Intermediate League Opener Monday Night

With all the fanfare reserved for the champions of four Midwestern states, Birmingham's Little-Bigger League will open its season at 6 p.m. Monday evening at the high school field.

Mayor Ralph A. Main will toss out the first ball and Schoolboy Rowe has promised to participate in opening ceremonies beginning at 5:45 with the playing of the Star Spangled Banner.

In the opener, the Rockets, managed by Kermit Ambrose, will face the Harvesters, managed by Fred Petrucci. Both men already have selected their starting batteries. Bob Deakin will pitch and Bill Deer will catch for the Rockets. Larry Hower will pitch and Ronnie Cornila will catch for the Harvesters.

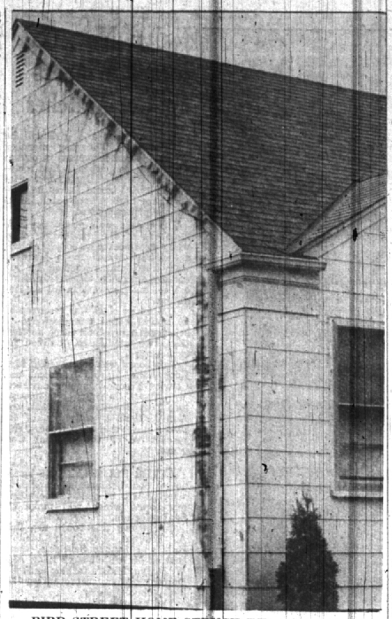
This league for 13 to 15 year-old boys was started in the summer of 1951 by a group of civic leaders in Hamilton township a suburb of Trenton, N. J., to provide a baseball organization for boys too old for little League and too young for American Legion teams.

IT IS NOW a national non-profit organization incorporated under New Jersey laws and has chartered over 1,000 leagues from coast to coast. Birmingham had the first one in Michigan last year, and its all-star team won the Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Michigan regional championship. Stamford, Conn., won the World Series at Trenton.

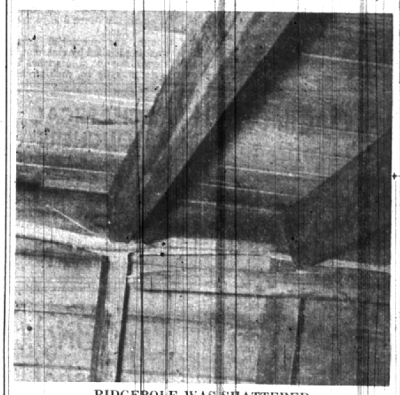
This season in Michigan there are Little Bigger Leagues in Escanaba, Berkley, Farmington, Huron Valley and Detroit.

In the opening game here Monday, C. B. Kass and Harold P. Meloche will handle the play-by-play over the public address system and programs will be provided.

At the end of each week league standings will be posted in the showrooms of the sponsors—Wilson Pontiac-Cadillac, Inc., North Chevrolet Co., Great Lakes Tractor and Suburban Motors Co.



BIRD STREET HOME STRUCK BY LIGHTNING
Siding scorched where bolt followed TV lead-in.
(Eccentric Staff Photo)



RIDGEPOLE WAS SHATTERED
Rafters, too, were split (Fire Dept. Photo)

Lightning Damages Bird Street Home

The freakishness and power of lightning was clearly demonstrated about 9:35 a.m., June 4, when a bolt struck the television antenna at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Vendzuh, 415 Bird.

According to Fire Chief V. W. Griffith, the bolt struck the improperly grounded antenna, followed it to the metal flashing under the shingles, then split the ridge and roof rafters in half.

It made contact with an electrical circuit in the attic and followed this wire to the basement where it entered the fuse box, destroying the entire wiring system.

"Where the lightning followed wires between partitions," Griffith said, "the plaster was blown off the walls and scattered all over the rooms.

"A radio in the living room was blown apart as though a charge of dynamite had been set off in it. In the kitchen another radio in a plastic case wasn't damaged at all.

"I've seen a lot of lightning damage in my years with the fire department, but never anything like what happened at the Vendzuh home.

