



### A Sniper Confesses

Oakland County Prosecutor George F. Taylor (left) tells reporters and TV newsmen that Douglas Godfrey, 15, has admitted the Jan. 25 sniperslaying of his mother, Mary. The boy's father, Donald, confers with Bloomfield Township Police Chief

Norman Dehnke. The confession climaxed a two-week, around-the-clock investigation by township police, sheriff's deputies and state police and ended a reign of terror by the "phantom sniper."



### Squirt a Little My Way

It doesn't seem possible now but last July the weather in Birmingham was warm enough for youngsters to do this. Kevin Hamilton, 4½, and Simone Brancheno, 5,

took turns squirting away the summer heat with a lawn sprinkler. They sat refreshed on the sidewalk at the corner of Clark and George, while adults sweltered.

### Express Thanks For Food, Toys

Men of the Bloomfield Township Fire Dept. today expressed their thanks to residents who contributed food and toys for needy families during the Christmas season. "I speak for the whole department when I say that we sincerely appreciate the efforts of the children who brought food and toys to their schools and the parents who delivered items to the fire department," said Fire Chief Volly V. Yanuzeski.

IN ADDITION, clothing was purchased with money from the Firefighters' Association fund, Yanuzeski said.

**Holiday Special**  
New Era Potato Chips  
1 lb. bag—69c  
Birmingham Foods  
219 N. Eton

### This & That

(Continued From 3-A)

late Leo Dpnow, who became automotive editor of The Detroit Free Press; Marjorie Elaine Porter, who went to The Detroit News as its education editor; Jim Crellin, now with The News; John H. Harwood, who now holds a responsible sales position with Pontiac Motors; and a young woman, Dorothy Williams, whose first newspaper job was on The Eccentric and who later became president of the Women's National Press Club, in Washington, D. C., and also served as Pearl Mesta's public relations secretary when Mrs. Mesta was U.S. Ambassador to Luxembourg.

NOW THAT RAY GIRARDIN succeeds George Edwards, the latter having just been appointed as a judge on the U.S. Sixth Court of Appeals, I believe that he will do a splendid civic job for Detroit. In this belief, I am but one of many hundreds of Ray's friends and admirers.

### WSU Press Panel Includes B'ham Editor

Kenneth Weaver, managing editor of The Birmingham Eccentric, will be one of three panelists examining the problems of collecting and editing material for seasonal and special editions at the 19th Wayne State University Press Club workshop on Jan. 10, McGregor Memorial Conference Center.

Other panelists include Harry Arnott, managing editor of the Dearborn Press, and Roger Williams, editor, Marine City Independent.

OTHER SPEAKERS for the all-day event on the WSU campus will be L. William Seidman, Gov. Romney aide who was the Republican candidate for state auditor general, speaking on "How's Your Financial Structure?" Cold type printing, one of the most basic and recent innovations in newspaper publication, will be examined at the afternoon session, beginning at 2 p.m.

### Chooses Thin Ice Hazardous For Skaters

(Continued from 1-A)

named by the school board to take over the job as superintendent of the 14,000-student Birmingham school system. Dr. Smith had served as superintendent in Greenwich, Conn.

IN MAY city commissioners authorized the administration to begin the development of a new nine-hole golf course at the site of the old sewage treatment plant at Cranbrook and Lincoln roads.

The move ended almost two years of discussion between the commission and the recreation and planning boards as to what should be done with the 66-acre tract of land.

Total cost of the project, which will include facilities for other summer and winter sports, was set at about \$161,000.

Completion of the course is set for the spring of 1964.

LESS THAN a month later, the commission voted to begin purchasing land in the block south of Shinn Park for a parking lot.

The decision ditched off one of the biggest battles of the year between the commission and residents of the Southeast quadrant of the city.

The issue wasn't settled until December when the city, through condemnation proceedings, finally obtained the last of the land in the block.

A temporary parking lot for 82 cars is already in operation and the complete lot is scheduled to be finished by mid-summer 1964. Total cost for the land in the block has been set at \$284,000.

ALL OF the news involving the Birmingham Schools was not in the personnel line.

Twice during 1963 the board of education and parents battled on important issues.

In March the school board ended several months of controversy by establishing new secondary school boundaries. Residents of several areas of the school district had been opposed to the board's decision.

Again in June the school board found itself in a squabble with parents when it announced the administration would begin cracking down on secret groups operating within the school system.

In a statement of policy the board said it would "definitely enforce the state law that prohibits membership in fraternities, sororities and other secret organizations by public school students."

TWO SUCH organizations—TAE and AO—were reportedly active in Birmingham. TAE, a girls' association, has recently announced a change in its by-law and constitution but an opinion by the board's attorney still finds the group illegal in the eyes of the school administration.

The group has indicated several times it would take the matter to the courts but no such action has been taken.

The Community House, the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce and the YMCA had busy years in 1963.

THE COMMUNITY House in February announced plans to build a multi-purpose auditorium, banquet, meeting and class rooms and office space for charitable organizations.

In June The Community House announced the selection of Harley Ellington, Cowin and Stirton as architects for the addition.

A new executive director was named by The Community House in May. He is Robert A. Boyer, Jr., former customer service officer and assistant vice president of Metropolitan Federal Savings and Loan Association.

In the spring William E. Roberts was elected president of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, and Ed Chudik was named to the Retail Merchants Division of the chamber.

