

BITS OF BIRMINGHAM

MUCH AS THE warm weather this past weekend was appreciated, a great deal of "art" was destroyed by it. The King youngsters, Jerry, Bobby, Carol and Cathy, of 1821 Holland, had two excellent snow convertibles in their back yard—until the thaw. The cars were big enough for a passenger to sit in and provided a place to do just that. Fenders, doors, headlights and wheels were there and the whole done in excellent scale as to size. By Sunday night, however, all that remained was a shapeless mass of dirty snow. The way of all cars, perhaps?

THIS WANDERER decided Sunday that perhaps there was an ice fishing or skating picture available over at Walnut Lake and headed in that direction. After steering between as many of the puddles as possible, wondering how deep the ones were that we couldn't dodge, we arrived at the lake shore. Far out were a few skaters and one or two fishing shanties, but nothing spectacular. As we sat trying to make up our minds whether to take a picture or skip the whole thing, two men slipped and splashed to their car. As they stowed gear and climbed in we heard one remark, "That's the first time I ever had to swim to go ice fishing!"

THE SLOPPY WEATHER this past weekend has provided some huge birdbaths on the sidewalks around and through the city's Shain Memorial park. It occurs to this Wanderer that should those walks ever be properly drained, our Birmingham birds would have awfully dusty feathers. That is, unless they went a bit north and west to bathe in beautiful Quanton Lake.

WITH THE national pastime seemingly being to attend lectures which tell us how to make friends, the Southfield Kiwanis club has posed an interesting question. "How," these gentlemen want to know, "do dogs manage to make so many friends without attending a \$250 lecture series on the subject?"

A RECENT issue of the Illinois State Register (Springfield) carried a story of Mrs. Rudolph C. Ranke, 1436 Pierce, and the hooked rug she is making for the Lincoln Memorial there. The story was illustrated with a picture taken by the Eccentric's staff photographer several months ago, which shows Mrs. Ranke working on a rug for the Eisenhower shrine in Denison, Tex., the town where both she and President Ike were born.

B'HAM CITY COMMISSIONER Charles Renfrew called Monday night's meeting to order, then found three of his colleagues—Dean Heier, Jim Allen and Dick Patterson—had quickly made him temporary mayor pro tem. Both Mayor Ralph A. Main and Mayor Pro Tem Lance Minor were absent. So was Commissioner V. B. Watkins. Last time the commission had so many members absent was exactly a year ago. At its Feb. 9, 1953 session, four members were not present.

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The dirt and vulgarity so abundant in this world of ours constantly splashes upon the windshield of our thinking, seeking to muddy the better and larger views of life than beckon from behind the windshield. It is our sacred task to keep these "windshields" clean.

The Birmingham Eccentric

SECTION 2
Thursday, February 18, 1954



IT'S ANOTHER check for the \$45,000 Birmingham Community House which got underway Monday in the city and its immediate area. Paul Kurth (left), one of the solicitors working among area businessmen, presents his receipts to Dexter Horton, chairman of the commercial campaign, at the headquarters trailer parked just north of the Community House building. Like the door-to-door canvass, the commercial solicitations will continue to March 1. (See story on Page 1 Part 1—Eccentric Staff Photo)

Bigger Buses Ordered For Bloomfield Schools

Problems involved in providing adequate bus transportation for the school children of the Bloomfield Hills school district were discussed by the board of education at its meeting Monday night.

A report on the problem prepared by Eugene L. Johnson, school superintendent, discloses that at present, the district is leasing six Greyhound buses to transport its students. These buses are designed to carry approximately 42 seated passengers. However, in some cases the buses are carrying over 90 students, Johnson said.

At an earlier meeting, Johnson told the board that the size of the loads was unsafe. "We would be severely criticized if an accident occurred with that many students aboard," Johnson said.

HEAVIEST LOAD A single bus has to carry is from the Wing Lake district. A maximum load of 96 students is possible on the Wing Lake run, according to Irving Menuchi, administrative assistant. The Square Lake run also is very heavy, averaging 80 to 90 students per trip.

It was the opinion of board members that adding another bus now would be too costly. It would cost the district an additional \$10,000 per day.

The district now is paying \$1,400 per month for buses. To bring temporary relief, the board adopted a motion to contract for larger buses to serve the Wing Lake and Square Lake runs.

THESE BUSES are designed to seat 52 adults. Officials estimate that 75 school children could be seated on these buses because of the design of the seats.

Board President Edward Proctor said use of the larger buses would cost the district \$10 more per day. "We already are running over our budget for transportation," said Proctor. "Because of the seriousness of this problem, I do not think it would be unwise to over-run our budget by an additional \$600 to \$700."

It was disclosed that last year the district was reimbursed 100 per cent by the state for its bus costs.

MENUCHI SAID a Greyhound official has said that the situation

"No Connection In Bridge, Tunnel" Van Wagoner Says

Former Democratic Gov. Murray D. VanWagoner continues to defend this week his resignation from the Michigan Bridge Authority.

VanWagoner resigned from the authority last week after registering as a lobbyist for a bonding house that purchased part of the multi-million dollar bridge bond issue.

VanWagoner, who registered as a lobbyist for the Stifel-Nicolaus & Co., Chicago, Ill., stated that while he did no wrong, he was afraid that his connections as a lobbyist might hurt the progress of the bridge authority.

VanWagoner explained that he purchased the lobbying license in order to talk to state legislators about a proposed bill concerning the sale of the Detroit-Windsor tunnel to the Part of Detroit. He added that the tunnel project was in no way connected to the bridge's construction but the Chicago firm also was interested in this project.

Time for 2nd Extension

Members of the State Water Resources Commission finally have approved the extension of time sought by area communities in submitting plans for abatement of sewage pollution in the Rouge river. The state extended the time for submission of plans from November 1, 1953 to May 1, 1954.

Membership Drive Nears Top at Y

A total of 357 members on its goal of 425 was reported last Monday night by the four teams of workers working on the Birmingham YMCA Membership Enrollment Drive.

Membership chairman, Arthur Blakeless urged workers to make every effort to get their prospects signed early and put the enrollment over the top soon. Oscar Peterson, general chairman, asked each worker to follow up on the cards they have in their possession and this will insure Birmingham enrolling more than its proposed quota.

William Gordon, chairman of the Birmingham YMCA Committee of Management, told the assembled group that he has asked the personnel service of the 'Y' for a full time boys' worker to serve with Edwin F. Kirbert, Executive Secretary of the Birmingham YMCA, in this area.

WITH MORE than 114 different groups each year coming into the 'Y' program, the need for better supervision has been apparent for some time. It is Gordon's desire to offer an increase program in this expanding community.

Car C under the leadership of John Stater leads the car race around Michigan with cars M and Y tied for second place closely followed by Car A. Each car receives so much mileage for each member and each dollar obtained. The enrollment period closes February 26 with a victory banquet at the Downtown Detroit YMCA.

All membership money coming into the Birmingham YMCA is used for youth program in this area.

Reservations Needed For Y Square Dance

The Birmingham YMCA monthly square dance will be held Saturday, February 20 in the Dr. Ormond Lounge of the 'Y' from 8 p.m. until midnight. Mark Smith will again call and instruct. Newcomers to Birmingham are especially invited to this gathering.

The price of admission includes square dancing and refreshments. A telephone call to the 'Y' will place your reservation and help you obtain a baby sitter if needed. Only five sets can be accommodated so all interested parties are asked to reserve early.

Commissioned Ensign

Peter Hartsuff was recently commissioned an Ensign at Newport, R. I. and is en route to San Diego, Calif., where he will be on an LST. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Hartsuff of Ridgeland.

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