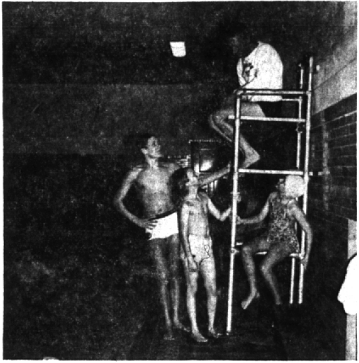


# Bill Pratt in 7th Year As Volunteer at YMCA

The aquatic Charles William Pratt family plunges into activities at Birmingham YMCA like hungry sea gulls on Lake Erie. But none of the Pratts can beat their dad in that category. For over six years, he's been the "Colonial Guard" of the Birmingham Y, always ready to take off on a job when he's needed.

"Bill" Pratt, of 1258 Washington, Birmingham, volunteers a minimum of five hours life-guarding and swimming instruction time every week.

As he sits atop the guard's platform at Barnum Junior High School's indoor pool, he looks like a hot-house variety of life guard, fair instead of bronzed.



ON A RECENT YMCA family swim night, Pratt took to talk to a visitor. But first he blew a whistle and called for all swimmers under 16 to leave the water.

"Have to give the parents a chance to swim without bumping into kids," said the amiable, grinning guard.

Asked how he happened to begin guarding the safety of YMCA swimmers, Pratt told about a Saturday over seven years ago.

"My son, Bill, wanted me to come to Pontiac with him to see how he was getting along with swimming lessons at the 'Y' there," said trim, curly-haired Pratt.

He saw his son swim in classes sponsored by the Birmingham Y. He also saw that the instructor needed help.

"There must have been 60 kids swimming that day," he said, "and there was only one instructor. Right then I wanted to help him out."

Soon after that he began.

Some of his best fans admire the life guard at the Birmingham YMCA's family swim night. The guard is Charles William Pratt, and his "fans" are (from left) Gail, 10; Gary, 10, and Bill, 16.

NOW THE LIFE-GUARDS at family swim night the second and fourth Friday nights of each month. He supervises swimming instruction for adults every Monday night and two children's classes on Tuesday nights.

"This whole thing wouldn't be possible" he adds, "without the wonderful help I get from seven swimming instructors."

For all of the swimming seasons, Pratt arrives early. He leaves only when everything is locked up after the last swimmer has left. He takes home record sheets which have to be tabulated.

An employee of a tool company in Warren, Pratt has been swimming for fun and relaxation almost since he was born 44 years ago.

"You had to be a swimmer to be a member of our family," claims the water sportsman.

HIS MOTHER, Mrs. Warren C. Pratt, collected a shelf full of DAC swim trophies along with seven water and sports-loving children. The widow of a Detroit real estate man, Mrs. Pratt lives at 622 Bloomfield Court, Birmingham.

One of her daughters, Mrs. Norman E. Clark, of 1727 S. Bettes, helps her brother Bill with Tuesday night swimming instruction. Another daughter is recreation director of a YMCA in the Cleveland suburb of Lakewood, Ohio.

Pratt himself began competitive swimming when he attended Barnum Junior High School. During World War II, he was a life guard on the Australian beaches where American GIs swam.

As he tells about it, he blows the whistle once more.

"Kids" he shouts, "children can go back in the water."

He apologizes for the interruption.

"Excuse me," he says, "but the parents get tired if they have to wait to themselves more than 10 minutes."

PRATT SOMETIMES conducts classes in life-guarding for the YMCA.

"Preparation for those courses is the most time-consuming task of all," says Pratt. "There's a lot to know and to teach."

He has taught all of the new ways of Pratts at his house to swim. Twins Gary and Gail, 10; Warren, 14; and Bill, 16, take to water like the Polar bears.

Already, young Bill has earned a place on the Seaborn High School swim team. Spectators have been known to claim they saw a junior-grade rooster tail in his wake when he cut across the water.

BILL GOT his life-guard certification recently in classes taught by his father and Red Cross instructors. He does guard duty at YMCA indoor guide-swim parties and teaches swimming in the Y's summertime backyard pool program.

Pratt's wife, Betsy, keeps things consistent. When she isn't swimming or participating in YMCA and other volunteer activities, she helps down a part-time job, working on a membership drive.

At the YMCA, of course.

Burglars Force Safe At Greenfield School

BEVERLY HILLS — Burglars broke into Greenfield School sometime Tuesday night, taking about \$70, mostly in change, from a safe in the school office.

Police said the burglars entered the building through a side window, attempted to work the combination of the safe and then forced it open.

The theft was reported by Principal Noah Blosser at 7 a.m.

# Necessity Hearing Set For Manor Rd. Sewer

A public hearing will be held March 5 to determine whether the proposed Manor Road sewer in the Birmingham Forest Hills Subdivision is necessary.

Birmingham city commissioners set the date Monday night following a report by City Manager W. R. Gare on the status of the planned sewer, which was proposed several years ago.

The hearing of necessity was set on the basis of property owners paying 85 per cent of the estimated cost of \$23,250 and the City, 15 per cent.

However, as Gare pointed out, residents of the potential assessment district stand to gain no benefit other than removal of offensive odors from the present open ditch.

Forest Hills to an outlet in Springdale Park.

HEARING OF necessity was held Feb. 3, 1947, and the roll confirmed June 16 that year. Before the funds were received, however, action was started toward the opening of 16 Mile between Adams and Woodward.

Consequently, the Manor sewer was held up pending a decision on the drainage for 16 Mile.

Further study showed a need for a larger sewer on Manor than originally anticipated, thus increasing the cost.

Subsequently, the Evergreen Interceptor was constructed.

