

BITS OF BIRMINGHAM

SINGULAR HONORS have come again to Birmingham's internationally known sculptor, Marshall Fredericks, 875 Vaddington. At Friday Night's formal banquet during the annual convention of the Michigan Society of Architects, Fredericks was made an honorary member of the organization. This is a rare and coveted honor and never before had been bestowed on a sculptor. A special citation recognized Fredericks' "efforts to weld architecture and the allied arts particularly sculpture, into a cohesive force with esthetic meaning transcending that possible of achievement by their separate entities. Your work and your philosophy are an inspiration, you have enriched our culture and broadened our horizons, you have raised the level of our endeavors to make the world a better place in which to live."

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY of the B'ham Chamber of Commerce and manager of the Secretary of State's office here, Charles Mortensen has his own way of determining how early Spring will arrive. . . he keeps track of the sale of motorcycle and trailer plates. "Spring is just around the corner, if not already here," Mortensen declares. "Normally these two types of plates don't start selling much till the first of April. But this year, the situation is a month ahead of time."

COME TOMATO PLANTING TIME and Birmingham's most noted gardener and crop experimenter will be at it again. This time Clarence Villet, 410 W. Brown, will add a teaspoon of sugar to 8 quarts of water and spray it on his tomato plants before they blossom forth with fruit. "I read about this being done last year in California and it was supposed to considerably increase the size of the tomatoes," Villet explained. He was plenty of precedent for big-sized crops. Two years ago he put a small amount of sodium molybdate on his potato plants. Result: potatoes that averaged about two-thirds of a pound apiece. Last year he tried the molybdate on peas. He got nice, well-filled pods. So this summer it will be sugar-water on tomatoes.

THE ECCENTRIC is holding a "letter to the editor" out of its news columns because it came in unsigned. It is our editorial policy that each printed letter must bear the signature of the writer, although this may be withheld if requested when the letter is published. If "A Befuddled Taxpayer" will stop by and sign the note, we shall be happy to share his/her views with our other readers.

A NEW SIGNPOST has recently been installed in front of Redeemer Lutheran church on West Maple, identifying the beautiful building as "Lutheran Church of the Redeemer." Lettering for the new sign was done by Karl Otto, a member of the congregation, while the design is the work of Harold Mithrath of the Cranbrook academy of art.

IF YOU OBSERVE a distinguished sort-of-looking be-whiskered local resident walking about in a manner of literary dreaminess, you can understand it when . . . well, recently W. Carleton Scott, while vacationing in Havana, Cuba, and situated in the Hotel Nacionelle there, suddenly found himself the cynosure of many eyes. People would come up to him and request that they be allowed to have themselves photographed at his side. He acceded to their desires. After several such pictures were taken, one of the photographed-with-him persons shook his hand and said: "Thank you very much, Mr. Hemingway!" So it was that Mr. Fox learned why he had become quite important. Sure, I carried on the fiction of the thing for a few days, and had lots of fun doing it, too," said Fox to this wanderer yesterday. Ernest Hemingway, the famous author, lives within a short distance of Havana.

THE WORKINGS of a child's mind are wonderful and amazing. The other afternoon this wanderer overheard a small chap trying to sell his mother on the idea of buying him some candy. For every reason she found to not buy it, he found another reason why she should. Finally, a bit exasperated, she told him he knew very well the doctor did not want him to have candy for a while. To that the small chap replied: "But Mommie! This isn't for me—it's for the Easter Bunny!"

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RETIRING as president of the New Center Exchange over symbols of office to the incoming president, Walter Shown with him at the ceremony are (left to right) Carl . . . president of the club, Howard and Cushing.

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Students Answer Charges of Critic

To the Editor: Many of us who read Miss Benedict's letter were distressed by the conclusions she drew from the things we saw at high school. We believe she was mistaken in some of her statements.

We three high school students, would like to clarify some of them. We have used as the sources of our information faculty members, members of the custodial staff and of principals.

The lights at our school aren't left on indiscriminately. It is necessary to use the lights on gray days. At night, only the portion of the building being used is lighted. Consequently, only a small portion of the whole school may be lighted, depending on the activities of each night.

