

BITS OF BIRMINGHAM

THERE'S ONE smart pooch in Birmingham. One day last week a small dog trotted along Woodward avenue until he came to the former S. S. Kresge store. He stopped, looked in the windows, and gave every appearance of reading the signs posted there. Then the little animal trotted through the open door and made himself acquainted with everyone there. He toured the "Omnibus" and seemed not at all surprised when the offer came for a home. The wise pooch had dropped in at the Oakland County Animal Welfare society's sale of antique and modern furnishings and accessories!

KIND WORDS came to The Eccentric last Friday from Prof. John Dawson who spoke here March 16 on the "McCarthy Dilemma". "The report of my talk, which ran in The Eccentric, was surprisingly accurate and well-done," the professor said. "Better than most coverage I receive from other papers."

LAST THURSDAY AFTERNOON while most of Birmingham still was soaking wet from torrential rains that morning, the fire department was called out to fight, of all things, a grass fire. The fire, of unknown origin, was located in an open area at Adams road and Holland. Water was standing at the grass roots, but, blown dry by a brisk wind, the tops were burning brightly.

ALTHOUGH HEAVY SNOWFALLS like the one that descended upon this area Monday may delight the hearts of children, it retards to a considerable extent the movement of pedestrian and vehicular traffic, as we all know. One example of this slow-up is in the extra time required by our postal carriers to get over their daily routes. "It takes about an extra hour for us who travel by foot, when the snow is deep," said one Birmingham carrier to this Wanderer Monday. "Carriers who deliver by car require even more time to get over their suburban routes."

AS YOU WATCH a symphony orchestra's string section playing, have you ever wondered why the bows of all players always move together? Do you know how this is accomplished? This Wanderer recently asked Penton R. Matthews of No. Adams, who plays both piano and violin, and his son, John, who plays a bass viol in the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, how it is done. "Why," they smiled, "the answer is easy. The music score for every player has upon it, at various intervals, marks called 'bow signs', which tell whether the bow goes up or down at that particular moment. Conductor Stokowski is the only famous musician who allows his string sections to move their bows as they wish. . . he believes such freedom of choice allows each musician to invest his playing with that intangible something that synchronizes their playing with their inspirational urges."

LARGE DRUMS necessary for the storage and handling of used fats have arrived at the First Baptist church. Residents wishing to contribute fats which will be made into soap and distributed to war victims in (Continued on Page 6, this Section)

Where you will be a year from now depends upon where you are each of the days between; and, since most of us can determine most of each day's environment, each day's opportunities, why not target them toward the year-from-now objective?

The Birmingham Eccentric

Public Asked to Help Reduce Auto Stealing

Auto thefts are sky-rocketing in Birmingham! Records show that auto thefts jumped from 12 in 1952 to 33 in 1953.

Since the beginning of 1954, sixteen cars have been stolen. This epidemic of car stealing has reached such proportions that Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley has called on all citizens to cooperate in a drive to reduce it sharply.

"Auto thefts already have exceeded the halfway mark of last year's total. We've still got nine months to go, and if everybody doesn't help, we're going to have a real problem," said Moxley.

THE CHIEF outlined five ways in which citizens can help in reducing this type of crime:

- 1) Never leave keys in the car's ignition.
- 2) Lock the doors of your car when parking it.
- 3) Park your car in well lighted areas when possible. Don't leave your car parked on deserted streets.
- 4) Keep a record of your car's serial and motor number to assist police in finding it faster should it be stolen.
- 5) Keep a record of tire and accessory items; put an identifying mark on accessories not numbered.

"Observance of these precautions will reduce car thefts immensely. In 50 percent of such thefts last year, the keys were left in the ignition. In 97 percent, the car doors were left unlocked," Moxley said.

"COOPERATION on the part of the public is especially vital in this problem because juveniles are the most numerous offenders involved. A parked car with keys in the ignition is a temptation to the juvenile. It almost is a moral obligation for adults to do what they can to remove that temptation," Moxley added.

"Just how important the problem is can be pointed out by an actual case. A woman left a car with its keys in the ignition in the Wakeek parking lot. When she returned the car was gone.

