

BITS OF BIRMINGHAM

BIRMINGHAM'S POST OFFICE will see an appreciable increase in the volume of mail handled this Christmas season over the similar period last year. Postmaster Bernard M. Fowler predicted this week. "On one day alone, we received 1,350 sacks of incoming parcel post packages," he pointed out. Last year the local office handled slightly under a million and a half pieces of Christmas mail. "Totals for this year will be compiled in a few days," Fowler added.

AMONG SEVERAL Birmingham students at Michigan State College who are in Pasadena, Cal. to see tomorrow's Rose Bowl game is Beverly Nordstrom, home economics freshman at MSC. Her 11-day trip began Christmas Day. After spending most of that day with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Nordstrom, 800 N. Gleiburst, she caught a late afternoon train to Chicago where she spent the night with her college roommate. Then Saturday morning she got aboard the "Spartan Special" and continued to the Tournament of Roses. The special train returns to East-Lansing this coming Monday.

RESIDENTS IN THE Webster-Holland vicinity were started off with the proper Christmas spirit Thursday evening when a group of six young girls went from door to door singing carols. One family was liberally rewarded for inviting the girls in when they spent about half an hour singing both the old and the new Christmas carols. In another case a boy—left alone when his pals got "cold feet"—went to the home of an elderly couple to sing. "It was the nicest Christmas present we have ever had," the recipients of his "gift" declared.

WHEN THE NEW First Presbyterian minister to youth, the Rev. Robert Gibson, arrives here Jan. 3 to take over his new duties, he will find his new residence on Baldwin avenue equipped with a coal burning furnace. But while he served the Raccoon United Presbyterian church in Pittsburgh, Pa., his home there was heated by gas!

EVEN THE CHILDREN are getting into the act in the municipal affairs of the new City of Lathrup Village. Jim Pykas, 11-year-old son of Lathrup's Justice of the Peace, Leonard V. Pykas, 27140 Goldengate, asked Councilwoman Kathryn Feyereisen if he could have the 20-foot Christmas tree that was given to the city by the city of Detroit. Miss Feyereisen said that since the tree was city property, he would have to address his request to the city council. So Monday night, City Clerk Florence Bennett read a communication from Jim to the council in which he asked for the tree "to make a fort, and I'll burn it when I'm through with it." Miss Feyereisen moved that the council okay Jim's request. Councilman Tom Reed offered an amendment that Jim's father be required to supervise the burning of the tree—and the motion was passed unanimously.

TRAFFIC WAS pretty rough the other day, and this Wanderer, like a lot of other people, was having no luck at all in getting across Maple at Pierce. Put one foot into the street and it meant a leap back to the curb to escape an approaching auto. Finally some person in the group suggested that there should be a policeman there to direct traffic, to which one disgruntled woman replied, "There would be a traffic officer here if there was room enough left between cars for the poor man to stand in!"

Birmingham, Eng., Resident Seeking Pen Pal from Here

From Birmingham, England, comes an appeal for a trans-Atlantic pen pal. Directed to "The Editor of Local News," the letter says: "I wonder if you could help me at all. I should very much like a correspondent—in other words, a pen friend—in Birmingham, USA. I think one could feel a link in one's hometown namesake and to further friendly feelings with another country. I am 53 years of age, married and have an adult daughter. I am a Londoner by birth, and

spend all the horrible war years in London doing my little bit for the war effort. If one of your readers could care to write to me I should greatly appreciate the effort." The letter is signed "Mrs. L. Gutteridge," whose address is 12 43 Woodfield road, Kings Heath, Birmingham 14, England.

Have You Met . . . The residents of 18666 San Diego drive? Mr. and Mrs. Stephen F. Slavik and children, Richard, age 2½, and Stephen, age 1½, moved from Berkeley, Slavik is self-employed as a residential builder. Household Goods of every description are offered for sale in the Classified Columns of The Birmingham Eccentric.

In preparing for your Christmas festivities, do you have a tree of "inner shrill" resulting from the spirit of "giving" that became a real and conscious part of your thought. How wonderful to be able to carry this "feeling" all year-through!

PLAY IT SAFE!

Let Caution Govern Tree Disposal

The Christmas tree, center of holiday festivities in most American homes, can still at this late date become the center of tragedy. Because a fir tree is filled with needles and resin it is one of the most combustible objects known—and once ignited it burns so rapidly that it is virtually impossible to extinguish. This is especially true after the tree has been cut for two or three weeks and lost most of its moisture content.

