

Local Business Land Values Increase

Increasing land values in Birmingham's downtown business section, as recently announced by city assessor Elmer W. Haack, should, we think, meet with reasonable consideration by property owners concerned.

There is no question but what this downtown business property has increased considerably in land value, over the last few years. Sales of sufficient lots in this area during the past year, Haack asserts, provide supporting reasons for raising assessed valuations.

Few informed persons will be able to

argue against the assessor's reasoning on the subject.

All of these increases, to be sure, mean that the city's treasury will be that much more enriched. Were our city commissioners able to keep the local budget from climbing upwards, the increase on business property tax returns would be reflected in lowering residential taxes...

Motherhood Defends Its Young

All hail to the cottontail rabbit that did successful battle with a good-sized rat-sneak near Jacksonville, Texas. An eyewitness says he saw the spunky bunny dart to the rescue of her squealing baby in a manner that would make the mild tribe of storybook rabbits wail with pride—or perhaps faint dead away.

This small but heroic mother not only dashed at the fearsome reptile, says Gaf-

ford, but seized it terrier fashion and growled like a dog. This incident could be used to point a fine moral about the courage of the meek when aroused. We think it's dandy for such a purpose.

But we keep wondering, too, what the rabbits have been feeding on in Texas. Whatever it is might add a nice touch to those salads folks eat for health and vigor.

International Friendships Hard To Keep

The recent admission to the United Nations of 16 governments, most of them from Asia and Africa, emphasizes the bloc which is forming among those nations. They have this in common, that practically all have experienced colonial rule by European nations and have not liked it. Their common feelings tend to draw them together, on the other side of the fence from the western European nations and the United States.

A bridge between these two groups is highly desirable. The suggestion had been

that Australia might constitute this bridge. Racially akin to the English-speaking peoples, the Australians are geographically near the Indonesian islands which lie just east of Asia.

THEY THEREFORE are vitally interested in good relations between the two great national groups, and are qualified to present the views of one to the other.

It is significant that where we speak of the "Far East", Australians refer to this region as the "Near North."

Sand-blasting Minds As Well As Buildings

They were discussing one of those public buildings to be seen in almost every town—half a century old, or more, dark with the grime of many years.

One said, "I wish they'd sand-blast that monstrosity so we could see what's underneath the crust."

And the other said, "I'd rather see them do some mental sand-blasting on a

few of the people inside the building—and maybe some outside, too."

It's a conversation worth passing on, because a little mental sand-blasting from time to time would be good for all of us—especially those tax-supported buildings that house members of Congress and state legislatures.

Suggestion For A Home-Cooked Dinner

"What on earth shall we have for dinner tonight?" asked the harried housewife. "We've had everything there. I She need not worry. A suggestion which may solve her problem comes from Australia.

There a native wedding with 400 guests was served a most appetizing menu, comprising lizard, flying fox, alligator tail,

wild pig and wallaby, all wrapped in banana leaves and cooked in an anthill oven. The dessert was lily roots, supplemented by one dish that shows how civilization is corrupting the ancient customs. To top off, there was a frosted cake.

(Comment from the distaff side: "Bet she used an American mix, too!")

From The Eccentric's Point of View ...

President Eisenhower's recent message to Congress contains plenty of New Deal Fair Deal ideas, all related to the Welfare State, many of them favoring further centralization of power in Washington, D.C. To be sure, Ike is not so outspoken as some of the radical Democrats on behalf of paternalism in the federal government, but he is showing he does believe in a governmental Santa Claus.

Those ten men who recently were bound and gagged in the washroom of the Michigan Life Insurance Bldg., at Coonbridge and Woodward, were extracted when the "gentlemanly" hold-up man decided to let them go. Some of them were held close

to five hours. Should this episode include this question: "Is there no longer privacy anywhere in America?"

