

## Happenings

(Continued from Preceding Page)

**Issue of November 8**  
The nine-member committee, headed by Commissioner Frank Rising, presented its report on the proposed community swimming pool to commissioners Monday. The report contains a complete survey of the many phases of such a project, including a central site, probably east, design and general construction problems.

A plan for repairing sidewalks in the central portion of the city was approved by commissioners Monday. Presented by City Manager Donald C. Edger, the plan includes repairs to walks in the Adams-Roosevelt-Lincoln section. Birmingham began digging out Wednesday morning after the season's first snow. The storm broke all existing weather records, and left streets and highways buried in about seven inches of wet, heavy snow.

Oakland county road officials have decreed that the Crooks-Maple intersection must remain without a light, stating traffic counts show no need for it. Two persons have been killed there this year.

**Issue of November 15**  
Receipts of \$100,882 have put Birmingham 11.6 per cent over its \$122,884 Torch Drive quota. Mrs. J. Rowland Quinn, campaign director, said nearly \$40,000 was turned in during the last few days of the drive to bring the Birmingham-Bloomfield-Franklin area past its goal. More than 700 workers took part.

Richard H. Riley, 3234 4th Avenue, announced the purchase of a well known racing craft, "Miss Great Lakes." The boat will be rechristened and under the name of "Miss Birmingham" will be entered in several speed events during the coming year.

The Maples scored a 21-0 victory over Berkeley in a postponed gridiron conflict Tuesday night. The game was held over from Friday because of the heavy snowfall earlier in the week. Players Tuesday moved through a sea of snow, going mad.

The cornerstone of the new Embassy Methodist church on 14th Mile was laid Sunday afternoon. The Rev. Dr. William E. Harrison, district superintendent, was the principal speaker and presided at the cornerstone ceremony.

Malcolm Dadd, 335 Madison, experimented last year in growing cotton at 7 1/2 Birmingham home. Three plants survived a hard winter, producing one full blown cotton ball. Dadd, not discouraged, says he will try again next year for a slightly larger crop.

**Issue of November 21**  
Royal Oak residents Miss Irene Gildner and Dr. Maurice Richards have filed suit against the Birmingham board of education and the Atlas Portable Bleacher company of Detroit for injuries received when the bleachers collapsed at the Thanksgiving Day game here in 1948. The two claims total \$200,000.

T. G. Stewart of Pontiac has been awarded the garbage contract for Birmingham. Collections will be made for 68 cents per month, payable after the service has been performed.

A modification of policy regarding special assessment districts is being considered by city commissioners. The proposed plan would permit the city to finance the project and have the work completed within the year the district is created, with payments to be made to the city over an extended period of time. The safety invention of John J. Chika of Bloomfield Hills was announced this week. The device, called the Safe-T-Table is claimed to greatly reduce danger hazards to the person riding beside the driver.

Recreation Director Frank Whitney said this week that an increase in the number of lighted skating rinks is planned for this year. Rinks at Torrey, Quanton Lake and St. James park were lighted last year. The Penitence park area was mentioned as one of the special projects for the current season.

**Issue of November 29**  
An inspired Birmingham football team, led by Capt. Tom Tracy, handed Royal Oak the small end of a 27-0 score at the annual Thanksgiving Day grid clash Thursday. Tracy, honored by places on the mythical All-state and All Suburban squads, dominated the game.

Services will be held Saturday for the first Korean battle casualties returned to this area. PFC George Guenther, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Guenther, will be buried in White Chapel cemetery. Cpl. Grover DeWolfe, son of Mr. and Mrs. Grover DeWolfe, Sr., Troy township, will be buried in the National Memorial cemetery, Detroit.

Annual Community House Roll Call plans are being completed with Fred Fox and Mrs. Paul A. Wagner as co-chairmen. The 1949 goal will be \$25,000, with the

**CLARENCE VLIET, 416 West Brown, displays a portion of the large potato he grew during the past year. The former local superintendent of schools read in a magazine that a small amount of sodium molybdate would greatly increase potato yields. He tried some out and the extra effort proved worthwhile. One hill produced 19 potatoes with a total weight of 12 lbs. 6 ounces. The largest weighed 2 lbs. 5 ounces.**

drive getting under way Feb. 18.

Over 500 persons heard a panel of experts declare that only public opinion and pressure would bring about a satisfactory answer to the inflation problem. The meeting, held at the Community House Tuesday evening, was sponsored by the League of Women Voters, which will send transcripts to Washington and Lansing.

Ray Lewis, 13, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Lewis, appeared on the TV show, "Meet Your Governor" in Detroit Sunday. The boy presented the question, "What are the plans for civil defense, should a greater need arise?"

**Issue of December 6**

State high-school "mythical" football teams list the name of Tom Tracy, Birmingham halfback, who has established one of the greatest high school football records known. He has been named to the all-state team by the United and Associated press services, plus all three daily Detroit newspapers.

Southfield voters approved the \$800,000 bond issue needed to construct a gym at the new high school. The Tuesday vote was 922 favoring the issue with 814 opposed. Tax increases approved will not become effective until the 1952-53 tax period.

