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It's Spring Again!
 Shopper: "That's a smart way to wear. May I ask how much it cost you?"
 Special Shopper: "One hundred and twenty-five dollars. Twenty-five for the hat and one hundred for the suit to match."



Bits of Birmingham

When the smoke from the "Battle of the Oak Street Improvement" clears after next Monday's hearing, this Wanderer is going out on a limb to predict the next major skirmish over road improvements will be between the "we don't want it" and the "we gotta have it" who use Pierce street between 14 Mile and Lincoln. Already this Wanderer has received complaints of broken springs, ruined shock absorbers, etc., from the "motorist's pitfall" along this heavily travelled thoroughfare. If the "we want it" are in the majority around town, then maybe the city'll have fairly good streets after all.

Color movies of the recent Birmingham flood were shown last Thursday evening by the J. O. Buckeridge of 507 Brookside to a group of people who so kindly and willingly lent a helping hand that day as flood water engulfed the Buckeridge property. The guests included Sterling Withington of Brookside drive, Gerald Bukema n. 303 Park; Conrad Tweedy, 576 Park; William Kennedy, 1058 Floyd; Fred Stinson, 1411 E. Humphrey; and Richard T. Dwyer of Orchard Ridge road. After the movies had been run several times (once backwards so it could be seen how water runs uphill) Buckeridge made a long one-minute speech and presented gifts in appreciation of the willing services performed.

Now comes the information from the Michigan Conservation Department that local anglers are supposed to realize, through the department's current file-clipping

campaign, the overwhelming proportion of natural trout as compared to conservation planted fish. Even so, this Wanderer has heard plenty from local anglers concerning the "foolishness" of the department's action.

Now that it appears that the weather will remain more or less constant for this time of year, this Wanderer comes forth with a few gardening tips for those new homeowners who have the task of gardening yet haven't any idea of the proper tools which the average city gardener should have. Good quality tools are best, for poorly designed tools can increase the amount of work required to care for the garden. Necessary tools include a shovel or long-handled spading fork, a steel bow rake, a 7-inch common hoe, a strong cord for laying off rows, and enough hose to reach all parts of the plot. Tools should be well cared for, too. A thorough cleaning and a wipe with an oiled rag will prevent rusting. Hand hoes and weeding implements should be kept sharp for greatest efficiency. Now with these tips, next fall this Wanderer will be waiting to report the amount of earliest home garden crops.

A while back some national newspaper columnist claimed that our beautiful little city should change its name to give credit to a town with a similarly named city in Alabama. Now along comes a town in Massachusetts claiming it was the first city to originate the "10 per cent reduction" price plan. This Wanderer won't hesitate to give credit to Newberryport for the adoption of a city-wide price reduction program, but Birmingham, Mich., started it back last February. According to information which has just come to this Wanderer, Lawrence E. Smith that month sent out a letter to his handicapping customers announcing a five per cent reduction of prices, which, together with the general price increase since that time, should amount close to a 10 per cent reduction now. Said Smith in his letter: "At last the day has arrived for which we all have been waiting—the day when I can say to you that we are able to reduce our labor prices. Due to our greater volume of business and increased efficiency, we are pleased to announce effective immediately a reduction of approximately five per cent over last Fall's labor prices...."

Another Birmingham merchant this week announced that many prices in his store have been reduced at least 10 per cent. He's San Bruni, owner of the Birmingham Fruit Co. Maybe the break in the market has finally come. At least, the consumers hope so.

Pet owners in Michigan have something to worry about, it seems. According to Mrs. Paul B. Bowles of Pontiac, who stopped in Monday to see this Wanderer, there is apparently quite a business in the stealing by unknown individuals of dogs for resale in laboratories for experimental purposes. Mrs. Bowles stated that "collection companies" instead of taking only those unclaimed dogs from police pounds, have been known to pick up licensed American dogs from off of peoples' front porches. Sometimes these are champion dogs worth several thousands of dollars. She suggests pet owners who want to make it tough for any such individual who gets caught at this, to back a proposition being introduced into the State legislature. Write your State senator or State representative, she says.

This Wanderer notes that the Birmingham Y is calling parents' attention to the fact that less than 60 days remain before summer camps will be in operation. Because so many camps have improved their physical facilities and are no longer plagued by food shortages and meat substitutes, the demand for reservations has increased. Local Y secretary Ed Kirbert says the local branch has no direct ties with any camp but is offering cooperation to parents in requests for camp attendance at Make-Go-Tah-See, Okemuncie and Niskone. Camp Haywood has its quota of campers from this region and will not take any more. Vacancies still exist in all periods for the first three camps mentioned. Ed Kirbert at the Y office, 139 W. Maple, will be glad to answer inquiries about camp activities, etc.

