

Englishman's Reaction To City in the Trees

Mingled in with the regular daily mail, Frank Jones, 3859 South Miller way, Birmingham, received a very interesting article from Birmingham, England, enclosed was an article from Birmingham, England, written by "Mail" industrial correspondent Clem Lewis, on his recent visit to our city.

Jones stated that his brother of Birmingham, England, was really enthused when he saw it in their local paper, because he and his wife have visited here and are coming again next May to spend a few months.

The following article which appeared in The Birmingham Mail carried the headline, "I'd Like You to See It, My Lord Mayor".

Dear Lord Mayor, I am writing to you from another Birmingham. Not the one you have heard about in Alabama. This is the one in Michigan.

Some of the locals here call it the city in the trees. You should come here to see it. It is only a small city, about four square miles in area with 36,000 people and about 100,000 trees.

IT IS ABOUT 18 miles north of the Detroit river and not far from the boundary of the great motor car city of Detroit. It was named after our city in 1832 because, on those days, it had a blacksmith's shop, a foundry and several other small industries.

Fires destroyed most of the factories. Industry did not prosper. Today Birmingham is what Americans call a "bedroom city." We would call it a dormitory town.

Most of the people living here work in the motor car industry and other businesses in Detroit. They travel in daily, either by car or on the only special "commuter train" service in the Detroit area.

AFTER THE war the city became one of the most popular residential areas. People flocked here to build attractive timber or brick houses, ranging from about \$6,000 to more than \$20,000. Its population has more than doubled in that time.

Most of the houses are in quiet avenues among maple and elm trees which are guarded jealously by the City Commissioners. In the winter they may make the homes seem a little dark but in the summer they shade them from the hot sun.

Buy Woodward avenue, which runs directly through the city from the heart of Detroit, has attractive shops, but the noise of the traffic is seldom heard by the people in the quiet homes of Birmingham.

FOR A SMALL place it has a great community spirit. On Halloween about 6,000 children paraded in fancy dress through the streets.

The community house provides free meeting places for the many local organizations, and is a center for lectures, and study groups.

The city has two cinemas, two bowling alleys for families, and no pubs. It is a "dry" town. People

can buy beer or spirits by the bottle to take home. But they cannot drink it in any club, restaurant or public place.

BIRMINGHAM has a high school, where I noted at least 50 large cars in the students' car park. Its churches also have large parking spaces — and they need them.

It has a flourishing weekly newspaper with the oddest name you ever heard—"The Birmingham Eccentric." Founded 82 years ago, the "Eccentric" is a circulation of 13,000 and runs to 44 pages of local news and advertising.

It was given a great welcome here by the Mayor, the City Manager and the editor - proprietor of the newspaper.

The Mayor must be one of America's most glamorous grandmothers! Mrs. Florence Willett, married to a Detroit business man, entered the local government after she had led a campaign for an improved road.

She was elected a Commissioner and last April she was chosen Mayor.

MRS. WILLET and the City Manager, Mr. Dick Gare, were invited to hear about our Birmingham. They were surprised to learn about its factories, its enormous housing programme and the many activities directed by the City Council.

Like many other people I have met in America, they had no idea of its size or of its importance in the motor car industry.

I have found that a lot of people think that Birmingham makes steel. "You should exchange visits with our Lord Mayor," I suggested. "What a marvelous idea," said the Mayor of Birmingham. "What do you think, Lord Mayor?"

I BELIEVE if you came here you ought to bring one or two of Britain's councillors, and certainly a woman member.

You would have a chance to see the great motor factories of Detroit, the wonderful expressways, the \$20,000,000 exhibition hall, the centrally heated homes and the specially planned suburban shopping centres — as well as the friendly little city of Birmingham in the trees.

Yours sincerely,
CLEM LEWIS

Mr. Stanley A. Carter, 83, 1685 Lone Pine road, Bloomfield Township, died Nov. 22 in William Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak, after being in critical condition for more than a week following an accident at her home.

Mrs. Carter had got out of her parked car in her driveway, built on an incline, the evening of Nov. 14 when she noticed the vehicle moving backwards.

According to her husband, Mrs. Carter pursued the car and was knocked to the ground by its door while trying to enter the vehicle.

MR. CARTER said his wife was then run over by a front wheel of the auto before it was finally halted by a stone curb.

The family physician, Dr. C. P. Mohan, 3040 Chickering lane, Bloomfield Hills was called to the scene immediately and accompanied Mrs. Carter to the hospital.

Dr. Kenneth Wood, 4833 Mayflower court, Bloomfield township, one of Mrs. Carter's consulting physicians, said her death resulted from a severe crushing of the chest, with multiple fracture of the ribs on both sides and a severe crushing of the lungs.

Auto Accident At Home Proves Fatal to Woman

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Wilfred D. MacDonnell B'ham Resident Named Chairman For JA Drive

Serving as general chairman of Junior Achievement's 1961 fund drive in southeastern Michigan will be Wilfred D. MacDonnell, a Birmingham resident. He lives at 1375 Glenbury.

MacDonnell, president of Great Lakes Steel corporation, will work with four co-chairmen in directing some 500 volunteer workers in the Jan. 30-to-Feb. 23 fund drive.

JUNIOR Achievement is the nation's largest business education organization for teen-agers.

Last year a record-breaking \$255,838 was raised for the district organization. The new campaign goal will be announced soon.

MacDonnell has served as co-chairman of the JA dollar drive the last two years.

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BCH Award Winners

Two of the happiest people in Birmingham last Saturday night were Sue Fisher, 2122 Derby—a Seaholm sophomore—and her date, Jim Wilson, 399 Flowerdale, Ferndale, a junior at Ferndale high. Sue and Jim won the "best dancers" contest during the Holiday Hop at the Birmingham community house. Dave Woodling, disc jockey who was emcee for the party, gave the pair a special record album as a prize.

Sue and Jim got a heavy round of applause from all of the other young dancers; the chaperoning members of the BCH board of directors; and they were quizzed for pertinent "vital statistics" by BCH board member Eleanor Vinal (with them above). Community house plans a series of dances for high school and college people in the months ahead.

Birmingham Executive Talks to Farm Group

Management is today's biggest problem for farmers, a Ford motor company vice president and the general manager of its farm equipment division told the American society of farm managers and rural appraisers at their annual winter meeting in the LaSalle hotel in Chicago on Monday.

Calling today "the era of the professional," Merritt D. Hill of Birmingham said "the farmer is very much in the same boat as the corporation executive."

"Such a man knows that the capacity is available to produce in adequate and perhaps excessive quantity, but the techniques of applying the right combinations of man, power, machine power, materials and money to make such production profitable are completely up to him, and he must find and be able to use the right combination of those elements and must be able to change these combinations whenever conditions dictate."

HILL PREDICTED that the average farm will continue to grow in size from today's average of 217 acres to 345 acres by 1970. There will be a 20 per cent decrease in the number of farms by that time, he estimated.

The fewer farms will share in a higher gross farm income, which by 1970 will reach \$44.3 billion compared to the present \$38 billion. The gross income per farm will be above the present average.

Domestic consumption of farm products will increase by 11 per cent by 1965 and exports of farm products will increase by 20 per cent, he added.

"Many experts tell us the trends show that farming as a way of life is passing, and that it now is becoming a way of making a living for those who are good at it."

"This does not necessarily make the change undesirable, but it certainly will change some of the values which farm people once considered important."

"Many material goals are likely to be relinquished for spiritual goals. I think you are at the crossroads right now as farm managers where you can be helpful in making other farmers see the wisdom of keeping a reasonable balance between these two types of goals, he declared.

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The Birmingham Eccentric

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