

# BITS OF BIRMINGHAM

SUCCESS IN another field of writing has come to Mrs. Helen Brunson who writes "Commuter's Wife" for The Eccentric. Mrs. Brunson has just been notified that her story, "The Precious Gift" will appear in the January issue of "My Chum", a children's magazine. Her story is based on a boyhood visit of Mozart to Marie Antoinette.

BIRMINGHAM'S DEMOCRATIC club has been invited to attend a square dance Jan. 16 at the Bloomfield township hall. The event is being sponsored by the Southwestern Oakland County Democratic association, and will be highlighted by the appearance of the three party candidates seeking the office of state representative to fill the third district vacancy created by the resignation of Howard R. Estes.

BEFORE YOU DISCARD THE CHRISTMAS CARDS you received this past Christmas, a Birmingham woman who asked that her name not be used suggests that you bundle them up and send them to Father Savage, Antioch, Illinois. After the holidays last year, Rev. Savage distributed nearly a million used cards to 132 veterans' and children's hospitals throughout the United States.

ONE BIRMINGHAM woman has decided that chivalry is dead. A few evenings ago, during a brief snow squall, the lady was taking several children home from dancing school when she ran out of gas. She stood beside her car and vainly tried to stop another car to get someone to help her, only to see men after man pass her by. Finally a car did stop and another woman driver with a deep southern drawl offered assistance, a push if necessary, to the nearest gas station.

IN THE OPINION of Birmingham's Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley, the Detroit police department is one of the best administered and functioning law enforcement agencies in the world. So Moxley was very pleased to be the guest of Rotarian Charles Mortensen (local C of C secretary) at the Rotary luncheon Monday noon—because Detroit Police Commissioner Don Leonard was the speaker. (Leonard's remarks are reported in another story elsewhere in this issue.)

LACK OF PROPER CLOTHING for the Korean people has become acute, according to Col. Donald G. McKenny who writes from Pusan, Korea, where he is serving as Project Officer for the Army's Rehabilitation program there. Col. McKenny, whose home is at 1875 Pine, has made a plea for Birmingham residents to promote an active campaign to collect clothing of all kinds and forward it to the Koreans. He reports that clothing distributed by the various church organizations in Korea cannot begin to fulfill the needs of the people. Col. McKenny has been stationed in Korea since October, 1953.

Many things we do every day are repetitions, and can become monotonous. Yet if one views the simple daily acts with their true meanings of kindness, thoughtfulness for others, will this not reveal their activities as filled with greatness?



DETROIT POLICE BOSS DONALD LEONARD Takes time to address B'ham Rotarians (Eccentric Staff Photo)

## Driver Fined \$25, Gets Probation For Drunkenness

Held over the weekend in Oakland county jail, Anthony J. Kopytek, 3330 Edwin Avenue, Hamtramck, pleaded guilty Monday night to a charge of drunk driving before Troy Township Justice Herbert W. Alden. Judge Alden suspended Kopytek's operator's license, placed him on 90 days probation, and fined him \$25 and assessed \$25 costs. As part of his probation, Kopytek must attend three sessions of the Troy court's unique traffic safety class. Kopytek was arrested by Troy police Saturday night as he drove on Maple between Rochester road and Livernois.



C. KING GANNER

## Will Supervise New Red Cross First Aid Group

An intensive first aid instructor training and refresher course will start Jan. 18 at the new headquarters of the Oakland county chapter, American Red Cross, in Pontiac. C. King Ganner, of St. Louis, will serve as instructor of the classes, which will meet from 7 to 10 p.m., Jan. 18-22. Men and women holding advance first aid certificates, authorized instructors and those whose authorization to teach has lapsed are urged by Red Cross officials to enroll. Royal Oak and Pontiac offices are taking registrations.

GANNER is a field representative in first aid and water safety and has been with the Red Cross national organization since 1947. "One of his earliest assignments, shortly after World War II, took him to Europe where he worked with the US Army Safety division to plan the training program for army men in Germany and Austria. Since his return to this country in 1949 he has worked in Colorado, Iowa, Missouri and Michigan. Ralph Forman, first aid chairman for the county, said his aim is to have qualified instructors in every community and every large group of people. He added that to follow this plan will soon enable the county to adequately train its own membership in first aid, necessary for good community and self protection.

