A good tempered dog about a home —especially one where there are children—is an aid to emphasize the virtue of faithfulness. I know of no form of animal life (humans included) where the obstinacy of the virtue of appreciation is so faithfully shown as through the affectionate actions of a good dog.

The Birmingham Eccentric

PART TWO

SIXTY-EIGHTH YEAR—NO. 15 BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, JULY 5, 1945 $2.00 PER YEAR (In Oakland County)—SINGLE COPIES 5c

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Bits of Birmingham

Yes, the warm weather has been bringing the cherries along rapidly until this week the fruit is turning a bright red—at least it is red enough to tempt the boys and girls. The Wanderer was over on Oakland the other day and noticed a group of cherry trees, and in each tree was at least one boy or girl.

—o—

On Friday afternoon when the heat was just too much for comfort the Wanderer was in the Wabeek building and noticed that all the nurses in their stiffly starched white uniforms were suffering more than he. He solved part of their problems for them by suggesting that they roll up their long sleeves. They looked cooler and the Wanderer felt cooler looking at them.

—o—

Oldtime Birmingham residents today admit that the battle of the garden is growing more serious with each succeeding season. The Wanderer was out the other day watching gardeners spray and dust their vegetables and fruits and heard one old timer relate that "way back when he was a boy" there were fewer bugs, blights and other things to wreck one's garden; fewer dogs and birds and children to wander through and damage the crops. Right now the family trying for a successful Victory Garden has to preserve an everlasting vigilance—fighting all kinds of bugs and blights; very cold weather one night and very hot weather the next day, rain, hail and high wind. Then there are the rabbits, the pheasants, the dogs and cats and apparently a lot of other things. But to him who keeps everlastingly after his garden, watching day and night, there are just now coming on nice crops of vegetables and fruits.

—o—

Director Jack Bretzman apparently has added quite an interesting bit of play to the summer program in the nature of a weekly golf tournament at Springdale Park. Last week a group of boys from the older brackets played a round with Pete Whitelaw and Jim Anderson, each having a 42 to lead the way. Director Bretzman said there appeared so much interest he was trying to arrange tournaments every week for the remainder of the season. "It looks as though we may be starting some future golf champions on their way," he declared at the close of the first tourney.

—o—

M. Ray Cook just finished his year as president of the Birmingham Rotary club, but he is not going to get out of that job as quickly as he figured. Dr. Dwight B. Ireland, who became president of the club this week, has left for Rochester, N. Y., to teach in the University of Rochester for the summer term, so Cook will continue on as club head until Dr. Ireland returns home late in August. Under Rotary rules the retiring president becomes vice-president for the year following his presidential year.

—o—

Mrs. Louis Beaton, the former Sally Baker, is the secretary for the Birmingham office of the Council of Veterans' Affairs which opened on Monday. Sally's sister, "Johnny" Baker, ARC, now stationed in the South Pacific, has informed Sally that when she gets through welcoming the boys in the Pacific she'll send them home to Sally.

—o—

Robert L. Jessup, 636 Hanna, recently gave a pint of his blood to a unit of the American Red Cross in Chicago.

—o—

With hot summer weather upon Birmingham again, one witnesses many of our young lady set going about town with modest portions of their skin revealed to the tanning sunshine. "How different it was when I was a kid," observed a local old timer to this Wanderer Monday; "I'm all for the modern trend—even though in my day us kids had to sneak off to a swimmin' hole to get the correct exposure of our epidermis."

—o—

Maybe you Birmingham duck hunters do not know it, but those duck stamps for this year's hunting are now on sale at the Birmingham post office, as well as other first and second class offices throughout the state. Required by law of all migratory waterfowl hunters over 16 years of age, the sale of stamps provided the only available index to the number of wildfowlers in the country. During last hunting season a total of 1,169,352 stamps were sold, Michigan had a large number. The new stamp design is three spoonbills or shovelers in flight. Money from the sale of stamps helps provide waterfowl refuges throughout the country.

—o—

The Wanderer has been asked to help spread the news that the state conservation department has jobs for at least 25 returning servicemen as park rangers. The manpower shortage has been felt keenly by the department and especially for construction work in state parks.

—o—

Birmingham streets are said to have carried their heaviest water load in two years when the rain storm hit the city last Wednesday night. There were really two storms, one early with a good quantity of hail and a bit of wind, and one later on in the night, a bit less severe. In the section of the city south on Pierce, Purdy and some other streets, the water at times was 18 inches or more deep. Debris was washed over walks and lawns, and gardens and yards damaged. The Wanderer was told that storm sewer manholes could be located by the water boiling up through these holes. There was water in many basements, including parts of the Municipal Building and some stores. Yes, it was considered quite a wet evening.

—o—

Counting the deer along the highway was a bit of entertainment indulged in by a group of people riding on a southbound bus up around Harrison and Prudenville the other night. Pete Wanderer happened to be a passenger and saw quite a number of deer out along the highway. A few porcupine and rabbits also were seen. The deer appeared to be in good condition, indicating plenty of feed.

—o—

Right now, with the meat shortage and red point shortage, the main topic of discussion in every home, the theft of meats becomes a serious matter. The other day George Thurman, 223 East Frances street, reported the theft of a Plymouth rooly hen from his home. That means just one less chicken dinner, it is believed, at the Thurman home. But the police believe that the hen has already become the main portion of a chicken dinner in some other home.

