

BITS OF BIRMINGHAM

"IT WAS JUST LIKE CHRISTMAS" was Vince Secontine's remark following presentation of gifts to him at a school assembly Friday afternoon. Retiring as Birmingham High school football coach, Vince is opening a sporting goods store in the city this month and said farewell to coaching the school's football and baseball squads and the history textbooks. From the Varsity Club, an automatic wind wrist watch; from the 1953 baseball and football teams a clock radio; and from his history classes a pen desk set. Friday's presentation followed a tea given by high school teachers Thursday afternoon who gave him a lawn chair. A former griddier for the University of Michigan, Secontine has been with the Birmingham school district for seven years.

LATE FRIDAY AFTERNOON, Bham City Manager D. C. Egbert was ready to give the city back to the Hunter brothers—he had just finished a three-day stint at pulling together the city's tentative 1954-55 budget. "This weekend, I'm going to go up to my cottage on Sugar Bay, get a fishing rod and think of nothing but how to catch me a few finny friends for the frying pan," he told this Wanderer. "That may help me get rid of the dollar signs before my eyes."

TOWNSHIP BOARD ACTIVITIES obviously are important to Mrs. Margaret Bradbury, Southfield board member. To assure her presence at a recent Tuesday night's board meeting, Mrs. Bradbury and her husband flew home on Tuesday from a vacation in the south. Bad weather slowed the flight and the plane finally landed at Willow Run airport at 6:30 p.m. A hurried taxi cab ride home was necessary when the Bradburys missed a ride at the airport. Opening the family garage to make the final leg of her journey to the Southfield hall, she found her car's battery dead and another cab was called. At that, she was only a few minutes late to the 8 p.m. board meeting. "A really loyal board member," was the comment of H. Luther Wagner, fellow board member.

SERIOUS CONSIDERATION is being given to requiring southbound Elm street traffic to turn east or west at Bowers, rather than proceed to a three-way intersection at Haynes, Hunter and Elm. Police Chief Ralph W. Mosley disclosed this week, "That is a bad traffic hazard and should be eliminated," he advises.

POLIO VACCINE operations are in full swing in Birmingham, following the "emergency" clinic set up at Pierce school last week to meet demands of the over-all program. Mrs. Howard Rieman, directing local operations, reports a great deal of eagerness in children to get those third shots over with—each will receive a "Polio Plan Year" button at that time. Meanwhile, the youngsters are having to be content with "suckers," many supplied without charge by a local druggist.

THE NAME "John R. Lobby" on the back of a borrowed wheel chair has had the St. Dunstan Players wondering. They wondered who Mr. Lobby could be and whether the chair had been given in memory of this person or by him. Unable to stand it any longer, an inquiry was directed to the Detroit hospital which loaned the chair for use in "Lo and Behold!" The answer is quite simple: The chair belongs in the John R. lobby entrance!

WHEN THE Village Players' Saturday evening production of "Personal Appearance" went on, a theatrical tradition came to the fore, in that "the show was on." Shortly before curtain time Hugh Stevenson, playing the role of Carol Arden's chauffeur, was taken ill and was unable to appear. With no chance of rehearsing with the cast and little chance of study John Gilray took over the part, going "on stage without a book." Gilray won his bid to fame earlier in the year with the Players' production of "Mr. Roberts."

BIRMINGHAM HAS BEEN PLACED on the list of U.S. cities which have not had a traffic fatality during the first quarter of 1954. The list was published this week by the National Safety Council, according to Police Chief Ralph W. Mosley.

Life requires of each of us the courage to meet its problems and its challenges. By doing this one increases his own mental and moral stature... he thus builds for himself a better life and is able to help others more ably.

