

# The Birmingham Eccentric

When overcome by numerous problems, may incline to hope for and pray for relief. When supported by humility and unselfish yearning, these hopes and prayers are more likely to be realized. Love always extendeth her hand.

## B'ham Recreation Favorites — Sports, Games and Crafts



**THE MERRY-GO-ROUND** goes round and round at Adams playground where the children never seem to tire of whirling about. Equally as popular are the jungle bars and slides. Furnishing power for this spin is playground leader, Linda Miller and some of the excited children. Even when rainy weather appeared the boys and girls still had their play because a room in the Adams school was used to carry on activities.



**CHAMPIONS** of the Recreation's softball league are the boys from Pierce playground who finished up the season with a 4-0 record. In a title game with the boys from Wing Lake, the locals won by a score of 31-13. Congratulating the winners is Don Hoff, supervisor of the junior boys program. The boys are (left to right) Kenneth Licari, 538 Smith, Jim Evans, 1488 Pierce, Jim LeDuc, 426 Bird, Bill Fuller, 623 Bird, Jeff Pardee, 212 Bird, Bob Holmquist, 571 Bird, and Timmy Stephens, 519 Bird.

### Happy Playground Times Are Over for B'ham Kids

By JACK KEHOE

A strange stillness has settled over Birmingham's parks and playgrounds which some of the neighbors in these sections find hard to explain.

No longer do they see clusters of laughing children trooping by their doors—sometimes in Indian dress or baseball uniforms—on their way to take part in the recreations department's summer program.

The program has completed its most successful season with more children taking part in a wide list of activities which had been expanded over previous years.

**THESE ORGANIZED** activities under capable supervision of trained and qualified directors has provided a highly enjoyable and educational summer for the children. If the chorus of complaints one hears at the parks when the end of the season finally came last week, then the children would like a full summer instead of the six weeks.

Bob Girardin, recreation director, designed his program so there would be some activity which every child would find of interest. Once the boys and girls went to the playgrounds they found other things that attracted their attention.

One of the most spontaneous chemical reactions occurs when a group of children come together and the playgrounds were no exceptions. Some of the more amusing incidents were pointed out by the playground leaders.

**LINDA MILLER**, who completed her second year as a playground leader in Birmingham, told about the time a strange, little black dog found its way to the Adams field. The children and the little dog were getting along famously, until the dog catcher made his appearance on the scene.

He came over to the group of children and demanded who the dog belonged to, if anyone. The boys and girls apparently had similar thoughts about their newly found playmate and cried out in unison, "He is mine!"

**ANOTHER LITTLE** story concerns the budding artist at Pembroke who was painting a plaster animal which he had cast from a mold under the direction of Betty Payner.

Betty had left her young charge to get more supplies about the time he had completed his painting job and was admiring his work. When she returned, she found the young Picasso so enchanted with his own painting ability, that he had not stopped at just an old plaster animal but had continued right up his hand and arm. Betty stepped in when he was about to dab around the vicinity of the elbow.



**GETTING IN THE SWIM** of things is what the youngsters in the junior swimming program at Barnum pool did this summer. Under the supervision of Don Grothe, swimming instructor, one of the boys receives some pointers on proper diving technique. Family nights were another very well attended part of the water activities.



**SOCKS WERE USED** to make "Oliver the Dragon" type puppets like Joseph McKay (left) and Floyd Sims are playing with. The boys made their puppets while attending the Pembroke park playground sessions. With other area youngsters, the puppeteers produced "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" for presentation on the summer session's final day.



**ALL THE COWGIRLS** and cowboys gather around a tree to rest up after playing a game of "run sheep run" at Pembroke playground. The wild west day was held at the park with the children coming dressed in their cowboy suits. Other special days at the park were Pirates' day, Indians' day and even a day set aside for decorating bicycles.



**RECEIVING PAINTING** instructions during the arts and craft period at the Pierce playground are Beth Fiore, 7, 847 Davis, Walter Dawson, 10, 1696 Maryland and Cynthia Sue Mead, 7, 17988 Birwood. Directing the project is Myrna Miller, 1392 Cedar, playground leader. Crafts were a favorite of the boys and girls all summer with many presents for mothers, fathers and friends being made.

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