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# Bits of Birmingham

This week's weather has not been just what one would expect to start thoughts rolling about swimming, but nevertheless there has been talk of the great sport coming soon when the Barzun Junior High School pool is opened for the winter swimming program. Dr. Dwight B. Ireland, superintendent of schools, says the pool may be opened in January, with quite a favorable program being arranged. The pool likely will be available for young people and adults once the swimming is gotten under way. The swimming pool fund had cash on hand, Nov. 1, 1945, of \$955. So it looks as though there may be inquiries in Birmingham stores for bathing suits.

Coming back to Birmingham on Thanksgiving Day was a letter dated from the Birmingham post office on Christmas Day, 1944, and addressed to Navy command leaving for overseas duty. Just why it came back on Thanksgiving Day Postmaster Joseph Byrne says he does not know, unless it was because the letter was thankful its year of wanderings was over. The letter was intended for a young naval officer who finally did not leave the States. It was the unexpected change in his route that sent the letter most every place in the war picture except where the officer was at that moment. There was not much room left on either side of the envelope for further instructions. The letter has been retained to the officer who is now at Providence, New Hampshire, naval hospital. But even this much traveled letter seems to have nothing on one sent from China to a city in Ontario, then forwarded to Birmingham, on to the upper Michigan country and finally back to Ontario again. There the postal workers apparently figured the "postage due" and finally back to Ontario again. There the postal workers apparently figured the "postage due" and finally back to Ontario again. There the postal workers apparently figured the "postage due" and finally back to Ontario again.

The January graduating class at Baldwin High School will hold its annual Commencement Program on Thursday evening, January 24, at Baldwin Auditorium. Dr. Dwight B. Ireland is endeavoring to secure Dr. Henry H. Crane, pastor of Central Methodist church, Detroit, as the commencement speaker. The board of education has authorized \$100 for cost of the speaker for this program.

Cecil Jenkins, who operates the body service of that name on South Woodward, is one of the few Birmingham hunters home with two deer. Mrs. Jenkins usually accompanies her husband to the north woods and just as often brings home a deer. This year was no exception. They hunted up around Mio and Jenkins says they came near bringing home a big bear. After getting their bearings the Birmingham hunters went out looking for bear. But Mr. Bear had become tired of being so cramped up to camp to see the Jenkins trio. But someday a missed connection. After hanging around camp for a while Mr. Bear decided it was again his turn to get for the big bear. He took away a lead and fired but a hunter looking for a bear. If we had stayed in camp we surely would have gotten that bear," Mr. Jenkins declared.

Two college players from Michigan have been nominated as candidates for the American Football Coaches' Association All-American team. Joe Pometto, Michigan University, and George Mallow, St. Joseph's University of Detroit center, were the Michigan players considered outstanding during the season by the Titan Coach. The team, selected by members of the coaches to be announced, will be tried for the job of the national association, on the basis of nominations submitted.

The Automobile Club of Michigan today suggested that this Wanderer warn Birmingham car drivers some of the outstanding changes in the Michigan motor vehicle laws made during the 1945 legislative session. He pointed out to Howard D. Brown, general attorney for the club, is an amendment making it unlawful to overtake and pass a school bus which has stopped to receive or discharge passengers without coming to a stop 10 feet to the rear. This applies only where stop signs are painted on the back and front of the bus. Several other laws, formerly present in some city ordinances and now statewide, include amendments which make it unlawful to drive a vehicle over a fire hose without permission of the fire department, to park in front of any theater, to block parking spaces in front of emergency exits of buildings and to block or hamper use of fire escapes from building. Another new act abolishes the immunity of governmental agencies, state, county and municipal, making them liable for damages.

Birmingham hasn't much kick about the fall weather thus far this season, declared John McKee, who operates gasoline and service stations. "Birmingham had about an inch of snow a few days ago and another inch Thanksgiving night," he said, "but that was nothing at all beside the dose handed out to Houghton. That city had eight inches of snow on Thanksgiving Day. And Muskegon really was given a hard hit with weather, with a 46-mile-per-hour gale, with snow mixed in, and plenty of damage."

groin, icy pavement. Over there the mercury dropped to 15 degrees above zero and almost no traffic was up and on some roads car traffic was held up for hours. I'll take Birmingham for mine.

