Disrespect for the fine, the good, the true is the mark of the fool. Who reviles Goodness is like one who seeks light in total and perpetual darkness; and who finally stumbles into his own deep pit.

The Birmingham Eccentric

PART 2

Thursday, November 10, 1949

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Bits of Birmingham

Dr. Henry Moore of Bingham road received a gold ring for perfect attendance at 1,000 meets at the special award night held recently by the Ferndale Kiwanis Club. This covered a span of almost 20 years for Dr. Moore. The entire membership of 56 has just completed 10 months of "all present and accounted for" at the weekly meetings. All of which sounds, to This Wanderer, like a pretty neat record all the way around.

—o—

Mr. and Mrs. James Doyle, 536 Stanley, have received a clipping from the Pasadena (Calif.) "Star News", showing their year-old granddaughter, Sharon Vis, sharing her bottle with the jack-o'-lantern. The little lady appeared quite pleased at the "party" and has no fear whatsoever of watching the ferocious looking fellow who has the bottle firmly clenched in huge teeth. Sharon is the daughter of the former Irene Doyle.

—o—

The fame of the bicycle safety program launched here some months ago has spread to Texas. M. W. Cochran, formerly of Bloomfield Hills, is now city manager at Corpus Christi. A letter a short time ago asked for information on the safety drive here. Cochran said, "I hear that our old home town is doing a swell job on bicycle safety by working through the boys and girls themselves. In fact, I understand that practically the entire policing and regulating is done by a council of boys. I would appreciate your sending any informative data on this matter which will guide us in trying to copy the plan you have successfully worked out." The information is being forwarded, with best wishes to our former neighbor and Corpus Christi in their efforts.

—o—

The calendar in the northeast corner of the city commission room still reads "September, 1949".

—o—

Most of the southbound Adams traffic now uses Lincoln to get over to the southbound Woodward lane. The state highway department a couple of weeks ago blocked the island crossover in an attempt to reduce accidents at this point. However, a few motorists do get mixed up over the new method, City Commissioner Milton F. Mallender has noticed. "Particularly the out-of-state drivers. I noticed one the other morning who had started south on the northbound lane. But he soon noticed his mistake and corrected it." Mallender believes plainer marking of this new "detour" arrangement might assist perplexed motorists to take the correct route.

—o—

Although it has gone only 15, 000 miles in three years, the Birmingham police department's three-wheeled motorcycle, used in checking parking meters, is about worn out. The department is expecting the delivery of a new one any day now. Said Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley: "It would cost about as much for a motor overhaul as it would to trade the cycle in on a new one. The motor runs three times as much as the wheels turn. And the short stops and starts it constantly makes is the toughest test you could give a motor."

—o—

Russ Fisher, of Leonard Electric, went out to John L. Lovett's home on Adams road one evening last week to discuss television. As he started out of Lovett's drive to go home, his headlights revealed two fast-moving raccoons disappearing into the night, their tails swinging in circles.

—o—

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest W. Seaholm, of Kennesaw, leave tomorrow for a month of visiting and sightseeing in Sweden. They fly from New York City, arriving in Stockholm 18 hours later. Mr. Seaholm is president of the Birmingham Board of Education, and delayed his trip so that he could remain in Birmingham to assist in winning support for the school bond election.

—o—

This Wanderer had a difficult time getting any work done Friday. It seemed almost impossible to stop staring through the window at the huge, feathery snowflakes which fell so leisurely. Rather took us back to our childhood when we used to stand with our nose pressed tight to the cold window and watch the drifts growing, flake by flake. While father and mother silently hoped the snow would stop, we offered our own little prayer for the "Old Lady in the Sky" to keep right on shaking her feather bed until the drifts were umpteen feet high and there'd be no school for a couple of days.

—o—

General news deadline is 5 p. m. each Tuesday.

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We Heard It Said By:

Mrs. Robert G. Silbar, 808 Madison: "The Eccentric probably gets more complaints on what's wrong with any particular issue, and very few pats on the back. Well, I want to administer a pat on the back regarding last week's editorial endorsing the school bond issue. It was excellent."

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LEND AN EAR

By MADELEINE BRODIE

COMING MUSICAL EVENTS: MARGARET TRUMAN — THE DON COSSACK CHORUS — FERRUCCIO TAGLIAVINI

Two events of great musical interest will be the appearance of Margaret Truman in a recital tomorrow at the Masonic Auditorium, and a return of the Don Cossack Chorus and Danceers on Wednesday, Nov. 16—also at the Masonic Auditorium.

Miss Truman is unique in the respect that her performances are probably appreciated on a political as well as on an artistic level.

Her program is one of considerable magnitude and will include songs by Scarlatti, Giordani, Endicott, Besly, Duke and Spross—another group by Schumann, Schubert, and Richard Strauss as well as an aria from "The Marriage of Figaro" by Mozart.

It is unfortunate that the soloist's accompanist will not be Harry Truman—but there is no question but what Herman Allison, her slated accompanist, will do an excellent job.

* * *

An appearance of The Don Cossack Chorus always promises an exciting evening of music. There is certainly no finer group of its kind in the world.

This great orchestra of human voices can caress a musical line or can thunder to the house-tops the message of some stirring warrior chant—and in a lighter mood, can evoke the spirit of comedy by both chorus and colorful dancing.

