

Habit, we all know, has a stronger hold on people than mere reason. That is why, from youth on, the thoughts and actions of a habitual should spring from the most idealistic of sources. Habits solidified, are very hard to remove.

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The Birmingham Eccentric

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SECTION ONE

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THIS and THAT

By G. R. A.

On the average, men's legs may not be as symmetrical as those that carry women about, but an Englishman recently put on his wife's nylon hose, her shoes, then entered an "ankle-contest" and came out first—until he stepped from behind the screen and was revealed as an ordinary man. What does all this add up to? I don't know, either.

An East Germany policeman visited Western Berlin, purchased some American "western" magazines, returned to his Communist barracks, passed the reading material among his pals; he was arrested and starts to serve two years in prison. This little episode reveals how analzyne the Reds make their subjects.

Skinner of St. Petersburg, Fla. fishing boat, with 60 guest fishermen aboard, announced the other day that he had fought for seven hours with a drift-whale shark in the Gulf of Mexico, only to lose the monster. He figures it weighed between 15,000 and 20,000 pounds.

Not being there I can't oppose the skipper's statements. Yet he certainly ought to get some kind of a medal from Field & Stream for "the biggest one that got away."

If the President of the United States allowed 16 years to go by without taking Mamie to a dance (as reported from Washington, D.C.) then how come so many non-public-official wives avoid their husbands if he misses them so much each year? (While this may not apply to Democratic wives, it must be considered by the Republican distal members.)

Loss of much of its colonial territory in Indo-China by France is but current proof that the strength of the free world is being dissipated. The cruel, gangster forces of barbaric Communism are rapidly making their victims of helpless peoples. Is freedom quality that is appreciated only when it is lost?

After preaching to more than 100 British and Western European adults, evangelist Billy Graham is back in his U.S.A. He is again, he did.

Again he thunders to a materialistic world: "The only hope and help for peace on earth is the universal acceptance of the teaching of Jesus Christ... and the application of these great words to life."

In this, too, Billy is quite right. As for many, many nations, other leaders of the times have said.

Electors Register In Large Numbers

A good turnout at the polls for the 1952 primary election is a possibility in the Birmingham area, voter registration records show.

When the registration deadline was reached Tuesday night, July 13, there were nearly as many Birmingham voters signed up as in the 1952 presidential election. Troy township and Bloomfield townships registrations exceeded those of 1952 to set new records.

Getting ready to participate in its state election a city is Lathrup Village. There, 1,407 voters are registered, 20 more than there were for the area incorporation vote last December.

OUT of a possible 12,500 voters, 11,971 have registered in Birmingham. For the 1952 presidential election 12,255 persons registered, and 11,692 voted, according to Miss Irene Hanley, city clerk.

SOUTHFIELD township and the city of Bloomfield Hills have not completed compiling their registration totals, but both report registrations were fairly heavy.

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MUNICH—John W. Stegall (left), 5250 Wilson rd., Bloomfield Township, Mich., at Radio Free Europe microphone with Yale classmate Scott E. O'Gorman, 147 Abbey Rd., Birmingham, Mich. after a recording session at the studios of this anti-Communist broadcasting station in West Germany. Stegall and O'Gorman both are members of the 60-member Yale Glee Club now touring Europe. RFE, supported by annual contributions to the nationwide crusade for freedom, beams 2,500 hours of weekly programming over 22 transmitters to five Communist-dominated satellites—Poland, Czechoslovakia, Rumania, Hungary and Bulgaria. (Radio Free Europe Photo)

Chief Griffith Testifies Before Board of Inquiry

By GEORGE WM. AVERILL

In 12 minutes before June 14 was an hour old, Birmingham Fire Chief Vernon W. Griffith had roused himself from a sound sleep, answered the telephone, hastily climbed into his clothes, and then drove as fast as he safely could to 1189 Brookwood to assume charge of fire fighting efforts in the blaze which took three lives and nearly claimed a fourth.

What his men were doing from that moment on, Griffith related last night to the three-man committee investigating the effectiveness of firemen's operations that fateful night.

Griffith was called to testify before the special inquiry board earlier than intended because he is leaving the city on a long-planned vacation trip into Canada.

COMMITTEE Chairman James Spencer said yesterday that he believes three or four more sessions will see termination of interviews with city employees involved in the flash fire at the Thomas Couper home.

Last night's session at the municipal building was the fifth which Spencer and his committee members, Jack Ball and Charles Kass, have held.

