

# The Birmingham Eccentric

PART TWO

SIXTY-EIGHTH YEAR—NO. 27

BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1945

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## Bits of Birmingham

Dr. N. T. Shaw undoubtedly got quite a start when he picked up last week's Eccentric and read where he had been 17 years older over night. A story in last week's issue stated that he was the oldest golfer to play in the Rotary-Exchange-Lions golf tournament. The headline said he was 98 years old. The Doctor is just a youngster of 78 whose score was 95.

Writing home from China the other day a Birmingham youth said about the Chinese: "These people fall into about two general classes. Either the very rich or the very poor. The rich are about one-fourth of the population and don't care how the rest live or die. The poor live off the land as farmers and coolies. The rich live off the poor by taking every advantage of them that is at all possible."

A couple of young soldiers from the Birmingham list have recently met and become acquainted in Berlin where they are members of the First Allied Airborne Army. Francis North, who went into the service from Detroit, and Richard McKinley, of Birmingham, have found much in common to talk about. The former writes that the latter has been getting the Birmingham Eccentric regularly and that both boys have been reading it from cover to cover. McKinley is a Baldwin High graduate.

Birmingham boys, writing home from Germany tell of progress here

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 WABEEK BUILDING

Germana are making in clearing streets of their cities; rebuilding wrecked homes; reorganizing, etc. They are salvaging all building material possible for their rebuilding operations.

The Wanderer saw the dog catcher drive down the street with his truck (the canine calabash) the other day. The door was wide open indicating that perhaps "Towers" had made a break for it. Perhaps some bad little boy aided in the escape.

Birmingham hunters are invited to ask for a copy of the new leaflets on "The Ten Commandments of Safety," which will go out with each hunting license sold this fall. Sporting goods dealers now have more than a million of the 1945 small game and deer hunting licenses ready for the sportmen.

If you like squirrel hunting you should find some quite good fun in this area adjoining counties, declared a local sportsman today. While discussing the prospects for the year, it was reported a good crop of fox squirrels has been found in this area. The season opens October 15 and continues through November 5. The bag is 25 per day. The bag limit applies to both fox and gray squirrels.

Birmingham residents who have long complained about the starlings are not protected under Michigan law or by conservation commission regulation. They may be killed at any time. However, the conservation department continues to advise embattled homeowners that permission of local authorities should be secured if guns are to be used in wars of extermination inside boundaries of most cities and villages.

Mrs. Donald Murray, who was a counsellor at the Vinton Valley Ranch, Wyoming, this summer, was surprised to see "T. V. Phillip Wilson's black and white sheep dog, in front of the Bloomfield Hills school the other day. It seems that Phillip planned to leave the dog at the ranch for the winter and then at the last minute brought "T. V. with him. But when Mrs. Murray saw the dog in front of the school she knew that it could be no other than "T. V." The Wilsons were glad that Mrs. Murray had seen the dog too, because he had strayed away from their Cranbrook home.

Because of complaint of residents of the Southfield-Lincoln section of speeding on Southfield, an effort is now being made to repair the signal light at that intersection and place it in operation again. The light has been used as a blinker for some time but now will be set so that it will operate as a stop and go light during the hours children go to school in the forenoon, during the noon hour and late afternoon. It will be similar to that now in use at Lincoln and Pierce. The Wanderer is told complaints of speeding on a number of other streets.

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Where there's smoke there's fire, the old saying goes, and where there's a fire, there may be action, too, this Wanderer has learned. And there has been some talk about the organization of a Birmingham Historical Commission, whose duties will be the securing and preservation of some suitable place of records and pictures of the growth and development of the city of Birmingham. Mayor Wilmer E. Moody is reported much interested; Members of the Baldwin Library Board also are interested. Many other residents of the city are said to be expressing their belief that such a commission, working under the Birmingham City Commission, would be a fine thing. So maybe some of these days Birmingham may get a commission, with some funds with which to operate.

A lot of Birmingham football fans are asking this week "why don't they place that score board at Pierce field some place where fans can see the score, and the other way around, so that the board will be with large black letters? Have the letters and figures large enough to be seen?" The Wanderer thinks it could be done without any trouble and at little expense. Some suggest it be placed over near the north goal posts where it would be seen from both sides of the field.

Football fans at Pierce Field may be surprised some of these days to see a fence or other protection on either side of the reserve seat section in order to keep the fans from entering that section of the grounds directly in front of that section. The Wanderer has been told that on Friday evening when it was found almost impossible to clear the football fans from along the side lines.

