

It perhaps is too true that many of us fail to choose the exact right words when we speak to others . . . and this especially is true when engaged in "argument". Strange, too, that when one should keep his head most be allow uncontrolled feelings to govern his concentrated tongue.

Correction

Last week's Eccentric published a story of the promotion of William E. O'Neill, 2245 Manchester, Birmingham by the Dodge division of Chrysler Corporation. That particular promotion concerned a Wm. R. O'Neill of Grosse Pointe. The O'Neill of Birmingham is with the Ethyl Corp. The Eccentric regrets the error.

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CARLIN V. BRAWNER

Local Serviceman Finishes Training

Pvt. Carlin V. Brawner recently graduated from military police training at Camp Gordon, Ga. His parents are Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Brawner, 2248 W. Lincoln, Birmingham.

A Birmingham high school graduate, he entered the army in 1955.

Sentenced to 3 1/2 Years for Mails Misrepresentation

A check with Federal court in Detroit reveals that John W. Gilmore, Jr., 24, who gave his address as 911 Pierce, was sentenced recently by Federal Judge Theodore Levin to 3 1/2 years in prison for misrepresenting himself through the mails.

FBI agents said Gilmore, son of a prominent Detroit attorney, grossly misrepresented himself through the mails to an Oklahoma oil company in an attempt to gain employment.

In 1949 Gilmore was sentenced to from two to 14 years in prison after conviction of passing about \$1,400 worth of bad checks.

Thousands of people read The Eccentric Classified Ads. So remember if you want to sell that hard-to-get-rid-of article, advertise it in the Want Ad section of The Birmingham Eccentric.

Charles Kass Initiates House Block Solicitation

Charles Kass, 13th president of the Birmingham Community House, reviewed his first encounter with the House in an interview last week.

"I had opened my mouth at the annual meeting to say that I thought it ridiculous to complain that a town like Birmingham couldn't support a Community House."

"Then two weeks later," Kass laughed, "a delegation from the House came to see me at my home and asked me to take charge of the 1949 Roll Call drive. They said they wanted a fresh viewpoint. So I was in, stone cold and untainted with experience!"

KASS INSTITUTED the block system of solicitation, still being used this week in the Roll Call drive.

"I shot for 600 workers in 1948," Kass recalled, "and someone said, 'That's the most ridiculous statement ever made in Birmingham.' But we got those workers and they got the money."

An ex-Philadelphian, Kass graduated from the University of Pennsylvania and is presently assigned to research with Ethyl corporation. "Being an engineer," he smiled, "I abhor inefficiency, and so did Velma Kelly then house director. During my term of office we divorced the commissary from the House and found out exactly what each meal cost."

"We did as much as we could with the money donated. When you are spending public money, you must be able to defend every cent intelligently. Velma and I turned many a penny over and looked at both sides!"

LONGEST in point of service next to Mrs. Charles Shain, Kass could remember "More 'gruff' than More headaches. But they're funny as one looks back."

"The heating system was one. 'The old furnace was coal-fired and it cracked; or rather, it was the last time it cracked and that was fatal. We were putting in the oil tanks and down came the most terrific cloudburst I think I ever saw."

"The new oil tanks began to rise. Bill Torrence—bliss his heart—



CHARLES KASS

rushed over and filled the tanks with oil to keep them from floating away."

Kass is particularly happy that he was instrumental in starting

work in geriatrics, patterned after a group called "The Old Guard" that he had seen in Elizabeth, N. J. Kass highly commended Mrs. Lawton Tabor, Mrs. Martha Butsel and later the Junior League for setting up Senior Workshop.

"THE HOUSE is unique, you know," Kass remarked. "The one most nearly like it is in Palo Alto, Calif., and it is completely evolved."

"Do you remember the coal strike?" he asked. "The House was shut for two weeks and I tell you, it was chaos; people were just stunned. For three months afterward there were few complaints about anything!"

"But," he warned, "the Community House is a facility, not a programming agency. People say 'why doesn't the House do this or that?' It isn't equipped or qualified to program. It provides the site and the center, that is all."

"BEFORE I was president, like anyone else, I hated to ask people to do things. But that experience was valuable to me because it developed crust. I learned to put the bite on anyone if it was for a worthwhile goal!"

As to the future, Kass believes the House will serve the community just as long as it is needed and to the extent that people support it. And he continues to support it through Mrs. Kass, now on the board.

"I know that the House, geared to the expansion of the community, will occupy an important part in the future as it does now."

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