ACTUAL FIRE damages were small, an area of maybe a foot or so, but from the roof to the basement that home shows the power and destructiveness of lightning.

"Fortunately the whole family happened to be out at the time. Undoubtedly, had anyone been in the house they would have been injured."

Griffith said actual fire damages were small, but that other repairs might easily amount to more than $1,000. It is thought the entire house will have to be rewired.

He pointed out that since television became popular, 10 or 12 Birmingham homes have suffered lightning damages through improper grounding of the antenna.

WE RECOMMEND a piece of three-quarter inch galvanized pipe, driven at least five feet into the ground," he said, "with a firm clamp at the top to which the ground wire is attached. This is the recommendation of the National Underwriters to our department."

Griffith added that he feels there is a need for a city ordinance which will make proper grounding mandatory.

"For the sake of the few extra dollars a proper ground will cost no one should risk his life and property, as well as endanger his neighbors. City control of installation may be the best solution to our problem."

NEIGHBORS IN the vicinity of the Vendzuh home felt the force of the crash. Noticing the scorched wire at the side of the house, they called the fire department.

One woman reported her small son, standing at the window of their home several doors away, was thrown to the floor when the lightning struck.

City Facilities To School Site In "If" Stage

After a great deal of discussion Monday night, Birmingham city commissioners agreed to service the Pembroke elementary school site with water and sanitary sewer services at the Birmingham school district's expense if the school board, also at its expense, would solve the storm water drainage problem at the site.

The school board recently concluded negotiations with Arthur A. Nechman, developer of a tract of Troy township property north of the Birmingham city limits, and has purchased an 11-acre parcel of land as a site for the district's new elementary school.

Nechman has promised the paving of a road to the site and in return had asked for temporary water connections for his property to the City of Birmingham and also connection with the city's sewage disposal for sanitary disposal.

CITY COMMISSIONER Lance C. Minor stated that the storm water problem was the greatest headache in the area.

"I would like to help the board of education as much as possible," Minor said, "but I think they should know the whole problem.

"It will cost a minimum of $15,000 to take care of the storm drainage, another $1,500 for the sanitary hook-up and $2,000 for the water connection," Minor furthered. "I have no objections to providing these services if the board of education pays for all of them."

Minor also questioned why the board of education had waited from March 27 when the site was decided upon to June 2 to ask the city's help in providing services.

Commissioners finally agreed to provide the facilities to the school property alone and not to other sections of Nechman's property.

They also informed the school board that if any charges for sewage disposal were made by the Southeastern Oakland County Sewage Disposal District, the board would have to negotiate through Troy township with the authority.

Zoning Amendment Passed By City

Birmingham City Commissioners Monday night approved at a public hearing an amendment to the zoning ordinance prohibiting the housing of more than two roomers per dwelling unit and any and all business uses including profession, trade or occupations within a home in the single family and income residence areas.

The amendment also states that the storing of any commercial vehicle on property within the single family zone must be within a closed garage and the vehicle must not be over ¾ ton capacity.

Under the amendment, accessory uses in residences are permitted in multiple family districts if confined to 25 per cent of the floor area of the first floor or basement.

Noisy Muffler Does It

A noisy muffler caused the arrest of two men Renis Fee, 24 of E. St. Louis, Ill., and R. L. Robinson, 18, of Toledo, Det. Sgt. Merlin Helmquist said the pair was held for investigation of unlawfully driving away an automobile, and would be turned over to Ohio authorities this week.

City Continues Paving Hearing On Haynes Street

Hearing on the necessity of paving Haynes between Hunter and Adams has been continued until June 22 by city commissioners so that every member of the commission can be present to vote on the improvement.

Residents on Haynes are protesting the pavement, stating that the pavement would only serve the space business zone on the north side of the street, would be too great a financial burden with the proposed paving of Adams road, and would necessitate the cutting down of trees on the south side of the street.

Haynes has been designated by the city as an arterial street serving as a cut-off between Hunter and Adams. Estimated cost of the pavement has been set at $22,870.

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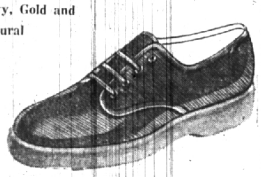

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