

The Birmingham Eccentric

"Keeping up with the Joneses" has been the obsession of millions of men and women. Instead of living beyond one's means in material possessions, it is now less expensive and more enterprising to develop one's mental and spiritual qualities, thus attaining real aristocracy.

We Heard It Said By: W. E. Moody, 265 Chesterfield, former mayor and city commissioner who has recently returned

from an extended Florida vacation. "If anyone's been away from Birmingham for a few months, they realize how good the old town looks and is once they get back."

IT'S DIFFERENT!!



... and completely charming!

Occasionally we find a home that is so attractive and unusual it's refreshing to see it and visualize the enjoyment of living in it. Such an outstanding home is pictured above . . . as welcome as a cool breeze on a warm day!

Two wide sunny bays feature the Living and Dining Rooms . . . both lovely, large rooms (15½ by 17 and 15½ by 17) . . . The Kitchen is bright and cheerful and as new as today (dishwasher, stove and refrigerator are included) . . . there's a first floor playroom 17 by 18½ (equipped with flower-arrangement corner . . . running water and vase shelves . . . and deep cupboards for toy storage) . . . The Hall is paved with warmly polished bricks . . . The Lavatory is conveniently located . . . and the porch is large and copper screened.

There are four Bedrooms and two Baths on the second floor . . . the owner's room is 15½ by 26 and the bath has both stall shower and tub . . . and has a cozy dressing room or den adjoining it . . . the closets are generous . . . and there are both front and rear stairs.

Oil heat, of course . . . only 2100 gallons . . . storm sash and screens are aluminum framed . . . dormer decks are copper . . . everything mechanical is in perfect condition.

Here is Colonial in the finest tradition . . . a home head and shoulders above the average. And everything is in perfect condition . . . charmingly decorated. You're at home the minute you open the wide Dutch door. Won't you come in?

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Bits of Birmingham

The "Mutt and Jeff" of Michigan State College are H. S. Mickelthwait, Portsmouth, Ohio, Junior and Richard L. Beals, Birmingham senior. Mickelthwait, who soars to six feet eight inches, and Beals, who stopped at four feet three inches, have signed up as partners in a bridge tournament sponsored by Phillips hall, men's dormitory at the East Lansing college.

Driving along the open high ways we see warning signs, "Beware of falling rocks." On the city streets we see signs saying, "Men Working." But where in Birmingham does one find a sign that warns the pedestrian that the pigeons which inhabit the cornice of the Wabesk building do not always keep track of their eggs? This Wanderer came so close to being the target of their "bombs away" antics last Thursday morning that it wasn't even funny.

"The Rotarian", official magazine of Rotary International, in its May issue, sponsored an inter-

national debate on architectural designs for homes, including none other than Birmingham's own J. Robert F. Swanson of West Long Lake road. Swanson, defending the modern home, brought out the idea of no more dark and dreary rooms but instead plenty of health-giving sunlight through the use of larger windows and more of them. He stresses the greater comforts of the modern home, with its attached garage, fewer rooms and over-all convenience. His opponents were Reginald Berkeley and Eric Cole of England who favored the traditional style of England for what they term "gracious living." They base their argument on the fact that these homes looked good when they were built 400 to 500 years ago and will still be in style for another century or so. "Imagination," they say, "boggles at what modernistic, baroque, half-glass or concrete outrages, with cracking 'rough cast' will look like in 100 years."

Mrs. Sue A. Stall, North Woodward avenue, appears to be one of the best-known realtors in Birmingham associated with Snyder, Kinney & Bennett, Sue just returned from a pleasant Arizona vacation and a day or two after getting back found a letter in her mail box addressed as follows: Mrs. Sue Stall (In Real Estate) Birmingham, Michigan

City officials now find themselves with another parking problem along US-10. It has been called to their attention that Greyhound bus drivers reportedly are parking their private autos on the east side of Hunter, across from the rear of the bus station, while they work. The city, this Wanderer is told, is undecided whether to have the police department issue tickets for parking on

the right-way, or wait till the state completes the installation of the access drives in this area.

Next Tuesday, May 10, will see many companies and associations hammer out the latest effort of Emily Post, a pamphlet entitled, "Motor Manners", designed to show how courtesy can prevent accidents.

In the heat of the day this summer, local shoppers will not have to complete their list of errands while suffering from a parched throat. The city's two downtown municipal drinking fountains are again working! It is to be hoped that they are kept in good repair until they begin to ice over late next fall.

A word of advice from the local G-boys: "There's no sense in the double parking that goes on in this town." Besides creating a serious hazard, it also results in a serious traffic slow-down."

From every city and hamlet this Wanderer hears reports of radiator ornaments being stolen from cars. It took R. F. Kohn, 460 Wimpleson, to put a new twist to it and call the police. On the morning of Sunday morning to report that someone had put a gold-colored ornament in his car's hood during the night.

"Call the Michigan Humane Society, Trinity 2-3400, if I am told that is the wording on a collar tag that you may obtain for your dog from the Society, a Red Feather service of the Community Center. The Humane Society will register your dog on its books and issue you a tag with these words and a number. If your dog is lost, the person finding him can immediately get in touch with the Humane Society and find out your name and telephone number. This service is not offered by any other agency in the Detroit area. The Michigan Humane Society has been observing "Be Kind to Animals Week" from May 1-7 by seeking members to help promote more consideration of domestic pets and work animals. The local Society is one of 600 throughout the country which is observing the week."

This Wanderer has been asked a question which, apparently, only the city commission can answer. It seems that Ferndale had a bus stop quite like the one we have here at the intersection of Maple Woodward. It caused traffic congestion and was an ideal spot for accidents when motorists wanted to make a right turn ahead of the bus which might be about to leave the curb. To eliminate this hazard the city fathers moved the location of the stop south of the intersection. According to a question which has proven very satisfactory and completely does away with what had been a hazardous situation in Birmingham, it was pointed out, we have the added complication of a cab stand. This applies to both north and south bound bus travel. Is there something the commission can do to remedy it—perhaps follow Ferndale's example? our questioner wanted to know.

Have You Met . . . Fernon Detrolites, Mr. and Mrs. John T. Jones and son, Richard who are living now at 578 Chesterfield? Mr. Jones is an electrical contractor with the Hall Engineering Company.

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3 Local Boys Re-enter Auto Model Contest

Three boys from this area have re-enrolled in the annual competition of the Fisher Body Craftsman's Guild and already have started the design and construction of model automobiles in hopes of winning a cash award and university scholarship, according to word received at Guild headquarters.

The youths are John Skelley, 788 W. Lincoln; Dave Bowen, 264 Catalpa; and Edwin Starweiss, Cranbrook School, Bloomfield Hills.

These youths, who must complete their models by July 1, will enter them first in Michigan state competition, which has 14 awards equally divided between the Junior (12 through 15) and Senior (16 through 19) age groups. First place in the state brings a \$150 award. State winners then compete regionally, and the 40 regional winners receive an expense-free trip to the final convention next August at Detroit where the eight national scholarship winners will be named. The scholarships range from \$1,000 to \$4,000.

The Craftsman's Guild, an organization for the development of craftsmanship and creative ability among youth, is offering cash awards and university scholarships aggregating \$65,000 in the 1949 model car competition.

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