

**Car, Merchandise For Area Winners In Detroit Trials**

Hard work and perseverance paid off for the many who took part in the Laif 'n' Win contest. In this a 1955 DeSoto goes to Clifford McLish, 1770 Cole, one of the top three.

Another contest, the old car naming prizes, found more winners among the winners. In this a 1955 DeSoto goes to Clifford McLish, 1770 Cole, one of the top three.



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Car accessories were won by Mrs. Leo J. Linsenmeyer, Mrs. Cline E. Larch, Mrs. Clyde Taylor and Charles M. Dotterer, Jr.

You may decide you want to reach the top of that mountain peak, and when you do, another and higher one may beckon. That is all right—but one ought to obtain pleasure and joy upon reaching every peak.

**Birmingham Background**  
Local History in Story and Picture



THE HUGH IRVING HOME, BUILT IN 1878. Moved to 439 Merrill in 1916 (Eccentric Photo)

**'Twas a 'ff' July Day When They Moved In**

On a wide expanse of lawn, the Hugh Irving home once stood on the present site of Baldwin school. Its owner, was one of Birmingham's early and respected businessmen.

When Hugh Irving arrived in Detroit from England in 1849, he brought with him a piano. The piano was stolen by John West Hunter.

"Are you going to Piety Hill?" Hunter asked.

"No," answered Irving, "I am going to Birmingham."

"Well, 'tis all the same," replied Hunter, "one of the area's first settlers. Put your things in my wagon."

In later years Irving himself told the story of his first encounter with John Hunter although, according to The Eccentric, "he was a retiring man and not at all given to allowing his name to appear in print."

HAVING LEARNED the trade of tin smith in England, Irving started a tin shop in Birmingham, a business which he expanded about 1855 to include hardware and stoves. It was located on the present site of Huston hardware in a frame building set back from the rutted road. He and his wife and seven children lived in the upper story.

Irving told of many journeys on foot to Detroit and returning the same day, thereby saving expenses, and in many instances making better time than the railroad.

One day, he related, he took a treat by riding to Detroit on the cars. On his return, the train passed a man with a yoke of oxen and as the cars were going very slow, the passengers told the driver to hitch the cattle on behind and they would tow him into this village.

AFTER a short time, something happened to the engine, a circumstance which was liable to occur at any time in those days. The man with the oxen soon overtook them, whereupon he said with a fine sense of humor, "If you'll hitch your old grain and tea kettle on behind my six team, I'll haul you into Birmingham and there won't be any breakdown either."

In May of 1878 Irving's new home on Maple avenue, then called Mill street, was nearing completion with 11 men working on it all at once. He moved into it on one hot July day.

Reported The Eccentric, "Hugh Irving and family moved into their

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**The Birmingham Eccentric**

**COMMUTER'S WIFE**

**Being a Mother A Very Special Honor to Cherish**

By HELEN BRUNSON  
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Now that Mother's Day is over and we mothers have been honored by our children and as a group, we have time to give thought to how fortunate we are just to be mothers.

Now, if you're reading this at the end of a long hard day with the children, the idea that you're lucky may leave you cold.

"What's fortunate," you may ask, "about separating youngsters who've been quarreling all day long? About listening to their crying and tattling?"

What's gratifying about it? "What's gratifying about it," you may ask, "about separating youngsters who've been quarreling all day long? About listening to their crying and tattling?"

INDEED, YOU are, being a mother is the hardest job in the world. And it is, but it has so many compensations.

First there is the pleasure of experiencing and giving a love that knows no bounds, the love that a mother feels for her children.

A famous psychologist says, "A woman loves her husband, but she loves her children more."

And a judge who has handled many divorce cases says, "The husbands want the money. The wives want the children." Yes, we love and want our children above all else.

THEN THERE are the everyday satisfactions we get from our children. There is the delight a mother feels when her child brings home a small gift that he's made for her at school. The warm protective feeling she has when he places his hand trustingly in hers as they cross a street. The relief she gets when he recovers from an illness or escapes some danger.

There is the great pride she knows when he does well in school or is praised by some outsider, her little "I told you so" chuckle when at last, teenage daughter does something voluntarily, like picking up her clothes, that mother's been drumming on for years.

And there are the tears of pride that come to her eyes when her son or daughter marries up to get



He became interested in astronomy in the latter years of his life. On one occasion in 1896 he and Mrs. Irving entertained the Tuesday club when he mounted his telescope and, said The Eccentric, "through this, Jupiter assumed dimensions almost as large as the sun to the naked eye and his four moons were plainly visible. The ladies are indebted to the Irvings for a number of astronomical facts as well as an evening of pleasure."

After 43 years in business, Irving retired, selling out to Charles Schlagel in 1892. Irving was a member of the Presbyterian church, a Mason, belonging to the Knight Templars, and a Republican. He was a Union man who gave a son to the cause and was responsible for the monument now standing in Greenwood cemetery in honor of the Civil War dead.

"HIS LIFE," reported The Eccentric in 1892, "is only a repetition of the old adage, Industry and frugality lead to Wealth."

Hugh Irving died in 1900 at the age of 85. His home was moved to 439 Merrill street when the site for Baldwin high school, now Baldwin elementary, was acquired in 1916.

**Annual Y Picnic To Be Held May 22**

The annual picnic of the Birmingham YMCA will be held at Camp Ohyesa on Sunday, May 22 from 3 until 7:30 p.m. There will be a program of games, boat racing, canoeing, swimming if the weather permits, fishing and races. Invitations have been extended to all members and reservations are being taken by the YMCA office. Families are urged to bring a basket lunch and stay for the entire period. The Y is giving free ice cream and soft drinks to the children and coffee to adults. For full details telephone the Birmingham YMCA.

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MONDAY-EVENING, MAY 16, 1955  
At Eight o'Clock

**Army Private in Alaskan Territory**

FORT RICHARDSON, ALASKA—Pvt. Robert T. Baker, Jr., whose wife, Sally, lives at 315 Williamsbury road, recently arrived in Alaska and is now a member of the 71st Infantry Division.

Soldiers stationed in the Alaskan territory undergo rigorous training for cold weather combat while guarding the northern approaches to the United States.

Private Baker, whose father lives at Fair Haven, Mich., entered the Army in June 1954 and completed basic training at Camp Chaffee, Ark. He attended Michigan State University.

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