

## Volunteer Fire Dept. To Become Auxiliary

An institution more than a half-century old will terminate next July 1—but it will be replaced by a modern equivalent. On that date, nine months hence, Birmingham's volunteer part-paid fire department will fade into history. In its place will be an auxiliary fire department of volunteers, similar in organization to the police auxiliary which has functioned here for several years.

The announcement came this week from City Manager L. R. Gare that the city commission has determined that the city's modern fire-fighting equipment, its new and expanded fire stations and forces do not require supplementation with the regular part-paid volunteers.

GARE SAID the nine present

## This and That

by George R. Averill

### It Is YOUR Right To Speak, Publish!

All over the United States, this week, there is being commemorated an annual event known as "National Newspaper Week."

The chief theme of the week is not to praise newspapers and newspaper workers, as such. The chief theme is to praise the genius of the founding fathers of America for their understanding of the need and value of a free press.

Of equal importance was their great wisdom in securing for themselves and posterity a free press by writing this protection into the U. S. Constitution's Bill of Rights.

THE RIGHT to speak, to write and publish, the right to worship and petition the government for a redress of grievances. . . . These are the foundation stones upon which has been erected the edifice of Self-Government.

To eliminate any one of these guarantees would be to destroy the cause of American freedom.

To shackle the right to speak and to write and publish, however, would work the greatest damage to freedom. . . . for to affix such shackles is the first effort of any individual or group that seeks to make captive a nation.

SO, THIS WEEK, we join thousands of other American newspapers in commemorating National Newspaper Week.

As reminders of these values and freedoms to our readers, we present the thoughts of many of our world's leading men on the subject.

"Freedom of expression is not merely a right—in the circumstances of today, it is a duty."—Dwight D. Eisenhower.

"So long as the truth is made available to our people, we need have no fear for the future of our democratic system."—Harry S. Truman.

"Freedom of conscience, of education, of speech, of assembly, are among the very fundamentals of democracy and all of them would be nullified should freedom of the press ever be successfully curtailed."—Franklin D. Roosevelt.

"The freedom of the press and an able press are as indispensable a part of American civilization as any enumeration of its value seems unnecessary."—Herbert Hoover.

"And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."—John 8:32.

"Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."—Bill of Rights, Article One.

"I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it."—Voltaire.

"Four hostile newspapers are more to be feared than a thousand bayonets."—Napoleon.

"Our liberty depends on freedom of the press and that cannot be limited without being lost."—Thomas Jefferson.

"In these times we fight for ideas, and newspapers are our fortresses."—Heine.

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Today's opportunities for personal business success are great. Want proof? Ask business heads, in small or large offices, how difficult it is to get junior employees to measure up to the overall responsibilities and opportunities of their jobs. You will learn that comparatively few are ambitious to get ahead.

BOTH YEAR—NO. 30



### Wife Waits

In the corridor at William Beaumont hospital, Mrs. Richard Brown awaits word of her husband's condition.

### Officer's Wife Calm At Hospital

By LES LINE

The wife of a policeman with 12 years on the force behind him apparently learns to take things as they come.

Mrs. Clara Brown, 39, wife of the wounded Birmingham police sergeant, Richard Brown, appeared quite calm Wednesday morning when she walked into Beaumont hospital's emergency room with Police Chief Moxley.

She talked briefly with her husband. Then, patting him on the head, she smiled as a question was fired at her for the umpteenth time, answered reporters' queries.

Police who went to her home with the news her husband had been shot by a bandit didn't have to break the news to her.

SEE ALREADY had heard it from a friend who called, and was ready to leave for the hospital.

Her sister-in-law, Mrs. Robert Brown, who lives just a few blocks away, came over to the Brown's Bates street home to take care of the two young children, Pete, 4, and Jim, 2.

They had been told by their mother that "daddy was sick in the hospital."

At the hospital, Mrs. Brown was worried what their two daughters would think when they received the news.

JUANITA, 14, and Sue, 9, were both in school and didn't know of the shooting.

Sgt. Brown, 37, was wounded in the side in the holdup attempt. His chest is a mess. The bandit is dead—four bullet wounds from Brown's revolver in his chest and arm.



