

# BITS OF BIRMINGHAM

BEING AN UNUSUAL COMMUNITY, Birmingham has unusual sights. Here is one of them, as reported by a resident who saw it happen: "At 1:25 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 24, a nicely dressed woman in a Buick car drove up to a NO DUMPING sign just south of the bridge on Lakeside road, stopped, got out and deposited a neatly wrapped package of empty whiskey bottles. This particular spot happens to be one of the most picturesque in Birmingham, with a view of the River Rouge winding in and out through the woods. That is, it would be were it not for litter bugs. "It would be interesting to know," continued this resident, "what Sherlock Holmes would deduce from an examination of the packages of bottles. Would he conclude that this woman's home was as neat as the package she wrapped? Would he find consideration of others a common trait of her and her family? Or would he discover that here was another specimen of the breed who push their way through a waiting ticket office line, steal parking places, pinch babies, mark on the walls of powder rooms, and spread false tales about innocent people? It certainly would be interesting to find out what this woman is really like."

Two Sunday evenings ago, Ed Sullivan's "Toast of the Town" TV show, a bit of Birmingham was flashed upon the screens of millions of families in this country. Did you see it? It was when the commercial part of that program was showing an automobile being driven along a street and that street happened to be W. Maple. For the final picture showed the corner of a store, with the name "Jacobson's" high-lighted. 'Twas not the first time, either, that a section of Birmingham has been shown in various national advertising presentations.

IN 23 YEARS of world-wide traveling, Charles J. O'Connor, 2276 Avon Lane, has added 1,300,000 miles to his various pilgrimages. O'Connor, president of Reichhold chemicals, has visited about every country on this earth. He admitted to this Wanderer the other day that making a trans-continental or trans-oceanic airplane flight to him is just about what most folks would compare to a trip to the corner grocery. Incidentally, O'Connor, a better-than-average amateur photographer, has taken thousands of interesting and beautiful colored pictures on his numerous trips.

A STUDY IN CONTRASTS: local waitress with a painstakingly arranged coiffure, extra-long and shaped fingernails, carefully pencilled eyebrows . . . and sweat-soaked.

DID YOU, TOO, notice the unusual entry on the 1948 tabulation sheet of Detroit Communists, as published last week by a Detroit newspaper in connection with the current trial of six Michigan Communists? In the upper left corner of this information: "Male 923. Female 400; Misc. 9; Total 1332." This Wanderer knows of no one who has ever met a "miscellaneous." Perhaps this Detroit newspaper could follow up with a picture of one.

VINCENT SECONTINE, head football coach at Birmingham high school, has a unique method for handling disciplinary problems in his study hall. Secontine's favorite expression is "Okay now, let's square around" and when some of the boys don't square, he has 'em doing push ups—20 of 'em.

HOUSEWIVES ONLY think they have cleaning problems. In a recent conversation with a Michigan Bell employee, this Wanderer mentioned odd noises which sometimes break into telephone calls and minor difficulties that pop up now and then. "We were informed that some might be traced to so tiny a thing as a piece of dust. The thousands of wires in the dialing system are so sensitive that they must be constantly vacuumed to remove these particles, we were told. With the construction, during the summer, of another floor on the local building, it is easy to see that there would be plenty of dust and so plenty of work for the vacuum.

A CARAVAN of gaily decorated cars more than a half mile long was made up of Birmingham high school students attending the Thanksgiving Day football game at Royal Oak with their traditional Thanksgiving Day rivals, the Acorns. The little brown jug, trophy of the game, continues its stay at Royal Oak for another year.

BIRMINGHAM HAS ALWAYS been proud of her schools. Even in the days when just one school was sufficient to supply the educational needs of the village, her school was good enough to be placed on the "Diploma List" of the University of Michigan. Birmingham is prouder than ever of its new high school, located on the southwestern corner of a 46-acre site. The gymnasium, one of the largest high school gyms in the state, seats 4,000. It has aluminum rolling doors to divide the floor area into two full sized gymnasiums.

BIG CHIEF PONTIAC, a six-foot plaster Indian, no longer ornaments (?) the main room of the Birmingham YMCA. With his paint peeling off and a sign around his neck "Do Not Touch", he was indeed a sorry sight. Chief Pontiac has been relegated to the garage where new coats of paint will be applied by members of the Indian Guides, a YMCA group, whom the Chief was given by the Wilson Pontiac car dealer.

