

BITS OF BIRMINGHAM

A NEW twist to an old gag has been figured out by Brownie Scouts and one which will do a great deal to familiarize the girls with other sections of the country. Working on the old chain letter idea, the girls mail scenic cards to friends who are supposed to mail views from their home town to several other pals. Eventually each participant is supposed to receive well over a hundred cards from far away places as a reward for her efforts.

CREDIT GOES to Alice Wessels Burlingame, Birmingham Eccentric special writer and well known garden authority, for the new look that has appeared in the news office window of The Eccentric. Plant material and the arrangement of it was handled by Mrs. Burlingame. The frequent favorable comments passed on to staff members indicate that our readers are quite pleased with our new window garden.

A GENTLEMAN attending the annual meeting of the Friends of Baldwin Public Library the other evening refused to accept a copy of their treasurer's report. "No," he explained, "I've been looking at financial statements all day long and I certainly don't want another one now. I came here to be entertained and enlightened by Miss Bourke-White's speech."

SOME BIRMINGHAM motorist is indebted to an unknown benefactor. A day or two ago this Wanderer watched a lady park her car on Woodward avenue. As she put her coin in the meter, she noticed the red flag at the car beside her. Digging into her purse again, she fished out a nickel, put it in the expired meter and smilingly walked away.

IN TALKING ABOUT NEWSPAPERS to Chamber of Commerce members here at their annual meeting last week, Lee A. White, 652 Brookside, revealed how many mistakes are possible in words. "For example," he said, "in the word 'Democrat' a printer has 40,320 possible combinations to make mistakes. The word 'Republican' offers 3,628,800 chances for a mistake, even though it has only two more letters than 'Democrat' has." (When Joseph Jack Ball, Chamber president commented: "I'm sorry to learn that only two more letters allow Republicans to make so many more mistakes than Democrats.") White continued: "There are 85 letters or characters in an average line of newspaper reading type, yet the possible chances for a single printer's mistake in such a line runs to the great number of 16,300,303,030,303,030,303,030,303,030,303,030,303. Actually, when you read a line of type without a mistake in it you are observing a veritable miracle."

SIX PERSONS, after reading the story of the Village Players' forthcoming production of "Personal Appearance" in The Eccentric last week, showed up Friday evening for what they thought was opening night. The only thing going on at the playhouse that evening was another hectic rehearsal. The eager patrons were surprised to learn they had jumped the gun but received cordial invitations to return this Friday, Saturday or Sunday evening to see the finished product—film, stage play and all.

THINGS WON'T seem quite right at the Community House for a while, especially to those who are frequent daytime visitors there. Myra Showman, office secretary, suffered a broken hip when she fell in the lobby last Thursday, April 22. She still is confined to St. Joseph Mercy hospital, Pontiac.

WITH THIS ISSUE, The Eccentric resumes the use of an index on Page One of Section One to aid readers in locating the main news features each week.

BHAM CITY COMMISSIONERS are willing to put in extra time—probably Saturday mornings—should it appear that a Monday evening is not enough, they tentatively agreed last week. These extra-sessions would not be regularly constituted meetings, merely committee-of-the-whole discussions. They plan to keep the meetings open to the public and the press in the event anyone wanted to "sit in" on the conversation. If a meeting date is known in enough advance, newspapers would be notified so the date and discussion subjects could be publicized.

NEXT MONDAY the seniors at Birmingham high school will stage their annual Civic Control Day—that is, sit in with the various city officials to learn more about local government by observation and participation. A mock city commission meeting will be part of the activity, so Monday night about 20 class members were in the audience to see how such a meeting was conducted by the regular commission.

THE HALLS OF THE BIG BEAVER SCHOOL in Troy township were lined with patient children and a school-room at the end of the line between 10 and 15 children fidgeted as they neared the nurse-doctor team administering the Salk polio vaccine early this week. To the casual observer who escaped the swabbed arm and consoling words of the physician, one sign on the blackboard was seen as a means of escape, "America Begins to Move Westward," in large letters might have described the aspirations of many of the toddlers as the anxious expressions on their faces belied a feeling that westward, eastward, northward or southward would be a better destination than that of becoming first in this classroom line.

WHEN THE DEFENDENT in a drunk driving case took the stand in his own defense the other day, Birmingham City Attorney Forbes Hascall asked him if he'd ever been arrested before. "Yes, sir," was the reply. "What for?" asked Hascall. "Why, I ran into a Presbyterian down in Royal Oak," answered the defendant. Further question revealed that the man had meant to say pedestrian.

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The Birmingham Eccentric



Jaycees Ask All To Join Prayers For World Peace

Birmingham's Junior Chamber of Commerce is joining other Jaycees groups throughout the country in a special "May Day—Pray Day" observance on May 1. "On May Day," said James Edwards, local Jaycee president, "our organization will pray that God will bring Communist leaders and the leaders of our nation together in spirit so they may conduct a hand-in-hand search for lasting peace."

"BY DOING this we will not only exert the most powerful force at our command, prayer, toward a search for world peace, but we will also give new, lofty significance to May Day, an important Communist holiday."

Edwards said the Jaycees were asking all civic, fraternal and service groups to join this special observance. Citizens are asked to join by offering their

individual prayers. Ministers, priests and rabbis are asked to lead their congregations in a united prayer for peace. A special prayer written for the observance is:

WE PRAY

For a reaffirmation of faith in Thee by all peoples.
For an end to suspicion and mistrust among nations.
For a new spirit of understanding among peoples.
For a rebirth of faith in the dignity of the individual and in the responsible exercise of his liberty.
For an end to slavery and forced labor wherever it is practiced.
For the renunciation of lies, half-truths, intimidation and torture as instruments of public policy.
For a new determination of chiefs of states and their plenipotentiaries to confer in good faith, to seek in candor and in concert, without despairing, until the ways of lasting peace have been found.
We pray these things, our Father, in our desire to strive for the fulfillment of humanity's high destiny.
Amen.

OK Two-Family

Permission to operate a two-family dwelling at 2830 Delemere was granted Albert R. Lowellen by Troy township board members Monday night. Under terms of the permit, the house may only remain a two-family as long as Lowellen resides at that address.

Gifts for Mother
MOTHER'S DAY IS MAY 9th
La Belles
137 W. Maple

UNDER THE DIRECTION of Mrs. Harry Henderson, president of the Southfield Republican Women's club, attendants at the Wayne-Oakland finance session pause to pledge allegiance to the United States flag. The meeting at the Birmingham Community House launched a campaign in which more than 100 women are cooperating to raise funds for the Republican party. Several speakers informed the group that the work can no longer be carried on by a few wealthy contributors but must have the support of every Republican voter in the county. Mrs. Brooks Marshall, Birmingham, and Mrs. William Muir, Grosse Pointe, are heading the campaign to supply adequate financial backing for the fall elections. (Eccentric Photo)

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