

## Roll Call Is Being Sounded

One of Birmingham's important "businessness" is conducted from a white, two-story building at the corner of Bates and Townsend streets.

In it, a full-time staff administers to the needs of thousands of part time users—the men, the women, and the children of the community.

For at this location is the Birmingham Community House, the "House with a Heart," which for the past 34 years has administered to the civic, social, service club, avocational, and other organizational and individual needs of people in this area.

WERE THERE NO COMMUNITY

## The Spiritual Washington

On this 225th anniversary of George Washington's birth, let us remember some of his great, spiritual qualities. None stood out more than humility, courage and the hope which gave him the reason for being at Valley Forge.

It was winter, in 1777, and it seemed as if the Continental Congress had abandoned the General and his army. He had written letter after letter, imploring help. Men were dying of cold, officers resigning. In despair, Washington had partly written his own resignation. Came a warning: mutiny.

OUT HE PLODDED through the high-piled snow. Near the outer defense lines a pale, young corporal, by firelight, was

## Healthy Retail Business Necessary In U.S.A.

Newsweek recently ran a long feature article on the future prospects of American business and industry. It bore this significant title: "The U. S. Consumer: Key to '57'."

That simply illustrates an obvious fact—that future business activity is dependent upon the purchasing power, desires, and attitudes of the 168 million Americans who use the goods and services our factories produce.

It also illustrates a fact that is not quite so obvious—that the economic health of this vast country is very greatly dependent upon the vigor of its retailers. We buy the necessities as a matter of course. But the country would be in for hard times indeed if only necessities moved through the channels of trade. And a great share of American buying is induced

house here, many worthwhile activities would not take place. Our cultural needs would be noticeably curtailed.

Now in the mail are the 1957 Roll Call appeals for contributions to the Community House's annual finance campaign. We urge you to answer it with as generous a gift as you can. Or when a neighborhood canvasser comes to your door in a few days, let her forward your donation to Roll Call headquarters.

To keep pumping at a nourishing rate, Birmingham's "Heart" needs your annual fund transfusion. Please make it a generous one.

writing his mother—sending his love and duty to all at home.

Washington read the letter, then saluted the corporal. It was this humble soldier's faith which inspired the great General to finish the task before him. From camp to camp, he continued—with words of cheer and courage.

He returned to his own modest quarters, for he had declined more comfortable lodgings while his men suffered in the biting cold. An invitation to supper awaited him. But he sent a Major in his stead to accept it. Then he burned the resignation he'd begun.

Yes, it was those deep, spiritual qualities which created Washington's transcendent character, indestructible in essence, and rich in its rewards.

by retail activity—by advertising, displays and other attractions that help to whet the public attitude for more and better goods.

THERE IS NOTHING STATIC about retail business. It is always changing—for the reason that consumer attitudes are always changing. As Newsweek says, "...major shifts are taking place—in consumer behavior, consumer desires, and consumer spending... that will do more than any other force to mold the nation's future." It is retailing's job to keep abreast of those shifts and to move with them.

It has done that with full success in the past, and it will keep on doing it in the seasons and years that lie ahead.

## From The Eccentric's Point of View...

We observe that two Birmingham city commissioners, Florence Willett and "Bill" Roberts, whose terms expire this spring, are candidates for re-election. Mayor James C. Allen says he won't run again. So that presents two formidable candidates as hurdles to any who seek other than to fill Allen's expired tenure.

Yes, we certainly have been having some spells of cold weather in Michigan of late. Lots of nice, white snow fell and remained, too. This is mighty good for the land, and isn't that is good for the land good for people, too?

The winter sport of skiing is abundant—enjoyed at Michigan's 60 Upper and Lower Peninsula winter sports centers, according to the Michigan Tourist Council. This invigorating outdoor recreational activity attracts many from our Birmingham area. It is estimated that no less than 300,000 young and not-too-old, of both sexes, enjoy the swift descent over snow

from numerous Michigan hills. It's clean fun—may it increase its lure as, annually, King Winter visits beautiful Michigan.

## So They Say...

(Editor's Note: A memo to "Disillusioned Reader": Your viewpoint is accepted with thanks. Sorry you failed to sign your name. Come in some time and let's chat about a variety of subjects.)

George M. Humphrey, Secretary of the Treasury: "It is not easy to arouse enthusiasm for a fight on inflation."

Mrs. Charles E. Wilson, wife of Defense Secretary: "I'm not much of a club woman... My children have been my work and recreation."

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## Meet Your Michigan

LUMBERING IN MICHIGAN: LUMBERING IN MICHIGAN BEGAN TO ASSUME THE PROPORTIONS OF A MAJOR INDUSTRY IN 1840 WHEN 350 MEN WERE OPERATING ACROSS THE INDUSTRY REACHED FULL MATURITY IN 1864 WITH 10,000 MEN PRODUCING NEARLY 500 MILLION BOARD FEET OF LUMBER.

EFFICIENT PLUS: THE MICHIGAN FARMER IS ONE OF THE MOST EFFICIENT PRODUCERS OF SUGAR BEETS IN THE U.S. ON ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD IN THE 1940'S MICHIGAN GROWERS HAVE INCREASED THEIR PRODUCTION PER ACRE BY BETTER THAN 30 PER CENT AS COMPARED WITH THE NATIONAL AVERAGE OF 20 PER CENT.

HOW SAGINAW NAME ORIGINATED: THE ENTIRE SAGINAW SECTION ORIGINALLY WAS KNOWN AS SA-GIN-A-WE OR LAND OF THE SALES THROUGH THE CHIPPEWA THERE DROVE THE SAUK LEGENDS PERISHED AND THE NAME REMAINED.

