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74TH YEAR—NO. 25

# The Birmingham Eclectic

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1951

PART ONE

24 PAGES FIVE CENTS

## Electrical Storm Sets 3 Fires

Birmingham firemen were kept on the jump early Friday morning as a severe electrical storm fired two houses and a private garage.

The first fire was reported at 2:30 a.m. at the H. O. Machus home, 1223 North Glenhurst. Lightning, believed to have entered the home on electric wires, cracked plaster and started a small fire in a globe of the house.

A HALF HOUR later firemen were called to the James Wade home, 1907 W. Maple, where lightning had set fire to the garage. The building and a Buick car were completely destroyed.

The third fire, reported at 4:37 a.m. at the Thomas Bryley home, 1123 W. Adams, scorched the walls in two rooms and started a fire in the attic. Firemen said there was extensive damage, probably not high, from water and fire. The Bryley family was on the scene.

A general alarm was sounded after the second call was received. A volunteer fire person was on the scene.

DETROIT EDISON emergency crews were called to the storm to restore interrupted service.

Second Hall, local manager, said a barrel call for repairmen went out when the storm was at its peak.

Walled Lake area, Commerce and West Bloomfield were hardest hit, he said, and in some instances power has not been restored by late afternoon.

Walter Fauser, area manager for Michigan Bell Telephone company said about 100 phones were put out of order in the storm.

Most of it was caused by wet cables and power lines, which were scattered, was mainly on the west side of town. Full service was restored the next day.

Mrs. Wade, who discovered the fire in her garage, said it was a matter of seconds before the entire building was in flames.

THE FIREMEN arrived as flames and smoke were rising, but it was useless, of course, but they did save our home.

Most of the damage was done to the garage which is some distance from the house and hanging in the garage helped, but even so, the heat had them steaming as though they had just been out of the oven.

"An old trunk full of keepsakes was in the loft of the garage and when it fell, landed on top of the car and because the firemen were using a lot of water to keep the fire from exploding, it was soaked."

"WHEN I opened it after the fire I found some old family pictures with the frame burned off and the edges of the pictures scorched."

"My husband's World War One uniform was pretty badly burned but we have the buttons and a lot of things that belonged to the children were destroyed."

"We were really very lucky," Mrs. Bryley told firemen she was finally able to get her son, Donald Bigney, 21, left July 16 for military duty.

"The fire has been here," she said, "we never could have gotten out of the house alive. The lightning came down from the attic into his room, and set the bed on fire. The headboard is badly burned and the mattress is left of the mattress is the box springs."

"I never thought I'd be glad he had entered the army, but now that I can think of it, I'm glad he and I travel a great deal and Donald has stayed on alone."

"We are in a better neighborhood, as far as we know, it was not a very nice home in the neighborhood. As far as we know, it was probably being badly injured or killed."

## Cash Taken From D. J. Healy Shop

Police are still investigating the weekend theft of \$100 from the D. J. Healy shop, 256 West Maple. The entry was noticed by Pauley D. Healy, who was in the building shortly after midnight when the money was taken through the second floor office after a window had been broken at the rear of the store.

Mrs. Lorraine Harstrier, manager, said the only thing taken was the cash held for the following week's business. It was a \$100 envelope on a shelf under the cash register.

## Inspection of 1,800 Bicycles Begins Today

About 1,800 Birmingham residents will be tooting their bikes to the Clobert-McCutcheon garage today, tomorrow and Saturday for the annual inspection.

Began three years ago as a part of the city-wide street safety program, the annual inspection checks bikes for any weak points including chain, brakes and steering.

Handle grips must be in good condition and the bike equipped with adequate lights, reflectors and warning device.

L. Henry Timm of the Birmingham Police Dept. is in charge of the program, said parents of children whose bikes do not pass inspection will be notified and weak points listed for them.

"Youngsters whose bikes pass the inspection will give a ticket which will make them eligible for the drawing of two bikes which the Kiwanis club will give. When a bike is repaired after failing the previous inspection, the ticket will be given as a reward for its second check-over."

THE BICYCLES, now on display at the Bloomfield theater, will be awarded by the Kiwanis on National Kids Day, Sept. 10. Inspection hours are from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. today and Friday and all other days in the week. Inspections will be made later at the city hall, where licenses may be obtained. Once licensed, the license is permanent. L. Timm reminded riders.

Kiwanis members heading the 1951 inspection program are Ken Hoover, president, Clarence Closs, Tony D'Agostino and Marvin Kauffman. They will be assisted by William Frew, Robert Jones, Charles Savage, George Stacker, James Sterling, Paul Stocker, Garland Tait, William Thorburn, Tom Ward and Claude Whipple.

