

# Demery's Opens Beautiful Dept. Store Today

Today, Thursday, April 27, 1961, is a red letter day in the retail business life, not only of Birmingham, but also of adjacent areas that house upwards of 75,000 residents.

For on this day the doors of Demery's, a three million dollar department store on North Woodward at Hamilton will open—revealing what is termed the most beautiful, modern store of its kind in Oakland County. Although it is a branch of its well known Detroit main store, the Birmingham establishment contains even more space, 75,000 square feet, and employs more than 300 people.

Demery's, a two-story with full basement structure, is headed by Charles A. Peck, while John W. Butler, of Birmingham, is executive vice-president. Both are men long experienced in department store activity.

THE ADDITION of Demery's to the Birmingham retail business district is being welcomed by local business and professional people, as well as the general shopping public. It is expected that this newest retail outlet will attract added thousands of persons to the entire local retail scene.

On other pages of this issue of The Eccentric may be found a number of articles relative to the opening of Demery's. By reading them you can obtain a more detailed picture of the contribution this up-to-date establishment promises to make to this entire Birmingham-Bloomfield-Troy-Southfield-Royal Oak trading community.

FINALLY, ONE cannot overlook the splendid architectural improvement that Demery's has made in Birmingham's business district. Their recent, together with a number of other edifice store improvements, lends a fresh and inviting atmosphere to Birmingham's "downtown". Certainly such developments offer increased physical guarantees to the permanency of Birmingham's retail shopping establishments.

Our congratulations join with all other groups in welcoming Demery's splendid organization to this community!

## How To Prevent Filthy Scrawlings

Every once in a while there comes to public notice the defacing of some public building, a fence, or even some portion of a home, with a vulgar (sometimes outlandish) word or phrase. Such happenings (some of which occur in the Birmingham area) very often are attributed to youngsters, although older males have been caught at it, too. What prompts such acts is the subject of much speculation.

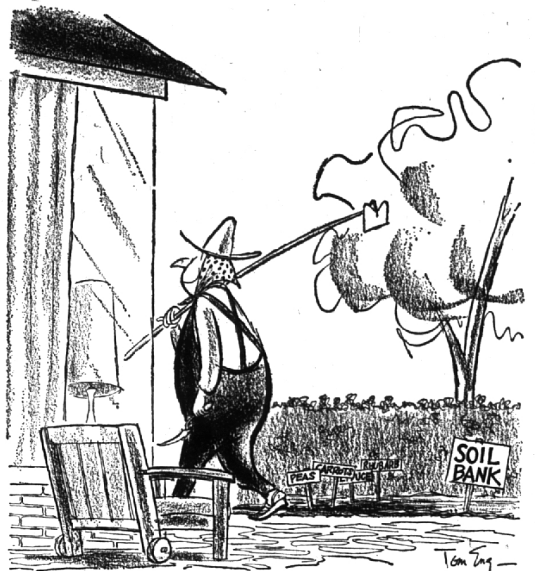
Some authorities call it the work of two types of persons: one of them the "smart-aleck" prank of youth; the other by a case of maliciousness on the part of an older person. Few, it is thought, come from really grownup, mature persons. Some of these crudely scrawled words or phrases may cause embarrassment to innocent persons whose property has been violated by such "verbal filth".

WHAT CAN BE DONE to stop such acts? Since they generally are done under cover of secrecy, it is difficult to discover who did them. However, many times the culprits are found out, and taken into police custody.

In those cases where police intervention is delayed, or never brought to bear, about the best solution is the use of moral suasion by adults, of character-building organizations, or (and this is a quite good way) by those better youngster-associates of one who does scrawl such nasty words or phrases.

Every generation, of course, has had to contend with this and other social problems. When they do appear, it is to be hoped, that efforts will be made to prevent their repetition. There are so many splendid, harmless, ways for youth to have fun that it ought never to have to resort to filthy publicly displayed scrawlings as a means of finding adventure.

One of the fastest growing social agencies in the U.S.A. is known as Family Service Association. A branch is right here in Birmingham . . . and quite busy, offering aid to many distraught, helpless, confused human beings. Their various aids, incidentally, are not confined to families of low income. Many of their contacts are people of middle and top income brackets.



## Editorial Page • A Free, Responsible and Aggressive Press Is Democracy's First Line of Defense

Wednesday, April 26, 1961

### The Birmingham Eccentric

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## From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

Speaking about "backward nations", with their low living standards, their high degree of illiteracy, their so-primitive environments, how can you expect a few scores of millions of American dollars to raise them to levels that could bring them the ability to develop and maintain the processes of self-government? Why, right here in the good old U.S.A. there are problems of poverty and ignorance and apathy toward citizen responsibilities — and we are presumed to be at the top of the intelligence scale. It takes more than mere money to push a nation from ignorance, often superstition, to the threshold of civilization.

One of our local bird lovers went into something close to rapture a few warm days ago when she saw a couple of robins in her yard. "First robins I've seen at my home in two years," she phoned The Eccentric. "I hope they'll come back in former numbers . . . maybe they will, if we cease spraying our trees with the right stuff to kill insects but the wrong stuff to attract birds."

