City AL Post Backs Two Baseball Teams

Birmingham's Charles Edwards American Legion Post will enter two teams this year in the 18th District's baseball season.

The six team district will open play Wednesday, June 9, when one Birmingham team journeys to Waterford and the second team plays host to Clawson at Pierce field.

The task of recruiting 22 players for the two city teams will not be an easy one. According to John Watkinson, post athletic head, only five men will be returning this season from last year's nine. Twenty-seven players must be found and nearly all playing positions are open.

Boys between the ages of 14 and 18 living in Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Bloomfield township, Franklin, Troy township, Southfield township and those attending either Shrine high school or Cranbrook schools are eligible for American Legion play.

TRYOUTS FOR both Birmingham teams will be held Sunday, June 6, 2 p.m. Monday, June 7 and Tuesday, June 8 at 6 p.m. at Pierce school field. Coaches this year will be Herb Kelly and Gordon Britt.

Teams will play a double home and home series with other members of the loop on Wednesday evenings and Sunday afternoons. The season is split into two sections with the winner of the season's first half selected as the district's representative in the zone tournament in Saginaw.

The second half of the season determines the district winner. Birmingham for the past two years has dominated district play.

All players are covered by group accident insurance during practice, travelling and at games, league officials state.

Other teams playing in the 18th District are Clawson, Waterford, Berkley and Huron Valley Boys Club.

The five returning players are Bill Watkinson, infielder; Danny Cornila, outfielder; Bennett Wright, outfielder; Tom Beck, short stop; and Kirk Flack, catcher.

Mickey Mouse's 'Voice' Lives in Birmingham

Mickey Mouse was left virtually speechless recently when he received a birthday card from a Birmingham resident. It was signed "From your hidden voice on your 25th Anniversary."

That "hidden voice" was Ford Banes, now of 1719 Graefield, artist, author, and accomplished bowler, who is a member of the Jam Handy Organization, producers of commercial motion pictures in Detroit.

It all began while Banes was associated with the Walt Disney Studios of Hollywood as a story sequence director.

Walt Disney, the originator of Mickey's voice, was out of town when certain revisions had to be made. The recording director, realizing that this left him with a silent star, suffered some uneasy moments trying to find a person to speak for Mickey.

He suddenly recalled that Banes frequently mimicked the voice of Mickey and other Disney characters while he explained story sequences of production sketches.

FORD'S IMITATION proved so perfect that after viewing the finished production Walt's only comment was, "Let Ford do it from now on."

After his "discovery" Banes did Mickey Mouse's voice in shorts, featurettes and radio shows.

In one of the featurettes, "Mickey and the Beanstalk," Ford Banes does Mickey's voice in an album for children, and with a recording cast including Billy Gilbert, Johnny Mercer, and Martha Tilton.

But Banes' artistic talents are always present and apparent, as in many well-known Disney productions including "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," "Bambi," and the recently released "Peter Pan."

Creator of the Tinker Bell sequence in "Peter Pan," Banes comments that he notices little change in the Tinker Bell he knew and drew 10 years ago, to the Tinker Bell now on the nation's screens.

ATTESTING to his artistic abilities along other lines, is Banes' book of cartoons, "Right Down Your Alley," a rather unorthodox pictorial study of how not to bowl.

The work is so popular that six days after publication, a second printing was in demand. Reprints of these cartoons appear in newspapers throughout the country. For the past six years, Ford has been a member of The Jam Handy organization and many of the Pfeiffer T-V cartoon commercials are in large part his creations.

Will Man Return To Caves To Live?

The sudden birth of the atomic age has turned man's thought back to caves, probably his first home and, according to some pessimists, possibly his last.

Aside from its long standing tourist value, the Mammoth Cave area of Kentucky now has an added interest. Its hundreds of miles of cave passages, most of which remain uncrawled by human knees, are estimated to be capable of housing comfortably the entire population of Kentucky.

Although man has been using caves for one thing or another during the past 75,000 years, underground areas and the depths of the sea are the only two regions on earth that remain almost totally unexplored, Walter P. Nickell, naturalist at Cranbrook Institute of Science noted in a recent report.

Speleologists are sometimes explained as people who know the difference between a stalactite and a steingmite. Actually they are cave explorers, either amateurs who get a thrill out of finding a subterranean chamber never before seen by human eye, or professional scientists who can learn a great deal of the history of the earth and its inhabitants from clues hidden underground by nature and primitive man.

ARCHEOLOGISTS searching caves the world over find human skeletons, weapons and utensils as evidence that these areas were dwellings, temples, refuges and burial crypts for thousands of years before recorded history.

Last year the result of such a study in Mexico was published by Cranbrook Institute of Science in a bulletin called "Faunal and Archeological Researches in Yucatan Caves" by Dr. Robert T. Hatt, director of the Institute, and several associates.

Today caves still serve for smoke houses, fruit and vegetable bins, distilleries (usually illegal), mushroom culture, cheese making, refrigeration and water supply. During the Korean war combatants used both natural and enlarged caves for gun emplacements and as food and ammunition depots. In Europe during World War II many of the rarest libraries, art treasures and museum specimens were stored in caves and mines, safe from war risks.

THE LARGEST cave developments occur where pure limestone formations are hundreds of feet thick. Limestone primarily of calcium carbonate which is especially soluble in rainwater that has picked up carbon dioxide from air and soil. This rainwater, seeping down through vertical and horizontal cracks, acts as a weak carbonic acid that dissolves about one foot of limestone in 2,000 years, according to estimates. Since the process has been going on for millions of years, some enormous cavern networks have resulted.

