

BITS OF BIRMINGHAM

WE'RE STICKING OUR chin out on this one but all picnic planners and garden party givers may count on it; it will NOT rain in this area—not one drop—from August 27 through the 29. We have this on the authority of the Weather Bureau via the committee for the Kirk-of-the-Hills outdoor art show. Records show no trace of precipitation for that period during the Bureau's history. The Kirk is pretty pleased about the whole thing. Last year they failed to consult with the prophets, and scheduled their show for the autumnal equinox.

CITY COMMISSIONER RICHARD PATTERSON told members of Birmingham's city and plan commissions last week, in a joint meeting, that "I don't see why we in Birmingham should provide street and parking facilities for non-residents who want to shop here." Immediately he was opposed by several other city commissioners who agreed with Commissioner V. B. Watkins when he declared that "I believe it is all right for non-residents to patronize local business. We don't want to build up a wall of commercial isolation around Birmingham. The development and expansion of local business is a good thing for Birmingham—for not only will it provide larger shopping and general service facilities for our people, but will also help to relieve residential property tax-wise."

THOSE "OUTSIDE" the law who choose the Woodward avenue route of escape by car out of Wayne county will find that their wanderings will be recorded by teletype report and received in Oakland county and the City of Birmingham. The teletype equipment, arrived at police headquarters last week and was installed by Michigan Bell workmen, ready to go into operation on Sept. 1. Birmingham law enforcement officers have taken training in the use of the machine in Detroit under Michigan Bell instructors.

WORD COMES from Florida that Mrs. Webster Buell, 15775 Birwood, is currently leading the second class in the spin casting division of the seventh annual Florida Keys fishing tournament. She took the lead last week when she boated a 13-pounder.

THOMAS J. BOLTON, 420 Suffield, vice president of the M. C. Callahan agency, Detroit, recently accepted a colorful plaque from the Aetna Life Ins. Co., in recognition of its outstanding 1952 sales record for having sold 17 million dollars worth of group insurance.

WITH THE first issue of the JAYCEE JOURNAL, which was rejuvenated this week, the club is launching a plan to report past and future events. Wednesday, Aug. 19, it was an afternoon of golf, a p.m. dinner and good fellowship at Sylvan Glen. Another dinner, with members' wives as guests, is planned for Sept. 23. Incidentally, the Jaycees tell this Wanderer they are hoping to find some good journalistic material among their membership.

AL. BATES of 1961 Graefield, has taken up the lance in defense of Little League baseball in a letter to the Editor in this week's Eccentric. Bates, former manager in Little League and now associated with Little Bigger League, has watched the progress of these groups since they were introduced. He says the small fry leagues are as good as big league baseball and are beneficial rather than harmful to the youngsters. A former Holy Cross athlete, Bates is now associated with a Detroit Insurance company.

WHEN SECRETARY of State Owen J. Cleary arrived at the Willow Run airport last week, state car was there to meet him and take him to the William T. Denman's open house at their Redding road home. Since Cleary was unfamiliar with the highways and byways leading to the Denman home he availed himself of the telephone facilities in the car. Calling Mrs. Denman, he was directed to the home by a road to road description.

SOMETHING NEW in soda fountain drinks has been produced by the venturesome Young Fry of Birmingham. It is called a "Graveyard" and is concocted by going down the line of flavors—lime, lemon, vanilla, chocolate and the rest—and putting a squirt of each kind into a glass, filling the remaining space with coke. Questioned as to how this conglomeration tasted, one bright eyed youngster enthusiastically reported, "It's good!"

BEFORE LONG school will begin, much to the delight of harassed mothers and the chagrin of the presently happy carefree children. Realizing the imminence of this important event, the opening of school, some wag has put a "For Sale" sign on the east end of Adams school.

THIS WANDERER was set to humming "On A Bicycle Built for Two" a few days ago, and for good reason. While driving along one of our city's sidestreets, we thought the two boys ahead of us were doing some very close and steady riding—until we passed them. Then we saw they had to stay close together and they had to stay in a straight line for they were riding tandem. Don't quote us on this, since we caught only a passing glimpse of their bicycle, but it did appear as though it were made out of two bikes—a reconversion job as it were.

Birmingham, Franklin Dogs Take Top Spots In Two Recent Shows

Show honors have recently come to Birmingham and Franklin dogs which took best-in-show ratings. The Afghan hound, owned by Mrs. Edwin H. Paige of Franklin took top rating at the Lovain county kennel club event at Elyria, Ohio, last week while Mr. Fred Gason's springer, Ch. King Poles of Sallion captured first spot in the Pontiac kennel club show on Sunday.

Ch. Majara Mardan-Ghaby, three-year-old Afghan, has been unbeaten in 30 shows and taken best of breed in 11. He was also rated best found in the Detroit Kennel club and Oakland county shows this year. Ch. King Peter, was appointed 171 top-flight show during his four years. He was just recently shown with best-of-breed rating at the Glassboro special show at Chicago, competing with 121 other English springers.

Approve Petition For New Stop Signs
Stop signs on Melton at Sheffield have been ordered in accordance

These warm days, especially the hot, humid ones, bring from us a slip criticism of the weather... not a deep, grumbling criticism, but just a simple, honest one. After all, the weather's extreme cold does the same thing. Aren't we humans expecting too much?

The Birmingham Eccentric

Camp for Underprivileged Youth Holds Its Open House Last Week

By RUTH ANNE SILBAR
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Judge Arthur E. Moore was beaming last Saturday as he greeted guests who arrived at Camp Oakland for its first "open house."

