



The Nation's Top
Suburban Weekly
TEN CENTS

When you come upon a helpful thought, do you merely make a passing, superficial mental note of it . . . one that soon is forgotten? Or do you take it down, briefly, for later meditation and consideration? Helpful thoughts, ideas gleaned from many sources, exist only to help one improve his thinking and acts. Forgotten, living is less fruitful.

85th YEAR—NO. 2

This and That

by George R. Averill

Carlsbad Caverns— A Masterpiece of Nature Plus Eons

CARLSBAD CAVERNS, NEW MEXICO—Following on the words of the previous column about this southwestern trip, I'll continue this travel narrative and take you on a visit to the Carlsbad Caverns, perhaps the world's largest and most famous underground spectacle.

To you who have visited these famous caverns, what you now read perhaps will be brand new data, though it may remind you of what you saw, how you reacted. For those who have not been to Carlsbad, I'd like to impress you with the pleasurable information you might receive from them. Nowhere on this earth, you will be told, are there such huge, such beautiful underground spaces as these Caverns.

Carlsbad Caverns are located in the Guadalupe Mountains, largely limestone formations, 27 miles south of Carlsbad city, Arizona. Although it has been determined, from artifacts found, that Indians probably lived in its cave entrances as long as a thousand years ago, it wasn't until the turn of this century that Jim White, an American, discovered the flying of millions of bats into and out of a dark entrance in the limestone, made some personal investigations.

WHAT HE FOUND, and later brought to the attention of the federal government, resulted in a park Ranger, who, in 1923, finally taking charge of it as a National Park in 1923. Since then further caverns have been discovered and opened to the public. Visitors may take one or both of two trips, one is about two hours, the other walking 1 1/2 miles, the other taking four hours, and you walk about three miles. To get to the start of the shorter one, you descend 750 feet from the surface, in a fast elevator.

Herb Gardner, my travel-companion on this trip, and I chose the shorter trip . . . and, together with 80 others, we were guided by a park Ranger, who, in 1923, finally taking charge of it as a National Park in 1923. Since then further caverns have been discovered and opened to the public. Visitors may take one or both of two trips, one is about two hours, the other walking 1 1/2 miles, the other taking four hours, and you walk about three miles. To get to the start of the shorter one, you descend 750 feet from the surface, in a fast elevator.

THE ORIGINAL limestone (See THIS & THAT, 3-A)

2 B'ham Men Will Receive Ford Awards

Four employees of Ford Motor Co. of Ford Tractor Division, including two from Birmingham, have been selected to receive Ford Community Service awards for their outstanding contributions to community betterment during 1961.

To be honored with engraved silver scrolls bearing their names were: Robert J. Allison, 2111 Chapin, Birmingham; Burdette W. Dierker, 2111 Chapin, Birmingham; Southfield; Vernon E. Nickel, 5965 Middlefield, Birmingham; and Richard R. Rogers, 2929 Lloyd, Royal Oak.

The awards will be presented by R. J. Hampton, Ford vice president and divisional general manager, at a banquet Tuesday, March 20, at the Ford office at 2900 E. Maple.

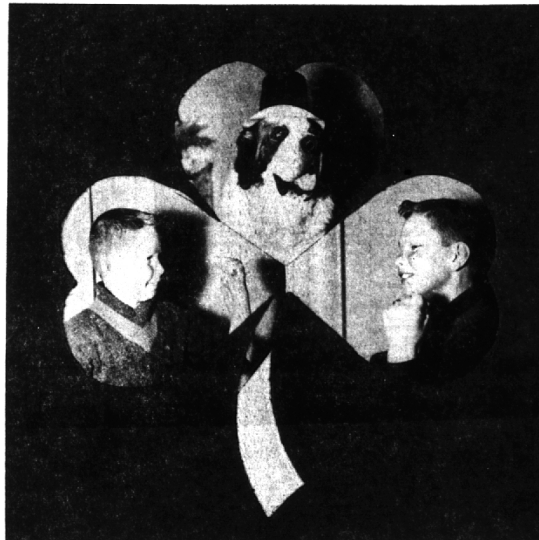
T. A. Beaver, divisional industrial relations manager, will serve as toastmaster. The banquet will be attended by civic leaders and officials of South Oakland County communities and Ford executives. Main speaker will be Dr. D. B. Vail, chairman of the Michigan State University Oakland, which subject will be "A New Look at an Old Frontier."

