

Over many years of contact with public officials, I know that most of them welcome ideas and suggestions from individual citizens, or obscure groups and organizations. It is a worthy and necessary part of the process of self-government that people write their public officials as often as they wish.

SIXTY-NINTH YEAR—NO. 44

The Birmingham Eccentric

BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 1947

\$2.00 PER YEAR (In Oakland County)—SINGLE COPIES, 5c

PART TWO

Bloomfield Hills Estate...



Overlooking Valley and Stream

In these days the word "bargain," as applied to real estate, arouses disbelief. The Bloomfield estate of which the beautiful residence pictured above is a part is a bargain, in every definition of the term, for an investor with vision.

Total land area comprises 20 acres of high grade overlooking the entire Bloomfield valley. Improvements include 10 superbly built residence shown above which has four family bedrooms and 4 baths, plus servant's quarters; an additional six room Colonial farmhouse, oil heated and modernized; a large garage and workshop with a nice five room apartment over it; also entirely heated by oil; another garage and storage building; a carpenter shop; and a large, modern barn and stable with attached kennel.

One or both of the residences may be sold, depending on your housing requirements, and the other buildings lend themselves very well to remodeling for sale and profit. Part of the property may be sold for business use and more of the frontage may be developed for multiple dwelling units, so greatly needed in this area. A considerable portion of the land may be sold, in acreage, for residential site—there are no finer views than those from the high land overlooking the valley and stream.

Here, then, is a multi-use property for diversified purpose or development for sale. Retain the portion which fits your needs or plans—sell the remainder for all or a substantial part of the original investment. This is a bargain. Make us prove it!

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Bits of Birmingham

The police blotter last week reflected that two young people had been injured on the Birmingham Country Club hill while tobogganing there, so this Wanderer called Jack Geitz, the manager, to find out more about it. The injured people came from Detroit, he told us, and they were using the club grounds without permission. They hit a tree in the darkness and the young man suffered a broken leg and internal injuries, and the young woman broken ribs. There is a two-fold lesson here, it seems to this Wanderer—first, that you should not trespass on private property, and second—and very important in this part of the winter—know your hill and its topography and trees before trying it after dark. As shown above, accidents resulting from winter sports can be classed as a minor, and a little precautionary scouting before you bring out your toboggan party is well worth insuring an evening of fun instead of tragedy.

This Wanderer notices that for the first time in several years a local restaurant advertises that food prices are going down. This Wanderer hopes it is the beginning of a downward trend, what with the price of one car being cut and the stock market doing a gradual shift back to pre-war levels. Who knows, by the time the rent ceilings are lifted, maybe landlords will be glad to get the OPA standard rental!

"Another foggy morning like Monday's and I'll be convinced that I'm now living in Birmingham, England," a local chap told this Wanderer. Can't say as we'll agree with him. There have been more foggy days in Birmingham this year than can be recalled in a number of previous years. The fog to which he refers is the "wet" kind, not that in which the world finds itself today concerning various national and international problems.

Birmingham's City Commissioners in recent months have been hearing objections to various assessments, actual and proposed city revenues, and various other city obligations which require the expenditure of the people's money. The School Board, too, has met and will meet objections to their fund-raising efforts. This Wanderer believes that they might adopt as official "mottos" the words of that famous American

can, Benjamin Franklin, which appear on the cover of the current Setpiece: "Friends and Neighbors, the Taxes are indeed very heavy, and if those laid on by the Government were the only ones we had to pay, we might more easily discharge them; but we have many others, and much more grievous to some of us.—We are taxed twice as much by our Idleness, three times as much by our Pride, and four times as much by our Folly; and from these Taxes the Commissioners cannot ease or deliver us."

This Wanderer was quite envious one day this week upon receipt of a postal card from San German, Puerto Rico, sent by Mr. Commander Brown and his wife. Mr. Commander Brown is an ex-territory trip to the islands and South America, intending to stop and visit various Legion posts there and exchange greetings. The little legend on the card indicated they were having a wonderful time and were leaving at that time for Ciudad Trujillo, Santo Domingo, Haiti, Havana, Cuba and finally, Miami. They should be home along about Saturday, with a host of South American experiences to tell about.

That fire station explosion which occurred in Detroit last week had killed three men and injured several others will never happen in Birmingham. The present city ordinance, Fire Chief Vern Griffith told this Wanderer Monday, "All such underground gas tanks in Birmingham may not have drain-off pipes at the bottom of the tank," the Chief stated. "The excess water must be pumped out through the top, and this prevents any possible danger from being forced through the drain because of carelessness, as happened in Detroit."

"It Costs Money to Become—And Remain—A Teacher" is the title of an article by Dr. Dwight B. Ireland, Birmingham's superintendent of schools, in the current issue of the Michigan Educational Journal. In the article, Ireland explains the average costs to a teacher which must be deducted from her salary and what is left for clothing, insurance, savings, medical care and cultural growth. For a teacher with 14 years' experience, the sum amounts to \$329.87 out of an average salary of \$2,687.35, Ireland's article explains.

"Real world peace will come from the hearts and minds of men—the so-called unimportant 'little men' walking the streets of every country on the face of the globe—will come as a result of their everyday pattern of living with their fellowmen. Too many of us see ourselves as spectators at the drama of world affairs, failing to realize that we, all of us, are the

actors who will determine the course of history in our time and perhaps for generations to come." This is the theme of the current issue of "Fight On To Win the Peace," a family newsletter received a few days ago by Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Hargreaves of Cranbrook road. The news letter, according to Hargreaves, "is an effort to have the many branches of one particular family meet through the letter and to discuss and try to agree on world peace." He suggested that other families might try something along the same line in order that the world peace movement could really start where peace is most cherished—in the home and by the family.