Daughter of a famous actor, 34-year-old Diana Barrymore publicly reveals that she is a victim of alcoholism, and will enter a sanitarium in an effort to be cured. We sincerely hope she will be able to divorce herself from the affections of old Barleycorn—but her flippant and wisecracking comment on the subject suggests that she's going to have a harder-than-average time to reform. Diana, you see, admits that she really likes the stuff... sort of a from-father-to-daughter inheritance.

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NATURE NOW

Naturalist Pictured 'Lives Around Us'

By LYDIA KING FREHSE, Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Last autumn a brief note in the Audubon magazine announced the death on Aug. 17 of Alan Devoe, one of its contributing editors.

During his lifetime this author-naturalist wrote articles and essays for a number of leading magazines. He left all of us richer for his six nature books, the last of which, "Our Animal Neighbors," was written in collaboration with his wife, Mary.

Of his childhood in a small New Jersey town, Alan Devoe says that he was a naturalist from the time he caught, tamed and cared for a chipmunk.

With this pet he shared his life, even to crawling into his cage "with final boyish disregard of hygiene."

HIS WRITING began at age ten when he put down for his granddaddy's hand-lettered piece entitled "The Chipmunk." Twenty-two years later there appeared in the Audubon magazine, under the same title and by the same author, one of the best animal stories ever written.

Mary Berry was also a "born" naturalist but on another continent. For "the listener to the singing of blackbirds in the long soft twilight of Irish summer evenings and the sought after herons in the Wicklow hills... her eyes and heart were always for the gulls wheeling and crying over the city and the swans that nested in Liffey."

When the two met, even though the place was New York city, they soon recognized their kinship. They were married and after two years took over a deserted farm, Pudd Hill, near Hilldale, New York. There to study, to explore, to write.

PUDD HILL'S 125 acres lie in the secluded hill-country where the Berkshires start sloping toward the Hudson. It is a place of sunny pastures, wooded hills and ravines; of bottom lands, shallow ponds and brooks.

Both their lives and loves included all that dwelt within this sacred land. But wrote Alan, "we are the intruders, for the place belongs to the skunks and musk-

Happenings of Long Ago

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

Historical snippets: '50 YEARS AGO February 2, 1906 Mrs. Jan McKinley at home alone. Mrs. McK busy in her dining room. Little Miss Marion seated on the floor in the sitting room. Grand and the sound of shattered glass caused Mrs. McK to exclaim, "Why, Marion McKinley, what have you done?" Nothing, said the child; but something broke the glass, that is true. A bullet had come through the window, lodging in the wall across the room. Had Miss Marion been standing she would have been hit. No clue or sign of the shooter could be discovered.' 'The ladies' Library Society gave Mrs. Hulda Miller, of Middle street, a surprise party and supper Monday afternoon. It was an informal affair and they took their edibles with them and had a delightful time. Mrs. Miller was equal to the occasion and made everyone "comfy" and happy.' 'Souvenir postal cards are all the rage and George Hulbert, of Southside avenue, received a fine bunch from his son, Cassius, of Tacoma, Wash. The prettiest piece of high art in the collection of views of the prominent buildings in this flourishing city, was a ten-cent bill of "National Bank of Tacoma. This is the best single

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

To some people, snow is a beautiful blanket, which melts into the ground and replenishes the water content of the soil. Leaves lend beautiful shapes to trees, and become gaudy costumes in the fall.

To some people, life is more joy than sorrow, more love than hate, more faith than doubt.

I have only met her once, but I suspect that Alice Terry, 4857 Dover court, Bloomfield township, is one of these people.

IN FACT, FROM WHAT she had to say and the way she said it, I am certain she is in love with Birmingham—and the people who live in it.

But let her tell it in her own words: "This Christmas, I received a most unusual present—and I don't know exactly what to call it.

"It all started when my husband (Norman) and I decided to spend the holidays in the West. One of my last-minute chores was a call on McCallan-Ball (Birmingham yard-garden supply company) where I ordered 100 pounds of cracked corn for our 30 wild pheasants.

"WE INTENDED TO DUMP the feed under the pines and hoped it would serve as a cafeteria for our feathered friends during our two-week absence.