ACTIVITIES USED as the basis for Ford's Community Service awards among its employees include public service in elected or appointed capacities, participation in political activities, work with civic groups, direction for youth or recreation programs, service for fund raising campaigns and unselfish effort in the interest of special projects by clubs, societies or churches.

Allison, divisional engineering services, will be recognized primarily for his work in boy scouting. Active in the movement since 1948, when he served as an assistant scout master in Clawson, he has consistently accepted increased responsibilities and last year became the advisor to Explorer Post 1014 in Birmingham.

Allison, who does not have sons in the movement, is also on the auditing membership committee of the Detroit Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

NICKEL, SALES administration department manager, and tractor and (See AWARDS, 3-A)



Have a Rarin' Erin Day
These fightin' Irish tangle frequently—"Pat and Mike's" are inclined to do—but thanks to a peace-loving St. Bernard should be copacetic by Saturday. Twelve-year-old twins (from left) either Pat or Mike McClary will celebrate St. Patrick's Day with five-year-old Major (of Swiss ancestry) and the rest of the McClary clan who reside at 2351 Masefeld, Bloomfield Township.

County 'Obeyed the Law' In Planning Jet Airport

Second of a Series
By LES LANGLOIS
City Editor

How legal is the Oakland County jet airport proposal and the manner in which it has been developed? From strictly a professional point of view—"perfectly legal"—according to Oakland Corporation Counsel Norman B. Burns.

The fact that a federal case (of sorts) has been made of the proposed airport—by county officials formally and by taxpayers informally—represents each side's approach in supporting and opposing the issue.

The final decision as to the need and merit of the proposed 3,000-acre airport north of Pontiac in Orion Township rests with the Federal Aviation Agency.

The 85-member Oakland County Board of Supervisors was within its legal rights in approving and implementing the proposal.

CONSISTING OF 81 appointed supervisors representing the various cities of the county on a population basis and 24 elected supervisors representing each of the county's townships, the board acted as the legislative body of the county as provided by state law.

The central issue underlying the legality of the airport proposal strips down to the basic question: Does the board of supervisors need the authorization to plan, finance and develop an airport?

ACCORDING TO Chapter VII, Section 12 of the State Aeronautics Code, "Every political subdivision in this state is hereby authorized through its governing body to acquire property real and personal for the purpose of establishing, constructing, and enlarging airports, landing fields and other aeronautical facilities and to acquire, establish, construct, enlarge, improve, maintain, equip, operate and regulate such airports, landing fields and other aeronautical facilities and other aeronautical facilities within their territorial limits, and their operation, either with or without the territorial limits, and with political subdivision, and with-

Seaholm Tankers Tie for 'A' Title
Seaholm's swim team clinaxed a near perfect season Saturday night at Ann Arbor by being Grand Pointe for the state high school class "A" championship.

The Falcons from Groves in their first class A title bid surprised many with a tie for fourth place.

Don Spencer of Seaholm set a new Michigan schoolboy record in 54.3 seconds.

Complete results of the championship meet will be found on the Eccentric Sports Page.

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Bits of Birmingham
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6-E Give Service Award
8-A . . . to mail carrier in Birmingham, a veteran of 42 years of service. Story and photo are on Page 1-B.
6-B Blue Ribbons
4, 6, 6-A . . . Attractive gal ski enthusiast know how to earn them for courage. Story and photograph are on Page 1-C.
7-B Election Results
7-C . . . in four area villages—Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Franklin and Wood Creek Farms—all on Page 1-D.
8-E Seaholm Tankers Tie
C . . . in bid for state championship at Ann Arbor. Page 3-E for story.