"We put a call out on the air, and 15 minutes later, Royal Oak police were chasing the car and its driver, a 16 year-old boy, out into Troy township at speeds up to 90 mph.

"In this case the youth was apprehended without an accident. But if something had happened, it

Children in State Hospital Require More Instructors

"Big brothers and sisters" are still urgently needed by the boys and girls confined to Pontiac state hospital," Mrs. John W. Blanchard, 1466 Glenhurst road said today.

The recruitment chairman added that text books, light reading, clothes, games, toys and athletic equipment is needed by the 40 patients ranging in age from 8 to 20 years.

"A number of wonderful people have already volunteered to help," Mrs. Blanchard said. "Persons helping these children with their lessons do not have to be trained teachers. Patience and sympathy are needed far more than training."

The state hospital gets no money for the young patients. Each volunteer would be asked to give two hours a week to some one of the children, helping with school work, with entertainment, or just talking. The value of these volunteers is beyond measure.

to leave valuables visible in their cars. "Put them in the trunk or the glove-box where they won't tempt anyone," he said.

JA's Will Choose 'April Reign' Queen

Birmingham teen-agers in Junior Achievement are busily seeking their "Queen" to represent them at the annual "April Reign" prom to be held Friday, April 23, at the Sheraton-Cadillac hotel, Detroit.

Sponsored by Achiever's Association, composed of all JA boys and girls, the annual affair features crowning of the "Queen of JA".

This year, Detroit television comedian Sappy Sales will be master of ceremonies and will help in choosing the queen from among 20 finalists. Music will be provided by Tony Carrier and his orchestra.

Tickets to the semi-formal affair are available through the Birmingham JA business center, 177 South Woodward, Monday through Thursday evenings.

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HARRY D. WISE, Jr.



Candidate for BIRMINGHAM CITY

Start Friday on New Southfield Phone Building

Groundbreaking ceremonies for Michigan Bell Telephone's new Southfield exchange building will take place at about 2 p.m., Friday, Birmingham area manager A. H. Warner said.

Participating in the event will be Richard Quirk, president of the Southfield high school student council, who will turn the first shovelful of earth, and a number of local and Detroit telephone officials. The new building is to go up on a site at the northwest corner of Labaree and 10 Mile.

Irish Setter Wins Championship Rank

Mr. and Mrs. Leslie A. Hilligas, owners of the Maple Ridge Kennel, 2635 E. Maple, announced this week that one of their Irish setters has completed requirements for championship.

The dog, Tyrone Farm Kelly, won best of winners at successive dog shows in Cleveland, Milwaukee and Indianapolis. At Indianapolis, he defeated 47 other Irish setters to gain the necessary points for championship.

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has been a resident of Birmingham for 25 years, a graduate of Birmingham schools and a successful practicing attorney. We earnestly solicit your vote for HARRY D. WISE, JR. because he is able, qualified and because of his positive stand on these important issues:

OFF-STREET PARKING: "I believe that after 9 years of discussion 'in committee' the important issue of off-street parking should be resolved. The decision should be based on the convenience and welfare of the residents of Birmingham."

THE FUTURE OF BIRMINGHAM: "The recent growth of Birmingham is more than enough reason for our City's elected officials to take more active steps in future planning for the basic needs of our City. Immediate steps should be taken to promote liaison with adjacent cities and townships in these matters as well as in city planning, zoning and the other problems caused by the influx of population."

OUR CHILDREN: "Birmingham needs to restudy the recreational and vocational facilities available to the young people of the City to make sure we do not experience the delinquency problem that is bothering some of our neighboring cities. "Immediate steps should be taken to promote liaison with adjacent cities, townships and the school district, as well as inviting the aid and counsel of the United Community Services, to advise and participate in the prevention of delinquency. "The City of Birmingham should foster the participation of these groups and of individuals in providing workable and anti-delinquency recreational facilities for our youth."

THAT'S WHY WE SUPPORT HIM!

Neighbors and Friends in the 1st Precinct • Former Classmates at Baldwin High School • Volunteers for HARRY D. WISE, JR. for Commissioner • Birmingham Residents who are his Former Classmates at University of Michigan.