

# BITS OF BIRMINGHAM

**ALIMONY PAYMENTS** processed by Oakland County during 1956 totaled \$2,575,553.56, reports County Clerk Lynn D. Allen. And births set a new county total of 10,820, about 2200 more than the previous year. Why does the county collect alimony? This Wanderer asked Allen. He explained alimony payments can be made direct between the divorced couples, or the money can be sent via the courts, which forward it to the divorced mother. This latter method is safer, because the amounts are recorded each time. "If any question is raised, the record will settle it," Allen pointed out.

**DRIVING INTO TOWN** on Maple last week, Ruth Vogt, 5922 E. Millerway, Gilbert Lake, had the disturbing thought floated around in the area of her mind that everyone, absolutely everyone, looked alike, drove the same type of car, wore the same expressions on their face, and smoked the same kind of cigarettes. "Oh, for the sight of something different," she sighed as she waited for the light to change at Chesterfield road. She related to this Wanderer: "Something quite different" did cross the walk. Right in front of the chrome bumpers on the car. It was a woman and her little eight-year-old girl. Instead of walking sedately down the sidewalk after reaching the curb, these two individuals—skipped! The mother, instead of wearing a skirt that was in style, had a free-flowing affair flying out from under her jacket that was just the thing for such an occasion. On her head bravely stood a Russian-type turban. On her feet were Indian moccasins. And on her lips and in her eyes was the most beautiful 'alive' expression seen in such a long time. Undoubtedly the offspring, coming out from the market, had whispered: "Come on, Mom, let's skip, huh?" A most usual procedure for seven or eight-year-old kids. And because her parent had not yet let herself be pushed in any of society's molds, she did—skip with her little girl! That's what I saw last week at Maple and Quarton."

**IT'LL ONLY BE** a couple of weeks more before Birmingham's city commission can meet in its remodeled second floor quarters, City Manager Harold Schone believes. He says most of the work will be finished by then, except perhaps for some painting. Meetings the past several weeks have been conducted in the barn-like former fire department equipment room.

**IT TOOK A LITTLE SLEUTHING**, but it was worth it to learn the happy results of an item which appeared in this column Dec. 13. We called Mrs. Frederic C. Collins, of 1128 Southfield, Birmingham, to find out what happened after we reported her story about the paper boy who needed a bike in order to complete his deliveries before dark. The boy's hospitalized mother had told Mrs. Collins of her concern about him. Said Mrs. Collins, "You have no idea that there are so many lovely people in the world who receive seven calls from people wanting to provide the boy with a bike. One 16-year-old Birmingham boy wanted to give his bike because, he said, "I know what it means to deliver papers on foot." Another person called Christmas Eve to be sure something had been done about the boy's need. And it had. Mrs. Collins told us that Mrs. Robert Hackett, 610 Woodale, Bloomfield township, went to a Birmingham bike shop at 9 a.m. Friday, and purchased a brand new \$59 bike. The shop's owner, Alvin Barsuhn, was at the time looking for a bike for the boy. The shiny vehicle was merely marked "From Santa Claus" and delivered to the 13-year-old lad who lives in Detroit's Herman Gardens. "It kind of made us feel good," the generous Mrs. Hackett told Mrs. Collins.

**BECAUSE HER GUEST** bedroom filled to overflowing twice after she began appealing for clothing for Hungarian relief. Mrs. Robert Schilling, 4774 Stoneleigh, Bloomfield township, sought and found a larger collection point. "Mr. Jack Ball has very nicely offered to let us store room behind the new McClellan-Ball store at 850 S. Woodward," says Mrs. Schilling. Every few days Mrs. Schilling hauls contributions of clothing to a center in Detroit, where they are processed and air-transported to Austria. "It's amazing the way people have responded to my phone requests for warm clothing, particularly for men," says Mrs. Schilling. She adds that there is plenty of room for more used clothing at the McClellan-Ball store.

## 27 Big Brothers In Oakland Group Befriend Youths

Celebrating "National Big Brother week" from Jan. 6 through 13, many local men are actively supporting the Big Brother program by serving as friends to pre-delinquent or emotionally disturbed boys.

