

The Birmingham Eccentric

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BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 1943

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Real Estate Board Hears Two Reports

The Birmingham Real Estate Board held their regular, monthly luncheon meeting on Thursday, April 22. Highlights of the meeting were reports by Elliott S. Kinney on the Chicago convention and by Helen Gensung on the progress of the "Adopt St. Malo" movement.

Kinney spoke briefly on the educational plans sponsored by

the National Real Estate Board and formulated at the convention held in Chicago, April 14-16. Mrs. Gensung described the City of St. Malo in Northern Brittany which the Junior Chamber of Commerce proposes should be adopted by the City of Birmingham. The need for tools, food and clothing for St. Malo was outlined and the Real Estate Board voted its cooperation in the project.

The meeting was conducted by President F. C. Few.

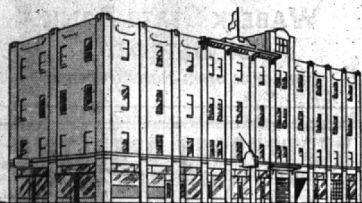
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Where Leader-Dogs Are Trained Near Here



The above picture shows the layout of the training grounds of the Leader-Dog League on Rochester Road. Here dogs and their charges have a chance to become acquainted and combine their training before going out onto busy streets.

City Asked to Contribute to Support of Leader-Dog Foundation at Rochester

By Alice E. Mearns

Harold F. Warman, field secretary of the Leader-Dog League for the Blind, has announced that the current drive for funds will bring about a thousand letters into Birmingham this week.

The League, incorporated in 1939, is supported by the dues of its members and contributions from clubs, organizations, foundations and the like. All dues and donations are tax free.

Located just south of Rochester, Mich., on Rochester road, the league's one of the country's major dog guide training institutions and is one of two such establishments east of the Rockies. It has dormitories where trainees are housed during their training period, which is a minimum of four weeks. Here the blind man or woman becomes acquainted with the dog and has daily lessons on the training grounds, laid out to represent streets and crossings. It is interesting to note that 45 per cent of the blind in this country, and 53 per cent of those

east of the Rockies, are nearer this center than any other.

Large Demand for Facilities
In view of the large demand upon its facilities, the League has recently completed the construction of additional living quarters, a large modern dog kennel, dog hospital, additions to the student dormitories, and purchased equipment totaling about \$40,000.

With these additions the League becomes one of the most completely equipped institutions of its kind in the country. During this, the first year after its expansion, it expects to double its production over any previous year. Additions to the staff will accelerate the training and increase the output of trained units about 50 per cent this year.

Since it is now providing a very substantial proportion of all scientifically trained dog guides in the United States, this additional service will make it outstanding in its field.

Explains Training Course

Warman explained the training course a person undergoes there, from the period of becoming acquainted with the dog to the day they leave as a complete and independent unit. The course consists of city blocks, complete with sidewalk, broken pieces in the walk, post barriers, fence barriers across the walks, steps, one and two-step curbs, straight and round curbs, straight and diagonal street crossings, all types of turns and cut-backs, and a building which is entered from one sidewalk through a swinging door and another through a revolving door. As is any other skill, practice

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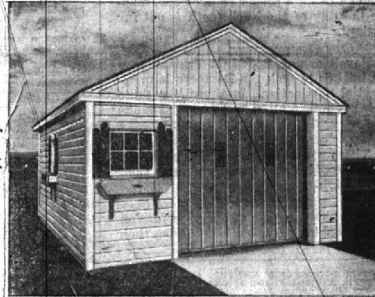
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