



The local merchants' first annual "Christmas Preview" of merchandise for Yule shoppers drew heavy crowds Dec. 5. Birmingham residents, as well as many from outlying areas, jammed stores to see what was being offered the shopping public.

**News Highlights**

(Continued from Page 5)

traffic signals were erected and placed in operation yesterday by the State Highway Department. Local police warn motorists to exercise caution for a few days until drivers become familiar with the new installations. The first 12 days of license plate sales in Birmingham have seen some 550 new plates issued. H. Paul Templeton was named president of the North Woodward Shrine club at their annual election last Thursday. W. Carlton Scott was elected

president at the annual meeting of the Birmingham Exchange club Tuesday noon. Miss Ruth D. Armstrong, daughter of George W. Armstrong, 647 Henrietta, passed the recent Michigan Bar examinations. Birmingham's gas system for the most part, "is an old, antiquated system," is one of the few Michigan cities having a dual pressure system and mains are buried too close to the ground, Birmingham Fire Chief Vern W. Griffith charged yesterday in a three-page report handed City Manager Donald C. Eckwert. Foundations for the new W. Maple bridge over the River Rouge have been completed, the DPW

announced this week. The superstructure and new approaches will await the 1950 construction season.

**Issue of Dec. 22**

Consumers Power Company officials are attempting to determine the manner in which the company and the City of Birmingham can decide what gas mains should be replaced to prevent breaks such as caused the Antique Shop explosion and fire of Dec. 11. One of Birmingham's warmest traditions is the annual Christmas Sing held at the Civic Park cove. Approximately one thousand dollars has been contributed by local residents and business concerns to the Lee C. Carroll Fund, during the past week. A long-time resident of Birmingham, Scott A. Hersey has become associated with the George E. Markley real estate firm, George Markley announced this week. The 214-page report by Superintendent of Schools Dwight E. Ireland, covering the local district's activities during the year 1948-49, was released this week. Mrs. Walter Powers, local chairman for the American Cancer Society, reports that Birmingham club scouts collected around 800 pounds of white cloth during their recent drive.

The city commission has decided to continue to prohibit small nursery schools from being established in single residence areas. The Baldwin choir made two presentations of "The Story of Christmas" last Monday at the Community House. Members of the Junior Musicals are holding their annual carol singing this evening, starting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Date on Westchester Way for refreshments afterwards.

**Issue of Dec. 29**

Replacement of the old cast iron gas distribution mains on Woodward avenue between Oakland and Oak streets, was begun yesterday morning by a private contractor hired by Consumers Power Company to do the work. The Birmingham recreation

board will resume all phases of its annual winter program Saturday morning, Jan. 7 at 8:45 a.m. An extensive range of activities will be offered to children of elementary grade ages every Saturday for the next two months. Nominations were announced last Thursday by Paul N. Averill, chairman of the United Fund for DeKalb and County's nominating committee. The entire slate covers every section of the county.

Containing Lee Carroll Fund contributions received at The Eccentric office to date, a \$1,000 check was presented Saturday morning to Mrs. Lee Carroll, wife, and Sharon Lee, daughter, of Lee Carroll, Birmingham fireman who lost his life in the gas explosion Dec. 11.

A flurry of very low property damage accidents and a series of house entries kept the Birmingham police department on its toes over the holiday week end. Dr. and Mrs. Stanley P. Jenson of Hawthorne road were judged to have the most beautiful home decorations in the Kiwanis-Detroit-

Edison outdoor home-lighting contest. The city retirement board, at a meeting last Thursday, started an investigation into the matter of obtaining increased death benefits for survivors of city employees. Purchase of a new load packer for use by the DPW in collecting rubbish from the business area has been approved by the city commission. Sgt. Henry Timm of the Birmingham traffic safety division will shortly introduce his newest "gadget" to the youngsters of the city's public school system.

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