

We Should Develop Our Recreational Areas

We don't think Birmingham should by any means become a national park, but the time is here when we should adopt a regular program of improving the 322 acres of publicly-owned recreational areas.

Some steps have been taken over the years toward this goal. The 58-acre Springdale Park perhaps has seen the most progress and Howarth and St. James parks have received some attention. Although school playgrounds have some facilities, there is a need for considerable more.

Biggest "lift" for recreational development will be the money received from the sale of certain city-owned lots in the Sheffield estates area. It is expected this revenue will exceed \$20,000.

From Our Point of View

At least 65 Birmingham residents know what will be expected of Birmingham if an atom bomb hits Detroit. For that was the number of persons—out of the possible 18,000—who heard Brig. Gen. Lester J. Matland at the Community House April 27. Asked here by the Community Council to tell of Birmingham's possible role in civil defense, the General's talk gave the first real facts of the part we here may play. He said our homes, our school and other public buildings would become refuges for Detroit evacuees. We also would become rescue teams to be sent to the stricken area. Michigan's director of civil defense, Gen. Matland has given us the first clear picture of what would be expected of Birmingham. Other cities, probable A-bomb targets, still are in doubt as to what they should do, because Washington officials themselves haven't come forth with any civil defense program.

Population in the United States has increased two million since the federal census was taken last April, a large insurance company reports. So now the U.S.A. has 153 millions of people in it. Considering that we live under a form of government "where every man is king", is there any wonder why this device we call "democracy" is so difficult to apply with anything like perfection?

So They Say . . .

Walter P. Reuther, president, United Automobile Workers:

"I have said for a long time that the only thing that blocks labor unity now are a few swivel chairs."

Herbert Morrison, British Foreign Secretary:

"We have always maintained the view that a country is entitled to the government of its own choosing."

William F. Brown, safety director:

"Motorists have accidents because they either underestimate the hazards or overestimate their ability to cope with them."

Paul H. Douglas, U. S. Senator from Illinois:

"Government work should not be settled at cocktail parties or around dinner tables in hotels."

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

KEEP THESE IN MIND

After tasting a few days of last week's warm weather, many persons' thoughts are wandering vacationward. Just which vacationland you will select will depend on finances, time and what remains to be done around the house. But perhaps a few of you will continue to explore new Michigan areas, or find time to spend your vacation in Michigan for the first time. If you do determine to spend your money in Michigan this summer, here are some interesting facts about four spots that you might like to keep in mind as you make your trip:

MICHIGAN was the first state to introduce roadside parks and picnic tables to America. Michigan has more than 3,000 picnic sites and 60 roadside parks along its highways.

Nothing is more valuable to a community than the strong, healthy minds and bodies of its children. As of April 27, the Birmingham school district had 4,149 children attending classes. Last September, when the school year started, there were 3,951. Superintendent of Schools Dwight B. Ireland estimates that next September will see over 5,000 children enrolled.

JUST HOW FAR this amount will stretch over these 322 acres will be determined by what facilities the city commission and/or recreation board choose to put in.

One prediction is certain: more money will be required to provide a comfortable minimum of facilities for all neighborhood areas.

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EVEN THOUGH THESE figures are corrected to include only City of Birmingham school children, it is apparent that our city's school population has reached the point where more than the most meagre recreation facilities must be available.

We believe the city commission should, even at the partial expense of other worthwhile plans and ideas, start spending a certain amount each year to develop our recreational areas.

What Does President Truman Really Think?

As revelation after revelation of unethical conduct in various federal agencies is made public, it is difficult to understand why President Truman fails to correct these conditions.

Regardless of his loyalty to "cronies", why should H.S.T. refuse to respond to the demands of decency and conscience and toss out those who bring discredit and calamity upon his administration?

One of two things appears certain: first, he must be convinced that such charges against certain people are without foundation or, second, if he admits the truth of the charges to himself, he is so stubborn and politically minded that he absolutely won't do anything to correct them at all.

Mr. Truman's political background of Pendergast politics suggests that he is dedicated to the political proposition that "to the victors belong the spoils." If that be so, then the American public cannot expect him to call out the Washington police, even thought trucks back up to the Treasury and hand up with loot.

ON THE OTHER HAND, we cannot believe that he, in his own mind and conscience, denies the facts of wrong-doing in certain federal agencies.

So where does all this take us? Well, perhaps the only answer lies in the ballot box.

Election returns in 1952 will provide the final answer.

Capital Punishment

A majority of the members of Michigan's House of Representatives, after numerous public hearings, has defeated the attempt to pass a bill to exact the death penalty for certain premeditated types of murder. The vote, 50 to 42, was fairly close, but it still proves that the idea of capital punishment, in official circles, is opposed.

This newspaper has joined with opponents of the bill who point out that capital punishment, in itself, is no deterrent to the type of crime it claims to prevent. The records of States that still use it prove this point.

Insofar as the argument that "life sentence doesn't mean life in Michigan" goes, that situation can always be changed by the Legislature; if the lawmakers write the law that way, then it must be applied by convicting judges.

MICHIGAN'S LARGEST forest is Ottawa National Forest. Just west of Iron River, it covers 700,000 acres and contains some of the state's wildest country, unexcelled for game, recreation and rugged beauty. Near Bad Axe may be seen thousands of Indian photographs and animals and other decorations which cover boulders over a 4-acre area. Under a row of oak trees near Jackson is a bronze tablet marking the spot where the American party was born on July 6, 1854.

THE WORLD'S HIGHEST sand dunes are along Michigan's west end. They are constantly being shifted inland by the force of the winds coming across Lake Michigan. From only a height of three

Costly Transportation



George H. Mitchell is away this week in New York City where he is witness for the United States on a matter of which he was cogitant when he was postmaster in this place.

