

The word "gimmie" is a colloquialism of ancient origin. Some folks have it more pronounced than others. Some folks are willing to give in order to get; others prefer to give as little as possible and want as much as possible in return. Those who seek more than they deserve are spoiling national and world stability.

The Birmingham Eccentric

PART TWO

SIXTY-NINTH YEAR—NO. 3

BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 1946

\$2.00 PER YEAR (In Oakland County)—SINGLE COPIES, 5c

New Agricultural Book for Oakland County Now Ready

Copies of a new book on "Agriculture for Oakland County" have been received in Birmingham, according to Karl D. Bailey, county agricultural agent. The books are now ready for shipment to the Birmingham National Bank, Waikiki State Bank, Baldwin Library, Baldwin High School and also at the Southfield, Southfield and Troy Town Halls.

Two excellent maps are included in the report; one showing the land type map of the county, and the other showing land use. Statistical information covers the whole field of agricultural enterprise. The county ranks fourth in the state in value of agricultural products.

Mr. Beckman states that because of limited funds the book is not generally available for distribution and is, therefore, made available for inspection thru the agencies listed above.



Bits of Birmingham

This was heard down at Pierce Field where the high school baseball team has opened practice. Duck hot and he hit. And one of those wild pitches did take a nicker.

Some people about the city are not waiting for the official once-a-year cleanup week to arrive and are already clearing their yards of the winter accumulation of debris. Piles of leaves, baskets and buckets of ashes and other things are appearing at the curbs in increasing quantities in some parts of the city, according to Mark Dance, of the DPW. "That's just fine," the official told this Wanderer. "The more we get cleaned up now the less we will have to do later on."

Sternal's Auto Supply on South Woodward and Brad Springer, of Standard Oil, are sponsoring a farm cleanup for Standard Oil and Firestone supplies at Troy township hall, Friday night. Two educational movies on the subject of farm safety are shown. Sternal declares he anticipates quite a large number of farm operators for the affair.

Any Birmingham readers of this column who might believe this season's weather is "Unusual"—are invited by this Wanderer to read the "Twenty Years Ago" column on Page 2 of Part 3 of this edition of The Eccentric. The date was April 9, 1926, and for each other were snow storms, with Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Shaun out for a ride with their horse and cutter, and the Baldwin High School baseball team was in the midst of its practice. Fifty years ago this week the weather could not have been so far off center for no mention was made of any blizzards or other similar winter storms.

"We haven't had much new machinery since the war started, and a lot of our equipment is from 12 to 20 years old," City Manager D. C. Egbert told the City Commission the other night. And the manager made his plea stick, too, for the Commission approved purchase of a fire engine, road scraper, bulldozer, and a new power lawn mower. Present city equipment is not to junked but kept in operation for there seems a lot of work to do, this Wanderer is told. Maybe the bulldozer will not be bought this year for they seem rather scarce but anyway the Commission has gone on record as favoring buying one, but all the other machinery is expected. Two likely will be available early in the summer and the fire department equipment in the late summer. "We really need a lot more but just can't buy it all at once," the manager reported.

Puppets will tell the story of Sir Lancelot and the fair Elaine for high school and junior high school girls and boys at the Baldwin Public Library, April 15, 7:30 to 8 p. m. Miss Charlotte Squires, children's librarian, and Miss Nellie Mae Smith will present the play. Parents and teachers are invited. No admission charge.

Fruit men say the Monday evening cold weather apparently caused little damage to fruit

and around Birmingham. Some trees were damaged in Tuesday night's chill hours but the loss is not thought to be anywhere extensive.

Falls are still asking about the program of replacing broken and bad stretches of sidewalk about the city. Some have expressed interest in the early renewing of the program, started last season, and especially in this true in rainy weather when the holes and low places in the walks fill with water.

With the election of Bill Martin to the City Commission, there are now five members whose last names begin with "M"—Moody, Main, Mallender, Martin and Martz. The two alphabetic "outsiders," you might say, are W. C. Allee and Ray Palmer.

Walking past Pierce Street where it dead-ends at Maple, this Wanderer overheard two local citizens discussing the traffic problem occurring at this intersection. One man argued that drivers making left turns from Maple onto Pierce often had to wait till the east-bound traffic was by before turning. Westbound drivers caught behind the turning driver must halt, with the result that many times cars blocked the western pedestrian crossing at Woodward and Maple and even extended the snarl back onto Woodward. This man thought the situation could be solved by prohibiting such left turns of Maple onto Pierce. Do any other citizens have any "years" or "nays" to this proposal?

