

The Birmingham Eccentric

PART
THREE

If you are desirous of learning just what is wrong with most of the world today, just make a fair and impartial survey of the qualities of selfishness and unselfishness as they are revealed in your circle of friends—including yourself. The world averages the average of that circle.

SEVENTY-FIRST YEAR—NO. 1

BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 1948

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Varsity Letter Is Awarded to John P. Burleigh

One of the 73 athletes who received varsity letters at the annual winter sports banquet of the Pledge School last week was John P. Burleigh, son of Mr. and Mrs. David B. Burleigh, of 1001 Brookwood Court.

Principal speaker was George W. Case, outfielder and baseball-extraordinary of the Washington Senators. Case is an alum-

nus of Pledge, class of '38. He told the athletes some of his experiences in the major leagues. Also on the program was Al Neuhäuser, swimming coach of Trenton (N.J.) High School.

A sophomore at Pledge, Burleigh received his letter as a member of the swimming team. He is secretary of the sophomore class at Pledge this year. He is active in other school functions, among them Senior Life Saving Class and Cub Scouts.

Another son of Mr. and Mrs. David B. Burleigh, David B. Burleigh, Jr., is a student at Pledge this year.

Glorious Easter Season Should Remind All of Us That Life Is Everlasting

By Alice E. Morgan

The Lenten Season—what pictures your unlearned imagination can conjure up about it!

We see a white-robed man, his bearded face sad. His fine eyes kind and gentle. His whole mien one of patience and understanding. We watch him as he talks to twelve other men, and read the mixed emotions on their faces. Each, though, reflects a light that still burns in the world today: Faith.

We see the white-robed figure walk among them, telling them things which they do not wish to hear, but which he knows are to be. We see his hand come out and touch first one, then another. Peter, Paul, John, Mark.

We watch as, alone, He walks away and they stare after Him, muttering softly among themselves, and we can feel the sense of loss that takes hold of the little group.

We live the days with Him, watching Him go calmly from task to task, man to man, place to place, walking down the road which He knows leads, irrevocably, to death. A death that is predestined, and toward which He has been traveling all His life.

We know the Verdict

We see Judas betray Him to Pilate, and we watch the impact our Simon Peter drew steel in His defense. We hear his gentle voice as He tells Peter to sheath the sword. Then we watch as His figure is bound and led away—led away like a common prisoner. We hear the trial—if it can be called that—and we know the verdict.

We watch the indignities to which He is submitted. The crown of thorns, the bitter cup, the sneers and jeers, the public humiliations. We hear the shouts of the chief priests and the officers crying, "Crucify him, crucify him!" We watch that agonizing march through the city, bearing the heavy cross, His brow wet with sweat. His shoulders bear His robes sullied and torn, yet His eyes still proud, gentle, fearless.

Somewhere, each one of us lives through the Lenten season, the time of His fasting and praying, dying a little in the shame of His death, and glorying in the wonderfulness of His resurrection. We pass each day, feeling a little closer to Him than at any other time of the year. True, we note Christmas, but as the year wears off a birth. In the Lenten season we watch the test of a Man, and we glory in His victory over death.

Aware of Tension

Deep in our minds we can hear, on Palm Sunday, the tumult of the crowd which greeted Him, walking at his side, throwing the branches of the palm trees before Him, as He rode through the city. We are aware of the tension, even as we sit in our churches and listen to the triumphant music of this day. It seeps into our very soul, year after year, no matter how long we live on.

It is there, deep inside of us, the tension, the pressure, the false calm which comes before the storm. All the week it nurtures in our hearts, and as the tension grows greater, we grow humbler. We feel smaller, less important, more beholden to some force which we cannot seem to describe. We feel this, we expect it each year, for did we not experience it last year, and the year before that?

Friday—the Friday before Easter—Good Friday. The tension has mounted until it remains a hard lump somewhere deep inside us. We catch ourselves casting glances at the clear blue sky and at our watches. Noon draws near, and the Good Friday services are beginning. Worshipers are leaving their desks, counters, factory machines and hurrying to their churches. The feeling grows stronger and stronger, until each one of us can see that picture

again. Can we see the thing which happened centuries ago, yet still holds all Christianity in terrible awe.