Stalactites are the icicle-like forms which hang from cave ceilings. Below them on the floors are the thicker and more blunt stalagmites growing upward from the same drips. Both are formed by calcium carbonate dissolved in water that leaves hardened deposits as it moves slowly downward from one point to another. Often the two join to form a column from floor to ceiling.

ANIMALS LIVING in caves fall into two general groups: those that never leave the subterranean darkness and those that stay in contact with the outside world. Among the permanent residents are blind katydids and fish, colorless crayfish and several species of salamanders. Temporary occupants include rats, bats, raccoons, foxes, wolves, bears and some species of birds. Comparatively few plants are found in caves because of the darkness and lack of nourishment, but some fungi and molds manage to flourish.

THE ENGAGEMENT of Jo Ann Dasher to Jack Wardell Waters has been announced by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Don E. Dasher of Ridgedale avenue. Jack is the son of Mrs. William W. Waters of Royal Oak and the late Mr. Waters. The bride-elect was graduated from Northwestern university, where she was affiliated with Kappa Alpha Theta. Her fiance is a graduate of the University of Michigan and affiliated with Alpha Tau Omega. The couple plan an early fall wedding.

AIRMAN WILLIAM SULLIVAN of Milwaukee, Wisc., now at Selfridge Field Air Base, and USO Junior Hostess, Pat Skaggs of Lincoln Park, take lessons in the finer points of golf from Michigan's P.G.A. Secretary, Tommy Shannon, the well-known pro at Orchard Lake Country Club. USO girls and service men and women from all over the Detroit area will participate in National Golf Day on Saturday, June 5th, when golfers compete against Ben Hogan in the 3rd annual National Golf Day which benefits USO and the National Golf Fund.

Around the House

Are you planning to do some painting in your home? If so, make it easier for yourself by knowing how to choose a good paintbrush.

First, look at the bristles—they are the most important part of a brush. It is the bristles, also, which account for the fact that one four-inch brush may cost less than one dollar and another cost over twenty dollars.

Know what kind of bristles you are buying. For house painting, hog bristles are usually best. They have the desirable flexibility and carry paint well. When a brush is cheapened, horse hairs or grasses may be mixed with the hog bristles. These fillers do not wear well, but they are hard to detect.

An all-nylon brush will do a good job for the amateur housepainter. However, these brushes should be kept away from phenolic solvents at all times.

Make sure you get all the bristles you think you're buying. If you part the bristles of most brushes, you will see a wood plug is extra-large—this means you have a hollow center which holds the paint. However, sometimes the plug is extra-large—this means you get fewer bristles. In top quality brushes, the plug is apt to be one-tenth the size of the whole brush base. In poor brushes, the plug is apt to be one-half the size of the brush base.

The length of the bristles is important. The longer the bristles, the more pliable the brush. A longer bristle means a longer life for the brush, as well as better paint-holding capacities.

For smooth painting, bristles should be tapered and short bristles mixed with long ones. For fine work, buy a brush with a rounded "chisel" tip. For large outside walls, choose a large brush with a square end.

★ Smile a Minute . . .

After a lively argument says wifie: "Bill, you're a terrible man to live with; why can't you be like Jack So-and-So?" she went on. "They have been married 20 years and his wife tells me he's gentlemanly, and loving and tender."

"So, he ought to be tender," replied hubby. "He's been in hot water for 20 years."

Little League Season Opens Full Schedule

Birmingham's fourth season of Little League play got under way this week with an unusually large number of new boys in uniform.

The Red Sox and Indians were scheduled to open American League play Tuesday night at Eton Field, with the Yankees and Tigers opposing each other last night.

The National League competition at St. James Field was slated to start with a Braves-Cub opener Tuesday. Last evening the Pirates and Giants battled it out.

The Tigers and Pirates are defending champions. They dominated their leagues last year. Little League officials said that while the two champions appear as strong as ever, the quality of the other squads appears to be much improved.

So keen was the competition among 11 and 12 year-olds in pre-season practices this spring that more than a dozen boys who were on major teams last year were dropped.

THEIR PLACES were taken by youngsters who had developed during two seasons of minor (farm) league play.

The farm leagues also were to begin their season Tuesday night at Torry and Howarth Fields.

One incident marred the season's start but it turned out to be less serious than at first feared.

William R. Barrett, Birmingham Little League president, collapsed Saturday morning while erecting the fence at St. James Field.

Suspecting a heart attack, Leo B. McTigue, cub coach, summoned a Fire Department pulmotor squad and an ambulance which took Barrett to St. Joseph Mercy hospital at Pontiac where his condition was found to be not serious.

The Braves and the Cubs played a [illegible] at St. James Saturday, [illegible] 9-9 tie. Bill Muenchinger and Chuck Angell hit home runs for the Yanks.

Both major leagues have two more games this week.

THE TIGERS and Red Sox play tonight at Eton while the Giants and Braves meet at St. James. On Friday the Indians play the Yanks at Eton and the Cubs oppose the Pirates at St. James.

All American League games during the first half of the season will be played at Eton, located at Lincoln and the Grand Trunk railroad. National League competition will be at St. James, a field on Edgewood south of Lincoln. The leagues will change fields during the second half.

The American minor league games are at Howarth Field, Davis and Cummings. National farm league play is at Torry School on East Lincoln. All games start at 6 p.m. or as soon thereafter as players and officials assemble.

All leagues play games the first four nights of the week, making up rained out or postponed games on Friday.

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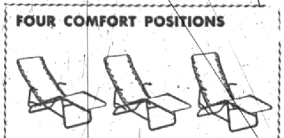

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