The men are members of the Big Brothers of Oakland County, Inc., a national organization, located at 15 1/2 E. Lawrence St., Pontiac.

"Big Brother work is a 'one man to one boy' relationship," says William L. Clark, executive director of the accredited community social agency, which has operated on a fulltime basis since last September.

"THE JOB OF EACH OF THE 27 active Big Brothers is to be the much-needed, accepting friend of one boy," said Clark.

"A Big Brother is a man who, working under professional social work direction, offers a lad a sense of belonging. He is trained to do the job of being the boy's friend. Much can be done to help a boy who lacks the guidance a father should provide, through the friendship and affection of Big Brother."

Members of the board of Oakland county's non-denominational, Birmingham area residents Jack E. White, of 20650 Smallwood court, Southfield township; Ednamobile division public relations director; Jere B. Gillette, of 861 Hickory, J. W. Gillette Co. vice president, and Guy L. Holloway, 870 Bloomfield drive, Bloomfield township, vice president of Commercial Service, Inc.

**OTHERS ARE** Richard C. Van Dusen, of 1722 Pine, Birmingham attorney; Paul E. Wilson, of 2362 Windemere, Birmingham, recreation manager; J. L. Hudson company; Rev. William C. Norvell, associate pastor, Christ Church, Cranbrook; and C. Theron Van Dusen, of Hennington road, Bloomfield Hills, real estate broker.

Each of the Big Brothers is assigned to a boy after it is determined that he and the youth have the same general religion, interest and hobbies, and live in the same general area. The Big Brother gets together with his Little Brother on a regular basis. Executive Director Clark in emphasizing the importance of the Big Brother program, said, "We need any man who has a real interest in boys and who will accept training for the job of being a boy."

Inquiries concerning the program can be addressed to Clark at the Big Brothers' Pontiac office.

**Station Contract**  
TROY — Contract for the Delemere-Big Beaver fire station was held up Monday night by city commissioners who want to study the possibility of finding financing for the complete construction cost instead of erecting only part of the station immediately as was originally planned.

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## Dr. Ralph E. Lapp, Nuclear Scientist, Town Hall Speaker

How soon will we all press a button in our home and farm on atomic power? Is atomic war so black it can't happen? Is a better kind of atomic power, with fewer dangerous by-products, on the way?

These and other questions will be answered for Birmingham Town Hall audiences today and Friday when Dr. Ralph Lapp, returning to Birmingham by popular demand, speaks on latest developments in the field of nuclear science.

Dr. Lapp will be introduced by his personal friend, Dr. Donald H. Loughbridge of Vernon drive, Birmingham, a member of the nuclear research staff of General Motors. Since his first appearance on Town Hall in 1954, Dr. Lapp has worked to bring the all-important abc's of the coming atomic age before the general public. He has written feature articles for national magazines, added to his distinguished list of books, continues as special editor for the bulletin of atomic scientists and is constantly lecturing across the nation in his spare time.

To buy or sell a used automobile, read and use Eccentric Classified Ads.

## Bank Employee Alarms Police

With guns in hand and expecting anything, two Birmingham policemen rushed into the Woodward-Hamilton branch of the Detroit Bank & Trust Co. Monday afternoon.

Once inside the door, they were as surprised as were the bank's employees and its customers. There was no holdup, it was caused the silent alarm to go off.

Patrolmen Paul Phoebald and Frank Stubblefield finally surmised the alarm had been set off unknowingly by a bank employee.

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## Planning Board Meets Wednesday

On the agenda for the Birmingham planning board's regular meeting at 8 p.m. Wednesday is a petition from Ruth A. Carril for the rezoning of property between Townsend and Merrill on the west side of Henrietta street from multiple family to business C classification.

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Natural Silverblu Mink Cape Jacket	\$995
Natural EMBA CERULEAN (Natural Blue) Mink Pocket Stole with Pert Abbreviated Sleeves	\$995
Natural BREATH OF SPRING Mink Pocket Stole	\$695
Dyed Beaver Jacket, Charcoal Shade	\$375
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