



Serving the Citizens of Michigan's Finest Suburban Residential Area

Maples' Toughest Foes . . .
... who are they? See story on Eastern Michigan League—Page 8-D.

Students Wave Bye Bye '58 . . .
... at New Year's eve dance. See photo story on Page 8-C.

Down With Taxes!
... they say. On Page 1-D.

Homes were . . .
... 'highlighted'. See Page 2-D.

'Oh, Those Monday Nights'
... Want a Change? See Page 1-C.

Interim Pastor . . .
... Begins service at 1st Baptist. See Page 7-B.

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This and That

by George R. Averill

Door Nelson A. Rockefeller, New York State's new Republican Governor, faces a financial problem of considerable size. It appears that his predecessor, Averell Harriman, left office with his State 20 million dollars in the red. So Nelson said an advisory aide or hindrance to the Legislature, will have to find ways of removing this red ink from the State's books. News and larger taxes or a program of strict economy might effect the desired end; or, of course, if Nelson really wanted to be generous, he could dig into his own bankbook and make up a considerable portion of the deficit. All jokes aside, the nation will watch the manner in which this fabulously wealthy young Easterner handles the affairs of the State of New York. If he appears to be making good, you can rest assured that he will be a strong contender for Vice President when the Republican party selects its Presidential candidate in 1960.

As assistant director of a boys' summer camp it was my duty to inspect the living quarters each morning. In the bed of a boy I found a large umbrella, not a required item of equipment. I asked the lad to explain. He looked at me solemnly, then solemnly asked: "Sir, did you ever have a mother?" (Anon.)

Ever since the recent November election, when the Democratic Party won overwhelming victories, thus enabling it to increase its majority in both houses of Congress, we have been hearing reports that some of its members will engage in a great spending spree. These reports are not based upon fact and, unless the members of this nation let their Congressmen know how they feel on the subject of higher taxes, they, the taxpayers, may expect to forfeit more of their wages to the Federal treasury. So, whether you be a Republican or a Democrat, if you are interested in keeping down the Federal expenditures, why not write to Senators Philip A. Hart and Pat McNamara, and to your respective Congressional representatives are always reached at the Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C. and the congressmen in the House Office Building in the same city.

Personally, we are of the opinion that a chief cause for the increased mediocrity of today's T. V. programs lies in the fact that too many of the children and celebrities who appear are demanding compensations far in excess of what their talents warrant. This, of course, increases the charge which the T. V. industry is compelled to make for its time—and fewer advertisers are able or willing to continue using it.

Designers vision a time in the future when buildings and homes will be built so that their interiors may be changed at any time. Walls may be shifted, in the case of houses, wings may be added to accommodate growing families, or rooms used when the children are grown up, married, leaving their parents in the big house. In the case of homes, the designers separate a man and his wife, perhaps the court will allow one or the other to take his or her share of the house. Seems as though somebody is always figuring out easier ways for marriages to be broken up.

Patience is a great virtue . . . it is needed in larger measure by most people whose lives are circumscribed in what we call "modern civilization." (Among primitive people, it is said, patience is a more common possession.) Today's impatiently impatient people have more troubles and problems; it results in frictions, misunderstandings between folks of all ages. Be Calm!

81ST YEAR—NO. 44



The Weather Outside WAS Frightful!

By JAMES CRELLIN
Staff Writer

Stranded cars, accidents and short tempers were the order of the day as the new year, cloaked in a sheet of ice, slipped into the Birmingham area.

Thousands of residents found themselves helpless in the worst ice storm to hit here in many years.

More than 20 area residents were admitted or treated at Beaumont hospital New Year's Eve and New Year's Day as a result of falls and collisions on the slippery streets and sidewalks.

Most of the injuries were minor cuts and bruises, but several unlucky individuals greeted the new year with casts on broken arms and legs.

For hundreds of Birmingham-Bloomfield folks, it was a long walk home—or stay all night with your New Year's bags. This driver got hung up on Kirske just east of Pierce in Westwood. He still had not recovered his car late New Year's Day. Still too slippery. Tow trucks were busy, some of them towing each other out of trouble.

Voelker To Be Honor Guest Of Democrats

The first social function of the new Birmingham Democratic club will be a non-partisan event, a private reception tomorrow at 10, honoring State Supreme Court Justice and author, John D. Voelker.

