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Bits of Birmingham

"Beautiful Displays" by Nature would have been the title of the picture if the scene in northern skies could have been recorded last Wednesday night. Sharp, static beams of light danced across the horizon as Aurora Borealis staged one of her frequent spring-time floor shows, unique in the fact that it was a show consisting only of lighting effects.

The bee-walk, plus-temperature spring weather we have been experiencing in these parts leaves Tommy Lee, locker room manager at Birmingham Country Club, cold. Well he remembers his experience of last year. He remembers how the sun shone bright on Birmingham during March of '45. Tom was to make a change in employment from the Detroit Yacht Club to Birmingham Country Club at that time and because of the premature summer weather he was persuaded to come to the Country Club earlier than he anticipated. Soon after his arrival in April and its rains did likewise. The Rouge River swelled and soon a big portion of the golf course was under water, the bridges washed out and golfers stayed away by the hundreds. Tom related the whole and affair last week for a small group of golfers who were praising the

weather man for his good work. He finished with this curt remark: "I made a mistake when I left the Yacht Club at this time last Spring; I should have brought a yacht along with me."

"The rain storm of Monday morning helped in a lot, to halt at least for a day or two the trouble we are having with grass fire," Vernon Griffith, chief of the fire department told this Wanderer this week. "Because of the early disappearance of the snow cover Birmingham's grass fire season got off to an early start. In fact, much of the Lower Peninsula experienced the same trouble. With you would tell the folks to use extreme caution while working in or passing through these Birmingham areas with high, dry grass. Usually grass fires in Birmingham are not as dangerous as some other kinds of fires, but they do cause a lot of smoke, dirt and worry and sometimes do really prove dangerous and expensive."

The DPW is going to get a big road grader for use in street improvement work. It has been decided to purchase a used grader of the 13,000 pound type for grading streets, mending the topping on some streets and for patrol grader duty. The machine, according to City Manager D. C. Egbert can be purchased for \$2,800 whereas a new grader of this type would cost \$6,200. Mark Dance of the DPW has inspected the machine and says it is in good shape. Manager Egbert says it should prove a good purchase at the price asked. It will be a Diesel six-wheeler and, says Mr. Egbert, should be able to handle our work until we are able to purchase a new and heavier one. The DPW hopes to have the outfit for use within a few days on some of the first pieces of street work started this spring.

Spring is in the air. Boys are out playing baseball and softball. Youngsters and some oldersters in the south part of the city have been seen lately getting Cummings park, corner of Cummings and Davis streets, in shape for their ball games. One of the jobs the boys were undertaking was the building of a backstop.

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City Land May Be Used For Gardens

Much of Birmingham's city-owned land, used for gardens last season, is to be available again this season, according to a letter from City Manager D. C. Egbert, addressed to John W. Gaffill, gardening chairman for Birmingham for this season.

At a recent meeting of the City Commission the matter of use of city lands for gardens was referred to the city manager with power to act in the case and his letter to Mr. Gaffill explains the situation. He stated:

"The Commission of the City of Birmingham is anxious to cooperate in the Garden Program. Your letter of March 25th, in regard to the use of City-owned property, has been referred to me for reply. Improvement Plans

"The plans of the City for the use of this property at the present time is not definite, however, we are constantly receiving numerous requests to provide recreational facilities and recognize the need for these facilities.

"It would be my suggestion that the gardeners proceed to use City owned land as they did last year and any construction that the City may contemplate on the Edgewood and Poppleton site will be deferred until the fall and every effort made to interfere as little as possible with the neighborhood gardens."

It appeared one day last week that the Birmingham National Bank had acquired a watchdog to protect its night depository. Or perhaps some shopper discovered an unusual place in the dog while running a couple of errands. The dog, a small black and white shepherd, was standing on the wide cement window ledge just to the right of the door. A short piece of clothes line was used to tie the pooch to the small, ornamental iron rail.

It isn't every service club that has two cripples at its weekly luncheon but that's just what happened at the Rotary Club Monday at the Community House, when Dr. George Marin appeared with his left arm in the tie the dog while Vliet came with a patch over one eye. George blamed his troubles on a volleyball game with a group of Rotarians, while Clarence says it could be he cut his eye at some good looking young woman up in Pontiac or somewhere. Anyway, both were tagged as "crippled."

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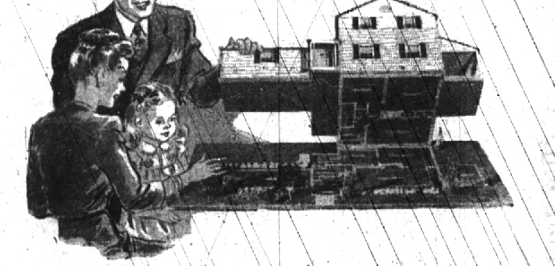
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