

The Birmingham Eccentric

Heated words are messengers of harm to those who use them. When, in unguarded moments, one says unkind and hurtful words to another... when the heat subsides is the time to say, "Forgive me, it was not my true self just speaking."

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Bits of Birmingham

Hearing a report that polio patients were being transferred to St. Joseph Hospital from the county sanitarium, this Wanderer decided to check the item with local physicians. "That isn't so, they told us."

Two little youngsters, apparently twins, were pop-eyed with wonder Saturday morning. The cause was two ponies, one dun colored, the other black and white, standing in a trailer near the city hall. Both were elaborately saddled, fat and mazy looking. The little boy and girl gazed longingly at them, just because they were ponies, all saddled and just the right size for small citizens to ride. Their eyes grew bigger and rounder as the young man carrying for the ponies recited several energetic kisses and a hearty handshake from the little "paint horse." It took this Wanderer right back many years than we care to remember, to our own childhood!

After eating appreciative looks at a leaden sky all day, Birmingham residents were not denied a pretty good seat at the eclipse of the moon Thursday night, after all. The clouds parted just about time for the eclipse to begin and permitted a view of the "miracle" through all its stages. This year has been unusual in that it has provided two lunar eclipses and one extremely large display of shooting stars.

It's officially okay to shiver now, folks. This Wanderer was sitting at the desk Thursday afternoon indulging in a bit of wool-gathering when a motion caught our eye. Looking up we saw a flight of wild geese, in perfect V-formation heading south in a very business like manner. With the trees showing their blazing colors, this added touch makes it officially fall, and it will be permissible to let a little bristly into your early morning conversation from now on.

Jim May, owner of a local gas station, has had more news about his fast-traveling brother and

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business partner. During tests made at Muroc Dry Lake in California, Gene May piloted a jet plane at 710 miles per hour. May is a test pilot for the Douglas Aircraft corp.

Mayor Don Bell is still looking for a foolproof ball-point pen. He stops in a local drug store every Monday night before city commission meeting to get a new one. The one he used Monday night went haywire and he held up the start of the meeting for a few moments while he tried to wash the ink from his hands.

Two of the city's 13 Quonset huts have been sold for \$450 each. City Manager Donald C. Egbert has been seen within the next 20 days, they will be moved to a farm near Fenton, Mich., he said.

which has remained very popular despite the fact that the opera itself has almost gone into oblivion.

Famous Four Notes
The second work on the program, the Fifth Symphony of Beethoven, is old but ever new to symphony audiences. It's famous first four notes, opening the symphony, occur in endless variation throughout the first movement and are perhaps the best known four notes in all music. Further words of praise need not be written about this magnificent work which presents Beethoven in the first full utterance of his mature genius.

From the pure classicism of Beethoven we are whisked into the modern harmonics of Walter Piston, an American contemporary, whose "Symphonic Suite" has met with great acclaim wherever it has been presented.

Mr. Munch will close the program with another modern work, the "Daphnis and Chloe" Suite No. 2 by Maurice Ravel, which was originally written for the ballet.

Fascinating Rhythms
Through the "Bolero" with its intriguing and fascinating rhythms has made Ravel famous, it cannot be compared to this second suite of the "Daphnis and Chloe" which is really considered his greatest masterpiece.

beginning as a pastoral tone poem and ending in mad whirlings, colorful dancing rhythms, and joyous tumult.

All these works should be given sensitive readings by Charles's Munch, whose fame has preceded him from the other side of the Atlantic, and who now has the crown worn as long by the great Serge Koussevitzky as the head of the fabulous Boston Symphony.

LEND AN EAR
By MADELINE BRODIE

THE MARRIAGE OF MUSIC AND BIG BUSINESS

Which comes first—the chicken or the egg? Was it the increased interest and appreciation of music that created the industrialists, phonograph, radio and record industries, or was it these same industries that created the industrialists? A broader development of the musical art in this country?

In the field of rationing it might be pointed out that the long hairs and short hairs have whittled a tune to which the industrialists have danced. What would radio be, after all, without music? Even "John's Other Wife" depends quite a bit on that dramatic offbeat on the organ, fore and aft, to create the real suspense so necessary to the program's questionable effect.

And who would deny that it might be a bit difficult and perhaps even a little precarious to listen to a roundtable discussion on politics while driving down the main street or the highway!

But to listen to music is quite another matter—it's relaxing and enjoyable and entertaining. (I'm wondering if they intend to install television in the 1950 model.)

With a quick glance it can readily be seen that radio just won't be radio without music... We'd all become pretty bored, unless all the programs started handing out milk coats and Cadillacs to anyone who would just tune them in. This would require a pretty high standard of giving and produce a pretty low standard of broadcasting.

The phonograph and record business is music personified and a rather good business it is. People want music—all forms, all sizes, and evidently, all colors. So big business goes all out to satisfy the tastes of the general public, and indirectly their own, which is as it should be.

So we might ask, justifiably, where would these industries be if it were not for the great devotion and need for music on the part of America, and the artists that produce it?

Interest is Cultivated
On the other hand, it might also seem that the great diffusion of music on the part of industry via the radio, the movies, records, and the phonograph have actually produced the need for and the love of music by the American public. People cultivate and develop an interest in music merely by hearing it.

It is no longer necessary to have season tickets in Carnegie Hall... it is just a matter of twisting the dial, and the greatest orchestras of the world perform for us right in our own living room.

It looks as if the old question still has us stumped. Who can say which came first—the greater and more widespread interest in music, or the music industry itself? What matter, when the net result has been for the good of all.

BOSTON SYMPHONY USHERS IN CONCERT SEASON
Since the Detroit Symphony has vanished into thin air, it is doubly fortunate that the great orchestras of some of the other cities will be coming to town to give us a musical lift in the next few months.
The first of these will be the Boston Symphony under the fine direction of its new conductor, Charles Munch, on Saturday evening, Oct. 22, at the Masonic Auditorium.
Mr. Munch will begin with the rousing overture to the opera, "Euryanthe," by Carl Maria Von Weber, which sums up in short order the score of the opera. The composer has strung together, in a musical medley, the most engaging themes of this highly romantic work in the overture.

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Hospital Auxiliary Membership Tea

Mrs. John G. Woods of Lone Pine road, Bloomfield Hills, will open her home Thursday, Oct. 20, to the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Auxiliary for its annual membership tea.

Mrs. George C. Lehr, membership chairman, reports that letters have been sent out to several hundred of the organization's members throughout Oakland County. The tea is scheduled for 2 o'clock.

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

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