

Taking a Close Look At Their State Gov't

2 Busloads Of Women On 'Go-See' Trip

Seeing State government in action last week, 69 Birmingham League of Women Voter members crowded a great deal of activity into a one-day session at the Capitol.

They toured the Capitol, sat in on committee meetings, lunched at Lansing's new civic center where they listened to State Senator William Broomfield, Rep. Richard C. Van Dusen and Nancy Williams, wife of the governor.

In the afternoon, they visited sessions in both the House and Senate and in the Senate heard the debate and passage of the Financial Institutions Act (which involves the Birmingham National Bank).

LATE IN THE AFTERNOON all Leaguers had a chance to meet Gov. G. Mennen Williams and were greeted by Lt. Gov. Philip Hart, former Birmingham resident.

A busy day for Leaguers who still remembered their role as mothers and came home with piles of free, printed information to give their school-aged youngsters studying Michigan history.



... LEAGUE MEMBERS in the Senate gallery listen eagerly as a banking measure is debated. The act, sponsored by Broomfield and Van Dusen, permits banks to consolidate with the national banking association without securing approval of the banking commission.

ECCENTRIC PHOTOS



STARTING OUT at 9 a.m. at the bus terminal in Birmingham, two chartered buses stop at Franklin to pick up additional passengers. Mrs. John Runsey, (left) of Franklin, is president of the Birmingham League of Women Voters and Mrs. Henry Jackson, Voters Service chairman, arranged the Lansing trip.



... REPRESENTATIVE Richard C. Van Dusen of Birmingham discusses committee meetings then in session with Mrs. Charles C. Layman of Franklin. Mrs. Layman is a candidate for the Franklin Village council.



... STATE SENATOR William S. Broomfield (12th district) meets constituents (from left) Mrs. Eugene Hess, Mrs. William S. Scherer and Mrs. John P. Rex, all of Birmingham. Broomfield has served eight years in the legislature, six in the House and the past two years in the Senate.



... MRS. WALTER JACKSON (left) of Birmingham and Mrs. Albert J. Weinrich (right) of the Franklin unit, meet Nancy Williams. Mrs. Williams briefly discussed the proposed Governor's mansion of the State of Michigan. Unlike other states, Michigan has never provided a home for its Governor.



... WHAT GOVERNOR WILLIAMS didn't know (and neither did The Eccentric's photographer at the time this picture was taken) was that he was shaking hands and talking very pleasantly with the corresponding secretary of the Bloomfield-Birmingham Republican club, Mrs. Philip E. Cartwright of Birmingham.



... IN THE CORRIDOR outside of Gov. Williams' office, Lt. Gov. Philip Hart talks with Mrs. Alec Parnie (right) Birmingham board of education member and Mrs. D. L. Zorn of Birmingham. Mrs. Hart is a former Birmingham League member.

Parties Original

By VIRGINIA COLE

Here's a party for teens. Since "Dungaree Doll" is a pop tune of the day, who not blow it up to party size?

Make your invitations in the form of a small booklet, using blue denim for the cover and white glazed chintz for the pages. Pink the edges of cover and pages with pinkish shears and staple book together. Print invitation on white inside pages.

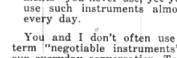
Instruct girls to come as dungaree dolls and boys to wear jeans. Rent a polaroid camera at the camera store and as soon as guests arrive, take individual pictures of them. These are exchanged and pinned on each others sleeves (as suggested in the song).

Next, with white ink and poster lettering pens, have all guests inscribe initials on each other's jeans as per song, also.

While taffy cooks, keep guests amused with the small boxed puzzles which contain several ball bearings or weighted capsules that must be tilted until rolled into proper holes in box. These are available in dime stores and tickle stores. Have a dozen or more different ones so guests can exchange them several times.

Following taffy pull, turn on record player and dance.

Serve sloppy joes, potato chips and cokes.



Says the Barrister

The words "negotiable instruments" you never use, yet you use such instruments almost every day.

You and I don't often use the term "negotiable instruments" in our everyday conversation. To the ordinary person it doesn't mean much, and I remember an old vaudeville gag about a negotiable instrument being what a musician took to the pawn shop when he was broke and hungry.

Actually, it's just a mouth-filling term used in law to describe certain important pieces of paper that we normally call by a lot of simpler names.

