

### Craig's Occupies Top League Spot

By winning 12 to 5 over Michigan Bell on Howarth field last Tuesday evening, Craig's sporting goods store moved into unspotted possession of first place in the Birmingham Y.M.C.A. city recreation softball league.

Jack Bruno allowed but one hit as his team walloped Jack Hawkins and Jim Burtraw of Michigan Bell for 14 hits including five for extra bases.

Tony LeBar and Don Little got three hits in four times at bat for Craig's.

Ten walks and four infield errors gave Michigan Bell all of their runs.

Birmingham Men rallied for six runs in the seventh to defeat Postoffice employes 14 to 10 at St. James field last week. Jake Wade, on the mound for Birmingham Men, gave up 12 hits but kept them fairly scattered.

**PAT VALKO** playing centerfield for the Postoffice, had a perfect day at bat with four hits and four at bats.

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### Beverly Manor Group to Elect Officers

The Beverly Manor Improvement association will hold its annual meeting and dinner at the Community House Friday evening. Election of officers will be the highlight of the evening.

Arrangements for the dinner have been in charge of Mrs. Walter Wolfe, Mrs. Paul McDonald and Mrs. Richard Devereaux.

### Dial Demonstration

Representatives of the Michigan Bell telephone company gave a dial demonstration at the Tuesday meeting of the Exchange club. The mechanical workings of the dial system, which will go into effect here next weekend, were explained.

General news deadline is 4:30 p.m. each Tuesday.

### Working on Arteries of the Telephone System



JOE SKIBA (LEFT) AND HELPER JOE VERESH SPLICE CABLES 4,200 individual phone wires involved in their job.

### Manhole Cover Is Doorway Leading to Vital Arteries of B'ham Telephone System

By George Wm. Averill

A manhole cover to you may be just something that rattles when you drive your car over it, but to the Michigan Bell Telephone Company it is a doorway to the arteries feeding the heart of the telephone system.

How?

To get the answer to this question let's look at Birmingham's telephone system as though it were a giant tree.

Along the branches of the tree are the telephones in the homes and offices of the subscribers—some near the trunk—the tree's perched way out on the tips of the branches.

AS EACH BRANCH connects to the trunk, the trunk thickens, and as the trunk progresses toward the base of the tree it gets larger and larger.

If, then, we liken our tree's branches to the small overhead neighborhood telephone cables, and the trunk of the tree to the huge underground cables connecting the branches with the base, or the telephone company's central office, we have a good picture of a modern local telephone network.

By carrying our example a bit further we can find the answer to our question—manholes are doors cut into the trunk of our "tree" to allow telephone company workmen to install—or, as is sometimes necessary, to replace sections of the trunk cable.

The underground cable itself, like the heart of the tree enclosed in its sheltering layer of bark, is protected by a multi-cell clay conduit which permits the installation of several cables in a single trench, but yet keeps them apart.

MANHOLES ARE generally spaced 700 or 800 feet apart. This spacing permits installation of the cable in lengths which can be handled conveniently. These max-

imum lengths reduce the number of splices and consequently, manhole costs. Manholes are usually located near street intersections to permit the inter-connection of cross-street cables.

Let's go down into a manhole on one of Birmingham's street corners to see what it's all about.

Before we can descend the small steel ladder into the hole, the red-painted metal guard must be set up around the top, folding "MEN WORKING" signs placed to warn drivers, and the water

pumped out which has gathered in the hole from recent rains or melting snow and ice.

Once in the hole you can see the cables coming in from four different directions. Each cable is assigned its own cell in the conduit which looks like an oversized rectangular honeycomb.

Then, by means of a powerful winch the cable was drawn through its allotted cell in the conduit until several feet of it were exposed in the hole.

The same process was carried out in the adjacent section. As each section was "pulled in," cablemen spliced the two ends together in the successive manholes until the cable finally reached to the central office.

Now—if you are one of those people who were always curious about what manholes are for—you know.

### State ROA, ROAL Elects Localities

Lt. and Mrs. Ralph Williams attended the convention of the Reserve Officers association and the ROAL held last weekend at Battle Creek. Both were elected vice-president of the state groups, and were named delegates to attend the national convention in Washington at the end of this month.

Adm. Ralph L. Riggs of Washington was the principal speaker at the Saturday evening session. The convention keynote was national preparedness as it affects the ROA.

The local ROA and ROAL chapters will close their season's activities with an informal buffet dinner at the Carousel on May 20. Col. Edwin A. Doss of the Air Force, Seafriede Field, will be the speaker.

**BIRTHS**  
Mr. and Mrs. George Woolfenden of Vinewood avenue announce the birth of a daughter at St. Joseph Mercy hospital on May 26. The baby has been named Helen Garland.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald McLessee of Berkeley, former Birmingham residents, announce the birth of a son Donald George on June 2.

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- DECK JACKETS** — In faded blue, gray, or navy — From 5.95
- BELTS** — In Hand tooled saddle leather from Texas — \$5 In fine Ostrich — \$6.50 In Genuine Alligator — \$7.50 In elasticized nylon in bright stripes — \$3.50
- SPORT SHIRTS** — Brilliant colors and patterns, plus solid colors From \$3.95
- SUMMER WEIGHT SLACKS** — In variety of hues — From \$7.95
- GOLF JACKETS** — In many colors and fabrics—From \$8.95
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Hundreds of your neighbors have learned that the place to buy play clothes is at the Village Store. From New England to California we have gathered together the very best in play apparel. The styling is supreme and the fabrics are sound.

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Remember Dad on His Day with a Different Gift He'll Wear and Enjoy all Summer

**Hobby Jeans**  
He'll be smart and comfortable with cool, all-purpose jeans with elastic waist band. Slacks for work or play... in rugged, light-weight denim or poplin.  
**\$4.95 and \$5.95**

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For shaving, shower room, or at the beach. These soft absorbent wrap-a-rounds in white terry cloth are just the thing. Adjustable gripper waistband with large patch pocket for toilet articles, cigarettes, etc.  
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Colorful patterns or conservative plain colors that will gladden the heart of any dad. Ideal for picnics, golfing or just loafing.  
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**Mario's—Stuffed Queen Olives** . . . 16 oz. Ice Box Jar 65c  
**Sexton's CORN, No. 2 can** . . . . . 2 for 39c  
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**Home Grown ASPARAGUS** . 2 bunches 29c  
New California **POTATOES** . . . . . 10 lbs. 49c  
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2 Large Bunches **Radishes & Green Onions** 25c  
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