

BITS OF BIRMINGHAM

HE STARTED OUT as half of the two-man Birmingham police force. That was back soon after he saw service in World War I. Last week Capt. Earl Hathaway retired after 36 years with the Michigan state police. He had been commander since 1933 of the force's seventh district, headquartered in Traverse City. The 63-year-old captain's mother, Mrs. William (Anna) Hathaway, has lived in the house at 539 Townsend, Birmingham, for 60 years. Her son has been honored by newspapers and groups in the area. His police life, says the Traverse City Record-Eagle, "would make a thrilling story." Among other adventures, he directed one of the biggest manhunts in Michigan history. It ended in the capture of the robbers and recovery of some of the loot taken in a 1932 bank robbery in which a man was murdered.

MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE he's young—or it might be because he's a man—but a young father this Wanderer heard about recently can certainly get his home life complicated when his wife and child go away. After only one week at home alone, he called her in distress. He forgot to put his shirts outside the door for the laundry man, so he was out of clean shirts. He was getting down to the bottom of the pile of clean socks. And just like in "The Sorcerer's Apprentice," somehow milk kept arriving at the house and he had accumulated a whole refrigerator full. Help! Help! Mamma and baby came flying home!

THIS ONE HAS BEEN MAKING the rounds at Birmingham high school. "A little boy and his mother were traveling through Russia to visit an important Communist leader, Rudolf Stanislaus. When they were shown into the Kremlin office, the little boy rushed to the window. "Look, ma," he said, "it's snowing." "No," blustered Rudolph, the red, "it's raining." The little boy persisted until his mother drew him aside and said, "Look, Harold, you think it's snowing. I think it's snowing. But Rudolf the Red knows rain, dear."

FRED STEINLE, 1860 Humphrey, won first prize in the Sheffield estates subdivision Christmas decoration contest. Second place went to James D. Lawrence, 1910 Lincoln, while the A. J. Smiths of 1617 Sheffield placed third.

SEEMS MARTIN STREET wasn't Birmingham's first one-way street. Commissioner Harry Denyes and other city officials have pointed out to this Wanderer, Lawndale has been one-way south for many years. Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley reports the Martin experiment brought much favorable comment for the way it improved traffic flow to the post office during the holiday mailing onslaught.

STARTED BY A LETTER to the editor published in The Birmingham Eclectic, the small gift fund of the Birmingham YMCA has passed the \$3000 mark. Co-chairmen William C. Gordon and William Roberts of the "Y" permanent building fund this week expressed their appreciation of "Y" leaders for this support. Edwin F. Kirbert explains that \$11,000 is needed to clear the cost of the "Y's" new unit. It cannot solicit funds until after 1960, because of the commitment to the financing Metropolitan Detroit building fund. "But," Kirbert adds, "this doesn't prevent friends of the 'Y' from having a share in the costs. Your contributions are appreciated."

WONDER HOW MANY little kids bothered to write a thank-you letter to Santa? As the relay of information to the North Pole, The Birmingham Eclectic this week forwarded a letter addressed "To Santa Claus, thank-you letters division, North Pole." Here's what the little sender, name of Cathy, wrote: "Thank-you for my blackboard, table and chair, a doll, and a piano. That is all the things I wanted. I am six years old. My little sister is writing this for me. I love you and have a very Merry Christmas, and I'll see you next year. Love, Cathy."

WE LEARN BY THE GRAPEVINE that the local architectural firm of Smith, Tarapata & MacMahon, Inc., will receive an award citation in the education category of the fifth annual design awards program tomorrow in Philadelphia. The award will be for the firm's design of the proposed new junior high school in Bloomfield Hills. The program is sponsored by a national architectural magazine.

THE BIRMINGHAM fire department's monthly water usage report shows that 57,635,121 gallons were consumed here during December and for the first time in history the entire amount was delivered by the Southeastern Oakland county water authority.

ANY CANDIDATES for Birmingham's board of review? Mayor William E. Roberts this week began looking over the city for the two public members who will hold their first meeting in the city on the 1958 tax assessment roll. The job pays \$25 a day. Third member of the board is the city assessor, Clark Hagstrom.

EVER WONDER how Birmingham's firemen can pull up to a fire plug in below freezing weather and be assured they'll have flowing water to fight the fire? Well, it's just a matter of pumping excess water from the plug before freezing weather sets in. Or immediately after use in wintertime. (Valves in fire plugs are located at the bottom, well below the frost line.)

Ready Hanna Talk Plans
Plans are nearing completion for the Jan. 14 public meeting in Rochester at which Dr. John A. Hannah, president of Michigan State University, will discuss the branch of the university to be located near Rochester.
Dr. Hannah's address will take place in the new gymnasium of the Rochester senior high school at 8:00 p.m.
The public is invited to attend. There will be no charge of any kind, either for parking or admission.

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Another Year Ended
Another year of work has ended for the Birmingham city commission and a new year begins. Filing away the commission's agendas for 1957 are Marilyn Cattran (left) secretary to the assistant city manager, and Marge Hale, secretary to the city manager. The stack of agendas in Marge's arms represent the commission's 1957 workload.

Citizens

(Continued from Page 1-A)
H. McLaughlin was made temporary chairman.
Others on the committee are Earl Givens, Lyle J. Hope, George A. Jones, Elmer H. Plaster, Dr. James A. Bond, Mr. William E. Saylor and James M. Smith.
"This committee is to set up sub-committees to study such specific problems as what physical science courses are offered or required, what courses are available at the junior high level, what vocational guidance is offered and what can be done to improve transportation safety."

JOHNSON NAMED Irving E. Menzel, assistant superintendent and Stephen Yelkoff of the high school science department and another teacher representative to assist the committee.

Those attending seemed to feel unanimously as Johnson did that "it is better to adopt a business-like approach" to these problems now rather than "accept the status quo and eventually let Lansing or Washington shove us into a program undesirable for us."
In pointing up complications in curriculum revisions, Johnson quoted recently published diverse points of view of leading education experts. He also emphasized that "while we are quite anxious to do as well as any other school systems with respect to such advances as the Russian model, we are just as anxious not to lose anything good in our local system."

A NOTE OF caution also was voiced from the audience by Walter Wenzler, who feels both home and school have fallen down in teaching "what the U. S. is and needs to be." He stressed the need for more patriotism.
He added that the school curriculum is not "just a question of physics and chemistry" and that going overboard in this direction would produce a "lopsided" group of people.
"Questioned about opportunities available to the "science" bent youngster in junior high grades, Johnson said a general science course is planned for next year, when the new junior high school at Bayley and Quarters roads is completed. There also, he said, will be science taught in connection with mathematics courses.

IT WAS FELT that motivation

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CRANBROOK—Advanced and 10-week classes. Spring term for beginners starts Monday from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the library building at Cranbrook Academy of Art for adults in the community who desire to develop their creative potentialities as well as enrich their understanding of contemporary art and the art of the past.
The order of application. Call Cranbrook, ext. 100, for application blanks and further information.

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Stouffers MACARONI & SALMON 63c
KOSHER DILL SPEARS qt. jar 45c

Coma (Continued from Page 1-A)
years following his father's passing and sold out to Wm. J. Hamilton Co. prior to his going to Arizona.
He was a city commissioner from April 1947 to April 1950. From April 1949 to April 1950 he was mayor. He also had been Oakland county coroner from 1936 through 1939.
During his residence here, Bell associated himself with a variety of local activities, including numerous voluntary civic, YMCA and hospital campaigns.

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