



BITS OF BIRMINGHAM

It has been said, and quite rightly, that only when your children become parents themselves are they able to understand all the little and big sacrifices made for them by their own parents. Most parents deserve devoted affection.

FERD M. BROOCK, local realtor, for most of his life has been an ardent fisher for trout, and has sought them in many areas of the U.S.A. Last week he returned from a trip to the Boulder river in Montana, where he caught so many rainbow trout "that my arms got tired—and I mean tired—from bringing them to net. And, may I add, that's one fish story you really can believe!"

SAID A LOCAL HOUSEWIFE to this Wanderer yesterday: "Please remind telephone users that it will help much if, when they dial a number, they wait at least 10 rings before they decide that the number will not answer, and hang up. Many times one may be in another part of the house, or out in the yard, when the first bell rings, and it does take a little time to get to the telephone." Well, lady, herewith is the reminder . . . and may it do some good for all of us.

UNLESS IMPROVEMENT is made to the intersection of nearby Brookdale and the new 16-Mile road, just northeast of Birmingham, motorists who use that thoroughfare will wallow through mud this fall, winter and next spring. The project, of course, is in the hands of the Oakland County Road Commission.

A BIRMINGHAM MOTHER, finding she would be late getting home, called the house and asked Small Daughter to set the evening meal. She suggested wieners and told SD to put them in a sauce pan, cover them with water and put them on to cook. Just before mother left the office, a frantic and almost tearful telephone call came from SD, who said she was having trouble. She just couldn't cover the wieners with water, she explained, because they all kept floating to the top.

IS BIRMINGHAM shortly going to have a new city commissioner? This Wanderer has been informed that one of the present commissioners in the past several months has submitted at least two letters of resignation, both following times when the local voting public rejected city commission proposals. But both letters were rejected. Just a private way of letting off steam, do you suppose?

THE FILMS which Michigan's expert on the outdoors, Birmingham resident Mort Neff, shows on his weekly Thursday night TV show are taken the weekend before, thus providing an up-to-date documentary of the state's sporting scene. Mort says he spends his weekend photographing, gets the developed films for editing on Tuesday, writes the script on Wednesday. He also admits he never knows what "Goldie", his pet raccoon, will do during the actual TV program. Mort has taken over 35,000 feet of movies of sports and sporting events around the state.

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ON THE STONES marking the graves of Edwin R. Perrin and Bernice L. his wife, are cut emblems of the Masonic and Eastern Star organizations. Faded American flags mark other stones, with small flags placed on the graves. One such marks the grave of Sgt. Jay S. Simonson, a member of the "Michigan Volunteers."

Other military men buried here include George Hayner, who died March 13, 1866 and William Poole, whose stone is marked merely "1833-1903."

In one instance an error has been made in a name. On the headstone the name reads "Garrick I. Simonson," while on the smaller stone at the foot of the grave it is "Garrick L. Simonson."

The oldest stone, which can still be read, marks the grave of Ann, wife of Andrew Arton, who died Feb. 3, 1822.

SOME OF the stones carry full information of the men or women whose graves they mark. Others are merely small blocks on which two or three initials appear.

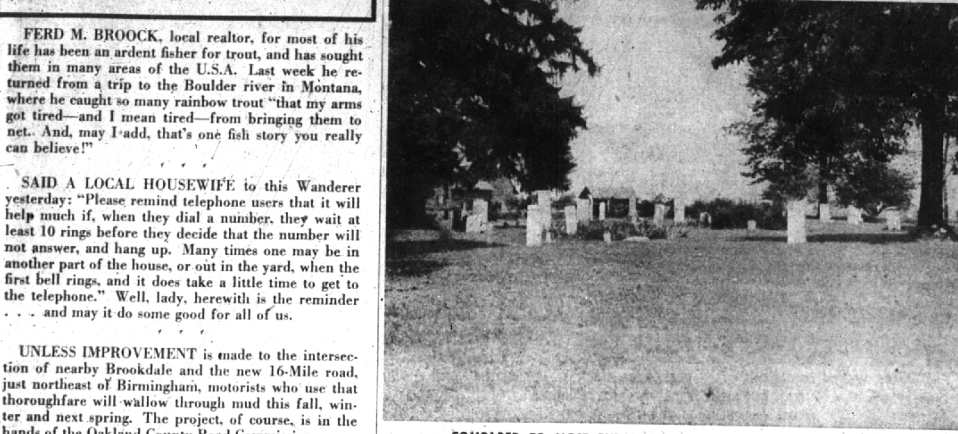
Others tell of how tragedy struck a family. Such a pair is that of Alexander Hinnus, 30, and Charles, 10, his son. Both died of typhoid, Charles on Oct. 11, 1856, his father two days later.

In the Abraham, Rouse plot

The Birmingham Eccentric

PART 2

Thursday, September 11, 1952



COMPARED TO MOST RURAL CEMETERIES, THIS ONE IS WELL-KEPT UP
It belongs to Troy Twp., is located on Coolidge road south of Maple

100-Year-Old Twp. Cemetery Small, But Not Forgotten

By ALICE E. MORGAN

Small and alone it stands, surrounded by the fertile fields of a neighboring farm, sheltered by its own large, weathered trees. Soft clouds of dust settle over it, sent there by a few cars which daily travel Coolidge road, between Maple and 14 Mile.

