

BITS OF BIRMINGHAM

C. FRED AUSTIN, 30290 Bristol lane, has a suggestion for a new Democratic party symbol. He feels that party leaders should return the donkey to the old-fashioned Democrats and the Fair Deal Democrats select their own symbol—a fish. "They've been dragging a red herring around for a long time," Austin said, "and current hopefuls are referring to a basket of slippery eels. With both, they've managed to catch a lot of suckers. I wonder, though, if the 1952 candidate ever stopped to think what would happen to his slippery eels and fish if the Republican elephant ever put his big foot in the middle of the basket?"

THE REACTIONS OF PARENTS and their children to the delay in opening Birmingham's schools was quite different. Several of the youngsters called The Eccentric office to see if their eyes were playing them tricks or not. Finding the printed word was correct, they all gave forth with loud expressions of joy. A parent or two who called, groaned slightly.

THE LOVELY GLADS which have graced the many desks at city hall these past few days are gifts from Russ Grinnell. Grinnell, superintendent at the city's disposal plant on Cranbrook road, raises these lovely blooms in his cornfield. "The corn protects them from the wind. Lets them grow taller and straighter," he explains.

CHARLES R. RENFREW, son of City Commissioner and Mrs. Charles Renfrew, 319 Henley, was included in the final honors list for the Princeton University class of 1952. Renfrew was honored for his work in the school of Public and International Affairs. Michael M. Carey, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Carey, 3770 Lahser, Bloomfield Hills, was awarded honors in psychology.

A NEW, IF SOMEWHAT embarrassing, way to meet the neighbors has come to Birmingham. This Wanderer has heard of a couple and their four-year old son, recently arrived here, who have the routine working very smoothly now, thank you. Every morning after the milk and bakery trucks have gone through, Sonny takes his little wagon and goes out to collect whatever items have been left on porches. After he has taken them all home, Mama takes Sonny and his little wagon and goes from door to door returning the stuff. She says she gets to know a lot of people that way, but wonders what their secret opinions of her son must be.

EARL R. BRAMBLETT, 824 Wembleton, scored a hole-in-one on the 165-yard 17th hole at Pine Lake Country Club Labor Day, to account for his third ace in golfing. Using a number four iron, Bramblett gained the ace while playing with H. T. Gierok, 1016 Lake Park, and George B. Morris, Jr., 719 Kennesaw. He had a one over par 74 for the 18 holes.

BIRMINGHAM'S SCHOOL CHILDREN were not the only ones who received an extra week's delay starting off to school this year. The youngsters in the nearby Farmington school district also got until Sept. 8 because classroom construction was not quite completed. Final repairs to Baldwin elementary school caused the local postponement.

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The Birmingham Eccentric

Returns from Trip To Italy with 12 Bells and a Hobby

By RUTH ANNE SILBAR
Special Writer for The Eccentric

Window shopping in Bolzano, Italy, started Henry L. Woolfenden of Kensington road, Bloomfield Hills on the interesting hobby of collecting and ringing bells.

The latter part of May of this year, Mr. and Mrs. Woolfenden flew over to Europe for a vacation, returning the first week in July on the Ile De France. They visited their old friends, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Noggle, formerly of Pontiac, in Munich for a week and from there the two families traveled together, visiting Italy.

Mr. Noggle, a former prosecuting attorney for Oakland County, now is in Munich as Chief U. S. Attorney. Mr. Woolfenden is an attorney with offices in Detroit and, like Mr. Noggle, a former resident of Pontiac.

On their way from Munich to Italy, they stopped at the little Italian town of Bolzano where Mrs. Woolfenden and Mrs. Noggle "look time out, to look around in the stores and do some shopping.

To while away the time, the two husbands window-shopped. Woolfenden's attention was drawn to a hardware store window where there was a large display of bronze bells. In Italy, these bells are usually tied on cows, sheep and goats, but they also can make music.

THE TWO MEN went into the store and began ringing bells—large ones and small ones—pitched high and low.

"The proprietor couldn't talk English," Woolfenden said, "and we couldn't talk Italian, but Don Noggle and the proprietor knew a little German so with that and a few gestures, we got along all right.

Over there, they chose shop from 12 noon till three and then open up again at three and stay open till eight in the evening," Woolfenden said. "It was almost noon when we went into the store, but we talked the proprietor into staying over the noon hour so we could select the bells we wanted."

