

The Birmingham Eccentric

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

Thursday, March 17, 1960

SECTION
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Being poor, being heart-starved and in search of some human refuge of love, knowing something of the personal struggle... these conditions, to one who finally surmounts them, often has proved a boon. Oh, I do not advocate for anyone conditions that can break the heart—but I see no harm in early-life hardships that may result in building strong character.



Stork Visits Zsa Zsa

BEVERLY HILLS—Mr. and Mrs. Gus Basset (nee Zsa Zsa) of Beverly Hills announce the birth of nine babies, four daughters and five sons—Taliah, Gina, Sophia, Brigitte, Elvis, Errol, Erskine, Cyran and Jacques. The youngsters were born March 1 and are the couple's first family. The ma-

terial grand-owners are the Charles H. Beckers of 17941 Birwood. Paternal grand-owners are the Lloyd Schafers of 15669 Buckingham. The expectant Basset parents were feted recently at a pup-shower at the home of Mrs. Clarence Benedict, 388 Glen-gary, Birmingham.



Campfire Pow Wow

LATHRUP—Lathrup Village Bluebirds were hostesses to five Mayflower Congregational church campfire girls recently at Northbrook school. Admiring the ceremonial gowns of two O-Ki-Ki girls, Florence Chickering and Pam Ayoub, are Lathrup girls Heather Preece and Celia Lunan.



They Had a Ball

NORTH ADAMS—More than 100 persons who attended the Chapel Hills Estates President's Ball saw Donald Benjiken of Ashover drive (left) receive the gavel, a sign of his new role as president of the subdivision association, Richard Hodges of Winchcombe drive (center) was the chairman of the ball. Cyrus B. Besner of Peveril is the out-going president. The ball was held recently at the Hillcrest country club.



Fashionable Fellows Scout Styles

LATHRUP—In the time of changing Mark Ortega, David Smith, John Shoemaker, William Jacobs, Richard Harrington, Douglas Master, Steve Pemberton and Mike Masters. Modeling recently at a troop gathering were Bill Boughman, James Shoemaker.

America, the Land of Freedom

EDITOR'S NOTE: Following is the essay which won the George Washington medal for Marlene Capaldi, 1746 Westland, Southfield. The essay by the 18-year-old freshman at Our Lady of Mercy college, Detroit, was selected for the honor by the Freedoms Foundation.

By MARLENE CAPALDI

The chanting of the newsboy on the corner, the umpire calling a play at the ballgame, the Calipso at the circus, the church bells on Sunday morning—these sounds are all representative with the land we live in.

America is a land which harbors many freedoms. Freedoms which entail our church of worship, our choice of president, our own homes, our community gatherings, our job and countless others. Because these freedoms are so abundant we fail to realize how often we are exercising them. In other words, we take them for granted.

To see how these freedoms are used in our everyday lives, let us follow an average American through his daily activities. We'll call him Sam Wilson, a typical, middle-aged businessman with a wife and three children. They have a small but comfortable bungalow in which they take great pride and which is practically paid for.

SMITH IS awakened with the aid of an alarm at 7:30 every morning. He showers, dresses and proceeds to the kitchen. During his breakfast he reads the morning paper. Sam includes this in his routine every morning, but I doubt if he ever wonders about other countries where freedom of press is forbidden. After breakfast he kisses his wife goodbye and leaves for work.

He enjoys his job as an insurance salesman; it is the type of work and locality of his own people. It is up to him to persuade he is selling and Sam does a fine job of salesmanship as he whips up the sales. Competition is his main incentive.

At noon he takes one of his clients out to lunch. They discuss freely politics, especially the con-



MARLENE CAPALDI

ing presidential election, and their opinions on current affairs. In the afternoon a group of insurance salesmen, including Sam, hold a meeting with their boss in which they hope to obtain a salary increase. If their reasons are justified, the raise will be effected.

WHEN WORK is through for the day, Sam joins the traffic in the five o'clock rush to get home. Bumper to bumper, they move along till eventually he reaches home where Mary and his three children greet him and have supper waiting on the table.

Each of them is anxious to tell of his or her own particular happenings of the day. Since the children outnumber their parents, they speak up first and pour out their experiences with effervescence.

Judy, who is eighteen and the oldest, is attending a state college where she is majoring in

Teaching, the vocation of her choice and not the state's. Ron and Rick, the twelve-year old twins, are still in grade school but they have definitely made up their minds to become major league baseball players. Their goal shall also go unhindered by the state.

AFTER THEY have all had their Mary makes Sam of a PTA meeting called that evening to discuss getting the school to furnish a bus to bring the children to and from school. Naturally, they attend, since this affects their two boys directly. At the meeting a school board member listens to the parents' opinions. After a period of petition and discussion, their requests are granted. Here in a peaceable manner Americans have gathered to settle problems.

Sam and Mary return home that evening, have a cup of coffee together and go to bed, and yet they are unaware of the many freedoms they utilized in that one day. Let us now suppose that they were deprived of just one of these freedoms—freedom of opinion which includes religion, speech, press and assembly. There would be no paper to read or discuss, no meeting with the boss to ask for a raise, no PTA meeting with the school to solve problems. This isn't very probable here in America, but in other countries it is quite common.

THE OLD saying, "We do not appreciate what we have until it is taken away from us," certainly holds true here. These freedoms are the factors which make America unique. The proper or improper utilization of them could determine whether or not we will be able to continue exercising them. However, let us hope and pray we never have to experience the dreadful feeling of being deprived of our rights as Americans. Let us also never take advantage of them. Freedom of speech, for example, does not give a person the right to speak in a slanderous manner about another;



Still Hanging Around

A long, cold winter? Yes. But even longer and colder is the jicme growing down past the window from the caves of the home of Mr. and Mrs. V. J. Ford, 4891 Burnley drive, Bloomfield township. Mike and Nancy Ford take a curious look at the cold-weather stalactite that will have to leave in a week, when winter ends—officially.

freedom to assemble does not mean action may be taken to form a lynching mob, nor does freedom of religion allow such practices as polygamy, which contradicts our sense of morality. On the contrary, these are rights which benefit humanity in general and which keep the standards of our country so high.

It has been a long time since our forefathers embarked for this colony in Jamestown, Va. Conscious of their desire for freedom from foreign power, they fought perseveringly in the Revolutionary war until their independence was granted and many of them died for what we are now enjoying today. Let us always remember what they have done for us. And May God safeguard this democracy and keep us ever thankful that we live in America, truly a land of freedom.

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