Another is planned for tonight or tomorrow, said Spencer.

THE COMMITTEE first began interviewing neighbors, and so far have talked with 21 of them.

"I believe we have seen all the citizens who want to see us," Spencer pointed out. "Last night we started with the firemen, including Chief Griffith."

However, Spencer said there may be some persons who still are hesitating about coming before the board to relate what they saw that night.

If there are, all they have to do is contact one of us committee members, and the time will be arranged," Spencer emphasized.

Two police officers—Joseph Buckles and Robert Rowe—are expected to conclude the interviews involving city employees. The two policemen were cruising in the neighborhood and arrived shortly after the fire was discovered by an across-the-street neighbor, Jack Laula, 1220 Brookwood.

Stores Planned For Maple, Cranbrook

Committed To State Hospital

Declared mentally unstable by two psychiatrists, Mrs. Betty Jane Howitt, 37, of 1583 Cole, was temporarily committed Saturday to Pontiac State Mental hospital by Oakland County Probate Judge Arthur E. Moore.

Mrs. Howitt's unconscious form sprawled on the front seat of the family car in the fume-filled garage at the rear of the Howitt home.

HE WAS pronounced dead of carbon monoxide poisoning by Dr. Richard Gibson, deputy Oakland county coroner.

The doctors reported that there was evidence Mrs. Howitt had been mentally unstable at the time of her action and that her brain may have been permanently damaged by the carbon monoxide gas she inhaled, according to Assistant Prosecutor George Taylor.

A SUICIDE NOTE found in the car by Detective Lt. Merle Holmquist indicated that Mrs. Howitt took the baby's life rather than "leave him in this crazy world."

Apparently Mrs. Howitt's attention and her own life stalled, according to Police Chief Ralph W. Howley. He said the motor of the car was turned on and the gas tank of the car was half full.

Mrs. Howitt had been a police prisoner at St. Joseph Mercy hospital until her emergency commitment Saturday. (See TRAGEDY, Page 8)

B'ham C. C. Expects Record Entry for Club Invitational

A record entry list of 112 two-man teams will compete Thursday, July 15, through Sunday, July 18, in the Birmingham Country Club Invitational Golf Tournament.

The event is being renewed this year after a lapse in 1953, when the Birmingham Club was host to the PGA tournament.

The Invitational's seven flights will bring together 224 golfers, including many of the leading players from all parts of the state, according to Drew C. Handline, president.

Low qualifiers thus far with 68 are a Birmingham Country Club father-and-son team, Claude Phelps, Sr. and Claude, Jr. In second place with 69 are Dick Whitling, of Red Run, and Roland Wyand, of Birmingham Country Club.

Continues Traditional Party for Neighbor Kids

It started several years ago, when the late Mrs. Joseph Brynes would bake "sweet" which her husband did not eat. Knowing that most children have a sweet tooth, Mrs. Brynes would invite the neighborhood youngsters in to help her eat the goodies, and, according to all reports, she found many happy volunteers.

In time, Mrs. Brynes developed the idea into an annual party, when all the boys and girls were invited over for fun and food.

About a year ago, neighborhood youngsters were saddened by the death of their very good friend and kind hostess, and showed their love for her by making a collection within their group to send flowers.

IN THE backs of their minds was a question as to what about future parties—which was answered last week by Brynes, former Birmingham postmaster, now retired.

With the help of three of his Greenwood neighbors, Mrs. William Dupler, Mrs. Richard Stevens and Mrs. John F. Rosier, Jr., Brynes entertained about 20 of the youngsters last week Wednesday.

The guests came in costume, ranging from dainty ballet dancers to bums and waded into supplies of ice cream and cake with great gusto.

"The idea is really a memorial to my wife," Brynes explained. "She loved children and they loved her. She would have wanted this way."

Don't Waste Water, Residents Are Urged

Birmingham's City Manager Donald C. Egbert asked Wednesday for greater cooperation from Birmingham residents in the conservation of water.

"Unless our people adhere to the regulations now in effect," Egbert declared, "we shall have to adopt a more rugged system of enforcement. Should this fail to bring results, stricter use of water regulations will be made and enforced."

Egbert said local consumption was double that of nearby cities and nearly four times as great as Birmingham's normal use. He explained that the city is pumping 5,000,000 gallons of water a day—approximately 235 gallons per person each 24 hours.

THE LOSS of pressure in our mains carries a double threat, he added. "It can mean an extremely serious situation in the event of a large fire but even more to the point, it carries a health hazard."