—o—

The Wanderer has seen all manner of welcome sights lately but none seemed more welcome to the people in the "potato lines" of the food stores than the appearance of a big truck load of new potatoes in Birmingham Friday. Yes, the potatoes were home grown and small, really quite small, but potatoes nevertheless.

—o—

Birmingham's downtown public drinking fountains are cleaner and in better working condition than they have been for many, many months. One of them hasn't been working at all, while another gave forth such a tantalizing dribble that it reminded one of the current meat shortage. This Wanderer observed Mayor E. Wilmer Moody gazing at one of them a few weeks ago—and suspects that Hizoner may be responsible for the improvement. Hizoner, incidentally, is used to getting things done—even what seem to be trivial jobs. Apparently, he believes that trifles make perfection, and perfection is no trifle."

—o—

For some time The Eccentric has been sending, with its compliments, issues to Mrs. Annie McElwee, former Birmingham resident for many years, now living in Royal Oak. Although 90 years of age, Mrs. McElwee is vitally interested in local news; "for years I took care of at least 50 babies who are now in the nation's armed forces," she said last week, "and by reading The Eccentric I learn where they are and how they are getting along—for, you see, I consider them, in a way, my own boys."

Injured Men In Percy Jones Hospital Need Fishing Equipment

LANSING—Fishing tackle for wounded servicemen can be turned over to conservation officers with assurance that it will reach Percy Jones hospital in Battle Creek.

Sportsmen's organizations of Michigan are to be commended for their campaign to secure such tackle for overseas veterans," says P. J. Hoffmaster, conservation director. "Unquestionably, fishing provides a valuable aid in rehabilitating these men. The movement to supply them with tackle and to arrange transportation and entertainment for them in the homes of resorters, is most worthwhile.

"The conservation department will be glad to assist by accepting gifts of tackle at its various headquarters throughout the state, and will see that such tackle is turned over to the proper authorities at the veterans' hospital."

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Here Are Helpful Suggestions For Victory Gardens

This calendar has been especially prepared by your Civilian Defense Victory Garden Committee to remind you of the things to be done in the garden this week.

To build up the plants for next spring's production, fertilize rhubarb and asparagus at this time. A 4-12-4 fertilizer can be used at the rate of three pounds per 100 square feet.

Suckers do not have to be removed from sweet corn provided the plants are properly spaced in the row or thinned to three plants to the hill. If suckers are removed after the tassels have formed, the practice may prove harmful to the plants.

If you discover tomato worms in the garden with egg-like white cocoons covering their backs, don't destroy them. These are the cocoons of a wasp-like parasite. Such worms serve as breeding places for parasites and should be left alone to permit the parasites to emerge, since the parasites live on and kill the tomato worms.

Winter radishes sown in late July or early August can be stored like other root crops. They are larger than summer radishes, but not advocated, owls for instance, help farmers by destroying rodents.

The Eccentric Classified Ads Will Get Results!

Winter radishes sown in late July or early August can be stored like other root crops. They are larger than summer radishes, but have a mild flavor and fine texture.

Sprays containing arsenic or cryolite should never be used on lettuce, broccoli, cauliflower or other plants of which the tops are eaten. Nicotine sulphate should not be sprayed on lettuce or plants which are to be used for greens within a week.

The best remedy for tomato worms yet known is to pick and destroy them. Calcium arsenate and gypsum used at the rate of one pound of calcium arsenate to 10 pounds of gypsum or an arsenical spray will kill some of the young ones, but if you spray or dust tomatoes with arsenic, be sure to wash all fruits thoroughly before eating.

A mulch of straw, grass clippings, or leaves placed on the soil under the tomato vines at this time will help to keep the soil cooler and more uniformly moist. It will also help somewhat to reduce blossom end rot and by keeping the fruits off the ground will reduce the amount of rot on the lower clusters.

Beans planted prior to July 10 in Southern Michigan will, provided the fall weather is right, produce a good late crop.

Keep the cultivator and hoe going to control the weeds. As the season progresses, shallow up on the cultivator and "stay" further away from the rows to avoid disturbing the roots of the plants.

Blossom end rot a nonparasitic disease of tomatoes which first appears as a small water-soaked spot on the end opposite the stem. As it enlarges it turns darker and becomes leathery. It is caused by a lack of, or severe fluctuation in the water supply at the time fruit is forming. Mulching or irrigation will do much to lessen or prevent this trouble.

Federal Gov't Against Killing Many Birds

LANSING—A boy with an air gun who shoots song birds may not be a Dillinger but the G-men can get him.

It is a federal offense to shoot robins, bluebirds, catbirds, woodpeckers and other song and insectivorous birds, and the penalty may be a $500 fine or six months in jail, or both. State law also protects such birds, with penalties ranging to $100 fines or 90 days in jail, or both.

Only birds not protected by law in Michigan are owls, crows, hawks (except eagles and ospreys), starlings, bronzed grackles, rusty blackbirds, and English sparrows. Killing of some of these species is not advocated; owls for instance, help farmers by destroying rodents.

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