

Clean House, Fire Lurks In Discards

This weekend would be an ideal time to start that clean up job which has been constantly putting off.

Records will show that the majority of our fires are caused by carelessness. Even though we have a tendency to be careless, if we remove, or store in a safe place, the papers, rags, boxes and other combustibles about the home or business establishment, a great many fires that might have been catastrophes will never materialize through lack of fuel.

With that thought in mind the following is offered as a suggested check off list for you to help make your home or business establishment a safer place to live or work in.

1. YOUR basement is the nerve center of your home. Remove all excess papers, boxes, rags, etc. 2. Is there an accumulation of old magazines, broken furniture, clothes, etc., in the attic? If so, remove as much as possible. This material feeds a fire once it gets started.

3. In your garage a catch-all for the various items you have saved and will probably never use? Here again is material to feed a fire that might develop into a serious loss.

4. For your own satisfaction, check the above potential fire hazards, then practice Fire Prevention throughout the year.

"Play it safe! Check these items in your home before it becomes necessary to call the fire department because of a fire."

Prepared as a public service. BIRMINGHAM FIRE DEPT.

Two nationally known carilloners will give the concluding recitals of the autumn series of carillon concerts at Christ Church Cranbrook.

Playing Sunday, Oct. 31, will be Dr. Maurice A. Garabrant, organist at Christ Church Cranbrook and formerly director of the Long Island Choral society currently featured in "Cinerama".

Guest carillonner Fred Marriott of the Kirk-in-the-Hills will give the final recital Sunday, Nov. 7. He was previously connected with the Rockefeller Memorial chapel in Chicago.

Christ Church Cranbrook, one of the few churches in the vicinity to offer carillon recitals, houses the largest carillon in the greater Detroit area.

Both recitals begin at 4 p.m. Ample parking is offered all visitors.

Convention Report At Methodist WSCS

Women's Society for Christian Service of the First Methodist church will meet Nov. 3 at the church. The Anna Bird group will serve the 12:45 p.m. luncheon, followed by the general business meeting.

Mrs. A. Frye Ayers will lead the devotions, after which a report on the Milwaukee, Wis., WSCS fourth assembly will be given by Mrs. Amos Gregory and Mrs. W. W. Delee.

Announces Move

W. W. Wasson, 268 Williamsbury, Bloomfield Village, vice president and general sales manager of Flex-O-Tube Division of Meridian Corporation, announced this week that the firm has started production in its new half-million dollar plant in Inkster, Mich. The company formerly was located in Detroit.

When women try to look on marriage as a training school for life, instead of on life as a training school for marriage, there will be greater happiness in the world.

The Birmingham Eccentric

Birmingham Background

Local History in Story and Picture

As Compiled and Written by RUTH ANNE SILBAR



LOOKING NORTHWEST ON WOODWARD AVENUE ABOUT 1910

Roller skating rink was in wooden store building (left) in 1881

Wheels Went 'Round 'n' Round

When the roller skating bug bit Birmingham in 1884, it was a good hard bite, the effects lasting over a period of two years.

Other nearby towns had roller skating rinks—but in Birmingham no place was available for such recreational sport until a store on Saginaw (Woodward Avenue), known in later years as Volney Nixon's, became vacant.

Opening of the roller skating rink came in September 1884 and was managed by Beverly Goodman with assistant D. M. Johnston and a Mr. McBride as proprietors. It was an immediate and overwhelming success.

THE ROLLER RINK operated on Tuesday night for girls only—15 cents including skates. Mornings and afternoons were reserved for ladies; Wednesday nights for gentlemen accompanied by ladies; and Thursday and Saturday were "regular nights."

Special entertainment came soon after the opening when there was a contest for best skaters. According to the vote of the house, Ed Lamb was judged the best out of the 10 contestants and given first prize while Miss Allie Hagerman took second.

Business was so good that prices were raised two months later so that admission to the rink was 10 cents and skates extra—10 cents for men and 5 cents for ladies.

A BARREL race was held that was reported to have been a side splitter for the crowd, with Harry Simpson winning over Steve Goodman. Being smaller and having a larger barrel didn't prevent Simpson from winning the prize of a dollar's worth of tickets.

PETOSKEY, the Indian boy wonder, and Miss Ethel Stanley, champion lady skater, were main attractions at one event when they gave an exhibition of fancy skating.

PETOSKEY, it was said, was the grandson of the original old chief Petoskey. He performed his act attired in the costume of his tribe while on the warpath. He was 12

Mass Murderer's Trial in Review

Speaking before the Birmingham Exchange club on Nov. 2, DeHull Travis will discuss the "Greatest Murder Case in History."

His talk will be based on the findings of intelligence officers from England, France and the United States, relating to the killing of more than 6,000,000 non-combatant persons pursuant to Hitler's original plans to exterminate 11,000,000 people in Germany, Poland and Czechoslovakia.

Travis will briefly summarize the facts upon which the case was based when heard as "The United States of America vs. Wilhelm Stuckart." Stuckart, a former minister of the interior, was brought to trial in Nuremberg with Gen. Telford Taylor as chief U.S. prosecutor.

go home and saturate your cranium.

THE SKATING RINK on Saginaw street closed in April 1885 as the property was purchased by Frank Blakelee and son was to be occupied by his son, Volney Nixon as a general store.

However, a new skating rink was erected without delay on the north-west corner of Fremont (West Brown) and Pierce Streets with Edson James as proprietor.

Wes. Faint, local artist and sign painter, neatly lettered "Birmingham Roller Rink" on the edifice.

THERE THE special attractions continued. One of the first was Baby Hadley, a five-year-old, who gave a skating exhibition. Exciting racing contests for men and boys were held for silver cups or gold medals.

In the fall of 1885, a masquerade carnival was held at the rink with Miss Katie Casswell getting a silver cup for the best ladies' costume and Frank Springsteen, a gold pin for the best gent's costume. Ben Brown, who acted Toppy to perfection, won a prize for the best comical costume.

As the wheels glided smoothly over the well-laid floor, some patrons behaved unseemly and apparently became seasick from the apparent sailing around.

FRANK BEEKMAN, door tender, maintained that the proper place to recover was outside and not in the ladies' dressing room.

In the fall of 1886, Edson James put the skating rink up for sale as he planned on going West. Perhaps he did, for comments in the local newspaper concerning the roller rink ceased and in May 1888, the roller rink was a thing of the past.

Owner Edson James took it down and sold the greater portion of it to various persons.



CHARLES F. GIEG, 1757 Winthrop Lane, who has been Shell Oil Company's Detroit district

manager, is being transferred to Shell's Portland Division in a similar capacity. A graduate of Yale with an A. B. degree in chemistry, Gieg started with Shell in May, 1944, as a technical representative in New York. Gieg served in various positions in Cleveland until he was transferred to Detroit in his present position in January, 1951.

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