

The Birmingham Eccentric

PART TWO

While it is splendid to offer someone a gift on his or her birthday, the best way to be happy about another's birth is to make this fact known as often as possible. Too often, birthdays, like Christmas, are unwittingly used as devices to delay the more frequent expression of praise for another's being alive.

SEVENTIETH YEAR—NO. 2

BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 1947

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BROOK BRIEFS

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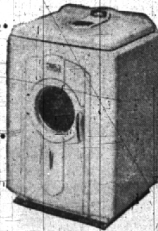
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Bits of Birmingham

"People certainly were talking" last Tuesday. According to information from the Bell Telephone office, not since the "Bank Holiday" back in 1933 have so many Birmingham residents picked up the phone in a single day to call someone else in town. Probably most of the calls were to the neighbors down the block to see if they were snowbound, too.

Retiring commissioners John E. Marz and W. Cole Allen were honored by their fellow commissioners and several city department heads at a dinner party held at a well-known Bloomfield Hills eatery last Friday night. (Sorry, the editor forbids any free advertising.) It was a strictly closed affair in recognition of the efforts of two members of the community who have given generously of their time and efforts to the civic improvement of the city in which they live.

According to reports, City Manager Donald C. Egbert has taken the Birmingham Veterans Organization at its word to provide assistance in getting the city's quaint huts into shape. Word is that EVO members have been looking through landscape booklets preparatory to getting out this spring to help beautify the grounds around the huts.

City Commissioners were taken off guard Monday night when Mayor Milton A. Walker read to the group a special delivery letter from three members of the local draft board expressing their appreciation for the cooperation of the city and local residents in making their six-and-one-half year job a very pleasant one. Said the Mayor, "I thought we were the ones which should tell of our appreciation to the board." Thusly, the commission hastened to pass a resolution expressing the city's

gratitude to Carlston C. Patterson, James A. Berestford and Edward H. Laird.

The age of the psychological drama seems to be taking its toll everywhere—not just on those who spend their nights at those eerie movie "thrillers," either. Walking arm-in-arm, down a Birmingham street in front of this Wanderer the other day, were a young jack and his bobby-soxer girl friend. She was going along at a great rate, telling fun all about just how something happened. As we drew abreast, she said: "Boy, that sure jostled me up—psychologically, that is!"

Happening along one of the main streets of Birmingham Tuesday, this Wanderer was greeted with a cheery smile by our cray-cold downtown postman, and we stopped for a chat. It was he who told us about the bunch of "cute" little pups for sale, on display down the street. We walked the extra block, labeled "These Pups for Sale," and tipped open the lid to see just what kind they were. The empty box stared us in the face—except for a big sign at the bottom, "April Fool!" Oh, yes, there was a sign in the street, the merry, victorious laugh of our postman, exercising his sense of humor.

The Royal Oak Rifle Club, which absorbed members of the Birmingham Club, came through on top in local points this year in competition against 40 other rifle clubs of the Detroit area to win the tournament of the Southeastern Michigan Indoor Rifle and Pistol Tournament. This Wanderer was informed that one of the most illustrious members of the four-man team and one of the best shots in Michigan, is Birmingham's own Lawrence E. Smith, who lives at 24351 Evergreen road. We also found that he holds the new national rifle shooting record of the first annual gallery rifle tournament. During the tournament, he shot a record 92 score, in comparison to 92 shot by the former champion. The same team of which Smith is a member beat the Indiana State team roundly at Ford Range in Dearborn Sunday.

From T. O. Hackis—a fellow publisher from Cadillac, Mich., who is sojourning in Florida and the South—comes a clipping from a column in the Miami Daily News. We quote, "Col. Bob Houston of the Detroit area is for a fight in the twin-towered-private plane owned

by his brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Clark of Birmingham, Mich., this week. The beautiful Grumman, piloted by an ace flier of the last World War, sailed through a bumpy atmosphere caused by the March winds with the smoothness of a transport plane. Mrs. Clark told us that the average length of time required to make the trip from her home near Detroit to Ft. Lauderdale is only 1 1/2 hours and this includes one stopover for lunch at Nashville, Tenn. Mr. Clark comes down and stays for a week or two during the season and then returns to his business in Detroit while she stays in Ft. Lauderdale in South Florida, commuting back and forth as her fancy dictates between her Michigan home and Fort Lauderdale residence. The two children of the Clarks enjoy their Florida trips and they have a spin out to Lake Okechobee, where they "soak" toward the light and land on the pontoon of the plane."