### A Lot of Mushroom

Kathy Lawton, 7, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Morgan B. Lawton of 1906 Kenwood, holds a homegrown "puffball" mushroom that is as big as she. Stewart Harlow (right) 901 Brookwood and Neal O'Connell

# The Birmingham Eccentric

40 PAGES  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1957

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

SECTION A

Serving the Citizens of Michigan's Finest Suburban Residential Area



# Wounded Police Sergeant Kills Home Intruder

## Pair Shoot It Out On Front Staircase

By JULIE CANDLER

A masked bandit was killed by Birmingham Police Sgt. Richard E. Brown Wednesday morning after the bandit had fired a bullet from his automatic pistol into Brown's side.

The shots were fired at a peaceful residential street, as Brown answered a call at the home of John S. VanAlstyne, Jr., at 515 Kennesaw, Birmingham.

Brown was reported in good condition at William Beaumont hospital, where he underwent surgery for removal of the bullet from just below his left shoulder.

The bandit was identified by police as Frank Frahm, about 60, no permanent address. He was identified from hotel papers in his wallet. Several of the papers came from Toledo.

Police said Frahm had a long prison record, including armed robbery. This was discovered in a check with Detroit police files.

Frahm died an hour later at the hospital, where he was taken with four gaping bullet wounds, three of them in his chest and one in the arm. Brown fired five shots from his .38 revolver.

BROWN ESCAPED further injury when Frahm's .32 automatic pistol jammed after the first shot. A fact which police discovered later.

The 37-year-old sergeant, who lives at 704 S. Bates, Birmingham, said he answered a call to the VanAlstyne home at 9:34 a.m., in response to a call that "somebody was going on" at that address.

Brown said he thought the "something" was family trouble, because of fainting the previous day.

Brown SAW Frahm coming down the steps toward the front hall, and asked "What's going on here?"

The only reply was the gunshot. Brown's side, Brown, who is one of the department's crack shots, reacted instantly with his own revolver.

Frahm fell face down, his head toward the front door of the farm colonial home.

MINUTES BEFORE Frahm shot Brown, he had told Mrs. VanAlstyne that "I don't want to hurt you, I just want money."

Mrs. VanAlstyne said she didn't know the grey-haired housewife said she called police, she heard what sounded like a skirmish and her husband's harsh words in the garage adjoining the house.

VanAlstyne had stepped into the garage to get his car and drive to the office of his photo-engraving concern in Detroit. He said later that he was late leaving for work that day.

(See SHOOTING, Page 2-A)



SGT. RICHARD E. BROWN

## Queries 'Where's My Gun'

Even as he lay in the operating room of William Beaumont hospital, undergoing surgery on the bullet wound in his side, Sgt. Richard E. Brown asked, "Where's my gun?"

In a state of shock, Brown earlier had walked out of the John S. VanAlstyne home as Patrolman Jack Kalbfleisch and Arthur Birkholz arrived on the scene of the shooting at 515 Kennesaw.

"You've got to lie down," the patrolman told Brown. At the same time they tried to take his .38 revolver from him. Brown refused to lie down. He would not give up his gun.

KALBFLEISCH and Birkholz had heard Brown's indistinct call for help as they were watching for speeders with the police radar equipment.

Brown was calling from his own patrol car, to which he had fled, after the shooting.

Kalbfleisch said calls from other cars came through garbled to the radar car.

"I heard him say he was shot, but I couldn't understand where he was," Kalbfleisch said. "Then I remembered hearing the station direct him to 515 Kennesaw, so we went over there."

APPARENTLY DAZED, Brown had walked back into the house after radioing his call for help. It was at the front door that the patrolmen found him.

They led Brown, despite his refusal, toward a patrol car. Kalbfleisch lifted the gun from the injured policeman's hand.

And on the rush trip to William Beaumont hospital, Brown asked Birkholz, "Where's my gun?"

Julie Candler.

## Policeman in Operating Room

Birmingham Police Sgt. Richard Brown is treated in the operating room of Beaumont hospital's emergency ward after he was shot in the side in a gun battle with a bandit Wednesday morning. Left is Patrolman Arthur Birkholz. Brown, although attendants had placed him under oxygen.

### Former Fire Chief Honored

Vernon Griffith, former Birmingham fire chief, has been awarded the Edward Dunbar Rich award for 25 years service in the water department here.

He was sponsored by Donald C. Egbert, former city manager.

