

How Safe Is Your House Right Now?

Any source of heat is a potential fire hazard unless arranged so the development of dangerous temperatures in adjacent combustibles is prevented.

Because wood and other combustible material, after long continued exposure to relatively moderate temperatures, may ignite far below their usual ignition temperatures, any prolonged cold spell should merit additional attention

around the heating plant of each home or business establishment.

During continued cold periods the furnace, particularly a hand fired coal furnace, should be watched closely. People above the basement level are unaware of the overheated condition of the furnace while it is attempting to maintain comfortable heat on their level.

IN EXTREMELY cold weather, the furnace must produce two or three times as much heat, to maintain the same temperature on the first and second floors, as prior to the cold spell.

If the air space between the top of your furnace and the combustible flooring above is less than 18 inches, a barrier of metal or heat retardant material should be installed. An air space should be between furnace and the heat retardant on one side and between the retardant and combustible material on the other. Air currents thus set up will prevent the combustible material from attaining a dangerous temperature with about one-half the clearance

otherwise necessary.

AUTOMATICALLY controlled oil, gas, and coal stoker fired heating boilers and furnaces generally incorporate automatic temperature limiting controls which prevent excessive temperatures, assuming that the controls function as intended.

These controls should be checked by a competent service man at least once a year to be sure they are doing the job they are designed for.

If you are hand firing a coal furnace and have less than the protection stated above over the top of your furnace, be especially careful any time the ash pit damper is open. Never leave the house or retire for the evening when this damper is open.

PLAY IT SAFE! During prolonged cold weather make a visual check above and around the furnace checking for overheated wood and other combustible materials. Prepared as a public service by members of the BIRMINGHAM FIRE DEPT.

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SUN LIFE OF CANADA



MRS. ROBERT DIEGAL
Keeping tabs on city's newcomers. (Eccentric Staff Photo)

What the Community House Means to Me

By MRS. ROBERT DIEGAL
1521 Villa

I didn't know a soul in Birmingham or anything at all about the town when we moved here four years ago, until I joined the Newcomers club at the Community House.

The club turned into a real hub for me. In fact, I got so interested in it that I've been working actively in the club for three years and was secretary in 1952. Since membership is limited to three years, my time is up now and I really miss it a great deal. However, it did for me what its original purpose is to do—helped me make friends and get acquainted with my town.

You can meet almost any type of person you'd like to through Newcomers. People from every section of the country and from foreign lands have been members. Residents of Birmingham come and so fairly rapidly sometimes and the Newcomers club gives people a chance to get acquainted even if they are here only briefly. Usually it takes years to make friends in a new town.

Besides the regular meetings of the club on every third Thursday of the month, they have a bowling team, a golf team and an afternoon bridge group which meets once a month. They hold Spring and Fall fashion shows which are sponsored by Birmingham merchants.

The Club contributes to the Community House in every way it possibly can. We have bought new curtains for the stage, contributed toward a new public address system and of course, contribute individually each year to the annual Roll Call drive.

I hope all new people in town will take advantage of the Newcomers Club and the Community House in general. I believe that a new resident really needs this instruction in Birmingham. It has helped me personally so much. I've made many good friends through the club and it truly makes you feel that you are part of the town.

One Phone for Each 3 Persons In United States

Recent statistics released by the American Telephone and Telegraph company show that the present number of telephones in the world exceeds 84,000,000. A. H. Warner, local district manager for Michigan Bell Telephone Co., said Monday.

Nearly 5,000,000 telephones were added to the global network during 1952, to bring the world total to 79,400,000, Warner said. He explained that it takes more than a year to gather information for its annual world telephone count, hence all of its figures quoted are as of January 1, 1953.

More than half the increase in telephones was in the United States, which has more than any other city in the world. Among the foreign cities, London, with 1,705,000 telephones ranked first.

WASHINGTON, D. C., had the greatest density of telephones per population with 65 for 100 persons. Atlantic City was second with 57 and San Francisco was third with about 55. The foreign city reporting the greatest telephone saturation was Stockholm with almost 51 telephones per 100 persons.

"Canadians averaged 389 telephone conversations per person for the year, the highest per capita calling rate reported. The United States ranks second in this respect with approximately 382 conversations."

Are you thinking of buying a new home? Then read the "For Sale-Houses" column on the Classified Ad page of this week's Eccentric.

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Sgt. Dear Returning From Korean Service

Sgt. John A. Dear, 19, son of Mr. and Mrs. John L. Dear, 16293 Kirkshire St., is returning to the U. S. after serving with the 2d Infantry Division in Korea.

Dear, who joined the 2d in December, 1952, served as a squad leader in Company M of the 9th Infantry Regiment and was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge.

To buy or sell a used automobile, read and use Eccentric Classified Ads.

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