

## Rotarians See Station Wagon Purchase Soon

Birmingham Rotarians probably will net close to \$800 as a result of their newspaper sale Friday morning, according to Ed Pool, club president.

He said this money, together with more than \$1,000 obtained from a square dance party early in the fall, would enable the club shortly after the first of the year to present a new station wagon for use by the Oakland county Society for Crippled Children.

Club member Marshall Fredericks, internationally known sculptor, put on the club's program Monday noon. He showed a number of slides of work he has done since the end of World War II.

"When I first began sculpturing, I did it mostly for my own interest," Fredericks explained.

"But then I decided it would be more beneficial if my work also could interest other people. That is when I really became interested in sculpturing—when I began using it in the architectural design of new buildings."

IN THE PAST few years, use of sculpture in buildings has been gaining more and more importance, Fredericks said.

The club saw two new members inducted this week — A. H. Warner, new local manager for the Michigan Bell Telephone Co.; and Herbert Hengst, who became a junior high school principal last September.

### Given Company Letter

Robert C. Selvidge, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harner Selvidge, 3831 W. Maple, has been awarded a company letter for outstanding performance on the 1953 company football team at Kemper Military School, Bionville, Mo. He was given high recognition for his playing ability by his coach.

We are now on the threshold of a New Year. Traditionally, this is a time to make new resolutions, to the end that our lives may become happier and more secure. Such resolutions, of course, ought to be made any day of a year, and then transferred into action.

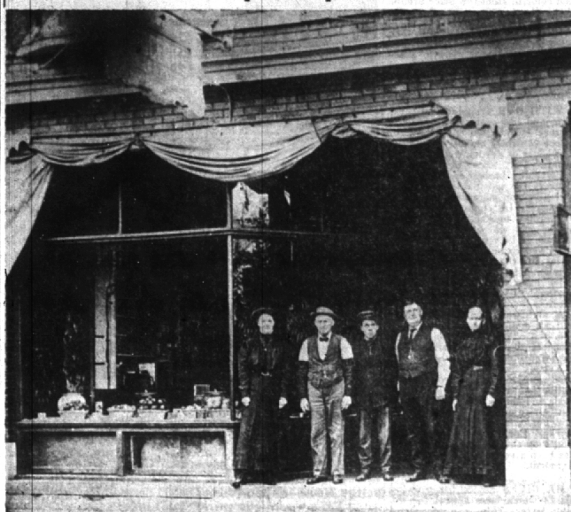
# The Birmingham Eccentric

SECTION 3

Thursday, December 24, 1953

## BIRMINGHAM BACKGROUND

• Local History in Story and Picture •



WHERE THE ELITE USED TO MEET AND BUY THINGS TO EAT—IN 1910 People identified in accompanying story. (Photo from collection of E. W. Kurth).

## Grocery Had 1st Electric Sign

H. G. Spencer and George R. Ferguson ran a high-class up-to-date grocery store on Woodward avenue in 1910. It was located in the building owned by dentist D. M. Johnston and Dr. N. T. Shaw in the store where The Sportsman's Shop now is situated.

The electric sign advertising Spencer and Ferguson's grocery was among the first of the electric signs on business places in Birmingham in front of the store. Standing in front of the store from left to right, is one of the clerks, Mr. Spencer, Fred Goodwin (another clerk), Mr. Ferguson and Mrs. Spencer.

THE DOORWAY at the right of the picture led to the dental offices of Dr. Johnston and his associate, Dr. Fred G. Crawford.

Harvey C. Wilson, president of the Wilson Safety Railway Gate Co. (a safety device of his own invention) had his offices on the second floor of the Johnston-Shaw building, and there was a spacious public hall available for dances or public meetings.

Spencer and Ferguson often bought produce and meat from farmers of the surrounding vicinity.

One anecdote about this store is recorded in the pages of The Birmingham Eccentric, dated May 1910:

"Last Saturday a rather bashful young woman from Troy went into the store of Spencer and Ferguson carrying three chickens. She inquired the price of chickens and at the same time put them on the counter.

"Mr. FERGUSON happened to wait on her. George didn't know the chickens' feet were tied and asked if they would lay there.

"The bashful young lady bit her handkerchief and said, 'No sir, they are roosters!'"

## County Red Cross Moves Into First 'Chapter Home'

Oakland county chapter, American Red Cross, moved into a home of its own Monday afternoon, Dec. 21.

Locking the door on the offices at 53½ W. Hurston street, Pontiac, chapter headquarters for seven years, the staff set up shop at the new chapter house at 118 Franklin boulevard, Pontiac.

The residence was bought by the Red Cross executive board last summer for \$21,000, giving the group its first chapter house.

"We found we have about three times as much room in the new building," Harold B. Euler of Pontiac, chapter chairman, said. "We've done a bit of remodeling to make the most of it."

