

**Local AF Men Set For More Training**

Two Birmingham men are being reassigned to new bases to attend technical training courses following completion of United States Air Force basic military training. They are Airman Herbert B. Ruggles, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Ruggles of 355 Coolidge, and Airman Gerald F. Schaefer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert F. Schaefer Jr. of 32371 Arlington. Airman Ruggles will attend a course for missile mechanics at Sheppard AFB, Tex. Airman Schaefer will be trained at Greenville AFB, Miss., as a medical service specialist. He attended Fort Lewis College, Durango, Colo. They are graduates of Seaholm High School.

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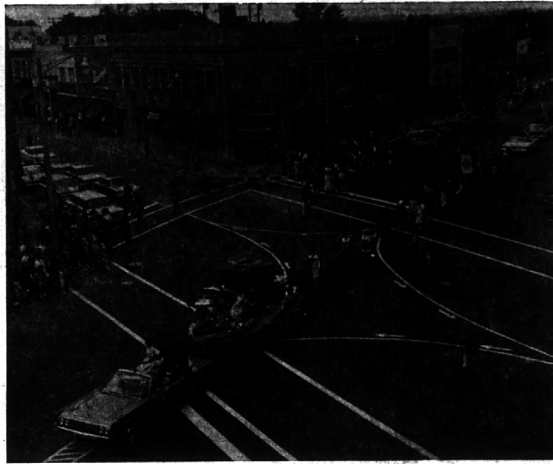
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**Climax To Michigan Week, '63**

This was the scene in downtown Birmingham last May 24 as one of the biggest parades in the history of the city was staged as a climax to Michigan Week. The float in the foreground from Barnum Junior High won the trophy for the best designed entry. The photo was taken from atop the Briggs Building at Woodward and Maple.

**Life-Long Boating Buff Navigates To Photography**

BY MARY BAHN  
Staff Writer

The burning of the S. S. Lakonia last week has brought back vivid memories to James McDonald, 460 Westwood Drive, Birmingham.

In May of 1911, McDonald, then a boy of 8, was crossing the Atlantic with his parents going from Scotland to Quebec on the S. S. Saturnia when fire plumed out of the stern, galley and tourist cabins.

"A hush settled over the ship—there was no panic, only a feeling of aloneness. These were the days prior to radio, but we were fortunate to have a crew that was able to keep the fire under control, and no lives were lost."

"BUT I STILL remember the fear, horror and helplessness that existed," said the tall, white-haired gentleman.

"If a fire starts on land you can run. But when you're in the middle of an ocean, where can you go?" asked McDonald with a shrug, suggesting the feeling that existed in the holocaust.

McDonald's life has been one filled with the lore of boats, even with such a frightening beginning.

BORN IN SCOTLAND, the son of a seafaring father, he was taken to New Zealand via the Cape of Good Hope when only 4. The family later returned to Scotland via the Cape Horn route, so that McDonald had been around the world by the time he was 11.

"Father Neptune" even baptized me in the traditional sea ceremony when I crossed the equatorial line, proudly boasts McDonald, recalling the experience that he would never forget. "Because of my big size, they dubbed me the 'whale' and 'near-death ship incidents seem to follow McDonald, as he had another brush with disaster while working as a riveter at the Great Lakes Engineering Works in Ecorse in 1918, at the close of World War I.

"WE USED TO TAKE turns going down the tank top-deck manholes and crawling between the 27-inch partitions which, for a lad of my size, was quite a job. I

weighed 180 pounds and stood 6 feet 3 inches at the time."

McDonald decided to stay in the tank during the noon-hour break to rest, but after a few moments, tank testers came along, bolted down the manhole cover and paraffined it. Then they opened the valves to let the water into the tanks under plenty of pressure.

"All of a sudden I discovered the water just trickling over the edge of the partition manhole, right where I was sitting. "Imagine my terror at realizing that I was sitting in water!" I started crawling for the tank top-deck manhole carrying a dolly bar. This meant crawling through 18 manholes before I could reach the deck manhole. Behind me, the inrush of tons of water.

GETTING through each manhole was a blood-chilling performance. If I hurried, I got stuck. I had to squirm patiently—one arm, shoulder, head, body.

"After an interminably long time I reached the last manhole. By this time I was sitting in water up to my armpits. I knocked and knocked on the tank top with the dolly bar, and finally an answering knock came," said McDonald, vividly reliving his experience.

did not wain after this chilling experience—it merely took on a new phase: that of photographing boats.

His colored slides have won many awards in contests, but they have also opened the door to a new world of personal satisfaction to McDonald.

He has given innumerable screenings of his photos to Birmingham organizations such as the Woman's Club, Rotary, Optimists, High-12 plus visiting many senior citizens groups and hospitals.

HIS SCREENINGS are dotted with human interest stories, which he says have never been told before "because I pick them up at each place that I visit."

Now with the burning of the Lakonia, his prize picture is that of the S. S. Montaine, taken when she moored in the Detroit harbor. This is the sister ship of the S. S. Montrose, which played an important role in Lakonia rescue missions.

McDonald's photographs are professional, vivid in hue, and varied in content—but two times out of three you'll find a snapshot of a ship—his way of "going out to sea."

McDONALD'S interest in ships

**Happenings**

(Continued from 1-B)

Sale of hard liquor by the glass is definitely taboo, as far as the City Commission is concerned. A majority of the commissioners had expressed themselves unofficially several weeks ago, but the question was put to a formal vote Tuesday night, and all six of the members cast their votes against it.

15 YEARS AGO

Dec. 30, 1948

A rescue party worked four hours Sunday morning to free 146 ducks trapped in ice in the middle of Walnut Lake. Wild and domestic ducks were both secured in ice as the lake froze during the night. Dr. F. L. Granker and his helper, John, left shore in a rowboat and tried chopping their way through the ice. Their second try was successful and, as the ducks were freed, they waddled on top of the ice. The wild ducks were last seen heading South.

Elliot S. Kinney, 1125 Chestersfield, has been elected president of the Birmingham Real Estate Board, succeeding Fred Pew, 320 Suffield. Other new officers are Jerome Benjamin, vice-president; Jack D. Andrews, secretary; Dave Levinson, treasurer; and Louis Hascall, director. Kinney was recently appointed to the newly formed city plan commission.

By clearly outplaying, outthinking and outshooting the Royal Oak hardwooders, Birmingham's cagers thoroughly submerged the Acorns, 64-18, in the Maples' initial home performance Tuesday, Dec. 21. Even with the second quintet playing more than half the time, the Maples held complete control of the situation throughout the contest.

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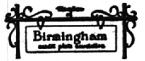
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