

ONE YOUNG SCOUT from Birmingham's Troop B-4 was taking a written test for the merit badge "Citizenship in the Nation." Asked to name the Congressman from this district, this youth had without hesitation, wrote "Don Darrow." Wrong? Sounds like "Dondoro" anyway.

THE REV. EMIL KONTZ, of the Baptist church, has a talent which most people of Birmingham do not know about but which came to light last Thursday morning at the Bath Shain International Class Reunion breakfast. Since the distinguished speaker of the reunion was formerly a high ranking Hungarian official, the whole affair was spiced with a Hungarian flavor and the Rev. Kontz said grace in Hungarian. Rev. Kontz, it was discovered, did post-graduate work in Hungary, can speak Hungarian fluently, and keeps in practice by preaching every so often in a Hungarian church in Detroit.

IN COMMENTING on the city's 98.19 per cent collection of its 1952 property taxes—the best record Birmingham has had in the past 25 years—City Manager D. C. Egbert remarked, "It looks like we're right at the peak. There's only one way to go—and that's down."

AVERAGE REVENUE per parking meter in Birmingham for the third fiscal city quarter is up \$1.45 over last year, according to figures compiled by the city finance director's office. In the past 12 months the city has added 37 meters to the downtown area. The statement shows that as of March 31, there is an operating surplus of \$24,295.18.

APPARENTLY seeking human companionship, a raccoon paid a visit here last Saturday and was discovered in the backyard of the George S. Scott home, 787 Hazelwood. Although attempts were made to take the furry picture, he slunk back into the branches of an evergreen and refused to pose.

RESIDENTS in the 900 block of S. Glenhurst were startled the other afternoon to hear what seemed to be considerable rifle fire from the nearby woods. Alarmed they called the police. Investigation revealed some small boys had selected the spot to shoot off a few firecrackers. A brief lecture was given by police on the advisability of forgetting all about firecrackers henceforth and forever more.

MORE STOP SIGNS are wanted for streets entering Lincoln, according to Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley. He said residents had asked, particularly, for a sign at Lincoln and Pleasant and would like to see more of them along the side streets. Commissioners, it was revealed, are about to receive a letter regarding the installation of signs.

### Growth Estimates Must Be Accurate For Utility Firm

Paul Grant of the Birmingham office, Detroit Edition, introduced Rotary club speaker James Swift Monday night, when he spoke on how his firm bases expansion plans on estimated population growth. Swift, an instructor in sales techniques for the Detroit Edison school, said the company had been able to forecast pretty accurately the population trends in the immediate vicinity of Birmingham. He pointed out the importance of

estimating residential and industrial growth and how it influences utilities companies, especially "IF WE over-estimate," he said "large quantities of material and equipment would stand idle. If we under-estimate, we go to the other extreme and are unable to meet customer requirements. "We have a special committee set up to estimate these things five years in advance. Their aim is to be within five per cent of perfection." Swift also spoke on peak demands for power service, saying Michigan, the greatest industrial state in the country, hit its peak in August.

### Food Field Management Administrator

Has 29 years' experience in sales management and sales promotion in the food field with national food organizations. Will train field staff supervisory group in modern merchandising methods; create effective, profitable promotional write sales manuals; outline efficient forms. Entire operation completed in 3 to 6 months, depending on the size of the organization. Write for appointment and complete details.

Box 49 THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

### MILLER'S LITTLE RED HEN CHICKEN PIES

BEST BY ANY TEST TRY ONE FREE Redeem Your Letters at Your Grocers Today

### TAILORING for LADIES AND GENTLEMEN By GWYNN

The Finest of imported Fabrics are now available to be Designed and Created for individuality in Your Wardrobe and can be obtained by Consulting Mr. Robert Gwynn

CAMPBELL'S LADIES STORE 205 PIERCE ST. MI 4-7100 BIRMINGHAM, MICH.

