

# The Birmingham Eccentric

A nation, like a family, is no stronger than its individual members. A family that spends beyond its means, whose word is not good with the neighbors, will fall apart, go down to disaster. So will a nation.

Prior to the Occupation of Japan, the farmers paid, under the 50 to 70 percent of gross farm production.

## BITS OF BIRMINGHAM

With the citizens all wearing peculiar buttons of varied colors, the trees all wearing their fall garb and the many colors of late flowers, Birmingham for the moment, a very colorful city. The Torch Drive labs are appearing here and there, adding their own particular touch to the scene.

This Wanderer was impressed by the performance of the Birmingham high school band at Friday's football game at Pierce field. Not only was the music excellent, but the marching and showmanship of the band members was particularly outstanding. Many hours of hard work and planning must have gone into that half time entertainment.

Monday morning a voice over the phone said, "I have an oddity to remark. This Wanderer walked and the voice went on to say "Our liars are in bloom." When we recovered enough to ask a few questions we found our caller was Mrs. Maynard B. Terry, 610 Half-moon drive. She informed us that during the summer they put a little fertilizer around the bushes and thought no more of it. A few weeks ago she noticed new leaves coming on the branches and yesterday found a few blossoms. "They even smell like lilacs!" Mrs. Terry told us.

Zoltan Sepeshy, director of the Cranbrook Academy, Bloomfield Hills, receives more nationwide recognition this month with the reproduction of one of his paintings on the cover of the November Reader's Digest. Sepeshy's picture, featuring steel workers erecting the girders of a tall building, is Number 2 in the Digest's new series of cover illustrations—America at Work.

While thousands of Michigan pheasant hunters annually use bird dogs to help them flush their quarry, it fell to 15-year-old Theodore Berz, son of Mr. and Mrs. Milton Berz, owners of the local airport, to use the service of a red fox Thursday of last week. Young Berz, armed with his mother's 20-gauge shotgun, was out on the airport when he spied what he thought to be an Irish setter, which had flushed and caught a beautiful cock pheasant. He fired the gun, whereupon the "dog" dropped the pheasant and fled into the nearby woods. Theodore then retrieved the dead pheasant. Comparing notes with his dad, they both agreed that a

red fox (of which there are numerous in that area) then would up on the pheasant and killed it. (Michigan pheasant hunters for years have complained about the red fox as a main reason for lack of good hunting.)

Heading the Aero club of Michigan's new "Flying Fifties" membership drive will be William H. Breech, 28-year-old president and treasurer of Great Lakes Tractor & Equipment Co.

If you want to escape the rigors of heavy traffic these fall Sunday afternoons, you'd better keep away from nearby Franklin. That is, unless you love cider so much you can't resist going after it that day. Franklin road, between 13 and 15 mile roads, looked like Grand River avenue during the rush hour as half of Detroit was out to get some of the famous apple juice. If this keeps up someone may put a traffic signal at 14 mile and Franklin and the Hamtramck then we may lose its slogan, "The Town That Forgot."

Several persons recently have asked the editorial staff why the list of merchants who contribute to the Halloween party, along with the prize winners, is no longer published. The answer is simply "space". The party has grown to such a size that to give personal recognition to each donor and each prize winner is impossible. The prizes, for example, will this year go to 250 or 300 boys and girls.

Our readers will agree when we say about all we can do is give a general word of praise to every one who participates and congratulations to each prize winner. We'd like to do more but just can't make it.

During the past few days several Oakland county political figures have called on Birmingham friends and acquaintances in this area. Among the most recent are Lynn D. Allen, county clerk, and Maurice F. Cole, circuit court commissioner. Allen expressed himself as very proud of the fact that his budget balances, something never before accomplished in any other county clerk's office. Cole pointed out the rent control problems for both landlord and tenant which have been settled in the commissioner's office and the benefits that both have received from that agency.

This Wanderer has just received a message from Santa Claus. Birmingham again has some early birds who believe in letting the Jolly old gentleman know their wishes in plenty of time. The letters were from Lynn and Janie Lowman of 156 Oakland avenue. However, Santa refuses to divulge the contents of the letters.

Mrs. Henry J. Phipps Booth, Cranbrook road, Bloomfield Hills, is a new member of the board of governors of the Henning's foundation. This organization is one of this country's leading institutions for the study of mental and emotional ills. The foundation supports a research center, clinic and sanitarium at Topeka, Kan.

The Eccentric's advertising manager, Hal Buerge, is now resting at home, after breaking his leg while refereeing a high school football game at Clarkston last Thursday. The accident occurred when two players ran into him.

## Soviet's Slave Laborers Welcome Death As an End of Their Frightful Existence

Russian slave laborers exist only from day to day on the hope they will die during the coming night, a former Polish university professor told Birmingham Rotarians Monday noon.

"To Siberia went over a million Poles—only 118,000 have been repatriated. The rest are presumed to have perished in Russian labor camps," declared Stephen DeRopp, now with the Polish Daily News in Detroit.

DeRopp was president of the international fair at Posen in 1939, and a university professor there when Germany attacked Poland in 1939.

"Old people are not worth much in Russia," he stated. "They are literally worked to death. Eighty per cent of the arrests are of persons over 40 years old. Those under 40 are the ones which produce the families, and therefore the Russian manpower."

SLAVE LABORERS from 750 camps have been identified with the trans-Siberian railroad, DeRopp said.

"Food becomes an obsession with these horribly-treated people, they get so terribly hungry," he said.

About 18 persons a day escape from behind the Iron Curtain, and they keep reporting a continued feeling of frenzied war effort inside Russia, the speaker emphasized.

"Tremendous war stockpiles are being accumulated in the interior. But I doubt if Russia will openly

go to war unless the United States becomes so weak economically and physically that Russia would consider it advisable."

"Instead, the plan is to keep a feinting war going with Russia supplying the materials to other communist-controlled nations."

Area People Hurt In Grayling Crash

BEVERLY HILLS—Mrs. Gene Bordinata and children, Happy and Janice, with Mrs. Floyd Rice, Mrs. Patrick Doty and baby Tommy received injuries last Friday in a motor crash at Grayling. They were enroute to the Rice summer home at Burt lake.

The accident happened as Mrs. Bordinata attempted to pass a light truck which made an un-signalized left turn, throwing her car into the ditch.

Happy and Janice were uninjured and returned home Sunday night.

Mrs. Bordinata suffered back and leg injuries which will be hospitalized for some months. Mrs. Rice and Mrs. Doty were hospitalized with body injuries while Tommy Doty is reported suffering from a dislocated spine. All are in Grayling Mercy hospital.

Dinner - Dance

BEVERLY HILLS—The Greenfield Beverly Hills association will hold its annual dinner-dance at the Birmingham country club Nov. 10. Dinner will be from 7 to 9 p.m., with dancing from 9:30. A brief business meeting will be held after the dinner.

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