The club has sent invitations to community leaders in Bloomfield township and the City of Bloomfield Hills, both of which are included in the club's area. Guests from both areas will meet the justice in the Kingsley Hunt room from 9 to 11 p.m.

Voelker wrote one of 1958's most successful novels, "Anatomy of a Murder." Writing under the name of Robert Traver, he also wrote "Smalltown D.A." His host in Ishpeming, Mich.

HIS HOST tomorrow, the Bloomfield Democratic club, held its first meeting Dec. 12, and now numbers 225 members. They include former Gov. Murray D. Van Dusen, 1958 Oklahoma Democratic township.

Temporary chairman of the new club is Mrs. William Geraldine Clemmons, of 455 S. Williamsburg, Birmingham, who said the group was organized at the request of Oakland County Democratic Chairman, Carl Richardson.

Mrs. Clemmons is Birmingham resident for two and a half years, has helped with the organization of several south Oakland Democratic clubs, and is currently Oakland County Democratic publicity chairman.

(See related story, Page 1-D)

Parking Lot Tax Refunds Topic of Special Meeting

Birmingham business property owners who paid special assessments for municipal parking lots may get some of their money back, they know how.

To learn how, these owners are invited to a special meeting Jan. 13 to hear public accountant William C. Rowland.

The meeting, being held in the Birmingham municipal building's city commission room.

BIRMINGHAM city officials had asked the internal revenue department to allow municipal parking special assessments as deductible business expenses.

Last week, the Washington tax rulings division referred Birmingham's petition to the Detroit regional office for decision.

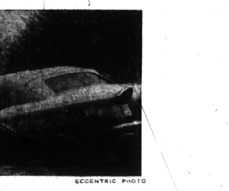
"But that may take months," Rowland emphasized. "To protect your tax interests, you've got to file for your tax refund by the April deadline, or you'll never get it should Detroit eventually rule in your favor."

Culprits Break-In Valley Woods School

WESTWOOD—Valley Woods school on Bellevue trail, Westwood, was broken into last week by burglars who headed straight for the food supply, according to village police.

Eggs were thrown about the kitchen and ketchup bottles taken from the refrigerator.

They broke a two by four window and pried it open to gain entrance, according to police. Damage was slight.



Everwiring's Fire '59?

Down Southfield way, traffic was snarled at main intersections and on hills throughout the city. One elderly gentleman inched his way to a whistle-blowing policeman and said, "Can I help you?"

The bewildered bluecoat replied, "What help can you offer?"

The elderly gentleman (still inching his way around the policeman) dug into his pockets and produced two standard packages of table salt.

He confidently blurted, "I can melt the ice on streets around here with this if you'd like."

THEY VISITED his brother, Jordan W. Hodgins, 385 Fairfax, Birmingham for Sunday dinner. Berry Hodgins said he did not smell smoke when he left the house.

The fire was discovered an hour later by the young Sitts brothers.

They were returning from the River Rouge ravine where they had been sledding and noticed smoke coming from beside the chimney.

When they saw the house full of smoke after looking in the windows, they called a neighbor, Edward Bunham, at 353 Baldwin.

HE CHECKED the house and saw flames in the kitchen. Bunham then turned in the alarm.

Firemen battled the flames for 45 minutes before the fire was under control. It took another 45 minutes to finish it off and return to the station.

Poor Wiring Causes Oil Furnace Fire

WESTWOOD—Faulty oil furnace wiring caused a house fire Tuesday at 31255 Auburn, Westwood. The fire was extinguished by village police. There was minor smoke damage.

AT 31714 Sheridan, Westwood,

TWO Families Win First Baby-of-the-Year Contest

We goode! And because we did, TWO area families have won The Birmingham Eccentric-Birmingham Chamber of Commerce first-baby-of-the-year contest.

The lucky parents are John and Carol Knitter, 540 Ann, Birmingham, and Charles and Helen Giordano, 18156 Cambridge, Lathrup Village.

John Bernard Knitter II, and Richard Steven Giordano, the newest Birmingham area citizens that won all those prizes advertised in last week's issue of The Eccentric.

Richard Steven was born at 3:48 a.m. and was the first baby at Beaumont hospital and John Bernard was born at 1:02 p.m. at St. Joseph's hospital in Pontiac. Both were born on New Year's day.

The father was almost convinced he wouldn't make it on time. icy roads on New Year's eve kept traffic to a crawl and the ordinary 15 minute drive took 45 minutes that night.