CHARLES Mortensen, chamber manager since its founding 16 years ago, announced his decision in December to step down from the post.

At the YMCA plans were announced for construction of a swimming pool, a physical fitness unit for men and women, a gymnasium, youth club and game rooms. Cost of the addition was set at \$600,000.

### Thin Ice Hazardous For Skaters

Shiny new skates under the Christmas tree, added to winter's ice on lakes and streams, means winter fun for many a youngster—but early season ice can also be a threat to their lives, according to Gordon Traye, Deputy Secretary of State.

"In some areas early winter ice may look thick enough to walk or skate on," Traye said, "but may still be too thin for a youngster's weight."

HE URGED PARENTS to warn their children about venturing on frozen waters before determining the thickness of the ice. Ice on top of deep bodies of water should be four or more inches thick to be safe.

Traye asked parents to check ice thickness themselves rather than leaving it to the children.

"Even where ice is judged safe for skating or sliding," Traye said, "provisions should be made for rescue in the event of a breakthrough."

Breaks and weak spots can be caused by pressure cracks or from a flow of water current beneath the ice.

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TRAYE ALSO cautioned ice fishermen about using cars for transportation to ice shanties, urging them to wait until well into January before venturing on the ice with any heavy equipment.

During 1962, 12 persons drowned from falling through the ice into Michigan waters. This year has already seen a few deaths from this cause.

### Finding Bottle Brings Honor To Local Man

Robert C. Marks, Jr., 1075 Safford, Birmingham, has been proclaimed "a loyal fellow of the Worldwide Brotherhood of Beachcombers" as the result of finding a bottle set adrift last August by an ocean tanker owned and operated by American Oil Co.

The tongue-in-cheek proclamation is part of a scientific drift bottle project which the oil company is undertaking in cooperation with the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, an arm of the Department of Commerce.

Information gained through the project will be used in plotting hydrographic charts and maps which serve as vital navigational aids for ships plying the coastal sea lanes.

THE BOTTLE found by Marks was one of 2,000 launched at sea by American Oil tankers on their regular runs between Texas City, Tex., and Portland, Me.

The proclamation received lauds his "extraordinary skill, proficiency and perseverance in finding a bottle cast adrift upon the sea" and recognizes his efforts as having "contributed substantially to the quest for added knowledge of the sea, its tides and currents."

The case was referred to the juvenile division of probate court and the youngster sent to the Youth Center in Pontiac.

The boy was left to shift for himself.

THE YOUNGSTER refused to admit that he had deliberately set the fire.

He told police that he "was looking for pop bottles with matches."

As a result of the boy's escapades, one garage was destroyed and several others were damaged.

The youth came from a home in which both parents worked. The father worked days and slept at night; the mother worked nights and slept during the day.

The boy was left to shift for himself.



### Educational Leaders

The outgoing and incoming superintendents of the Birmingham Public Schools met with retiring Board of Education President Mrs. Kathryn Loomis before the July board meeting. Dr. Otis M. Dickey (left) became

superintendent of schools in Cherry Creek, Colo., near Denver. Dr. John B. Smith took charge of the Birmingham school system on Sept. 17.

### Troubled

(Continued from 1-A)

"He was quick to notice the inconsistency and would often play one parent against the other."

Because of the boy's good record and the belief that he could be helped, police referred the case to the Youth Protective Service.

A WORKER appointed by probate court is now dealing with both the boy and his parents and the prognosis is good that the problem will be eliminated.

Some cases do not end as happily.

A 14-year-old Birmingham boy admitted to juvenile authorities that he had broken into and rifled seven homes and had set five fires within the city.

He stole cameras and transistor radios—but money was primarily what he looked for.

"The boy seemed to have a knack for knowing where the money would be hidden—sugar bowls, cookie jars and other favorite hiding places," Schulte said.

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### Lower Train Fares Benefit B'ham

Birmingham residents will benefit from successful fare reduction on North American railroads, according to information by the Michigan Railroad Club.

Transcontinental travelers from Oakland County, boarding Grand Trunk Western trains at Birmingham, Royal Oak or Pontiac will pay \$110.10 for the new round trip coach fare to the West Coast, or \$205.17 in sleeping cars including pullman tickets for lower berth both ways east of Chicago and roomette west of Chicago.

A subscription to The Eccentric brings you the community's top news events 52 times a year.

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**CITY OF BLOOMFIELD HILLS**

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PUBLIC HEARING, ON A PROPOSED CITY ZONING ORDINANCE WILL BE HELD AT THE CRANBROOK GYMNASIUM, LONE PINE AT ORCHARD RIDGE ROAD, BLOOMFIELD HILLS, ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 1964 AT EIGHT O'CLOCK P.M. COPIES OF THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE MAY BE EXAMINED BY CALLING AT THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE.

ROBERT J. STADLER  
CITY CLERK

### A Future Dragstrip?

After The Eccentric ran a series of articles in August and September dealing with the problems of teen-agers racing on Woodward Ave., Royal Oak industrialist Jim Robbins offered his private airstrip for use as a dragstrip. A trio of Detroit youngsters has formed a corporation and are presently looking into the possibility of building the strip.

going on vacation?

Torrence Oil Company has a service you'll be interested in. It's called the Torrence Vacation Heat-Eye. It's a warning device that warns your neighbor if your furnace needs attention . . .

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