Plenty of food... *(Small text, partially illegible)*

Because considerably more time will be required to assemble next week's special

### 75th Anniversary Edition OF THE ECCENTRIC.

all deadlines for news copy, display and classified advertising must be advanced one day—to

Monday at 5 p.m. Early Copy Will Be Appreciated



DR. JOHN LAMBIE

### County Health, Welfare Problems To Be Outlined

The Birmingham League of Women Voters will hear Dr. John S. Lambie, deputy medical director for southern Oakland County Health Unit, at the Community House, Monday, May 18, discuss Oakland county's health and welfare problems, which some while ago she surveyed at the request of the Oakland county board of health. Dr. Lambie said, "The various county agencies were set up at different times by state laws, and that consolidation cannot be done without controversial and time consuming changing of such laws. There could, however, be temporary arrangements of cooperation among county agencies with current laws. Dr. Lambie believes, which might effect a savings of tax money."

He LOOKS to the League of Women Voters as an effective instrument in informing the young citizenry and arousing public opinion. A Birmingham resident, Dr. Lambie is a retired General Motors physician having served the company for 22 years. He is a retired Army colonel and has served in Asia, Alaska, Mexican Border and in Europe. This county health program will be presented from one to three on May 18. The membership of other leagues and the general public are welcome to the meeting.

### Ask Weekend Work On Boulan Park

The Troy township park committee, busy preparing the township's first park, has announced that work parties will be held at Boulan park, Boulan and Alpine every Saturday and Sunday after 1 p.m. Commissioners ask that tools be brought to the park to continue tree trimming, fence removal and general cleanup operations. Volunteers to help the commission with the work are being sought. Three members of the Birmingham CAP Saturday responded to the call for help in the cleanup. Members of the Troy Dads' Club and the Big Beaver Businessmen's Association are also lending a hand. A slide and monkey bar have already been purchased through donations. Treasurer Walter Taylor, 2461 Livorno, has been named to receive donations for the park's improvement.

Are you thinking of buying a new home? Then read the "For Sale-House" columns on the Classified Ad page of this week's Eccentric.

## Old Bikes Assist Neighborhood's Rehabilitation

By RUTH ANNE SILBAR Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

In today's classified section of The Birmingham Eccentric, there is a want ad headed: "Wanted—Old bicycles." Behind that little want ad is a remarkable story of the rehabilitation of a neighborhood.

The man who bought that want ad, Percy K. Loud, of Lone Pine Court, Bloomfield Hills, explained that those old bicycles (which of course are donated) are going right down to the Myrtle Street Youth Center in Detroit, where the youth center boys and girls will repair and repaint them.

Then the repaired bicycles will be used by the boys and girls for light delivery work, an newspaper routes, for a means of transportation of for peddling small articles. Some members of the Knights Templar, Commandery No. 1, are getting first hand information and practical experience in how to combat juvenile delinquency in one of Detroit's most notorious sections—the Myrtle Street Gang district. Loud's interest in the Myrtle Street Gang began about three years ago. As a member of the Knights Templar Nootside Club, he was drawn into working on the Knights Templar project—the Youth Center located in Trinity Church in Detroit's Trumbull and Myrtle streets.

BEFORE the advent of the Youth Center, the Myrtle Street Gang had long held an unsavory reputation and was well known to the Detroit police for years. Only one other hoodlum group, the Purple Gang, rivaled the Myrtle Street Gang in the intensity and scope of trouble making.

A sociological approach to the gang problem was made by planting a youth center in the heart of this notorious district. Such projects have met with success in equally tough districts of Chicago and the Knights Templar Commandery No. 1 were willing to sponsor the project for Detroit's Myrtle street.

LOUD, WHO HAS been working with the Youth Center ever since he casually offered to "help out" three years ago, is firmly convinced of the value of the project and has been an enthusiastic volunteer worker.

Various kinds of handicraft classes are held. There are basketball teams (six of them during the winter months) and baseball teams during warm weather. Scout troops for boys and girls also are in operation in the center.