MICHIGAN FEATURES 274,625 MICHIGAN TOURIST CENTER, No. 31

40 YEARS AGO February 12, 1917  
"More than 19,000 persons visited the Community House during the past year..."  
"Four of seven persons arrested in a court-wide war against chicken thieves are serving long jail sentences today and the others are awaiting trial..."  
"From the Want Ad columns: 'Your ashes and rubbish removed. Call Police Station, Phone 1000.'"

## Steady There!



NATURE NOW By Lydia King Frehse  
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

## Plant Galls Make Insects' Homes

Before me on my desk are a handful of galls, gathered on a recent walk along a snowy country road.

Interesting to the botanist because they represent a little understood problem of abnormal plant growth, and to the entomologist because of their involvement in the life-cycle of the insects which cause them.

The commonest gall on my desk is an empty brown shell about the size of a walnut. Had I found it under a tree in summer it would have been fleshy green, perhaps with a pink check, hence the name "oak apple." It is the house nature built for the insect which is now leaving along the stem of a small wisp of the genus Amphibolus.

BREAK OPEN SUCH a gall in early summer and you will grub at which, thus protected, grows another leaf on the plant material which surrounds it. While the mature larva still has boring mouth parts, it chews a hole in the wall by which the adult wasp escapes after its period of inactivity completed. It is one of some 300 kinds of galls found on oak alone.

Now I hold in my hand a length of golden rod which shows half-way up its stem a globe-like swelling about the size of a marble. In summer this was composed of succulent plant material, but now it is dried and empty, with a small escape hole in its side. As a such, it served as a room of edible plants' material furnishing food and shelter for the developing egg of a small fly, Euxoa sublimata.

5 Student Teachers Now Practicing In BHS Program  
Mrs. Frehse

Five student teachers from MSU are doing practice teaching now at Birmingham high school.

Student teachers are Eugene Hanson from Detroit, Michigan; Charles Lomas, from Dearborn, biology and geometry; George Popson from Ann Arbor, Michigan; Margaret Taylor, Northville, physical education, and Gary Wilson, Lake Orion, biology.

Student teachers work 11 weeks under supervision of a co-operating teacher. Mr. Hanson is teaching under Arnold W. Berndt, band director; Mr. Lomas, biology with Miss Charlotte Will and geometry with E. A. Hubbard; Mr. Popson, physical education, Tim Carson; Miss Taylor, physical education, Miss Sally Reid; and Mr. Wilson, biology, Harold Newcomb.

## Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric—The Items That Make Up The Historical Background Of The Birmingham Of Today.

50 YEARS AGO February 22, 1907  
"For Sale—Farm of 80 acres near Kingston village, Davol county. Has small house and barn, young orchard, 45 acres improved, the best of soil. Price \$2,000. Terms easy."

"A chicken pie supper will be given in Franklin by the Cemetery association... Bill 25 cents. Reduced rates for children, which includes a fine program of music, recitations and a social evening."

"Last Monday while Mrs. E. G. Tucker was sewing, she ran a needle in the fleshy part of her left thumb, and then it broke off. Dr. Morrison is the good man that will soon relieve the pain, and get the broken piece."

30 YEARS AGO February 12, 1927  
"More than 19,000 persons visited the Community House during the past year..."

"Four of seven persons arrested in a court-wide war against chicken thieves are serving long jail sentences today and the others are awaiting trial..."

15 YEARS AGO February 19, 1912  
"Transportation in and out of Birmingham is becoming more of a problem every day as residents face the inevitable time when private automobiles will be stored for lack of tires."

"Royce L. Heers has been granted another stoker patent."

"Throw away Japanese merchandise? It's better to sell it and turn the proceeds into Defense bonds."

"It will be only a month or so more, now, that residents and passing motorists will mistake the water tank on Hunter boulevard for the rising sun. The orange landmark is to be painted an aluminum grey color as soon as weather permits."

"Worry doesn't empty the day of its trouble, but only of its strength."

## ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

The young lawyer began the cross-examination: "What is your name?"  
Jones.  
"What? Jones?"  
No, it's Nutt.  
Not What?  
Nutt Jones.  
Well, then what is it?  
I TOLD YOU—it's plain Nutt Jones.

That's a name?  
That's MY name.  
All right, let's go on.  
Where?  
With the questions.  
Oh.  
What do you do, Mr. Jones?

DO WHEN?  
When you work?  
I work.  
But at what?  
At my desk.  
Sure, sure, but where is your desk?  
In a building.  
What kind of a building is it?  
Cinder block.

OH, NOW I begin to see. You have a

desk in a building where cinder blocks are made?  
No. The building is made of cinder blocks.  
For crying out loud, Jones! What do you make in that building? Seventy-five dollars.  
No, No, Jones! What does the company make?

MUCH MORE than I do.  
You aren't listening! What kind of goods does the company make?  
No goods.  
You don't mean to say you work for a company which doesn't make anything?  
Yes, we sell ivory to toothpick manufacturers.

ANY PARTICULAR kind of ivory?  
Well, what is it?  
The best.  
Mr. Jones, you're... I... we  
Your Honor, can't you help me?  
And 'twas at this point that there was no point in continuing the cross-examination, because for the cross attorney the whole trial had become a trial.

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The modern assembly line extends, in effect, beyond the manufacturing plant itself to the commercial motor vehicles which continuously supply industry with "round-the-clock" shipments of materials and parts.

Yes, trucks and truck-trailers are indeed assembly lines on wheels, serving industry in a way that brings an ever-improving standard of living to all the people.

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