

Gentle Art of Being A Bore—Some Women Have It to a 'T'!

By HELEN BRUNSON

Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

"You may have been a headache but you never were a bore," says a popular song.

Most of us would prefer a headache any time. For almost daily we find ourselves on the listening end of a "conversation" that couldn't possibly interest anyone except the person who's talking.

We've heard a lot about Old Bores. But you don't have to be old. Far from it. Some of the best bores of all times are our children, who monopolize mealtimes with incessant chatter about classmates, teachers, happenings at school.

Some of the Marys and Sues mentioned, we've never seen, but from all we've heard about them, we know them very well. Sometimes this type of bore has to be stopped short in the middle of a long sentence—just to prove that there are other people around with something to say. That's a good practice too, lest we allow another thorough-going bore to grow up that way.



Helen Brunson

OF COURSE THE Old Bore does exist. Older people, seeing little in the future for them, naturally look back on past glories. And even if it does prove dull and we've heard it many times before, it almost behooves us to listen. We may be looking for an audience ourselves someday.

Surgical Bores, who want to tell us about The Operation have almost been laughed out of the conversation. But this type still thinks she deserves a hearing, considering what she's been through and what it cost her.)

A woman with minor ailments often recites them at great length. You don't dare say, "How are you?" to her, or she'll tell you, down to the last ache and pain. It takes particular self-discipline not to talk about illness, but such talk brands a woman as old. Young people usually aren't sick, and don't dwell on illness.

The Obstretical Bore, the mother who's just had a baby, can be deadly in this way: Encouraged by the kindly company at sewing circle or card club, she retells all the horrendous details of her experience. Since she was the star of this show, you can hardly blame her for thinking it's important. But often there is present a young wife about to have her first child. She's frightened out of her wits by what she hears.

MOTHERS OF BABIES and small children should always flock together. Overcome by the great experience of motherhood, they talk of little else but formulas, driers and "my pediatrician".

Since their whole time is consumed with this job of theirs, perhaps they can be forgiven, but they should confine these conversations to other young mothers, who can get the floor once in a while.

Grandmothers who carry snapshots of the children and recite their every cute saying, should visit with other grandmothers, for the same reason.

Dale Carnegie maintains that there are only two classes of people—the bores and the listeners.

The bores want to talk about themselves and the listeners—if they want to be popular, must lend an ear. Sometimes that's quite a price to pay for popularity.

Ever watch the faces of people as they pass you on the street? . . . so many of them revealing the interest, some impatience, some worry, some immediate concern? How few of us shed 5 or 10 cents, the joy sought to become contagious to many others.

Eagles Top Farm League In Standings

The Eagles, leaders in the American League of the Little League's farm system all season, finished in first place by defeating the Rams, 11 to 5, in their final game.

The victory was needed as the Steelers beat the Packers, 7 to 1, and the 49'ers trounced the Wildcats, 14 to 2, to finish right on the Eagles' heels. They tied for second.

In the other American league game, the Lions and the Bulldogs game, the Lions and the Bulldogs tied 5 and will play again this week.

A FEW FARM teams had to press volunteers into service to round out their vacation-riddled rosters last week.

Typical of the resulting confusion was 12-year-old Ted Binder's experience. He pitched for the Rockets, his regular team, Wednesday and shut out the Bears, 2 to 0.

The next night he was at Torrey field and was asked to fill in at shortstop for the Panthers. His two some-uns in this game helped beat the Colts, 9 to 5.

In other National league farm games, the champion Cardinals defeated the Texans, 23 to 0, while the Redskins trampled the Bisons, 12 to 0.

Final Standings*

| American League | Won | Lost |
|-----------------|-----|------|
| Eagles | 6 | 1 |
| Redskins | 5 | 2 |
| 49'ers | 5 | 2 |
| Lions | 3 | 3 |
| Rams | 3 | 4 |
| Bulldogs | 2 | 4 |
| Wildcats | 2 | 5 |
| Packers | 1 | 6 |

| National League | Won | Lost |
|-----------------|-----|------|
| Cardinals | 7 | 0 |
| Redskins | 4 | 3 |
| Rockets | 4 | 3 |
| Colts | 4 | 3 |
| Bisons | 3 | 4 |
| Bears | 3 | 4 |
| Panthers | 2 | 5 |
| Texans | 1 | 6 |

*Except for Lions-Bulldogs play-off game.

Summer Rifle Classes End This Week; Plan Awards Presentation

Another competitive shoot was held by the summer rifle class at the police pistol range this week. Each entrant fired a 20-round course.

Alan Gernick took top honors with 19 points; Bill Pope, 15; Philip Brown, 12; Ford Kamin, 9 and Duane Bixby, 5.

