How to Start Fires

Birmingham's Fire Prevention Bureau, under the direction of Fire Marshal George Scott, last week concluded a week of intensive effort to make our city "fire prevention conscious."

Our attention was called to the approach of cold weather, with its resultant increase in the number of fires to be expected in homes, in business places. The public was offered plenty of free advice on the methods they should adopt in order to prevent fires.

This is interesting. By reversing a series of "don'ts" offered by the Fire Prevention Bureau, we are able to balance the propaganda and to give our readers the latest expert suggestions on the best methods of starting incendiary blazes at this time of the year. Here they are:

(1) Smoke in bed.

(2) Leave the electric iron turned on while you gossip over the back fence with a neighbor.

(3) Hang your fire extinguisher in a dark corner, behind boxes, brooms and ironing board. Never inspect or refill it.

(4) Use a wastebasket for cigaret ashes—never use an ash tray.

(5) Hang filmy curtains on kitchen windows, with sufficient length to blow over any open flame on the range.

(6) Store cans of gasoline, oil and grease in the garage and be sure that there is no fire extinguisher near your automobile.

(7) Forget the Fire Department's telephone number and, if possible, misplace the telephone directory.

(8) Always use inflammable fluids to clean clothing, especially if working near an open flame. It is a helpful idea to smoke a cigaret while doing this work.

(9) Never put a fire screen in front of your open hearth fires, regardless of how high the fuel is piled.

10) Do not bother to inspect electric wiring, or replace frayed wires on electrical appliances.

(11) Keep a large pile of oil-soaked rags and mops in a remote corner of the house. Spontaneous combustion will provide a good fire and it will be especially dangerous if it begins under the stairs.

(12) When cooking on a gas stove, leave pots boiling. Sometimes, the liquid will overflow and extinguish the flame, thus permitting the gas to fill the room. The pilot light will eventually provide the fireworks.

(13) By following the above suggestions, you and your family will shortly be living in a tent. This is not so bad because outdoor life is healthy, but if you do not correct your habits, it won't be long before you will also burn down the tent.

TENTATIVE RULES AND REGULATIONS BEING SET up to control the occupants of the emergency Quonset huts in Birmingham suggest that the City will not allow these shelters to remain any longer than necessary; too, we feel that those who must occupy them will themselves want to get into traditional homes as soon as they can.

STRIKES OF VARIOUS KINDS CONTINUE TO hold up automobile production. Industry is so geared that a few minor strikes in parts suppliers stops huge assembly lines; most of these strikes would never occur if labor had wise leadership.

Understanding The Universe

The recent death of Sir James Jeans, noted British scientist, calls attention to his efforts to understand the universe and to interpret the developments of science to the layman.

Individuals who contemplate the immensity of space, the distance of stars that dot the universe and the existence of human beings will be interested in his statement that "life can exist only inside the narrow zone surrounding each of the myriad stars, and that all of these zones, added together, "constitute less than a thousand million millionth part of the whole of space."

Those persons who have solved the problems of modern economics, the puzzles of philosophy and the problems of the world, might contemplate the immensity of creation especially if they can agree with him in the statement that "the universe shows evidence of a designing or controlling power that has something in common with our own individual minds."

Need More Teachers

With more Americans going to school and college this year than ever before, educational authorities call attention to the serious shortage of trained teachers which, they say, runs into the hundreds of thousands.

The average salary for teachers is only $1,950, with many teachers being employed at a salary that is much less than the average. Educators say that the Federal Government pays a minimum of $2,654, for workers in professional positions and L. Frazer Banks, of Birmingham, Alabama, says it is not a question of whether teachers are receiving as much as they deserve, but "whether the American people are going to pay high enough salaries to get qualified people to teach their children."

AS THE SCHOOL YEAR CONTINUES, IT WILL BE of interest to learn just how far the Board of Education's edict against secret high school fraternities and sororities is being complied with. Our local youth has been given a challenge to preparation for lawful, good citizenship. We trust that they will meet the issue as fairly and courageously as they do in the field of athletic competition, which involves good sportsmanship.