"When Mr. (Jack) Ball (owner of the company, and also Chamber of Commerce president and a civic-minded citizen of proven ability) learned of our plan, he said, 'That's no way to feed birds. We will go out there on Tuesdays and Fridays and spread the feed for you.'

"Which they did! "I told this delightful story to a group

of our advertising cronies in Chicago and also to a number of professional men at a cocktail party in Denver.

"THE REACTIONS IN BOTH cases were varied—"Smart salesmanship," "Good Sales promotion," "How Kind," "Unheard of in this day and age!"

"I see this as another link in an ever-lengthening chain of thoughtful and kind deeds which have touched me while a resident of Birmingham. And so I, rightfully I think, feel our town is a very special one.

"Where else could you find a cab driver who, after driving you to the depot at midnight and found you were out of cigarettes, would take it upon himself to run into town to get you a package of your favorite brand?"

"WHERE COULD YOU WALK into a drug store and have the pharmacist ask about your sister's welfare, the one from Boston who was taken ill last year while visiting you?"

"Where but in Birmingham would the oculist call you in to present you with a jeweled pin because you had sent him some friend customers?"

"Where Virginia, Charmaine, Dorothy, Joe and Jim are really glad to greet you not only as a customer but as a friend?"

"What to call my Christmas gift from Mr. Ball?"

"It's simple, really.

"I SEE MUCH MORE than courtesy, much more than a merchant's desire to please a customer.

"I see in all these deeds' the manifestations of that old, old saying, 'Love thy fellowmen'."

Supplied the Tools

Waco, Texas—Greer C. T. Dickinson left a 36-inch wrecking bar on his store porch. The bar was used by a thief to break into the store and take cash, groceries and—the wrecking bar.

LEGAL NOTICES

Oliver H. Kirk, Atty., Wabek Bldg., Birmingham, Ala. 5-6118

STATE OF MICHIGAN, in the Probate Court for the County of Oakland, EMONS, Matter of the Estate of W. H. EMONS, deceased.

At a session of said Court, held at the Court House in the City of Pontiac, on the 14th day of January A. D. 1936, Present: Honorable Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate.

Dorothy M. Heidemann, Administratrix with Will annexed of said estate having filed in said Court her Final Account and petition praying for the examination and allowance thereof, determination of the heirs of said deceased, assignment of the residue of said estate, and the discharge of said administratrix with Will annexed. It is Ordered, that the 14th day of February, A. D. 1936, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, at said Probate Court in the Court House in the City of Pontiac, Michigan, be and is hereby appointed as the time and place for hearing said petition.

It is further Ordered that notice be given to all interested parties as shown by the records in this case by delivering a copy of this order to each of them personally, or by registered mail, or by publication in a newspaper of general circulation of each of them by registered mail with return receipt and records in this case, and their respective last known addresses as shown by the records in this case.

And it is further Ordered that public notice be given by publication of a copy of this order once each week for three consecutive weeks previous to the day of hearing in the Pontiac-Oakland County Legal News, newspaper printed and circulated in said county.

ARTHUR MOORE, Judge of Probate. (142-66-47)

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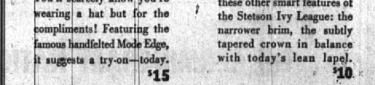
THE IMPERIAL BANTAM by STETSON

Newton discovered the law of gravitation, Stetson discovered how to defy it—almost—in this lighter-than-light Stetson Imperial Bantam, a luxurious far felt. You'll scarcely know you're wearing a hat but for the compliments! Featuring the famous handlofted Mole Edge, it suggests a try-on—today.



THE IVY LEAGUE by STETSON

Yes, charcoal is definitely today's style color in hats. And a flattering color it is, echoing the season's newest shades in suits, shoes and accessories. Notice, too, the other smart features of the Stetson Ivy League: the narrower brim, the subtly tapered crown in balance with today's lean lapel.



SEE THE NEW SPRING STETSON HATS AT

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