

# The Birmingham Eccentric

PART  
TWO

SEVENTIETH YEAR—NO. 51

BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 1948

\$2.50 PER YEAR (In Oakland County)—SINGLE COPIES, 5c

## Study of Stars Open Again at Cranbrook

Observatory demonstrations are again offered at the Cranbrook Institute of Science on Friday evenings, the first to be March 19.

**Life Insurance Counselor**  
**Harry O. Smart**  
217 Pierce Street  
PHONE 484

At 7:30 p.m. Institute members are regularly organized educational groups such as scout troops, school groups, may make appointments without charge by calling Birmingham 5100, extension 73, during office hours.

In order to better facilitate use of the telescope, the number of persons admitted each half hour must be limited to 15.

When the sky is cloudy, an astronomical lecture will be provided in the Cranbrook Institute of Science auditorium.

Spring is the safest season in the accident records.

## QUARTON COLONIAL



All brick and soundly built, this attractive Colonial has a maturely landscaped site 120 feet wide in the Quarton School district.

First Floor: Living Room 13 by 22, fireplace; Dining Room 12 by 13; Den-9 by 10; Kitchen; Lavatory.

Second Floor: 4 very comfortable Bedrooms and 2 tiled Baths.

Basement: Playroom, bar, utility and Laundry Room

The yard is cyclone fence enclosed, the neighborhood is excellent, the 2-car garage is attached. Taxes are \$376 annually. Heat is automatic, oil-fired.

This is the size home you've been asking for—in the best section of Birmingham. We'll show it gladly, by appointment.

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## THREE DESIRABLE HOMES In Adams School District

Attractive English House, corner lot, First floor—large living room with fireplace, dining room, sun-room, modern kitchen with snack bar—Second floor 3 bedrooms, bath and dressing room. Exceptionally large closets. Hot air stoker heat. Price \$16,800.00

This Brick Home for Large family has living room with fireplace, dining room, sun-room, large kitchen, breakfast room, library and tiled lavatory on first. Four bedrooms and tiled bath with tub and stall shower on second floor. Floored attic—2-car garage—stoker hot air heat. Price \$17,500.00

A desirable frame Cape Cod built in 1941 on lot 100x132. Living room with fireplace, dining room, 2 bedrooms and bath, attractive kitchen and screened porch on 1st. Large bedroom on 2nd. Forced hot air oil heat—water softener—storm windows—garage. Priced to sell at \$15,750.00.

CALL FOR FURTHER DETAILS

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## Bits of Birmingham

We've had reports of rabbits and butterflies in the column of late, but it remains for a lady (whose name we withheld at her request) who lives on West Frank Street, to tell us about the first bloom of the season. During the recent warm spell she noticed the tips of her forsythia bushes were showing a definite sign of life and annual reawakening. She cut several sprays and took them into the house where, now, her rooms are made far brighter by their cheery yellow blooms.

And someone said, "Beware, the Ides of March." Can't help wondering if it was back in Caesar's time someone with a great deal of foresight knew what was in store for us today. At any rate, our Ides are approaching. Have you sent in your income tax yet? Fellow Wage Slaves!

At a recent meeting Bruce Van Dusen, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Van Dusen, 753 Puritan Avenue, Birmingham, was elected captain of Deerfield (Mass.) Academy's 1949 varsity all team. Bruce is also a member of the glee club, a cheer leader, and on the business board of the school paper. His excellent leadership will form a strong backbone for the team next year, the school reports.

Three copies of the Eccentric's "Special World Trade Edition" are on their way to Windsor, Ontario, another three to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Washington, D. C. According to Mrs. John Benson, president of the Windsor United Nations Convention, their group is planning a similar program to Birmingham's recent Communist Convention. The group is planning to come to Birmingham and want to know how we did it here. The C of C's foreign commerce department wants to look over a copy to see if some of the information can't be used in their promotion of "World Trade Week," May 16-22, on a national scale. We're glad to help out.