The Birmingham Eccentric

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NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish brief contributed material providing it has news value; and suggestions are welcomed. Contributions are usually edited superficially so that they conform to general newspaper style. Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation which may appear in the columns of The Eccentric will be gladly corrected upon being brought to the attention of the publisher.

49,061

STATE OF MICHIGAN—In the Probate Court for the County of Oakland.

At a session of said Court, held at the Probate Office in the City of Pontiac, in said County, on the 5th day of October, A. D., 1946.

Present, Honorable Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate.

In the Matter of the Estate of Sarah M. Burnett, Deceased.

P. G. Burnett, Administrator of said estate having filed in said Court his Final Account and petition praying for the examination and allowance thereof; determination of the heirs of said deceased; assignment of the residue of said estate and the discharge of said administrator.

It is Ordered, that the fourth day of November, A. D., 1946, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, at said Probate Office, be and is hereby appointed for hearing said petition;

It is Further Ordered, that public notice thereof be given by publication of a copy of this order, for three successive weeks previous to said day of hearing, in the Birmingham Eccentric, a newspaper printed and circulated in said County.

ARTHUR E. MOORE,
Judge of Probate.

LEWIS and WATKINS,
Attorneys at Law,
Ford Building,
Detroit, Michigan.

29-30-31.

In Radio School

George H. McPherson, seaman second class, son of Mrs. G. K. McPherson, 2083 Orpington road, has entered the radio school at the Naval Training Center, Bainbridge, Md.

McPherson entered the Navy in February, 1946, and received his recruit training at Great Lakes, Ill. Before entering the Navy, George attended Big Beaver high school.

MATERIAL SHORTAGE *Shackles* GAS EXPANSION PROGRAM

Conditions beyond our control are responsible for NEW GAS SERVICE being delayed.

The situation with regard to gas piping for the expansion of Consumers Power Company's gas mains is just as discouraging for the Company as it is for those customers who are anxiously waiting for gas service.*

Manufacturers who are accepting orders take them without the promise of delivery for months. For this reason you can readily understand why it is impossible for us to commit ourselves to the delivery of new gas service in any specified time period where the extension of gas mains is involved.

We are, however, making the most efficient use of all the material we are getting, in order to speed service to you. And we want to thank you for the patience you have shown and the cooperation you have given us under these trying circumstances.

*Additional home heating customers can be accepted only after the available supply of natural gas has been greatly increased through a major pipeline and storage field project now under way. It is hoped that connecting of new home heating customers can be resumed before the winter of 1947-48.

CONSUMERS POWER COMPANY

Happenings of Long Ago

50 YEARS AGO
Oct. 16, 1896

"Saturday morning the trolley wire at Brown street broke in two about three o'clock a.m. One end flew to the east and the other to the west. Pretty soon a farmer with a load of apples drove along and the wire touched one of his horses which dropped as if dead. The frightened granger yelled for help and went down to Mr. Accommodating Doty, who went with him, got the inanimate equine on earth again, and with poles cleared the highway. The power at that time of day comes from Detroit, and the way fire flew and flashed around made the boys realize that the business end of a trolley wire was very much alive. The horse soon recovered and went on his way rejoicing."

"Did you see the hobo bicyclers out from Detroit Sunday last? Six in number and accompanied by a male man dressed in a female bloomer suit, exaggerated shirt waist with sleeves six feet wide, a big hat and painted face. He/she was a startler."

"Don't get too near the drinking fountain, several persons have sunk from sight there."

"The babe Pussy in Mr. Sparling's family gave her parents a terrific scare last Monday by celebrating wash day by drinking nearly all the contents of a bottle of "Cleo," a washing compound, mostly gasoline. Nothing serious happened to the young lady only she is not yet allowed to come near a light or fire."

20 YEARS AGO
Oct. 14, 1926

"Construction of basement walls for the new Church of Christ, Scientist, of Birmingham, Willets and Chester streets, will soon begin, according to plans of builders made known today."

"About 30 women gathered Monday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Loren Stauch of Maple avenue and organized the Monday Musicale of Birmingham, a club that will devote itself to the best in music.