Almost everyone who keeps a cow in the village leads her to and from the pasture. We are fortunate indeed that only now and then one does get away and trample lawns and gardens.

At a recent meeting of the Anti-Saloon League of Oakland county held at Pontiac, Volney Koop, win of this place, was appointed one of an executive board of seven members.

Little Jim Mott and old Brownie and the laundry wagon caused quite a commotion on Maple Ave. Monday morning last, but quiet was restored before any damage was done although Little Jim was badly scared.

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Happenings of Long Ago

Bills of News Gleaned From Old Files of the Evening—The Items That Make Up The Historical Background Of The Birmingham Of Today.

50 YEARS AGO May 10, 1901 The V. I. S. here put the little fountain in place again and have given the cherubs a fresh coat of paint.

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HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

BY ALICE E. MORGAN

DEAR MOM— Sons and daughters, Sunday, are honoring you, Mom, not because they feel one day is enough time to which to pay proper tribute, but because on one day they try to say all the things they care to leave unsaid the rest of the year.

It's the day we all want to mention your great affection for us. Should I stop to say thank you for all you do for me, I'd have time for little else at home.

It's not just now, either. We have grown older, Mom, and now can see so many other things you have done for us that we did not notice before. Ever since we were young to know how important they were, but today we do. For those we want to thank you, now.

PROBABLY ONE of the most wonderful things you ever did for me was to make me stand on my own two feet. I no doubt thought you were pretty grim making me tackle such a tough job at my own expense. It was a swell lesson, though, Mom, because there has been a lot more "standing on my own feet" since then. Thank you for its independence.

I remember being pretty scared in a bad storm, too, Mom. You told me God had sent the storm to purify the air and that He would keep me from harm. You made me see God as a Person I might meet at any time, through you. He became a very real Person. Thank you, Mom, for a simple religion.

You remember the little old lady who lived down the street. Every time she went by, she'd storm at them. They hated her.

OVER IN the next block the lady gave us cookies, told stories and had the most wonderful party. For us to look at. Every kid in the block worshipped at her feet.

Baldwin PTA Names Officers for Year

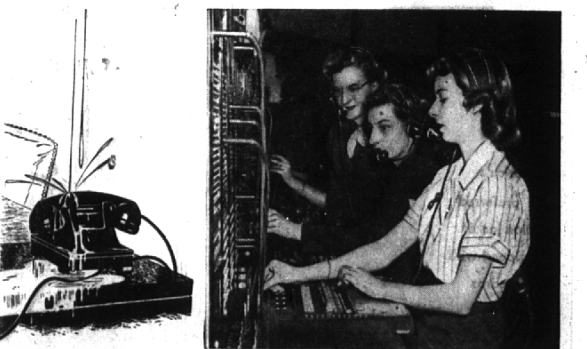
Mrs. Harry Gruber, 384 Knox, has been elected Baldwin high school PTA president. Other officers are mother vice-president, Mrs. Preston Wier; father vice-president, Hugh Miller; teacher vice-president, Larned Goodrich; treasurer, Lance Minor; recording secretary, Mrs. Robert Watt; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Joseph Bachman and historian, Mrs. William Jackson.

Registration Sought For Boy Scout Camp

Birmingham Boy Scouts, planning to attend summer camp but not yet enrolled, are advised to contact E. J. Kempf, 521 Southlawn at once. Kempf, camp coordinator, says that an authorized Boy Scout camp will be located at Pickerslee lake near Highland and registrations are still open. The camp schedule has been set for July 5-21.

Let Me Build Your Home HENRY M. HENDERSON GENERAL CONTRACTOR CUSTOM BUILDING - REMODELLING Free estimates gladly given. Phone: Va. 6-1847 13951 Warwick, Detroit 23

ARE YOU PREPARED for INVESTMENT or BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY Most everyone has a plan of some kind for the future... another to educate children... another to invest in bonds or securities. Some await a business opportunity. They all take money in a lump sum. The best way to accumulate money is in a bank account. Regular deposits, even in small amounts, will buy the thing you want. HAVE YOUR SAVINGS ACCOUNT AT OUR BANK Open your account without delay. Get started on a savings program. If you feel in the mood, come in, and talk to one of our staff today. THE BIRMINGHAM NATIONAL BANK BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Member Federal Reserve System



Trace mystery call to broken water pipes

It was 9:30 one holiday evening in Houghton. Mrs. Helen LaBeske, a Michigan Bell operator, was on duty. Suddenly she noticed a signal on her switchboard. It was the telephone of the school superintendent's office in the high school building.

At that hour of the night, a call from that number was unusual. But even more mysterious was the fact that, although the one answered, Mrs. LaBeske could hear peculiar noises on the line. So she notified Service Assistant Elsie Moehrike, who tried to get a response but without success.

Then Operator Charlotte Chapman suggested they call School Superintendent Irving S. Edwards at his home. When he heard of the strange "call," he went immediately to the school. There he discovered that water pipes had broken two floors above his office. Water seeping down was dripping on his telephone cord, causing a flashing signal on the switchboard. However, Mr. Edwards had arrived in time to telephone for help... prevent much more serious damage... save many valuable records.

Later he wrote to Michigan Bell: "If it were not for the alert telephone operators, and if this water had run all night, the loss would have been very costly. Because of their action and because I could get help quickly by using the telephone, the loss was very slight. "Again I want to thank the girls for calling me. Further, I want to express my appreciation for telephone service which is so often taken for granted."

Its people who make telephone service good MICHIGAN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY