

State Defense Director Tells City's Role in War

By ALICE E. MORGAN

Speaking before a very small group of Birmingham residents—only about 65 to be more exact—Brig. Gen. Lester J. Maitland, state director of civil defense, said Friday night that we are facing the most critical time in our history, insofar as war within our boundaries is concerned.

"We know," he said, "that Russia has 450 bombers and bombs to load them. This would enable them to hit every vital area in our country at the same time."

"There are 16 exceptionally important spots in Michigan. I consider three of the most important to be Detroit, Midland (where the Dow chemical works are located) and the Soo locks.

DURING-APRIL and May the locks are top targets. Their destruction would slow steel production for at least a year. All winter mills have been using their re-

serve stock piles, and the raw materials coming through the locks are badly needed if production is to continue."

Gen. Maitland's appearance here was sponsored by the Community Council. Paul Friedrich, civil defense director from Bloomfield Hills, was chairman of the evening.

Maitland said he did not think Birmingham would be a target area.

"YOUR PRINCIPAL role, should war come to this country, will be

that of a refuge. Evacuees from Detroit will become your responsibility to a great degree. Your homes may be used to shelter them and your larger buildings, such as the Community House, used as emergency hospitals.

"You will, no doubt, be asked to aid Detroit in rescue work if the bombs fall there. Teams should be organized which could be dispatched in a matter of minutes to emergency areas. If bombs fall on Detroit, help will be sent from long distances, so naturally, Birmingham will be called upon to do its part."

HE EXPLAINED the "areas" of atomic bombing, saying that within a half mile radius of the explosion point one's chances were nil. Those within a mile and a half of this point and unpro-

ected, will be burn victims and probably injured by falling debris. Beyond four miles lies safety.

Gamma rays will clear from the most dangerous areas in about 30 minutes and it will be safe to go into it, he said.

"For your safety," the general said, "select one place in your home—the basement or a room without windows, such as a hall where you can go in the event of a bombing. Tell your family just what to do and have it understood."

"SUPPLY THIS room with tinned food, a supply of fresh water, a radio to receive instructions, flashlight, change of clothing and a first aid kit."

In summing up, Gen. Maitland told the group that Birmingham should be prepared to act as an aide to stricken areas with, of course, adequate training and provision for self protection. Auxiliary police and firemen and extensive first aid training were classified as "musts" by the speaker.



BRIG. GEN. LESTER J. MAITLAND PAUL FRIEDRICH
Defense directors check data before meeting.
(Betty Truxell Photo)

Enlist in Army

Two local youths have recently enlisted in the U. S. Army. They are Frank M. Basilisco, 18, son of Mr. and Mrs. Marco Basilisco, 2625 DeLemere road, and Dean R. Fox, 18, son of Mr. and Mrs. Steven Fox, 2391 Big Beaver road.

complete charge of dance work in all productions.

Barbara Busch, MSC water ballet star, will return as director of swimming during the afternoon recreational period.

Newly Formed Group Lists First Officers

Douglas Quack was named president of the Southeastern Michigan chapter, Michigan Archaeological society, at its organization April 24 at Cranbrook's institute of science. Robert T. Hatt, Bloomfield Hills, was elected secretary-treasurer.

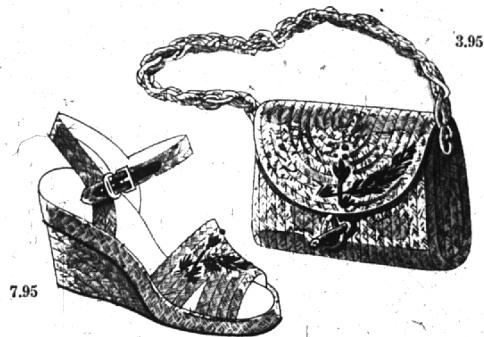
The parent organization was organized in East Lansing a few weeks ago to obtain and record facts of Michigan's aboriginal archaeological history.

Cranbrook Names 2 For Summer Theater

Marion Newell Kirk, dance director at the Cranbrook summer school of the theater, has been reappointed for the 1951 season beginning June 25. Carl G. Wonnberger, director, has announced. In addition to teaching the regular morning session she will have

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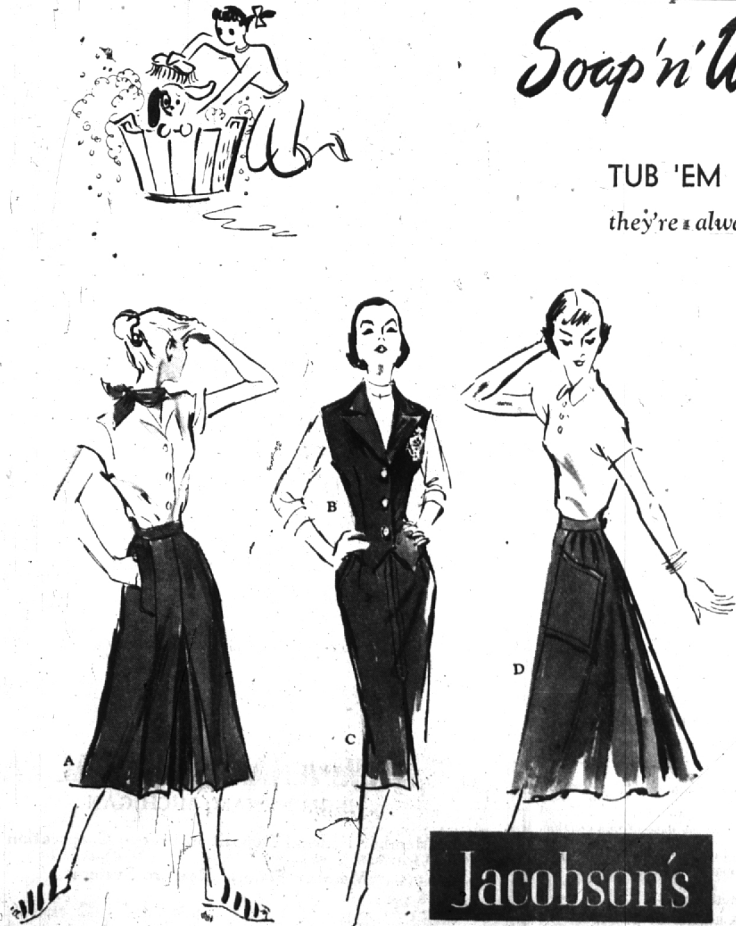
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