

# THE COMMUTER'S WIFE

## Select a Name That Won't Be Handicap

By HELEN BRUNSON  
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

How many babies have you known named Butch? And how many grown men still struggling along under such nicknames as Fido, Fatso or just plain Fink? It's easy to call a cute tot by one of these nicknames, because it fits him at the time. But what will it sound like when he grows up?

These worse-than-ordinary labels are often pinned on some poor child who already has a name like Percival, Wilford or Clarence—real names that a child will conceal if he can, because people make fun of them. So even if your rich uncle carries such a name, better not bestow it on your boy—at least not for a first name. If you must christen him with a long name, let it be something that will sound dignified when he grows up and goes to congress, but results in a good nickname right now.

OR WHY NOT baptize your boy with a good one-syllable name to start with? (George and John are two old old favorites, and any boy would be proud of Hugh, Ross, Todd or Paul.)

The name the mother uses will usually stick. So if you don't like the nickname your small son has already fallen heir to, start using his real name and the neighborhood children will probably follow suit. By the time he gets to school his mischievous nickname will be forgotten.

Girls suffer less name-trouble than boys, because they are less subject to ribbing by their classmates. But girls who have names also used for boys like Leslie or Brooks, spend a lot of time explaining and are sometimes listed as the opposite sex in school or church records.

FAMILY NAMES are wonderful for both boys and girls, but are best preface by Ann, John or James.

Then there are the weird combinations parents sometimes concoct from their own names—like Normeth (son of Norman and Ethel). Such children spend a lifetime telling people how to spell the name, as do those whose parents select a common name, yet spell it in a strange way—such as Meri, Allyn.

IT'S NICE to name junior after his father, but calling them both by the same name results in much family confusion. We know one family where junior was always known as "Little Leonard" to distinguish him from big Leonard. Little Leonard is now six feet tall, but is still known as "Little Leonard."

What's in a name? Everything.

Many a very-ordinary product is selling fast on the market today because some smart advertiser pinned a good name on it. So we might as well do the same with the kids.

It's well to look into the future of the label we pin on the small-one who's too helpless now to object—and give him a name he can say with pride.



Helen Brunson

To be sure, today's world is confused, streaked with many malaises. But have concern rather than despair. The face of things—deep within the human spirit—are wondrous areas yet to be developed. In good time they will blossom.

### PEOPLE'S COLUMN

## Credits Eccentric With Reuniting Her with Teacher

To the Editor:

ALL the people, from Editor & Publisher George R. Averill, right down to the persons who wrapped last week's 75th Anniversary Edition of The Birmingham Eccentric, are hereby not only offered my sincere thanks, my heartiest congratulations, but also I am going to let you in on a big secret!

Last Wednesday afternoon as soon as I got the biggest red apple I can find—all polished and shiny—I am going to call on the teacher.

And you, Dear Eccentric brought this about. Last Wednesday forenoon I received a clipping from a friend in Birmingham.

THE CLIPPING was a "People's Column" letter from a former teacher in Birmingham—Corra Kier—who is married and has lived in Alabama for a number of years. Longer than I have lived here, I think.

At noon I talked to Mrs. Clarke Fulkerson. You'll understand, Eccentric, I was all choked up, but VERY happy inside.

I tried to recall how Corra Kier looked. It's a difficult thing to do, but I am sure I came very close to a beautiful young woman with lovely blond hair, all over curly!

Well, Mrs. Fulkerson better not bring out of her mind an old picture of me with long pigtails and a lovely little girl smile!

THIS IS TRULY A Believe-It-Or-Not right here in Kalamazoo—and teacher and pupil so long ago unknown to each other.

(Can you understand how wonderful you are? You do not need to understand for folks like myself who love you, The Birmingham Eccentric—your paper, ink, men and women's endeavors—know.)

My father, George H. Mitchell, told me the Mitchell, the Whitehead families and I am enjoying all the people who worked for your furtherance now and then love you truly.

CARRIE ELIZABETH MITCHELL  
209 W. Dutton St.  
Kalamazoo 42, Mich.