For to Arthur E. Moore, judge of Probate Court, Oakland County, Camp Oakland is the realization of a dream, a hope, a fervent wish of many years standing.

The camp, located on a farm of 320 acres between Lake Orion and Oxford, was purchased five short weeks ago and already is humming with activity as the underprivileged boys and girls of Oakland County are enjoying the benefits of a summer camp program. As an "insurance policy" against future poor citizenship, Camp Oakland will assist in building healthy, responsible citizens out of Oakland County's hundreds of underprivileged, neglected, abandoned or semi-delinquent children.

It will provide certain facilities and programs in the field of juvenile work which are not available or inadequately available at the present time.

BUSINESS AND professional men, service clubs and just plain private citizens of Oakland County are backing this project, voluntarily contributing time, equipment and money and serving as officers and directors of Camp Oakland.

Of those men and women in Oakland County who are responsible for the existence of Camp Oakland, many are from Birmingham and Highland Hills.

Credit must be given to the social service group of the Women's Auxiliary at Christ Church, Cranbrook, which first started this project rolling.

Service clubs within the city which are contributing in some way are Metropolitan Auxiliary, Spirit No. 2, the Birmingham Woman's Club and the P. E. O. Sisterhood, Chapter B-2.

OF THE ORIGINAL board of directors of Camp Oakland who paved the way for the existence of the camp, the following members are from this area: Mrs. John St. Clair, president, Mrs. Malcom W. Tom Farrell, Mrs. Neil McMath, Bloomfield Hills, Rev. Robert DeWitt, Christ Church, Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills, Mrs. Edward Proctor, Wing Lake, and Mrs. T. Hollister Mabey.

Property known as the Lafer farm, located between Lake Orion and Oxford, was purchased for \$111,000 and with a down payment of \$30,000, the camp for the underprivileged children of Oakland County became a fact.

SINCE THE down payment, many voluntary donations have come in, but the camp is by no means paid for. Walter Gehring, of Pleasant Ridge, president of the First Federal Savings and Loan bank of Detroit, is now president of the board of directors of Camp Oakland. He will be pleased to receive contributions.

On the property is a large furnished home, a tenant house, barns and milking equipment and a herd of 59 registered Holstein cattle. There is a small garden, an orchard and berry patches.

There are plenty of fish in the lake on the property and all the campers fish on Thursday so that there may be a fish dinner on Friday.

A staff of men and women who are employed in the county as juvenile court workers, probation officers, nurses, psychologists and teachers are working at Camp Oakland.

JUDGE MOORE has appointed James W. Hunt, assistant director of the juvenile division of the juvenile court, as director of Camp Oakland. Assisting Hunt is William Matus.

A three-part program will be in operation at Camp Oakland. One is the carefully supervised year-around home for boys between the

moral standards, often drop out of school.

SINCE THEY cannot be required to attend school after the age of 16 and since work laws make them ineligible for most employment until the age of 18, they are very likely to get into real trouble.

Camp Oakland with its farm home atmosphere will provide these boys with a feeling of security and experienced counselors from the county will give them training in work skills which the boys can put to use in their adult life.

Another part of the Camp Oakland program is the summer camp for the hundreds of underprivileged children in Oakland county. At the present time, there are facilities for only a small number of these children, but when cabins

are built on the north side of the lake by the 15-18 year old permanent boy residents, the camping program will be greatly expanded.

THE THIRD PART of the program will be winter camping facilities for such organizations as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Boy's Clubs within Oakland County.

Judge Moore believes that once the initial cost of Camp Oakland is met, the camp will be financially self-sustaining.

The existence of this much needed project with its immense possibilities for the care and welfare of the less fortunate children of Oakland county is what made Judge Moore so happy last Saturday when the donors and representatives of various service clubs came out to visit the new Camp Oakland.

"Cost of Police Within National Average", Egbert

Birmingham, according to an analysis prepared by City Manager Donald C. Egbert, rates well in the "national average," so far as police forces go.

In a recent report to Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley, Egbert said he felt the department was starting the 1953-54 fiscal year with the most adequate budget it has ever received.

His analysis of the department strength and costs takes into consideration the current budget and figures of previous years. The national average, Egbert said, for police personnel was 155 per 1,000. He pointed out that with the present population of the city placed at 21-22,000, Birmingham has a rating of between 150 and 175 per 1,000.

"APPROPRIATIONS do not correspond with national averages," Egbert said, "primarily because Birmingham is in a metropolitan area where salaries and wages are relatively high as compared with national averages, and the salary wage level is considerably higher than average cities in our population group."

"It appears more reasonable to compare salaries and costs of the Birmingham police department with all cities reporting."

THE AVERAGE per capita cost for salaries in police departments of 330 cities reporting was \$7.16 per capita in Birmingham, based on a 22,000 population, the per capita cost is in the neighborhood of \$7.16.

Egbert's study further showed that 86.1 per cent of the Birmingham police budget is devoted to salaries and wages. The national average of the 330 cities reporting was set at 89.3 for the population group of 10-25,000 and 85.8 for the group from 25-50,000.

IN CLOSING his report Egbert pointed out that his purpose of making the analysis was to present a true picture as it stands in Birmingham.

"National releases," he said, "are prepared for newspapers, based on figures which are three or four years old and as such are completely out of line."

"It is my intention to prepare a set of figures which are up-to-date and will be factual information for the people of Birmingham."

Referred to Plan Board
Petition of Miss Vida B. McGiffin, 595 S. Bates, for rezoning of her property from single home to two-family dwelling was referred for recommendation to the city plan board by the Birmingham city commission at its meeting Monday night.

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