

The Birmingham Eccentric

PART 2

Thursday, February 23, 1950

A man may show modest pride about what quality he possesses, but when that pride includes civility... well, you are in the presence of a kind of human masterpiece. The best check on pride is honest humility.

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Bits of Birmingham

A temporarily indisposed car sat in the Wanderer home on two feet last week Wednesday, and presented the opportunity to see a very comforting sight. There, parked before the engine house, were all the trucks of the Birmingham city department, including the brand-new pumper. To see all the equipment displayed in the open where we could get a really good view of it, gave us a nice comfortable feeling of protection.

There is a world of material around Birmingham for a very interesting news story in the March 2 issue of The Eccentric. We mean, who among our many, many drivers will be the first to fall into the hands of the law for using that 1949 license plate just one day too long? There are still a great many of them to be seen, and in spite of an efficient staff, we don't see how the local Chamber of Commerce can possibly find hours enough to supply all of these cars with the necessary \$300 plates.

Birmingham's recognized garden authority, Mrs. William H. Burlingame, 379 S. Glenhurst, doesn't believe local climatic conditions are right for the growth of wisteria, a vine-like plant with purple flowers, on the Chinese wisteria bush. "While Birmingham has many types of trees and shrubs that other Michigan communities do not, I don't believe any wisteria or Chinese which has been introduced to this Wanderer. If any local resident can prove me wrong, I'd like to know about it. This particular wisteria bush blooms in January and February she said.

There probably are some red faces at the city hall last week Wednesday, after the atmosphere became dry enough for localites to venture out, this Wanderer had several telephone calls deploring the condition of the sidewalk in Birmingham. The sad part of it is this—the ones mentioned

specifically were those around the Baldwin public library and the city-owned park across the street!

Mrs. Charles Muebeck of Smith street is still looking for an electric or manual sewing machine for one of each for the Oakland county hospital for crippled children. However, due to the appeal carried in the Bits of Birmingham column last week, a local lady did call her and donate a radio to the group.

William Phillipson, who puts the type into The Eccentric's pages every week, bought a television set in the early days of the industry. Since then, he and several other competitors, who also have sets, are always comparing TV programs. Bill's two boys, Billy and Kenny, are now constant TV fans, too. Last Saturday afternoon Phillipson took Kenny, who is the youngest, to his first movie. Declared young Kenny when the first clairs came on the screen, "Gee Pop, what big television!"

Two members of the Birmingham board of education are spending this week recovering from writer's cramp. B. of E. President Ernest W. Scholten and Board Secretary Willie Groves spent three and a half days last week in Detroit signing \$2,100,000 in school bonds. A check for this amount was presented to the board Tuesday noon in Detroit by the First of Michigan, Inc., the company which bought the recent school bond issue.

Ice Review Tickets

The Birmingham YMCA has secured a block of seats for the matinee performance of the Sonja Henie ice review for 1950. Boys and girls will go as a group with club leaders Sunday afternoon, Feb. 26. Tickets are available and anyone desiring further information may call the Birmingham YMCA.

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You know that you can't keep drawing money out of your bank account without ever putting any in. The bank doesn't play that way. This is also true of Federal financing. Every dollar spent must sooner or later be collected in the form of taxes.

Many of these taxes are hidden, such as the \$2.44 you pay on a \$50 radio, or the 82 cents on the average alarm clock. These are in addition to the direct taxes of which the average citizen is painfully aware.

Hereafter, no one has known how much these government services cost us through waste and inefficiency. But some surprising facts have been revealed by the Commission on the Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government.

Each of Federal agencies jostle each other collecting statistics at an annual cost to you, the taxpayer, of \$45,000,000. Many of the statistics are of use only to small groups or collect dust in government files.

The Corps of Army Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation are expert at selling the "something for nothing" idea to the American public. Underestimation of costs appears to be their specialty.

The original price tag put on the Colorado-Big Thompson project was \$44 million. Its final cost was \$131,800,000. Such discrepancies, the Commission wryly notes, "hardly can be explained by increases in labor and material costs."

You may obtain information about how you can fight waste and inefficiency in our government by writing to the Citizens Committee for Reorganization of the Executive Branch of the Government, 1421 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia 2, Penna. Also write your Congressman! Tell him you want laws enacted which will put into effect the suggestions of the Commission!

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Mich. Bell Reports Increased Use of Extended Service

In the few weeks that have elapsed since the addition to the extended-area telephone service plan here on January 8, the arrangement has been well accepted by telephone users.

Walter B. Fauser, manager of the Michigan Bell Telephone Company, said the volume of calls to Mayfair, Southfield, Royal Oak, and Big Beaver is running considerably higher than during the prior period, when toll charges were in effect for all users on calls to these adjacent exchanges.

Past said the new service had now been extended to 161 of the company's exchanges throughout the state and that the calling rate between exchanges included in each area had increased from two to five times over the previous rate.

This, he said, bears out Michigan Bell's contention that modern living habits have vastly increased the "size of local communities of interest."

Out-of-Towners Can't Buy Season Tickets to Springdale Park

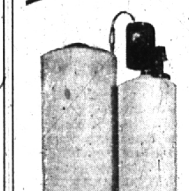
A request that personnel from radio station WEXL be permitted to purchase season tickets to use on the city's Springdale park golf course next summer has been denied by the city commission.

Commissioners pointed out that reduced season rates are available only to local residents.

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Invest in Birmingham

Here are more opportunities for your consideration to invest your surplus capital in this very rapidly expanding community. For example:

- A. Own your own home cheap. This 3-bedroom frame home on West Maple must be moved off its present site immediately. All it takes to buy it is \$1,500.00 (Moving costs, relocation and renovating at your expense, of course).
- B. Only a step or two from the City Hall, this home is zoned for business use. Two-story, 3 bedrooms. Site 36 x 60. Just \$7,500.00.
- C. 439 E. Frank Street. Just remodeled, this 4-bedroom, 2-bath home is only 100 feet from Woodward Ave. All new heating, plumbing, wiring, fixtures, etc. 2-car. Great for business offices, clinical use, antique shop or studio use. A "Buy".
- D. Holding for future is justified here. Close-in business site on Pierce Street near Maple. Hang on to it a while and it will be worth more. Meanwhile the income from four apartments is \$225.00 per month. Excellent condition, \$30,000.00 will buy it.

From every standpoint enhancement in value is almost a certainty. Any good investment portfolio, of course, should include judicious real estate holdings.

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