# The Birmingham Eccentric

## Police Need Aid Of Citizens, Says Donald Leonard

The man who may be Michigan's next governor outlined his comments regarding a citizen's responsibility to his law enforcing agencies in a 30-minute talk before the Birmingham Rotary club Monday noon.

Looking more like a successful business executive than head of one of the nation's largest police departments, Detroit Police Commissioner Donald S. Leonard declared that the American people are slowly awakening to the fact that criminals must be repressed in their activities so law abiding citizens' lives and property is safeguarded. "In recent years, the criminal has been taking advantage of the public's apathy regarding crime," emphasized Leonard, who is expected before the end of this month to announce his candidacy for the Republican nomination for governor.

POLICE OFFICERS in America, the commissioner said, are being asked to handle a difficult problem arising out of the complex American society, which is composed of a multitude of opinions, religions, races and creeds. "We tend to treat the criminal with leniency, yet the most capable people try to evade jury duty," he declared. "Our justice is only as good as our juries, so it is no wonder that there are occasional miscarriages of justice."

LEONARD ALSO commented on the advisability of requiring government employees to take a loyalty oath. "I can't see why government employees should protest taking an oath of loyalty," he remarked. "Is it their personal liberty that is in question—or is it the fact that you as the public, have the right to know that your public employees are loyal to the type of government you desire to have?" He also recommended "a strong public spotlight" be focused on Communists "to show them and the poison they are seeking to spread."

Because he had just come from a morning filled with phone calls and conferences regarding the Walter Reuther shooting case which has been on metropolitan daily newspaper front pages for close to a week, Leonard began his talk with some of the behind-the-scenes facts involved in recent developments.

## Red Cross Officials Meet to Study Budget

A meeting of the executive committee, Oakland county chapter, American Red Cross, will be held Jan. 20 to discuss plans on how to raise what money is still needed to meet the chapter's 1954-55 budget. Harold B. Euler, chapter chairman, said United Funds in the county had pledged \$100,450.50, leaving \$73,951.70 to be raised in a March membership drive in areas south of Square Lake road.

## Scheduled to Address SO County Educational Meeting in Royal Oak

Dr. Clark E. Moustakas of 2245 Manchester, psychologist at the Merrill-Palmer school in Detroit, will speak at the January meeting of the Southern Oakland County Association for Childhood Education. The meeting will be in the First Presbyterian church, Royal Oak, on Jan. 21, at 6:30 p.m. Teachers from the Lamphere school, Royal Oak township, will be hostesses.

Dr. Moustakas is working in the field of mental hygiene and the psychological development of children. He received his degree from Columbia university and is the author of "Children in Play Therapy." He will speak on "Emotional Behavior of Elementary School Children."

News copy submitted early is necessarily given preference, so the "early bird" usually gets the space.

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## Bloomfield Home Suffers \$40,000 Damage in Fire

Freezing temperatures and lack of water hampered fire fighters of four departments Sunday as flames caused damage amounting to an estimated \$40,000 to the home of Stanley R. Hood, 4805 Charing Cross road, Bloomfield township. Fire fighters from Bloomfield Hills, Bloomfield Village, and Troy township fought the blaze for four hours, according to Bloomfield Township Chief Ralph Hennerly. Residents of the house were alerted to the fire by an unidentified passerby who knocked on the door to say the roof was on fire. Escaping unharmed from the house were Mrs. Hood, her daughter, Kitty, 19, and son, Roger, 18. Mr. Hood was in the East on business.

AN OVERHEATED chimney was believed to have started the fire which gutted the second floor of the 16-room home. Water and smoke did extensive damage to first floor rooms. Most downstairs furniture was carried out by neighbors, according to firemen, according to Mrs. Hood and her children are

## Retirement System Amendment Put On April 5 Ballot

Several changes in the city's employee retirement system will be submitted to Birmingham voters at the April 5 city election. City commissioners approved a measure Monday night which will place the amendments on the ballot.

Principal change which is proposed would raise the city's participation to 1/120th of the employee's annual wage. Now it is 1/155th. City Treasurer Russell T. Berger estimates the additional benefits would cost the city about \$7,000 more a year. It would increase the city's participation to 8.66 per cent of the total annual payroll or just slightly over the 8.62 per cent participation in 1946, the year the system was adopted. Last year's percentage was 8.46.

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staying for the time being with another daughter, Mrs. Thomas H. Sheehan, 240 N. Glenhurst.

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