

BITS OF BIRMINGHAM

DID YOU HEAR ABOUT the man who ran over himself? Here's how Birmingham high school junior, Steve Taylor, tells it: "First man: 'I saw a man run over himself the other night.' Second man: 'That's impossible.' First man: 'No. This man went into a store and asked for some cigarettes and the clerk says to him, 'I haven't any, but the man across the street has some.' So the man says, 'Will you go and get me some?'. The clerk said, 'I can't, I have to watch the store.' So the man ran over himself."

IF YOU'RE WONDERING who to contact on a matter concerning Birmingham's American Field Service exchange students, present or future, here's the information: Mrs. Lawton Tabor is local AFS chairman, and she can be reached after 4 p.m. any day or on weekends. She lives at 18280 Devonshire road, Southfield township, Birmingham. Mrs. Tabor says the AFS is recruiting bids from service and other clubs who wish to have one of the foreign students as a speaker. (Requests should be made well in advance, she said). Student chairman of AFS activities at Birmingham high school is Judy Austin. Because she wanted to stay on and graduate with her class at BHS this spring, Judy can be reached at the Hollister Mableys on Lowell court, Bloomfield Hills. Her family recently moved to another state.

GOT ALL EXCITED when Mary Francis Gray, 10 years old, called this Wanderer with the happy news that a robin was walking around her backyard at 729 W. Wood, Birmingham. Thought for sure it was the first robin of the year. Later this Wanderer checked, discovered Mary Francis had only discovered the second robin of the year. First one was reported several weeks ago. It really was the early bird.

NON-COMMERCIAL fruit growers in the Birmingham area will have a chance to pick up some worthwhile information Saturday morning at 10 a.m. when Karl D. Bailey, district horticultural agent, puts on a demonstration of pruning of various kinds of fruit trees at a small orchard owned by E. A. Wagner, 4660 N. Adams.

LAST WEEK'S visit of the bloodmobile to Birmingham proved a success. The visit, sponsored by the local branch of the American Association of University Women, brought in 198 pints of blood.

IF A MAN CAN GROW ORANGES the size of grapefruits when it's just a hobby with him, think what might happen if he took it up professionally? This Wanderer saw an orange which Roy Hawthorne picked from a tree in his Hollywood, Fla. front yard recently. It looks big enough to yield six quarts of juice. Hawthorne sent it to his niece, Birmingham City Clerk Irene Hanley, from his winter home down in the sunshine state. The retired owner and operator of Hawthorne Electrical company has green-thumbed his beautiful Florida yard and its orange trees since he acquired the home there about six years ago. Despite of his extra-colossal orange, he modestly states that "my orange crop is no good this year." After he and his wife left for their Birmingham home at 920 S. Chester last spring, "high winds blew off most of the blossoms."

THIS SEASON OF SLIPS and skiing brings out demands upon the Birmingham Community House department of medical equipment. Last month the House lent 14 pairs of crutches. The December before that it was 17 pairs. Last week Community House Director Mrs. Ewald Schaeffer herself fell on some slippery steps. Though she was not hurt, she remarked after she had her breath, "I was awfully glad those crutches were waiting at the Community House in case I needed them!"

B'ham May Change Collection Method On Parking Tickets

Handling of parking tickets in Birmingham will probably be changed to facilitate collection of the dollar fines, according to a preliminary report made to city commissioners this week.

Up to 30 per cent of the 9,000 tickets issued annually are not paid within the 72-hour period stated on the tickets, commissioners were told Monday night. The commission also approved removal of several parking spaces near Woodward avenue on Brown, to allow room for cars turning off.

Parking Meters OK'd for Brown

More parking meters will add to the city's total soon, when the Birmingham police department installs them on Brown street between Pierce and S. Woodward, and on Merrill between Pierce and Henrietta. All will be two-hour meters.

The measure was approved by Birmingham city commissioners Monday night on the request of Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley. The commission also approved removal of several parking spaces near Woodward avenue on Brown, to allow room for cars turning off.