City Crews Battle Ice Jams, Floods

Birmingham Forestry Department crews worked an 18-hour day Monday while DPW men put in 8 hours in efforts to alleviate flood conditions throughout the city.

Forestry Superintendent Charles Gale said the Rouge River reached five feet per second velocity Monday afternoon with water cresting about midnight and then dropping rapidly. Flood conditions did not constitute an emergency, however, Gale said.

ONE OF SEVERAL ice jams in the Rouge near city bridges resulted in backup of water into the lower level of the Reid Building.

On North Woodward at 5 a.m. Monday.

About 25 complaints were received flooded basements by the two departments as well as numerous calls on "back yard ponds." A few clogged catch basins were reported.

Birmingham Golf Course was under water with two or three greens flooded out, DPW Supt. T. C. Brien said, and two homes on Fairway Drive near the course, suffered some minor water damage. Minor ponding was reported at Springdale Park Golf Course.

AN ICE JAM near the bridge on North Woodward caused the backup of water into the Reid Building and onto Municipal Parking Lot No. 6 in back of the building.

The forestry crew, using the department's winch truck, broke the key block of ice, immediately relieving the flooding of the building.

A second jam at the same location brought crews back about 11 a.m. but the ice was quickly freed before flooding occurred again.

At the country club, crews had to cut a fence that crossed the river on the south side of the bridge to free ice.

Ice jams near Northlawn bridge were broken up by DPW and Forestry employees, preventing flooding of nearby homes as the crews kept the water flowing under the bridge.

BRIEN SAID there was little trouble with sewers. Most of it was due to routine stoppage—caused by roots, grease and such materials—brought to a head by the additional water. Only two of the complaints of flooded basements involved backup of sewage, he said.

Catch basins gave little trouble, the DPW superintendent said, because they were cleared after the most recent storm in Birmingham.

Brien said the city commissioners commented Monday night that last summer's cleanup of the Rouge by an extra crew of college boys had been of value in preventing worse jams as the ice broke up.

No extra help was hired to alleviate the local situation Monday, Brien said.

B'field Family Held Captive By Kidnapers

A Bloomfield Hills family terrorized for nine hours Sunday by two Halloween-masked bandits attempting today to again lead a normal life.

Leon M. Gillain, Pontiac Montgomery Ward store manager, his wife, Blanche, and teenage son, Donald, were held at gunpoint in their home all Sunday night. Monday morning the bandits forced the family to accompany them to the store in an unsuccessful effort to rob it.

Police throughout the state are checking leads as to the whereabouts of the kidnapers. They are also combing the state for a 1955 model car believed used in the crime.

GILLAIN, 58, told police that the two men entered his home at 140 Hickory Grove by breaking a basement window around 8:30 p.m. Sunday.

His wife was not feeling well and had already retired for the night. Donald was also in his room.

Gillain said one of the robbers asked him if anyone else was at home.

"I told them that my wife and son were home," he said. They forced me upstairs into my son's bedroom.

The bandits then ripped sheets and bound Gillain and his son. They also took about \$100 from Gillain's wallet.

Bloomfield police believe the men must have known something of the layout of the Gillain home and the operation of the store.

THE BANDITS asked Gillain to take them to the store.

He told them that an automatic alarm system would sound if they tried to enter the store before morning.

The men did not bother Mrs. Gillain during the night and knew nothing of the holdup attempt until awakened by her husband shortly after 4 a.m.

Gillain said he believed there was a third gunman but did not see him.

USING GILLAIN'S CAR, the two men and the Gillains drove to the store on Telegraph and Elizabeth Lake roads.

Gillain advised the men that he was a kidnaper. (See KIDNAPERS, 2-A)

Firemen Lay Plans For Theater Party

For the ninth consecutive year, the Birmingham Uniformed Firemen's Association will have its movie theater party at the Birmingham Theater on April 25.

