

NERVE CENTER OF THE WATER WORKS Controls city's eight wells. (Eccentric Staff Photo)

Lights and Gauges Control Production Of Water Supply

By GIL HERMAN

One of the interesting items of equipment at the Birmingham fire station is the remote control panel board in the station's office that controls the operation of the pumps at the city's eight wells.

At this control panel, one man can manipulate pumps as far away as two miles. By watching a battery of blinking lights and pressure gauges, and by pressing the proper buttons, he keeps a steady current of water flowing through the water mains to the faucets of the city's homes.

A needle on a large gauge at the top of the board shows the level of water in the city's elevated storage tanks, the rate of consumption and the rate of replenishment.

When the water is one foot from the top of the tanks, a buzzer sounds and the operator presses the appropriate buttons from a row of switches in the center board and cuts off all the pumps.

ONLY IN TIME of extraordinary water demand are all pumps running. Usually the operator runs the pumps at a rate of speed that will produce water at a slightly faster rate than it is being used, until the tanks reach maximum capacity.

Pumps at the various wells are alternated according to a prearranged schedule so all wells are operated at least once a week to prevent staleness.

To the right of the panel is a meter that indicates the pressure in the city's water main at all times. To the left is a clock and a thermometer with which a daily record of weather conditions is entered in the station's log.

WHEN AN operator wishes to start a pump at one of the wells, he pushes the button on the panel for the well he wishes to use. A pressure switch at the well lights an amber light on the board when water starts to flow. If this light does not go on, the operator knows there is a malfunction and sends out a repair man.

There also is a red light on the panel for each well that goes on in case of fire in the well house.

An alarm pressed at the station house sounds off at each well. A phone line is plugged into the telephone line to the pump house and the workers are advised where the fire is and they go directly there.

More interesting than the operation of the panel is the story behind its installation, which took place in 1932.

Before that time only one or two wells were operated at a time. The current was shut off in the others, and occasionally they were put into service by someone going out to hook them up.

IN 1927, however, two fires got seriously out of control because not enough water was available—several wells were shut down and the demand on the others was too great.

After fire destroyed the old bus garage here because of lack of water, the department under direction of Chief Vern Griffith took steps to prevent such a situation in the future.

Griffith, who was interested in electrical circuits as a hobby, designed the circuit which still is in use today. Members of his force pitched in to help and in 1932 the finishing touches were put on the system which is referred to as unique in its simplicity and effectiveness.

SEVERAL CITIES have copied the circuit for use in controlling wells.

Park Smith, assistant fire chief, has been largely responsible for maintenance of the circuits in the past several years.

Accurate records of each well's production are kept through use of the panel.

One gauge connected with records of well production is not found on the switch board. One of these instruments is found at each of the wells. It keeps a continuous record of the water level in the well both during periods of pumping and when the well is at rest.

Birmingham is the only city in the area which has an indicator that keeps track of the well levels in such a manner.

HEARING AIDS and BATTERIES for ALL MAKES

Make Inquiry at Our Store and Get All of the Details

MI 4-2121

SHAIN'S

DRUG STORE 195 W. Maple

LINOLEUM CUSTOM INSTALLATION

Estimates Without Obligation Expert Workmanship

T. E. HOGAN CO.

2865 Woodward Avenue

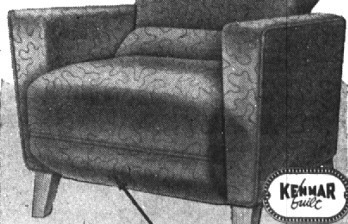
3 blocks south of 12 Mile

LI 4-3300

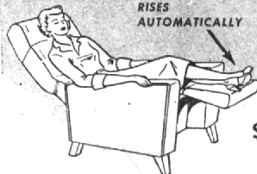
Open Friday Till 9 P.M.



KENMAR contoured RECLINING CHAIRS



CONCEALED LEG-REST RISES AUTOMATICALLY



\$99.50

Har From HI-WAY FURNITURE MART

1532 WOODWARD AVE., BIRMINGHAM, MICH.

4 BLOCKS N. OF 14 MILE.....Midwest 4-1410

Use Our Layaway Plan—Terms To Suit You

East To Park—Just Drive Up

Open Thurs., Fri. & Sat. Evenings

St. Hugo Winner Of First Contest In CYO Playoffs

St. Hugo of the Hills basketball team, undefeated in regular season play, came through with their first victory of the CYO cage playoffs at Precious Blood school Sunday when they defeated a past-great team, St. Theresa of Detroit, 28-21. Only three players figured in the scoring for St. Hugo's.

St. Hugo will play the winner of the Lady of Grace-Gate of Heaven game in the second round of the playoffs sometime this week. While Leonard LeFevre's boys stayed in the winning column, the sharp-shooting girls' team of the school bested abreast of the page by walloping St. Luke's, 22-7, in their first playoff game at Blessed Sacrament gym. Maureen Drake took scoring honors for St. Hugo's with 10 pts.

Birmingham—Royal Oak—Ferndale—Mt. Clemens

Open Friday evenings till 9



maidensform bras

Your new fashions need under-cover support...the fabulous shapeliness Maidenform bras will give you! Neglected curves take on a new firmness, suddenly seem rounder, more excitingly uplifted than ever before. Just come in and choose from our vast Maidenform collection...you'll soon discover what we mean! Here we show but two: Maidenette® to mould your figure gently...Chansonette® to give more accentuation. In your favorite fabrics and colors: Maidenette...from 1.50, Chansonette...from 2.00



YOU'LL 'BLOW THE MAN DOWN' IN White Stag ORIGINAL SAILCLOTH

It's a breeze to look and feel your best in comfortable Fun Togs in ORIGINAL SAILCLOTH by White Stag. Mix and match them to stretch your wardrobe. This sturdy fabric is easy to wash, easy to iron.

Left, Tugge Jack with wood-and-ropo slings. XS-S-M-L. 6.95. Clamdiggers, skin-length trou to roll up or down, 8 to 20. 4.95.

Center, Tuck-in Bodice with low sun back. 10 to 20. 3.95. Button Front Skirt, a wide-sweep skirt with hip-hiding pockets, 10 to 20. 6.95.

Right, Sta Bra with detachable straps, boned. 10 to 20. 2.95. Cuffed brief, short-shorts with buttoned cuff, 8 to 16. 3.95.

Colors: White, Sail Red, Summer Navy, Tar Block, Charcoal, Heavenly Blue, Pacific Pink, Seal Brown, Green Bamboo with contrast stitching.

THE DRESS THAT GOES EVERYWHERE... AND DOES EVERYTHING!



THE Versatiler

in RAYON SHANTUNG...with

a fine crisp silky finish! Sizes 10 to 20, \$10.95 and 12½ to 22½

Versatiler, the dress of many moods, in a fabulous new fabric with a fine silky glow! With all the beloved precision of tailoring, the finesse in detailing that are the special virtues of this famous dress. Hand-washable! Perfect for Spring-into-Summer wear! AN EXCLUSIVE DAISY PRINT in Spring navy, charcoal grey, aqua, shell pink, and beige. SOLID COLORS of powder blue, aqua, dusty pink, light grey, Spring navy.

RB SHOPS

142 W. Maple — Birmingham

Branches in Royal Oak—Ferndale—Mt. Clemens