

Around The Cracker Barrel . . .

Sometime around 1886 a Frenchman named Daudeteau invented a new type of rifle. This gun was of small calibre, would shoot five bullets without reloading, and used smokeless powder. Daudeteau offered it to the French government, but they rejected it in favor of another gun of similar type developed by one Lebel. Then this new gun was offered to the Italian government, and again it was rejected. In order to get some income for his years of labor, Daudeteau sold several thousand of his rifles to the Ethiopian government.

In 1897 the Italians marched against Ethiopia and met the black men at Adowa. The Italians were using their old type rifles, complete with black powder and smoke. Every time the Italians fired the location of the riflemen could be spotted by the cloud of smoke. The Ethiopians stayed out of range of the Italian guns, and shot into the puffs of smoke. The new gun, with its smokeless powder, gave no clue to the enemy as to the point from which it had been fired. The Italians were routed, and great was their shame.

This defeat at Adowa became a sore spot in the hearts of the Italians, and it was easy for Mussolini, some thirty-five years later, to stir the Italian people into a march on Ethiopia to avenge Adowa. And this same march on Ethiopia sounded the death knell for the weak-kneed League of Nations, and encouraged Hitler to join the Italians for world conquest.

From the time of Mussolini's invasion of Ethiopia until after the end of World War II in 1945, Ethiopia wasn't able to export its famous coffee beans. Found only in the world's finest coffee blends, the Ethiopian bean gives a body and flavor which has never been duplicated. It's because Village Store coffee uses the Ethiopian bean that so many of you travel long distances to get it, and why the Saturday cup of coffee has become an institution.

But we didn't intend to get off the track this way. What we intended to prove by the above story is simply that any civilization can survive only if it has the best tools of war. If a country's inventive genius labors over new model automobiles, new television sets, labor saving devices, and does not apply itself to arms—then that country will fall. This is rough talk, perhaps Pagan, but nonetheless true. Fortunately for us, we have been able to keep ahead in improvements in the implements of war.

Next Saturday is Armed Forces Day. This day is set aside in order that civilians may become conscious of their protectors, and may do honor to those men who stand between us and attack. Today there are thousands of boys—Yours and mine—who are in camps in this country or in foreign countries. Some of them are in Korea. They have given up much to serve their country. Some have left their wives and families; some have interrupted their educations—just to be ready to protect us if trouble comes.

Let's not forget them next Saturday. Let's not ask our neighbors why the flags are unfurled, but rather, let's get our own flag out. If we do no more than honor these men in this simple way, we will have had some part in observance of this day.

Letters from a southern Air Force base tell us that the men are being issued helmets which are a modification of the old British Army in India cork models. Same shape, and with knee length shorts and short sleeved shirts, the chaps are developing a cockney accent. But, they sound delightfully cool, and should look very military.

And just about from now on we're all going to be very interested in cool clothing. Light suits, cotton dresses, and play clothes—these are what you'll want. In spite of its appearance they tell me one of the coolest fabrics is terry cloth. You should see the terry cloth robes and short coats at the Village Store. Styled to perfection, they have a flair which is very distinctive. And when they're worn over a pair of shorts and T shirt in the same material and color, you just know which way the gazes will be directed.

Or, have you seen the new light weight denim play clothes done in plaids? For beauty in design you should see what happens when these plaids are mixed with solids in correlated colors. With a couple of plaid items, and a couple in solids, you can mix them in so many ways that you seem to have an endless wardrobe of summer play togs. White-Steag has never done a better job, and when you see that label you know you're getting quality as well as style.

More new swimwear from Rose Marie Reid has arrived. The latest in styling and fabrics, these unusual garments are constructed like nothing you've ever seen. Before you buy that new swim suit, take a look at the finest. You tall swimmers should ask to see the "Magic Length".

But no matter what apparel you want for summer wear, it's worth your while to visit the Village Store. It's crammed with the latest and the best. And when you discover how easy it is to shop here, how pleasant it is to buy without pressure, and how relaxed you'll feel when through, you'll make the Village Store a habit like so many of your neighbors.

Campbell's Village Store
205 Pierce Street Telephone MI 4-7100
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Residents Protest Proposed Plat in Troy Township

Approximately 75 persons appeared at the Troy township zoning commission meeting Tuesday evening to protest an application from Robertson Brothers of Royal Oak for a plat on the northeast corner of Adams and Wattles roads.

Plans called for the plat to include 185 lots, one-quarter acre in size. Proposed name of the development is Pine Hill subdivision. The firm requested the area be rezoned from agricultural to residential classification.

Residents who were from that area, and also adjacent owners in Bloomfield township, protested that the development wasn't in keeping with the character of the district, according to Supervisor Norman R. Barnard.

