

**WE HEARD IT SAID BY—**

DEAN G. BEIER, Birmingham city commissioner: "The thought today in planning subdivisions is to keep away from the long-used 'grid system' of street layout. Rather, the object today seems to be give the subdivision a main entrance and curving streets."

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**By the yard, life's hard;  
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**SAVE A LITTLE REGULARLY HERE**

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Woodward at Maple      Berkley Branch: 3055 W. 12 Mile Rd.



**ATLANTIC FLEET (FHTNC)**—Serving in the Supply Department aboard the battleship USS Missouri is Navy Ensign Vernon K. Little, Supply Corps. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Little of 1568 Henrietta, and is a graduate of North-Western University. (Official U.S. Navy Photograph)

**NATURE NOW  
Animal Life Depends  
On Plants for Energy**

By LYDIA KING FREHSE  
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Civilization received a great impetus when primitive man began to till the soil. Armed with what crude implements he could fashion, he was now in a position to cultivate plants and thereby to control his food supply. Thus freed from the constant pressure of hunger, he could gradually give up his nomadic ways to establish a home and a community.

In the years between, man has acknowledged the dependence of the soil by developing a science called agriculture. By means of scientific cultivation and irrigation have increasingly become the implements of our culture and the foundation of our prosperity. Now as then, there is no other food source for man or beast than the starches, oils, and sugars which are formed when the sun shines on a green leaf.

Once more autumn has brought us to an abundant harvest. On my desk is the fall crop report from the state department of agriculture. Its estimates will be well within a small margin of error.

**SINCE WE** do not think of Michigan as a leading agricultural state, I was surprised to read that it yet ranks first in the United States in its production of sour cherries, cantaloupe and pickles and second in the production of field beans, carrots and celery.

In addition, the following Michigan crops rank nationally within the top six: oats, sugar beets, red clover seed, apples, pears, grapes, sweet cherries, asparagus, green beans, leeks, strawberries, sweet corn, tomatoes, peppermint and maple products.

Within our state the crop report estimates that with the exception of oats, yields of all field crops are expected to be above average. Only corn and field beans will be below last year's yield. Fortunately the dry weather came too late to do positive damage to most Michigan crops.

Although our major yield of agricultural products is fruits and vegetables, the 1953 wheat crop is a record for our state.

**THE ESTIMATE** of 43,837,000 bushels is 29 per cent above last year's figures. Other important grain estimates are: corn, 77,805,000 bushels and oats, 48,500,000 bushels. The potato yield will reach 10,545,000 bushels, field

beans 41,500,000 pounds and soy beans 2,316,000 bushels.

Some cherries lead our Michigan fruit crops with a harvest of 77 thousand tons. The season's yield of apples will be about 8,094,000 bushels, of peaches 3,080,000 bushels.

Within our state are some 106,824 commercially producing farms, whose average size is 111 acres. In 1956, 47 per cent of the state's 365 million acres of land area was incorporated in farms.

As a nation we are harvesting this autumn the third largest crop ever recorded for the United States. June brought good corn and good wheat and good harvesting conditions for early grains.

But the severe drought in the central and southern great plains did great damage to orchards, to pastures and live stock.

**UNITED STATES** corn crop estimates have reached 2,230,000,000 bushels and the wheat estimate is 1,203,000,000 bushels. The 1953 aggregate harvest of deciduous fruit harvest for the United States is about 1 per cent less than in 1952 and 8 per cent below average.

These direct plant crops indirectly produce a secondary harvest of milk and dairy products, poultry and live stock. This is an equally important artery in our food supply and in our production income.

Back of this immense harvest is a lonely figure. He is often misunderstood, he is sometimes ridiculed. Frequently he is labeled as ignorant and unskilled. He is the American farmer.

**BUT GRADUALLY** during the last 25 years his status has improved. The machine has come to his rescue. Science champions his cause. Government subsidies have given him a new security.

He has shaken the hay seeds out of his hat, hung up his lattered straw hat, retired the old nag and the surrey with the fringe on top. He has put on a suit of tailor-made clothes and climbed into his shiny automobile to emerge as a full-fledged business man.

His interests and abilities have grown to match his added opportunity. He is a citizen to be admired and respected for his important contribution to our national economy.

Now that the United States must feed not only her own 160 million people but contribute increasingly to the support of a hungry world, food production takes on an importance far beyond selfish gain or personal well-being.

**NOW MORE THAN** ever hunger is the pivot point upon which rests the destiny of the world. Not only production but the distribution and wise use of our great surplus has become both a national and an international issue.

The farmer has come down from his lofty perch on the old rail fence. Altogether his position has grown so strong that it may be his vote which will be the decisive factor in determining who is to be the next occupant of the White House.

**WE HEARD IT SAID BY—**  
MRS. JAMES FLACK, 18196 West 13 Mile: "We, in the Congregational Church of Birmingham, realize, perhaps more than other groups, just how valuable The Eccentric's church page is. Being a new church, we find that several persons have learned about the organization through the church page. We feel this section is doing a real service to both the churches and the community."

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**PLAY IT SAFE!**

**Cold Weather Means Extra Furnace Care**

Any source of heat is a potential fire hazard unless so arranged that the chance of dangerous temperatures in adjacent combustibles is prevented.

Because wood and other combustible materials, after long continued exposure to relatively moderate heat may ignite at temperatures far below their usual ignition temperatures, any prolonged cold spell calls for additional attention around the heating plant of each home or business establishment.

**IN EXTREMELY** cold weather the furnace must produce two or three times as much heat to maintain the same temperature on the first and second floors as before.

If the air space between the top of the furnace and the combustible flooring above is less than 18 inches, a barrier of metal or heat retardant material should be installed. An air space should be left between both sides of the heat retardant surface. The air currents set up will prevent the combustible material from attaining a dangerous temperature with about one-half the clearance otherwise necessary.

**AUTOMATICALLY** controlled oil, gas and stoker-fed heating units generally incorporate automatic temperature limiting controls which prevent excessive temperatures, assuming that the control function as intended.

These controls should be checked by a competent service man at least once a year to be sure they are working.

If you are hand firing a coal furnace and have less than the described protection over the top of your furnace, be especially careful any time the ash pit damper is open. Never leave the house or retire for the night with this damper open.

"Play It Safe". During prolonged cold weather make a visual check above and around the furnace looking especially for overheated wood and other combustible materials.

Prepared as a public service by members of the Birmingham Fire Department.

General news deadline is 1:30 p.m. each Tuesday.

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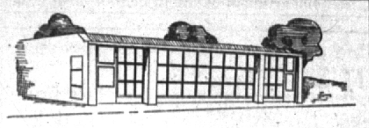
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**PVT. ROBERT E. SELL**, son of Mrs. Kurt H. Sell, 19066 Beverly, Beverly Hills, has completed infantry basic training at the Third Armored Division, Fort Knox, Ky., as a member of a four-man "budgy" team in one of the Army's new type carrier companies. Upon return from pre-embarkation leave, the four-man groups will be shipped overseas in carrier companies.

**WE HEARD IT SAID BY—**  
MRS. ROBERT G. SILBAR, 808 Madison: "Have you ever stopped to consider the difficulties of a left-handed dentist?"



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