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## BITS OF BIRMINGHAM

Santa Claus has just turned in his red suit and pack and vacated the job to Art Blakeslee. We heard it on good authority after Blakeslee's recent filling-in for Santa at a children's party. It was so successful that even Donner and Blitzen were fooled.

Alex Grether, 9, son of Harris Grether, 583 Lakeview, is the proud owner of a five-pound northern pike this week. Grether, who was not fishing, caught the pike in Quanton lake last week. The pike was trapped just above the waterfall and the ingenuity of the youngster came to a head at this point. Alex picked up a stick and kept maneuvering the fish back and forth until he could grab it.

"We don't have the snow and ice in California," writes the Harold Services of Venice, Calif. "... but nevertheless Christmas spirit is in full swing with its beautiful decorations... both in streets and homes. We received a nice 'Xmas' gift from a close B'ham friend.

The Eccentric. It's like sitting down and chatting with old friends and the family and it helps to drive away our loneliness. Happy day to all the hometown."

For 19 years, Birmingham high school choir and chorus director Victor Ulrich brought his groups before local Rotarians for a pre-Christmas concert of favorite songs. For years a Rotarian himself, (he's a past president of the Birmingham club), members never had heard him sing. But in Monday's 20th concert, Vic did get into the act. He did the solo work on a new popular favorite, "The Christmas Tree." And the Rotarians liked what they heard.

Had American Motors Corp. President George Romney accepted the proposed move to draft him for the gubernatorial campaign two years hence, he would have been the fourth prominent area citizen to seek public office. Former Democrat Governor Murray D. Van Wagener, the late U.S. Senator James Couzens (Rep.), and U.S. Senator-elect Phil Hart (Dem.) are from the Birmingham-Bloomfield Hills area. Romney, who recently declined the Republican party's offer to draft him, lives on Vaughan road in Bloomfield Hills.

### High School Drain Plans Postponed

Plans for installation of a \$100,000 drainage system at Birmingham high school this winter have been postponed. The drains will be installed during summer vacation next year.

The school board agreed to the change in plans at Tuesday night's meeting, following a report by L. W. Mosher, consulting engineer. Mosher pointed out that installation of drains this winter would result in higher costs because of construction problems.

MOSHER ALSO SHOWED board members the preliminary plans for the drainage system, which is expected to alleviate flooding problems at the school. Dr. Dwight B. Ireland, superintendent of schools, said the flooding was caused by silt in the soil. He said the silt plugged up the drains now provided.

Money for the system will come from the school construction fund, financed by the sale of bonds. In other action the board agreed to a request by Donald Kramer, chairman of the Citizens committee. Kramer called Dr. Ireland last week and requested that an engineer be allowed to inspect Birmingham's schools for fire hazards.

DR. IRELAND said he was told the engineer, an expert in his field, would do the inspecting free of charge.

The board approved the resignation of three teachers, Mildred Lalic, Dorothy Young and Mary Jane McCarty.

The appointment of two teachers, Aveline Giacabone and Socra Hollis, was approved.

### Jury Award Accepted By B'ham

Birmingham has accepted an Oakland county circuit court condemnation jury award for \$16,000, and directed the city assessor to spread assessments against properties which would benefit from an alley construction on which the city can now proceed.

The award went to Eugene A. Moore, who had been offered \$7,000 by the city for the 13-foot strip at the north end of his property on Bates street.



### An Official Welcoming Committee

Miss Christmas Spirit, who began giving away gift certificates, theater tickets and balloons Monday, is greeted by an official welcoming committee before starting on her rounds of local stores. The committee, from left, is Charles Mortensen, Harvey Kresge, Mayor Carl Ingraham and Foster Toothacker. Miss Christmas Spirit, who is sponsored by the chamber of commerce, will be giving away the gifts until Christmas Eve.

### Lions Collecting Sleds and Skates For Boys' Home

Got any useable or repairable toboggans, sleds or skates around your attic or garage? The Birmingham Lions club wants 'em. As a special project club members are helping Hal Now-houser of Franklin acquire these winter sports items for the 200 boys at the Oakland county children's home in Pontiac.

If you have a contribution, call Lions members Manley Bailey of Birmingham or Jack Andrews in Franklin.

### Holiday Gifts of Glasswear

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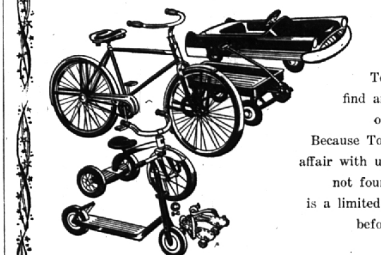
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