

Switch to Switches Is Seen As Parents 'Apply' Psychology

By HELEN BRUNSON
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Some parents are about to say phooey to all but a few of the Child Psychologists.

We can't get much sense out of some of their writings. We'll read some cheerful little article giving a pat solution to a thorny child-training problem, and the solution doesn't work. Not with our child.

Either that, or it takes so much time away from housework that things get in a mess while mother tries the devious method of "adjusting" the child. That's when she decides to adjust him with a few smart swats on the jeans.

WE PARENTS conclude that the best child expert is the parent, who has the child every day in the week, weekends included—not just for a few hours in the germ-free atmosphere of a laboratory school.

We feel that the attributed processes the child uses to get his way would wear down the expert just as fast as it wears down mother. For while she's managing Junior, she also has two or three other children to care for and a house full of work to do. That's why she sometimes has to settle him down in a hurry.

She has him not only when he's rested and happy, but at the end of a long hard day when he's tired and fretful. At this point, parents are utterly done-for, too, but they still have to give baths all around, put the children to bed and try to keep them there. (Here the expert says, "Take the child gently by the hand and lead him back to bed.") But how many times?

MOTHERS AND fathers are beginning to take a dim view of the non-spanking Child Experts, because, guided by them for some 15 years, we've raised a generation of children some of whom are lacking in self-control.

Some of these unspanked-when-young teen-agers are giving the schools a lot of trouble, assing their parents and hectoring around at night. The results haven't justified the blind faith we put in the Child-care people.

And so there has been a reaction. An enlightened parent whom we know recently sat in as a panel member of a meeting of junior high school parents from Chicago's North Shore area, discussing behavior problems. He says it was immediately apparent that a vast majority of these parents were tired of being told they were old-fashioned by their children, by teachers and by communists.

A significant majority were already using outright woodshed methods when other ways failed, and many more were imminently contemplating the same.

WHAT WAS MORE significant was that members of this majority were tremendously surprised to discover that they were in the majority, so frequently had they been advised otherwise.

Apparently a whole new trend has developed—full-blown before most of the reporters in the field discovered it existed. And so the pendulum has swung. From the child-beating era of our grandfathers, down through the non-spanking beliefs of the Thirties and Forties.

And now, to a generation of young parents who treat their children well but still realize that there's a lot of child psychology in the end of a good green switch.

Eye Injured In Auto Crash

Mrs. Doris Gold, 26, of 1621 Mowbray, Royal Oak, suffered cuts and bruises around the right eye and lacerations on her face when she was riding in the rear of a car driven by Mrs. Maude Cassell, 33, of 1206 Browne, Royal Oak, at Rochester road and Maple Drive of the car in which Mrs. Gold was a passenger was Mrs. Bettie Willcutt, 26, of 1816 Millerton, Troy township, Mrs. Will-

cutt told Troy police that another car, which led the scene, cut in on her as she approached the intersection when the auto in which she was riding ran into the rear of a car which was stopped for a light. She was not ticketed. However, Mrs. Cassell was cited by police for not having her operator's license on her person.

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It is good for mankind that there is specialization in the field of child-rearing people. In the various talents they possess—for if there were fewer patterns of living spread amongst us life would be more monotonous.

The Birmingham Eccentric

Birmingham Background

• Local History in Story and Picture •

Everybody Knew Where Ed O'Neal's Harness Shop Was

In years gone by, village folk and farmers for miles around patronized Ed O'Neal's harness shop.

For it was O'Neal's shop (located on the present site of Peck's store on S. Woodward ave.) that they could buy light and heavy harness, whips, robes, blankets and general horse furnishings.

O'Neal also had a manufacturing department in his establishment where he made new harnesses to order and repaired all kinds of leather goods.

Coming to Birmingham in 1888 from Paris, Ontario, E. A. O'Neal prepared and he became one of Birmingham's public spirited business men and his harness shop a village institution.

O'Neal served on the village board (1896-98 and 1901-06) and when the Citizens' League was formed in 1912, E. A. O'Neal was elected vice president.

The Citizens' League was composed of a group of business men and civic leaders who were interested in public affairs in the village and worked for the organization of a village fire department, paving of Woodward and Maple avenues and the construction of the then proposed village sewage system.

THE GROUP first petitioned the village board for a night watchman and was successful in its efforts, after a month. Julian Lett took on the responsibility of the village from 8 at night until 6 in the morning.

O'Neal had a monopoly of the harness business, his being the only shop in the village.