The little cemetery, during the past few months, has been the subject of several calls to The Eccentric office.

Little information has been found during our search, other than the fact it is called "Perrin Cemetery" and is under Troy township jurisdiction.

How long it has been there and whether or not it was once the private burial ground of the Perrin family we have not been able to ascertain.

Presumably is once was a private cemetery, or at least a part of a parcel of land owned by the Perrin family. At the rear (eastern) boundary the Perrin lot extends in a straight line across a goodly portion of it.

A walk through the little cemetery is like reading a chapter of history. Some of the names still discernable on the weathered old stones, are those of families who played a part in the early settlement of this section.

Haynes, Poole, Wilcox, Gillett, Hinman, Mitchell are among the family names to be found there.

OTHER NAMES are there, too, marking but one grave. Were they the men or women who worked on the farm? Are the several graves, all bearing the same name, the family for whom these others worked?

Time and weather have taken a toll on many of the stones. Some lean crazily. Others have broken in half, the tops now lean against the bottoms which still remain firmly in the earth.

Only a few of the stones in Perrin cemetery can be termed large—that is taller than the average man. Most are about three feet high, thin little slabs, gray with age. Many are coated with lichen. Numerous others are so badly worn that it is impossible to read them, yet, even to trace the original lettering surely enough to make out names and sentiments engraved upon them.

The trend of the times is shown clearly with elaborate lettering. Few, however, bear the "flowery" verse which is usually associated with older cemeteries.

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are 10 stones, two quite large, the rest only tiny slabs.

Although the cemetery is obviously more than a hundred years old, there have been some comparatively recent burials. One of these is Cora Bell Poole, who was buried in 1943.

Perhaps the most outstanding feature of Perrin cemetery is its noticeable lack of fresh flowers and growing plants. Here there are no fresh graves, heaped high with memorial bouquets.

A HARDY bush struggles at the corner of a plot, trying to sustain its life from the hard packed earth. It stands amidst grass that is faded, brown and coarse.

One lot has an almost solid blanket of lily of the valley growing over its graves. Around another is a low concrete barrier, made with holes here and there to accommodate growing plants. Red geraniums stand a dignified guard around its several graves.

Although it stands alone, the little cemetery is not forgotten. Workers of Troy township keep its grass clipped short, remove broken limbs and fallen twigs and keep its concrete and heavy wire fence in good repair.

SOMEHOW IT escapes the air of sadness which hovers about most burial grounds. Especially with old ones.

Perhaps this is because Perrin cemetery does not have the foreboding neglected appearance of the majority of old rural cemeteries. Perhaps it is because, as you turn to close the heavy gate, the trees

reach out their heavy branches, almost like a benediction.

Perhaps it is because of the gravely nodding wheat field, the occasional song of a bird, the contented sound of farm animals.

Whatever the reason, there's a deep sense of peace about the small plot—a sense that, somehow, sadness has passed it by or has become mellowed or softened through the years it has dwelt there.

Dog Warden Truck On Radio Circuit

Municipal radio has gone to the dogs. At least a two-way radio hookup has been installed in the dog warden's truck, providing constant contact between Warden Ralph Riley and police headquarters.

Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley said the system would provide better service on dog complaints and on checking lost dog reports.

"AS EVERYONE knows, Riley's work is divided between dog warden duties and working on street signs, parking meter installation and street marking.

"Quite frequently a lost dog report will not get to him for some time and by then the animal has roamed farther and farther away. Too, in case a dog bite report comes in from a playground or school area, the dog has been plenty of time to leave the neighborhood before the warden gets there.

"The present set-up will give better service all the way around—from protecting pets to protecting persons who have run afoul of a vicious dog," Moxley said.

No Sidewalks, So 29 Students Use the Street

Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley Monday afternoon counted 29 high school students walking in Lincoln avenue east of Pleasant, he informed city commissioners. The city wants to complete the

Lincoln sidewalk, but has held up action pending receipt of a "potential sidewalk use" survey from the board of education.

Long stretches on Lincoln have no sidewalk at the present time, and residents have requested the commission to find out approximately how many school students would use the walk before ordering it put in.



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19-YEAR-OLD WIFE OF ROBERT MITCHELL LIES HERE
One of cemetery's oldest yet legible grave markers. (Eccentric Staff Photos)

Ellsberg Leaves Soon For Study in England

Daniel Ellsberg, honor graduate of both Cranbrook school and Harvard university, will enter King's college, Cambridge, England, this fall under Princeton university's Woodrow Wilson Scholarship in Economics.

While completing his course at Cranbrook, Ellsberg won a four-year scholarship to Harvard in a national competition and was graduated from there with highest honors last spring. Before going to Cranbrook he attended Barber school, Highland Park.

Need Women Bowlers

WALNUT LAKE—Mrs. Don Brown of Putnam drive, said this week that women were needed for the local bowling league teams, and those interested should contact her. The teams bowl each Thursday evening from 9 to 11 p.m.

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