

The Birmingham Eccentric

Why does one, now and then, use portions of a day to be critical of others and things . . . Just, it seems, to play the role of the griping critic. True, there are occasions when criticism is deserved, and can be constructive. But most of the time, don't you think, are spent to counteract griping by counting his blessings?



if you're like me...

Says the Barrister

You're fascinated by the way your property is distinguished from all the other land in Michigan.

If you own your home, or other property, somewhere tucked away in a safe place, I hope you have a deed which exactly describes the plot of land which is yours.

This land, whether it's a 40-foot lot in the city or 1,000 acres of second growth timberland in the Upper Peninsula, has a legal description which serves as its "address" and which sets it apart from the other 3,500,000 properties now in taking primary Field Naval auxiliary air flight training at Whiting school, Pensacola, Fla.

ENSIGN Robert J. Sampson, son of Mr. and Mrs. William A. Sampson, 17555 Ramsgate, Lathrup Village, graduated recently from the United States Naval pre-flight station, Milton, Fla. Also a graduate of the US Naval Academy, he

descriptions in Michigan. If you live in the city, your deed may identify your property only by the number of a lot in subdivision or plat. If you own farm property, however, or if you look at an abstract which traces the history of your city lot, you'll find a much more complicated description.

A 20-ACRE rectangular tract might be briefly described like this: "E½ of the NE¼ of the SE¼, Section 12, T 3 N, R 4 E."

Translated into longer style this might read: "The East half of the Northeast quarter of the Southeast quarter of Section 12, Township 3 North, Range 4 East of the Michigan Meridian."

To an assessor or an engineer or an attorney, this means, and it can make sense to you with a few simple rules. When Michigan was first surveyed, definite starting points were laid out for the land within it.

Michigan is laid out in townships six miles square (or as nearly square as possible). These are laid out in "ranges" for each six miles east and west from an imaginary line running due north and south the full length of Michigan and called the "Michigan (or Principal) Meridian."

NEXT THERE is an east and west line called the "Base Line." From this line the townships are numbered north or south in six mile units.

The Michigan Meridian divides Ingham county in half, forms the county line between Clinton and Shiawassee counties, and farther north between Otsego and Montmorency counties. In Ingham county there is Meritt Road which follows this imaginary line.

The Base Line is the county line between Ingham and Jackson counties, extended arbitrarily across the state from Lake St. Clair to Lake Michigan.

Oldtimers in the Detroit area know Eight Mile road, the northern boundary of Detroit and Wayne County as "Base Line Road." One look at a road map will show you why.

EACH TOWNSHIP then is divided into 36 "sections" which are uniformly numbered, starting in the northeast corner, each containing 640 acres.

Each "section" is divided into "quarters," which are called by their compass location (NE, NW, SE, SW). Coming down to a finer point, these quarter sections may be divided into fractions like the example above.

Naturally, there are corrections for the curvature of the earth and for irregular plots formed by lakes and streams, but basically Michigan is laid out like a checkerboard with six-mile squares, and within each square are checkerboards within checkerboards.

YOUR GREATEST interest in this is to know that your own little plot is properly identified, that the legal papers which give you title to this plot are properly recorded and safeguarded, and that these papers are in good order.

After that, the law and the courts are on your side whenever any question arises about your property.

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.

Motorists Appeal Drunk Driving Convictions

After appealing drunk driving convictions to Oakland county circuit court, four motorists previously found guilty of driving under the influence of liquor in Birmingham justice court pleaded guilty to reduced charges of reckless driving recently.

Since Michigan state law requires that the driver's license be revoked for 90 days after a drunk driving conviction, the motorists appealed to circuit court. They retained their driver's licenses while appeals were pending.

Dr. Everett M. Steffen, 46, of Berkley, pleaded guilty to reckless driving, and paid a fine of \$100.

The Birmingham court had found him guilty of driving under the influence of liquor in January, 1955.

LAWRENCE LIGHT, 71, of Duck Lake, originally found guilty of the drunk driving charge in the Birmingham court in July, 1955, was fined \$100 after he pleaded guilty to reckless driving in circuit court.

Harold R. Snyder, 40, of Lake Orion, was found guilty of driving under the influence of liquor in Birmingham justice court last December. In his circuit court appeal, he pleaded guilty to reckless driving and was fined \$100.

Fred R. Husk, 63, of Detroit, charged with driving under the influence of liquor in March, 1954, also paid the \$100 fine after pleading guilty to the reduced charge of reckless driving.

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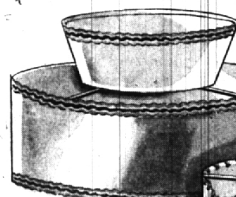
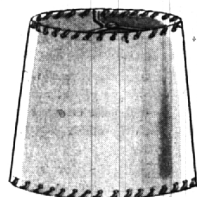
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