

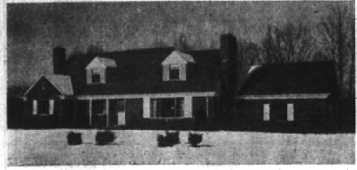
"Save the pennies—the dollars will take care of themselves" is an old adage, and worth the trying, of course. The same formula holds forth in the use of one's spare moments; if allotted to some planned program of study or activity, spare moments can be utilized, for one's definite progress.

The Birmingham Eccentric

PART 2

Thursday, April 21, 1949

ALL ON ONE FLOOR



... beside the stream

No more picturesque site could be found for this superb new home than its secluded knoll sloping to the banks of the stream. Just outside Birmingham, the views from every window bring rustic natural beauty right into the living rooms.

The Living Room, to the right of the center entrance hall, is 14½ by 24, with a large covered porch adjoining, overlooking the stream and falls. The Library, 12 by 12, is beautifully paneled. . . the Dining Room has a view to the stream and the Kitchen is a marvel of efficiency. Sunlight floods the two Bedrooms . . . 14 by 16 and 12 by 16 . . . each with generous closets . . . and each has its own color-tiled bath.

The second floor is unfinished . . . for two or more additional Bedrooms and Baths . . . and the Recreation Room is a knock-out with its huge fireplace, inset-tiled shuffleboard court . . . and built-in bar.

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Bits of Birmingham

Now is the time for everyone to get ready for the "Battle of the Bugs." The couple of warm days we've had recently (which makes this Wanderer think summer may eventually arrive), have evidenced at least two flies so far. Those two flies resulted in our hasty attempts to repair last year's fly swatter. If they can't be repaired, we're immediately going to get us a new one. Then we'll be ready to engage the enemy at close quarters.

Highways and back yards, along with front porches and attics, were pretty thickly populated last Tuesday night as Birmingham turned out to watch the total lunar eclipse. Few clouds marred the event, giving localities a clear view of this spectacular event. As this Wanderer sat and watched the growing shadow across the face of the moon, and later saw the "fiery" circle which surrounded moon and shadow, it was not difficult to project the mind back and imagine a few of the horrors which must have accompanied an eclipse in older times, before the masses were informed as to what caused such happenings. It made us feel a little on the creepy side, after having read many accounts of what would happen this time and what had happened in the past.

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A short piece has come to the Wanderer's desk about the ginkgo tree. This, from the American Forestry association, describes the "duck's foot leaf", as fan-shaped, with a slit running from the edge, about half the length of the leaf. According to the association's information, this fan-shaped leaf is found on no other flowering plant. Botanists say that the ginkgo tree, which has been on earth since the days of the dinosaurs, is the missing link between flowering plants and ferns.

Birmingham Rotary Club President Paul Friedrich used a popular advertising slogan Monday noon to tell club members that on July 1 he would be succeeded by a new president. Said Friedrich: "Rotary has elected to Calvert." He was referring to Jack Calvert, of Mints Ice Cream fame.

For many years a business building on S. Woodward has had a front door which swings outward over the sidewalk. This makes it hazardous for passersby who may suddenly find that someone coming out of the place pushes the door directly into their path. It's a wonder someone hasn't already been seriously injured by walking through the glass in the door. This Wanderer would like to know if it is not within the scope of the city, under its power to regulate for the health, safety and general welfare of its citizens, to have this particular door (and other like it that may be all over elsewhere) so it either swings inward or is recessed so it won't swing out over the sidewalk? This Wanderer knows that a similarly hung door, proposed in the remodeling of a vacant store on W. Maple, was red penciled by the city building inspection Department and made to swing inward. Why can't the existing ones be changed?

Parked only a few feet from the drinking fountain in front of Bodine's on N. Woodward, a little girl, about five or six years old, jumped from a car the other day and ran to the fountain for a drink. She came back to the car and told her younger brother, who was hanging out the car window, "No use, Jimmy, there isn't any water in the fountain." The city in its recent widening of W. Maple, eliminated one of the only two downtown drinking fountains. And the only one left doesn't work. With hot weather coming up, the city could provide a welcome oasis for parched throats if it saw that this N. Woodward fountain would

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Spring Attractions

\$14,500—Spacious older frame house in Quarton and Parochial School area. Living room with fireplace and large ell. Dining room. One bedroom and lavatory on first, 3 bedrooms and bath on 2nd. Screened porch, 2 car garage.

\$15,750—Brick bungalow short distance from Adams School. Living room with fireplace, dining room, 3 bedrooms and bath on 1st. Large unfinished insulated space on 2nd. Screened porch, new oil burner, 2 car garage.

\$19,500—Sparklingly new Ranch House. Large living room with dining ell. Panneled den, two bedrooms, bath and lavatory. Garage with additional tool room. Recreation room space in large basement.

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Southfield Schools Plan Expansion

Voters to Express Opinions at Special Election on May 26

According to Glenn Schoenhaus, superintendent of schools in the Southfield township district, letters are being sent to parents in the district to acquaint them with existing conditions in their schools. The first "Know Your Schools" letter was mailed March 28, stressing the crowded conditions which all township schools are facing.

The board of education, gliding to take some action to relieve the situation, has set May 26 as the date of a special election when school electors will vote on a bond issue for financing elementary school additions and construction of a high school on a site at 10 Mile and Lasser roads. This site

work. Otherwise, what is it there for? This Wanderer hasn't noticed any horses tied to it.

This Wanderer doesn't know how much money it would take—not being in the wall or window shade washing business—but we believe the city should provide in its 1949-50 city budget a small appropriation to be used immediately for washing the walls and cleaning the window shades in the city-commission room in the Municipal Building. If one ever pulled down one of those shades, he would find the upper half nice and clean, the lower part practically black. We don't believe the citizens would object to a small item in the new budget for a cleaning job in this particular room.

has already been purchased, payment being made with funds raised for that purpose. The property, consisting of 52.6 acres was purchased for \$49,000.

The letter pointed out that since 1940 the school census has almost doubled. During the past 15 months the school enrollment in the township has increased over 400, and there are now more than 315 pupils in the kindergarten classes, alone. The total enrollment for the first eight grades is 2369 and based on what is considered the ideal average, 30 pupils per room, the schools now have an overload of 329 pupils.

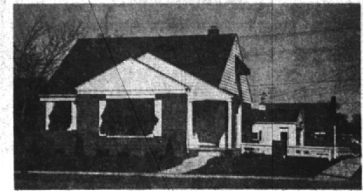
The classroom "population" averages 38 with 16 rooms having more than 40 children in them. In some districts the crowded conditions make it necessary to have two grades in the same room in some of the schools.

Sub-Standard Rooms
In addition to this, the letter shows that every classroom is being used for instructional purposes, and that nine of the rooms are sub-standard in size of construction. Two rooms are merely

the ends of hallways and are too narrow for effective use and arrangement. In one case, a room designed for a lavatory is actually being used for a classroom, and in another, children are being

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