

**Have You Met . . .**  
 Former residents of West Palm Beach, Fla., Mr. and Mrs. David R. Moulton, the Moultons and their

seven month old daughter, Alice Fairchild, moved to 695 Greenfield Court in May. Moulton is an engineer.

**Building Permits Increase During First Half of '53**

Construction in Birmingham during the first six months of 1953 has jumped \$595,100 over the like period for last year.  
 To date 260 permits have been issued amounting to \$4,076,905. The 1952 report showed 423 permits totaling \$3,483,508.  
 During the past month a \$400,000 alteration permit was issued to the Birmingham board of education for the expansion program at Terry school.  
 Another extensive remodeling started in the past six months is the \$180,000 project at St. James church, which includes the remodeling and enlargement of the building.

PERMITS ISSUED in June included 42 single family homes at \$692,300; alterations on 16 private dwellings, \$13,735; 30 private garages, \$21,700; 2 business places, \$17,000 and 4 business alterations; \$108,500.  
 A permit was also issued to Hugh Keyes, for the construction of a six-unit terrace at the corner of Putney and North Adams at a cost of \$50,000.

**Attending Insurance Sessions in Boston**

William W. Manning, 556 W. Lincoln, local representative of the New England Mutual Life Insurance company, is attending an intensive 10-day course at the company's home office in Boston covering the latest developments in the application of life insurance to business, estate and family protection problems.  
 He is one of 26 men representing agencies ranging from New York to California who qualified on the basis of their outstanding field records to participate in the course.  
 A graduate of Wabash college, Manning is associated with the company's Fraser E. Pomroy agency in Detroit.

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**Collector Seeking History of Bells**

By ALICE E. MORGAN

There's no cause for alarm if one hears bells ringing at odd times at 748 Suffield, for the lady of the house, Mrs. Berriett G. Ketchum collects bells as her hobby.

Starting only about a year ago, she already has nearly a hundred, each a different type, each for a different purpose and of many different materials from sturdy bell metal to delicate glass.

The latest arrival is the bell which, for a number of years, has summoned the porpoises to dinner at the Marine Studios in Marineland, Fla.

This bell, now a soft grayish green from its many trips beneath the water, began its odd duty in 1938 when the first oceanarium was opened. For four years, during the war, it lay idle while the oceanarium was closed, but since 1948 has been regularly announcing

chow time for the porpoise, clown fish and other denizens.

STUDIO ATTENDANTS say that when the bell is submerged it does not ring, but gives a dull clinking vibration which quickly summons the hungry porpoise to the feeding stage where he eats from the keeper's hand and performs clownishly for the crowds which gather to watch.  
 This bell has just arrived at the

Ketchum home, and holds a place of honor beside a large highly polished bell which saw many years of duty on a locomotive for the Detroit Terminal company.

The inner surface of the locomotive bell has a deep groove worn around it from constant hammering by the slapper as it rang out its messages and signals throughout the years. This bell, weighing about 55 pounds, is the largest of the collection.

DELICATE filigree and sections of mother of pearl trim make the silver bell from an old southern mansion a thing of beauty and romance.

Other bells in Mrs. Ketchum's collection are made of frail chip and some of glass. One, of sand which glass from the New England states, has a clear, true tone, holding the sound until it fades to a murmur.

Mrs. Ketchum has many bells from foreign countries, including the monkey god bell from Italy. Returning to Birmingham with this bell after a vacation in the south, the Ketchums were involved in an accident.

Laughingly, Mrs. Ketchum attributes their mishap to the anger of the monkey god, saying the presence of a delicate china bell, in the shape of an angel, was probably what saved them from more serious injury.

SHE HAS an old bell from a Redford school, which has summoned many a laggard to class; bells of Bohemian glass, china, silver and metals probably little used today in the making of bells of the collection, so far as material is concerned, is one made of Mexican lava. Needless to say, the bell will never become famous for its true sound, but yet it is not unpleasant to the ear.

There is a boat landing bell which saw duty guiding the Mississippi river boats safely to their docks. One, small and made of brass, is a goat bell from France while two others, with their typical flat tone, were used among the sheep herds in the Milford area many years ago.

THERE'S A goose-neck gong from a Michigan lumber camp, a tuned harness set which has seen many cold winter rides gay and dashing. Another tuned set was used by a Chinese vendor of sweetmeats.

"There's just one thing wrong with bell collecting," Mrs. Ketchum said, "and that is because so little is known about them. Nothing accurate has ever been written about the history of bells."

"Every 'authority' has a different opinion, some coincide, some do not. One bell may have three or four different stories about it."

"I'm hoping to hear from other bell collectors, and perhaps gather some authentic information on the history of bells in general. My aim then, is to write something on them and perhaps be able to compile a book of bell history which will really give the true and romantic story of them all."

"IT IS surprising, the number of persons who are interested in bells who do not own any. Bells have played an deep a part in our lives, religious, industrial, every phase that they are interesting to many."

"I hope that I may hear from others who collect them or those who know some of the facts about them."

"When collectors are kind enough to contact me, I like to

visit them, and see the bells they have. Some, like my own, are rare, and some, like others of mine are quite common.

"In my collection I am trying to get bells which have a story rather than selecting them for their tone or material."

"THE PORPOISE dinner bell is an example. It has an unusual story and I wondered if I might have it in the event the studio replaced it. I simply asked about it, and months later was told it could be mine if I cared to purchase a replacement."

"I did and they tell me the new bell works just as well as the old one."

Are you thinking of buying a new home? Then read the "For Sale—Houses" columns on the Classified Ad page of this week's Eclectic.

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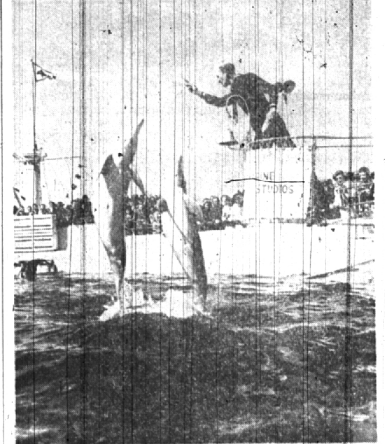
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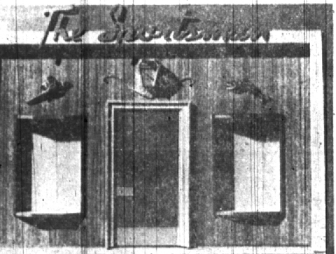
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