

**THE COMMUTER'S WIFE**

**Small Fry's Antics Quite Often Alter Mama's Complexion**

By HELEN BRUNSON  
 Special Writer for THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

Some parents wonder why, when there are guests in the house, Junior always chooses to act his worst.

He may spend the day quietly building with blocks, or happily playing outdoors, but when company arrives, he'll stick to the house like a leech.

He pulls the chair-pillows out and tackles them on the floor, turns somersaults or makes some startling remark that stops the conversation.

The mother who has trained her children to CEASE at one quiet word from her, has no problem. But if her child requires stronger measures, she faces a dilemma.

She doesn't know whether to put up with his misbehavior, hoping he'll settle down, or take him upstairs where she can administer punishment—with its attendant crying, without guests hearing too much. If guests don't believe in spanking, her decision is harder.

IT HELPS IF you know your guests' own children are wild at times. But if they are quiet little things who behave on all occasions, or if guests have no children, the situation is more embarrassing.

Quite a few cures have been suggested. One young mother takes her three-year-old daughter on her lap while visiting with guests. Thus the youngster feels that she is getting attention, which is of course what a child wants. Of course if the child won't sit on your lap, it doesn't work.

Another mother keeps a supply of brand-new toys well hidden. When guests come she brings out a puzzle or coloring book or small doll. It usually occupies the small fry's attention for quite a while.

Bricks might be the solution some times. You tell the Little One that if she's quiet while guests are present that she'll get a lollypop when they're gone. Of course if she pipes up and asks when they're going to go, the whole thing has been a failure.

At any rate, many a mother has had murder (or at least mayhem) in her heart when the kids acted up before company.

A bachelor friend of ours was our dinner guest one night when our daughter was two and a half. He was a jurist with a dry wit. We made the error of having the child at the table with us.

She acted her two-year-old worst. At first we tried to ignore it, all the time trying to keep the conversation on some decent adult level. When the guest seemed in grave danger of receiving a blob of flipped-up gravy on his lapel, we removed daughter to the kitchen to eat. But that required repeated trips to keep her there. We returned her to the table, where she continued her antics and we tried to discuss court cases and the like.

Finally, thinking to make a joke of the whole thing, I said, "What is it called when a mother kills her own child—matricide, fratricide, or what?"

"I don't know," said our guest, "but I'm surprised there's so little of it."



Helen Brunson

**Toastmasters Cite Work of President**

A past president's plaque was given to Houston Jones, 17960 Birchwood, by the Birmingham Toastmasters Club at its meeting Tuesday night by incoming vice president Peter Stoffel. Jones is being succeeded by John Nellis, 410 Bensenville.

Jones has been elevated to the office of District Governor and will be a liaison officer between Toastmasters International and clubs in the Pontiac, Birmingham, Port Huron, Royal Oak, Ferndale and Highland Park area.

Toastmasters meet each Tuesday night at the Birmingham YMCA and offer a basic course in public speaking for businessmen. Openings in its ranks occur from time to time and new members are encouraged to join. Full details may be had by telephoning the YMCA.

WE HEARD IT SAID BY— EDWIN P. DOWD, Birmingham Civitan Club treasurer: "We were overwhelmed at the success of the club's first apple sale last Saturday. This was the first outside activity for club members and we want to thank Birmingham residents for their wonderful contributions to the purchase of an emergency ambulance."

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The number change is a necessary step in Michigan Bell's extensive improvement and expansion program in this rapidly-growing area. Another step will provide telephone service next year for the new Northland Shopping Center area with ELgin numbers. A third step, in 1955, will provide a brand new central office for the Southfield area with the most modern equipment.

It's a good idea to make sure everyone in your home knows how to dial Southfield direct.

Please check your new directory for your Southfield friends' new numbers, starting Sunday.

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**BARNUM JUNIOR HIGH NEWS**

Berkley Author to Speak At Exchange Club

Spotlights on Celebrated Athletics will be the subject on which J. Fred Lawton, Berkley author, will speak at the Dec. 1 meeting of the Birmingham Exchange Club.

Lawton, author of "Hurry Up Yost," and other articles is also known for his writing of "The Victors," marching song of the University of Michigan. He is chairman of the history committee for Detroit's U of M Club.

High salesman was Kent Cardell. Others in this bracket were Tom Brown, Linda Birkenham, Joe Aspey, Phil Andre, Pat Rubly, Martin Laurimov, John Brophy, Kathy Olmsted, Dave Mubletner, John Watson, Gus Leader, Bob Kipp, Nancy Todd, Bill Hoke, Bill Cartwright, John Rutledge, Janet Brooks, John Ansteth, Tom Watson.

Charles Buell had the high homeroom.

The problem of teaching music classes about musical instruments has been solved by Majel Brezette, Barnum music teacher, by having band and orchestra members demonstrate instruments the y play.

The idea came from a course she took where an orchestra did the same thing. She said she learned more about musical instruments than she ever did from anything else.

A Thanksgiving radio script was put on by Barnumites over radio station WCAR. As the play opens the players are discussing what they are going to be thankful for. Mary Ellen Thurber plays Slavka, a girl who has come from a foreign country.

While they are explaining to her what the words and phrases in different patriotic songs mean and learning about the country she came from they find many things to be thankful for.

Others in the cast were, Tom Watson, Sarah Bartholomew, Bill Cartwright, Karen Price. Soloists were Andy Brashum and Sue Hallinger. Dave Mubletner was the announcer.

Mark Obershulte of Barnum is going to take an examination for a Radio Amateur's license in Detroit Friday.

**Two Tail Lights Lead to 10 Days**

Convicted of obtaining property under false pretenses, Charles Massey, 25, of 177 Fisher, Pontiac, was sentenced Monday to serve 10 days in Oakland county jail and to pay \$10 cost by Justice John J. Gaffill.

Police detectives said Massey used a false purchase order drawn on a Pontiac auto dealership to obtain two tail light assemblies from the Sumner Motor Sales, 808 S. Woodward.

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