An estimated 7,000 persons attended the Christmas Eve Monday night in spite of an almost continuous downpour. Merchants and Chamber of Commerce officials pronounced it the most successful event yet.

The W. C. Reid Development Co., and H. H. Patterson, new owners of the 45-acre Porritt site, say they will push development as rapidly as possible. The plot, a part of Troy township, is surrounded entirely by the city of Birmingham and presents many development problems, they said.

Newest signal in the U.S.-10 inter-connected traffic control system has been installed at Chapin and Woodward. Others are at 14 Mile, Lincoln, Hazel, Maple and Oakland.

Mayor Dean G. Belter revealed this week that several firms of architects are being asked if they are interested in designing plans for the new Birmingham fire station to be constructed at Adams and Bowers.

**Issue of December 13**

Robert K. McClellan, local businessman and county supervisor, said Tuesday morning when his car skidded just south of

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and the Birmingham Council of Church Women.  
With the settlement of a \$1,847.82 settlement by commissioners from Consumers Power Company, the matter was paid for a \$30,000 settlement for Mrs. Lee Carroll, widow of Lee Carroll, local business killed in the explosion here Dec. 11, 1949.

**Issue of December 20**  
Thirty students in Mrs. Mary Hartwick's sophomore home room are among the many who have taken the 11 Moore children, orphaned in a highway accident last month, under their wings. The class took up a collection and last week spent a busy day wrapping a shipping a huge stack of gifts to the Leonard family.

Birmingham merchants and businessmen may find themselves paying fines if they continue to leave doors and windows unlocked. An ordinance pending before the commission, would open the way for a five-day jail sentence, \$25 fine or both, for future lapses of memory at closing time.

Birmingham is busy digging out after its heaviest snow storm in the year. Garages, taxis, street cabs and police are among the many who have autos failed and the snow drifts piled high. With no relief predicted, citizens sighed and prepared to get used to a bit of extra walking.

Jack Redmond, Bloomfield Hills postmaster, has received the go ahead signal from postal authorities in Washington for the construction of a new postoffice in the Hills. Redmond said work on the building probably would not be started before spring.

The Lions club, deprived of their annual pep party through state legislation, will undertake a new money making scheme next month. The group will sponsor 100 sale of ice-cream in the city, with "ice cream in every home" as their ultimate goal.

**Issue of December 27**

Three Southfield township soldiers, PFC Clifford Ayotte, Cpl. Richard A. Caverly and Pvt. Robert T. Wiggle, have been listed among American troops held prisoners by the Chinese Communists.

Rep. Howard Kline reported this week that two bills aimed at preventing gas explosions like the one which claimed five lives here in December, 1948, would be presented to the Michigan legislature at the January session.

The unprecedented snow of the past 10 days has Birmingham farmers asking help from residents in keeping hydrant tops cleared. In many sections hydrants are completely buried. The first time this has been necessary in about seven years, according to Chief W. W. Griffith.

Individual Liberties, USA, has been selected as the general theme of the 1949 Community Institute. One specific phase of the liberties enjoyed in the United States will be selected for discussion by a panel.

**JOHN J. CHIKA, West Long Lake road, Bloomfield Hills, has perfected an invention which may reduce fatalities. Called the Safe-T-Table, it will help the passenger in case of a crash because it keeps the seat from being driven forward on him. The passenger, using the table, can't jam head or chest into the front of the car, nor can he be thrown from the seat to become jammed under the instrument panel. The top photo shows the normal position of the device while the car moves. The lower view shows what happens when the vehicle comes to a sudden stop. Chika has been an automotive designer with Detroit auto companies for years and is now associated with Advance Design Developments in Bloomfield Hills.**

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RESIDENTS OF HAYNES and Holland in the area between Porritt field and Eton road were anxious this year for a solution to drainage problems in this territory. For the past three and one-half years, water has collected periodically in an open ditch between homes on both streets. Condition is caused from drainage from the former Porritt property which has no concealed drain. The land was recently purchased by the Patterson-Reid Co. How the drainage problem will be corrected must await further discussion between the new owners, the city and the county drain commission.



**FINISHING TOUCHES** on the full-scale clay model of a bronze plaque dedicated to the memory of the late Michigan Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg were applied in November by Marshall Fredericks. Birmingham sculptor commissioned to design the memorial. The clay model was sent to New York City where the original bronze casting is being made. The original will be placed on the north wall of the first floor of Alumni Hall at the University of Michigan. Measuring 30 by 40 inches, the plaque reads: "Arthur H. Vandenberg, American Statesman, Senator from Michigan 1921-1951; U of M Class of 1904; Dedicated to his memory by members of Delta Upsilon."



**PHEASANTS WERE PLENTIFUL** late in October at Poles Island, Ont., as these hunters will testify. John Ridley of Detroit (kneeling), Fred Ford, 542 Pillgrim, and E. J. (Bud) Ford, 512 Hanna, returned to Birmingham, each with the limit of 11 birds. The trio made the trip by plane, landing at Bess airport.

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