

# BITS OF BIRMINGHAM

ONE OF BIRMINGHAM'S most successful bloodbanks was held July 22 under the sponsorship of the Newcomers Club, when 186 pints of blood were donated for the troops in Korea. Mrs. Bradley Pruden, Red Cross chairman of volunteers, said there were 67 "first time" donors, showing the club's campaign had really paid off. "It was very gratifying," she said, "to have such a splendid response. We not only received such a good return but had to turn a number of volunteers away because reservations had not been made and we were not staffed to handle more persons."

THE THRILL of a lifetime came to Jerry and Bobby King of 1821 Holland Saturday morning when they found a bat near their home. Suspended upside down and with folded wings, the creature was enjoying a nap when discovered. Fascinated by the bat as they subjected it to a close examination, the boys took it around to show the "gang"—and thereby met a minor tragedy—the bat got away!

THE HONOR AND PRESTIGE of the Birmingham Lions club was defended by club zollers Joe Moery, Dick Young, Jack Andrews and Hal Bierge at the annual state tourney in Battle Creek July 28. Sorry, no details. Speaking for the entire aggregation Hal said there would not be time to get the scores back to The Eccentric before press time!

NEWEST ROTARIAN is Stuart E. Sheill, 1690 E. Maple, who was inducted into the Birmingham club Monday noon by Club President Ed Pool.

A FOLLOWER of this column called in a day or two ago to offer a remedy to residents who have had racoons raiding their garbage cans. Through her own experience our informant said she had found that cakes of deodorizer, sold nearly everywhere, are as effective in discouraging animals as they are in killing odors and driving insects away. "We once had trouble with dogs opening and tipping our garbage can," she said, "but not since we put one of these cakes on the underside of the lid."

IN THE FORMATIVE STAGES are Birmingham Rotarians' plans to purchase a \$2,000 station wagon which the Oakland County Society for Crippled Children can use to transport youngsters between their homes and the doctor's offices. Taxis now are being used. Tentative plans call for Easter seal sales, a newspaper sale, and a dance on Sept. 12 to provide the funds for the wagon.

TWO "CONVERSATION PIECES" will be offered for sale when the Grosse Ile Rotary giant farm, home, garden sale gets underway Saturday, Aug. 1 at the Grosse Ile Community Center. Among the hundreds of items will be two socialized baby strollers being sold to help raise funds for the Rotary's youth development program.

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You no doubt know, fairly well, quite a number of people, and so do I; but when I really appreciate them I find that so few of them are possessed of a kind of calmness about their routine lives—many of them as full of "rush" as a hurricane... explain calm.

# The Birmingham Eccentric

SECTION 2  
Thursday, July 30, 1953

## Finds His Countrymen Grateful for U.S. Aid

"If you want to get more for your American dollar, go to Italy," might be the advice of Dominic Caputo, 688 Chester, and owner of the Birmingham Community Market.

He has just returned from spending five weeks with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Carmezano in southern Italy. It was in 34 years, and his first reunion with his parents in 27 years.

"Italy," he said, "is pretty well off economically. The war damages are well evident there than in other European countries for the people are working as hard as they can to rebuild and obliterate the signs of destruction."

"Everywhere I went I found the people overwhelmingly grateful for what the United States has done to help them. There are a few, the minority group which favors the Communists and run this country down, but they are only about one in a thousand."

"This small group maintains that the United States is trying to gain another war for 'capitalistic gain'."

THE POLITICAL picture, Caputo said, is not so smooth. At the

elections last June, there were 50 parties on the ticket.

"While the small parties cannot hope to win, they do take votes from others and do their damage that way."

"The powers who are anti-Communist are holding the majority of power because the Christian Democrats and the Monarchists joined forces in defeating the rest."

"So that as it may, we have nothing to fear from the majority of the Italian people. They want peace."

THE BIRMINGHAM merchant found himself in one small community where his knowledge of Italian did him no good.

"I can read it and write it," he said, "and I thought I could speak it, but not in this one section. The dialect was very heavy and I had to find someone to interpret for me."

"I had some trouble with money too. Their money varies in size and color, along with the value. The greater the value the larger the bill. That bothered me quite a bit."

"Another thing was the fact that notes corresponding to our pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters and smaller bills, are printed for change only. They won't buy a thing. During the day I'd collect a lot of this change. It was such a nuisance to me that every morning I'd clean out my pockets and give it to my little niece to play with."

CAPUTO FOUND himself a "rich" man when he finished changing 300 American dollars into Italian lire—he had 185,400 of them, making him very well off indeed.

He cited as an example one "very exclusive" resort near his parents' home. Only a small group of persons in the country can afford to

## British Cadets Guests Tonight At Open House

The 25 British Air Cadets guests of the Birmingham and Royal Oak Civil Air Patrol squadrons, already well launched on their program of five days' activities in this area. The group was met Wednesday by the squadrons at Selfridge field and after lunch at the homes here, began a tour of "typical American living."

The program opened with a movie Wednesday evening at a drive-in theater in Royal Oak.

Thursday (today) started with an assembly at the new Birmingham high school when the cadets were greeted by Mayor Ralph Main who extended the best wishes of the city.

A tour of Cranbrook, lunch at diner, swimming at Walnut Lake and back to their hosts' homes for dinner will lead to the day's climax.

The program will include a tour of the Plymouth plant and luncheon and dinner at the Sheraton hotel, Detroit, when the British cadets will be guests of the Aero Club.

Saturday's schedule includes a conducted tour of Detroit's Fishpot building, the J. L. Hudson store and a banquet given by the Briggs Manufacturing company.

Activities for Sunday, the final day, are light. Cadets will attend church services, time permitting, and will return to Selfridge for departure to the east at noon.

LOCAL HOSTS will be Mr. and Mrs. Frank Cooper Mr. and Mrs. William Heyniger, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. O. S. Koskinen; Mr. and Mrs. Richard Mangle, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Noyes, Mr. and Mrs. William Old, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Reed, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Schaefer, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Schinnick, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Thakston, Mr. and Mrs. William Teubel, Mrs. Olive Tillotson and Mr. and Mrs. G. S. Barr.

Officers of the B-RO squadron who have had charge of the visit include Maj. R. E. Nelson, Capt. R. E. Berkey, 1st Lt. J. Banyay, 2nd Lt. W. A. Tessel, 2nd Lt. H. J. Hens, 2nd Lt. Robert Doyle, H. O. C. Wert and W/O E. J. Kempf.

## Birmingham Resident Recalled into Navy

Dr. J. D. Green, M.D., 347 South Glenhurst drive, has been recalled by the Navy for an additional tour of 18 months' active duty. Dr. Green will leave July 30 for California where he will spend a month in San Francisco studying atomic medicine.

Dr. Green will return early in 1955. His practice which is being handled during his absence by Dr. R. E. Gibson, 1011 Hazel street.

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