A hundred men and women can, through great talent and effort, become kindly, wise, co-operative, an ideal group—as individuals. But hitch them to a single idea and immediately you get a variety of differing, honest reactions. That is one of society's basic problems; to teach people to work together.

The Birmingham Eccentric

PART TWO

SIXTY-NINTH YEAR—NO. 1 BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 1946 $2.00 PER YEAR (In Oakland County)—SINGLE COPIES, 5c

RANCH HOME

in Franklin Hills

ALL on one floor and as charming as anything you've seen this rambling ranch home is a perfect example of informal country living. The Living Room is a big one, with log-burning fireplace, and the Dining Room has a picture window overlooking the rolling meadows behind the house. The pine panelled library is big enough for a studio couch for the occasional guest and the two nice bedrooms in the other wing of the house are served by a sparkling bath. The recreation room in the basement is pine panelled, too, and another fireplace makes it a grand place to entertain.

In the rear of the residence is a stable, with 2 fine box stalls and mowage space, and behind that a rustic-fenced paddock for exercising the horses. In one end of the stable is a grand tack and recreation room for the spur and saddle crowd after a ride and it, too, is pine panelled.

Nearly two acres of land permit all the out-of-door activities one wants and yet the grade school is but a short walk and a bus provides transportation into the Birmingham High School. The General Motors Building is 45 minutes away by car.

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Bits of Birmingham

New football uniforms for the Baldwin grid team next year may be back to the maroon and white colors with extra jerseys for use in home games where visiting teams have uniforms of the same colors. The war period developed a lot of difficulty for those supplying football uniforms, this Wanderer is told by Baldwin High School officials. But with things heading back toward easier going the school may soon be able to get the kind of uniforms it wants for its team. Anyway talk of new uniforms of the regulation school colors is being heard.

—o—

This Wanderer noticed this in a local telephone pay station the other day. Someone trying to put through an out-of-town call was having trouble getting the telephone pay box to retain the money she was putting in. Her dime kept coming back. Finally the woman told the operator, "something is wrong, my dime keeps coming back." The call was finally completed when the woman discovered she was dropping a dime in a five cent coin slot.

—o—

Birmingham schools, along with those in other sections of the district, are to close tonight until next Monday morning, the occasion for the Friday vacation for the school pupils being the annual Teachers' Institute. Sessions are to be held at Royal Oak and at Pontiac. Birmingham teachers will make their own choice of places. Programs are similar at both cities, this Wanderer is told, with the Royal Oak program for the morning being given at Pontiac in the afternoon. Pontiac morning speakers go to Royal Oak for the afternoon. It's a nice arrangement, we are told, with each group getting to hear Ely Culbertson, the bridge expert, speak on "How to Win Total Peace," and Li Ling Ai, noted Chinese lecturer, speak on "The Spirit of China." Culbertson, it is reported, is giving his time to the world peace effort and is considered quite an authority. Birmingham teachers are being told the morning session opens at 9:30 and the afternoon meeting at 1:45.

—o—

Many friends of Jim Lamb, one of last year's star basketball players at Baldwin High, were up at the Pontiac High School gym last Thursday evening, watching him perform in the livery of Saginaw Arthur Hill. Jim transferred to the Saginaw school last spring and promptly won a letter on the Hillite track squad. This winter he has been a substitute on the Saginaw Valley Championship five.

—o—

Chief of Police John P. Hackett reports that the baseball season has already opened in Birmingham. "We have had our first report of a broken window," he said, "from one of those boys' neighborhood fun fests. Probably get a lot more of them as the season advances. Baseball's lots of fun for the boys and gives them something on which to work off steam. But we want to keep them playing the game in places where windows will not be too much endangered."

—o—

Among the sports fans from Birmingham noted at Jennison Field House in East Lansing, Friday and Saturday nights were Jack Brotzman, Barnum Junior High; Lloyd Cooper, Baldwin High School; Hal Helmer, Baldwin football coach; Maynard Mott, Baldwin auto mechanics teacher; and several men who referee high school games in this area. These included Hal Buerge, Birmingham; Larry St. Aubin, Ferndale; Charles Lappeus, Detroit. The men all declared they saw some very good and some very bad basketball during the tournament. "Players were listed the same way," declared one fan. "There was some mighty good individual play while we saw many lads missing their easy chances."

—o—

Every now and then someone cites one of those very unusual advertisements in some classified section of another newspaper. But this week this Wanderer found one right in The Eccentric. It read "For rent: room for gentleman with connecting bath."

—o—

This Wanderer every now and then gets a cigar from some proud father announcing the arrival of his first child, but the other day over at the Community House he met a proud grandmother passing candy over the arrival of her first grandchild. And through questioning he learned of the new arrival, and also the arrival of a tiny son to another Birmingham girl. It seems that Mrs. George Stelzer, (Doris Franklin) and Mrs. E. J. Kidder (Margaret Plumstead) were married just a day apart at the First Presbyterian Church by the same minister, the Rev. W. Glen Harris; their babies came just a day apart up at St. Joseph Mercy hospital; they had the same physician, Dr. Ferd. Gaensbauer, and occupied the same hospital room. Although David Franklin Stelzer does not admit it, it is said he is keeping an eye on pretty Jerri-Ann Kidder and wonders what her telephone number will be a few years from now.

