

# Wave of Reckless Bicycle Riding Brings Warning from Chief Moxley

Numerous local motorists are wondering if the bicycle safety program, carried on throughout the Birmingham schools, is put away in June along with the arithmetic books.

Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley answers "No!" and warns bicyclists that they should exercise even greater caution during the summer months, when traffic increases greatly in the city.

In the past few weeks an epidemic of dare-devil riding seems to have taken hold of the youngsters here, especially the boys.

Several times drivers have reported close calls when bikes were ridden past their cars on the wrong side, just as they were about to drive into parking areas.

Thursday afternoon two local women experienced another form of "reckless bicycling" when four boys made across-traffic turns from Maple onto Bates.

**THE LEADER** of the quartet shouted to his companions to come on, the cars will slow down. Fortunately for the four boys, who were crossing two lanes of traffic and cutting into the third, the cars did slow down. Otherwise a much different story would be written about the incident.

After the two automobile drivers had slammed on their brakes at the second time the leader called back, "I told you they'd stop!"

Chief Moxley explained that, while motorists are expected to assume some responsibility for the safety of children on bikes, they cannot do it all.

"If a boy or girl deliberately is careless and rides into the path of a car, the motorist cannot always stop. These young riders should bear in mind the fact that a car cannot be stopped in an instant. They should also remember that a car is a great deal bigger and heavier than they are and might well be regarded as a dangerous weapon."

"WE HAVE been fortunate in Birmingham in the few accidents on record for our bicycle riders. We, of the police department, are proud of this. Proud of the boys and the girls and the drivers of cars."

"It makes us rather wonder, though, just what the youngsters think as they deliberately invite trouble. The police and schools spend time and money during the school year to teach safety. We expect it to be carried out at all times."

"According to reports which have come to the department, it is just pure luck and alert motorists which have saved many of our children from serious injury or death during the past few weeks."

"Officers will watch for these dare-devil riders, of course, but they cannot be everywhere at once. We are asking parents to help us by correcting their children, and the children themselves by being more careful. A summer vacation in a hospital is not much fun."

# "Mail Call" for Birmingham Girls at Camp Cavell



The YMCA's Camp Cavell finds Birmingham girls eagerly reading the home town news from families and friends. Left to right are Linda Sheehan, Virginia Thomson, Gail Tompfer, Betty Jean Paullette, Dianne Hendershott, Catherine Bemis, Joanne Wagner and Adele Tompfer.

## HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

By ALICE E. MORGAN

HE'S A GOOD GUY

Earlier this summer a Birmingham mother happened to mention the fact that two of her youngsters were gone for the day.

"They went on the YMCA trip," she explained, "with Mr. Kirbert. When the kids are out with him I never worry a bit, although I just can't see how he does it."

"I take my own four and a couple of the neighborhood youngsters to a matinee now and then and nearly go mad before I get them all home, safely. Ed Kirbert starts out with 50 or 60, goes on long trips and never seems to turn a hair. I don't know how the man does it."

Two weeks ago, while on vacation, I happened to run into Ed Kirbert and one of his "crazies" over at Springdale Park.

Just as I pulled into the "dining" area the picnic was swarming with kids, hot dogs, soft drinks and Mr. Kirbert. He seemed to be everywhere at once, even managing to take time out for a visit with me.

partment, others for soft drinks.

FROM EVERY corner of the park you could hear them shouting items back to "Mr. Kirbert" about their games, asking his advice on how to interpret some rule of their whereabouts. The funny part of the whole thing was—you never heard Mr. Kirbert.

His own lunch finished and the campsite cleaned, with all games and equipment collected, Kirbert sat at one of the tables.

After an hour or so he casually walked over to his car. With no signal that I could hear, the youngsters began coming back. Equipment was loaded, part of the game got in and off they went. This went on for three or four trips before all were returned to Birmingham.

As one husky-looking lad passed near my table, I asked him if he'd had a good time. His answer told a lot.

"Sure! We always have a good time when we go out with Mr. Kirbert. He's a good guy."

Almost every city in China has its characteristic fan, distinguishable by its color and ornament.

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### Cranbrook's Junior Divisions to Stage Shakespearean Drama

Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and a premier showing of Mae Dix's "Wish I May—Wish I Might" are the plays which will form the twin bill of Cranbrook Theatre's annual summer show for children in the early evening on Thursday, Aug. 3 and Friday, Aug. 4.

Louise Horton, former director of the junior theatre of Oakland county, will direct the "Dream" and Mae Dix, formerly of the Cleveland Playhouse, will direct her own play.

The Junior and intermediate divisions of the theatre school will be given parts in the two productions, with Annetta Womberger supervising production.

Carl G. Womberger, theatre school director, has announced the final full-length production to be given by the older students and faculty, Hereseg's famous comedy, "The Seven Sisters". Arranged by Edith Ellis, it is to be produced by Mrs. Melvyn Smith and Shirley Flagler on August 7-8.

"BERKELEY SQUARE" will be produced by Professor Michael and Mary Krause on August 10-11, and "Life with Father" on August 14-15 by Barton Wright, director of radio production for WWJ and Joanne Brown.

All performances, except the children's show, will start at 8:15. The children's performance will start at 7:30. Performances will be given at the Greek theatre on Lone Pine Road, or, in case of rain, in the Cranbrook auditorium.

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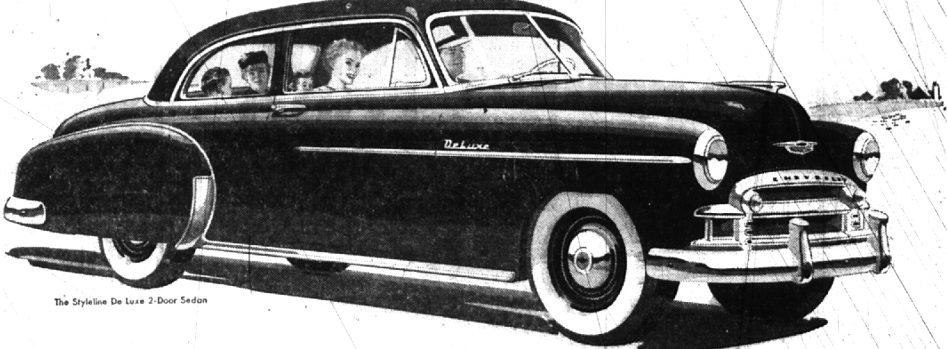
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