

A good home is more than a shelter, more than a place where we eat most of our meals. It should be, for those who dwell therein, a refuge from all the storms of the outside world; where the family, together, escapes through mutual love and affection a regeneration of spirit for one another.

The Birmingham Eccentric

PART TWO

SIXTY-EIGHTH YEAR—NO. 46

BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1946

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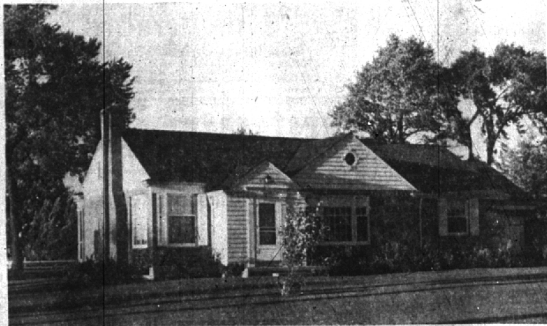
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Bits of Birmingham

Opportunity for local sportsmen and other interested persons to learn something about fishes and their ways of life is afforded in two eight-week series of classes here. Dr. Karl F. Langler, assistant professor of zoology, University of Michigan, lecturing at the Backham Institute, Detroit, will discuss the natural history and identification of fishes in the first course, and what is being done in Michigan and elsewhere to improve fishing in the second course. First course of lectures opens Feb. 22.

The state will again supply seedling pines for spring planting by communities, schools, and service organizations, according to news to this Wanderer. Orders already are being accepted by the conservation department's forestry division for delivery around April 15, weather conditions permitting. Planting stock is supplied for reforestation projects, windbreaks and erosion control at nominal prices covering cost of production and packing. Orders must be entered on forms furnished by the division's Lansing office. Orders for less than 500 trees are not accepted. The department supplies stock only upon condition that it is not to be resold or otherwise used commercially.

Birmingham sportsmen's groups that want better pheasant hunting in coming seasons can help the

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conservation department to secure useful information. Department game men are enlisting aid of such groups in connection with a winter pheasant survey. The groups are urged to form field parties that will report numbers of pheasants seen, with emphasis on sex ratios, predator signs and food supply. Furnish comparisons of present conditions with those of previous winters and make recommendations concerning artificial feeding. The department will furnish instruction sheets and report blanks for individuals who make up such survey parties.

Friends of Harry W. Dempsey will be glad to know that he is once more associated with the Cadillac Motor Division in Birmingham. He left in 1941 and during the war was employed as an industrial specialist in the Office of Chief of Ordnance in the Union Guardian Building, Detroit.

One of the first signs of spring—the seed catalogue—made its appearance in Birmingham today with the issue of one of those chill days and cold winds last week. It is said that very few folks displayed much interest, but some did scan through the book and what they saw there set them waiting for spring. And then as this Wanderer was wandering down South Woodward he noticed a Cadillac motor car being driven by a man in a dark suit, beating the gun. In one display window was shown a lot of equipment. One of the men in the window was one of those "old" fellows, equipped to do most anything in the way of gardening. With this evidence of the approach of spring maybe folks will be able to stand the remaining weeks of the cold season.

Every now and then one learns of the high cost of reckless driving. The other day George Keenan of Pontiac, paid a fine of \$60 and costs of \$10 in police court in charge of a reckless driving charge.

"The mail must go through!" it did for Mrs. Helen Charlton of 219 Greenwood, even though for more than a year later. For in December, 1944, while a German prisoner-of-war at Stalag 17, B. near Stettin, Austria, Gilbert C. Goodie, son of the R. C. Goodie of Westchesterway, Mrs. Charlton's postcard. In the meantime, he was liberated by Allied troops and was discharged from the Army last September. And the card arrived January 30, 1946. Maybe the dog team had a difficult time getting through.