—o—

Birmingham's Home Gardening committee today called attention to Birmingham residents and folks in this area that right now is one of the best times available to begin planning your garden. John Gafill, general chairman, said "If you have not been studying your seed catalogues and looking in the seed store windows it's high time you were doing so. It's great sport to begin garden planning early. Right now is not too early to begin compiling the seed lists for your garden. Better get the garden garden. Better get the garden tools ready, too, for you may want to do some early spading and other work." This Wanderer also joins with Gafill in urging folks to make ready now for their gardens. Better clean up last year's garden spot if you failed to care for this little chore last fall.

—o—

Birmingham women have the right spirit but it sometimes gets confused amidst the multiplicity of the women's projects. Mrs. Paul L. Penfield, chairman of the local collection of canned foods to feed the starving people of the world, reports that amongst the canned foods she collected from an officer of the Women's Club were some packages of flower seeds. When questioned, the officer said "Oh, dear, somebody's mixed up. Please keep the seeds separate for me—they are for another project—for gardens in England." Mrs. Penfield immediately made a dash for the Community House collection depot because she knew that members of the Women's Club had been asked to take food there. Sure enough, big as life and all ready to be planted were several more packets of flower seeds. Mrs. Penfield now wonders whether some Englishwoman who expects flower seeds may not instead receive a can of pork and beans and be puzzled about planting instructions.

—o—

Trees around the Municipal Building parks and along the streets have been getting their annual dormant spray for control of various diseases that attack trees. This treatment, fruit and other tree growers about Birmingham say, controls some forms of scale and mites, leaf curl. Quite a powerful spray outfit has been in operation, reaching well up into the tops of the trees. Chris Thompson, of the DPW in charge of the spraying operations, told this Wanderer as he directed operations over around the Municipal Building, "We want to keep Birmingham's nice trees in just as healthy condition as possible, and this is one of the ways we figure will help."

—o—

We probably will not be doing much work on city playgrounds this spring but I hope we will be able to do some capital improvements next fall," Donald C. Egbert, city manager, told this Wanderer last Saturday while studying need for improving city playgrounds and athletic fields. "We are going to do some repairing of play areas and put some of them in a bit better condition for summer use, but that likely may be all we will be able to do during the busy spring season."

Asked about fields for softball, volley ball and more tennis, Mr. Egbert said "We will certainly try for these improvements. We do need more city tennis courts and some places for the men and young men of the city for softball and volley ball. Maybe we can get a good baseball field, too." To this we say, "go to it Don and let's get the ball rolling."

—o—

"Why the crowd in the judge's office?" was a question asked of one of the clerks at the Municipal Building this week, and this Wanderer learned that dog owners who failed to get 1946 licenses for their dogs were in to handle this business with Judge Forbes Hascall. It appears the police department has charge of taking the dog census and where unlicensed dogs are found the owners are warned to get the necessary city license within a certain number of days. When this fails to bring results a warrant is issued and the dog owner settles in court. And in some of these cases the loudest howl comes from the owner, not from the dog.

—o—

A few evenings ago as the clock struck two hours past midnight, there came through the stillness of the night the sounds of wild geese, honking to one another, as they flew northward. Birmingham folks who were still awake heard this annual harbinger of spring.

—o—

It was five minutes within 9:30 p. m. departure time for an Eastern Airlines ship bound for Florida, at the Detroit Airport, a few evenings ago. All passengers except one had gone aboard; the twin engines were about to start, when through the gates slowly walked a man and a woman, arm in arm; they were in their middle forties, one would guess. They stopped at the foot of the portable ramp leading to the plane door, and conversed briefly. Then they began the conventional "goodbye" kiss—but this one lasted 54 seconds. People at the gate focused their eyes upon the affectionate couple when, after the 54 second work-out, they paused for resumption of the osculatory exercise. Within the next three minutes their lips parted several times, but briefly. Then she went inside the plane, and he walked slowly and silently toward the gate; he disappeared into the airport offices and a minute later he came out again and stood on the ramp, watching the airport offices and a minute later she came out again and stood on the ramp, watching for his reappearance. Then the plane took off. By some strange coincidence, this Wanderer recalled the day was March 21 . . . the first day of Spring! And Love was on the wing! .

—o—

Military Etiquette: "When arguing with your sergeant be sure you're right—then let the matter drop."—Atlanta Two Bells.

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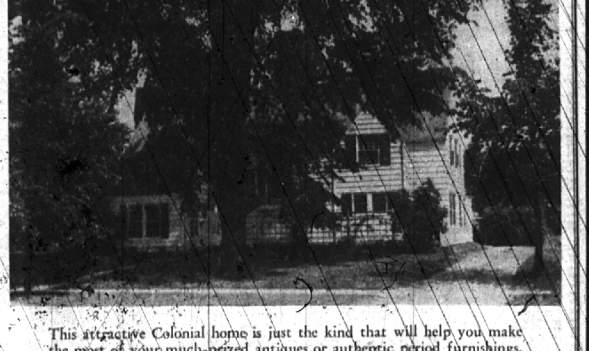

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