Signs of the Times: We noticed one, while browsing around in our favorite magazine shop the other day—one with which we are all so familiar today—prices. Priced boldly on the front cover of a pulp magazine was "Dime Mysteries" and near it, in a neat little circle were the figures, ".15c!"

The Eccentric still receives occasionally a "Letter to the Editor" which is unsigned. One was sent in last week concerning a matter which we believe should be brought to a certain group's attention. Yet the letter will go unpublished unless the woman (we have deduced that much) who

wrote it comes into the office and signs it. At least we at The Eccentric must know who writes letters before they are printed, although we do not have to reveal the names should the writer make that request. So please sign your letters!

Roy Hawthorne, local business man for the past 34 years, has shown us a copy of the May 27, 1885, issue of The Eccentric which came to him indirectly from his late uncle, William Hawthorne. As Roy tells the story, his uncle was a subscriber to The Eccentric delivered to his farm on Maple, one-half mile east of John R. A member of the United Army and one-time orderly for General George A. Custer, the uncle saved this particular copy of The Eccentric and presented it to the niece of John Truesdale, Jr., Moore of Warren, Mich., who found the paper in the bottom of a trunk after her aunt's recent death. Mrs. Moore, a friend of the Roy Hawthornes, gave it back to Roy since she knew his uncle originally had it. This Wanderer looked at a couple of items in the particular issue, and saw where in 1885 a lady's No. 1 corset sold for 32 cents; men's suits for \$8-\$10, fancy colored shirts at 50 cents each. And downtown Saginaw street frontage (now Woodward avenue) sold for \$5 a foot. At time times, how things change!

It might be figured that cutting down trees all day is not the most interesting way to spend eight hours. But here's an incident that proves there is some excitement connected with the job, as told by John Johnson, city forester: "Monday morning my crew was felling, an old, decayed tree in Springdale Park," Johnson relates. "The trunk was saved

through and the tree crashed to the ground. It was pulled quite a ways till it was out of the woods and where the men could saw it into smaller pieces. They kept chopping off huge chunks of timber until after one cut one of the men noticed the saw was bloody—and he picked up a raccoon's tail. Then two 'coons ran from the hollow trunk and made for the woods—'one of them minus a tail.' What Johnson can't make out is why the two animals were not disturbed when the tree fell, or when it was dragged several hundred feet. This Wanderer offered the suggestion that those two noisier raccoons took in stride, but the sound of the cutting saw was too much—it woke them up.

Ever know what it feels like to tangle with a fire engine—or nearly so? Few people can, or want to. Yet this Wanderer was spared serious injury through the good judgment of the driver of the city's new fire department pumper. This Wanderer was putting along north on Hunter Monday afternoon about 45 mph, minding his own business and keeping his eye on the moving traffic ahead of him and on the East Maple signal. Just as we went into the Hunter-Maple intersection, to our left we saw the pumper braking to a stop to let us go past. Only at that moment did we hear the siren. And our car radio WAS NOT on. We can now sympathize with other drivers who have found themselves in the same situation. What we now want to know, how could Birmingham be able to so neatly control signals in the event of a fire so traffic would be blocked from crossing the fire truck's route, and what would it cost?

## Rural Carrier Exam

An examination to determine candidates for permanent appointment to four Birmingham rural post routes will be held between 9-12 a.m. Saturday, March 13, at the Baldwin High school, post office officials announced this week.

## --TODAY--

PERSONALIZED SERVICE AND COUNSEL OF AN AGENCY ARE WORTH MORE TO THE INSURANCE BUYER TODAY THAN EVER BEFORE

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## County Badminton Tournney Scheduled for April 10-11

The Ferndale Recreation department announces the dates for the third annual Oakland County closed Badminton tournament to be Saturday, April 10th with the finals being held on Sunday afternoon, April 11th from 2:00-5:00 p.m.