MAKING HER STAGE DEBUT in the premiere Sunday of "The Depot", a new opera written by a West Bloomfield township woman, was 10-year-old Donna June Wall, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry E. Wall, 1801 Pemberton, Bloomfield township. The young author is Joanelle McKee, 6701 Alden, Green Lake Village, who also has written several musical compositions. "The Depot" concerns a wife who runs away from her husband, and while waiting for the train to arrive, sees the cross section of life which passes through the train depot.

BIRMINGHAM IS ABOUT to "pine" its way through the Christmas season—fir sure. Already one enterprising individual on a vacant lot at the south end of town has put the "for sale" sign on a load of Christmas trees.

TWO VISITS to Northville state hospital have been made recently by the Past Matrons club of Victoria chapter, OES, of Redford, one highlighted by the gift of a television set to patients there. In addition, 100 Christmas favors, made by members, have been presented to the hospital. The club is currently headed by Mrs. James Roark, 1760 Norfolk, president.

THE FELLOWS who belong to the Birmingham Kiwanis club are a busy bunch and apparently they just don't have time to get all the things done which they would like to tackle, so they've added another day to the year—yes that's right! The last issue of Kiwanis is the club's official organ, this Wanderer noticed one meeting scheduled for Nov. 31. Vernon Dameron, director of education at Greenfield Village and Edison Institute was the speaker.

With snow upon the ground, birds have difficulty finding food. If you desire to enjoy the presence of our wintering bird life, why not build a suitable platform feeding station near a window in your home? It will be a charity, indeed!



FLOYD FRANKLIN

## High Twelve Club Names New Slate

Birmingham High Twelve members named Floyd (Ben) Franklin to head their organization when the annual election was held Monday evening at the Community House.

Others serving for 1954 will be Tom Campbell, first vice president; Harold Gasser, second vice president; Maurice Smith, secretary and James Spence, treasurer.

Elected directors are the Rev. Arnold Runkel, D.D.; William L. Bones, Ray Jensen, Walter Anderson and the immediate past president, Wilson M. Wagner.

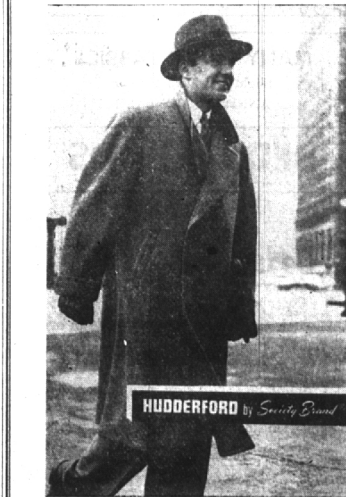
Two more directors and other committee members will be named by the newly elected president at an early date.

## 'Borrowed Cars' Bring Two Years Probation

Pleading guilty to unlawfully taking and using an automobile without permission without intent to steal, Richard Gerald Walker, 17, of 174 Cole, was ordered to serve two years probation and pay \$100 in court costs by Circuit Judge Frank L. Doty, Friday.

Walker admitted that on occasions he "borrowed" cars to get to his job as a carpenter's apprentice in Inkster.

## The OVERCOAT



that has everything except weight!

Much warmer . . . much lighter! An unusually comfortable overcoat whose superb styling and scientifically blended fabric of alpaca, angora, mohair and wool gives you everything you want in an overcoat—everything but shoulder sagging weight! Colors: blue, gray, beige, brown.

It's An All Weather Coat \$75.00

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Custom Tailors & Men's Furnishings

Alterations done on all ladies' and men's clothing  
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BRIGGS BLDG. Open daily from 8 to 6  
Free Parking Friday 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

# The Birmingham Eccentric

## Birmingham Lions Donations Marks Leader Dog Week

Through official proclamation by Gov. George W. Williams, Dec. 6-12 will be observed in Michigan as "Leader Dog Week."

In his statement, Gov. Williams pointed out how these carefully trained dogs have granted a new independence and freedom to the blind and urged the support of all clubs and individuals for this program.

"IN MICHIGAN," his proclamation reads, "the services of Leader Dogs have been made available to our blind citizens through the efforts of Leader Dogs for the Blind, a non-profit organization established in 1939. This school, one of the largest of its kind in the nation, serves 40 states, and has graduates in Canada, Mexico, Israel, Brazil and Alaska. Each year many of our blind seek Leader Dogs, new "eyes" — and thus new lives."

The Rochester school has announced its plans for increased facilities, to include a new dormitory, a building which will double the capacities for training the blind.