Maybe it's symbolic—this Wanderer doesn't know. All he can tell you is that when he recently visited the Cranbrook Museum, he walked past the front door and was immediately confronted with a huge replica of our universe, complete with sun, moon, stars, earth and planets, all encased in a large glass globe. The globe itself was cracked—does that signify anything?

This Wanderer hopes that national radio network chains don't completely abandon all censoring of radio guests' cracks against the networks themselves. Otherwise, how are the common ordinary people going to be able to

justify the "cutting off" of the remarks of hundreds of thousands of self-styled home comedians?

According to a report which has come to this Wanderer, the local branch of Uncle Sam's letter and package delivery system has finally taken down from one of its bulletin boards Admiral "Bull" Halsey's 1944 Pearl Harbor talk" on how to beat Japan. Also reported recently removed were some bulletins listing Civil Service jobs available back in '44 and '45. This Wanderer wouldn't know about those "removals." He buys his stamps from a coin machine in one of the local druggeries.

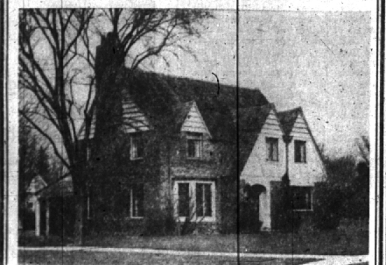
Winding up their "barntorming" speaking trip before Birmingham service clubs, six Baldwin High school boys spoke before the Rotary Club Monday noon concerning the present American school crisis, with particular emphasis on how Birmingham was facing it. The six who conducted the panel discussion were Chairman Lloyd Appell, Bob Brunsgraber, Don Coulter, Bill Shaalberg, Bill Eustis and Jim Carson.

City Manager Don Egbert on many Monday evenings hears his recommendations concerning proposed street improvements laid out apart by citizens who appear to protest various angles of such an improvement. This in spite of the fact that the city commission meets times agrees with his proposals and sets up an amendment district. But this past Monday Don took "the wind out of the sails" of several property owners in the Pembroke subdivision when, before the commission, he announced that the assessment district be most times agreed with his proposals and sets up an amendment district. But this past Monday Don took "the wind out of the sails" of several property owners in the Pembroke subdivision when, before the commission, he announced that the assessment district be most times agreed with his proposals and sets up an amendment district. But this past Monday Don took "the wind out of the sails" of several property owners in the Pembroke subdivision when, before the commission, he announced that the assessment district be most times agreed with his proposals and sets up an amendment district.

Several local townspeople have commented on the city's proposed improvement of streets through assessment districts, wondering why the city doesn't go ahead with the program this summer. According to information from the City Hall, there's a law against it, at least for this summer program. The State requires that a city charter amendment must be adopted at a regular city election, not through a special election. Therefore, it appears unlikely that any election will be held before next April, at which time local voters will determine whether the change shall be made or no. So get your road-reading petitions in early for this year, at least in the advice of city officials.

Several Monday evenings now Commission Bill Martin has brought up for discussion the fact that certain taxicabs in Birmingham appear to be charging double the rate for some of their trips. That, says Martin, is against a city ordinance, which stipulates that regardless of the number of passengers carried, only one fare shall be charged and that to be for the entire distance of the trip. How the passengers settle the expenses among themselves is another thing, Martin would be interested in learning how many other cab patrons have encountered this situation, he told this Wanderer.

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- ★ Quanton School District—7 bedrooms and 3 baths, large lot, beautifully landscaped. Ideal for the large family.
- ★ Quanton School District—3 bedrooms, A. C. oil heat, 2-car garage, .2 blocks from school, stores, transportation, etc.
- ★ Franklin—3 bedrooms, 2 tile baths, large library, completely carpeted. Two acres of beautiful lawn.
- ★ Adams School District—North of Maple Road. 4 bedrooms, a bath on second floor, plus bedroom and lavatory on first. A. C. oil heat.
- ★ Bates Street—Charming older 3-bedroom home, newly decorated. Gas heat, water softener, electric water heater, 1-car garage.
- ★ Webster Avenue—2 bedrooms on first floor, unfinished attic, 1-car garage, 1942 built.
- ★ W. Lincoln Ave.—3-bedroom stucco home—a real buy.
- ★ Beverly Hills—Charming 4-bedroom, 2-bath colonial. Vacant now, must sell.

See them through
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