

Credit Bureau Chief Disperses Birmingham 'Poor Risk' Rumors

By LES LANGLOIS Staff Writer

What is Birmingham's credit status? Are its community purchasers considered poor credit risks? What about the merchants? Do they carelessly extend credit with little hope of getting their money?

Rumors concerning Birmingham's credit rating have been periodically circulating for some time. Wayne L. Combs, manager of the Birmingham Credit Bureau, can shed considerable light on how much reliability can be placed in these claims from unidentified sources.

"The idea," said Combs, "that when you move to Birmingham you don't have to pay your bills is as unfounded as are such phrases as 'mortgage row'."

These rumors date back to the days of the depression when people had their money tied up in business interests, he said. Unfortunately, the rumors have lived on through the years.

"One person says something and it bounces along until you've got a big thing springing up out of nothing," said Combs.

He attributes the persistence of these "ugly rumors" to jealousy of surrounding communities. He said he has studied the issue through libraries, records and the national credit bureau and found

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Now Here's the Low-down

Charles B. Breedlove, 1807 Mohawk court, Bloomfield Hills, science department head at Henry Ford high school, learns at Cornell university's agricultural engineering school how basic principles of physics are used in measuring soil moisture. Dr. Gilbert Levine, associate professor (seated) explains that neutrons from a radium-beryllium source (cylindrical tubes) are shot into a sample of soil (in barrel). Neutrons striking water are slowed down and counted by a detector. The count indicates the moisture content of the sample. Breedlove is one of 100 high school science and mathematics teachers—50 at Cornell and 50 at Stanford—awarded Shell merit fellowships for summer study at these institutions. Sponsored by Shell Companies Foundation, incorporated, the full-term summer seminars are designed to acquaint teachers with the latest developments in science and science education.

Ford Puts Out New Lift Unit

Its unusual features include a low center of gravity, with a height of under eight feet to the top of its protective cab, power steering, and excellent wheel flotation on uneven or wet ground.

The mast can be tilted hydraulically 15 1/2 degrees forward and 13 1/2 degrees backward, and the load can be shifted 6 inches from side to side by lateral movement of the forks.

Although compact and low enough to be used indoors, the Ford Fork Lift unit has traction and handling characteristics which make it primarily an outdoors, rough-terrain hauler.

Demerys, Sanders Negotiate Lease

Jack Sanders, 1415 Esping Lane, Bloomfield Hills, announced plans for Birmingham's third Sanders store to be located next to Demerys' new department store.

Charles A. Peck and John W. Butler, owners of Demerys, recently negotiated a lease, giving Sanders the old Warfield paint store with Demerys occupying the basement for expansion of its home furnishings section.

The new Sanders store will be its 103rd unit, offering a complete line of bakery, ice cream, candy and lunch service. Unlike other of the other two Birmingham stores at 273 Pierce and in the National Food store on Hunter boulevard, the new Sanders will have fountain service.

The store is expected to open the handled by the 10 and 12 foot lift same time as Demerys in the trucks. For handling bulk material.

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