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SIXTY-NINTH YEAR—NO. 21

BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 1946

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Bits of Birmingham

Have you seen the police department's new "tricycles"? If one of those three-wheeled motorcycles which a number of smaller cities use to patrol the downtown business district. It arrived last week and was painted silver with black identifying lettering. If you haven't seen it already, you will—if you are in the habit of visiting the business district regularly.

Notice the number of parking spaces now available most of the day now that the parking meters are installed and operating? The Wanderer hasn't seen so many vacant spaces along the curb during business hours in many and many a year.

When August 31 rolls around, Larry Kamin will wind up his duties with the local police department and set out for Oklahoma City where he will open a sporting goods store on the edge of the city. Larry told the Wanderer this week he joined the department back in 1937 but took about three years leave to serve in the Army. He was with the Army Air Communications Service and taught control tower operation at Will Rogers Field, just outside of Oklahoma City. It was while he was at the field that Larry looked over the opportunities for opening a sporting goods store near

OC, deciding that it would be a good time to get into business for himself. Jovial Larry and his ready smile will be missed by many Birminghamians.

Last week Cullen Grant of 272 Oakland avenue, ate tomatoes from his garden. He believes that these were the first of the current crop from this area. Or has someone else been ahead of him?

The other day two young boys came in to complain to the Wanderer about the extremely poor condition of the tennis courts at Barum. They said that there is dirt all over one court and the nets sag because the cranks which raise the nets are broken. Grass grows in the middle of the courts making it difficult to play, and the grass growing around the court is so high that balls are easily lost, they said. The boys wondered if the Wanderer had enough influence with the Board of education to get the courts in proper playing condition. The Wanderer said he wasn't sure how much influence he carried with the Board but he'd make a note of it in these columns so that the right person might use it and do something about it. Incidentally, the boys appeared to be more civic-minded than selfish about the matter for they seemed to be sincerely interested in bettering the courts for all users, both young and old.

If anyone has an old gas range which is not being used any more, yet is in workable condition, the Wanderer would like to learn of it. He knows of a veteran, his wife and three children who have to eat cold food because they lack a stove. Can anyone volunteer any helpful information?

Who leads who down the street when a bird is on a leash, the dog or the owner? It was the Irish setter Tuesday noon the Wanderer saw pulling his master along the

Woodward avenue sidewalk, and which of the animal of groceries, the man didn't look as if he was enjoying it much. Bird dogs like this wide open spaces and have a habit of ordinarily covering ground at a fast pace. Putting him on a leash is a good way to test your own endurance.

"Birmingham's parking problem may solve itself without the aid of the new parking meters," a local citizen remarked to the Wanderer Tuesday morning. "After glancing at the headlines this morning, the OPA seems to be helping out our problem by continually boosting the price of automobiles up out of the range of the average wage earner. And the OPA is talking about another 4 per cent rise in a little while."

A young Birmingham woman approached the Wanderer Tuesday morning and was all enthused about the radio appearance of Miss Faye Elizabeth Smith on the International Harvester program. Said this young lady, "It proved a truly enjoyable treat for me and probably the other Birmingham persons who heard her. Singing with understanding and great depth of feeling, Faye's tones were unbelieved and never failed to ring true. She received a large measure of praise and stage presence from her experience on the stage in summer stock, in the chorus of the widely-acclaimed "Oklahoma," in radio work in production, television and other radio work in New York City."

The Wanderer hears by the grapevine that when the National Lodge of the Order of the Arrow, Scouting's honorary camping fraternity, holds its annual meeting at Chateau Elan, Kautauk, Ill. Dale Nicholas of Birmingham, will go along. He was among the first 25 Arrow men to make reservations for the August 27 to 29 meet.

Over in the Municipal Building, the City Manager and the City Attorney have changed office space. Don Egbert's expanding enjoyable treat more office room so he effected a trade with Forbes Hascall, the city attorney, who had two connecting rooms that had been used as the Justice's office and the city court room.

Children, either through lack of something else to do or because of

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lack of parental control, are still setting grass fires off within the city. The Wanderer believes that if the dangers of setting grass were explained in language the children understand, there would be less work for the fire department, and less danger to surrounding property. Civic-minded parents will adopt this course as a matter of fact.

The list of new and unorthodox visitors to the commission meetings grew last week with the addition of a new face—a dog "face." Last Monday night a black cooker (pannel) which some person brought with him snifed around the room and was the recipient of nettles from a number of the guests present. The little fellow behaved himself very well, too.

A spokesman for the ball players who used Torrey Field during the summer softball recreation season, has asked the Wanderer to convey to Don Egbert, city manager, their hearty appreciation for his success in having the field worked on so that it would be easier to play games there, and thus provide a better game for spectators to witness. The Wanderer's happy to comply with the request. He's always been for more and better city recreation.

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