The airman, having completed his combat mission with the 10th Army Air Force in Italy, was in the Good Old U. S. A. and would be home in a few days. That sort of news is welcome any hour of the day or night. And again Geo. Forrester said it sure does not pay to jump at conclusions. You can be sure that there is a great deal of rejoicing in the whole Forrester family since that joyful news came in the wee small hours of the morning.

## Nimrod-Like



Pic. "Bluff" Bill Vesgo of Campbell, O. is a modern Daniel Boone in the Saalzaun area of the Western Front, with a coonskin cap under his camouflage-netted helmet and his gun shouldered, nimrod-like.

## Brothers Meet In Far Off Pacific For Short Visit At Christmas

Two Birmingham brothers consider themselves rather lucky to meet on a far away Pacific island to spend Christmas together. Earl Moody, a chief motor machinist mate on an LST boat with the Navy in South Pacific waters met his brother, Bob Moody, T-5 of the Army Medical Corps, quite by accident down in the section of the Pacific where the mercury never drops to zero.

Earl's ship had been in port only a few minutes when he secured shore duty and soon learned that his brother's outfit was stationed there. A meeting was arranged and the boys, waiting home told their parents in a letter which came this week, that it was a very happy occasion for them.

A day at Bob's camp and a day aboard Earl's ship were among the highlights of their stay together. The boys are sons of Mr. and Mrs. Earl L. Moody, 847 Purdy street.

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- No. 2 On Yorkshire Rd., 3 blocks from Adams School is a most interesting home on a corner site 88 x 140. First floor bedroom and bath; also a sun room, 3 Bedrooms, bath upstairs. Price includes tacked down carpeting and refrigerator. 30 day delivery. \$13,900.

Other occupied—appointments may be arranged at your convenience.

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To have been able to serve, at the time of their inception, many of Detroit's now great industries in their selection of plant sites;—to have initiated the development of a number of the better known residential districts;—to have conceived the development of major subsidiary business centers;—and to have aided thousands of purchasers of homes, farms and homesteads in their selection of properties leaves us, in view of the elapsed time, with a certain almost paternal pride.

What is more important, however, is that each experience, each year, each decade has taught all in association here something new. The experiences are not forgotten and are brought to bear in each succeeding year upon the problems of the current year.

We have grown older in experience, the while retaining our youth through active application of that experience. It is available to you whether you wish to buy, sell or evaluate.

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