

## Birmingham Retail Sales Increase 268% Since 1948

Retail sales in 1954 of 246 stores in Birmingham totaled \$61,452,000, according to a preliminary 1954 census of business figures announced by the Bureau of Census, Department of Commerce. This was an increase of 268% over sales in 1948 of 157 stores at \$22,958,000.

Stores with payroll in 1954 numbered 200, had 1,582 paid employees in November, 1954, reported payroll of \$5,895,000 and accounted for sales of \$60,198,000. Proprietors of unincorporated businesses numbered 219, according to the report.

The number of stores and their 1954 sales, grouped by major kinds of business, were:

Kind of Business	Number of Stores	(Dollars) Total Sales
Food Stores	49	16,452,000
Meat Stores	25	325,000
Gen. Merchandise	21	1,951,000
Apparel Accessories	24	6,892,000
Shoe Stores	22	2,440,000
Automotive Group	10	21,548,000
Lumber, Bldg. Matls., Hdw., Farm Equip.	16	2,268,000
Tax Stations	24	1,222,000
Drug Stores, Proprietary Stores	41	3,613,000
Other Retail Stores	41	447,000
Nonstore Retailers	22	447,000

## Community House Feels Surge of Growth by '49

Following Paul Averill and Edwin Anderson, Sheldon Wright, now in Forest Hills, N. J., was president of the Community House and in 1949 sponsored the Founders' Frolic, celebrating the 28th anniversary of the House.

"By 1949 we were beginning to feel the surge of Birmingham's growth, Mrs. Howard J. Liverance, said as she looked back to her term as president of the Community House in an interview this week.

"Each industry was trying to be 'first in '50', she said. 'As I became president I could see that the Community House was going to 'outlet in '50, anyway'."

"WE WERE struggling along with the usual things of the budget, of course, because the House was 25 years old and replacements were getting bigger. We had to put in a basement stairway, a roof over the ballroom, the entrance door."

"When some people question the size of our budget," she mused, "I always ask them to stop and think of how much money it takes to keep up a home that gets the wear and tear that this one does. We tried not to allow this fine House of ours to deteriorate in any way."

Mrs. Liverance gives credit to Mrs. Paul Hoffman and Mrs. Lenore Quinn for starting Senior Activities during her presidency and to Mrs. Paul Hoffman and Mrs. Velma Isaly for starting Newcomers Club.

"We have been in the boots of transients ourselves," Mrs. Liverance smiled. "I had moved all around the country for years and years."

IRMA LIVERANCE remembers the indications that townfolk felt the House's spirit, too, as when the Rotary club sent a bulldozer into the north lot and the Lions club gave a projector. Particularly she treasures the MOMS gift of a memorial clock, mounted in the lobby of the House.

"It was a useful memorial to the boys and girl who lost their lives in World War II," she said, "and it was a beautiful tribute to the House as well."

"I always believed in the classes. We had something to offer Mrs. John Smith on Ann Street, for instance, who wasn't a member of AAUW or League of Women Voters."

"WANTING to give credit to those who helped her, Mrs. Liverance said, "It really was a joy working with that board of directors. We never had quorum trouble. As chairman of that group I was in a better position than anyone else, to know how much time, thought and actual working hours these busy men and women give."

"Presently a member of the six-man advisory group to the House board of directors, Mrs. Liverance would like to see a full-time youth



IRMA LIVERANCE, director in the House's future. "Birmingham is ready for a real professional," she said.

## Magician Amuses Cub Scouts B-24 At Annual Banquet

Mystery McClary, "Madcap Magician," will entertain at the 6:30 p.m. Blue and Gold banquet of B-24 cub scouts of Beverly school Tuesday at Birmingham Community House.

Approximately 200 cubs, their dads and den mothers will attend. Special guests will be Beverly principal Malcolm Ferguson, Mrs. Ferguson, and Mr. and Mrs. William Price. Price is president of Beverly PTA cub pack, sponsoring organization.

All table decorations, place cards and centerpieces were made by the individual dens with one exception—a five-tiered cake centerpiece for the speaker's table, made and decorated by Mrs. M. D. Streby.

Each of the dens will be decorated to depict a phase of scouting and blue and yellow will predominate banquet decorations.

Mystery McClary belongs to the Wand Wavers society, its past president of the international brotherhood of magicians and of the society of Detroit magicians.

## Officials to Attend Plans Conference

Area government representatives will take part in the sixth annual planning and zoning conference of the Detroit regional planning commission Feb. 23-24 at the Fort Shelby hotel.

Eight panels dealing with current planning problems and four government round tables have been scheduled during the two-day session.

Taking part in the conference are Herbert Herzberg, Birmingham city planner; David Geer, Birmingham planning consultant; Arno L. Hule, Bloomfield township treasurer; Stewart Underhill, West Bloomfield township building inspector; and Paul Van Cleve, site planner, Geer Associates.

## Couple Released Dut to Lack Of Evidence

Due to insufficient evidence, Birmingham police last week released a Detroit couple suspected of larceny from the Village Store, 205 Pierce.

Claude B. Davis, 41, and his wife, Gladys Lorrains, 35, were arrested by Birmingham police last week Wednesday after Detroit police found price tags from Village Store merchandise in the husband's possession.

Mrs. Jane Watters, who signed the complaint, told police two women's suits, a blouse and several skirts were missing from the store. Merchandise was not recovered.



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