

BITS OF BIRMINGHAM

IT'S GETTING so that Saturdays and Sundays are no pleasure in our neighborhood because of the noisy power lawn mowers," says an Eccentric reader who called to say she enjoyed the story about suburban noises. It's possible, she reports, to obtain mufflers for the power lawn mowers, and she's one resident who wishes everybody would.

A BIT MORE 'RURAL VILLAGE ATMOSPHERE' was added to Birmingham this week when city commissioners okayed a permit for a septic tank installation for a new home on Southfield near Frank street. At the west end of an extremely long lot (and at the edge of the high bank of the River Rouge), city officials said this was the best means of providing sewage facilities to the proposed home. Building Inspector Andy Butt estimates Birmingham, in spite of its modern suburban look, still has 12 to 18 residences using tanks because it is impossible, impractical or too expensive to construct the normal sewer connections.

TOP AUTO INDUSTRY BRASS gathered in Dayton, Ohio, yesterday for the 80th birthday party of Charles F. "Boss" Kettering. General Motors director and research consultant, and former director of GM research, The Birmingham area contingent was headed by L. C. Goad, GM executive vice president, who went down for the day to join President Harlow Curtrice, other GM execs from around the nation, and 1,500 friends and associates at a civically-sponsored luncheon for Kettering.

"THIS WANDERER has observed that Birmingham's "crop" of young-marrieds, unlike the more "proper" generation of his elders, has a lot of neighborhood fun. The spirit of camp camaraderie they develop appears to add much fun and relaxation to their lives. One evidence of their ability to enjoy one another is evidenced in this, one of many comparable situations: one couple was broiling a steak in their backyard; the barbecue heat, broiling surface space . . . so over the fence comes the gal next door with four hamburger patties, places them on the barbecue grill and soon they are ready for eating. Now, this Wanderer asks you: "What's wrong with this neighborly sort of a cooking bee, anyway?"

THIS WEEK'S ISSUE of "The Roar", Birmingham Lions club publication, Editor Ralph Alexander gives this description of "an early American home": ". . . one where you have to go outdoors to go to the garage."

OVER ON BIRMINGHAM'S Manchester street, in the vicinity of the 2500 neighborhood, the young-marrieds (each with one or more kiddies) have a standing arrangement that enables them to sit down together, sometimes every day, for a "coffee break." Whoever has the largest coffee pot on the fire on a given day will place a flag on the outside front of her home . . . that's a signal for "Come on, girls, come and get it!" Thus, they correctly agree, "by sort of passing the hostess responsibility around, we not only economize on coffee, but also are able to fraternize a bit . . . in the midst of the manifold household chores that raising a family brings."

A BIGGER AND BETTER siren's wail will probably greet the ears of Birminghamites one of these days. City commissioners last week approved the taking of bids after a commitment is received from the state civil defense authority to advance 50 per cent of the cost in federal monies. Present fire sirens is not powerful enough to reach all sections of the community, reports City Director of Civil Defense Dana Whitman, Jr. In addition, Whitman says, we need an air raid signal which can easily be distinguished from the 12 blast signal used to summon part paid firemen in a general alarm. The new siren will have a lower tone, Whitman says.

GAMES, REFRESHMENTS and prizes are being offered at a backyard carnival scheduled Aug. 29, with the admission charge only two cents. Planned by the 11 to 14 year olds in the Pembroke area, the event will benefit the Polio fund and is to be staged from 2-4:30 p.m. on the grounds of the H. F. Greenwood home on Windemere. This is the fourth year for the project, which last year netted \$33 for the fund.

INCREASINGLY, BIRMINGHAM and contiguous areas for miles around are being intruded upon by a variety of animals. Rabbits, fox, squirrels, skunks, raccoons, now and then a deer, have been observed in this area. In the last year or two the raccoon seems to be on the population march. Many a tempting garbage can has been tipped over during the night as raccoon appetites foraged for food. George R.

Averill, 669 Rivenook, every half dozen years has found his property over-run with squirrels. They cut down many twigs from his large elm and oak trees, so he arranges to live-trap them, releasing them in wooded areas miles north of Birmingham. Within the past month he has trapped eight of these rodents. But last Saturday morning, when he looked out in his back yard, Averill discovered the trap sprung, and as he picked it up noted its unusual weight. Looking into the trap he found a medium-sized raccoon, quite quiet and subdued. A telephone call to Conservation Officer Frank Brooke, at Clarkston, informed Averill that the raccoon should be released, since the open season on them doesn't start until late fall. It is rumored in Averill's neighborhood that the trapped raccoon may be one of several believed to make their home in a nearby street catch-basin opening.

HE WON'T SAY what color or make it might be, but Police Chief Ralph Moxley was given Birmingham city commissioners' okay Monday night to purchase a special car for radar use. This one won't have a black box on the back as the present one has, he says. When a local citizen inquired about the color and make, Moxley said he was looking for one on which the color was changeable, maybe black one day and white the next, like some of the new refrigerators.

A HEARTWARMING STORY of a cooperative house-painting project involves six Birmingham school teachers and Ben C. Tobey, Jr., all friends of injured civics instructor George L. Miller. Tousey, who was Miller's roommate at Beaumont hospital for a few weeks, learned through a casual mention by Mrs. Miller that the home she and the two young Miller children occupied needed painting. Tousey discussed it with Fred Gibson, coach at Barnum school who lives across Shipman boulevard from him. Gibson organized a painting crew, consisting of himself and Tousey, and Birmingham high school teachers Angelo Angelucci, Jay Myers, Charles Buel, Harold Newcomb and George Pappas. Warfield Paint company donated the paint, and in two week-ends the crew painted the story and a half frame house, even to storms and screens. "They did a wonderful job!" says Mrs. Miller.

