

BITS OF BIRMINGHAM

Are you a bit emotional when you hear great music, witness an act of sacrifice by another (in real or real life), or are stirred by some great writer? If you weep a bit do not be ashamed. It really denotes strength. Most people will respond to humor.

The Birmingham Eccentric

SECTION 2
Thursday, January 15, 1953

BEFORE THE B'HAM CITY commission officially passes the charter amendment resolution for the April 6 ballot, another public hearing is planned at which citizens can appear to discuss the pros and cons of joining the Southeastern Oakland County Sewage Disposal District. One such hearing was staged more than a month ago, and several residents stood up to attack or support various features of this plan the commission hopes will win voters' approval. The proposal, then only in tentative and general terms, was turned down at the August primary.

A LETTER OF appreciation has been received by The Birmingham Eccentric from Mrs. Ethel Russell of 5956 Cable, Cleveland. "I'd like to thank the person," she said, "who prepared the worthy tribute to my son, Lawrence Russell, and everyone for their kind help which was given his family." Lawrence Russell, a veteran of World War II, was a carrier for the Birmingham postoffice. His courage in the face of a painful illness won him the respect and admiration of other postoffice employees and the patrons on his route. He collapsed on his route last October and died shortly after, leaving a wife and four children. Under the direction of Chris Bailey, secretary-treasurer of the Birmingham Mail Carriers' association, a sum of money was presented to Mrs. Russell and the children just before Christmas. Donors included postoffice employees, students from Birmingham high school and numerous Birmingham residents who contributed a total of more than \$1,000.

JUST AS SOON as Birmingham residents recovered from the initial shock of Thursday's sleet and ice storm, they began spreading thousands of pounds of rock salt on driveways and front walks to break up the ice so it could be shoveled off. Jack Ball, owner of McClellan-Ball Co., reports his firm on Friday alone sold over 13 tons of salt for this purpose, varying from 10-pound bags to 100-pound sacks.

BIRMINGHAM members of the Royal Oak YMCA's Young Adults group, Frank Poole, Frances Rudd and Tom Bosley, report a gala Christmas party for 29 orphans from the Oakland county children's home. Poole said 33 Birmingham merchants contributed gifts of toys and clothing for the youngsters, with one drug store supplying ice cream cake for the entire party, guests and hosts alike. He said the group has decided to make this Christmas party an annual event and would probably schedule other events throughout the year just to "let these little boys and girls know they aren't forgotten."

A LADY IN Bloomfield Hills, Mrs. Harley J. Robinson, of E. Hickory Grove road, has a Christmas cactus that must be close to setting some sort of a record. She thinks the plant is about 30 years old. It came into her possession when the family bought the home about four years ago. At present it is about the size of a large washtub and has over 200 blooms. Mrs. Robinson admits that when the count reached that figure, she stopped. There are more blooms, however.

AN EVEN \$400,000 CHANGED HANDS this week—between the City of Birmingham and the Birmingham School District. At Monday night's commission meeting, commissioners approved Voucher No. 1032, it was signed by mayor Pro Tem Richard Patterson, and thus a large portion of the 1952 school tax, collected in the city by the city treasurer's office, was on its way to pay for current costs of the school district.

A MEETING PLANNED for Jan. 25 may well see the organization of Birmingham's first Congregational church. An interested group has met several times already to discuss the possibility and on this date will hold a public meeting for further discussion. The group will gather at the social hall of the First Presbyterian church from 3 to 5 p.m., to discuss plans with Dr. E. Wilcox, director of the Congregational Association of Detroit, and Joel Riley, chairman of the committee of church extension.

A BASH of snowmen bloomed all over Birmingham Sunday morning shortly after the smaller citizens piled out of their homes and into that soft, wet snow. They were all sizes and shapes and some were so huge you'd wonder how a youngster could do it. Of course, some of the "youngsters" weren't so young, but used the young youngsters as their excuse to get out in it, too. One thing which this Wanderer has noticed is the fact that very few of our modern snowmen seem to end up in coats and hats. Must be today's styles do not lend themselves too well to the physiques of snowmen.

FOR ABOUT 3 WEEKS LONGER, customers of the B'ham National Bank will see the scaffolding in the main lobby. A false ceiling is being installed 2 1/2 feet below the old one in order that better lighting and acoustics may be provided. Bank officials also report that construction of the new second-story addition is progressing about on schedule, and is expected to be finished toward the end of April.

TWO NEW OVERHEAD traffic signals are about to make their appearance at the Woodward-Maple intersection, says Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley. The equipment has arrived, and is merely awaiting installation by Detroit Edison crews. When these lights are positioned, the Woodward signal system will have been completely modernized. New overhead lights have been in use for some time at Brown and Oakland intersections. Moxley also said the new traffic light at Cranbrook and W. Maple, necessitated because of the greatly increased traffic volumes now that the new high school is open, should be up and operating sometime this week.



FOUR GRAND TRUNK RAILROAD OFFICIALS pause before the most serious "break" in the fence along the right-of-way north of Birmingham commuter station. Left to right, they are O. C. Marquess, GTWRR superintendent of investigation; P. J. Aspinwall, police captain of Grand Trunk's Pontiac division; A. W. VanRiper, assistant engineer of Grand Trunk; and E. I. Rodriguez, assistant to Marquess. These four officials Friday afternoon personally inspected the portion of the railroad's right-of-way where trespassing adults and school children have broken down or cut the fence, thus making it possible for small, pre-school children to wander out onto the tracks, unaware of the danger they face from fast-moving trains.



