

**Fire Damages in City Low Again Last Month**

Fire damages in Birmingham during the month of May averaged slightly over \$2.50 for each of the 39 alarms answered by the department. The official estimated damages were placed at \$100.

During the month the department answered three first aid calls; one miscellaneous; one false alarm; eight gas investigations and 25 fire investigations.

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**MICHIGAN OUTDOORS**

**BASS FISHING TOO GOOD**  
 In more than one Michigan lake right now black bass are too willing to take just about anything on their way, and many sportsmen are considerably concerned about the situation. While the bass may be caught readily, they must be released inasmuch as the season is closed until June 21st. Yet fishing is permissible in all bass waters right now.

Some mortality is sure to result. It's pretty hard to remove snag hooks from any fish in many instances without inflicting severe injury, and bait fishing may be even worse, for a hook that's swallowed must often be cut away—an operation that frequently proves fatal.

**Bass Now Spawning**  
 The fact that Michigan bass are spawning at this writing is the cause for most concern. And it's this same fact that makes the fish so easy to catch. Appetite isn't the big factor in making a black bass get at anything from a tiny fly to a piece of cloth on a hook these days. They're smashing at an imaginary intruder near their spawning grounds. The male fish is the protector at such times, and he'll haunt the area near the nest until the young are hatched. Even then Papa Bass will often

**Prized Game Fish**  
 Probably no inland lake fish is more highly prized than the black bass—both large and small-mouth, so it is little wonder that many people fear the results of the early opening of our lakes to fishing. Few fish put on the spectacular performance of the bass, especially when hooked on light tackle. The plunging surge of a small-mouth, following a fine show of aerial acrobatics makes dreams come true for the average fisherman, and the fact that the meat is very tasty adds to the enjoyment of the catch.

**Fletcher Floodwaters Typical**  
 Up near Hillman in the Fletcher Floodwaters you'll find a typical example of the situation. Would-be pike fishermen are having a hard time keeping bass off the hook—and with big pike lures many of the fish must be severely injured during the process of release. Fish biologists aren't worried however. They claim there's plenty of seed stock on hand to keep the population up. You can't blame them. Who could be happy about losing such a pound bass just because the season doesn't open for a few days?

A Birmingham resident, **Mort Neff's "Michigan Outdoors"** television show appears every Thursday at 10:15 p.m. over station WWJ-TV.

**To Approve Permits** **Iram Rosser and Fire Chief Alfred Krak** to approve any special requests for fireworks displays over the July 4 holiday.

Southfield township board members authorized Supervisor Wil-

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**City Wants All Risks On Utilities**

The city commission Monday night instructed City Attorney Forbes S. Hascall to attempt to get written agreements with Detroit Edison company and Consumers Power company to relieve the city of any liability in event of utility company catastrophes and also to study the possibility of a like agreement with Michigan Bell Telephone company.

The commission's request, which brought dissenting votes from Commissioners Frank Rising and B. Watkins, came on the heels of a report "that the city shared no liability for utility accidents" given by Hascall.

**THE REPORT** failed to satisfy Commissioner Lane C. Minor, who said he could name "several instances where cities have been held liable for utility accidents."

"If the utility companies refuse to give us whole or harmless agreements, we can bring this to the attention of the people and seriously consider changing the franchise ordinances to obtain these strong releases of city responsibility," Minor added.

Rising objected to the request for more information from Hascall and stated, "We ask for our attorney's opinion and then override him when he does submit his report. There seems to be little reason for having a city attorney if that continues."

**Residents Object To Odors of Gas**

Citing the unpleasantness of escaping gas odors and the danger of a serious gas leak going unnoticed, residents of Bird street have sioners what City Commissioner Donald C. Egbert said inquiries are being made to see if the station could not be moved to another site, preferably an area less densely populated.

**HE EXPLAINED** that when permission was granted the South-eastern Michigan Gas company to extend their line through Birmingham, it was required that all gas be odorized at the point of entry. It is during the recharging of the odorizing equipment that the leakage occurs, he said.

Egbert said that after a similar complaint had been made last January corrective measures were taken and the nuisance stopped until the current disturbance. He assured residents that the Birmingham fire department was aware of each incident and that the station was kept under close surveillance.

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**THIS & THAT**  
 (Continued from Page 1)

and evil disposition... and thus justify the free world in its renewed defense preparations.

It is like making an agreement with an ex-convict, the terms of which require honesty and good faith by both parties—then finding out that the ex-convict is still a criminal in thought and deed.

Contemporary defenders of the PDR foreign policy continue to argue that "the Yalta agreement was done in good faith by us; had Stalin kept his word things would have worked out all right for everybody." Etc., etc.

**THAT ATTITUDE**, of course, is poor consolation for millions who continue under the oppressive heel of expanding Communism, to feel the scourge of poverty, concentration camps, even death itself.

It is poor consolation for the people of the United States, 110,000 of whose sons have become casualties in the Korea "police action."

It is poor comfort for American taxpayers, who are now required to fork over so much of their earnings to pay for current defense measures against Communism.

In this type of discussion, Dear Unassigned Subscriber, you and I could go on indefinitely, perhaps. But unless we confined ourselves to all the facts, our discussion would simply become a disagreement. I'm not interested in using personal sentiment, political partisanship, or other similar reasoning on this subject.

**BUT ENOUGH** of this... and thanks for your letter... (P. S. If you write again and name at the usual place, plus whatever non de plume you wish printed. Normally, we don't publish, acknowledge or pay any attention to letters from people whose identity we don't know—a practice most newspapers follow. If a letter is worth the time to write and mail, it is worth signing.)

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