

Work Starts This Week on Grading of 3 Park Areas

Work will begin this week on the grading of three Birmingham recreation areas which will also enable them to be used as skating rinks this winter. The city commission Monday night approved the grading on these areas: Harmon and Woodward, Buckingham-Eton and St. James park. William Cindarin of Clawsin was awarded the contract.

City manager D. C. Egbert said them "to be used for their intended purpose."
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Watermelon Baseball League Active As City Recreation Program Starts

Vacation time in Birmingham seems to have gotten off to an excellent start this week as participation counts roll into the Recreation Board.

Most gains are reported in the newly formed Watermelon Baseball League.

Class "A" teams entered are the Seeds, captained by Gordon Match; the Birds, captained by Jim McFarlane; The Mohawks, captained by Mike Groves; the Embury Methodists, captained by Allen Anlip; and the Franklin Insects who are captained by Bob Taylor.

Class "B" teams entered are the Mohawks, Spiders, Crickets, Worms, and the Bulls. They are captained by Bill Leckie, Dick Shave, Tom Stinson, and John Sheldon.

The league has arranged for a season of 46 games.

WITH THE ADDITION of the American Legion team, baseball opportunity is offered at the elementary, junior, and senior high level for all boys in Birmingham. Team championships will be decided on August 1 to 4 inclusive. Winners will eat watermelon, losers will eat rinds, reports Frank Whitney, recreation director.

Another activity which offers an opportunity for children are the dramatic classes held in Baldwin Public Library on weekday afternoons.

In addition to play production, considerable attention is given to voice testing, reading of dialogue, casting, pantomime, makeup, script writing, and properties construction.

Free golf participation which is being offered by the city found only 20 youngsters taking advantage of this chance to improve in one of the fastest growing sports in America.

Girls over the age of 12 are especially welcomed to join the Monday program, Whitney said.

SEATS ARE STILL available in the all-city musical program conducted mornings in the Hill School building. Expert instruction is available for all non-players, beginners, and advanced persons interested in instrumental music.

Tournaments featured this week are box hockey June 27, and checkers June 28 and 29.

Unless a greater response is made for tennis instruction being offered on the Hill courts each afternoon at 3:10 p.m., this event will be discontinued, Whitney said.

For the first time in the history of the Barnum swimming pool, the beginning swimming classes have outnumbered all other sections. A complete water program is being offered at the Barnum pool each afternoon. Activities conducted vary from non-swimming events to advanced life saving.

ALL RECREATIONAL facilities will be closed on July 3 and 4. Additional information may be obtained by calling the Hill School.

Rifle shooters have found that the new equipment which has been added to this sport has greatly increased their enjoyment. Activities are held on Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursday morning at the police rifle range from 9:30 to 11:30.

It is not too late to register for any of the activities. Playgrounds are open daily for children from 6 to 9 years. Dramatics in the afternoons at the library, tennis

Around The Cracker Barrel . . .

Korea. Of a sudden that word, and that country, has become the most important in our life. Up to last Saturday afternoon we thought little about Korea. We knew it only as a peninsula jutting into the sea, sort of thrusting itself as a spear against Japan. We knew it as a center of ancient culture, whose people had long since learned the true art of living peacefully in a world of turmoil. Yet on Sunday all had changed. Korea had suddenly become the danger spot to the world's peace.

Yalta. For more than four years that word, and that place, has been one which brought a feeling of disgust to our minds. We remember an aging president struggling to bring a peace. We can now visualize a sharp, slick looking young man leaning over the shoulder of the president, advising him on methods of preserving the balance of power in Asia. We didn't know then, but we do now, that the young man was a Communist, and that his advice was vicious. We now know this Albin Hiss. So we can now see the effect of the striking Korea into two parts, separated by an imaginary line drawn at the 38th parallel of latitude.

The cold war is getting a little hot. Shooting has apparently started, and when shooting starts it is hard to confine and it is hard to stop.

We now are brought face to face with some realities we have been overlooking. We are confronted with an internal situation which might be more serious than even a shooting war. Both of our national parties are equally guilty. When our government was set up, a dual party system was conceived. The party not in power has to check a balance, on the party in power. Good government would result, our forefathers thought, if the outis would carefully check on the ins. For eighteen years we've had a free spending, deficit building, control infested government in power. We've seen corruption on a scale previously found only down in the precincts. We've had a government which has repaid its costs and debts almost beyond our ability to repay. We've had a government which would not even try to purge itself of dishonest or disloyal elements. We've had a government which seemed to have lost its normal sense.

And opposing such a government we've had gross incompetence, an appalling lack of statesmanship, a lack of vigor, a lethargy. We've had an opposition party which largely voted for the extravagances of the government. We've had an opposition party which has shown itself to be inept, grossly careless with the liberties of the people, and generally not deserving any better recognition at the polls than it has received.

But now with some stray shots being fired, what are we to do? The first thing, the sensible thing—which has long ago been indicated—is to quit fearing Russia. What war has Russia ever won? Underdeveloped resources, undeveloped skill, do not make a nation formidable. We have been fed a line of propaganda which has built our fear of that country. To what purpose? To the end that we shall continue to live in fear, to continue to permit a careless and extravagant government to squander billions for all vain purposes which could be avoided.

Now, it seems clear that we will immediately face more and further demands for additional billions for national defense. No man, however strong, will have the courage to stand up in Congress—or elsewhere—and demand that public expenditures be cut down. For all of the new demands will be in the name of national necessity. This has been done before; we will see it again, and soon.

We all realize that we will have to step up our defenses, and that we will expect to pay even more for them. This we are prepared to do. But we think the time has come when the other extravagances of our government should be cut out entirely. It's high time the Hoover reorganization plan was adopted and carried out—as a starter. We will need to watch for all sorts of items being thrown into the hopper in the name of national defense. We will really need to be able to separate the sheep from the goats.

Business will need to be on the alert for the extension of controls. Business especially will need to stand up and be counted. For there will be no limit to the powers our government will likely try to seize—all in the name of saving us.

So much depends upon what we do as a people. We cannot be a very long voice unless we think and act in more unison. We will be buffeted about like a chip on the waves if we do not express our desires to those who believe they govern us. We are a bit tired of being governed; for a while we'd like to be represented.

Whatever may be our fate, whatever may come out of Korea, much of our future will be determined by the sanity of the people in the near future. For if the people keep their heads, don't make or permit to be made those same mistakes which have almost engulfed us, then we need not fear.

True, there is danger in an enemy who might want to shoot. But there is more ultimate danger to us in Washington than there is in Korea. Let's make sure we don't permit fear of the one enemy in our throats being the cause for our losing them to another.

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