### Sheriff Hubbell Explains Status Of Letter Writer

To the Editor:

Last week in The Birmingham Eccentric appeared a "People's Column" letter commenting on the speed limit and the attitude of motorists using Lincoln Avenue in the City of Birmingham.

The letter was signed "Oakland County Deputy Sheriff."

It should be noted that the letter is a special deputy with other words, not a regular paid deputy of the county. Such special deputies are used only in emergencies.

MY DEPARTMENT always has received the best of cooperation from the Birmingham police department and it is not our practice to stick our nose into some other departments' traffic problems.

I was not consulted on the letter and knew nothing of it until I found it in The Eccentric. The writer was acting entirely on his own. We had nothing whatsoever to do with it.

CLARE L. HUBBELL  
Sheriff of Oakland County

### Suggests Shuttle Bus For East Side of City

To the Editor:

If there were a shuttle bus on the east side of Birmingham, far more highway could stop in Birmingham. What about it?

MRS. L. BRUNKE  
1165 Eton Rd.

### 2-Car Accident Brings Injuries

Two men were slightly injured in a two-car accident at Humeau boulevard and Woodward avenue Thursday night.

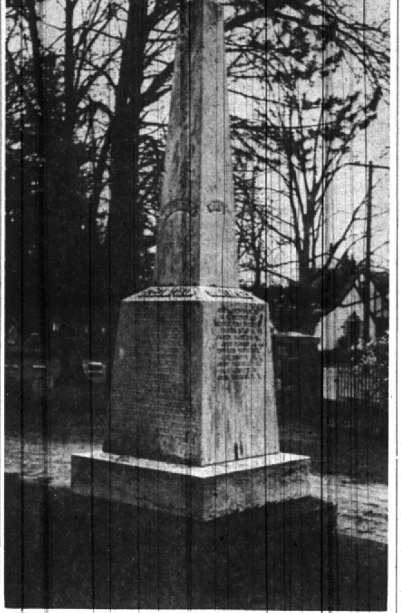
Injured were Larry P. Hedge, 24 of 17256 Westbrook, Detroit, who was treated for a wrist injury at Portage General Hospital, and a passenger in a car driven by his wife, Mary Lee, 23.

Hedges told Oakland County sheriff's deputies he did not see the Wilson automobile. The car had one headlight, he said, and was driven by another car shortly before the accident occurred.

# The Birmingham Eccentric

## Birmingham Background

### Local History in Story and Picture



STOOD 28 YEARS IN CENTER OF VILLAGE Then moved to Greenwood Cemetery in 1897

## Soldier's Father Gave Town Its War Memorial

In 1869 a memorial monument was erected in honor of the soldiers from Troy, Bloomfield, Royal Oak and Southfield townships in Oakland county, who were killed in the Union service or died as the result of illness contracted while serving.

High Irving, a Birmingham hardware dealer, whose son William was killed in the conflict, promoted the erection of the monument at the end of the Civil War. He took great pride in exhibiting a fine model of the proposed memorial in his store.

As far as can be determined, Mr. Irving paid the entire cost of the completed soldiers' monument for there is no record of any popular subscription to defray any of the expense.

WILLIAM IRVING was a lad in his teens when he enlisted. He was one of the first to enlist in the Civil War and was one of the first killed in the early days of the conflict. He was fighting a cannon when a Confederate bullet struck him in the forehead, killing him instantly.

His father went south in search of the body and after a long and agonizing quest, finally found the remains of his son. The body was brought home and the young hero was laid to rest in the family lot in Greenwood cemetery.

The monument was placed in the center of Birmingham at the intersection of Woodward and Maple, then called Saginaw and Mill streets. It stood on a grassy plot of ground, the site being enclosed by a handsome iron fence. There it stood an ornamental looking memorial to local patriotism until May 1890 when it was removed to rest in the cemetery by D. M. Doty, a marble dealer of Southfield.

John Allen Bigelow and a few other civil war veterans in the community chose the site for the monument from several offered by the Cemetery Association.

THE SHAFT of the monument is of veined marble about 20 feet high, and upon its base are inscribed the names of the soldiers from the four townships who gave their lives for the Union. On the monument is cut this inscription: "Erected by the citizens of the above towns, 1869."