## Two Stamp Clubs Join In Sponsoring Annual Exhibition, Bourse

On Dec. 6 members of the Birmingham Stamp club will again join the Ferndale club for the annual exhibit and bourse, with 15 exhibitors from the local club taking part.

The affair will be held in Lincoln high school on West Nine Mile in Ferndale and is open to the public without charge.

Among the local exhibitors will be the Rev. W. Glen Harris, Russell Cowles, E. E. Pula, Albert Clark, Les Moses, Marvin Preston, Charles Burchard, Frederick Baine, Emory Walliman, Mrs. Charles Charnatz, Dr. J. K. Schackeror, and Jack Clemens.

The school cafeteria will be open for service to visitors from 1 to 7 p.m.

## Attack on 'Litterbugs' Is Proposed

Before the city commission will approve the placing of "litterbug" signs around the city, it wants City Manager D. C. Egbert to take a look at one of the signs and find out where it is proposed they be located.

Mrs. W. S. Howell, civic improvement chairman of the Michigan division of the Woman's National Farm and Garden Assn., this week informed commissioners that these signs now are available from the national group.

"We desire to have these signs erected in strategic points in the city to accent good housekeeping by the residents of Birmingham," Mrs. Howell wrote. "We wish to donate the signs and request that they be erected by the city forces."

Commissioners also asked Egbert to figure out how much it would cost the city to put up the signs, if they were accepted.

## LET DRIVE-RITE Teach You TO DRIVE RIGHT DRIVE-RITE Auto Driving School Woodward 1-3100

LANCE MINOR, Birmingham city commissioner: "The Birmingham school district is one of the city's chief offenders when it comes to dense smoke from chimneys. It is well known that the blacker the smoke, the more fuel is being wasted. And heaven knows local school taxes are high enough now."

## OPEN EVE'S TILL CHRISTMAS GIFTS and TOYS



ONLY 19 Shopping Days TILL XMAS

An Early Visit to Our Hobby Craft and Toy Department Will Be a Pleasure—You'll Be Thrilled With Ideas



TRAYS • PICTURES • TILES • PLANTER BOXES FIGURINES • METALCRAFT • FOOLING • GLASS & METAL ETCHING KITS • TOLE WARE • PASTEL, OIL and WATER COLOR SETS • WOOL FLOCKING and MANY USEFUL CRAFT and ARTIST SUPPLIES

Gifts May Be Set Aside Till Xmas

Michigan's Finest Wallpaper Selections

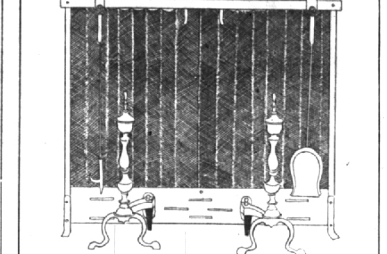


CUSTOM MIXED PAINTS as you like

W. 12 Mile Rd. Just east of Post Office, Berkley

Open 9-6 daily Except Friday 9-9 Phone LI 1-6070

## FIRESIDE VALUES!



CURTAIN FRAME—38" wide, 31" high Solid brass frame and andiron panel. Brass-finished mesh. Can be used with or without andirons. 19.95

Complete 5-Piece Ensemble as shown—\$39.95 Other Ensembles — \$19.95, \$39.75 and \$49.75

SEE DETROIT'S MOST COMPLETE DISPLAY OF FIREPLACE EQUIPMENT AT

**Detroit Mantel & Tile Co.**  
1431 Farmer St., Detroit • Half Block North of Hudson's Phone WOODWARD 2-6036

A Brand New BABY SITTING SERVICE for Christmas Shoppers

From Now Until Christmas— LEAVE THE KIDDIES at the BIG FUN SHOW

BIRMINGHAM COMMUNITY HOUSE

FOUR DIFFERENT SHOWS DAILY

Including: JUGGLERS — MONKEYS — DOG ACTS MAGICIANS — MUSIC, ETC.

Show Times Daily Dec. 5 thru Dec. 23  
12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

This new baby sitting idea has been conceived and developed by WILL-O-WAY PLAYHOUSE in cooperation with the RETAIL MERCHANTS DIVISION of the BIRMINGHAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. May we be of service to you in making your Christmas shopping in Birmingham convenient and pleasant.

LEAVE THEM AS LONG AS YOU LIKE 75c plus tax PER PERFORMANCE