KIWANIS ALSO is providing a special inspection program on National Kids Day, Sept. 10. Timm was invited to give a talk to the Kiwanis members heading the program.

When we find one that's pretty well wrecked, we take it off the street and have it repaired, because a bad bike invites an accident, Timm said.

Community Council Bd. To Consider Projects At First Fall Meeting

Community Council members will open the new season at the board meeting Monday evening. Mrs. A. H. G. Moore, president, said the council plans to continue its work with the Youth Council and Recreation Commission.

"The recreation question for Birmingham still needs a great deal of study and work," she said. "We hope to be able to get a constructive program started within a few months."

Council members also will continue their efforts to further the work of civil defense in the Birmingham area.

August Building Report Second Lowest of Year; Far Below 1950 Figures

August building totals in Birmingham were second lowest for the current year with only 80 permits involving an estimated \$1,300,000, with 35 permits at \$416,300, a low month for 1951.

Most activity during the month was in residential alterations, 33 new residences, 25 new residences, one new industrial building, one alteration, one private garage alteration and one new terrace.

The report also shows a sharp drop from the same month last year when 167 permits were issued for buildings valued at \$1,753,060.

## Bonnie Banks Of Scotland Welcome Sight o' Brown

Like to know what it is like to return to your own country after a 32-year absence? Just ask Ed J. Brown, caretaker for the Briggs building for the last 17 years.

Brown recently returned from a two-month tour of central Scotland where he visited his hometown of Stirling and Edinburgh, Troscachs, Glasgow and Ayr to name a few. It was his first visit to his native country since 1919 when he was serving with the Canadian army.

The happy-go-lucky 62-year-old Scot said with his pleasant nature and understanding of his country, he was held up by two ways and now they are taking advantage of their war-free state to build up the country.

Scotland only has a small population to draw from for an army. There's a lot of difference of opinion about the population, 48,000,000 and 143,000,000 people," Brown stated.

## Reserve Seat Grid Tickets Out Monday

Reserve seat books for Birmingham high school's five home games will go on sale Monday, Sept. 10, at the Hill School building athletic office, according to Athletic Director Frank Whitney.

Price for the season book is \$5, including tax. Whitney stated that persons can receive tickets by telephone and pick them up later, order by mail, or call in person at the office.

Approximately 210 reserve seats are available and there is a seating chart in the office so fans can take their choice of seats.

FIRST GAME at Pierce field will be with the Detroit Tigers and other home tilts are with Ferndale, Hazel Park, Port Huron and Warren. All games get underway at 8 p.m.

Hill School athletic office is open Monday through Friday from 8 to 5. Whitney added that checks should be made out to the Birmingham Athletic Club.

PTA Groups Plan Year's Activities As Schools Open

With the opening of schools this week, one of the country's largest groups, the Parent-Teacher Association, swings into action.

Many PTA local groups are meeting this month to plan programs for the year while others will meet directly into the program schedule. In some instances, PTA executive boards are meeting to prepare programs and formulate general plans for the year.

At about Lake the board met with the president, Edson Stevens, to discuss plans for the year. Fred Arthur Moore, secretary, will speak on the careful handling of guns by young people.

THE QUARTON board met at a picnic Sunday to discuss plans for the year and make final preparations for their Oct. 12 meeting with a box luncheon and evening of square dancing.

Scheduled in the first meeting in the city was the meeting of the Herbert Hudnut of the Woodward Presbyterian church in Detroit will speak on "Let's Build A Home."

Commissioners Checking to See Who Will Serve

City commissioners want to determine the availability of several persons before making a final decision on a successor Mayor Chad Ritchie, who resigned last week.

Provisional Mayor DeLoyle said he would like to see the names of the candidates of the regular commission meeting to discuss the availability of 8 or 10 nominees.

COMMISSIONERS agreed at the regular meeting to wait until the new commissioner is appointed before electing a new mayor. Heier said he hoped the "availability" of remaining nominees is determined this week.

If it may be possible to appoint a new member Monday night," he said.

To Consider Peddlers Ordinance Sept. 17

Commissioners of establishing a peddlers ordinance are being discussed at the city commission meeting, Monday, Sept. 17.

The ordinance is concerned with limiting activities of objectionable and over-persistent peddlers who visit local residences.

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## Fire Control Measures To Be Discussed Tonight

Builders' representatives, city officials and representatives from various civic organizations will meet tonight to discuss what measures are needed to control the growing frequency of fires in partly completed homes here.

During the past few months several fires have been set when small children have gone into the building to play, after workmen had left the doors open.

The group will discuss ways in which this can be stopped, either through the use of a part of the building or a broader, more effective educational program for children.

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