GRIFFITH, now associated with Egbert in the Southeastern Oak and County Water authority, retired from the fire post in 1955.

B'h'am Police Move To New Quarters

Birmingham police moved this week, and are now headquartered in their new and larger offices at the east end of the municipal building.

A door opening onto Pierce street is marked by a new sign erected near the sidewalk. The department's licensing bureau and main desk are located to the left of the entry door.

The newly established violations bureau will continue to collect fines at its second floor quarters.

### Community House To Hear Reports, Hold Election

Board members of the Community House association will be reporting to supporters of the roll call drive at the annual meeting of the House Monday evening.

President Norman Weston will chair the meetings at which an election is slated, and declares that committee reports will be kept to a minimum.

However, he said, "Any annual meeting ought to emphasize what has been done, and certainly the formation of the senior men's group is the most outstanding thing the Community House has done this year."

Although the ordinance called for such facilities to be ready by Jan. 1, 1957, the city commission granted a nine-month grace period.

Parking lot which are open to the public or on which fees are charged must comply with the provisions, most important of which require proper drainage and permanent surfacing.

### Deadline Extended Again on Meeting, Parking Lot Rules

A second extension of time to complete off-street parking lot improvements was granted Tuesday night to 12 Birmingham property owners.

Birmingham open parking station board of appeals extended Peabody Market's time one year until its present remodeling program is completed.

Embury Methodist and United Brethren churches, with a total of 80 parking spaces, won six months extension each.

THE OTHER nine were given 60 days to finish their improvements, such as installing bumper strips, signs, etc.

Complete renovation of the Community House, both inside and out, has been completed, as of this September. The report of Mrs. Charles Kass, house committee, and of Mrs. Alice Wessels, Burlingame, landscaper, will consist of inviting board members and guests to look around.

THERE WILL BE election of new board members to fill the places of board members retiring after their three-year terms: Mrs. Clarence Blennan, Henry Foley, Mrs. Charles Kass, William Torrence. There will also be election of new board members to fill the unexpired terms of Richard Cloonan, Mrs. James Ewing and Mrs. Edmund Leavenworth.

A special invitation to the seven o'clock dinner preceding the meeting has been sent to husbands or wives of present board members.

Arrangements for the dinner and meeting are being made by the social committee under the chairmanship of Mrs. Walter N. Jackson. Invitations have been sent by Mrs. Walter Fredericks; the menu has been planned by Richard Featherstone.

### Town Hall Speaker

Just back from his visit to Russia and talks in Yalta with Nikita Khrushchev, John F. Kennedy will be in Birmingham today to open this year's Town Hall lecture series.

Speakers at the crowded crowd at Birmingham theatre both today and tomorrow. On both days she will be Town Hall's guest at luncheon. Birmingham country club follows her talks.

Landscaping would consist of low shrubs, a few trees and considerable expanse of lawn.

## Park's Proposed Mall Viewed by Delegation

Representatives of several important Birmingham women's organizations believe their townsmen would be most interested in contributing toward a permanent and lasting investment of about \$40,000 in their civic center park.

This was the consensus reached Tuesday afternoon at a special showing of a proposed central mall designed by internationally known sculptor and Birmingham resident Marshall Fredericks.

"We will meet again next Tuesday to start planning a community-wide effort that will see the fulfillment of many residents' desires—a beautiful park between our public library and municipal building."

From the four corners of the city commissioner and coordinator of the committee seeking the park's beautification.

FREDERICKS has proposed a central theme of airborn wild American swans, which he calls "the world's most beautiful birds."

The swans, seemingly wild, are rising from a shallow pond, which would be sunk into the park slightly south of its center. Around the pond at the same level would be a wide walk, with benches attached to the two-foot retaining wall. From the four corners of the park, walks would converge on the mall.

Landscaping would consist of low shrubs, a few trees and considerable expanse of lawn.

## Strictly Fresh

There's no danger inherent in the guided missile program. What keeps us awake nights is the thought of some country putting misguided muscle behind their project.

Some people are fired with ambition but there's one or two we'd like to see fired with enthusiasm.



An old-fashioned girl seldom drinks martinis.

Friend of ours has a fine business—he's a justice of the peace.

All makes of lower spring mattresses repaired. One-day service. ROYAL MATTRESS CO. 619. Dial "OK" for Mattress Service.

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