

The Birmingham Centric

PART TWO

Many, many times I have seen my neighbors call slowly about their yards and gardens, observing the growth of something they have planted; I've done the same myself—and every time I do it I am made to realize that the urge of life is placed on human beings in so strong that it outlasts every destroying effort.

SIXTY-EIGHTH YEAR—NO. 12

BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 1945

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Bits of Birmingham

It's a new home for the Tugeys but an old residence home to Birmingham. The Howard Tugeys and their family have long been known as the Old E. A. O'Neal Homestead on East Maple and think they have many substantial memories of the residence built more than a hundred years ago. The main two-story residence was built about 83 years ago, according to building records of the city. The record does not list the property as the late John Hunter as a U. S. government grant. The Tugeys are putting the place in tip top condition and it looks though the house would be a good home for another 100 years.

Harvey Vachon reports one last Great Gray owl to menace domestic fowls of the Birmingham area. He shot Mr. Owl the other morning as the intruder in the very act of roosting in a bird's nest. "He ended his thievish right there," the West Maple road resident reports. "He thumped down to earth for his winged record of nearly five feet did not help him a bit. He was put in the hands of a game warden's commission." Larry, three-year-old son of the Vachons, was with his father and thought the bird was a speckled chicken that was to grace the table for dinner. But instead the bird is being mounted and will be seen in the room of the mother son, Donald, 14, at the Vachon home.

Birmingham friends are congratulating Lewis Sappington of 487 Arlington drive who has just been promoted to general merchandising manager of a new store, of the J. L. Hudson company Saturday. Mr. Sappington succeeds Michael F. Dewley, who assumes the new post of director of upstairs store merchandising. The new manager has been assistant general merchandise manager since 1930.

Many of the older Birmingham golfers remember the days when Frank A. Murray was assistant pro at Oakland Hills and some years later when he was pro at the Birmingham Country Club. Now "Midge" is known to his friends in now with the Michigan PGA and handles the Sporting Goods Co., and handles most of the tournaments of the Michigan PGA in addition to spending a lot of time at Sunnybrook.

While Birmingham and the Greater Detroit area are reported as facing a possible bread famine, word reaches the Wanderer that farmers out in Oklahoma are dumping their wheat harvested in the fields. It is said they have no storage space. Birmingham residents say they would not be opposed to starting a few bushels of that grain right here. If it would mean assurance of a continuous supply of bread and other grain foods.

Fire sometimes does a lot of damage, even though confined to a very small space. But the fire in the mail box in front of Mulholland's store was in just about the smallest space one could imagine. This Wanderer hurried into Woodward avenue to find the fire and looked and looked for the smoke or blaze but could not find either. He did see a crowd in front of Mulholland's and hurried there, thinking "maybe" someone had been injured. He found the police and mailmen putting out the fire among a bunch of charred letters they had taken from the mail box. They laid the cause of the excitement on some youth who apparently had lighted a match and dropped it in the mail box. The burning wood set fire to the letters and trouble came quickly. It was said most of the 18 letters still bore the return card in one corner, and the senders were notified and picked up the damaged mail.

Every now and then there come through stories of interesting meetings between Birmingham young men in the service of their country in various parts of the world. This week the Wanderer has heard of two such meetings. In one, out in the Pacific, Ensign John Robertson son of Mr. and Mrs. I. W. Robertson, Brookside drive, met Thomas

Li. R. C. Lorenzen Now On Okinawa

The following letter to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lorenzen, 514 Shirley drive, is from their son-in-law, Lt. Robert C. Lorenzen.

Dear Mom and Dad,

I received your nice letter about two days after landing here on Okinawa, along with about seventy other letters, from guys who I like this place much better than Leyte. Leyte sure was a miserable lot, but not too bad to be in. I got roll and two blankets to sleep. Up to now haven't been able to enjoy a good night's sleep; just about dark the "Japs" start to come over with their deadly cargo. This keeps up all through the night, until 4:30 or 5 o'clock, just about dawn, and what a wonderful sight it is to see day break. As you have probably gathered we aren't bothered much during the daylight. The old "Japs" just don't like to fight during the day. Ground action is all taking place south of here. You know what. Every so often we have a little excitement around camp when a Jap infiltrates thru our lines, but he hasn't got a chance, our patrols usually seek him out before he can do any damage. I sleep with my pistol under my pillow the just in case.

"The most interesting thing about the island is the 'Jap' tombs, which were built many, many years ago, all by hand, out of coral rock. There are quite unusual pieces of architecture. Incidentally in a pinch they make good bomb shelters.

The people here were quite industrious. All farmers. Suppose you are wondering what happened to the people. They were placed in internment camps. Women and children and just about every available piece of ground was cultivated. Most anything will grow here. Some of the crops the most common are yams, beans, carrots, cabbage, sugar corn and of course rice. They had some nice tender fresh kabbage for dinner yesterday. What a treat after so much dehydrated food. Haven't had any fresh meat as yet, only got a tin. Veggies, sugar, vegetables, and of course, spam and corned beef. I've had so much corned beef in the past ten months I shudder when I look at the stuff. I'll eat it and like it, when I get hungry enough.

"Hell, Dad, suppose now that the war in Germany is over you will be able to start turning over some stock for civilian use. Sure anxious to see the boys from the other theatre to get over here. I'd like to get the thing over with so I could start taking the ground-work for my home and future."

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Exquisite isn't it—and beautifully appointed, too. Built only a few years ago, just enough time has elapsed to give a finished touch to the spacious grounds—Yes, nearly two acres to insure privacy and contentment.

Two bedrooms and bath on the first floor plus full dining room et cetera. Upstairs there are two more bedrooms and a bath.

Recreation room facilities include fireplace and leather lounges for comfort.

School, transportation, excellent public water facilities and low taxes will answer discerning buyers.

Inspect this as quickly as you can—we know it won't last long.

The price: \$29,500.