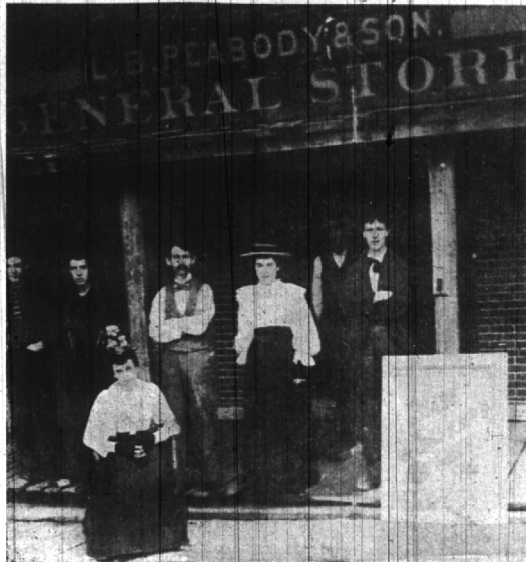
Gornick holds the range record for the summer with an 85 out of a possible 100. Pope is second with a 78 score.

July 31 marks the end of the training which has been each week-day morning. Awards, on the basis of accuracy and safety in handling firearms will be presented at this time.

Bill Pope, with an average of 53 for the entire training, leads the class, followed by Gornick's 42. Pope also holds the lowest throw-away average.

Birmingham Background

• Local History in Story and Picture •



TIME WAS WHEN places like this were the greatest source of local news, barring even the newspaper. Here neighbors met and gossiped, the men folk being better at it than the ladies, as they gathered around the cracker barrel or perched on the edge of the plank porch. The Lyman B. Peabody store was located at the southwest corner of Woodward and Maple (then known as Sarginaw and Troy), facing Woodward. Here one could purchase almost any household need and a number of items for the family, farm and livestock. The Eccentric has been unable to get the identity of the gentleman on the extreme left of this photo, but others are Asa Riffenburg, J. Bert Peabody, Florence Peabody Evans, Mr. Hutchinson and Charlie Leonard. Ella Johnson Parks is seated in the foreground.

Wins One, Loses Another In Matches at Muskoka

Leon Bramley of Bloomfield Hills, member of the Birmingham Tennis Club, teamed with Tom Moore of Roanoke, Va., last week to win the men's doubles tournament on the Cleveleys House courts, Lake Rosseau, Muskoka, Ontario.

Ray C. Sackett of Birmingham, former president of the Birmingham Tennis Club, also participated. He was paired with Taylor Iams of Pittsburgh.

Bramley also was a finalist in the mixed doubles event. His partner was Miss Lucille Daoust of Montreal, Quebec. They lost to Miss Ester McKellar of Galt, Ontario, and William Shoemaker, Jr., of Buffalo, New York.

Bargains galore in Want Ads.

At Colorado Camp For ROTC Training

William A. Miller, 855 Madison, began six weeks' training at Camp Carson, Colo., June 29 as a Corps of Engineer's Reserve Officer Training Corps Cadet. Upon completion of his college training in advanced ROTC and college courses at Michigan State College in June 1954, he will be commissioned a second lieutenant in the Army Corps of Engineers.

During his stay at Camp Carson, Miller also will be afforded chances to take scenic tours in the Colorado Springs area, including trips to Pike's Peak, the Garden of the Gods and the Royal Gorge, and to participate in athletic contests sponsored by the ROTC camp.

Completes 31 Years On B'ham Payroll

By ALICE E. MORGAN

From March 1921 to July 1953, is a long time to work for one "boss," but Fred J. Aldred, 1029 S. Adams has just completed that record.

However, although all his pay checks came from the same source during these many years, Aldred worked for many, many bosses, with a constantly changing picture. He has been an employee of the Village or City of Birmingham all these years.

Starting as a meter reader and a janitor in 1921, Aldred remained in that capacity for 10 years, when he became plumbing and electrical inspector. In 1948 he became a special aide in the city's engineering department.

SINCE HIS "retirement," Aldred has been working with the South Oakland County garbage and rubbish disposal authority on its land fill program. He is currently assigned to the project at the West Maple dump.

"I don't know just where I'll be after this," he said, "but I'll be doing something. I've worked too many years to sit down now."

Aldred, 70 years old, is the city's oldest employee in terms of service. Upon the official date of his retirement, July 15, he was presented a wrist watch by fellow employees.

Aldred has seen many changes in the community during his term of employment. He has watched it grow from an easy-going country village to a thriving, rapidly-growing city.

He has seen sections of farm land become parts of the community and in a matter of months develop into thickly populated subdivisions.

In his work he has helped construct facilities which have been engaged time after time to meet the demands of an increasing population. He has seen water and sewer systems double and triple their sizes and still expand to meet greater and greater needs.

Aldred, as plumbing and electric inspector, has had a part in the growth of private holdings in the village and later in the city, as more and more homes and commercial buildings were needed and completed.

HE HAS GONE through the years of great want and great plenty with the community, and remembers that during the depression of the Thirties, there was no shortage of help.

"There were plenty of men around in those days," he recalls, "who worked for the city to pay their taxes and buy food for their families. The fire department handled the commissary and a lot of their business was done on a work-exchange basis."

"The war years were different. Then the dollars were plentiful but getting enough men to handle the jobs which had to be done was pretty hard."

Aldred, in addition to a gift of a watch from fellow employees, was honored Monday by Birmingham city commissioners when they ordered a special resolution entered into the minutes of the meeting, citing his many years of service.



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