

HEY KIDS! THE TREAT'S ON US!

Hansel 'N' Gretel Christmas Party
Birmingham Theatre, December 23, at 12:30



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"Everything for Dancing Feet"

Introduce Flavor of Past To B'ham Candy Business

By IRMA N. DAVIS
Staff Writer

If little Katie Aaron and her big brother Johnny think their grandfather is "made of sugar, spice & all that's nice," it's really quite understandable.

Their "grampy," J. Albert Sheetz, is going into the candy business—again—this time in Birmingham with the Albert Sheetz Candy Co.

Frosting the cake, as far as three-year-old Katie and nine-year-old Johnny are concerned, is the fact that their daddy, Arthur Aaron of Bloomfield Township, is president. Their mother, Jane, will have a hand in the delicious venture also.

BIRMINGHAM area residents, noting by the attractively renovated building at 820 S. Woodward are already stopping in to inquire when the store will open. One hardly blame their impatience—the delicious aroma of chocolate and candy, drifting out from the factory at the rear of the building, is whetting their appetites.

And vice-president Sheetz bobs in and out of the kitchens in a manner that belies his 61 years. He takes pride in the formulas developed by his great uncle, Elie Sheetz, and used over the years since 1872.

J. ALBERT REPRESENTS the third generation of the Sheetz family who have relished a taste for the candy business. The family has already owned, wholly or partly, three separate candy operations, among them the famous Martha Washington Co.

Sandwiched between the present and a career that began after World War I, J. Albert took 20 years off to run two family-owned hotels in Greensburg, Pa., where he was born.

But his appetite for candy manufacturing won out again this summer when his daughter persuaded him to assist her husband in establishing the Birmingham firm.

RIGHT NOW he is busily engaged in adapting the old formulas to suit the modern sweet tooth and in teaching the recipes to the candy cook.

One is apt to find him, plucking confections from the conveyor belt, eyeing the dials on the machinery, dipping a spoon in the famous Sheetz fudge.

Among huge burnished copper kettles—enough to delight any area antique collector—the three entrepreneurs, check, peanut, clusters, chocolate creams and the company specialty, "T. Trunks," a cosmopolitan chocolate cream.

"Notice the paper thin coating—it has to be like that. It's the nec-

tar of the chocolate world, you see," J. Albert says of the "Teak."

HIS DAUGHTER SMILES and comments that the butter-cream was originally called a "Teak," hardly appropriate for a candy in this day and age.

She is in charge of the gift department and has acquired, as a result of "shopping till my feet fell off," a collection of delightful containers for special packaging.

Her husband, who manages to run a plastics business in Troy while getting the local factory going, is delighted to have the help of the senior member of the company.

It was J. Albert who coped with the hiring of women to work as chocolate dippers. Drones of soon by the dippers answered to his firm's recent ad. Few of them seemed to realize that the trade takes years of training and a definite skill.

"WHAT'S TO HAVE experience with?" one applicant asked. "You just dip."

The applicants "tried out" in a slightly cooled room where the temperature is geared to accommodate the handling of delicate ingredients.

"Some of them came up with candies that looked like their fists since 1872."

County Sells 12 Town Bonds

Bonds for construction of the Twelve Town storm relief drain were sold last week, making possible for work to begin by Jan. 1.

Bonds totaling \$3,675,000 were sold by the county drain board to a syndicate headed by Chase National Bank of New York at an average interest rate of 3.82 per cent.

Completion of the project, designed to relieve 14 communities in southern Oakland County including Birmingham, Beverly Hills and Southfield—of storm water during heavy rains, is scheduled for 23 months later.

INTEREST OVER the 30 years of the bonding period will amount to \$23,016,387. Total construction cost is estimated at close to \$40 million.

Benefiting communities will pay off the bonds on a pro-rated basis. Birmingham has sold \$1,500,000 worth of its own bonds to pay in advance its entire assessment.

Dear Santa: I want a gun and a Johnny Reb cannon. Also a show projector.

John Lowry

should sweeten the task of shopping and enable busy suburbanites to make inroads on the 15,000 to 20,000 pounds of candy that will be the store's opening inventory.

"A SMALL INVENTORY as the candy business goes," say the Aarons and Sheetz who aim to carry an additional 10,000 pounds as soon as possible.

"Just so there's enough to bring home," say young Johnny and Katie. They're not really worried though. They can depend on "Grampy."

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AND RIGHT TIP to the deadline, there have been ups and downs, such as the recent parking battle in which a plate glass window lost to the automobile driven by an elderly gentleman.

"He was parked in the side lot and overshot when he backed his car out," said Mrs. Aaron.

Parking, however, will not be a problem to busy customers. The Aarons and Sheetz are planning a drive-in window, "the only one in Michigan in a candy store." It

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