... ALONG A HALF-MILE STRETCH, the four men closely inspected the fencing so they can more intimately know the problem and better report to top GTWRR management possible corrective measures that might be taken to sharply reduce or even eliminate the hazards that have arisen. Marquess said it would be several weeks before the railroad would be able to announce its decision. (Eccentric Staff Photos)

Traffic Deaths Fifth Highest in State's History

On the basis of still incomplete reports, it appears the 1952 traffic death toll will be the fifth highest in Michigan history.

State Police estimate that deaths for the year will total 1,700 as compared to the all-time high of 2,175 in 1937 and the 1951 figure of 1,640. Nationally the picture also is grim. A death total of 38,000 had been predicted, which would put 1952 among the five worst years. The record was 39,959 in 1949.

The recent holiday season was the frightful climax with a new high Christmas weekend traffic fatality total which, combined with the New Year weekend deaths, reached nearly 1,000.

MICHIGAN'S PART of this combined total was 40 deaths, 18 of which occurred during the New Year week end. In 1951, Christmas accounted for 11 and New Year's for 29.

The latest state police monthly statistical report shows 161 traffic deaths in November, three more than the 158 during the same month a year ago. Accidents, however, totaled 15,519, a decrease of 1,594, or 11 per cent, under 16,104 in November of 1951. Injuries increased 384, of 10 per cent, 4,454 over 4,065.

The increases in death and injuries were attributed, largely to better driving conditions which were conducive to higher speeds. Estimated mileage for the first ten months was 20 billion, equalling that for the same period in 1951. But the death rate of 6.5 per 100 million miles of travel was three per cent more than the 6.7 rate in the first 10 months of last year.

H. Kalbfleisch Will Again Head YMCA Committee

Harold M. Kalbfleisch, proprietor of Birmingham Cleaners, has been re-elected chairman of the committee of management of the Birmingham YMCA.

William Gordon, 2252 Pembroke, a purchasing agent for Detroit Edison company, was elected vice chairman in charge of the general program. Web Owen, Cadillac Motors engineer, was re-elected budget and finance chairman. Edwin F. Kirbert, of the 'Y' staff was elected secretary of the group. Chairmen of committees were announced as follows: Physical education, Cecil Nickel; world service, Wayne Stettbacher; Christian emphasis, Everett W. Albee; Y's men's group, Colin Campbell; boys' work, Tom Ward; girls' work, Martha Schaefer; membership, Dr. Sam Bruni and Bill Roberts; publicity, Charles Thurston; permanent building, Thomas Kimberley.

OTHER CHAIRMEN will be announced at the annual meeting, Friday, Jan. 30, at the Y. At this time the annual report of the secretary will be presented and a reception for new committee members held.

Other members of the committee, include the Rev. Emil Kottz, Carl Nepper, Malcolm Murray, Ross Wagner, Eloise Greene and Frank Hardy.

Young C. Smith and Dr. John K. Ormond were elected members emeritus of this group. Certificates of merit will be presented to outstanding committee members by Kalbfleisch on Jan. 30.

Want ads cannot be accepted after 5 p.m. each Tuesday.

Methodist Cagers Still Hold Lead In Church League

First Methodist church retained its half-game lead over First Presbyterian church in the Birmingham Y-church basketball league with a resounding 69 to 39 win over Redeemer Lutheran.

Halftime score was 45-15 in favor of Coach Janke's boys from the Methodist church as they worked a very effective fast breaking offense with Al Fawcett and Dick Snell making repeated lay-up shots. In the second half Bill Sickenberger, Dick Snyder's and Glenn Ayers 18 points led both teams in scoring with Pete Wely's 17, high for the losers.

Christ Church (Granbrook) came up with a good effort against Kirk-in-the-Hills and staved off a last-half spurt to win 46 to 35.

The Kirk trailed 36-10 at the half and appeared hopelessly defeated until Carl Schulz began to click and with Paul Chatterton scored 27 points between them to lead the Granbrook attack.

With Bruce Renfrew chalking up the season's high of 30 points, St. James came up with its best game of the season to defeat First Baptist, 75-20. The game marked a highlight in good play as only a total of nine fouls were called.

Standings now find First Methodist leading the pack followed by

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R. T. Berger
City Treasurer

January 12, 1953

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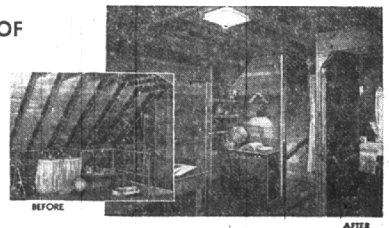
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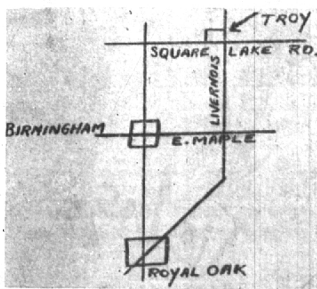
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