The Red Cross chapter will no longer need to borrow quarters for many volunteer classes and small meetings, he pointed out. A basement classroom and kitchen and second floor conference room mean only large gatherings, such as quarterly dinners and annual meetings, need to be held away from the chapter house.

THE FIRST floor contains a reception room, offices for the executive secretary, Mrs. Mildred Bennett, and home service director, Mrs. Evelett C. Spruick. Four smaller offices for home service workers and social welfare aides also will give people who come to the chapter for help a chance to talk over their problems in privacy.

Second floor offices include one for the water safety, first aid and nursing services departments and room for the Junior Red Cross service groups, and clerical staff as well as the conference room. An eight-car parking lot behind the house and curbside parking on nearby streets will give extra convenience to volunteers and callers. The house also has a garage, to be used for the chapter car.

## Two Drivers Hurt In Auto Accident

Both drivers involved in a two-car collision Thursday, Dec. 17, at Southfield and 14 Mile suffered minor injuries, according to Birmingham police.

Treated and released from St. Joseph hospital, Pontiac, for a lacerated chin and bruised knee was Richard Turner, 19, of 30335 Woodhaven, Southfield township.

The other driver, Leslie D. Stauffer, 65, of 176 Surfside, was treated for scraped shins by a private doctor.

Police said Stauffer was ticketed for failure to yield the right-of-way at an intersection as, while driving south, he attempted a left turn at 14 Mile in the path of Turner's car.

To buy or sell a used automobile, read and use Eccentric Classified Ads.

# Merry Christmas

We shall be closed Dec. 26th

## LAMP CORNER

2610 N. Woodward at 1½ Mile Rd. LI 3-4493

## Season's Greetings



May the true meaning of Christmas be yours.

**The McCLELLAN Agency**  
Dalt Lamb and Thelma Zimmerman  
Rm. 247 Briggs Building

## Father of Seven Dies Searching For Christmas Job

Searching for a second job so his seven children could have a merry Christmas, a Southfield township father died Thursday night when his car crashed into a safety zone marker in Highland Park.

The victim Bernard S. Skop, 40, of 20797 Negaunee, was killed outright, according to police.

A witness, George Speer, Highland Park, said, "I think he was sound asleep. He drove straight into the post without putting on his brakes."

The Skop children range in age from six months to 12 years. His wife, Mary Louise, said he was out looking for another job "because he said it was the only way we'd have enough money for Christmas."

THE FAMILY LIVES in a partially finished home which Skop, a welder by trade, had been building himself.

Friends and neighbors of the Skops are conducting a drive to help the family financially. Already, \$500 has come in, according to Myrlin Gaut, director of the Southfield Citizens League. Gaut said clothing and about \$100 in groceries also have been contributed.

A committee headed by Lawrence Fiferlik has prepared a drive to collect \$1,800 to pay off the mortgage and other bills on the Skop home.

Gaut can be reached at 21816

Negaunee and Fiferlik at 24503 Kinsel by any persons wishing to add to the contributions. Both men have phones in Southfield's Flinders exchange.



# Merry Christmas

We greet Christmas 1953

with the friendly spirit of past years.

# LEWIS Fine Furniture

235 Pierce Street Phone MI 4-4920  
PONTIAC STORE 62-70 South Saginaw Street, Pontiac

## Engineers Elect Officers

Marion F. Fox, 1331 Villa, was elected first vice president of the

Oakland County Engineering Society at a recent meeting of the organization. Elected president of the group was T. C. Coast of Royal Oak.

## Season's Greetings



May the HOLIDAY SEASON

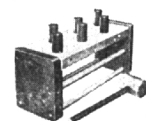
bring you its full measure of peace and happiness, and the New Year, prosperity.

## Harold B. Brown CARPETS and RUGS

2863 N. Woodward, Berkley

## THE RIGHT TOY AT THE RIGHT AGE!

wonderful "RIGHT-TIME" toys!



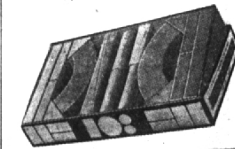
**POUND-A-WAY**... wonderful outlet for baby's emotions! The pound toy whose pegs cannot be lost and whose tension can be set to the individual baby's strength and interest. Made of selected hardwood... non-toxic colors. Created for the baby from 1 to 5 years of age.

\$2.00

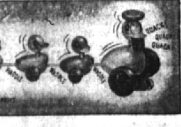
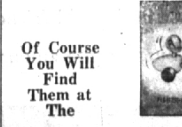


**BABY'S THUMPER**... just what baby specialists order as an outlet for high spirits. Soft cotton-filled ball is plastic covered - banging without harm baby or furniture. Colorful and musical, with jingling bells. For babies from 6 to 15 months.

\$1.00



SEVERAL FROM WHICH TO CHOOSE



Of Course You Will Find Them at The

## LITTLE FOLKS SHOP

175 West Maple  
OPEN FRIDAY EVENINGS

# MERRY CHRISTMAS

from the

## SPORTSMAN

Erwin Wilson

Bob Covert

Leo Renault