The Birmingham Eccentric

SECTION 5

Thursday, May 6, 1954



BIRMINGHAM'S Community House rang to the weird strains of the bagpipes last week as the local Kiwanis club engaged two members of the Chrysler band to pipe their Canadian guests a rousing welcome. The bus load from Forest City, near London, Ont., brought their own speaker, Ralph Schantz (left). Others pictured are Norm Burdick, president of the visiting Kiwanis; Clifford Wright, Birmingham president, and City Manager Donald C. Egbert, special guest of the evening. (Eccentric Photo)

City Renews Aims Of Access Drives On So. Woodward

Parking along South Woodward avenue and the Hunter boulevard by-pass has plagued city officials throughout recent years almost as gravely as the long-standing off-street parking controversy.

City commissioners have renewed their studies of angle parking on Woodward from 14 Mile road to Lincoln and agree that parking directly off the highly-traveled street is both dangerous and unsightly.

Monday night the city commission instructed City Manager D. C. Egbert to bring in his tentative program for solving this situation. Then the city plans to ask the property owners in a discussion on what they believe is the most beneficial and equitable answer.

Active consideration of the parking situation in front of South Woodward stores dates back to 1948 when the city, with the help of the state highway department, made an over-all study of parking, signal lights and speed limits on South Woodward and Hunter.

City officials continue to sug-

gest that 20-foot wide access drives be constructed along the store fronts with an eight-foot raised strip separating these drives from Woodward. This also has been recommended for some stretches on Hunter.

THE CITY believes the drives not only would materially reduce the traffic hazard of parkers backing into the flow of Woodward avenue traffic, but also would do away with the muddy hole-marked areas now used for parking.

Two markets and one carpet store on the east side of Woodward now are served by these access drives. One drive is located on the west side at the Bowers-Hunter intersection.

The only access drive on North Woodward fronts the Colonial Court apartments.

The state highway department in the past has contributed 25 percent of the costs of constructing these drives as a part of its road side control program. The city shared a portion of the engineering costs.

Property owners benefiting from the drives have been asked, in the past, to pay the balance of costs.

UNDER CITY plans, an eight-foot sidewalk in front of the stores would be provided in addition to the protective strip adjacent to the highway and the access drive.

Recent rapid commercial building growth along both sides of South Woodward has pressed the city for a solution to the traffic-parking problem. City Manager Donald C. Egbert has recommended that the city commission give immediate consideration to improving the situation.

Amphibious Cruise

Two new Atlantic Fleet Amphibious Force LSTs participated in their first amphibious exercise "Operation Sentry Box" in the Caribbean in April. Edward S. Butcher, personnel man third class, son of Mr. and Mrs. Steve Butcher, 1948 Saratoga, is serving aboard the LST 1162.

Woman Suffers Broken Wrist

A Bloomfield township woman suffered a broken wrist Wednesday, April 28, when she was involved in an unusual accident on Hamilton avenue at the corner of Woodward.

Police said Mrs. Jean Spence, 38, 30651 Greenwood, Royal Oak, had stopped her car to pick up Mrs. Richard H. Morgan, 6395 Wing Lake road.

Mrs. Morgan was reaching into the opened rear door of the car to unload packages she was carrying. Mrs. Spence reached back to help out, and her foot slipped from the brake. The car lurched forward, threw Mrs. Morgan to the pavement, leaped the curb and stopped against the side of the First National Bank.

Mrs. Morgan was treated by a Birmingham doctor.

Promote Reservist

Max Savdack of Ferndale's 9606th Air Reserve Squadron has been promoted to the rank of Major, USAF according to a recent statement by Captain Lee Kenney, Squadron Commander. Major Savdack, a veteran of twelve years, served in Africa and Europe during World War II. Trained by the RAF, he occupied the position of flying safety officer.

Helps Negro Fund

Herbert K. Lewis, 1818 Melbourne, public relations director for Great Lakes Steel company, has been named committeeman for the \$90,000 drive in Michigan to support the 1954 United Negro College Fund. The national quota for the support of 31 accredited Negro colleges this year is \$1,175,000.

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

Police in Germany Receives Promotion

Leonard S. Bailey, son of Mr. Police Battalion, and Mrs. Leonard T. Bailey, 183 E. Brown, was recently promoted to sergeant while serving in Munich, Germany, with the 508th Military Police Battalion.

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