DESCENDANTS OF JOHN HARMON, early Birmingham and Southfield residents, are still living here, The Wanderer was informed this week by Charles G. Parks, life-long Birmingham resident. Mrs. Clyde Cass, 1492 Pierce, is a granddaughter of John Harmon and so is Mrs. Sarah Mason, 492 Hanna, a daughter of William Harmon, son of John Harmon. The city has remembered John Harmon by naming the park on North Woodward. Harmon Park, John Harmon was the brother of Mrs. Elijah Willets, wife of one of the three men who came here in 1819.

ON OUR FRONT PAGE last week we published a picture of Birmingham's Mayor James C. Allen welcoming our new city manager, Harold K. Schone, to his first Monday night commission meeting. Above the door where they were standing

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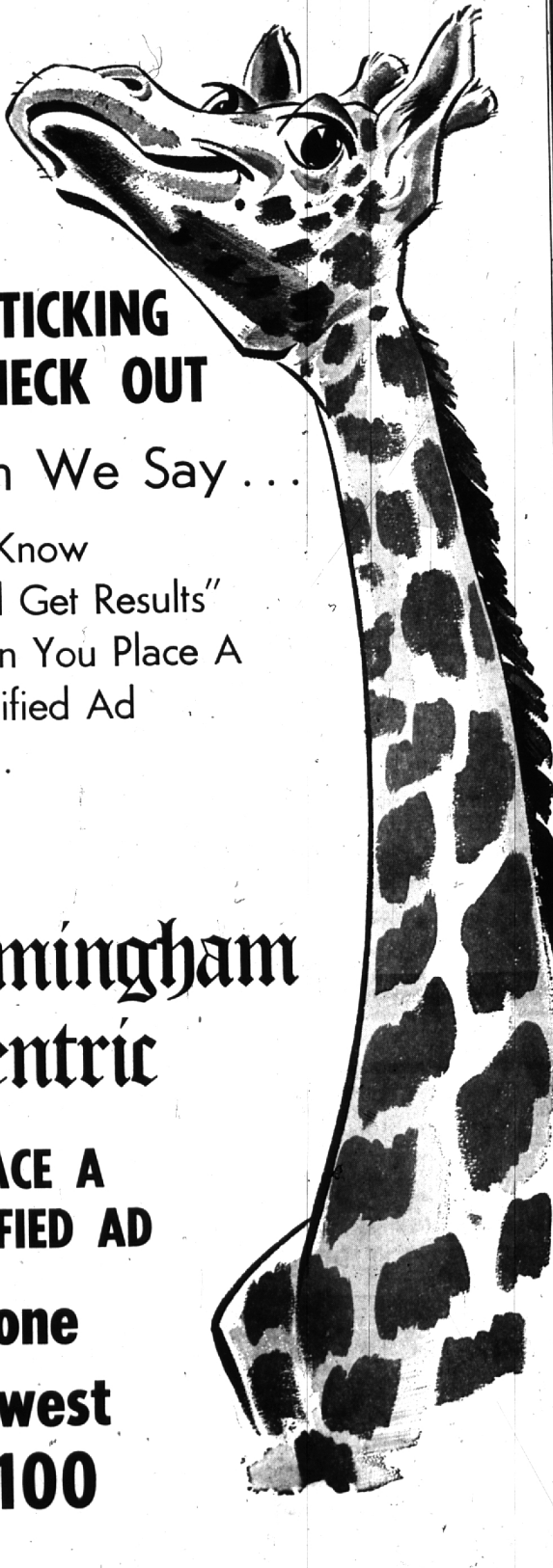
August 30, 1956 THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC Page 3
ing were shown the pictures of five past village and/or city commissioners; from left to right they were Dr. Dan Johnston, Thomas L. Luscombe, Warren D. Clizbe, J. Harry McBride and Charles A. Bingham. All but McBride are deceased. However, right above Mayor Allen's head was the framed picture of Mr. Clizbe . . . who, on his mother's side, was the Mayor's grandfather.

Begin Enrollment For Swim Class
Registration for a Saturday 12:30 and returning at 3 p.m. swim class began August 27 at the Birmingham YMCA, 400 East Lincoln. The weekly class will begin September 15 and continue every Saturday through December 22. All boys who are members of the YMCA and who will be eight years old by January 1 are eligible to enroll. The boys are transported to the Pontiac YMCA by the 'Y' bus leaving the 'Y' building at

They will receive swimming instruction during the first half hour. The second half hour is given over to free play.
The Y's Men's Club pays for the pool rental during the entire school year. Fathers of boys who can teach swimming are welcome to attend and are asked to contact George Ewing at Midwest 4-9036.

Ferndale, Park St. Hearings Sept. 17
Four projects, totalling an estimated \$94,450 worth of improvements, will be up for hearings Sept. 17 on confirmation of special assessment rolls.
The four are for more right-of-way and pavement on Ferndale and Park streets, between Hamilton and Oakland. The city is developing a 175-car municipal parking lot in that block which will demand these street improvements.

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