Never Complain

We see that cobbler-paved street, lined on either side with the crowds of tense, excited people. We see the arrogant swagger of the soldiers and their leaders and hear their taunts. We see Him, straying with his burden, never complaining, glancing with compassion at those about Him. We see Him placed upon the Cross, a Cross which stands between two others, atop a high, rough hill, two others bearing thieves who are being punished for their crimes.

We see Mary stand before the Cross, and behind her the multitude, some with savage faces, others weeping. We see the soldiers take His clothing, and draw lots for it. We watch the sky darken, and hear the storm break, crashing about the hillside and the cross.

We see the sepulchre, in which His body, wrapped in linen cloths, was placed. We see Mary again, this time as she hears the news, finds it empty and runs to Simon Peter with the tidings. We watch their return, and—re-live the wonder of their discovery. We live with Mary the moment when His voice speaks to her, with the disciples when He appears before them and in His gentle, serene voice tells them, "Peace be unto you."

He Is Risen!

We awaken Easter morning with the feeling of wondering awe and tension gone from us, and in its place a sense of power which is not always with us. We feel about us the reawakening of so many things. We feel strong, whole, triumphant, as though we shared something great, as though we had a personal part in it.

We go, again, to our churches and hear great organs swelling under the importance of the message they tell the world. He is risen. He is again alive, and

always alive. He is with us, now, today, always. We know this, yet today it seems more strong within us, for did He not once say, "For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life?"

And is this not Easter? Is this not the day when, centuries ago, He overcame the grave, and rose to live again?

2 Birmingham Men Named Directors of Sportsmen's Club

Eldon Quigg, 1060 Smith street, and Karl Rhodes of Bloomfield Hills will be among the 13 directors inducted into office at the annual meeting of the Oakland County Sportsmen's Club, next Wednesday evening. The meeting will be held in the VFW Post hall, Hart-of-the-Lakes at Keego Harbor.

Officers who are to head the organization for the coming year are Howard Shelley, Pontiac; president; Fred Holland, Pontiac; and Donald E. Adams, Silver Lake, vice-presidents; Ray Harrington, secretary and Leo P. Atkins, treasurer, both re-elected.

Prank Rand of Elizabeth Lake will show color movies and slides which he took in Labrador. At present the retired building contractor in preparing to make his 18th trip to that country. He will exhibit his collection of Eskimo and Indian trappings as well as furs.

In addition to this a new Conservation Department film, in color, will be shown on the "Michigan Red Fox."

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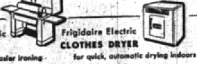
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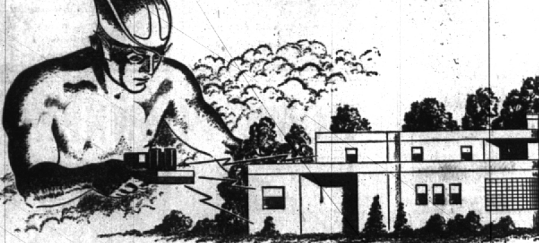


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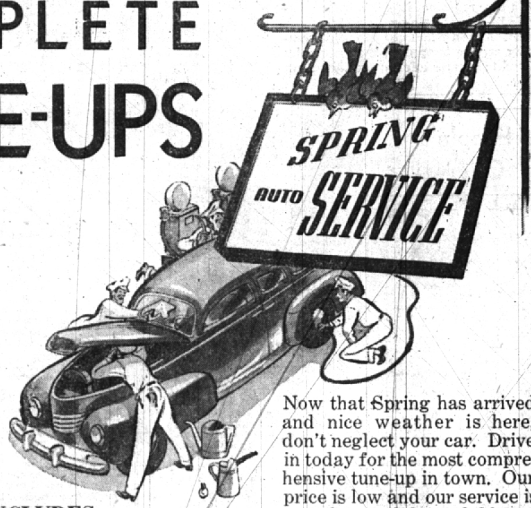
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