Because of the need, among other reasons, to retain business records to satisfy various governmental requirements, business papers in the U.S. are accumulating at the rate of 62 million file drawers per year. (Imagine all the clerical work expended.)



Richard Thomason has been so lucky lately that fellow-officers in the Birmingham Police Dept. have dubbed him "Mr. Lucky."

Thomason, you know, won a 12-day trip for two to the Caribbean by estimating within five cents the actual value of a treasure chest full of coins.

He and second-place winner Dirk Anderson, who is nine years old, were presented with certificates for their prizes at the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce annual dinner party Wednesday night of last week.

Thomason and his wife told how he won a house trailer a year and a half ago in a fishing contest.

"IN FACT," said Thomason, "fishing was involved in both instances."

"I won the house trailer by submitting the biggest pike in the Mort Neff fishing contest and I was in a sporting goods store buying fishing equipment when I submitted the winning entry in this contest."

What a great and grand guy Gordy Howe is! He continues to play like the champion he is . . . not only has and still is he one of ice hockey's greatest players, but of equal importance is the splendid example of high standards that he always has typified. Certainly his own family rightfully is proud of their bread-winner.

So many villages, cities, counties and states are wanting more tax income that one wonders where former citizen opposition to this condition has gone. Apparently, it seems, it has gone the way of civic apathy toward government.

Answer this question: "Isn't it properly something you feel, fond and then forward to Washington, D. C.?" (For the correct answer, ask your neighbor, if you don't know.)

Cows still outnumber people in the State of Vermont. No wonder that little gathering of people has plenty of pull in federal affairs.

A famous U.S. doctor recently openly stated that "men are delicate prima donnas who don't know how to live." Now, doctor, are you, too, going back on your own fellow-citizens? Can't you prescribe an antidote for this deterioration?

## City Beat

By KEN WEAVER

THE THOMASONS plan to make their Caribbean trip next January—when his mother will be available as a baby-sitter. They have two boys, 5 and 7.

"Did you see everything that's involved in that trip?" asked Thomason. "It's tremendous. Will fly by jet to Miami, then to Montego Bay, Jamaica, San Juan, Puerto Rico, and Tahiti."

He's looking forward to skin diving and deep sea fishing as well as sight-seeing.

THIS WILL be the first trip out of the U.S. for the Thomasons.

"We've traveled in several of the states, and last year we made a wonderful trip in that house trailer to the Porcupine Mountains in Michigan's Upper Peninsula."

"Always before we drove from motel to motel, but this time we pulled into state parks and stayed in our own house trailer."

"The boys loved it. When we stopped, they had room to get out and play; it was like having a backyard at home."

This house trailer comes in handy all summer, too. They keep it at the family lake property and make full use of it on weekends.

NOW AFTER winning a house trailer and a south sea tour, Thomason is "Mr. Lucky" to his fellow officers.

So what's next, Mr. Lucky?

## PEOPLE'S COLUMN

### Cobo Hall Bill Astounds Of All Students 1 Exhibitor

To the Editor:  
Following is an account of our experience at Cobo Hall about which I told you. I understand some steps have been taken toward correcting this situation since the Home and Garden Show.

After reading all of the letters about how satisfactory the experiences of exhibitors were at the Flower Show, now we get the bill!

A PROFESSIONAL association with which I am connected had an exhibit at the Home and Garden Show. We waited until the day before the show opened to hand photos of work of members, as several members were late getting them to us. (These were enlarged photos mounted on heavy cardboard and hung on pegboard.)

The box of photos weighed possibly five pounds and two chairs from my office weighed approximately 15 pounds each.

Three of us went down with these items in my car and were stopped at the door and told that we must hire help to carry them to the exhibit.

THREE BURLY men took these things from us, carried them approximately 30 feet inside the door and placed them on a lift truck. The lift truck moved them approximately 100 feet to our exhibit, and then the three men lifted them off the truck and placed them on the

## 100 YEARS AGO

### Lee and Grant Join Respective Armies

By LON K. SAVAGE  
Special Writer

Five of the greatest military figures of the Civil War joined their respective armies 100 years ago this week.

For the South, the gains were in Robert E. Lee, Joseph E. Johnston and Thomas J. Jackson (who is not yet known as "Stonewall"). For the North, it was Ulysses S. Grant and George B. McClellan.

The war had been a tremendous loss to Lee. Only weeks earlier he had written, "I cannot anticipate a greater calamity for the country than the Union of the States."

But during the week after Fort Sumter, he had followed his native state of Virginia.

Lee resigned from the federal army on April 22, and that very night agreed to take over command of all Virginia forces.

Lee Commissioned The next morning, 100 years ago this week, he was escorted before the Virginia convention where he was formally commissioned a major general, the highest rank then offered.

A week earlier, in a conference at Washington, he had turned down the command of the Union army.

While Lee was being ceremoniously installed into the Virginia army at Richmond, a stooped, plain little man was making a far less auspicious beginning in the Union army.

Ulysses S. Grant, who was to accept Lee's surrender four years hence near Appomattox Court house, was drilling a company of soldiers in the city of Galena, Ill.

