

The habit of trying to get much for little effort is not confined to the youth of any era; many, many adults make their precarious way through life by seeking to "get by" with little or no personal effort; they must always be on the border-line of insolvency; their dependency upon others is continued tragedy.

SIXTY-NINTH YEAR—NO. 25

BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1946

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Bits of Birmingham

Did you know that the effects of the Bikini atom bomb test on July 1 were evident here in Michigan? The Wanderer learns that Dr. Ralph A. Bowersox, associate professor of physics and astronomy at MSC, figured a six or seven per cent increase in radioactivity in the East Lansing area after the blast. As far as physicists are concerned, this slight increase was inconclusive, and Bowersox estimated a 900 per cent increase would have to take place before human beings would be affected. But it just goes to show how far reaching this atom bomb thing is as it is being exploded today. Remember, authorities point out that the first few atom bombs have been only infants compared to what "could" be detonated. As one local chap announced to the Wanderer recently, "We'd better resolve the world's major differences pretty fast if people today intend to live to a ripe old age."

Brass, Unlimited, at 14 Mile and Woodward, is the newest member of the Birmingham Retail Merchants Association, bringing present membership up to 79. Clarence Villet, association executive secretary, announces this week.

If Birmingham's citizens of two years ago were all living in the city today, Birmingham would have practically 100 per cent registration of its qualified electors, Miss Irene Hanley, city clerk, re-

marked to the Wanderer the other day, "I think everyone in the city should be able to vote in the coming November election, for the registration two years ago was very complete," she said. "The only persons who necessarily have to check at the City Hall in order to make certain they can vote November 5, are those people who have just moved into town, so to speak, and returning veterans." Of the more than 6,000 qualified voters, then, the Wanderer will be watching with interest, election evening, the total number of electors who make the trip to the polls in exercise of their democratic privilege. Incidentally, registration must be made before Wednesday, Oct. 16, Miss Hanley said.

Commissioner John Martz returned from his vacation recently sporting a small mustache and hastily explained to the Wanderer, "I always do this on vacation but my wife makes me remove it as soon as I return to 'civilization.'"

Mrs. James A. Dant, 1386 Willow lane called the Wanderer the other day to complain about the mischievous youngsters who switch street signs around so they read the opposite of what they are supposed. She has particular reference to the one outside her home at the corner of Willow lane and Redding road. "One Sunday I was expecting guests from Flint—other guests from Flint—other guests from Flint," she said. "I learned later that they had tried to find the house but couldn't because they were looking on the wrong street—which they believed was the right one. The sign had been switched. Then another time a man was to report to the house to do some work, but he, too, couldn't find 1386 Willow lane because he was searching for it along Redding road—the sign again being switched," she related. She wondered if there weren't some way the DPW could tighten these signposts so it would be extremely difficult for youngsters to change them about.

"There's a fire at The Eccentric!" someone on the other side of Woodward phoned the fire department Friday afternoon. The first thing we learned about it was when two police officers came through the plant searching for the blaze. It turned out that the phone call was misleading, that a car pulled into the curb in front of the office with a fire in the motor. By the time the fire truck arrived, the fire had been extinguished.

The Wanderer has been told that the safest place to park in downtown Birmingham in order to be certain he won't get a ticket for "over-time" parking in the meter zone, is the curb in the vicinity of Cunningham's. There is a woman who makes it a point, the Wanderer hears, to periodically place pennies in all the meters in this vicinity. Now that this information is out, those parking places will probably be at a premium.

25 Building Permits Issued In August

The building report for the month of August, compiled by Scott Hersey, building inspector, reflects that building during August has taken a drop over the same month last year. While 25 building and alteration permits were issued last month, in 1945, 41 permits were issued for the same period.

Total evaluation of August building is \$122,886, bringing the total for 1946 building to \$1,418,354, as compared to \$277,247 for the same period last year.

Most of the construction being carried on is new, the report indicates. 14 permits, totaling \$101,800, were issued for new buildings, nine being new family residences. One new industrial permit was issued.

Hit by Shortage



Frank Claves, 17, Kenosha, Wis., is down to a single pair of shoes, size 16, and doesn't know where his next badly needed pair is coming from, for local shoemakers can't help him and shoemakers say their machinery is too small to handle the job. He asked the Red Cross for aid.

mium as penny-wise or minute-conscious motorists seek one of the above.

And while on the subject of street signs, the Wanderer believes the city might do well to get out and take a look at many of them—especially those aluminum-colored ones with black letters. An automobile driver has to be practically right under the sign to read it even in the daytime, let alone at night. Some of the street indicators have been missing for months from the tops of the poles. Undoubtedly the city would discover a number of posts that had been sheared off right at the base. Only lack of replacement parts would seem a valid excuse for not replacing them. At least the ones which ARE there would look better and be more legible after a paint job.

Remarkable a member of the local police force to the Wanderer after discovery of the Cadillac salesroom burglary Friday night. "If someone could only invent a very light-weight, collapsible ladder to fit in a pocket, the police could then check rooftops as they walked their beats."

The Wanderer noted in a Detroit newspaper Monday morning that Birmingham isn't the only community wherein there exists a high school fraternity-sorority problem. Howard D. Crull, former Birmingham superintendent of schools now holding a similar position with the Port Huron schools, is said to have suspended several high school girls for belonging to these secret societies in violation of the State law forbidding such organizations. "Will it happen here?" the Wanderer paraphrases.

National Champion



New Grand American Handicap Traps shooting champion is Frank J. Bennett of Miami, Fla., 35-year-old airlines pilot, who broke 24 of 25 targets in a three-way shoot-off at Vandalia, O. He and two others broke 98 of 100—best among 1487 shooters—to necessitate the shoot-off.

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