EMPLOYEES OF MacMANUS, JOHN AND ADAMS enjoy a modern coffee bar in the advertising firm's new office building at the corner of Woodward avenue and West Long Lake road, Bloomfield Hills. The new L-shaped building features the latest in lighting and ventilation engineering.

Bloodmobile Due Here Wednesday, January 21

The American Red Cross "Bloodmobile" will visit Oakland County six times this month to collect vitally-needed blood for the armed forces, civilian hospital patients, polio protection and civil defense.

The "Bloodmobile" will be at the Birmingham Community House from 3 until 6 p.m. Wednesday, January 21.

To buy or sell a used automobile, read and use Eccentric Classified Ads.

PEOPLE'S COLUMN
Baby Sitter Outlines Problems of the Job

To the Editor:

A few weeks ago I happend to run across an article in The Eccentric in regard to the baby sitters in Birmingham and what they should do and don't; things they are expected to do that do not come under the heading of baby sitting and the condition the sitters leave the homes in.

There are pros and cons on this matter. I, as an experienced baby sitter, mother and grandmother, heartily disagree with the writer's remarks against the sitters of today.

Baby sitting in the past few years has taken on a brand new title—work sitters.

When I first entered into this line, the children were usually in bed—or were ready to be put to bed soon after I arrived. The only purpose of engaging a sitter was to have a reliable and dependable person there to watch over the children.

Today, if you are engaged for an evening you are asked at times to bathe and get the children ready for bed. After this you try everything in the books to persuade them to get into their beds. All children are not of the same temperment. Some are very notional and at times refuse to cooperate with the sitter. That creates a problem for the sitter that she has to solve without the authority to descipline them. It becomes quite a racking situation.

THEN THERE are times the sitter is engaged for the day and evening.

This means preparing two meals, doing dishes and putting the children to bed. This, may I say, comes under the heading of "labor".

According to law a woman is not expected to work for less than 75 cents an hour, minimum wage. In spite of this, the majority of sitters have been working for 60 cents an hour. In these days that is a very inadequate income.

In my case—and I know of a great many others—a good share of my income is derived from baby sitting. Would the people who engage us care to work for what they pay us? I am sure that if they were to put themselves in our places, they would soon come up with an entirely different answer.

IN MY ESTIMATION there are three types of sitters: the teenagers; some who do not care to do anything but watch television or read and the reliable and dependable type who are glad to perform a few extra duties or favors without being asked, but would appreciate having the people at least extend them the courtesy of saying "thank you" or perhaps give them a bit of extra pay to show their gratitude.

It seems, though, that a number of parents would rather hire teenage girls that are not at all experienced, probably because they can get these services for less money.

In a case of fire, sickness, or other emergency which might arise, these young girls may not be capable of handling the situation. The services of an adult sitter should certainly be more valuable than the teenager, even though the fee is a bit higher.

Then too, you will find that it is the teenager who eats you out of house and home; has friends in during your absence and leaves your home looking as though a cyclone had gone through it.

I HAVE WALKED into a home for an evening of baby sitting when I could hardly find a place to step because of toys, books, etc., strewn about. The sitter is expected to have the place spic and span when the parents return home.

I do not think a sitter should be expected to clean house, get meals, wash dishes and bathe the children for 60 cents an hour. Nor should she be expected to leave the house cleaner than it was when she arrived. Since most homes have from two to four children, their care is enough for a sitter to perform.

Sitters also have to contend with problems of cancellation. We are engaged for a certain day or evening and given a set time to arrive. Naturally, we do not feel free to take other jobs for the same hours, but we often receive cancellations only an hour before we were to be at the home. In such cases, I feel we are entitled to a minimum fee of $2, or at least half of what we would have earned had we put in our time.

SINCE THIS engagement has made it impossible for us to accept others, we are left without income for that particular evening. In our work, as well as any business, we appreciate receiving notice in time to accept other assignments — at least three to four hours—or to receive the minimum cancellation fee.

I feel, too, that if one expects kindness and respect shown them, they, in turn, should extend the same to the sitter. Many people today put sitters in the class with servants, but each and every one is a refined, respectable woman and would fit into any home.

We go to homes, for the first time, as perfect strangers to the children and are expected to perform miracles.

I feel that a few have made the baby sitting problem in Birmingham a serious one that should certainly be corrected, not only in behalf of the sitter but for all concerned.

I would like to see a Baby Sitters' Club formed here, so each sitter would charge and receive the same fee for services rendered.

A UNDERSTANDING SITTER

(Editor's Note — We invite replies to this letter. Anyone caring to answer it may do so by addressing a letter to The People's Column. All must be signed, but if published, names will be withheld if requested.)

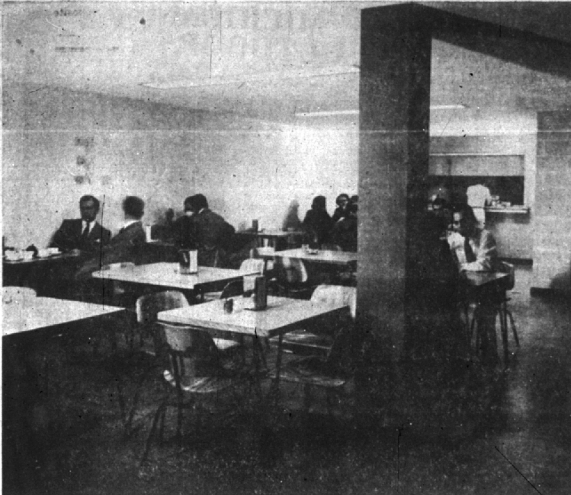## Chosen Homesite Would Block Street Extension

Detroiter R. F. Burke has asked Birmingham city officials to permit him to tap sewer and water services on Fairway drive to supply the home he proposes to build on Arden Lane. Burke expressed his intention of participating in any special assessment district which may later be created to cover costs of extending these services through Arden.

It was pointed out that the erection of the dwelling on the chosen site would block any future extension of Fairway from the west.

City Manager Donald C. Egbert, upon the request of commissioners, will consider the request with Birmingham's plan board.

NEED SOMETHING FOR YOUR HOUSE? Then locate it by reading or using the Classified Ads in The Eccentric each week.