Grant had been having hard times. Although a West Point graduate, he had been forced to resign from the army in 1854 or face charges of drinking. Since

### Asks McNamara Consider Rights Of All Students

To the Editor:  
I have sent the following letter to Sen. Patrick V. McNamara: I am confident that you will consider the rights of all students at all levels in both public and private schools when the time arrives for debate and decision on Federal aid to education.

There is no justice in considering legislation to guarantee the rights of students in public schools while delaying consideration — perhaps forever — of the same rights of students in private schools.

THE UNITED STATES has always followed the principle of justice to all on an equal basis, not justice to the majority first, or justice to the majority only.

On the constitutional question, isn't it logical for the legislative and executive to allow the Supreme Court to decide the issue? Each to his function, I contend.

I would appreciate your reactions to my views. I will be sorely disappointed to find you in disagreement.

JAMES M. OSBORNE,  
28711 Sunset,  
Lathrup.

Our bill reads:  
I may hear each at \$ 6.00  
Lift truck 3 1/2 hour at \$ 6.50  
Total \$12.25

Any one of these men could have carried all of these items to an exhibit without overdue strain in five minutes or less.

A Subscriber

then he had tried farming, selling real estate and finally, clerking in his father's leather store at Galena.

Immediately after Sumter, Grant began training the men around Galena for war, and his life took on new meaning. After a week, he marched his men off to Springfield where, on April 28, he accepted an insignificant post with the adjutant general's office of the state of Illinois.

On that day that Lee appeared before the Virginia convention, Joseph E. Johnston walked into the Secretary of War's office in Washington and resigned as quartermaster general of the United States army.

He then headed for Richmond, where, like his best friend, Johnston, Lee, he was to become a major general.

Jackson in Richmond Still on that day, a serious-faced man in his 30s, Colonel Thomas J. Jackson, suddenly brought the VMI cadet corps to Richmond two days earlier to join in the war effort.

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## BY GEORGE WM. AVERILL One Thing or Another

Those people who've used them have found these four words all-important in their relationships with others:

Slam.  
Madam.  
Please.  
Thanks.

They also have discovered the five most important words are:

"We are proud of you!"  
The four most important words:  
"What is your opinion?"  
Three most important:  
"If you please."  
Two most important:  
"Thank you."  
The LEAST important word:  
"I."

One of the world's unnecessary expressions:  
"Exceeding two years in length."

What else could it be? "Two years in height" or "width"?  
A conscience does not prevent one from sinning — it only prevents one from enjoying it.

When someone says he sees eye to eye with you, make certain he doesn't mean he is your same height.

Then there was the local minister who preached a sermon on the 10 Commandments.

In Monday morning's mail, he received a note from a member of his congregation.  
"I am resigning as a member of your church," the note read. "You're getting too personal."

By DENI SCANLON

## Talk of the Towns

How do you say "no" to a salesman on the telephone?

With modern conveniences come modern problems and as far as this writer is concerned these swift-talking, Patriarchs of The Product take the prize—for problems, that is.

A survey of how to match them in their own game brought out some interesting replies.

A Birmingham couple who live on North Woodward received a call during dinner one evening.

The selling party called a breathless order on behalf of a roofing and construction firm that was very anxious to run right over and give them estimates for any repairs that their house might require.

"Now that you've taken time to inhale," the gal began, "I think I'd better tell you that we live in an apartment!"

Then she gave the seller the wicked old landlord's phone number.

A bride-to-be from Beverly Hills made the mistake of announcing her engagement in print.

Her sparkling ring soon led to rings of another sort.

"Oh, I'm sorry," she told a salesman, "we are very fortunate. My non-in-law-to-be has given us a complete set of china."

"Humm, that is fortunate," was the comment.

"Oh, I'm sorry," the bride-elect had to answer again. "My mother has given us a complete set of silverware."

"Yes, how fortunate," the salesman added.

"Oh, I am sorry," the sweet young thing said a third time. "I am sorry a bit late. I just bought pots and pans from the salesman who called me yesterday."

A Bloomfield Township junior executive intercepted a call one evening from a soliciting plumber's firm.

"Thanks, anyway," he told the plumber's rep, "but our outhouse serves the purpose just fine. Wouldn't part with it for the world. It's been in the family for years. I'm sure you understand. Tradition, you know."

There is also an irretrievable story about George R. Averill, publisher of The Eccentric, who one day, was approached by a freshly scrubbed, freshly trained encyclopedia salesman.

"Well, I'd like very much to buy your books, young man, but for a man who can't read, I don't think they'd be much good."

The stunned student of salesmanship stammered, "You mean you run a newspaper and you can't read?"

"That's right," GRAs replied, while his staff hid their grins.

"How can you manage?" the peddler exclaimed.

"Oh, I can write," our publisher explained. "I just never had time to learn to read."

"Well, I'll be!" the salesman said as he turned on his heels to leave. "Wait 'til my training instructor hears this!"

The most classic of all, however, happened just last week when this writer's very own husband listened patiently to a telephone spiel.

Then, in a most masculine voice, he said, "You'll have to call back tomorrow. My mommy isn't home."