WHEN WOOLFENDEN with the help of Don Noggle, finally made his selection, he had 12 bells—tuned in the key of C with a range of an octave and a half.

"We picked the bells out by the tone, and that Italian hardware dealer had hundreds, just hundreds of bells," Woolfenden reminisced. "They aren't quite true to tone and a musician would go nuts listening to them, but then I understand that sometimes carillon bells aren't quite true to tone, either."

With Woolfenden returned home, he built a framework of wood from which to hang the bells. He removed the clappers and now plays the bells with a small hammer.

"YOU CAN PLAY anything on these bells," Woolfenden said proudly, "provided it is in the key of C, doesn't have any sharps or flats and doesn't have any sharps or flats."

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HENRY WOOLFENDEN RAPS' OUT A MELODY
Italian bells in one octave (Eccentric Staff Photo)

Down to Earth

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME

Plan now for an outstanding garden in 1953.

If you are planning a trip, the anticipation is greater than the realization.

Dwarf fruit trees belong to the category of ornamental planting and the owners are always proud of them. Dwarf apple and pear trees are the most successful at this time. The gardener should have at least two of a variety or have a neighbor duplicate your variety in order to assure good pollination.

This type of fruit tree requires full sunlight, moist, fertile, and well drained soil. Their roots are shallow and must be planted with care, with the graft just above the surface. The lowest branch should originate at a point about 6 to 12 inches above the ground.

You will like dwarf fruit trees because they bear at an early age, the fruit is easily harvested, and their culture is easy for every gardener.

At the Brown and Southfield intersection, they have a master gardener in Robert Hulbert. His is the old fashioned garden which causes you to slow down when you come to that particular corner.

IN 1925 the lot to the east of the home was a sand lot where the three sons played. When they grew up dad was left with a low sandy lot to clean up "so the neighbors wouldn't think ill of the Hulberts". There are many trees like this one empty after having been a playground for active young people.

For the first step in building this lot up to the point of a "thing of beauty", Hulbert planted evergreens. The lowest branch should be placed at least 20 feet apart. Hemlock and spruce were selected for the primary border while Japanese yew were placed in from the primary border. Arborvitae were placed where they would be an accent and could be assured of plenty of sun on all sides.

"Tell folks to be sure and select only the varieties of yew for foundation planting," was his advice.

Then, as the years went by, he kept filling in the low areas with design "took care of itself".

Hulbert is a collector of lilies and chrysanthenums so these have been grown in trial gardens.

"Look at that compost pile!" I couldn't resist exclaiming.

"Yes, it is nice. That pile of black earth I am mulching my mums with is only ten months old. I take a layer of leaves, a layer of soil, and sprinkle with a good balanced fertilizer."

HULBERT has become very interested in lilies and has accepted the challenge of growing choice specimens from seed. Now that it is worth while when you are retired, even though it takes three years to come into bloom as it gives a person a real reason to look forward to tomorrow.

Boxwood is rarely seen in fine condition at this latitude. Hulbert recommends it as an attractive border for sun or shade. Your success with this plant depends on the "business" of the main tree. His original cuttings were from Waterworks Park and would make Williamsburg jealous. (I am starting some cuttings as of today.)

Lily of the Nile is the rare blue-pink lily in flower here. It sends out lush leaves in the spring. They disappear into the ground and this exotic lily blooms in August.

Annual dahlias are a fine investment and will give over 50 flowers per plant, each the right size for a vase. Be sure and place them two feet apart.

I AM STILL in the Hulbert garden, but I have a master gardener in Robert Hulbert. His is the old fashioned garden which causes you to slow down when you come to that particular corner.

Three September Shoots Scheduled For Club Members

Regular September shoots for the Birmingham Gun Club will be Saturday, Sept. 6 and Saturday, Sept. 20 with 10 target events on both days.

An added event, The Hunters Special, will be held on Saturday, Sept. 27, beginning at 12:30 p.m. Events will be a 10 target walk-up, 10 target merchandise, 50 target Jack Rabbit and a protection shoot.

Warren E. Bertolet, secretary, treasurer of the club, urges all members to participate in clean-up days at the new site on Labor Day, and September 7 and 21.

News copy submitted early necessarily is given preference over late items. So the "Early Bird" usually gets the space.

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