"Low pressure in a water main is always considered a condition dangerous to the public health. To combat this, the city might be forced to resort to flushing mains (thus wasting more water) and installing a chlorination system."

"For the protection of the entire city, we ask residents to exercise caution in the amount of water used, especially non-essential use, such as sprinkling lawns and filling pools."

Donald B. McLouth Steel Firm Founder, President, Is Dead

Founder and president of the McLouth Steel Corp. and a member of the Michigan State Conservation Commission, Donald B. McLouth, 52, July 10 died following a heart attack. Born Aug. 26, 1901, in Cleveland, Ohio, he resided on Martel road, Bloomfield Hills.

Mr. McLouth quit Michigan State Normal college, Ypsilanti, after one year to become a metal stamping press operator. In 1921 at the age of 20 he founded his own steel brokerage firm in Detroit. In 1927 he set up the Consolidated Steel Corp. and in 1932 the Cadillac Steel Corp. In 1934 he merged the two companies, forming the McLouth Steel Corp.

A SPORTSMAN, he and his wife had returned two days earlier from a fishing trip on Canada's Gaspe Peninsula. McLouth had returned to be at expansion program here.

He owned the Gaylor Manufacturing Co. at Gaylor, Ind. In the Gaylor area he also owned a summer home "Green Timbers," and a resort, Hidden Valley, which is quarters for the Otsego Ski club.

IN 1945 former Gov. Harry Kelly named McLouth to the State Conservation Commission and had remained a member since. (See FOUNDER, Page 8)

All makers of inner spring mattresses required. One-day service. ROYAL MATTRESS COMPANY, 1511 1/2 1st St. and Enterprise 6319.

Parking Included In Plans

BLOOMFIELD—A 10-store neighborhood shopping center is slated for construction on the southwest corner of Maple and Cranbrook, it was disclosed this week.

Plans include a dairy bar, beauty parlor, cleaning establishment, record shop and grocery. The center will include the supermarket variety but will be a small neighborhood business development for the convenience of families living in the area, developers said.

Philip Kopman of the Oak Park firm of Kopman and Hasin, developer, said the firm has filed a request for rezoning of two residential lots adjacent to the west of business property it owns at the corner.

The request was submitted to the township zoning board at its meeting Monday night.

THE FIRM wants the property rezoned so it can develop the shopping centers with adequate off-street parking, Kopman said.

"Lots of parking areas are badly plotted," he explained. "If we can acquire the two additional lots with proper setbacks, we will have 286 feet of business frontage that will allow construction of 10 stores, forming a block and a set back of 51 feet. It is also parking in front." Kopman explained.

Plans called for the parking lot to accommodate one-way traffic with entrances on the west and exit on the east, he added.

Two floor plans were received with favor by the board, but they deferred action until the required public hearing can be held on the two lots, Kopman said.

IT WAS HOPED a rezoning request for rezoning to allow parking facilities for a shopping center to be made on the zoning board in recent weeks.

The other request came from a syndicate of investors who are planning to build a modern shopping center on the southwest corner of Telegraph and Maple roads.

W. Maple Detour To Start Today

The West Maple detour to accommodate paving and widening of Maple Street from Linden to a point south of Glenhurst is expected to take effect today, Thursday.

City Engineer R. L. Gare stated Tuesday that the city would place detour signs at Maple and South News and at Maple and Cranbrook.

Route of the detour will take traffic south on South News to Lincoln, west on Lincoln to Cranbrook and north on Cranbrook to Maple.

The Royal Air Force plans to parachute two cats to a mouse-infested fort in the Malaysian jungle, haunt of big cats. Another case of carrying cats to Newcaste.

Thief in Hagerstown, Md., will really be caught if tight security is maintained. He stole a 10-foot, 60-pound python.

Agriculturist in Miami, Fla., says a man's car won't be built until he can sell the difference between a crow's warning and mating waws. Just ask any old married man.

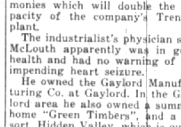
Burglars in Norman, Okla., went to back-breaking efforts to steal a safe which had the combination.

Fellow in Tupper, Kan., wants permission from the city to break over his front lawn. He'll find grass growing there as never before, if he does.



"JOE" BYRNES GREETES HIS YOUNG GUESTS Party honors wife's memory. (Eccentric Photo)

DONALD B. MCLOUTH



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