

# Bert Peabody Lived a Full Life in His 'Home Town'

To live for 68 years in a single community where he engaged in business life, where he raised a family, and also found time to participate without monetary recompense in the civic and educational development of that community—such a record for any man is worthy of praising.

Which is why this week The Eccentric wishes to pay respect to the life of J. Bert Peabody, who passed on a week ago, and was buried in the quiet environment called Greenwood Cemetery, on Oak street.

For most of his long life he was unheralded and unsung, yet loved and respected by many who lived here when Birmingham was in reality a small village.

RETIRE FOR MANY YEARS, he

## Township Unit Changes

A movement is being launched to adopt a State Constitutional Amendment that will eliminate township government, supplanting these small units with county rule. The township boys and girls, of course, will fight against the change. Academically, the change appears to be a good one; but it was that great American, Thomas Jefferson, who declared in his day that the United States could be governed

maintained an interest in the growth and rapid changes that came about here during the past 25 years. He was known for his sense of humor, his smile of greeting.

There aren't many Birmingham "old-timers" left today. Mr. Peabody now sleeps with a fine and merry group of early Birminghamers in that area of the universe from which no man returns... yet he, like so many splendid men and women who have gone on before him, has left to us who still live and know him a good example of small-town friendliness and neighborliness...

Weren't these "old-timers", wherever you found them, good citizens who shall be missed?

best by units as close to the homes of the governed as possible—that being the best way to control 'em.

To be sure, township government in these days has its weaknesses, its need for much revision of practices... but to presume that more centralized government will be better government is to run in opposition to the traditions of human nature.

## School Children Thrifty

Mercer C. MacPherson, chairman of the American Bankers Association's committee on School Savings Banking, announced recently that over 3,450,000 pupils had accumulated savings in 500 banks throughout the country.

According to the latest figures, these pupils, in 10,000 grade and high schools, have serviced their savings by about \$21,000,000 in the last year.

MacPherson terms this increase a "very satisfactory" one. He also notes that this is the sixth consecutive year in which school children have increased their savings by a large margin.

## Foolish Guessing Contest

One of the silliest offerings of the year, we think, is the recent poll by a leading wire service as to what player will be the outstanding football star of the year, what team is the strongest in the country, etc., etc.

The poll was conducted among some eighty-plus writers and broadcasters—before the football season began!

If anyone can explain to us how a group of newspaper and radio men can tell what football team is to be the strongest in the country before the games are played, we'd like to have the explanation.

And if someone would be kind enough to tell us how this group can pick the outstanding star of the season, we'd be intrigued. There is, of course, no possible way to tell what player in the nation will

## Unethical Fee-Splitting

Leaders in the American College of Surgeons recently declared they will do all in their power to "weed out unethical fee-splitting" members. Such a declaration, if carried out, will be good for the preservation of the private practice of medicine and surgery in this country.

As in other businesses or professions, the cumulative little and big wrong acts of

THE TREND AMONG CHILDREN to save is probably being encouraged by movies, talks and other influences, which the banks and savings institutions are providing schools in every section of the country.

The growing trend among youngsters to save is certainly encouraging to Papa, and the thrift being encouraged among school children will certainly be of great value to them as a character trait in later life.

Moreover, if the trend continues, it might be possible for Papa to borrow ten bucks once in a while from a younger member of the family.

be the outstanding one in the country.

WE HAVE ALWAYS contended the best football player in the nation may play for a small college never scouted by any of the writers and broadcasters picking the All-Americans and indulging in all the football polls each fall.

Like the annual buck and the best-dressed men and women, it is mostly guesswork and hokum and the people doing the selecting, in addition, do not necessarily represent a fair cross-section of opinion.

The selection of the prospective outstanding college football player of the year in early September, we think, is the winner of the annual asinine story of the year selection.

their representatives eventually bring about negative public reaction.

If the medical and surgical people of this nation want to stave off compulsory health insurance, and its companionaire "spin", government-controlled medicine, they should lend willing hands to expose and oppose those few in their ranks who consider the public ill health as something to exploit for personal economic gain.

delinquency, especially as it relates to those who do business with the federal government?