Purpose is to raise funds for the organization's family welfare and recreational fund.

The city commission granted approval for the party Monday night.

2 Rabbits; \$1 Magician Available

Ads Reveal Children's World

"You can get 2 rabbit for \$1. It is 2 black rabbit. Baby rabbits, too."

"For Sale pot holders made by me for sale it costs 50c for one."

No, we haven't gone bats. And our composing department isn't making a lot of typographical gobs.

THESE ARE the actual words of some of the youngsters using this week's classified advertising columns in The Eccentric.

In observance of National Want Ad Week, The Eccentric offered to place free classified ads in this week's

NATIONAL WANT AD WEEK

Con-Con Delegate Progress Reports Set for March 24

Oakland County voters are invited to hear progress reports from their senators at a public hearing on Thursday, March 24, at the Community House, 380 South Bay.

The admission-free briefing, to be followed by a question and answer period, will be held at 9:30 a.m.

The meeting is jointly sponsored by the drive raised \$14,438. The amount was slightly more than the financial goal set for the 1962 campaign.

Funds raised in Troy and the Walled area are allocated to separate funds to establish permanent Y.M.C.A.'s in the two communities.

Emphasis was placed on sale of Civic memberships at \$100. Salton said, through a division headed by Dr. Harry C. Lichtwardt of Birmingham. The division sold 52 civic memberships to individuals and service clubs.

In Troy, 162 memberships were sold and \$808 was raised by a campaign team headed by Mrs. Robert F. Hever, 72 Booth, and Mrs. Michael Bordoni, 685 East Square Lake Court.

(See CAMPAIGN, 2-A)

March

Yesterday I had no doubt
The season "Spring" was
bursting out!

Today my eyes met with a sight
All the ground was covered
with white!

Ole Mother Nature is being
fickle,
She's turned the Rouge from
just a trickle
To a roar, gushin', boundless
stream

With all the power of a two-
ton truck,
But the kids are happy, by and
large
Watching water rising in their
yards.

Raise the window, toss out a
line,
Come and join me, the fish-
in's fine!

HRK

Local YMCA Campaign Exceeds Target Figure

Birmingham YMCA volunteers brought membership to its highest figure in the history of the local organization, during the five-week drive bringing the total to 4,275.

Salton, 1035 Wakefield, Birmingham, said the 150 campaign workers reached their goal by signing up 2,423 new or renewing members, 400 more than last year's figure.

YMCA extension branches in Troy and Walled Lake hit about 50 per cent of goal in their campaigns, Salton said. The newly-organized branches operated their membership drives simultaneously with that of the Birmingham YMCA, which sponsors them.

DELEGATES AT the meeting will be George Romney, senatorial district delegates and a Constitutional Convention vice president; Richard Kuhn of Oakland County's 1st District; Raymond L. King, 2nd District; Henry L. Woolfenden, 3rd District; Richard Van Dusen, 4th District; Arthur G. Elliott, Jr., 5th District; and Lee Walker, 6th District.

Community House Fund Drive Ahead Of 1961 Pace

The number of contributors and the amount contributed to the 1962 Community House Fund Drive are running more than 10 per cent ahead of last year, general chairman Ed Lerchen announced today.

He also issued a reminder to residents of the Birmingham-Bloomfield area that contributions to the House are tax deductible.

During the first 11 days of the drive, individuals' organizations and churches established 10 per cent contributed a total of \$20,860, \$5,000 more than during the comparable period last year.

"The total represents more than 41 per cent of our goal which we will realize and perhaps top, assuming this encouraging pattern continues," Lerchen said.

Yes, we're observing National Want Ad Week, but it's still a child's world.

"EXPERIENCED" Magician specializing in 2nd-4th grade birthday party magic. Low rates.

"I'm selling baby guppies for 10c a fish and ask for Susie."

All makes of lawn spring mattresses repairing. Call 521-1000. MATTRESS COMPANY. Dial "O" and ask for Enterprise 6210.