The lights in the parking lot are turned on when a group is meeting at the school or when any women, however few, are expected. The custodians do not turn them on for their own benefit. It is felt the protection the lights give against accidents or possible vandalism is worth the expense.

IN THE homemaking department, much of the equipment was donated or bought at reduced prices. For example, the single laundry is replaced free of charge by the company every year for five years. At the fifth year, the company will buy the machine installed that year at half-price.

The homemaking equipment is well used. Miss Benedict visited our school near the semester change when the refrigerators had been turned out for the incoming second semester class which does not work with foods until it has advanced a two-week orientation program. This is why she found the refrigerator so bare.

A course in bed making is not taught. Proper bed making methods are taught in connection with a home nursing program.

WE ARE VERY proud of the equipment in our art department. This year it is not used extensively because a great deal of it arrived only in the last few months. Courses could not be scheduled to use equipment that was not there. However, the equipment is used by the general and advanced art classes to a greater degree than it appeared to Miss Benedict. When she visited the department a number of students had just taken their weaving from the looms because of the semester change. Now more are in use again.

The Beehive wool was furnished by the student using it. The school furnishes only basic weaving materials of moderate cost. The curtain material Miss Benedict saw on one of the looms is being woven by Mr. Angelotti, our art teacher. He furnishes his own supplies.

THE KILN is not in use because its door was defective and had to be returned. The new door has not yet arrived. The supply of glasses is adequate but not extravagant.

The photographic darkroom is used by the journalism classes and by the mechanical drawing classes. In the opinion of the instructor interviewed, a family man who

George W. Cushing turns Howard of 27514 Rackham, Bush of 27775 Rackham, vice

Small Fry Sell Soap and Candy for Camp Fees

If a small boy rings your doorbell and asks you to buy 4 bars of soap or six packages of mints, he will probably be earning his way for Y.M.C.A. summer camp.

With very little snow to shovel his past winter and opportunities to earn money quite rare, the "Y" has obtained a commitment of goods to give Birmingham boys and girls an opportunity to earn camp fees. Each youngster receives a salesman's commission and the "Y" stands the cost of sales tax and boxing.

For some youngsters from large families, this is the only means they may have of earning money for camp.

Youngsters may attend any camp of their choice and can enroll by obtaining parental permission. The program is endorsed by Lieut. Henry Timm of the police department and Ed Kibner, secretary of the Birmingham Y.M.C.A.

STERNA'S for RCA Television Radios and Record Players **FREE CUSTOMER PARKING** In Rear of Store

First Methodist Loses To Nardin In Cage Playoffs

First Methodist church of Birmingham ally represented the local Y.M.C.A. Church league in its first game of the metropolitan play-offs when it came up against a very experienced Nardin Park Methodist five and lost 50 to 49 in the closing seconds of play.

Pre game underdogs, the local five started slowly and were down eight points at the half but rallied to go ahead in the fourth quarter only to see a lack of reserves deplete their bench and give victory to Nardin Park.

The team met First Presbyterian Church of Besham in the league bracket last Tuesday, March 27. The score of this game was not available at press time.

Southfield United Presbyterian playing in the Intermediate "B" division swamped Redford Baptist by a score of 61 to 40 as they took a commanding lead and were never headed. They picked a bye in the second round and were established as favorites in their division on the strength of their first win.

Play in the tournament continues until April 11.

NEED SOMETHING FOR YOUR HOUSE? Then locate it by reading or using the Classified Ads in The Eccentric each week.

Easter Seal Sale Benefits County's Crippled Children

Philip Baker, president of the Oakland County Society for Crippled Children spoke at Birmingham Rotary club's Monday meeting on the work of the society.

He said the organization started operating in 1921 and today has a staff of six paid workers.

He explained that the purpose of the society is to improve the education, safety and health of crippled children in the county helping them to live normal useful lives.

The society also supplies summer camping facilities, purchases artificial limbs for the needy and offers assistance in other fields.

"The program is supported," he said "by the sale of seals at Easter time."

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