

# BITS OF BIRMINGHAM

**WHAT'S GOING ON** behind the gray board fence at the southwest corner of W. Maple and Hennetta? Well, it's easy to find out. The contractor has obligingly provided a large screened opening in the fence so the members of the Order of Sidewalk Superintendents can "supervise" activities as the new S. S. Kresge store arises out of the hole-in-the-ground.

**CITY ELECTION SIDEGLITCH:** Harvey Rosse, 771 Hennetta, was going to be out of town on election day, didn't know whether he'd be back in time to vote. So he voted an absentee ballot. At 7:45 election night, City Clerk Irene Hanley noted that his ballot hadn't been received yet. She learned he was back in town, called him and told him he had exactly 15 minutes to get to the poll and vote by machine. He made it with a few minutes to spare.

**A PICTURE OF Fred Mandler,** Birmingham village trustee in 1914 and long time resident, has been presented to the city by his son, Milt, who also has served Birmingham as city commissioner and mayor. In presenting it to the commission Monday night, Milt said, "Several years ago, while John Maritz was mayor, Dad was asked for a picture of himself which was to be placed in the commission room alongside the pictures of other former village and city commissioners. Dad said that during his lifetime such a picture should not appear. Dad died, you recall, last November at the age of 84. Tonight I would like to present to the city this picture of him." Mayor Sean G. Beier, on behalf of the commission, gratefully accepted the gift.

**ANOTHER INDICATION** of spring was noticed Thursday by many Birmingham residents... several "skywriters" spent a while practicing and polishing their maneuvers just east of the city.

## BHS Spring Play 'In the Round'

The new rage in theater is staging a show in the round. The members of Proscenium of Birmingham High School have caught on to the rage and are giving their Spring Play, "You Can't Take It With You," in the round.

This play will all about a rascally family, the Sycamores, who enjoy living. Then Alice, the young attractive daughter, invites her wealthy fiance and his family, the Kirbys, for dinner one evening. The only trouble is that they arrive a night early in their very best attire, but the Sycamores are just getting ready for the dinner. They are painting, writing, dancing and anything else that pops into their heads.

The play will be produced in the Birmingham High School Gym on April 16, 17, 23 or 24 at 8:00 to 9:00 this chuckle-packed play.

## March Building Upped Sharply Over '52 Figure

March 1953 building nearly doubled that of the previous year in construction values, although permits increased by only 10.

The current report issued by J. V. Walker, building inspector, shows 79 permits issued for a total of \$47,045,000. Last year's report was for 40 permits representing \$27,405 in building costs.

## Property Owners Request Paving of Haynes Street

A petition signed by seven property owners on Haynes between Hunter and Adams, has been received by Birmingham city commissioners requesting concrete pavement as soon as possible.

The request was referred to City Manager Donald C. Ebert who said it may be possible to include this work in the city's 1953 program.

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# The Birmingham Eccentric



JOHN C. RAY WILLIAM HUNT EUGENE HESZ ROBERT DEARTH

## Name Foreign Trade Panel Members

Birmingham's League of Women Voters this week announced the names of the 5-member panel which has been invited here to discuss "Foreign Trade vs. Foreign Aid". To be held at the Community House at 8 p.m. April 15, this public meeting will see Robert Dearth, moderator, with speakers W. R. Jeeves, John C. Ray, Eugene Hesz, the Rev. Raymond Jancauskas and William T. Hunt.

Mrs. Peter B. Loomis, League president, will open the meeting. Explanation of the League's position on the panel topic will be given by Mrs. William Williams, chairman of national affairs.

Mrs. Charles J. Shan, international relations committee chairman, will introduce the moderator and panel members.

AN HISTORICAL briefing on reciprocal policies and Smoot-Hawley tariffs from 1890 will be given by John Ray, an attorney specializing in customs law and a member of the Customs Court Bar.

Ray is chairman of the customs and import committee of the Detroit Board of Commerce and its world affairs committee. He has also been an assistant U. S. Attorney General and special assistant U. S. Attorney General, handling among other things enforcement of customs laws.