Young men with a basic knowledge of Japanese are urgently needed by the Army, according to Sgt. Al Sandell, local Army recruiter. The Sergeant tells this Wanderer that promotions in this field are rapid and guaranteed should anyone care to take advantage of it. Thought we'd tip off any local boys with qualifications before they are inducted and sent to cook and bakers school.

Parker Gibson, publicity director of the Woodward General Hospital's current fund drive, over the years has had to do a great deal of rush work in meeting deadlines of various newspapers with which he has cooperated in a number of campaign drives throughout the East. But here in Birmingham he claims that the people really seem to be way ahead of themselves. If his new desk calendar had in any indication, "Why, the last three months' pages are missing and it puts me way up to April 1st—and that's no joke," he told this Wanderer Monday morning.

If and when that Oak street improvement takes place from the Rouge east to Woodward, it undoubtedly will mean that the old bridge will be widened by removing the present sidewalk and overhanging it on the south side of the bridge, this Wanderer has learned from Don Egbert, city manager.

It would appear that some sort of ordinance requiring business establishments to break down paper and wood cartons before placing them in the alley for collection would be a very desirable thing. This Wanderer has observed many numbers of times city trucks hauling these empty cartons to the dump in practically the same condition they were placed in the alleys. They take up a great deal more space on the truck, yet weigh practically nothing.

Fog, slush, sleet and snow were encountered by citizens of the community Monday. Even a government crystal gazer couldn't tell us what to wear to prepare for the different climatic conditions which

have been encountered here this winter.

This Wanderer was almost loping down Woodward to the four corners of Birmingham that cold and blustery Tuesday morning, when he came upon Mark Dance of the DPW, all bundled up in his ears in winter wear, busy emptying the gutters of the parking meters into a wheeled off. Without preamble, Mark greeted us with: "Don't tell me this is hot money? Not this morning!"

In the last check of the police blotter before going to press, this Wanderer notes that for the first time in a long while, only one minor accident was reported in Birmingham for the week. With the list usually running to five or six and occasionally much higher, that is pretty close to a record!

Two Local Men Win Offices With State Mineralogists Group

The Michigan Mineralogical Society, which meets the second Monday of each month at Cranbrook Institute of Science in Bloomfield Hills, will be host to the Mid-West Federation of Geological Societies convention next August. It was announced this week at the annual meeting.

Elected to head the society for 1947 was Dr. Leslie R. Bacon, research supervisor of the Wyandotte Chemicals Corporation. Vice-president will be Henry P. Zuidema, of Wayne University; treasurer, Ford Penabaz, 451 Park, Birmingham, and secretary, Anne Proctor of Detroit.

William E. Berezford, Goodhue road, Bloomfield Hills, was made a member of the board of directors at the meeting.

The society, now in its thirteenth year, is open to all interested in geology and mineral collections, and sponsors excursions to mineral localities.

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An Open Letter....

To The Taxpayers of Southfield Township

In this letter we intend to discuss a subject which vitally concerns each of us, regardless of our position in life, or the size and value of our homes.

We refer to TAXES and ASSESSMENTS.

Our civilized structure as such, is based on the foundation that each of us must pay our FAIR share of the cost of promoting and maintaining the community in which we reside. Some of these costs are: schools for our children, roads for our convenience, protection of our property, our good name and others too numerous to mention.

A seemingly fair and equitable solution toward the payment of these costs is the method of ASSESSING each one on their ability to pay. An example of this is the ASSESSMENT on our homes and our national income taxes. In each case the person possessing the larger home or the larger income pays more than the one who owns less or makes a smaller income.

THIS IS AS IT SHOULD BE, and is the primary reason that we as a nation, are without an equal. We have reason to believe, however, that in OUR Township this FAIR method has become badly maladjusted and is in dire need of correction.

We advise you to ask yourself the following questions:

1. What is my present assessment? And, how does it compare with similar homes throughout the Township?
2. Are assessments arrived at by a haphazard "hit or miss" method and are all required factors taken into consideration?
3. Do I have recourse to an appeal, and if so, will my appeal be considered in a sincere and fair manner?

Your answers to the above questions will indicate the extent to which the present system of assessments in this Township has failed.

We pledge ourselves to do the following:

1. We will exert every effort to correct any inequalities now existing, taking into consideration the fact that each of us willing to pay our FAIR share, but as in the case of our forefathers, that if "Taxation without Representation is Unfair" then likewise, "Taxation without Equalization is also very Unfair."
2. Each assessment will be subjected to a review, based on the true, not inflated value of each parcel, whether it be a small home, a farm, a mansion or unimproved vacant land.
3. Reviews and appeals will be made and handled in a sincere and courteous manner, with prejudice or partiality to none.

Sincerely yours for a Better Southfield Township,

(Signed) DUDLEY P. FRAME,
24261 Chief Pontiac Trail

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We can avoid this disaster by regular savings.

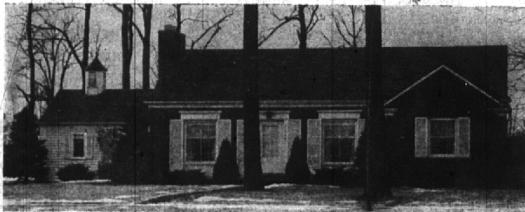
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"DURBIN" BUILT



BEVERLY HILLS

Is always an unmistakable stamp of quality as construction goes. This home, less than five years old, is no exception as you will note when you inspect it.

Floor plan includes: living room, dining room, kitchen—2 bedrooms and tile bath. Basement provides a large recreation room with mastic tile floor—also a bedroom with bath.

A bent grass lawn (87 x 110), huge trees, carpeting, Electromaster range, Kelvinator refrigerator—all are part and parcel of the offering. 30-day delivery too!

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