

A democracy, like a business, is no better than its leaders. Poor businessmen fail, their companies become bankrupt. The same condition comes to a democracy whose leaders are incompetent.

The Birmingham Eccentric

PART 2

Thursday, September 14, 1950

"I WANT SOME LAND" . . .

How many times have you said to yourself? "It sure would be nice to have a place with some ground around it and not feel penned in or cramped. Room for a garden, fruit trees, berry patch and space for the kids to play 'Cowboys and Indians,' or the tree-hut clubhouse." How about this?

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Bits of Birmingham

Mrs. Earle R. Ferguson of Bloomfield Hills phoned this Wanderer to report that in their garden there are two sunflowers, fully 10 feet tall. Mrs. Ferguson and 11-year-old son, Fred, have planted them every year and dry the seeds so the birds can have winter food," she explained. "In addition, I think they are a very pretty flower during their period of bloom. The two we have this year are about the tallest we have ever grown and we're really proud."

Signs of the approach of fall were evident in this Wanderer passed through Franklin this week. Signs have been erected to direct traffic and the parking area smoothed off.

Birmingham must be really getting on the map. Especially with what its residents think about things. Only three weeks ago a gentleman representing a cigarette company visited local stores and offices making "experiments" for his company. Last week several of us were subjected to a few questions about a certain sparkling beverage associated in many minds with pretzels. This Wanderer wishes some representative of an automobile company would hit town—handing out samples!

Luther Heacock, 704 Hanna, has resigned as business manager of the Oakland County tuberculosis sanatorium. He held that post for the past nine years. Heacock was a Birmingham city commissioner from 1934 to 1942 and former member of the county board of supervisors.

As this Wanderer approached the Hunter Blvd.—Oakland intersection on last week he saw a 50-gallon barrel located in the right-of-way, a menace to traffic. Two young girls, dressed in levis, plus a younger boy, saw the obstruction and carefully rushed to it, rolling it toward the nearest curb. The barrel was filled, so the girls couldn't roll it up on the grass; but they did it nice. Boy-Girl Scout deed, and this column believes their act should be recorded to prove that some contemporary youngsters are thoughtful of others.

A few Democrats after reading about President Truman's comments regarding the Marine Corps have told this Wanderer they won't

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der if Harry is really such a wonderful president after all. "Seems to me he has been opening his mouth and letting these things come out quite often lately," one of the Democrats remarked. Another said, "That Marine crack seems to put Truman in the same class as Dewey, who made that politically unwise statement about the engineer of his 1948 campaign train."

For several weeks now, this Wanderer has noticed a husky brown boxer loafing around the downtown section. This dog seems to know his way around, and always seems to be going somewhere. However, it appears that his travels make him thirsty. He has found the right spot to refresh himself—at the city's only reliable drinking fountain on Woodward. On kind legs, forepaws resting on the top of the fountain, he is adept using the spout to get the water from the 240-acre piece at the southeast corner of W. Maple and Lahser road. He thinks Monday's rain was about six weeks too late really to help more crops. "But it will help late potatoes and be good for the planting of wheat," he agreed.

Harry W. Rainey, 424 W. Maple, used to own and farm the 240-acre piece at the southeast corner of W. Maple and Lahser road. He thinks Monday's rain was about six weeks too late really to help more crops. "But it will help late potatoes and be good for the planting of wheat," he agreed.

This week's Life magazine carried a five-page spread about Charles Eames, the noted furniture designer, who once taught at Cranbrook Academy of Art. He was referred to as the "best known designer of modern furniture." The article showed views of the new home Eames is building in Santa Monica, Calif. He has won particular fame for his designing of chairs.

Apparently taxi-men had a field day in the Birmingham-Detroit-Pontiac area today. Somebody seemed that every third vehicle met on our streets and roads bore the sign, "Taxi" and drivers shuttled madly back and forth trying to accommodate the thousands left stranded by the suburban bus strike.

For the great amount of time he has put into developing the city's proposed off-street parking plan, James J. Hogan and his committee have been recognized in the official commission meeting minutes by a resolution expressing the city's gratitude.

This Wanderer sees where Berkeley apparently is claiming to be the only South Oakland county city whose mayor is elected by the councilmen. Has been since back in 1944. Now they propose in a charter amendment to have the people elect the mayor. Just for the record, we'd like to state that Birmingham has had a commission-elected mayor since we became a city in 1925. (Or maybe we have been excommunicated from South Oakland county?)

