

### Firemen Busy as Grass Fires Rise to All-Time High

Fire Chief V. W. Griffith makes an urgent appeal to local residents to exercise greater care in the burning of rubbish. Fires have been numerous and frequent this month, and the majority have been caused by burning papers and rubbish in open incinerators which are placed at the edge of lawns. Some have been bounded by vacant lots where the grass has not been burned or removed for several seasons. With the strong winds which have prevailed this month, flying sparks from these incinerators have ignited many of these lawns and lots, Chief Griffith reports.

While, fortunately, no buildings have been damaged, several have been threatened by the flames

which have gotten out of control. Lawns have been burned over, with some fires running nearly 800 feet before they could be brought under control. Trees, hedges, shrubs and fences have been destroyed, however, he said.

Chief Griffith asks that persons make sure they have an area of about 20 feet surrounding incinerators in which there is no dead grass. He also asks that householders remain in constant attendance while the fire is burning, and that no fires be started while a strong wind is blowing.

"Until a hard rain falls here, this condition will 'reveal and remain dangerous,'" he said.

### National Champion

Ted Krause, 1948 National Skish Champion, will speak to the Birmingham Rotary club at the Monday noon luncheon April 4 on "Bait and Fly Casting". He will demonstrate various casts using a 5/8-ounce plug.

### F. D. Ford, Frequent Guest Here, Died in Seattle on Saturday

W. A. Hendrickson of Catalpa drive has received word of the death of his friend and frequent houseguest, Frank D. Ford of Seattle, Wash. Mr. Ford, 70, died Saturday after an illness of two months.

Mr. Ford was well known in Washington, particularly in his home city, Seattle, for the many shows he and his dog "Roxy" presented for children. He visited hospitals, orphanages and schools entertaining children with her and during the war entertained many of the troops stationed at Seattle. A great camera fan, Mr. Ford endeared himself to many soldiers by taking their pictures and later mailing them to their parents.

Last year he completed a book about his remarkable dog and entitled it "My Companion, under the title 'Roxy Girl'."

Mr. Ford is survived by his widow, Gladys Ford.

### Baldwin Lecture Series Draws to a Close Tonight

Tonight the last two lectures of the series on Areas of Russian-American Contact will be held in Baldwin Senior High School at 7:30 p.m.

The first speaker will be Dr. Robert E. Ward on the subject, "The Situation in the Far East." Dr. Ward is a graduate of Stanford University, receiving his A.B. degree in political science in June, 1924, and his master's degree from the University of California in 1928.

He has followed with studies at Stanford University and the University of California and completed his qualifying examination for the doctorate in December of 1940. His graduate work was concentrated in the subjects of political science and history, with extensive supplementary work in several Slavic languages and Japanese.

He has written a number of articles including the work in his dissertation which covers a study of the electoral records of Japanese political parties based almost entirely on Japanese sources. Covering the period of 1928-1937, this work includes the general elections from the introduction of universal manhood suffrage in 1925 to the outbreak of general warfare in the Pacific in 1941.

Dr. Ward served with the armed forces from 1942-1945.

The second lecture on "Communism in Latin America," will be given by Professor Dudley M. Phelps, Professor of Economics and associate professor of marketing in the School of Business Administration. He has received his degrees, including A.B., M.A. and Ph.D., from the University of Michigan. He is the author of many articles and is known for his book on "Migration of Industry to South America."

"The lectures have been well attended and it would be of interest to the Board of Education to know whether or not, and to what degree, persons who have attended the lectures have felt them worth-while," stated Superintendent Dwight B. Ireland.

"This is the second venture in providing opportunities of this kind for the teachers in the Birmingham Schools and opening the opportunities to citizens of the community. Please address any comments you have on this series to the Superintendent of Schools, in care of the Board of Education and state whether or not you think an endeavor should be made next year to repeat a similar series of lectures in some field of public interest."

### Great Books Group Announces Future Books for Study

By Jeanne Lloyd

Dr. Mortimer Adler of the University of Chicago did an excellent job of selection of the Great Books Program to a audience at the Main Library in Detroit on last Monday. Dr. Adler contrasted the learning process of young people in schools with that of their background of mature experience and ready for an understanding of the world's great ideas. He recommended a study of the world's great books as the best road to complete and genuine education.

Visitors from the Birmingham Great Books Group, which meets twice monthly at the Baldwin Library, were Mrs. Charles Blunt, Mrs. Dorothy Ritz, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Linton, Miss Jeanne Lloyd, Mr. Karl Lutz, Mrs. James V. Murphy, and Mr. and Mrs. Ken Ratcliff.

In order to give the public an opportunity to become acquainted with the Great Books Program, the local group will welcome visitors to their discussion meetings at the Baldwin Public Library at 8 p.m. are scheduled as follows: April 5, Rousseau's Social Contract; April 19, Federalist Papers; May 3, Adam Smith's Wealth of Nations; May 17, Karl Marx and Communist Manifesto; May 31, Hamlet.

### England's History Shown in Display at Baldwin Library

On display at the Baldwin Public Library is a new exhibition assembled by the editors of Life Magazine. This panorama of 39th Century Life consists of some 50 pictures showing the contrasts of that great century, the staleness of the country house of Lord Chesterfield's day, and the squalor of London.

The architectural interiors designed by Chippendale, Hepplewhite and Sheraton are shown, as are portraits and landscapes by Reynolds and Stainsborough. Also pictured are the famous streets of London where lived and wrote Dr. Johnson, Alexander Pope, Dean Swift, Defoe and Fielding, Goldsmith and Sheridan.

18th Century England, arranged under the direction of Miss Margaret Scherer of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, touches on the political and historical, the art and literary scenes of that rich and varied period of English history, and will continue at the Library until April 29.

**Soroptimist Club**

Harry Whang spoke at a meeting of the local Soroptimist Club recently on "America in the Far East."

The group has raised about \$40 for their club project to date.



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