Does the fact that a Good Humor truck was parked on North Woodward avenue Tuesday afternoon indicate that Spring really is here? Some of the city's old-timers, however, are still muttering where they don't know what tricks the weather has been playing on Michigan this winter.

Think that Michiganders were hard hit during the recent blizzard just the week before last? Well, it's not so bad as you think. A Texan who encountered a similar blizzard just the week before last, however, is still muttering where they don't know what tricks the weather has been playing on Michigan this winter.

Someone—this Wanderer doesn't identify himself over the phone—called us this week to tell us about the "bright little saying" of his young son, supposedly made when a representative of the police department came to the door during the city's current dog census. As the story goes, this little fellow was playing in the yard with his family pet and the cop from next door when the policeman approached. A genial fellow, the officer tried to be friendly with the lad by taking an interest in the dog, and asked, "So, you do both of your dogs have licenses?" The little four-year-old responded readily, "You bet! They're covered with 'em!"

Farmers in West Bloomfield Township will host their labor survey meeting tomorrow evening at the West Bloomfield Township Hall on Orchard Lake road. The original meeting was postponed from March 27—the weather was bad, it will be remembered, especially in the country. This meeting tomorrow will be of particular interest to those farmers who are interested in obtaining labor this summer.

This Wanderer notes with enthusiasm a number of placards placed in almost every store window in town by Baldwin students, urging the residents to vote in Monday's election. With their own Junior set interesting themselves in the election, perhaps this time election results will show that many more than the usual one-third of those able to vote turned their ballot at the polls. Students are apparently going out to get all those 6500 potential voters out and interested in their own city government.

Members of the Birmingham Men's Glee Club were guests at a little party and jam session at the home of baritone Dr. W. Weir Burkman after last Monday night's rehearsal. The music that flowed from the Burkman recreation room as the cultivated voices of the glee club gave out with the old favorites, was strictly of a calibre that the neighbors would be glad to put up with. This Wanderer thinks that it was the first time he had ever heard impromptu singing where someone definitely unpracticed for singing didn't lend his off-key, sour-note, too-loud, monotonous, wrongpitched notes to the rendering of those beautiful airs. It was a pleasure to hear the whole state of Indiana being simply grand and a credit to old Birmingham is McNamara's—baritone—Shanley Ross's band.

Check Murray, Birmingham's all-conference basketball team, is a versatile performer and if he had to, could play any position assigned to him. Those fans who complain that the three honor teams noticed that on one he was given birth and on the third he was named to the pivot position.

Three tire blowouts in one day is the result of having to travel over Birmingham streets filled with potholes. One Birmingham chap complained, "I all because my tire casings were cracked open from travelling over such roads as Pierce, Oak—why, I'll be the hell if I name 'em all!" He stated that his work often entails going to the office in the morning rather than park his car upstairs and walk the couple of miles rather than subject his car to the torturing streets.

Having a few minutes to spare, this Wanderer decided to count the words in the letter Commissioner Egbert wrote to the Mayor returned to The Eccentric last Friday, in response to the request to answer ten questions on current civic interest. As we counted them, Dodds used 491 words to tell our managing editor that he couldn't reply to the questions in only 500 words.

Martin L. Butzel, 912 Westwood drive, is a board member of 1947 of the Metropolitan Detroit Family Service Society, according to word from that organization this week.

CLASSIFIED ADS must be at The Eccentric office by five o'clock Tuesday of the week you wish them published. You may phone or bring them in.

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1940 Brick Colonial in Beverly Hills, modern kitchen, screen porch, 3 bedrooms, tile bath, recreation room and extra bath, 75-ft. site, 2-car garage, \$18,000.

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