Players eligible to compete in the tournament are residents of Oakland County and members of Badminton Clubs located in Oakland County. Entry blanks are now available at most every badminton club in Oakland County or may be secured by request from the Ferndale recreation office, 130 E. 9 Mile Rd. or by calling Lincoln 2-1850.

The tournament will be held in the Lincoln High School gym where six courts will be available. Events to be sponsored are women's and men's singles, women's and men's doubles and mixed doubles. Players must furnish their own birds. Tournament birds may be purchased at the gym on the days of the tournament.

**Birmingham Winners**  
Trophies will be awarded to the champions and runners-up in each class. Last year sixty-six players competed in the tournament and a larger tournament is expected this year.

Defending champions will be Patsy McMillan of Birmingham, women's singles; Wally Kramer of Pleasant Ridge, men's singles; Bill Anderson and Maurice Simpson of Ferndale, men's doubles; Mary Connor and Bill Anderson of Ferndale in the mixed doubles.

Cities represented in the tournament last year were Franklin, Birmingham, Huntington Woods, Royal Oak, Pleasant Ridge, Big Beaver, Ferndale, Cass Lake, Pontiac, Bloomfield Hills, Detroit, Orchard Lake and Berkley.

## Joseph Sytek, Sons, Buy Local Business

A new father-son business was officially opened in Birmingham this week, when the remodeling was completed at the Town and Country Market on East Maple road.

The business was purchased recently by Joseph Sytek and his three sons, Leonard, Raymond and Ernest. They have completely re-

modeled the interior of the store, and have enlarged it. They will continue the same type of market and general grocery business that Town and Country has enjoyed in the past, and will give the added service of frozen food lockers, and processing meat for storage in them.

Sytek has operated his own market in Detroit for a number of years, and is proud to announce the opening of his new business in Birmingham.

## NEW RANCH HOMES

Of course we have them and—right in town, close enough to Quarton School. Sites are large—the location attractive. (A) Has 2 bedrooms, a large library, breezeway and 2-car garage. (B) An all-brick issue has 3 bedrooms, a den, and an enormous living and dining room area. Prices start at \$24,500.

## INTRINSIC VALUE

Is readily apparent in this solidly built and very elegant Georgian brick home. Typical of this is the genuine slate roof, copper eavestrough, flagstone porches. Living room is 17 x 30, dining room with fireplace is 17.6 x 14.6 and the huge reception hall is made more gracious by a winding staircase. 3 Bedrooms and 2 baths are upstairs.—The setting is park-like, indeed, with a permanent view assured of the heart of the Rouge River Valley.

## THRESHOLD TO CRANBROOK

Locates this substantial residential property on 6 acres of luxurious grounds sloping down to the Rouge, and only overshadowed by the Tower of Christ Church, Solid masonry construction. Ample sized rooms, but not too many, make it ideal for an average family whose children could easily walk to the Cranbrook Foundation Schools.

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## FOUR HOMES

with Swimming, Boating, Fishing.

All close at hand with private beach on beautiful Walnut Lake, yet 10 minutes from center of Birmingham and a part of the Birmingham school system.

## CHARMING CAPE COD

Neat as a pin, this brick home offers the best in semi-rural living. Has bedroom and tile bath on 1st floor, 2 bedrooms and lavatory up. Everything perfect, including breakfast bar, recreation room with bar, 22-foot breezeway with attached 2-car garage. Almost an acre, well landscaped. Owner leaving town; reduced to \$15,500 for quick sale.

## SEMI-RANCH TYPE

Brick home on a hill, with breezeway and 2-car brick garage. There are 3 bedrooms, tile bath and lavatory. 1 acre of land. Priced at \$16,500.

## NEW RANCH TYPE

Delightful contemporary design, 2 large bedrooms, ample utility room, 2-car attached garage. Terms.

## YEAR AROUND COTTAGE

2 bedrooms, screened porch. Built in 1940. Price—\$8,500.00.

**BENJAMIN and STEPHENS, INC.**

219 S. WOODWARD — Realtors — BIRMINGHAM

PHONE 4129