Do you realize that you are living in a State where certain union leaders determine just what company can operate juke boxes in specific taverns, restaurants and bars? If the operator of one of the latter places is not in good standing with the union leader, or the company that places juke boxes in such establishments is also in bad favor, then the union boys appear to be able to control the situation. Doesn't it remind you of some manner of illegal tyranny? Surely here is a problem that law enforcement officials should be in control of completely.

That colored photograph of former U.S. Secretary of Labor Martin Durkin, in U.S. News magazine, revealed the ex-Cabinet member as a strikingly handsome man. Indeed, he probably is one of the best in masculine pulchritude that any Presidential Cabinet has had in many years—regardless of political party.

## Happenings of Long Ago

Bits Of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric—The Items That Make Up The Historical Background Of The Birmingham Of Today.

### 50 YEARS AGO

October 9, 1903

"Geo. Edwards, who had his collar bone broken while playing basketball one day last week at the high school, is doing nicely and hopes to be out again in a few weeks."

"Claire Aldrich has accepted a position as assistant bookkeeper with the Detroit Casket company and began his duties on Tuesday last."

"WANTED—A single man wanted in the country near the electric line, must be small family, no children. Dairy farm preferred. References first class. Address B. Birmingham, Mich."

"H. C. Wilson changed his downtown office to more convenient and comfortable quarters in the Ford block. The Wilsons at Gateway Co. is booming and busier now than ever before."

"Miss Madge Walker, of Detroit, will give another physical culture lecture at Library Hall next Tuesday evening. Miss Walker will entertain by singing. The lecture will be for ladies only and a large attendance is requested."

### 30 YEARS AGO

October 12, 1923

The Bessville Avenue Congregational church is nearing completion and is being used to good advantage. A social was held there Friday evening, realizing a large sum of money which will be used to help defray building expenses.

One of four children kidnapped in Detroit Monday night, escaped from her captor in Southfield township. The little girl was taken to a shelter by area residents until police and her parents could be notified and come for her.

The "real live baby" given away at a dance last week caused quite a stir and a lot of conversation. As dancers halted at 10:30 to await the awarding of the "prize" excitement ran high. Great was the as-

tonishment when a small bound puppy, dressed as a little girl, was presented with due ceremony to one of the dancers.

Students at Baldwin high school will serve an old-fashioned pan-cake breakfast Saturday, 26, to raise funds for their annual trip to Washington, D.C. Fathers, we are told, are being urged to attend, swell the exchequer and at the same time gorge themselves on breakfasts like "mother used to serve."

Belief is expressed by village officials that the new well, due for completion next week, will fulfill expectations and remove any threatened water shortage.

### 15 YEARS AGO

October 13, 1938

Public school enrollment, based upon figures of a year ago, shows a slight decrease, according to H. D. Crull, superintendent. Enrollment at the end of the first month was 2,631, or 234 lower than 1937.

A dinner on Monday will mark the official opening of the YMCA membership drive here on Oct. 17. Young C. Smith, chairman, said workers would begin their activities to secure new members the following day.

Civic organizations in town are joining students in making plans for Birmingham's annual Halloween party. Committees are arranging for a parade, refreshments for all and several parties to round out the evening.

The League of Women Voters will hold a non-partisan candidates rally here on Nov. 8. A committee meeting was held Nov. 2 at the Community House when final plans were laid out for the affair.

Mrs. Ferd M. Broeck has been re-elected president of the Bloomfield Hills branch of the Needlework Guild. The annual election and luncheon precedes the light gathering, when the year's work is collected for distribution to the needy.

## HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

BY ALICE E. MORGAN

This might be entitled "How to Have A Nervous Breakdown by Following a Relaxing Hobby."

But, title or not, we feel quite sure that the thousands of persons whose hobby is photography, who will heartily agree that it represents that anything but relaxing.

Take for example the family pet. He's cute as a bug's ear, but being a Scottie, and a very raggedy one at that, not any old background is suitable. Put him in a shadowy spot and it's like taking a black cat in a coal bin—without flash.

THAT, HOWEVER, isn't enough. He suddenly finds it into his head that he doesn't like having his picture taken. After a careful search an ideal spot is found, the pooch is called and told to "sit and stay". He minds beautifully but he's the sorrest looking thing in seven counties.

Ears are flat to his head. His eyes are wide open and his eyebrows roll and he just plain sulks. Reluctantly the camera is put away. The pooch perks up and poses attractively.

Or the neighborhood kids. They stand stiff as poker or get the giggles. Will they go on with their games and give a gal a chance at a natural looking picture? Not on your life!

FURTHER STEPS toward the breakdown came in trying to take an interesting picture of several ponies in a large field.

One or two were scary and stayed out by the horizon. A couple pictured themselves as Holsteins and wood stars and mugged all over the place.

And then there are scenes around town. Pick one, and just as the shutter clicks a car drives "through the view."

THERE ARE people who manage to stroll in front of the camera just at the crucial moment, too, or just the instant the picture looks like something taken at a scene.

Additional headaches arise to fit the circumstances. There are the fool things the photographer can do—forget to remove the lens cap, double exposures, forgetting film speed ratings when using an exposure meter and any number of things which turn a picture into a pretty weird "mess."

HE CAN, without trying too hard, Pick one, and just as the shutter clicks a car drives "through the view."

With his enlarger he can come up with varied designs due to dust, or forget that floating gremlins getting in the housing or on the lens.

But cheer up, amateurs. Before you drop that camera into a deep and rushing river, remember that the professional, good as he is, often shares the activities of the photographic gremlins. He can go haywire as easily as his untrained brother.

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## ONE THING OR ANOTHER

By George Wm. Averill

During the next several months, all the automobile manufacturers will be announcing their new 1954 models to the public.

A goodly share of the consuming public will be in sooner or later to buy one. But most of us working people will drool over the new designs and the improvements, and wish we could afford one now.

But we'll have to sigh, and tell ourselves and our Missuses that the old buggy will have to do for at least another year.

All of which brings me to an idea I got while masticating my hamburger at the lunch counter the other day:

"Why can't I go into the new car business on a limited basis?"

NOT FROM A FINANCIAL standpoint, naturally, 'cause I'd expect to make millions of dollars a year. But limited in the amount of new cars I would sell.

My plan is to merchandise "Averill's Patented Kit to Make Your Old Car Look Like New." (This is a tentative name—my publicity agent would have to dream up a shorter trade name which would lend itself more easily to advertising, promotion, etc.)

Now about these kits... I'd have them in all models and colors, and here's what you would do to get one and how you would use it:

LET'S SUPPOSE YOU HAVE a 1953 brown Chevy two-door sedan, which you want to have look like the new model. You'd send in an order for the kit that makes your car look like the 1954 brown Chevy two-door sedan.

Back via express (prepaid, of course)

would come your 1954 kit. If the front grille had been changed (and it undoubtedly will have, unless we have another war, and NOTHING is permitted to change), why, the kit would have the new 1954 front grille in it.

It also would have in it the newly-designed fenders, (including tail lights in their new location), plus any and all minor exterior body changes the manufacturer had made in the new model.

AND IN YOUR SPARE TIME—say, before supper is ready, or after getting through with the yard work on Saturdays—you'd unbolt the old fenders, grilles, etc., and put on the new ones on the kit.

I realize some models may only have bigger bulges, or higher fenders than the previous year's model. (Well, the kit would take that into consideration and merely contain the extra bulge or fender height of the new model. This would be attached firmly to the old fender or body line, and the new model outline is acquired. Still a few bugs in this idea, I admit, but I believe they can be successfully worked out. What I'm mainly looking for now is someone with plenty of capital to back my idea.

AFTER ALL, this do-it-yourself idea can be applied to remodeling last year's auto, as well as to home plumbing, carpentry, etc.

And don't forget the vast amount of potential customers who would eagerly spend around \$100 for their "new" car, compared to having to invest \$400 or \$500 in a completely new model from an auto dealer!

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