* * *

And not least of all, Detroit will have the great pleasure of hearing the sensational Metropolitan Opera tenor, Ferruccio Tagliavini, in concert on Monday, Nov. 14, at the Masonic Auditorium.

Tagliavini possesses a tenor quality of great strength and purity and a depth and brilliance of tone which entirely captivates his audiences—and at times even brings to mind the triumphs of Caruso.

The program is one that should give the soloist every opportunity to display his particularly lyrical art in highly romantic Italian tradition.

It includes arias from "Martha" by Flotow—"La Sonnambula" by Bellini—and "Tosca" by Puccini. Massanet will be represented by Elegie and an aria from "Le Cid".

Other works by Gluck, Sibella, Hahn, Sadero, De Curtis and Leoncavallo will round out the evening's performance.

* * *

Edith Piaf—a touch of Paris

If you are at all interested in French songs, you will be interested in Edith Piaf. Her album, issued by Columbia, "Chansons Parisiennes" has never headed the best-seller list, but that is probably something in her favor.

Her singing might be described as definitely "Frenchie" in feeling, for it is very often intensely dramatic, but at the same time possesses the very lyrical note that is so necessary for this type of music.

It really isn't important to have a reading and speaking knowledge of French to get the import of these charming songs of Paris.

Some are gay and frivolous while other are tragic and melancholy—but they all speak for themselves and Miss Piaf pervades all of them with her definitely individualistic style.

Somewhat Tragic Life

Her own life has been somewhat tragic. While very small she had an illness that left her blind, yet she miraculously regained her eyesight at the age of twelve. While still very young she sang in Parisian cafes, but later was reduced to a street-singer, passing the proverbial hat.

Her singing finally attracted the attention of a producer and it wasn't long after that she enjoyed a very successful career in France. She has also appeared in the United States where she made a triumphant debut in New York City.

The songs of the album picture an excellent cross-section of parisian life. "Les Amants de Paris"—"The Lovers of Paris" is a touching but gay song about two young people in love.

Destroyed for Love

While "Monsieur Lenoble" tells the tragic story of a man who destroys himself for love.

One of my favorites is "Il Pleut"—"It Rains". Here, in plaintive tones the singer finds nature on a rainy day to be attuned to her own melancholy.

There are several others all of which manage to project a definite mood. The orchestral backgrounds are very adeptly handled by Robert Chauvigny, who knows just how to compliment in the most effective manner this poignant art of Miss Piaf.

Best Effort So Far

We can't be quite sure whether it is the nature of the songs themselves or Miss Piaf's singing of them that give this album such a tremendous appeal; though I am quite sure that if they were left to some of the other recording artists of the day—the effect would be considerably lessened.

Edith Piaf has recorded several other albums for Columbia, but "Chansons Parisiennes" is, in my estimation, her best effort so far.

Photographs for publication in The Eccentric must be submitted by Friday noon of the week before publication.

Cancer Detection Plan for County Proving Workable

Oakland County's experimental plan for cancer detection, as worked out by the American Cancer Society and the County Medical Association, is proving workable and valuable. Tais is the view of Mrs. Theodore Koella, Oakland County chairman of the cancer detection program, and Dr. Robert Harsh, president of the medical group.

In the six months of its operation, the revised plan for detection has taken care of 327 complete examinations and has at least 100 in process now, Mrs. Koella says. "We feel that our plan, as it has been worked out between the Medical Society and the two American Cancer Society offices in Royal Oak and Pontiac, is unique," she said.

"Patients go to their chosen participating doctor for examinations, after having a chest X-ray at the hospital. Early detection doesn't need unusual equipment, as some people believe. Patients and doctors both like it better as it can be held in the doctor's office. A $5.00 fee is charged, payable to the examining doctor.

No Wait for Appointments

"There is no wait for appointments, which can be made at the American Cancer Society offices, 810 North Main Street, Royal Oak, or 15 West Huron Street, Pontiac. Hours are from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday."

According to Dr. Harsh, a survey of the first 187 cases taken under this plan shows 163 were negative. 17 were suspicious, 5 were pre-cancerous and 2 cases were positive. Twenty percent of all cases showed other diseases that needed treatment.

"In one case in every five", said Dr. Harsh, "we find something—not cancer—but something that needs either medical care or some advice. Not always serious things."

Early detection of any pre-cancerous condition, mostly in the skin, is the only real weapon doctors have yet against cancer, the doctor explained. Seventy-five Oakland County doctors are now working with the American Cancer Society on this detection program, Dr. Harsh said.

Both of the Branch offices are staffed by volunteer workers with Mrs. Edwin Tibbals, Jr., Chairman of North Oakland County and Mrs. Marius Laursen, Chairman of South Oakland County.

Wins Specialty Show

Champion Teri-Aire's Talisman won best-in-show at the Tri-County fox terrier specialty show Sunday in Ferndale. The wire-haired terrier is owned by Mrs. Graydon Stack, operator of the Pet Shop on Hunter boulevard.

Student Work Shown at PTA Open House

Open house was observed by the PTA of Bloomfield Village school Monday evening.

Two speakers were present from Barnum junior high school; Mrs. Harriett Kopp, speach correctionist for the Birmingham schools, discussed the work being done among local children who have speech defects.

Malcolm Tindall spoke on the general school program. The various faculty members of the hostess-school also spoke briefly on their work. Art work exhibits were displayed from each class in the school.

Birthdays, anniversaries, guests, births, parties are all news—call the society editor about them.

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