By this time of the year most Christmas trees have dried out to where they have more of an explosive nature than a combustible nature. Therefore, it is imperative that the disposal of the tree be given very careful consideration so as not to mar the joys and merriment of the past week.

KEEPING IN MIND the explosive nature of these dried out fir branches—DO NOT cut the tree up and attempt to burn it in the fireplace. Your fireplace was not built to handle the volume of intensified heat and flames. The results will be a fire shooting out into the room. If you love your children—DO NOT throw your tree out in the back yard or alley. Boys will be boys and every year about this time they gather up all the trees in the neighborhood and either make a but or fort out of them, or we know what may come? Can you see the possibilities?

THEREFORE, make this recommendation for the safe disposal of your Christmas tree and know that the extra minutes spent by you will help to keep 1953 a safe and happy year throughout.

The department of public works will pick trees up on their regular runs for early Birmingham brides and the into bundles of not over four (4) feet in length and ten (10) inches in diameter.

If you burn the tree in your own incinerator, be sure to burn only a few branches at a time and keep the incinerator away from garages and other buildings.

Remember, they don't burn, they explode.

Prepared as a public service by members of the BIRMINGHAM FIRE DEPT.

Officers Elected To Adams Council

Tom Woodworth of room 211 was named president of the Adams School Council at election of officers last week.

Other officers named to posts were Dan Hall, room 200, vice president; Louis Johnson, room 206, secretary; Patricia Bany, room 201, treasurer; Martha Hopkin, room 203, parliamentarian.

Council representatives are David McManis, Carol King, Dennis Hanink, Jimmy Hellena, Susan Hallas, Jimmy Emmett, Kathleen Bodenhot and Virginia Driscoll.

En route from Korea

10TH DIV. KOREA—Army Sgt. Edward N. Schneider, son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis J. Schneider, 272 Euclid, is en route to the U. S. Army Infantry Division in Korea. Sergeant Schneider, who served as a vision headquarters, is a veteran of 12 months in Korea.

In other special events, the cadets participated in Operation Checkpoint in February when they assisted the National Guard in searching for a lost plane.

In March a group mission was held at Joy Airport for training in the techniques of picking up messages from the ground. In May senior officers attended a special training course at Selfridge. The squadron sent an ambulance and officers to the Flint tornado area in June and in August the squadron took part in a special mission at Hastings, Mich.

October was another big month with a tracking mission at Big Beaver airport and a weekend encampment at Brighton, Mich.

A SEARCH mission at Austin

BIRMINGHAM BACKGROUND

Local History in Story and Picture



'OLD SHERMAN HOUSE' BUILT ON N. WOODWARD AFTER CIVIL WAR. Faces wrecking to make way for off-street parking lot

Landmark Soon to Disappear

This old, attractive square white house at 361 N. Woodward, now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Harry A. Mudge, was built shortly after the Civil War by Farm Sherman, a cabinet maker and builder.

Sherman built a home designed and constructed to last for many generations. The foundations of the home are three feet wide, made of stone mortared together.

In the center hallway is a beautiful hand carved solid walnut staircase leading to the second floor. Its newel posts are elegantly pegged in the flooring.

Mrs. Sherman was one of the original members of the Ladies Library Association and served many times on the Association's board of directors. She was adept as a seamstress and her nimble fingers sewed many a wedding gown for early Birmingham brides.

Frank, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Farm Sherman, helped his father in his business. Frank was known in the 1890's as "Professor." He was quite a talented musician and taught not only the violin but other musical instruments as well.

In 1882, Frank W. Sherman purchased from Lyman B. Peabody one of the prominent merchants of the village, a gold trimmed, silver cornet for \$90—a goodly sum of money in those days.

The Eccentric, noting the purchase of the cornet, remarked, "It's a pity that the boys of the village, a kick from a horse was

Civil Air Patrol Cadets Review 1953 Activities

Cadets of the Birmingham squadron of the Civil Air Patrol are looking forward to a new year of activities as they wind up a full calendar of events for 1953.

Buist month for the group was July when members attended the Exchange Club model airplane meet; directed traffic as Air Police at Wayne County Mayor Ainsworth's air show; participated in the Cadet Exchange program, playing host to 20 British cadets and two RAF officers; and attended the CAP encampment at Selfridge Air Force base.

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NO MATTER WHERE I SERVE MY GUESTS

IT SEEMS THEY LIKE MY KITCHEN BEST

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