Even though we seldom use the words, you and I deal with negotiable instruments all the time. Every check we write to pay the gas bill is a negotiable instrument, and so is your paycheck or pension check.

THE NOTE you sign to buy a new car, the money order you purchase at the bank or post office, or the traveler's checks you take with you on a trip instead of cash, all are negotiable instruments.

It all started when merchants who had to send large sums of gold or currency between cities or nations worked out a way to exchange money, or the value of money, by written messages, much of the time through a third party like a broker or bank.

BUT WHEN you deal in pieces of negotiable paper instead of hard money, there have to be certain standards and safeguards or the paper could lose its value.

From this developed a whole system of laws within nations and between nations, upon which all our business rests. Through the courts, if necessary, the owners of negotiable instruments are protected the terms written on the paper.

In the United States things used to be confusing sometimes because of different state laws, but by 1924 all 48 states had adopted a Uniform Negotiable Instrument Law which sets up the same rules nationwide.

OUR WHOLE system of international trade—the business of selling U.S. goods in foreign countries, and vice versa—depends upon negotiable instruments. Because when you stop and think there's not enough gold and silver in the whole world to pass back and forth across the ocean, even if it were safe to do so.

But that's an entirely different field, and you and I seldom think of it, since we're interested primarily in our own personal affairs.

SINCE so-called negotiable instruments are so important; since they are ordinarily just like money in many ways; since they often are used like money, or are sold to other persons or companies; and since there are special laws defining the ins-and-outs of negotiable instruments which I wouldn't ordinarily have any reasons to know about, I have made one or two simple rules I follow:

I make certain I read what's on the paper, that I know what the words mean, and that the person who signs the paper is, before I sign my name.

I'm the only person in the world with this one paper, and the courts, as a rule, must take my signed promises at their face value.

Household goods of every description are offered for sale in the Classified Columns of The Birmingham Eccentric.

Police Handle 8,000 Calls Report Says

Birminghamites phoned their police department over 8,000 times during 1955 to notify them of complaints or occurrences. All of these were handled by the department's total personnel of 36, including clerks, patrolmen and civilians.

This and other interesting facts are revealed in the 32-page annual report recently released by Birmingham Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley.

Police traveled the equivalent of ten times around the world in handling the thousands of complaints and maintaining routine patrols.

OVER 3,500 of the calls received at headquarters required immediate police action.

The dogs and cats got in their links, too, being the subject of 1,151 complaints. Ending up "behind bars" at the dog pound were 373 strays.

Listed among miscellaneous services provided by police was the cheering notation that ten parking meters were removed during the year. Motorists without nickels handy will be in more trouble than ever in 1956, though, for the report goes on to say that 251 new meters were installed.

A CRIME SUMMARY reveals larceny involving \$50 and over increased by 37.5 per cent over the previous year's cases with 56 such thefts reported. There were 31 cars stolen, 52 burglaries, and 211 thefts of under \$50 in value.

Of the 184 persons charged with criminal offenses, eight were women. An additional 154 juveniles were arrested on charges ranging from larceny to destruction of property and reckless driving.

Parking violators ticketed reached a total of 6,848, and over 3,600 other motorists were charged with violations of traffic and driving laws.

INTERSECTIONS at which motorists would do well to be particularly alert were named in the report. Maple and Hunter boulevard topped the list, being the scene of 31 accidents last year.

At Chapin and S. Woodward, 25 accidents, with one fatality, occurred. S. Woodward at Lincoln tied for third place on the list with Hunter boulevard at Oakland, both corners chalking up 23 accidents.

Thorough reports were made out on a total of 607 accidents by the force of 85, who, among other activities, underwent firearms training, kept fingerprint files, maintained street signs, provided escorts for 135 funerals, and registered 78 guns.

Use of Ford Grant To Be Determined

Use of the \$104,900 grant recently awarded Beaumont hospital by the Ford Foundation will be determined by the hospital's trustees and director Owen R. Pinkerman at his board's meeting later this month.

Heading the list of the hospital's needs is expansion of the emergency department which handled 15,300 cases in its first year of operation, Pinkerman said.

The emergency room presently can handle only seven patients at a time and increasing the facilities to accommodate 15 patients at once is considered essential, according to Pinkerman.

THE MONEY from the Foundation must be used to maintain and improve present facilities.

Other projects to be considered in spending the money are expansion of x-ray and lab facilities and additional in-patient beds.