They ALSO FELT if this development was allowed, more such projects would be started in neighboring areas.

Following discussion, the zoning commission recommended, "The plan as submitted doesn't conform to limitations of the township zoning ordinance 22 and is not compatible to the surrounding area."

The recommendation will be considered at the Troy township board meeting May 22. Ordinance 22 stipulates that no dwelling shall be erected, altered or moved to a parcel of land less than two acres in agricultural district A-1 or A-2, until the proprietary plat has been approved by the township board.

City Sets Date for Auction of Property

Sale of lots at the southwest corner of Rochester and Goodale as a public auction May 22, was approved by the city commission Monday evening. Minimum bid was set at \$6,500 and all bidders must be prepared to tender money equal to 50% of the purchase offer. City Assessor Elmer W. Haack pointed out that the property will be sold subject to easements and restrictions of record.



MR. AND MRS. JAMES SCRIBNER AT WORK
Dog face and chair get final touches

Local Couple Finds Puppet Making Fascinating Hobby for the Family

By ALICE E. MORGAN

One of Birmingham's largest, quietest, most varied and most colorfully clothed families resides at 896 Hazel. They are the "puppet children" of Mr. and Mrs. James M. Scribner who began their hobby about a year ago.

Unlike most puppeteers, the Scribners do all the work themselves. From their basement workshop comes the heads, bodies, clothes and stage props which the little people use in their acts.

The heads are cast from Scribner "designs". The bodies are made of a long orthodox pattern with a few changes which they have worked into them as time went on. The whole secret of the puppet, itself, is in balance. The chest block is the largest, heaviest piece in the body, with control over the position and hang of the performer while arms, legs and hands respond to the gentle urging of the strings.

The Scribners give their puppets a visible wrist joint which allows a more life-like hand action. Hands are made of chamois skin and no matter how poorly dressed the subject may be, he or she always sports the finest of "gloves".

MRS. SCRIBNER is the official tailor and dressmaker for their large and steadily growing family. The cowboy musician wears clothing of her manufacture as he beats time to the music of his guitar. Grandmother is crowned by Scribner, even to the red silk panties she so daintily discloses along with her Argyle socks.

"We find we can get more life-like action with the foreign type than an airplane control," Mrs. Scribner explained. "It's handier for use, so we use it. Of course there's no cut and dried rule about that, or the manipulation of it."

"We may be doing things which a professional would say was impossible. We get attention as we want it, we have fun and it amuses the children we work for, so we make it pay too much attention to techniques."

TAKING UP one and then another of the little people, Mrs. Scribner demonstrated some of their acts.

Grandma rocked sedately in her little chair, then suddenly sprang

C of C Lists New Members; To Back Clean City Drive

The A and A Asphalt company and the Artesian Printing company have been added to the membership of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce. Secretary Charles Mortensen said Tuesday the current membership drive was "coming along nicely."

The business committee, J. W. Torrence, Ross Campbell, Tom Mills, Henry Sellers, Paul N. Averill, J. M. Ball and James Couzens, will meet soon to formulate plans.

Mortensen said the group pledged its support to the campaign to keep the city cleaned up and will cooperate in every way possible.

City Reprint Manager's Report In Booklet Form

An illustrated booklet, "Your City in 1951," will be issued by the city, based on the report of City Manager Donald C. Egbert. Commissioner Frank Rising said Monday evening the approximate cost for 5,000 booklets, to be distributed to local homeowners, would be \$770. In answer to Don Egbert's question as to whether this supply would be ample, he said another 500 could be printed at a negligible additional cost.

Commissioners approved the printing and limited expenditure to \$1,000.

Officials Request Insurance Agents To Hasten Action

"Something has to be done shortly," was the Monday night sentiment of Commissioner Lance Minor on the problem of city insurance.

"We'd be severely criticized if something should happen while local agents are trying to get together," he added.

The commission informed representatives of two separate associations of insurance agents in the city to continue negotiations to merge both groups within a week. Don Bier said he felt the commission should be informed of the qualifications of the individuals with whom the city will do business. He pointed out that one, headed by Harold Hager, had supplied this information, while the Birmingham Association of Insurance Agents had not.

Want ads cannot be accepted after 5 p.m. each Tuesday.

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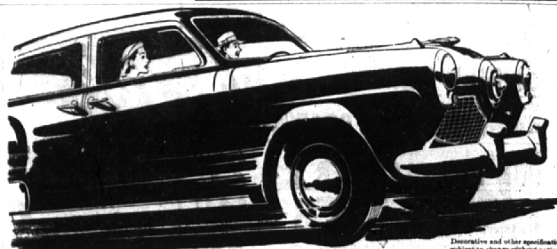
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