This one is entitled "Holding Hands." A Birmingham matron tells it. It appears in a bus station the other day she noticed a young man and his girl friend holding hands, or was it mittens? Anyway, she says, the girl wore a pair of hose thick, large wool mittens of mixed colors. The young man wore a heavy pair of leather mittens.

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Numerous entries appearing on the police department reports are headed "stray dogs." In fact, police declare there are too many such animals and claim they would not be sorry if dog owners would keep their dogs on their own premises instead of allowing them to run all over the town. In Judge Forbes Hascall's city court the past few days have come quite a few persons ticketed for failing to secure city licenses for their dogs during 1945. The judge reports each case handled on its merits, with payment of the 1945 license fee required where found to be necessary. The 1945 license fee ordered in cases where dogs were still unlicensed, and with certain other items attached to the settlements.

"Music with appeal" is the way a mid-western jazz orchestra, known as "The Big Band of Birmingham," advertised itself, according to what one Birmingham resident told this Wanderer. Sounds good, at that.

A number of Rotarians plan to drive over to New Baltimore today with Mr. Ray Cook and others to help the newest Rotary club of the district get off on the right track.

Foaled by what seemed to him a promise of the early return of Spring, a big fat robin made his appearance to Bloomfield Hills Friday, and is listed as the first harbinging of the spring season in the Birmingham area. Just where he came from after being seen in the back yard of the home of the Rev. and Mrs. Charles C. Adams, Lions Fire road, is not known, but he may have been discouraged over the results of the annual Groundhog Day predictions, and winged his way back south again. But anyway, Mrs. Cadigan says he was the biggest, fattest robin she had ever seen at this time of year. Friends were called in to note the official arrival of the bird and to make certain he was a robin.

Mr. Groundhog promised Birmingham six weeks more of winter weather, Saturday, and appears on one of the hills on West Maple road, took a few short sniffs at the icy air, wondered who that shadow was, and hurried right back in his snug winter's nest. As he disappeared down the hole, Johnny Farmer heard his chirp. "Six weeks more of this snappy weather," Mr. Groundhog appeared in fairly good condition after his long nap. Farmers out around Birmingham declare there seems to be quite a decrease in the woodchuck (Mr. Groundhog) population. With the noticed increase in red fox in the area, the woodchuck is providing some nice fat eating. It is said a fox will slip cunningly onto Mr. Groundhog and the latter's day is done. The skunk is another sworn enemy of the woodchuck.

Honor again comes to this area. This Wanderer was informed Saturday of the election of George E. Bean, city manager of Pontiac, as president of the Michigan City Managers' Association at its meeting held in Lansing. Mr. Bean came to Pontiac in 1945 from Escanaba where he served for eight years.

It really was cold in Birmingham over the last week end, but

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not quite as cold as in some other cities of Michigan. Grand Rapids seemed to be about the coldest spot on the lower part of the state, zero. Birmingham winter sport enthusiasts did quite a bit of hitting some skiing and skating.

While The Eccentric enthusiastically welcomes typed news stories that come to the editor's desk all written up, it would appreciate assistance from the editor's staff if these same accounts were submitted double spaced. That's the way all copy must go to the linotype machines eventually. Copy requiring the least revisions goes to the machines first, and it might mean the difference between seeing your story in print or not seeing it, if other copy crowds it out. We hope you'll help us at that much, please.

If you motorists must drive on these slippery pavements and streets, you might let a few pounds or air out of your tires before making the trip. This will help you be able to keep your car on the road easier than if the tires are up to the usual pressure. However, don't make the mistake of traveling at your usual speed, though. Your tires are more susceptible to the bumps and ruts if slightly deflated.

Start Practice For Big Minstrel Show

Work starts this evening on rehearsals for the minstrel show to be given as part of the program of ladies' night for the Freshy Train Men's club. The show will be staged the evening of April 25. Those in charge are calling for volunteers for the chorus and are asking every man willing to get into the fun to show up at the church tonight at 8 o'clock.

ALL NEWS COPY must be in each Wednesday morning for publication that week. adv. if

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