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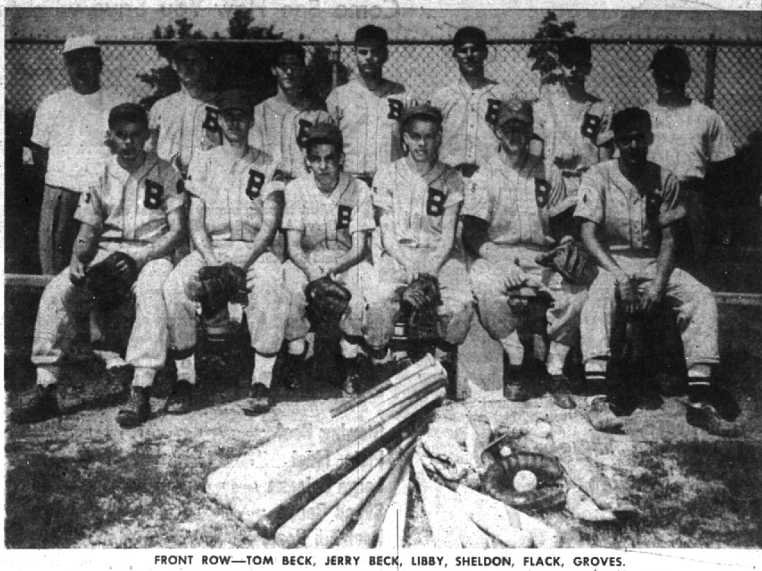
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Birmingham American Legion nine district champions.

**Legion Nine New District Champions**

The most successful American Legion Post baseball team from Birmingham wound up the season Tuesday night, Wednesday 26, with a win over Waterford for the 18th District title.

This was the first year that a post team from the city has won both halves of the season and competed in the zone championships. They lost out in the zone finals in mid season, but only to last year's title holder, Flint, the same team that repeated for the state championship again this year.

The last week of regular play found the Birmingham team tied with Royal Oak and Waterford

for the title and forced the teams into a one-game playoff. Birmingham drew a bye for Monday night's game and Waterford eked a 2-1 win over Royal Oak.

Tuesday night Birmingham held the upper hand and defeated the Waterford nine 4-2 behind the pitching of Heffernan.

Team applause for the final game went to Short Stop Tom Beck who made a sensational catch of a fly-ball in short right field for the final out of the sixth inning with the bases loaded with Waterford boys.

Line score: Birmingham, four runs, three hits and one error; Waterford, two runs, three hits and one error.

The Birmingham team is sponsored by Harold Turner and Tom McDonnell, Inc.

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**PEOPLE'S COLUMN**

The Eccentric welcomes letters for this column. All must be signed, but signatures will be kept confidential upon request. Letters must be limited to 500 words.

To the Editor:

Isn't the community of Birmingham, progressive and dynamic as it is, rather hopelessly old fashioned when it comes to the problem of handling and disposing of surplus animals or pets?

I refer specifically to the lack of facilities or humane disposition of unwanted pets. At the present time, execution appears to be the only means of disposing of them. There are, no doubt, many people seeking pets, but it is necessary for them to go to Pontiac to the Animal Welfare Shelter there. What effort, if any, is made to find homes for Birmingham animals? Surely some of the animals must be healthy and attractive enough to fit into somebody's home.

The artlessness and urgency of this problem was vividly brought to my attention last Saturday. A tiny kitten, barely able to walk, had been tossed out on the refuse heap at the city dump by a heartless creature resembling a woman.

LEFT to his own limited resources, he would either have drowned in all the rain or been devoured by rats, neither of which is a happy fate. However, if the Birmingham dog warden had been called, the kitten would have fared, not too well either, since it is my understanding that all these animals are taken to the local vet, who gives them a lethal injection.

If the resulting death would be painless, this would be a satisfactory procedure, but unfortunately it is not. The doomed animals suffer untold agony, frothing at the mouth for quite some time. This lingering and horrible death is not at all the peaceful and quiet form of dying that many of us have erroneously believed. In the opinion of those who know, shooting is quicker and more humane. If I have been misinformed, will

tor, destroying all species, even his own kind, including children.

I have seen "sportsmen" in Acapulco catch beautiful, silvery sailfish (considered inedible) and load their fishing boats up the hill in order to return triumphantly to the dock where a picture will be taken of them and sent back home to impress the folks with their prowess. Half an hour after being caught these once lithe sailfish are reduced by the tropical sun from a thing of beauty and grace to a leathery, repulsive, sun-baked carcass.

Sometimes the "sportsman" even cuts off the snout as a happy, tangible reminder of his "free battle with monsters of the deep."

Dogs are not without blame, either. I have often seen hunting dogs racing through our woods with the bloody carcass of either a rabbit or pheasant dangling from their jaws.

Birmingham is a kind community as a whole. Can some tax money be diverted toward the erection of a small animal shelter where people can go and select a pet in pleasant surroundings? Or must all homeless animals be given but one alternative—a horrible death by execution? Surely there must be an intelligent and humane way of solving this problem.

MRS. HANS SCHJOLIN  
Cambridge Court

Middle age is when a night out is followed by a day in.

The man who gives in when he is wrong is wise, but he who gives in when he is right is married.

Birmingham store hours: 9:30 to 5:30

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