

In the United States we, as citizens, boast that we have the freedom to select our public officials—many other nations refuse to allow their people this freedom. However, unless you exercise such freedom each election-day you abandon freedom.

The Birmingham Eccentric

PART 3

Thursday, November 1, 1951

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Bits of Birmingham

The ladies have the policemen on the run! On Oct. 24, the regular meeting night of the Rebekah lodge, schedules became a little mixed in assigning committees. House rooms, and a police meeting on reckless driving, etc., was slated for the room ordinarily used by the Rebekah group. The ladies arrived en masse and the various police officers, outnumbered, had to move on to another room.

This Wanderer is well aware of the fact that service clubs do not stand on ceremony and formality, but had no idea just how far their informality went. In the weekly issue of ROAR, news sheet of the Birmingham Lions club, the men who volunteered to assist with the Halloween party were admonished to wear their shirts and hats. Don't they usually wear them—especially the lady?

People who get bored with traffic lights should have no trouble driving along Hunter boulevard because the system there is never the same. It goes from not working at all to stopping all traffic in one direction and giving an unlimited go-ahead to another group. This Wanderer was set up. Hunt lights are set for a morning and evening rush hour and "normal" operation during the day. Apparently the clock becomes so confused that it just gives up and leaves the whole thing on the basis of "survival of the fittest."

Can a man represent his wife as representative of a lady's organization? According to Ray A. Palmer, former City commissioner and mayor of Birmingham, it's quite simple. When members of the Community Council were asked to identify themselves at last Thursday's luncheon, he unconcernedly announced himself as "Ray Palmer, representing the Birmingham Exchange club, and the Ladies Auxiliary of St. James church."

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Friday's Port Huron-Birmingham football game attracted one of the largest crowds to Pierce field outside of the Thanksgiving day tilt. This Wanderer has seen. The stands were packed to capacity and spectators were standing in double rows all along the sidelines. Port Huron sent a very large delegation of rosters, including its band. In addition, a large portion of the crowd were persons from other areas attracted by the unbroken records of the two teams. Detroit newspapers and radio stations gave quite a bit of pre-game information concerning the game and the record of Birmingham's ace halfback, Tom Tracy. The tilt was billed in many quarters as the high school "game of the week in the state. Incidentally, this Wanderer feels that the half-time performance by both school bands were the finest seen in many years.

Mrs. Marion Tate Houts, 1172 Bird street, a staff member of Wayne university's home economics department, has an article in the current issue of "What's New in Home Economics," entitled "Housework is Streamlined at Wayne University." Mrs. Houts describes work methods perfected at the university which are slanted specifically for housewives suffering from cardiac conditions.

This autumn's cool weather hasn't prevented the raspberry bushes at the home of Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Niedner, 1672 Cole, from producing berries. Monday Mrs. Niedner brought part of a vine with a quantity of ripe raspberries into The Eccentric office. Normal time for this fruit is June and July.

Rev. Robert A. Lawson of the First Methodist church reports that recently several boys were playing around the new church structure on Pleasant street, when a couple of neighborhood youngsters came by and told the first group, "Don't you know you shouldn't be playing here. This is a new church."

In moving the parking meters further apart to coincide with the new 8 1/2-foot parking stalls, the police department was confronted with the question of "What's the easiest way to get the meter posts out of the concrete sidewalks?" Maintenance man Al Sordell blew several gaskets on a 10-ton hydraulic jack in his first few attempts. An air hammer would bust up considerable of the sidewalk. So Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley got this idea: cold seems to make metal contract. Would dry

contract the metal enough to permit the jack to pull out the post? It merited a try, anyway. And the idea worked! "A half pound of dry ice dropped in the post contracts the metal just enough so the jack can pull the post with little or no effort," Moxley explained to this Wanderer.

Remember seeing the star of a movie pick up the phone and walk a distance to his favorite arm chair so he can talk in comfort? Well, those long phone cords do exist—at least 25-foot lengths. And Mayor Dean G. Beier is using one while he recuperates from the mumps. Local Bell Manager Walter B. Fauser, when he heard of the Mayor's illness, knew it would be inconvenient for Bizsonor to take care of necessary official city business if Dean's wife, Mary, had to shuttle back and forth between the bedroom and the phone relaying the conversation. So Fauser immediately had one of the 25-foot cords temporarily installed for Beier's convenience.

A Townsend apartment resident phoned this Wanderer this week and reported sighting "a very large white rabbit" in an adjoining field. He was baffled as to whether the animal was a pet or wild. The observer reported it was the largest rabbit he had ever seen.

YMCA Volleyball Group Organizing

A call for volleyball players was issued Monday by Wayne Mortimer, chairman of the Birmingham YMCA volleyball group. The group will play once a week between 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. for the next five months. Night of the activity is determined by the majority of players and a schedule is drawn. Mortimer stated that the group is strictly for the young and the person who wants a little exercise each week. Full details are available at the local YMCA office.

European Impressions Related by Club Member

Raymond Peck, member of the Birmingham Lions club, who recently returned from an extensive European trip, spoke on the interesting highlights of his tour at the club's meeting Wednesday. The club last week initiated Harold Kalbfleisch, proprietor of the Birmingham Cleaners.

Goodwill Group Asks Local Help For Handicapped

Goodwill Industries in Detroit again is appealing to Birmingham residents to support its five-year program by which they hope to triple the number of handicapped trainees by 1954. James Mitchell, field representative, said clothing, including hats and shoes, has always been the most sought after items.

"RECONDITIONING these garments is one of the major operations at the training shop," he said. "However, almost any discarded item has some reclaim value to us. We will gladly accept sporting goods, kitchen wares, books, stoves and appliances and related items."

Mitchell said that all pickups should be arranged by contacting the Goodwill Industries office at 6522 Brush, in Detroit. Papers and magazines may be included in any collection. He added that arrangements were being made for a representative to speak before two Birmingham service clubs and that other engagements would be made if possible.

Howard R. Littleton, 278 Emmons, has been promoted to the rank of Cadet 1st Lieutenant in the Air Force ROTC at Wayne University.

A senior in the business administration school, Littleton has been assigned as flight leader in Squadron C.

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