In 1950, cost of the Manor sewer was re-estimated. The special assessment district then was disbanded because of the big increase in the cost. All monies were refunded.

"SINCE 1958," Gare said, "we have received communications from property owners in the Shephardshub area requesting that the Manor Road sewer be constructed so that the storm water overflow could be carried north to 16 Mile Road in a sewer rather than in the open ditch."

"Because the sanitary sewer is vented through the 190-foot section of sewer extending north from the diversion structure on Shephardshub to Manor, sewage odors are dissipated through the neighborhood. . . . I do not feel . . . that it is good practice to discharge storm water overflow into an open ditch, particularly when it is, in close proximity to residences."

Gare said the obstacles which confronted the City in construction of the sewer and the cause of the delays had been removed, and he recommended that "proceedings be instituted for the construction of this sewer."

GARE REVIEWED the history of the proposed sewer Monday night.

Storm water overflow is carried through a 36-inch storm sewer from a diversion structure on Shephardshub to the open ditch along Manor. From there it is carried to 16 Mile Road and eventually to River Rouge.

Gare pointed out that during storms the Manor ditch carries overflow from the Shephardshub diversion structure that contains dilute sewage.

In 1946 the commission authorized preparation of preliminary plans and cost estimates for construction of an extension of the sewer now serving Birmingham

Education Group Picks Eccentric

The Birmingham Eccentric has been notified by the Michigan Education Association that it is one of 10 weekly newspapers in the state to be nominated for the MEA School Bell Awards.

The nominations are made by MEA in one step throughout the state; the MEA public relations commission then judges the entries and selects the winners, with the approval of the MEA board of directors.

The MEA will present the awards in recognition of outstanding coverage of education to members of the mass communications media during the MEA's annual representative assembly to be held in the Jack Tar Hotel, Lansing, April 5-7.

Outstanding contributions in describing, interpreting and constructively criticizing the issues facing public schools and in advancing community understanding and support of education are constantly being made by Michigan newspapers, radio broadcasters and television stations.

In order to give recognition to the state's newspapers, radio and TV stations, the MEA instituted the School Bell Award program. This year will mark the third annual presentation of the School Bell Awards.

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BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP—Chief Volly Yanuszski and another township fireman

worked feverishly Wednesday night to combat blazes in two feed a hose into the basement of the J. Ted homes that were caused by a downed wire.

Fires

(Continued from 1A)

ship department was called back to the Valley Spring home where a gas meter was affixed underneath the garage in an all cement room.

"There wasn't much damage to the room," Yanuszski said, "but in checking the house we found a bed flaming in the basement."

Damage estimates on the Eschels' home was about \$1,000 in the first fire and about \$500 in the basement bed blaze.

Yanuszski said that Consumers

dowlake area. Firemen worked feverishly Wednesday night to combat blazes in two homes that were caused by a downed wire.

The fire truck was attempting to get a car out of a ditch. West Bloomfield Police Chief Melvin H. Will said the tow truck was from the Standard Service Station at W. Telegraph and Maple Roads, formerly owned by Sam Reeves.

Both the West Bloomfield Fire and Police Departments were called to the scene of the accident. The Detroit Edison Co. was summoned and reset the pole.

Power Co. is making a survey of homes in the area to be sure systems have not been damaged by the wild electrical wave transpositions.

Detroit Edison Co. is also making an investigation into the cause and damages from the accident and chain of fires.

THE ACCIDENT that caused the chain reaction occurred at 10:11 p.m. when Mrs. Mary Burt, 30, of 3566 Orchard Lake Road, Orchard Lake, came over the crest of a hill on W. Maple Road, about one-half mile west of Middlebelt. She was driving west.

TRIANGLE Birmingham Gallery

An open letter to all Birmingham Eccentric readers:

In January, we announced our annual store-wide Mid-Winter Clearance Sale of outstanding showroom and gallery pieces. The savings were greater than anything we've been able to offer before . . . up to fifty per cent.

Here's what happened. Many of the items offered at these unusually large savings were sold very quickly to Birmingham Eccentric readers like yourself . . . sofas, chairs, complete dining room and bedroom groups, occasional pieces, pictures, accessories, unusual antiques, etc.

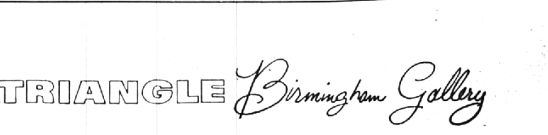
Now, when it came time to prepare an advertisement for this week's paper, we wanted again to show you a detailed list of some of the many fine pieces that are still available at equally substantial savings. But, we learned that numerous articles on sale were disappearing so fast it was impossible for us to list them all and still be sure they would be unsold when the newspaper went to press.

Therefore, let us remind you that there are still many truly excellent items available. Contemporary, Modern, French Provincial, Italian Provincial, Traditional and Early American are among the wide groups of stylings. These are not ordinary pieces, but furniture designed and produced by such leading names as Heritage, Morganton, Tomlinson, Paul McCobb, Custom Craft, Drexel, Jamestown Royal and others. Once they are gone, however, they can never again be offered at these low, low prices. And they will be sold quickly. The values are really much too good to pass by.

We must also tell you that, because of the sharp reductions, buyaways cannot be accepted. All merchandise will be sold as shown, and all sales are final. Naturally, since most groups and items are one-of-a-kind, all purchases are subject to prior sale.

Won't you stop in and look around for yourself? There's still time . . . but not much. We think you'll be happy you did. Remember, we're open Friday evenings until 9 o'clock.

Cordially,  
THE STAFF  
Triangle Birmingham Gallery



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