The old jingle about "the night before Christmas" was recalled to Birmingham folks Thursday morning—Thanksgiving Day—when the weatherman reminded them winter is not far away. The first real cold weather of fall came the night before Thanksgiving. And there was a cold, snow-filled wind blowing most of the morning. There were plenty of folks complaining of the chill all day and also through the night of Thursday and Friday morning. The mercury was down around 20 Thursday night.

Royal Oak's pretty majorettes showed off their starting line the Royal Oak-Birmingham football game Thanksgiving Day forenoon, and one fan, almost frozen himself, was heard to remark: "I'll bet those little things will be thankful when this battle is over and there was a change of homes and thawed out." A lot of other folks wondered if the girls, wearing their attire, would be so cold before the game was over that they would be unable to get thawed out in time for the big turkey dinner.

Maybe you like dogs, and maybe you don't, but one has to admit the dogs are going to get a break over the horses and mules of the American Association of the Overseas Dogs, which never complain about slowness of demobilization, and are coming back to the States. The Atlantic there are about 8,000 horses and mules—mostly mules—being sent back to the States and this area is set a lot of dogs to the service but most of the horses came from the East and the mules from Missouri. The Army had 30,000 mules in service in Europe.

A warning to save war ration book four has been issued by W. E. Fitzgerald, Detroit OPA district director, on the basis of an announcement by the secretary of agriculture that meat rationing has ended. "This leaves only sugar on the ration list," said Fitzgerald, "and as long as it remains rationed, buyers will have to present their ration books and coupons, as in the past, to make sugar purchases."

"Why do women leave their little children and their cars while they are shopping?" asks Motorcycle Officer Bob Emmett, of Birmingham, who for years has been required to locate some of them when they get out of the cars and endanger their lives by running about in the business districts. Besides, mused Bob yesterday, "the way some of them blow horns on the family car is not only hard on the ears, but also on the batteries. It may surprise some to know that the great three-year-old toy car in a car door—over the years I've had to come to the rescue of more than one lot whose mother became pretty worried about her missing offspring."

"If they did not shoot those big bucks themselves, they better not sell anybody," declared a Rotterdam Monday after the local club had picked Louis Hascall, Ray Cook and Harry Bisset as the club's big game hunters. The men will have seats of honor along with hunters from other nearby clubs at the Royal Oak Rotary's game supper Tuesday evening, Dec. 11. The Wanderer could vision some thought doubts floating around the atmosphere Monday as the vote was taken, but no one else would admit having gotten his bet.

Birmingham has not yet staged a contest for the honor of being the mightiest hunter of the city for this season but if it did likely the name topping the list would be that of Vernon Griffith, Birmingham fire chief. The fire chief has just returned home with a bear he carried a 200-pound bear and a 140-pound buck. And the chief claims he used only two shells out of his meagre supply. Some of his hunting companions, doubting his ability with a rifle, expressed the belief that he might have carried a tank of some chemical but Vern declares he did the deadly work with his trusty rifle. Mr. Bear was the first Vern has ever seen in the woods and other hunters say they have not yet decided which was the most excited, Vern or the bear. "It was a dandy shot at an even 100 yards and the bear dropped

## Victory Smile



William O'Dwyer, mayor-elect of New York City, smiles a victory smile. He headed the Democratic and American Labor Party tickets.

In his tracks, dead as could be," said one of the party, "and the deer also came down with a single shot, maybe not quite as long, but just as true. And to top it all off Vern says he saw three other fine bucks during the week up in Alcona county. It was worth a ten spot to see the expression on people's faces as we drove home."

It has been called our attention that the advertisement "Northwoods in a Box" was placed by a former member of the Eccentric staff, Mollie Rogers, who is staying this winter at Crystal Lake, Frankfort, Mich. Her brother, George Townsend, is attending the winter with her and spending school in Frankfort. George had the thrilling experience last week of shooting his first deer, a six-point buck.

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