

In the average life many acquaintances, but few real friends, are made. This is often observed when, at a funeral service, comparatively few people attend. Why do some leave considerable money behind... yet so few friends?

## Wins Certificate for Catching a Sailfish

STUART, Fla., March 4.—C. A. Phelps of 184 Fairfax road, Birmingham, Mich., is being awarded a certificate and button by the Stuart Sailfish Club for having

caught, while trolling in the Gulf Stream here, a sailfish measuring 7 feet, 2 1/2 inches. The annual fishing tournament sponsored by the Stuart Sailfish Club is now in full swing, with the highest sailfish entered to-date measuring 8 feet, 5 inches. The contest closes in the spring.

## Do You Want To Cut Your Federal Taxes?

Efficiency At Less Cost

Efficiency is necessary to reduce the cost of government. It is also imperative for our national prosperity. The Commission on the Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government in its minute survey of the 1912 Federal agencies, boards, and departments, found a sad lack of effective house-keeping. This Commission, created by Congress with the approval of President Truman, was headed by former President Hoover. It has provided a vivid picture of the weaknesses in our present set-up, and suggested ways of increasing efficiency so that your taxes may be reduced.

Today thousands of tons of obsolete, useless records are stored in steel cabinets in expensive offices at maintenance charges of \$29 per year each, when they could be kept in warehouses at a cost of only \$2.15 per year each.

In 1948 the Department of Agriculture had about 22,000 employees and spent less than \$28 million. In 1948 it had 82,000 employees and spent \$24 million for your hard-earned tax dollars. In a single Georgia cotton county, 47 employees of 7 separate USDA field offices were handling out advice. A Washington State county had 184 Department agents and a Maryland county had 88 agents advising the heavily taxed farmers. A Missouri dairyman was "confused and irritated" when he recently received contradictory advice from five government agencies on how to fertilize his fields.

These are a few instances of the thousands discovered by the Commission where elimination of duplication would give increased efficiency and better service at less cost. If all of the recommendations of the Commission are adopted, the cost of this country would save between three and four billion dollars in taxes annually.

If you are interested in seeing these changes made in your government, tell your Congressman. Write the Citizens Committee for Reorganization of the Executive Branch of the Government, 1421 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia 2, Pennsylvania, for more information. Talk to your friends about it. These much-needed reforms cannot be made into law without your support!

## Bits of Birmingham

Florida. He likes the solitude of the wide open spaces, with plenty of mountains about him, pack trails to journey over, camp fires to sit before. That's why he spends his summer leisure in the west. Although a bachelor, Jack's biggest problem is babies... yes, BABIES! For, you see, he's a pediatrician.

How do you like the new index, "Inside The Eccentric," which is now appearing on Page One, making it easier to locate our regular weekly features? Last week was its first appearance, and Thursday afternoon we received the first of many favorable comments on it. Mrs. Iva F. Deer, 720 Pierce, made the first phone call to us. "Remember a year ago when you asked me what I thought The Eccentric could do to improve itself?" she immediately asked. "Well, I mentioned that an index on page one would be of great help to most readers. Now that I see it today, I just had to call you up and thank you for using it." As this Wanderer told Mrs. Deer, The Eccentric is continually trying to put out a better commodity to our readers. Each week, your suggestions and criticisms are always welcomed. We may not be able to put it into effect yesterday, but perhaps we can tomorrow.

While sitting in a local restaurant one morning last week, this Wanderer overheard two women discussing the coal shortage. One remarked that she thought they would send their two children to the farm where wood apparently is the main fuel. The second lady remarked that she would not bother her, personally, if the coal strike went on forever because "we burn gas". We finished our coffee and walked back to the office wondering if the second lady was aware that during times of peak demand, a good deal of the extra supply is obtained from the burning of coal.

Edward H. Laird, landscape architect, is prolific with ideas. An acknowledged expert in his vocational field, he also allows himself the pleasure of invention in the area of the fantastic, sort of making up his various mechanisms as he conversationally goes along. Right now he has launched a scheme to reclaim sewage for soil fertilization purposes by installing conversion units in each home. He believes his idea may eliminate the need for municipal sewage systems. "Every yard and garden will become a floral paradise," he argues. (He admits, too, that his biggest problem is to obtain two or three hundred million from the RFC with which to begin production of his idea. "After all," in an American taxpayer, and even Henry Kaiser is no more an American than I am, he smiles.)

Dr. J. B. Haasberger isn't inclined to take his vacations in

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An elderly couple from Webster avenue have asked this Wanderer to appeal to the people of Birmingham for cleaner sidewalks. In many sections, the gentleman said, it is necessary to walk in the street, a thing that carries its own special danger for small children or those who are no longer young. He speaks, too, of those who leave for extended vacations in the south and make no provision for having walks cleaned. "There are a lot of us who can't do this," he said. "We have to try getting around safely over a glare of ice. It hardly seems fair, but happens all over the city. There are plenty of men who would be glad to earn a little extra by shoveling snow so why not give them a break as well as make it safe for those who winter in Birmingham?"

This Wanderer has received a second issue of the Tom Tom, that nice little paper published twice

a month by the Boy Scouts at Adams school, Troop B-4. Incidentally, a type error in the winner's name brought us up short last week, with pinkish faces. It's Gary Gilliam who named the paper, not Gary Williams.

How times have changed—even in the past three months! After the Dec. 11 fatal gas explosion on N. Woodward, some people were heard advising their friends to convert to gas and henceforth not be bothered by coal strikes. "So funny word."

This Wanderer has learned that apparently wells have to have vacations, too. After a reader called last week to ask what had happened to the well at the foot of the W. Maple hill, we began asking questions all over town. It finally came out that this is not the first time this has happened. The well will flow steadily for weeks on end and then, without warning, stops dead. After a brief rest period, it will begin again, just like you do for a couple of weeks every year. It simply takes a few days off for rest and recuperation. We have been assured that it will probably be on the job again before long, as happy as ever.

Mrs. J. V. Whitehouse of 932 Forest, is being bothered these days by a mystery. She has just returned from a Florida vacation, where her first introduction to the mystery took place. Just a few days before her return, she attended a movie and as she parked her car, noticed the one directly in front of her carried the license holder of a Birmingham dealer. During the show she wondered if the car was owned by a neighbor of hers. On returning to her car after the picture, she found a large red Michigan apple parked on the hood. Now she's really wondering—wondering who her "neighbor" was who left a home-state calling card. She wishes the party would contact her and end the suspense!

Birmingham has a cover girl! She appeared on the cover of the Detroit News pictorial section Sunday, sitting up with great dignity while she learned some of the finer points in etiquette. She is Bonnie of Graydenbeath, C.D., D.S., U.D., which proves she has already a vast amount of knowledge stored away in that head of hers. Bonnie claims Mr. and Mrs. Grayden Stack as her "family" and helps them operate their Kennel shop on Hunter boulevard.

Mrs. John E. King of Stanley street has decided that she will take the standard police advice of always locking her car. Last Friday night, when she had finished her errands which had taken her out of town, she and her daughter got into their car and started home. A glance at the dash showed the car that was driving had a much higher mileage than it should have—that is if it had

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