Jim Woodruff drove up in front of O'Neal's establishment and on the invitation of Ed to come in, drove right into the shop on horseback.

Some prankish boy stuck a pin into the otherwise quiet animal and the commotion began at once—the horse kicked both feet through O'Neal's grape vine stove, knocking his assistant, Dandy Hoffman, off his stool and kicked the daylight out of the shop clock.

THIS IS THE only record of O'Neal trying to fit harness inside his store—obviously he fit harness outside as usual.

In 1905, O'Neal erected on his site a new business building which still stands with O'Neal's name on it. After 42 years of serving Birmingham, O'Neal retired from business and in 1927 sold his building to Charles E. Peck.

O'Neal who will be 91 years old in October, lives at 583 Madison.

In the early years of the harness shop, Dandy Hoffman was O'Neal's trusty assistant.

DANDY HAD a pet hawk by the name of Virginius. One day business being rather dull, nearly all the business men in the village

Even DUR Cars Balked at Load

Back in 1898 when the street car line was an innovation in Birmingham, the people's faith in the cars was seriously shaken by an unfortunate occurrence.

A circus came to Pontiac for a brief stay. On a warm Saturday afternoon practically everyone in Birmingham decided to go to the circus, and practically everyone decided to take the same car.

Optimistically the motorman allowed them all to enter the vehicle, but when the power was applied to the motors nothing, absolutely nothing happened.

THE PEOPLE began to clamor and complain for it was soon evident that unless the car sprouted wings without delay they were going to miss the circus performance.

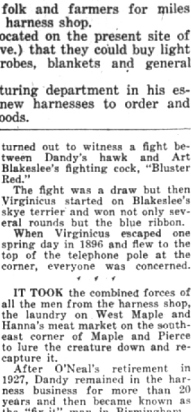
But the poor motors only groaned a bit, the springs sagged almost to the car axles and the motorman gave vent to choice expletives. But the car wouldn't move.

Finally half the passengers were transferred to a second car and the procession started for Pontiac, only to arrive at 4 p.m., too late for anything but a side show.

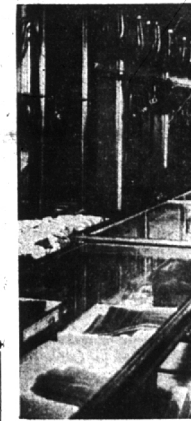
So crowded were Pontiac hotels on this occasion that permission to sleep in the hay in livery stables was granted at the rate of 50 cents per head.

'I REMEMBER'—

Recalls Edwin O'Neal, 583 Madison: "That when I came to Birmingham in 1888, all the stores on Woodward avenue were set back 17 feet from the sidewalk. When I built the building in 1905 where Peck's store is now, I took in that 17 feet. My building was the first one to do this."



ED O'NEAL'S HARNESS SHOP was a busy place in the days when people depended upon horses to take them places. This picture taken about 1896, shows O'Neal's establishment with its harness display outside the door. Standing in front of the shop on the left is Charlie Beck, a part time helper, Dandy Hoffman, Ed's assistant and Edwin O'Neal. At the right is Doc Baldeck, the village's well-known veterinarian.



ED O'NEAL, proprietor (at right), and Dandy Hoffman pose for their picture in O'Neal's new store. All kinds of leather goods was available in O'Neal's harness shop.



THIS WAS THE interior of O'Neal's harness shop after 1905. Dandy Hoffman; at center background is busy at work.

American Exhibit of Art Scheduled at Art Museum

Paintings and sculpture by leading national artists have been assembled by the museum of Cranbrook Academy of Art for a selective exhibition entitled "Biennial of American Sculpture and Painting," the first of its kind in the Detroit Metropolitan area, to be held from October 2 through November 1.

Comprising 50 paintings and 25 sculptures selected by Cranbrook Museum Director Eva Ingersoll Galling, the exhibition is planned to afford maximum space for each individual work instead of attempting to represent all styles of contemporary art. In one showing, successive biennials will deal comprehensively with the American art scene.

IN COMMENTING on the show Miss Galling said, "It is inevitable that on the surface there appears a break with tradition. It is also inevitable that the art of today be built on the tradition of the ages."

Pointing out that the contemporary era is one of experimentation, she observes that "The art of such an age must express a constant seeking for the new and the different. And, while some modern artistic experimentation will assuredly fall into discard as well as a part of current scientific experimentation, the significant experiments of today will be the tradition of tomorrow."

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