"DOWN AT THE Youth Center," Loud said, "they are building responsible, law abiding future citizens of America in an environment which a few years ago was considered one of the worst in Detroit."

"These children are sometimes the sole support of their families. Some of them have little businesses. They do all kinds of odd jobs, peddling small merchandise, working on newspaper routes and other jobs where a bicycle, if not an actual necessity, would be of great help."

The Knights Templar will provide the necessary parts to repair the bicycles and put it in serviceable condition, but the boys and girls do the work themselves.

"OPERATION BICYCLE" is not only a good training program, but it serves as an incentive for the children to earn money in a way that is acceptable to society."

This is the story behind that little want ad and this is the reason why Percy Loud, president of Wright Kay & Company, Detroit jewelry, is anxious to get bicycles, which are no longer needed by the children of this area.



PFC WALLACE F. SMITH, son of Mr. and Mrs. Park H. Smith, 271 Chesterfield, is serving with the 7th Cavalry Regiment at Camp Chitose in northern Japan. Pfc. Smith, a Baldwin High school graduate, entered the armed services in July, 1952, and received his basic training at Fort Knox, Ky.

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### State Meet Attracts B'ham High Twelve

Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Warner, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Franklin, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Campbell and Jesse Hildebrand attended the Michigan Association of High Twelve clubs at Mt. Clemens May 8 and 9.

Bus trips were arranged for the ladies during official meetings, with a guided tour for the entire group scheduled at Selfridge Air Force Base. Aircraft identification and the air defense set up of Detroit were explained.

At the president's dinner, Saturday, Judge John Skillman of Detroit Removers court spoke on "Our Debt to Massery."

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

### Fire Damages in City Remain Above Average

Fire losses for Birmingham still remain above average, with a total of \$2,125 estimated for the month of April, when \$2.44 million were answered by the Birmingham fire department.

The department responded to 43 silent alarms for fires and fire investigations; 1 miscellaneous; 2 first aid and had 1 false alarm.

WE HEARD IT SAID BY—B'ham Police Chief Ralph Moxley, "Teen-agers who have taken a driver-training course have consistently maintained an excellent safety record. The police department will be glad to co-operate in every possible way to set up an expanded program. We hope that eventually every student who graduates from high school will have taken a driver-education course."

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Get Protection on All... In One Policy!

\$5,000 INCREASING TO \$10,000 TO (\$5,000-\$10,000 on each member of your family) to pay expense of these 9 dreaded diseases

**POLIO** SCARLET FEVER  
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LEUKEMIA SPINAL MENINGITIS  
(A Disease of the Blood) RABIES (Includes Preventive Inoculations)

*The Polio Insures All your Family\**  
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only \$10 a year... or \$4 insures one person  
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310 Wabeek Bldg., Birmingham

**STERNAL'S** for RCA Television Radios and Record Players FREE CUSTOMER PARKING In Rear of Store Open Friday evening 6 to 9:00

Ruth Haigh CUSTOM LAMP SHADES and PICTURE FRAMING 179 1/2 Pierce MI 4-2002

Little Folks Shop Presents Toddle Gard Gate Toddle-Gard To keep baby safe and happy, use the one and only Toddle Gard which fits into your doorway without need of screws or hooks to mar woodwork or plaster. The pickets which are securely fastened run horizontally to prevent baby from crawling up on gate.

Regular Size 5.00 Large Size 7.98

175 W. MAPLE BIRMINGHAM

**WANTED:** all parents of boys and girls, ages 14 through 20 years.

The greatest opportunity to enable youngsters to learn about American Business by practicing it is at your Birmingham doorstep.

**JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT is the answer!** Every responsible person talks about the need to help young people to fully understand the "American Business System," and Junior Achievement is doing something about it.

**INVESTIGATE—TALK ABOUT IT—JOIN UP**—and get the facts why Junior Achievement is the most effective means yet devised to develop better leaders for tomorrow by winning the minds of our boys and girls today.

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