

Unfortunately, some people are so on the mental defensive they live in a state of continuous confusion and disorientation. Offer them a suggestion, or make a statement, and they instantly reveal their mental status. If only they had learned more common sense as a child.

The Birmingham Centric

PART 2

Thursday, April 27, 1950

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Bits of Birmingham

The Pryce family, over at 928 Smith street, has a corner on the outstanding patrol boy classification. Mike, a student at Pierce school, has been named Patrol Boy of the Week, received an award at a school assembly last week for his excellent work, is captain of the squad and, as though that wasn't enough, has been chosen by the Michigan Automobile association for a trip to Washington. (See story on Page One). His brother Jim, now attending Barnum junior high school, was captain of the patrol last year. The boys come by it naturally though, because their dad, J. E. Pryce, was one of the outstanding patrol boys of Detroit during his school days there.

Spring of summer or something was ushered into Birmingham during the wee sma' hours Monday morning on the wings of a terrific thunder storm. "Wanderer" scared stiff from one flash and crash, sat on the edge of the bed waiting for the fire department to sound the general alarm or the house to fall down. Apparently plenty of others in town did about the same. We are happy to report to all who phoned in, that neither the police nor fire departments were alerted for any damage caused by the one particularly blinding flash of lightning and deafening crash of thunder. It sure, was awful, though.

The wild life of Birmingham can make things quite interesting. Sunday morning, as this Wanderer raked a few dead leaves from beside the porch, we watched this odd little incident: A robin found a crust of bread, only to lose it to a starling. A sparrow chased the starling away and got incensed good bite before a blue jay came along and gave him the bum's rush. Just then the neighbor's cat came into the scene and frightened away the blue jay. The family dog chased the cat away and returned looking very smug to eat the bread. There should be a moral to such a chain of events, but at the moment we can't quite figure it out.

Who said this is a man's world? During the past few weeks the youngsters in town have been chewing their pencils over the letters they were writing, to try and win a Roy Rogers outfit, boots, guns, hat—the whole works. Finally, last Saturday, the winner was named, and it turned out to be none other than little four-year old Dawn Martin daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Robert Martin of Elm street. Mrs. Martin reported to this Wanderer that Dawn was tickled pink about it and that several small boys expressed their opinion of her. "Geeeee! Are you lucky?" The contest was sponsored by Vernon's ginger ale and the Roy Rogers club of the Birmingham and Bloomfield theatres.

Next time you attend a city commission meeting, you will notice the new arrangement of the furniture. It was a pleasant surprise for Monday night's audience, which was the first to see—and use—the new plan. The former arrangement had the audience facing north, with city commissioners and city officers arranged around a U-shaped table. Now the audience faces west, and the commission table is a modified V. This Wanderer, checking on the reason behind the move, was told the audience had complained the old plan did not permit the audience to hear the commission as well as it should. Commissioners, too, said they sometimes couldn't hear the audience. However, Monday night everyone said they could hear everyone else. The furniture was rearranged Saturday morning by commissioners Jack O'Gorman, Ralph Main, Chad Ritchie, Mayor Bruce G. Booth and City Manager Don Egbert.

By ALICE E. MORGAN

HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

PRO AND CON

According to rumors which have been going around for years, there are two sides to every question. The story which carried my by-line in the April 13 issue, did not keep you awake with its continual barking?

The cat lovers have taken exception to the article, going on the basis that it was all in favor of dogs and strictly anti-pussy. One lady, who did not have nerve to sign her letter, seems of the opinion that dogs should have even greater restrictions placed upon them. She points out the fact that they roam all over, spoil shrubs and walk through freshly seeded lawns.

SOME OF THEM do. However, she accused them of being noisy at night. She asks, "Does a cat keep you awake with its continual barking?"

Now any dog owner will answer "no" to that one right off, because everyone is smart enough to know that cats do not bark. However, there are plenty of sleepy-eyed citizens who will gladly testify to the fact that a cat certainly can create a racket. They yowl, howl, sing or what have you and the results are the same!

This defender of felines goes on to say that cats are not loved because they should be and are often thrown out on their own while still kittens. Personally, I've never been able to understand why anyone would do this, but it is a common practice.

A dog owner will strive to find a home for surplus puppies, but a cat owner will load the kittens into a sack and dump them along some highway. I will admit I prefer dogs to cats, but please believe me when I say I cannot be that cruel—even to a cat!

DOGS AND CHILDREN bedevil cats, she says. That too, is admitted. In turn we ask, what do the cats do to the birds, squirrels, baby rabbits and the like? Surely no robin enjoys the sensation of being mauled to death by a cat.

Rabies? We just let cold, scientific facts speak here. Public health authorities and veterinarians say cats do have rabies. Any warm-blooded animal, including man, is subject to them.

As to whether or not cats should be subjected to the shots is a question which remains with health authorities and city officials. Like the unknown writer (the letter, I, too, have a soft spot for all animals. Like her, I admire fair play. That is the one reason why it seems to me the cat owners are getting a little bit more than an even break.

THEY MAY HAVE as many as they want, and there are plenty who own more than four; they need pay no license, have no rabies shots for their pets; they may let them roam when, where and how they will.

Frankly, with the set up that prevails in most places I see little room for cat owners to complain. Only one or two states require a license for cats and only a few communities in other states have them.

A few, unknown writer, no matter what restrictions are placed on dogs by states and municipalities, owners will do their utmost to comply with them. I wonder—would there be as many owners of cats if a license fee, rabies shot and confinement to its own yard were placed upon this animal, too?

Birmingham Surveyor Attends Group Meet
S. A. Walker, Jr., of Sam Walker and Associates, land surveyors and civil engineers, 124 S. Woodward, attended the meeting of the northern chapter, Michigan Society of registered land surveyors, at Roscommon Saturday. The annual election of officers and approval of the chapter's by-laws highlighted the event.

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

Clubhouse Altered at North Hills

The golf season is underway at North Hills Country Club and all that is recognizable about the clubhouse is the exterior. Inside, the layout has been redesigned, redecorated and refurbished, according to Leo Conroy, club professional. The dining room has been increased 400 square feet, from space formerly included in the old locker room. Seven additional windows, including several picture windows, affording a view of the golf course, have been added.

Overhead are rustic English beams and new fluorescent lights. A new half-oval bar and new stools have been added along with new tables and chairs throughout the dining room.

THE GOLF SHOP formerly at the south end of the clubhouse, is now the middle of the building. The new enlarged locker room occupies the former shop. A fifty-locker capacity and new showers are features of the locker room. The golf shop and dining room are crisscrossed in knotty pine.

The ladies' locker room has been redecorated and along with the entire floor space of the club, has been carpeted.

On the golf course, much work has been done to improve playing conditions. Greens and tees have been improved. A rustic railing has been constructed around the back and sides of the first tee. New drinking fountains have been added at several points around the course.

Besides Conroy, veteran pro, Walter Basky is back as assistant and Gertrude is again in charge of dining room.

Want ads cannot be accepted after 5 p.m. each Tuesday.

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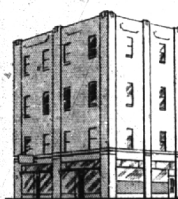
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