The old digger nigger has been making a lot of noise and also quite a hole in the earth over at the McBride property on Pierce street where a new three-story business block is being erected. J. M. McBride has been making there a lot the past week, supervising details of the digging for the foundation. The Wanderer is told, another Birmingham businessman watching the operations was completely amazed, "there's a room here on Pierce for several more new and modern business buildings."

If one keeps his eyes open he usually sees a number of unusual sights each day and Saturday this Wanderer saw a bicycle riding arrangement new to him. Over on Oxford street two girls were enjoying one bicycle. One girl occupied the seat and operated the handle bars, putting her feet up front. The second girl was seated onto the mid guard, held tight to the other girl and operated the foot pedals. It seemed to passersby that the girl doing the steering was getting most of the fun, but when the operation was watched for a time it was noted the girls really did take turns furnishing the "girl power" for the trips. And another sight to be recorded was reported last Friday when a little lad from a home where, perhaps the funny papers don't always come, had broken open a bundle of old papers left for the salvage truck and was seated out at the curb sketching through the funnies. He stuck right to his job for several hours, too.

A Birmingham lad of very tender years was heard to remark the other day: "Der come Rosa down the sidewalk."  
 Maybe you don't use those lower grade meats if you don't you will have to go right on paying high ration prices for the top grade you want. But, if you can use lower grades of beef, veal and lamb, then you will be able to save some red points. The Wanderer has been told that many items of lower grade meat will go off the ration list Sept. 30. On that date the OPA plans to cut ration points to zero on this class material which will continue on higher grades.

City Treasurer Russell T. Berger says he hopes his prediction about continuation of the shortage of shotgun shells is all wrong. But he wants a few more chances at those ducks but says he is going to have hard work getting enough shells unless there's a change in

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the supply. The newest word to the Wanderer about shotgun shells for duck hunters is that shells will continue in short supply until after the peak of the hunting season this fall. Manufacturers are beginning to make shells in increasing volume but can't get them to market in time to fire at this year's ducks. Elmer Huston thinks that the time of the shortage may be approaching normal. Right now current supplies are only about half normal requirements. There may be more shells for hunters out in the late days of the bird season or for the rabbit season.

Birmingham anglers needing new tires should be encouraged by the news of the weak on rubber. The first shipment of rubber received in San Francisco since the Japs cut the supply lines early in the war has been unloaded at the western port. This word came from officials of the Goodway company who said 50 long tons of rubber arrived from plantations in Ceylon. It represents about 5,000 tires.

The Wanderer has been asked to remind Birmingham folk to turn their clocks back an hour on Sunday morning, Sept. 30. The notice reads: "Don't forget Birmingham is returning to Eastern Standard Time on Sunday, Sept. 30." In fact Detroit, Pontiac, and most all other places nearby are going to do just that. About the only difference will be you will get an extra hour of sleep next Saturday night and it may be a bit lighter than usual when you get up in the morning.

Mrs. William G. Ferguson, who resides at what has long been known as the old Henry Place on Woodward avenue in Bloomfield Hills, reports that a lot of lost or deserted dogs are plaguing that section. She related how some of her sons apparently drop dogs from their cars as they pass through, apparently despoiling them. Several dogs have been noticed along Woodward avenue, she says, waiting patiently for their owners to show up again. And they have been (Continued on Page 2, Pt. 2)

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 Birmingham, Mich.

Birmingham, Michigan  
 September 27, 1945

Dear Betty

We're still looking for that house in the country. You'll remember how lovely the countryside is around Birmingham—especially the hills in Franklin—but there are so few new homes on the market and they're sold as soon as they pop up.

We'd like it all on one floor, with big picture windows in the Living and Dining rooms, and one of those "magazine picture" kitchens that make your mouth water. Two bedrooms would be enough if there's a paneled recreation room and adjoining lavatory where we could put the studio couch for guests like you. If it were built into the side of a hill that could look out into the garden too.

We'd want an acre or two for Tom's garden and it must be "country" enough for riding or training our new setter pup. He's chewed all the lamp cords because there's no place he can run here in town! And Tom doesn't want to drive too far to work—3/4 of an hour is just about right.

I know it sounds like a dream and impossible to find but we haven't given up yet. I hate to think of going through the agonies of building again, darn it, so we keep hoping. Keep your fingers crossed for us . . .

Much love,  
 Peg

P. S. I've just seen an ad in the local paper and it sounds just like the house we want—built in 1941. I called Muriel Lane and she's going to show it to me this afternoon . . . tell you about it later.

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