

Population Survey Being Conducted In Detroit Area

The Current Population Survey will be conducted in this area during the week of January 11, according to Supervisor Edward D. St. Arnold of the U. S. Census Bureau district office at Detroit.

This survey, taken monthly here and in 229 other areas throughout the country, provides up-to-date national figures on employment and unemployment. This information is used by business and government for analysis of current labor force conditions.

St. Arnold pointed out that information furnished to the Census Bureau concerning individual persons is accorded confidential treatment under the law and only statistical totals are published. Interviews for the Current Population Survey in this area are handled by Mrs. Carolyn J. Howell of Royal Oak.

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

Move On To Make Forest Lake CC A Private Club

Over 500 persons attended the open-house Sunday at the Forest Lake Country club to acquaint prospective members with the club house and grounds.

Plans are already underway to purchase the club from the Col. George Foundation and create the first new private golf club in the area in over 20 years.

Committee members state that Forest Lake will become a family club and clubhouse by the Foundation providing facilities for children as well as providing their parents with a newly-designed 18-hole golf course.

"We have been given an agreement and option to purchase the Forest Lake country club and have until late fall to pick up the option," Committeeman Blaine E. Eynon, 530 Halfmoon, stated. "But we hope to complete the purchase this spring and have the club in operation this season."

FOREST LAKE near Square Lake road and Telegraph in Bloomfield township, has been operated as a semi-public club for several years. The land includes a 240 foot frontage on Forest Lake which the committee plans to develop.

The entire course will be lengthened and remodeled under the direction of golf course architect Robert Trent Jones. Plans also call for complete renovation of the clubhouse which is estimated will cost \$175,000. The swimming pool will also be repaired.

Applications are now being received for charter members in the club. Membership will be restricted to 250 to prevent crowding of any of the club's facilities.

THE PLAN TO restore the 30 year old club to private status has been furthered during the last three months by Eynon, Fred Handren and Howard Neilson.

The first membership meeting will be held tonight at the clubhouse when committee members will act on applications and name special committees.

A second open house is planned for this Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 24 and 25, so that interested persons may visit the clubhouse and learn of the remodeling plans. Hours that committee members will open the club will be between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on each day.

WE HEARD IT SAID BY—
VERN GRIFFITH, Chief of the Birmingham Fire department, "Although a greater loss by fire was suffered in Birmingham during the past year than in any previous 12 months we were very fortunate that no deaths or injuries either to the citizens or department personnel resulted from fire."

Most people desire to develop an environment of pleasantness, of happiness for themselves; to they associate with good people. It is the same way with books . . . for in reading one is privileged to make association with authors whose writings are uplifting.

The Birmingham Eccentric

BIRMINGHAM BACKGROUND

Local History in Story and Picture
As Compiled and Written by RUTH ANNE SILBAR



THIS PICTURE OF THE martial band was taken about 1914-15. From left to right is Mr. Sherman from Pontiac, tenor drummer, James B. Hunt, Birmingham, snare drummer, George Heth (grandson of John Heth), holding American flag, an unnamed fifer from Pontiac, and John Heth, Birmingham, bass drummer. Seated in front is Tracy P. Foote, Birmingham, a fifer.

THE FIFE AND DRUM CORPS of the GAR 22nd Mich. Vol. Inf. as it played at the 44th Reunion in Birmingham, July, 1911. The reunion was held at the United Presbyterian church on the northeast corner of Woodward and Forest avenues. The young lady with the bass drum in the center of the picture is Blanche Heth, daughter of John Heth (now Mrs. Thomas Navin). The lady in back of her with the large hat is Mrs. Bertha Kitts. John Benjamin, fifer is the third from the right and Tracy P. Foote, fifer, at the extreme right. The lad peeking out between the second and third men on the left is Raymond Peck while the young man with the V-necked sweater is Ted Brown. The other players in the group were from Pontiac.

Martial Music Pepped Up Many An Early Birmingham Event

In the "good ole days", many an occasion in Birmingham was enlivened by the appearance of a martial band.

Dispensing this rousing martial music were four Birmingham men, "regulars" of the group. The name of the martial band changed frequently, depending upon the availability of other players and to circumstances convenient to the occasion.

Most of the time this band was called "John Heth's Martial Band" for Heth undoubtedly was the enthusiastic leader and organizer. Besides, he owned a big bass drum, the only one in the village, and now could there be a martial band without that all-important instrument?

The drum had originally belonged to Heth's father-in-law, Ithram Elwood of Southfield, who himself had led martial band years before.

ANOTHER OF the original members was James B. Hunt, a snare drummer from way back. When he was a boy in his teens, he was asked by the Masonic lodge to practice his snare drumming in his father's general store on meeting nights. (The store later became the property of Volney Nixon and stood on the west side of Woodward avenue where the Tri-angle Furniture Colonial Shop now is located.)

The Masons met on the second floor of the store and Jim Hunt's snare drumming drowned out the

ritualistic work which was going on overhead and which the customers otherwise would hear.

Another of the regulars was John Benjamin, a Civil War veteran (private in Co. C 30th Mich. Vol. Infantry) and a farmer whose farm on Woodward and 12 Mile road is now encompassed by Roseland Cemetery.

BENJAMIN WAS a fifer as was Tracy P. Foote who joined the organization at a later date.

Since Benjamin and Foote were Civil War Veterans, and John Heth an honorary member of the GAR 22nd Mich. Inf., this band with additional members from Pontiac became the county GAR Fife and Drum Corps when the 22nd Michigan Volunteer Infantry of the GAR held an encampment in Birmingham in the fall of 1911.

When two unnamed cornet players from Royal Oak played with the band, the name became the Birmingham-Royal Oak Martial Band.

ON THE PAGES of old copies of The Birmingham Eccentric are recorded many instances of Birmingham's Martial Band, whose appearances stirred the blood of many a listener.

"The boys got out music that was fine indeed," commented The Eccentric in 1908. "They had a big audience that stayed as long as they and were sorry to see them quit. Come out again, please."

With the exception of the high school band, no organized group today provides Birmingham with martial music, played so enthusiastically, dispensed so eagerly or performed so historically as the old-time Birmingham Martial Band.

City GOP Comm. Honors Van Dusen

Richard C. Van Dusen, 1722 Pine, who recently announced his candidacy to the state legislature to fill the unexpired term of Howard R. Estes, was honored early this week by the Birmingham Republican committee.

He was presented with a scroll by Dr. John P. Wood, finance chairman, commending the young

attorney for his leadership as chairman of the committee during the past two years. Van Dusen resigned his chairmanship shortly before announcing his candidacy to the legislature.

The text of the resolution contained in the scroll stated that Van Dusen had over the period of the past two years given unstintingly of his time and energies to serve as chairman of the Birmingham Republican committee and added that his efforts have contributed greatly to the building of an alert, informed and active organization of Republican workers.

The text continued, "the results of his efforts and sacrifices, added to those of the organization, and other patriotic groups in the community, resulted in the second highest percentage of registered voters to participate in the national election of November, 1952."

A New Jersey city was the lone community in the United States to better Birmingham's efforts.

Have You Met . . .
The residents of 1876 Bates street? Mr. and Mrs. Paul Lehman, Jr. and children, Paul III, age 5, Dudley, age 2 and Nancy Scott, age four months, moved from Wallingford, Pa., on Nov. 15. He is employed in the chemical sales department of DuPont. A graduate of North Carolina State college, he was affiliated with Lambda Chi Alpha.

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