

City Earmarks Sum of \$10,000 For Recreation

A bookkeeping transaction was approved by the city commission Monday evening resulting in a transfer of \$10,000 from surplus funds to be used for recreational purposes in the city.

Statutes provide that proceeds from sale of lots in Sheffield Estates one be used for acquisition of land or construction of buildings. The commission approved City Manager Donald C. Egbert's recommendation that the proceeds be appropriated for acquiring the site for a new fire station.

BECAUSE \$9,000 has already been paid from surplus funds for the station site at Adams and Bowers, proceeds from the sale will go into surplus.

A total of \$6,000 of the funds earmarked for recreation will be designated for improvement of Poppletton Park, for the purpose of grading two baseball diamonds and construction of fence separating the park from private property. One diamond will be started in the southeast corner of the park.

Egbert pointed out that there is an urgent and immediate need for development of recreation grounds and work should proceed on the Poppletton area.

The amount of \$2,000 will be transferred immediately to the fund and the balance after the end of the fiscal year.

Commissioner Frank Rising stated, "It is important to advise the people of this program."

"It should be highly publicized."

Some one undoubtedly is looking for those items stored in your attic—make the sale thru an Eccentric Want Ad.

Pitchers Impress At Little League Baseball Tryouts

By RAY DENNIS

More than 350 boys were on hand Saturday morning for the second tryouts for the Little League baseball organization.

The third tryout session is scheduled for Saturday, May 19. Boys eight and nine will report at Pierce field from 9 to 11 and those from ages 10 to 12 will be on hand from 1 to 3 p.m.

Coaches got their first look at tryouts for pitchers and catchers last Saturday. During the afternoon workouts, at least 25 boys took their turn on the mound.

League officials were quite pleased at the future prospects of several boys who showed a lot of pitching poise.

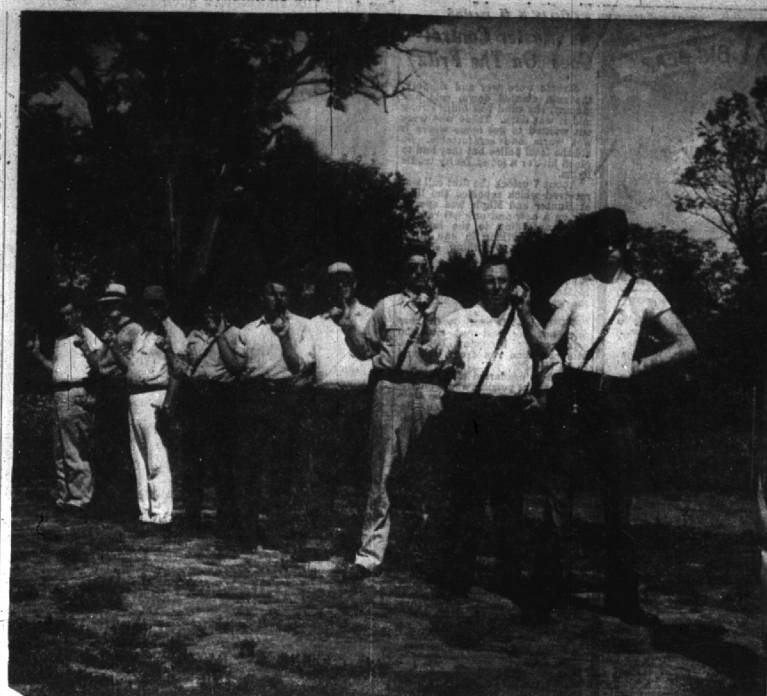
IT NOW LOOKS as if almost any boy in the area between the ages of eight and 12, who wants to play baseball this summer will have the opportunity. Last week the local "Y" announced plans for a league for boys this age who are unable to make the Little League baseball group.

In addition, plans are being formed for a "B" loop for Little League baseball. This will be the league which will include the "farm clubs" for the Tigers, Yankees, Red Sox and Indians.

Frank Whitney will supervise activities of the "B" league.

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POLICE DEPARTMENT MEMBERS LINE UP FOR PRACTICE ON PISTOL RANGE
Patrolmen increase efficiency through thorough firearms training. (Joe Wheeler Photo)

Local Police Construct Pistol Practice Range; Planning Third Season

Now that summer has just about arrived, members of the Birmingham police department are starting their third year on their own pistol range.

Started in 1948, the range has been instrumental in marked improvement in the marksmanship of department members. At the end of the first season 13 men qualified with these ratings: expert, two; sharpshooter, four; marksman, seven. Last year saw 17 qualified with five experts, eight sharpshooters and four marksmen.

The range is located west of the city, just off Cranbrook road. A small valley furnishes natural "backdrops against which the targets are set."

Work on the range, which has two lanes suitable for the practical pistol course and six targets men. Grading, target placement and the like on the 60-yard field was done by hand. Profits from the coke machine supplied funds for necessary purchases, such as grass seed.

RANGE OFFICER is Lt. Delye Service, veteran member of the department. In 1948 and again last year an intensive three-day training period was held under the direction of an FBI firearms expert.

Here the men were trained in the proper use of pistols, riot gun (sawed-off shotguns), Thompson

sub-machine guns and the high powered rifle. These trained officers, under Lt. Service, are in turn instructors for new department members.

In speaking of this training, Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley said he felt it was one of the most important phases of police instruction.

"I feel it is almost as bad to send a new officer on duty without any weapon as it is to send him out without proper training in the use of it."

"Our practical pistol course trains a man to shoot with either hand, from sitting, prone, kneeling or standing positions. He also learns how to shoot from behind a barricade and snap shooting from the hip."

"HE MUST LEARN to re-load and fire five shots within a few seconds and know how to make each one of those shots count."

"We do not want to build a 'frigger happy' force in Birmingham, but we do want to have each man prepared to use that gun if and when he needs it. A trained police officer is one who can protect himself, get the man he's after and do so without endangering the life of any person near the line of fire."

During the summer men use the course, officially, twice each

month, although many visit the range on their own time. Winter shoots are held at the range in Park's store, although the range is used when weather permits, even then.

The local department has purchased equipment for loading their own shells, doing this at a fraction of the cost of new ammunition. According to Moxley a good-natured rivalry has been created among the men with keen competition.

LAST YEAR TWO teams were entered in the Michigan police shoot at Jackson, Mich. for 12th place in their division. At an invitational shoot held here against Royal Oak and Berkeley, the local department won.

Moxley said he believed that the local department was improving their marksmanship daily. He pointed out that Birmingham has one of the few ranges in the state

Birmingham Gun Club Plans Shoot For Memorial Day

Plans for a Memorial Day trophy shoot have been announced by the Birmingham Gun club for its location on the Porritt property off South Adams.

Program will get underway at 10 a.m. sharp, according to Warren E. Bertole, secretary-treasurer.

Possession of the Frank E. Vignone Memorial trophy for the next year will be at stake. Shooter with the highest score in the handicap program will have his or her name and year won engraved on the award. Previous winners were Carl Madan and John T. Jones.

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Legion to Meet
Final plans for its part in the annual Memorial Day celebration here will be made at the meeting of the American Legion Monday evening. The session will be held at 8 p.m. in the Legion home, South Woodward.

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