

To really understand, within, the idealism that others express in spoken or printed form, one is required to achieve the mental status of "inspiration". For from such state of mind one can perceive meanings that the mere senses cannot comprehend.

Auto Accident Trend Rising, Says Moxley

If present trends continue, 1954 will be a record shattering year with respect to automobile accidents in Birmingham, Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley warned this week.

Auto accidents are running 50 percent over last year's totals in numbers, injuries and property damage, a comparative report covering the first quarters of both years shows.

"We have been holding the line fairly well in regard to accidents in recent years, but this year things are getting out of hand," said Moxley.

NINETY ACCIDENTS, CAUSING injuries to 15 people and resulting in \$29,377 in property damage have occurred in Birmingham so far this year.

Compared to this, in 1953's first quarter there were 67 accidents, 11 persons injured, and \$16,813 property damage.

"Right of way violations and improper turns continue to be the leading causes of accidents. All officers will be alert for these violations and take action to discourage their frequency," Moxley asserted.

A bright spot in the picture is the fact that no fatalities have occurred so far this year.

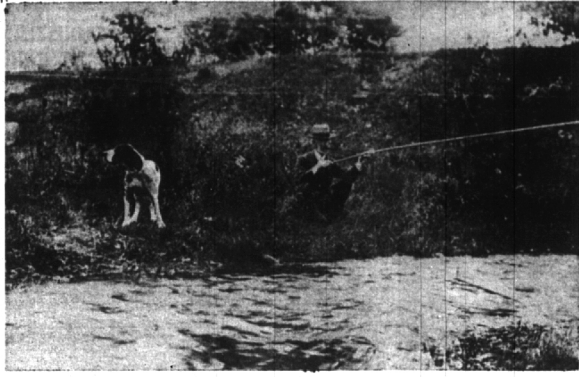
THE ACCIDENT RECORD for March 1954 showed a slight improvement over February 1954. There was a serious increase over March 1953 however, said Moxley.

In March 1954 there were 33 accidents and three people injured. In February there were 37 accidents and 11 persons were hurt. The 1953 March record shows 22 accidents and three persons injured.

In last month's accident summary, 81 traffic violations were noted as causes of accidents. Leading the list were right of way violations, numbering 10, and improper turns, numbering five.

BIRMINGHAM BACKGROUND

• Local History in Story and Picture •
As Compiled and Written by RUTH ANNE SILBAR



TOMS AND HIS DOG WAITING FOR 'BIG ONES' TO BITE
River Rouge bank was favorite spot. (Photo from J. Bert Peabody Collection)

Village Barber Toms Put Fishing Ahead of Shaves

George Henri Toms, the tonsorial artist in old time Birmingham, liked to fish even more than he liked to barber.

One day George Mitchell, then editor of The Eccentric, was standing in his father's grocery store on Saginaw street (Woodward avenue) several doors north of the tonsorial establishment, when Toms came dashing in from the rear entrance.

He ran out the front door, back through his own shop, out through the back alley and into the Mitchell store again.

ABOUT the fourth time this took place, Mitchell became curious and stopped Toms, who was at the point of expiring from fatigue.

"What's all the rush for, George?" asked Mitchell.

"Bigelow's (Capt. John Allan) after me and wants a shave," puffed George, "but I've got to go fishing with Jack Baldwin"—and the chase was on once more.

While the location of Tom's tonsorial parlors changed several times during his long business career, he had in 1887 what was conceded to be the handsomest shop of any in town.

A TRAVELING agent for a paper house furnished Toms with samples of wall paper of the most costly makes and kinds, the patterns being all gilt and mica and in all the hues of the rainbow.

These samples were neatly and handsomely spread upon the ceiling and side walls of Tom's shop by J. W. Fowler, who was considered to be an artist in his line.

The effect was, to say the least, electrifying and would have set

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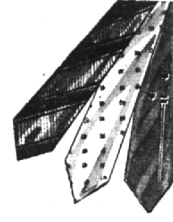
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Sophomore Swimmer Gains Tech Letter

Herbert Schreier of 18151 Sunnyside, Southfield township, has been awarded a varsity letter in swimming at Michigan Tech. This was Herb's second award although he is only a sophomore, with physics being his major.

Herb was the ace of the Tech team this season as it pulled to four straight wins. Swimming in 8 individual events, Herb won all of them and was being named anchor man on all the winning relay teams. In all, Herb holds or has tied 17 pool, varsity, or freshman records for the Huskies.

Lathrup to Rent Voting Machines

Lathrup Village city councilmen have approved the rental of three voting machines when it was discovered that the bidder, the Automatic Voting Machine company, had made an error in its original bid and quoted \$1,275 as the correct price of each machine.

Rental of the machines will be \$150 a year each with the provision that the city can apply this money to the purchase price should it decide to buy the machines.

Lathrup Engineers

The engineering firm of Ayers, Lewis, Norris and May of Ann Arbor has been named as official engineers for Lathrup Village by city councilmen. Councilman Thomas N. Reed explained that this firm originally had designed the city's drainage system and would be of valuable help to the city in answering certain drainage problems.

WE HEARD IT SAID BY—

BHAM CITY COMMISSIONER V. B. WATKINS:
"The \$5 which commissioners receive for attending the annual meeting at which the April city election results are canvassed and certified, is the easiest \$5 they earn during the year. The city charter stipulates that the only business at the meeting shall be the canvass."

Area Men Receive Safe Driving Awards

Four Birmingham area men will receive safe driving awards from the Shell Oil Company.

Top man is A. E. Martin, division engineer, 30477 Oak Leaf lane. Martin will be presented with an inscribed certificate for his 26 years of driving company cars without an accident.

A wallet and a certificate will go to J. S. Hoppeck, sales manager, 15543 Buckingham, for ten years of safe driving.

Certificates will also be presented to V. Storey, Shellane manager, of 1836 Humphrey, for 12 years and to C. F. Gieg, Detroit district manager, 1577 Winthrop lane, for eight years.

These men are among 112 throughout Michigan to receive awards from Shell.

Glen Oaks Open For Season Play

Ted Maged, manager of Glen Oaks, semi-public golf club on West Thirteen Mile rd. between Middlebelt and Orchard Lake rdns., has announced the opening of the club and also the appointment of a new professional. Maged is retiring from operating the golf concession at the club and is going to devote full time to the operation of the clubhouse and its numerous phases of operation.

Steve Isakov, who came up through the caddy ranks to become an outstanding amateur player and for the past four years a professional at Detroit's Chandler Park and Redford courses and Grosse Ile Country Club, has taken over the pro shop at Glen Oaks.

Steve had considerable teaching experience while he served as an assistant to Joe Devany at Grosse Ile. He has also made creditable showings as a player in district and state tournaments.

The course has been groomed for early season play and everything is in readiness for the weatherman to say the season is started, Maged said.

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

Assessment Laws Require Study, Lathrup Learns

More time to draft a comprehensive ordinance governing special assessment procedures has been granted City Attorney William Ewart by Lathrup Village councilmen.

Councilman John G. Campbell questions the status of the ordinance and explains that no work could be done on city improvements petitioned by property owners until the ordinance was in operation.

Ewart said he and City Administrator Leonard Watchowski are studying all aspects of the ordinance in order to submit the most workable controls possible.

Mayor William H. Harvie has asked Ewart to contact the city's board of assessors for their opinions before finishing the ordinance.

Ewart explains that special assessment bonds would have to be backed by the city and that this would call for an affirmative vote of the people.

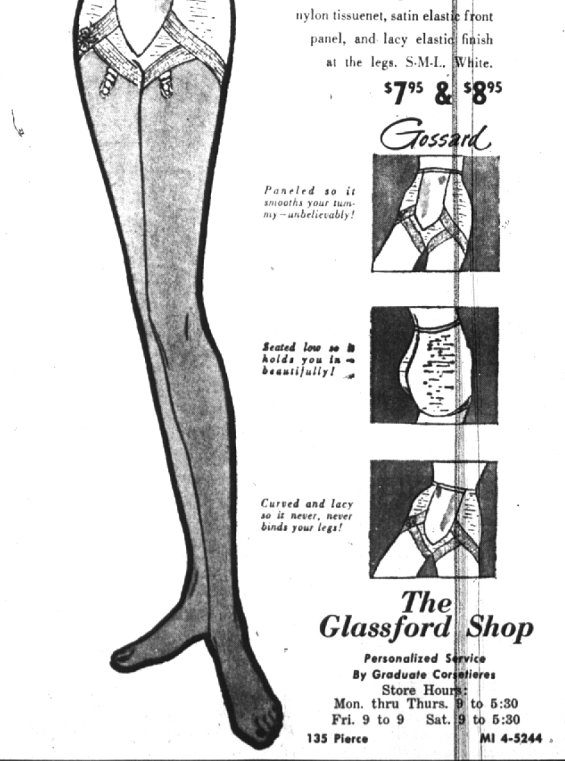
The attorney agrees with Campbell's statement that the cheapest way to finance street improvements would be to have the residents affected advance a percentage of the funds to the city and the city then could assess vacant property involved in the improvement.

To buy or sell a used automobile, read and use Eccentric Classified Ads.

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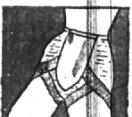
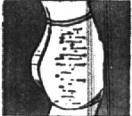


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