

The Birmingham Eccentric

One of the most irrefutable of human expressions is a smile. When it greets you on another's countenance you, too, smile back. That is why, if you want others to be cheerful toward you, a smile on your face and in your voice brings like reward.

Bits of Birmingham

It is within the past year that a few nearby communities were shocked when small children drowned in unfinished basements and open ditches. The people of Birmingham wondered, naturally, why such hazards were allowed to exist. Must we have the same shock before some attention is paid to similar danger spots right in our own community? There are several of them—open ditches, city easements which fill with surface water at every rain, and other spots where a small child might easily drown. Let's not wait until tragic parents force us to act, but do it now.

Although two loud "explosions" sounded through the business section Thursday afternoon, local police reported they did not re-day and noticed the remains of a

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ceive one call or inquiry. It must be we're getting hardened to unusual noises, or something. However, according to the grapevine, this wanderer was given to understand that they were caused by aerial torpedoes exploded at the rear of some Woodward avenue stores.

Local Bowler Bill Florence has been racking up some high games lately. While bowling in a Detroit league last week he made 10 straight strikes in netting a 298 game. In addition, a few weeks ago in the Birmingham Merchants league, he put together games of 188, 234 and 278 for a 700 series.

Say, Kids this Wanderer happened to look skyward the other day and noticed the remains of a

This Wanderer has taken notice that postal notes are no more. They were those quick and handy substitutes inaugurated into the postal service a short time ago, to take the place of post office money orders for small amounts. We personally are sorry to see them discontinued for they were, in our opinion, faster service. However, the postmaster general has issued his instructions to all local offices, so out they go.

Luther Heacock, one of the officers of the First Methodist church, is searching for the person who attended the laying of the cornerstone here in 1871. "We'd like to find someone who can recall that day," he told this Wanderer. "We have only impressions carried through the years, by hearing our parents talk about it. What we really want is to be able to talk to someone who saw the event and can recall some of the incidents that took place."

Birmingham's plant life is all mixed up. Last fall we had pansies blooming after the first frost and an apple tree that suddenly decided on a second crop of blossoms. Now, in April, we have a somnolent with the second bloom. The plant is owned by Mrs. Matthew Cammarere, 312 S. Adams, who tells this Wanderer it bore five lovely pink blooms which have every indication of lasting another week or so. The plant, Mrs. Cammarere told us, was one of her 1949 Christmas gifts.

Sam Bruni, owner of the Birmingham Fruit Co., has a real vine plant sitting on his meat counter. Last week he placed a paper Easter lily in the dirt surrounding the plant. He reports that almost 90% of the persons approaching the counter thought the flower was real and commented about it.

Nothing like an Academy "Oscar" to bolster box office attendance, this Wanderer notices. Thursday night the Academy awards were made. Friday night the lineup in front of the Birmingham Theater extended way back to the street. The picture was "Born Yesterday," starring award winner Judy Holliday.

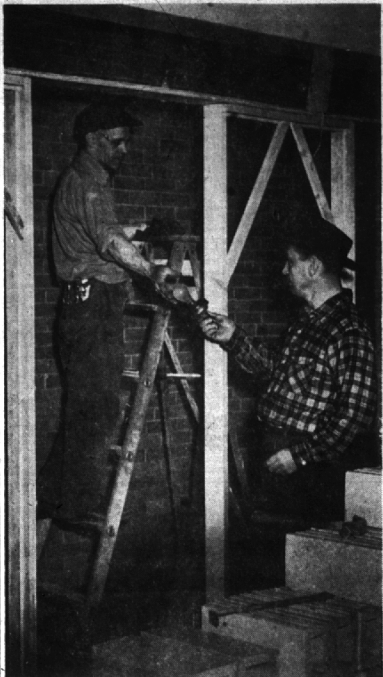
Almost unnoticed last week, a phase of Birmingham's history passed from the scene. The six large black walnut trees which stood in the island in front of Baldwin High school for so many years were removed by the city to make room for a water main. Thousands of local graduates remember those trees, especially during the occasions when they were used to hang various class pennants.

Maj. Gen. Stanley E. Reinhart, (ret.), 879 Randall, has received

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WORK OF CONVERTING a cell block into a new and larger office for the detective bureau of the Birmingham police department goes on as Hugo Cloutier, electrical contractor, gives an assist and instructions to one of his crew, Joe Beckman. The new office will provide larger quarters for Detectives William Green and Merlin Holmquist and additional storage space for department files. Prisoners will be held in the much smaller space formerly used by the detective bureau.

word of the promotion of his son, Stanley, Jr., to first lieutenant. Sent to Korea shortly after his graduation from West Point, young Reinhart has been with the 7th Division artillery since the Inchon landing last Sept. 15.

A good example of interest in local government was set by Baldwin high school students this week as members of the school's Civic Control day committee distributed circulars around the city encouraging voters to go to the polls.

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IN THE WABEEK BUILDING
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Methodists to Show Cornerstone Items At Church Sunday

The First Methodist church will place the contents in its old cornerstone box on display from 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday. The display, in the church parlors, will be open to the public.
The box was removed March 20 from the church cornerstone laid in 1871. A part of its contents will be transferred to the cornerstone of the new church which will be laid Apr. 15 at an afternoon ceremony.

General news deadline is 4:30 p.m. each Tuesday.

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