This brings to mind another idea: why can't markings be painted on Woodward Avenue at Maple directing left turn traffic onto Maple to make such turns before arriving at the center of the intersection, similar to the system employed in Detroit? The long established Birmingham practice of passing the center of the intersection too often results in a traffic snarl at this important junction.

George S. Scott of the City Fire Prevention Bureau today suggested that one item of importance in

the matter of fire prevention is the education in the proper handling of fire extinguishers. "I find," he said, "upon my visits to many public buildings that very few people know how to handle the fire extinguisher in their building. In an effort to remedy this situation the Fire Prevention Bureau will be glad to put on a demonstration for any church, school, club or other public group. All we need is a written request some days in advance." This Wanderer has heard of many cases where fire was allowed to get quite a big start because no one in the building knew how to handle the fire extinguisher. This seems a good chance to get in some good lectures against common enemy, fire.

Robert H. Grandy, 688 Ann street, a friend of long standing of Kim Sigler, candidate for the Republican nomination as governor of Michigan, was in to see this Wanderer Friday and said he would like to circulate a nominating petition. "Have known Kim for a long time and certainly will be happy to do what I can to get his name on the primary election ballot," he said. "Kim used to come down to our town to talk to various groups of our young folks and he always had a fine message for them."

Along with the reshuffling of local business addresses is that of the Vaughan Shop at 153 West Maple. Yesterday it opened in a new location and with a new name—the Reynolds Hat Shop at 294 South Woodward.

Although this Wanderer didn't see the line reach Wilson's Drug Store, he did know that last Saturday's "shortage line" of Sfr's started just after the doors were opened in the morning. Upon investigation, he learned that about 3,000 pounds of that sought-after dairy product was gone in little more than an hour and a half. What a business blip, if all products could be sold like that!

Over in the Birmingham City Commission room stands the American flag in an honored place

to lend dignity and patriotism to the room. The flag is maintained over local municipal dignity. But that flag has faded quite a bit, and this Wanderer wonders: Is it not time for the City Fathers to replace it with a new one.

At least two of Birmingham's several outdoor drinking fountains in the business area are not working, a condition that has been

going on, now and then, for several years. "I was a part of the local government I certainly would see that somebody on the municipal payroll made it part of his job to keep each of those fountains working at all times," mused a local taxpayer yesterday.

It is said that a lot of Birmingham residents will be giving down to Detroit next week to take in the baseball exhibit at the Detroit

Historic Museum, 441 Marquette street. The new materials include trophies and equipment of Ty Cobb, Billy Rogell, Charlie Bennett, Hal Newhouser, Bill Byron, Davy Jones, a collection of bats used by various champions and quite a number of base balls autographed by past champions. Of a lot of interest to the local fan will be a history of baseball in pictures by Gillian Knowel of the Detroit News. These pictures are

(Continued on Page 2, Part 2)

BROOK BRIEFS

* **FLOWER RANCH**—Just four miles from Birmingham, on 2 1/2 acres of land. A brick and stone cottage, with 2 first floor bedrooms and bath, plus three additional bedrooms on the second floor. There's an oil-heated greenhouse, 18 x 20, and thousands of Royal Iris and hybrid delphinium plants in the gardens and a real roadside business has been established in cut flowers and plants. The price is only \$16,000.

* **TWO-FAMILY**, close-in to shops and transportation. The front apartment has three bedrooms and the rear has two, each with bath, living and dining rooms and kitchen. Each has its own heating plant. The property is zoned for business and the land alone is worth the asking price of \$9,500 for future business or apartment use.

* **A SQUARE COLONIAL**, a short walk from Woodward. The living room has an open fireplace and the three bedrooms are good size. It needs decorating but a little paint and paper would make it a really attractive home. Best of all, the price is low enough to allow redecorating. Only \$11,500.

* **A LAKE LODGE** with one of the finest views in Oakland County. The lake is clean, quiet and scenic and the beach is fine for the youngsters. The building isn't completely finished but it's all right for summer use and can be finished at your leisure. Priced at \$10,500.

* **RAMBLING RANCH HOUSE**, new and all on one floor, in Franklin. The living room is floored with wide oak planks, pegged and sanded, and the fireplace wall is completely pine-paneled. In addition to the two bedrooms and bath (one of the bedrooms has an extra lavatory addition), there's a library large enough for a study couch. The dining room has a huge picture window overlooking the grounds, and the recreation room is paneled, with an adjoining lavatory. The stable has two big box stalls and a paneled tack room for entertaining. The owner is moving out of the state. Priced at \$30,000.

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