

# The Birmingham Eccentric

PART TWO

Most of the great reforms never become exactly what their exponents expected. An idea may be launched, then printed with Utopian dreams; when it becomes a law, and then a custom, those who interpret it seldom do so in the Utopian spirit in which it was conceived. Too many petty tyrants are in the picture.

SIXTY-NINTH YEAR—NO. 5

BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 1946

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## Hilltop and Wooded Ravine

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Mechanically the house is modern as today, for all piping is of brass, the heating system is oil-hot water and both softener and hot water heater are brand new.

Slightly more than 2 acres of land provide desired privacy, and offer the unusual in gardening. The land slopes to the valley floor and the stream borders the rear on nearly 500 feet of frontage. Tremendous beech, oak and elm trees abound and flowers, both wild and garden, are in profusion.

The garage quarters three cars and the apartment above may be rented, in these times, for more than enough to pay the taxes and upkeep. There's also an outdoor swimming pool—ideal for a growing family.

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## Bits of Birmingham

Just how that Birmingham Eccentric found its way to the home of Col. and Mrs. N. T. Belsaire, in Paris, France, had some folks guessing until Mrs. Glen Coley, Yorkshire reared, remembered she placed a copy of The Eccentric in the top of a box of food she and Mr. Coley sent recently to the French engineer. "We laid our copy of the paper over the top of the food never dreaming it would be read and enjoyed by the Paris family," said Mrs. Coley today in explaining a letter-the Coleys had received from Col. Belsaire telling how much he had enjoyed reading the paper. Of course he expressed great appreciation for the food, and for other boxes throughout the winter. Of the food he said, "it has helped us greatly and we want to thank all our friends, old and new who have so kindly aided us. We hope for better times." About the paper he said "The editorial column and the Happenings of Long Ago have given us some insight into your life in Northern Michigan." Through his engineering society Mr. Coley, of the Detroit Edison company, learned of the French engineer's name on a list of French folks needing assistance. Additional boxes of food and additional copies of The Eccentric are expected to be on their way to the Belsaire home in Paris from time to time.

New businesses and new signs have been appearing so rapidly along Woodward avenue and other streets in Birmingham that this Wanderer sometimes has failed to notice them but one did attract his attention this week when he noticed one reading "Taxi Stand" on the west side of Woodward, just north of Maple. It called attention to a new business in the city, the Birmingham Veteran Cab Co., just

opened by Charles Young, 1375 Ruffner and Norman Johnson, 1361 Ruffner, two returned Birmingham veterans of World War II. Asked about their plans Johnson said the company has two cabs in operation and hopes soon to have a third. And asked for a bit of news as to the war service of the two new businessmen, he said, "Well, Young served in the Navy for three years, his tour of duty being in the Pacific. I served in the Army three years, and my activities were in the other part of the war—Europe." Now the men are back home again, neighbors on the same street, and in business together.

Friday night of this week is the time, and the Legion Home on South Woodward avenue is the place announced for a benefit party for the committee headed by Walter Stoll, commander and head of the committee, told this Wanderer today that everything indicated a fine attendance. The party is for the public with no special invitation needed for anyone. "We just hope there will be a large turnout for we are ready to show everyone a good time," he said.

A smiling, sandy haired youngster, let's call him Patrick Murphy, time to get his name—came harrumphing into The Eccentric office Thursday and breathlessly told this Wanderer there was a truck smashup at the River Rouge bridge on North Woodward. "I can just see the half dozen or so trucks that will be needed to haul that big one back onto the road." When told the police had also reported in the word he declared "Gee, those fellows are everywhere, aren't they?" "Yes,"

## It Purrs a Neat 30 M.P.H. Tool



ANTIQUE cars are beginning to come out of moth balls for Detroit's Golden Jubilee of the Automotive Industry slated for May 31, June 1 and 2. WJR news editor, George Cushing, (with duty) and announcer Bud Mitchell obtain pertinent facts about a 1906 Maxwell from its owner Jim Robbins (in costume) of Ferndale. It's the first sneak preview of such cars aired on WJR automotive program BEHIND THE WHEEL heard each Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. Robbins plans to enter the Maxwell in the gala event and WJR plans elaborate coverage of the entire festivities.

we replied, "they are. They are a pretty good bunch of fellows." This brought a quick answer. "They are all right, I guess, but some of them are pretty sour at times."

"That's the very car we saw in the movie, 'House on 92nd Street' at the Birmingham theater," remarked a Birmingham woman the other day as she saw Fenton R. Mathews driving down Woodward avenue in his new 1928 model Rolls Royce sport limousine. The Brown street resident secured the car recently while visiting in Texas, and he states it is the identical car used in the picture about which the Birmingham Herald has marked. It was purchased in California and shipped to Dallas for delivery to Mr. and Mrs. Mathews were there visiting their son, John, member of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. While away they attended the closing series of concerts by this organization and then drove home, accompanied by the youthful musician. They made the trip south by plane and told this Wanderer that in that English made car there were times coming home when they thought they were flying.

Birmingham's school budget for 1946-47 school year will be in the neighborhood of \$530,000. Dr. Dwight B. Ireland, superintendent of schools, told this Wanderer Tuesday morning. Dr. Ireland is putting the finishing touches on his budget estimate preparatory to submitting it by May 6 to the County Tax Allocation Board for approval or revision.

The reunion of a Birmingham family, separated by the war, was assured this week when Mrs. W. G. Booth received news from the War Department that she and two children are to leave late in May or early in June for Berlin, Germany, to join Col. W. G. Booth, U. S. Army Air Force, Col. Booth is station commander of the Temple of Airborne in Berlin. With Mrs. Booth will go Sally Booth, who is completing her senior year at Vassar, and Roger Booth, completing his junior year at Baldwin High School. "We sure are going to be happy," Mrs. Booth told this Wanderer, "although we are not sure of living conditions nor where our living quarters will be."

No matter where one goes Old King Fire goes along. Saturday, shortly after noon, he visited the home of Mr. and Mrs. Maurice A. Clausen, on Vahay Lake, east Long Lake road, Bloomfield Hills, and before he was through the entire home had been consumed, along with thousands of dollars' worth of furnishings, clothing, and other articles. Fire Chief Russell Moore of the Hills told this Wanderer that the fire apparently was caused from a spark from the fireplace. The Hills fire department was aided by the department from Cranbrook and Bloomfield Township.

Making a complete change in store arrangement and installing new fixtures is just no picnic at all according to Ralph Wilson, who has had the Wilson Drug store a bit to turn up all the week. Workers have been moving stock hither and yon, taking out old fixtures and installing new. "We are not sure all customers have been very nice," the store operator declared Tuesday afternoon while trying to find something needed by a customer in an emergency. Looks to this Wanderer as though the store is going to present a very nice appearance once the job is finished and stock is back in place.

"Come and bring your hobbies," is the invitation issued to everyone for the Barnum Junior High School Parent-Teacher Association's Hobby show this evening at the school gymnasium. "We look for just about the most hobbies ever exhibited in Birmingham," is the way Mrs. William K. Carter, head of the committee, told this Wanderer. For early in the evening there will be a dinner honoring the school faculty and P.T.A. directors; next coming a business meeting and annual election, with the hobby show coming last. "We're going to make the business meeting short so we can get on with the show program in good

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