



THE MEN LEND A HAND at the Birmingham school teachers' picnic held Thursday in Springdale park. Moving a picnic table into place are Frank Whitney, recreation director, Paul Carter, assistant superintendent in charge of curriculum, and Noah Blosser, principal of Adams school. The picnic was a part of the pre-school conference held last week for the purpose of acquainting teachers with the program for the coming year.

(Eccentric Staff Photo)

# MICHIGAN OUTDOORS

## BOUNTY BLUES

The Michigan Conservation Department is bemoaning our present bounty system—with particular reference to the fox. Its cost is "way out of proportion to the benefits obtained—and the fox population is booming. For the first six months of 1953 the Conservation Department paid 11,345 bounty claims for foxes to hunters and trappers. This is 2,000 more than were bountied for the same period last year. Still the fox population is on the increase, and it's pretty obvious that the bounty system is doing little or nothing to deplete the ranks of this so-called "predator."

## Expense Experiment

The bounty system is now 6 years old. It costs the sportsmen \$185,000 a year, and a few thinking citizens are now beginning to wonder what we are getting for our money. Fish and game improvement projects could make far better use of that money, it's generally agreed.

## Game men in the Department

Game men in the Department point out that only a few animals in the bountied "predator" class actually invade inhabited areas causing damage readily detectable—and

these are the ones upon which we should concentrate. Planned trapping measures might work. But there's another way.

## The Sport of Fox Hunting

Growing by leaps and bounds is the ancient and honorable sport of fox hunting afoot, with trained hounds as barriers. Throughout Michigan Fox hunting clubs are springing up, and membership in these clubs will reach an all-time high this fall. The fox is a first class game animal, providing an exciting chase, giving the best of hounds a good workout, and running in country where a large group of hunters is pretty sure to get a good look at his bright coat and bushy tail silhouetted against a hilltop.

Fox hunting is unique in that as many as one hundred hunters can enjoy the fun in a well organized meet. Good hounds are essential—almost every community has enough to get a club started.

With enough activity along this line we could kill two birds with one stone. First, opening up a new and worthy sport in Michigan Outdoors, and next saving ourselves a lot of sportsmen's money currently paid for bounties—money which is apparently poured down a fox hole while our quarry sits high and dry on a hill, laughing at our efforts!

A former Birmingham resident, Mort Neff, is now presenting his half-hour television show, "Michigan Outdoors" over WJMY-TV (Channel 4) is followed at 10:30 p.m. over WJIM-TV (Channel 6).

## Three To Attend Y Fall Retreat

A delegation of young adult members of the Birmingham Y.M.C.A. will attend a fall planning conference at Camp Ohysava near Holly, Mich., Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 12 and 13. Lynn Russell, Associate General Secretary of the Detroit Y.M.C.A., is serving as chairman of the group which will deal with six general discussion topics.

These are: (1) New Methods for Young Adult Leaders, (2) Strength in Numbers, (3) Brief Informative Leadership with Group Participation, (4) Productive Committees, (5) Religious Beliefs of Young

Adults, and (6) Helps in Program. Mr. Charles Irwin of Michigan State College will give the keynote address and serve as resource person for the assembled group. Birminghamites who plan on attending include Frank Poole, Edwin Kirbert and Elaine Jones.

## Expert Medal Won By Judith Turner

The Expert Rifleman Medal, second highest award in junior shooting, has gone to Judith Suzanne Turner, 14, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold K. Turner, 2633 Woodhaven Drive, R. No. 5, the

one more award, she will be classified as a distinguished rifleman, along with other top junior shooters of the nation. A 10th grade student at Birmingham High School, she is a member of the Hunting Camp Rifle Club. Her instructor is A. Raymond Davis.

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### U-M Offers Bird House Suggestions

Now, according to Harry W. Hann, assistant professor of zoology at the University of Michigan, is the time to do something about bird houses.

Prof. Hann says fall is the best time to build the bird house and set it about. The idea is to have the wind and weather stirrer get their work in, "aging" the building so that, come spring, it will be ready to attract birds to their more pleasing to the future occupants.

Many Birmingham residents have been hosts to the songsters so long that they have learned all their little quirks, and know exactly how to please them. In fact, some of the community's human population feels positive that certain members of the bird population return to the same spot year after year, and even get their children to come along, too.

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