When Michigan State's football squad opens its season against Oregon State next Saturday for the first time in several years Birmingham won't be represented by a regular player in the Spartan lineup. Bill Spiegel and Bud Gasser, former Baldwin high school grid-

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ders, who saw plenty of action for Michigan State, graduated this year. Incidentally, in last week's Collier's magazine, in the full page photograph of the 1949 Michigan-Notre Dame game, Gasser can be seen in the center of the view. His number was 54.

This Wanderer the other afternoon watched a small boy trying to make friends with a lemon and white spaniel. After making many complimentary remarks about the dog's looks and getting nowhere, the lad dug deep in his pocket and came up with a small piece of candy which he offered the dog. A tentative swipe of a pink tongue seemed to tell the pooch it wasn't his dish and once more he backed off. In desperation the boy flopped down on the curbstone and held out one hand. The dog ambled over, looked at the boy closely and turned to sit beside him. As we went out way the two sat there, the boy's arm around the dog. The dog's owner watched from the store door, and more comments were to be broken up so she could be on her way.

Look for Police Chief Ralph W. Ward, a former Birmingham mayor (at least the area nearest Woodward) for no U-turns. Unrestricted in the past, Moxley has been receiving more and more complaints from pedestrians who continually encounter certain U-turning taxis.

Dick Dunn, 343 North Woodward, a former Birmingham school and Western Michigan college football star, is starting his second season as coach of the Clawson High school football squad. Dunn will have an experienced team with 12 lettermen back. Clawson's first game will be with Centerline tomorrow afternoon.

Ordinarily editorial policy does not sanction printing unsigned letters, but this Wanderer felt this particular one too good to withhold. Here it is: "As a resident of the Quanton area, allow me to make a suggestion for the clearing of algae from the lake. Fill the lake with the rust laden city water. Nothing could survive in it then. Treat the lake frequently and sell the iron. Use the money for some storm sewers in the area to drain into the lake. By spring it would be a fast-moving stream. (Signed) By Gum."

Have a hankerin' for a nice piece of buffalo meat? No kidding—real buffalo! Then you'll be taking in Oakland County's first and only "Buffalo Barbecue," being given Sept. 23 by the Oakland County Sportsman Club. The buffalo meat will be coming from that Coldwater buffalo ranch es-

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A Norman French Home You'll Like

When the architect and builder created this house at 377 Berwyn Road, they tried to give the owner something unusual and distinctive. Today this home stands out just as truly as on the day it was built.

A PLUMP NORMAN ENTRANCE TOWER and exterior of Wisconsin Ledge Rock are notable features of the exterior.

THE FIRST FLOOR comprises a living room 15 x 30 with a very good-looking fireplace; large dining room, breakfast room, kitchen, lavatory and big flagstoned porch.

THE SECOND FLOOR contains four roomy, attractive bedrooms and three tiled baths. A back service stairway leads from kitchen to second floor.

THE HEATING PLANT is forced warm air with a new Toridhek Oil Burner.

THE 127' WIDE LOT, nicely landscaped, is located in one of the prettiest residential spots in town. The price of \$31,500 includes awnings, carpets, stove and refrigerator.

SHOWN BY APPOINTMENT

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Mrs. Elliott Redies Heads PTA Council

Mrs. Elliott Redies will serve as president of the Birmingham PTA Council for the coming year. Other council officers are Mrs. Alec Parrie, mother, vice-president; Malcolm G. Adam, father, vice-president; Mrs. Donald Murray, teacher vice-president; Mrs. Howard Green, secretary; Mrs.

Colin Campbell, treasurer; Mrs. D. G. Babbitt, historian; Paul D. Carter and Miss Marjorie Votey, school principals. Mrs. Kenneth Whitlock has been named motion picture chairman for the year. She will work in conjunction with the managers of local theaters to show approved pictures in Birmingham on Saturday matinees. Mrs. Thomas Shelham will handle publicity for the group.

IN QUANTON LAKE ESTATES



Photograph of a house in Quanton Lake Estates.

We Heard It Said By—

City Plan Commissioner Robert J. Mason, 564 Overhill: "We on the plan commission are not little tin gods. We are not endowed with any super-intelligence. We are people and are like everyone else. Therefore, we earnestly would like your expressions on what we do or should be doing. We are trying to do our very best for the whole city. We may have stepped on a few toes, but we did it impartially. We have become hardened to abuse that is thrown at us. It would feel very good to have someone sometime come along with a pat on the back."

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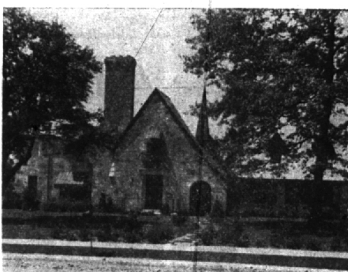
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