The second portion of the program, reasons why the U. S. today must re-examine its position on trade and tariffs, will be given by William T. Hunt and W. R. Jeeves. Hunt, district manager for the U. S. Chamber of Commerce for seven years, has charge of the functions of the National Production Authority within the State of Michigan.

PRIOR TO joining the Department of Commerce, he was in marketing and business development in private industry for 14 years and before that was western production and sales manager and export manager for another company.

In addition he served three years as American vice consul in the British West Indies. He is a past president of the Michigan chapter American Marketing Association, and a member of the Foreign Trade club of Detroit.

Jeeves, a native of Cambridge, England, studied pharmacy in London and Manila, demonstrated pharmacy at Cambridge university and became a sales representative for the Parke-Davis company's London branch in 1921.

TWO YEARS ago he was transferred to the Philippines and in 1941 came to Detroit as assistant to the foreign sales manager. He became foreign sales manager in 1947 and last June was made vice president in charge of overseas operations.

The monetary aspects and convertibility problems inherent to foreign trade will be presented by Eugene Hesz, a resident of Birmingham.

An instructor at the University of Detroit, Hesz has been with the A. M. Kilder firm, members of the Stock Exchange for several years as manager of the investment department. He was assigned by the

## Easter Egg Hunt Attended By 100

Approximately 100 boys and girls participated in the fifth annual Easter egg hunt of the Birmingham YMCA last Saturday, April 4 on the "Y" grounds. Stuart Schaefer of 120 Hawthorne and Ronald Hunter, 1160 Smith, were the girl and boy winners of grandstand tickets to the Tigers opening ball game with the greatest number of eggs gathered.

Ronald's 27 topped all winners. Special prizes went to Robert Field, John Skauts, Joel Hauser, and Donald MacDonald for finding specific eggs. All contestants received consolation prizes of candy suckers. Colored motion pictures of the International Model Airplane meet were shown as a conclusion to the program.

## In Any Event

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**Townsite Offers Services to City For Blood Bank**

Mrs. Bradley Pruden, Oakland county Red Cross official, this week announced plans for the April 15 blood bank which had been scheduled for Birmingham.

"The local bank was to have been sponsored," she said, by Charles Edwards Post, American Legion, Clearwater, Michigan, a firm which make it impossible for the organization to follow through with this plan.

"The Southfield townsite group, holding their blood bank the previous day, have offered to sponsor the Townsite Community church to Birmingham for Wednesday."

Mrs. Pruden announced that Birmingham residents may make their donations there and still have the credit given to their community bank.

Mrs. Pruden stressed that the April 15 bank sponsored by the Southfield group under the direction of Mrs. William Schulte, has all time taken.

"THERE ARE A few vacancies left in the Birmingham Club," she said, "and others who care to give at this time may make reservations through Mrs. Van Fleet on Cranbrook road. Every effort will be made to care for those who desire to come to the bank without making reservations," she added.

There are about 600 pints being received each month, with more than 4000 pints distributed through hospitals for civilian use.

Mrs. Pruden stressed the need for additional donors to build up the reserve supply for military, defense and gamma globulin uses.

**Charter Night For Men's Club Set For April 18**

Norman "Bud" James, Jr., acting president of the Birmingham Y's Men's Club, the service organization of the Birmingham YMCA, announced the induction of the local group by the Royal Oak Y's Men's Club and the chartering of the club for April 18 at Christ Church.

Ray Specker, chairman of the program committee, has worked out a plan for the chartering at the Institute of Science, the Art Academy, and the two schools for visiting club representatives from out-state and Canada. This tour will start at 2 p.m. and conclude at 8 p.m. with a dinner and visit through Christ Church.

THE CHARTERING banquet will take place at 6:30 p.m. with Arthur Pelletier of the Northwestern Y's Men's Club as toastmaster, and Gordon Stow, chairman of the Y's Men's International Committee on Counseling, and a resident of Lansing, as the principal speaker. Michigan's teen-age pantomime duo of "Vic" Wallon and Sherry Stone will provide such numbers as "It's In the Book," "Mary Had a Little Lamb" and others. Rodney Smith of the local club will serve as song leader.

Morgan Barrow is chairman of the hospital committee and general program arrangements are being handled by Earl Irish. Further details of this occasion will be forthcoming in our next issue.

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