IT WASN'T an encouraging sight as Richard Steven and John Bernard's cars in the ditches along Southfield road.

Mrs. Knitter doesn't recall such harrowing experiences, but she was probably more worried about other things since John Bernard is the Knitters' first child.

Richard was the fourth and the Knitters' second of two boys and two girls.

Michael, 17, Norma 13, and Joyce, 3½, joined out the family.

LITTLE Joyce Giordano is extremely happy to have someone to play games with (in a few years, of course) and Michael, after long years of putting up with two sisters, finally has his brother.

Mrs. George E. Hachtmann, of Libertyville, Ill., is visiting her daughter, Carol, and her fourth grandchild.

John Bernard II, is just as good looking as the rest of her grand-children according to Mrs. Hachtmann.

Here is a list of the merchants who participated in the first baby of 1959 contest:

Mathaball's department store, Kay Baum ladies' wear, McSwen-



But Fire Inside Was Brightful!

Fire department officials are still investigating the fire that caused an estimated \$18,000 damage to the home on Greenwood and Dewey, Birmingham, Monday afternoon.

Berry Hodgins, who rented the home from Fred D. Sawyer, 325 Manor, Birmingham, told officials he and his family left the home between 2 and 2:30 p.m. Sunday.

ALTHOUGH NO snow monsters raged in this ice-age revival, Lathrup police spotted a "big, black" approaching them as they drove down a side street.

Under really wasn't a thing from out of a space . . . sliding backwards, yet.

ONE OF THE many "come-as-you-are" parties was a "stay-a-day" affair given at the Donald J. Dittich home in Westwood. Sixteen guests, including youngsters, were invited to know what it was like to really dig until late in the afternoon New Year's day.

AT 31714 Sheridan, Westwood,

Heat in the Cold

Birmingham firemen snuffed their hoses on the side of the home at Greenwood and Dewey occupied by the Berry Hodgins family. Fire at the home caused an estimated \$18,000 damage Sunday. It broke out while the family was away for the afternoon. Cause of the blaze, which firemen believe started in a closet, has not been determined. The home is owned by Fred Sawyer, of 325 Manor, Birmingham.

This Ought to Be Real Fun for Ball

The city's jack-of-all-trades, Arthur Ball, is adding two more jobs to his list.

He's the city's new weigher and measurer, which will require him to be a special police officer each time he goes out to test scales and measure devices.

For the past 20 months, this enforcement of state weights and measures standards has been done by a state inspector.

BECAUSE HE had to cover all Oakland county north of 14 Mile road, the inspector just can't get around to all business establishments as often as Birmingham prefers.

Local ordinance requires Birmingham's seal of weights and measures (Ball's newest official assignment) to be a police officer.

So each time he goes out to make a test, he'll stop by the police department for his temporary appointment to the force.

Signalize Two More Intersections, B'ham Mayor Asks

Before someone gets killed or seriously hurt, traffic signals should be installed at the Brown-Pierce and Baldwin-W. Maple intersections, Birmingham Mayor Carl F. Ingraham declares.

He has asked Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley to get up-to-date counts to see if traffic volumes don't warrant the signal installations.

City Commissioner Florence Willett suggested the Oak-N. Woodward crossing also should get study.

STRICTLY FRESH

Smile: as dismal in appearance as any city after the Christmas lights come down.

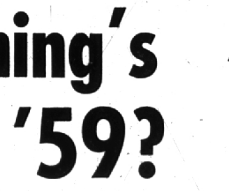
Fellow across the desk from us says that the train his boy asked Santa for is just what dad wanted.

Many a friendship has gone up in smoke with a certain type of gift cigar.

What would the red ink industry do without the support of the Christmas shopper?

Merchant: we know says that the first business day after Christmas-weekend should be known as Gift Exchange Day.

All makes of laser spring mattresses available. Great service. ROYAL MATTRESS COMPANY. Dial "0" and ask for Department 5115.



Since We've No Chains To Use, We Can't Go, We Can't Go, We Can't Go!

There was no shortage of that slick stuff to put in many an ice bag that went on many a head New Year's eve.

Although the weather was no joking matter, laughs were plenty as Birmingham area people used their ingenuity to solve a slippery situation.

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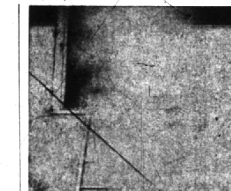
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