Bloomfield is represented by the following: James Grinley, D. (died); Oscar F. Drake, K. (killed); Orville A. Drake, D.; Kelly, D.; Malcolm Carter, K.; Peter Lewis, D.; Alpheus Madden, D.; Andrew Simpson, D.; B. F. Leach, D.; John Hollinshead, D.; William Potter, D.; William Hollinshead, K.; James Davie, D.; Omer Fall, K.; Henry Lewis, D.; John Leach, D.; O. L. Bassett, D.; A. J. Stone, D.; George Briggs, K.; John French, D.; Truston Talbot, D.; James Briggs, K.; Frank Brown, D.; Isaac C. Morgan, K.; Byron McGraw, D.; James Geer, D.; T. J. Barnum, D.; Robert Lowe, D.; William Leving, K.

### The Town Was Mighty Sore!

"How's your left arm?" That was the question the people in Birmingham were asking each other on a spring day in 1881.

For it was in April of that year that Dr. James Post and Dr. C. M. Raynolds were kept busy vaccinating all the inhabitants of the village (by order of the village board) for small pox.

This was the first community-wide vaccination in Birmingham. Nearly every left arm in the Village was scratched by the doctors and while many citizens were afterwards sick from the results of the vaccination, no outbreak of small pox occurred.

In nearby Pontiac, small pox at that time had reached epidemic proportions.

July 1st at the Navy Shipyard is Donald W. Parr, aviator and prize man third class, USN, son of Mrs. Violet Parr of Birmingham.

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## 1953 Shows 50% Drop In Traffic Accidents Here

A decrease of about 50 per cent is reported for accidents in June compared to the same month last year. Property damages are approximately one-third the June 1952 figure.

A similar decrease is shown in a summary report for the first six months of the two years, when 1952 recorded 154 mishaps and property damages amounting to \$46,820. The current year had a report of 83.13 in damages and 137 accidents.

For the past month the totals were 17 accidents and \$3,520 in property damages. May 1953 was 23 accidents and \$7,865 in damages.

DURING THE past month nine persons suffered injuries in five mishaps. There were no fatalities.

Violations indicated in the accidents were three improper turns, two each for drunk and under the influence of liquor, disregarding stop signs, following too closely and car not under control; one each for defective brakes, improper parking location, right of way violations and improper passing.

The year so far has seen 32 persons hurt in 22 accidents as compared to 35 in 25 mishaps last year. Both six-month periods were fatality free.

## Fire Threats Are Highest In Summer

If you have a vacant lot next door to you or in the rear of your home that has grown up with high weeds, every precaution should be taken when burning papers, rubbish, etc., adjacent to it.

During these dry summer months the danger from grass fires is increased and more prevalent. Grass and high weeds should be cut down and raked up as much as possible, especially away from garages, out-buildings and shrubbery.

With a slight breeze a grass fire can travel further and do more damage in less time than it takes to call the fire department.

If you HAVE grass or rubbish to burn, you should first come to the fire department and apply for a permit to burn.

The men on duty will tell you if you are in an area where burning is permissible and if the wind conditions are right for burning. If a permit will be issued to you free of charge.

Don't burn yours or the neighbor's garage or shrubbery. Play it safe! Check with the fire department for a permit and approval, then survey the area to determine if, should the fire get away from you, would it cause any damage.

A GARDEN hose and a broom would be of great assistance in controlling a grass fire until the fire department arrives. If you need them, have the charged hose handy and in place, with the water shut-off at the nozzle, prior to starting a grass fire. Then, necessary, you can bring it quickly in play.

Remember, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure!" Birmingham Fire Department

## Roger Booth Receives Naval Academy Award

ANNAPOLIS, Md.—Midshipman First Class Roger G. Booth, son of Air Force Col. William G. Booth and Mrs. Booth, 1951 Graduate of the Naval Academy, was recently awarded the Mac Short Award for having displayed the most marked interest and practical aptitude for a career in Naval Aviation.

The presentation was made by Mrs. Mac Short at ceremonies preceding graduation, here, at the Naval Academy.

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