"We will have performances by our own members and by outside talent that is available," Mrs. Whiting Raymond, who has done considerable work in community music in the State, said. "Music, real music, good music, is to be the aim of the organization."

"One of the two propositions which you will be called to vote upon next Tuesday is the proper Zoning Ordinance for Birmingham. For several weeks there has been a decided split in local opinion relative to the merits of this piece of legislation. Those who favor its pasage claim that it will do much to preserve residential values here, while the opposition takes the stand that the ordinance, if passed places in the hands of a few elected officials the destiny of local land values."

5 YEARS AGO
Oct. 16, 1941

"Here is the oddest theft of the year; Last Friday C. J. Swartz, 360 East Frank, looked at his coal bin and discovered that about a ton was missing. He figures that someone must have climbed in the basement window, filled up sacks, and carried the coal away, and this, believe it or not, while the family slept. Mr. and Mrs.' Swartz are both sound sleepers and we can believe it."

"A hymn book, three church papers, a copy of The Eccentric, a church history and names of church and governmental officials were included in the cornerstone documents of the new Redeemer Lutheran Church laid last Sunday afternoon in ceremonies at the church property, West Maple and Chesterfield."

"Tuesday night, firemen just laid down their tools in building a new smoke-injector fan when an alarm came in from 611 Greenwood, where the basement was full of smoke from a faulty furnace. "The fan worked swell," said Chief Griffith. "but we never expected to give it such a prompt try-out.""

"Rose Bampton, Metropolitan opera singer, was a recent visitor at the home of her brother, J. W. Bampton, Wimbleton drive."

BITS OF B'HAM

(Continued from Page 1, Part 2)

Before Mrs. Melville M. Austin of East Lincoln road left Saturday to make her home in California, she brought in to the Wanderer, a newspaper from Hamilton, Ontario, which had been printed Nov. 9, 1846. It was interesting, too, the way they advertised oysters, nails, and feather mattresses right on the same front page next to a lurid account of a murder committed in the States. According to visiting Hamilton residents who looked over the paper, the committee for the Hamilton Centennial, which was held during the past summer, would have been glad to have had it on display. They also stated that some of the names printed in the paper had descendants whom they knew. Quite a museum piece. Who has a paper older than that, we wonder?

—o—

It seems that there are still about 100 season tickets available for the Community Program Series, so the Wanderer hears, and because of the necessity of meeting the cost of the program, a limited number of single admission tickets will be sold to those lucky enough to dash over to the Community House to purchase them. There's also an ad in today's issue of The Eccentric concerning the program and dates.

NEWS COPY must be in The Eccentric editorial offices by 9 a. m. each Wednesday for publication that week. However, early copy is given preference. adv. tf

Throw Him a Straw Vote, Somebody!

Lemler Talks To Quarton PTA On Visual Education

The Membership dinner of the Quarton PTA was held Oct. 8 at the Community House.

Ford L. Lemler, supervisor of visual education, University of Michigan Extension Service, was principal speaker of the evening, and was introduced by Mrs. Robert Vanderkloot, program chairman. His topic was "Visual Aide in Classroom Teaching."

According to Mr. Lemler, there was a day when teachers had little more to do than teach the "three R's."

"There was no need in those days to teach a sense of responsibility, or for physical education, nor was the proper use of leisure time a problem. Life on the farm, together with the great distances between home and school, kept children physically fit. The many chores on the farm gave them their sense of responsibility, and as for leisure time, there was none when the farm work was done."

Mr. Lemler continued, "Now, however, a greater share of the overall training occurs in school. Teachers are hard pressed and perplexed as to how to get enough hours in the school day to carry on this most important work. Increasing the hours in school or the length of the school year cannot be done for social or economic reasons. The only answer is to teach more in a shorter time, and teach it more thoroughly through audiovisual training."

He also pointed out the many advantages of this modern method which was used so successfully during the war in all forms of educational programs. Statistics show that subjects are grasped quicker and retained longer when learned by the audio-visual method. The gap between students of high I.Q. and those of low I.Q. is narrowed perceptibly.