Seminar Chairman

Henry C. Johnson of Bloomfield Hills is chairman of the American management association seminar this afternoon at the New York on the subject of research management.



Sing for U of M

Philip A. Ducey, conductor of the University of Michigan men's glee club, talks with three Birmingham area members of the group. Left to right are Ducey, Dwight S. Davis, Bloomfield Hills; Richard R. Pratt, 16162 Wetherby, and Gordon P. Clark, 5455 Franklin.

Suggests Oakland Site for Nat'l Science Academy

WASHINGTON — An Oakland county site for a proposed new national academy of science has been proposed by Congressman William S. Broomfield (R-Royal Oak).

Broomfield, in introducing the bill before Congress, said that his home district is the "logical place" for the proposed academy which would train the Nation's most talented youth for science careers.

"Oakland county is in the heart of the auto industry, which is receiving an ever-increasing amount of new missile work," he said. "In addition, many of the top scientists in the nation now live and work in Oakland county, and more are on their way."

NEARBY ARE the General Motors technical center, the Bendix research laboratories, Lawrence Institute of Technology. Not too far away are the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, Wayne State University. Plans are underway for the construction of an Oakland branch of Michigan State and a huge Chrysler Corporation research center.

"Future predictions are that the Detroit area will one day be the electronics center of the world," said Broomfield. "With the wealth of brainpower already at work in the Oakland county area, a top-grade faculty for a new science academy wouldn't be hard to find."

Besides Broomfield, two other Michigan lawmakers are urging construction of the new national academy of science as a direct challenge to Russia in scientific and technical achievement. They are Senator Charles E. Potter (R-Michigan) and Congressman Robert P. Griffin (R-Traverse City).

THE THREE have introduced

legislation calling for a nine-man presidential committee to study establishment of the science academy. Three members each would be appointed from the fields of education, armed forces and science.

Contemplated is a science academy which would be on a par with Annapolis, West Point and the Air Academy. Students would undergo a four-year intensified course in science studies.

After graduation, students would work another three to four years on governmental research projects under the supervision of the nation's top scientific brainpower. Students could work on their doctorate's degree during their work with the government.

Applicants for the new academy would be chosen from the cream of our nation's youth, said Broomfield. Science cadets would be selected solely on the basis of competitive examinations.

Dog Tags on Sale

Until March 1, Birmingham residents can secure 1958 dog licenses without penalty, according to City Clerk Irene E. Hanley. To secure the licenses that are now due and payable, residents must have had their dog immunized against rabies since Dec. 15, 1957. Fees will be doubled March 1.



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New U-M Show Is the Nuts—For Squirrels

Smack dab in the middle, that's what Michigan squirrels are when compared to the tiniest and biggest of the world's squirrel population.

Both the largest and smallest squirrels known to zoologists have been prepared by Prof. William H. Burt, curator of mammals at the University of Michigan.

The dwarf squirrel, whose home is equatorial Africa, is mouse-size and measures just a few inches, tail included. By contrast, giant squirrels from the Indo-Malayan region weigh up to five pounds with an overall

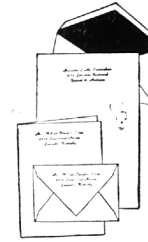
length of nearly three feet. Of course half of this distance is tail. Exhibited museum director Irving Beinnann says the largest species of the cosmopolitan rodent found in Michigan is the fox squirrel. It's half as long as the giant.

BONES of the extinct great auk (which looked like a penguin) are also on display for the first time. Related to the living razor-billed auk and other members of the gull family, the great auk was seen for the last time around 1844. Ornithologists (those who study birds) blamed sailors, fishermen and collectors for riding north Atlantic islands of the flightless bird.

The bones, acquired by Prof. Robert W. Shover, curator of birds at the museum, were found last summer during an expedition to the Funk Islands near Newfoundland by Douglas H. Famball of Madison, Wis.

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