"Visual education films make possible the presentation in a form and with a clarity impossible to achieve by any other methods. Travel films showing the far places of the earth, intimate nature studies, chemistry, mechanics, electricity are all part of the library of films available to the classroom," said Mr. Lemler.

Following the talk, two sound pictures were shown using the new sound projector which had been presented to the school by Mrs. Seiffert on behalf of the PTA, and accepted for the school by Magdeleine Frederick, principal.

Dwight D. Ireland also appeared on the program, outlining the program planned to improve the local school system, and on the increased use of audio-visual methods. According to Dr. Ireland, "Birmingham is fortunate in being able to retain teachers of high caliber, in view of the serious shortage of teachers."

Previous to Dr. Ireland's address, Mrs. Seiffert had introduced the PTA officers, committee members and members of Quarton School's teaching staff.

50,868

STATE OF MICHIGAN, — The Probate Court for the County of Oakland.

At a session of said Court, held at the Probate Office in the City of Pontiac, in said County, on the 25th day of September, A.D., 1946.

Present: Hon. Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate.

In the Matter of the Estate of Willard L. Adams, Deceased.

Florence S. Adams having filed a petition praying that an instrument filed in said Court be admitted to Probate as the last will and testament of said deceased, and that administration of said estate be granted to Florence S. Adams, the executrix named in said Will, or to some other suitable person,

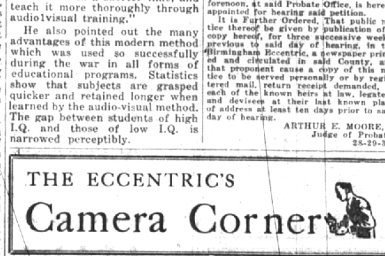
It is Ordered, That the 28th day of October, A.D., 1946, at 9 o'clock in the forenoon, at said Probate Office, is hereby appointed for hearing said petition.

It is Further Ordered, That public notice thereof be given by publication of a copy hereof, for three successive weeks, previous to said day of hearing, in the Birmingham Eccentric, a newspaper printed and circulated in said County, and that prospective cause a copy of this notice to be served personally or by registered mail, return receipt demanded, to each of the known heirs at law, legatees and devisees at their last known place of address at least ten days prior to said day of hearing.

ARTHUR E. MOORE,
Judge of Probate.

28-29-30.

THE ECCENTRIC'S
Camera Corner



Silhouettes such as this lend spice to your album, tell a story as skillfully as more customary shots.

LONG before photography became common, William Cowper tossed off his famous quote: "Variety's the very spice of life." But, to paraphrase the old saw, variety is also the spice of albums. An album in which all the pictures are similar leaves much to be desired.

So why not try something new these fall days? Why not cash in on the low, slanting sunlight of late afternoon? For there is no better time than this to make silhouettes outdoors.

Quite simply, a silhouette is merely a black shape outlined against the light. In most snapshots we try to have the light falling on the side of the subject that the camera is aimed at, in making silhouettes we reverse this process. The light is behind the subject and we picture the shadow side.

When the sun is low it is possible sometimes to place the subject directly between the camera and the setting sun. When the sun is somewhat higher, aim a little away from the sun so that it does not shine straight into the camera lens. Shoot from a low position and place your subject on a slight rise.

Recommended exposures will vary, of course, with the light intensity. Where the sun is just above the horizon and the sky is partially clouded, exposure of 1/25 at f/16 should produce good results; if the sun is somewhat higher, a shorter exposure is recommended. If you're one of the growing legion of photo fans who do your own photofinishing, develop your silhouette pictures fully and print them on contrasty paper.

One thing to remember in pictures of this sort—composition is very important. The arrangement of your subject must be pictorial since there will be little detail interest. Today's picture, with its homing hunters silhouetted, provides a good example. The arrangement of the figures on the crest of the hill, framed by the overhanging branch of the tree, tells its own story and makes a pleasing picture in black against the sky.

John van Guilder

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Knowing that you do not want to waste time and tires, the restaurants listed in this advertisement are letting you know what days they are closed and what hours of other days they will be open to serve you. Check the list carefully when you plan your dinner engagements.

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