



BIRMINGHAMITES ONE AND ALL

From left, front row: Mark, 11; Mrs. Hall; Mr. Hall; back row: Barbara, 16; Andrea, 17; Trevor, Jr., 14; Cameron, 10.

Hall Family Participates In All Types of Activity

EDITOR'S NOTE — The Trevor Hall family is featured in the annual Christmas section appearing with this week's Eccentric, as a typical Birmingham family on a local shopping tour.

By ART STAWBCKI
Special Writer

The pulse of Birmingham must have quickened a bit in December.

Men's Night: Lights to Go On in B'ham

Salesgirls and models will be about the only women allowed in downtown Birmingham stores Monday night as the chamber of commerce kicks off the Christmas shopping season with the annual observance of Men's Night.

The "stag only" custom gives men a chance to view the varied assortment of gifts available in the local stores and shops away from the watchful eye of their women.

The downtown area will be aglow when the thousands of Christmas tree lights will go on for the first time.

CIDER, DONUTS, soft drinks and other refreshments will be available in many of the stores for the hungry male shopper along with musical entertainment.

Special sales people will be on hand to offer suggestions and answer questions about the latest fashions, colors and sizes.

If a shopper wonders how a specific item would look when worn, many of the stores will supply the model. In addition, informal modeling, free gift wrapping and other extra services will be provided.

The downtown streets will be filled with the sounds of music from the Mercy College Choral Group. The group will appear at Jacobus.

Sherwin Davidson is chairman of the chamber of commerce's Men's Night activities committee.

1962, and it hasn't slowed down since. Because that's where the Trevor Hall family of 1371 Pierce St. moved into Birmingham.

The Halls, now numbering seven, include Trevor Hall, Sr.; his wife, Elinor; daughters Andrea, 17, and Barbara, 16, students at Seaholm; son Trevor, Jr., 14, a student at Barnum; son, Mark 11, and daughter, Cameron, 10, students at Pierce.

Almost all areas of Birmingham activity, be it recreational, civic, educational or religious, usually find a representative from the Hall family.

TREVOR, SR., when he isn't swinging a golf club or flying a plane around Birmingham, serves on the executive council of St. James Episcopal Church and is a merit badge counselor in his son's Scout troop.

Considering the small amount of spare time available to a corporation head, Mr. Hall certainly puts it to good use.

Mother is a student in the case of Elinor Hall. Not to be outdone by her children, Mrs. Hall is completing her degree requirements at Oakland University with a major in history.

In addition to being a housewife and chief counselor for the family, she would hope to be a representative from the not too distant future.

THE HALL children are no dead weight on their parents. Andrea, having returned from a summer in Berlin where she was on the exchange program, and Barbara, who was sophomore field day chairman, easily keep their parents' pace.

The scouting program finds daughter Cameron as the female representative while sons Trevor, Jr., an Eagle Scout, and Mark, second class Scout, hold up the male side of the ledger.

Being an active family as they are and still retaining a close knit relationship with each other is characteristic of the Hall clan. This holds true at Christmas time as well as throughout the rest of the year.

TWO YEARS AGO, in order that they all might spend Christmas in Florida, each member of the family

voluntarily agreed to accept the trip as a family gift in lieu of individual presents to each other. It remains as one of the family's fondest memories.

Christmas shopping is also a family affair although a line is drawn between the sexes. Mrs. Hall collaborates with Andrea, Barbara and Cameron, while Mr. Hall conspires with Trevor, Jr., and Mark.

IS THERE any difficulty in keeping the gifts a secret from each other? Not according to Mrs. Hall. "The gifts are usually a well-kept secret because we all want it that way. So each one of us cooperate to make it so."

It is evident that to participate so actively in the community and remain as close as they are certainly qualifies the Trevor Hall family as one of the best "mutual corporation societies" in Birmingham.

Is Local Financing Available?

First in a Series
By MARY BAHN
Staff Writer

What's a man to do when his city urges him to modernize his home, located in a "depressed" area of Birmingham, but the loaning institutions won't advance him enough money to fully complete the job—BECAUSE the home is located in a depressed area?

This is the circle that John Gorman has been treading the past several months, ever since he sought to renovate his seven-room home at 972 Davis.

Gorman came to The Eccentric to find out if any banks or savings and loan companies in the area were making programs available whereby they would take into consideration the total value of a home after improvements were made.

The tall, quiet-spoken man is a Birmingham freighter who is active in the Explorer Scout movement, perhaps because he has six boys of his own.

"WE DON'T WANT to move away from Birmingham," says Gorman determinedly.

"We have plenty of space on this lot, we like the location, we're right across the street from a park and the schools (Barnum and Pierce) are excellent.

"But we want to fix up this house the right way, and all at one time to get it over with."

The house itself is perhaps one of the most solidly-constructed units in the area, with large rooms and small closets which symbolized homes built 40 years ago.

The interior is modest but neat, the kind of home one could live in comfortably with six boys, ages 1 through 14. The exterior of the home could use paint and siding, or a general face-lifting.

Birmingham To Contact Urban Renewal Agency

Goal: See If City Qualifies for Aid

By LARRY EVOE
City Editor

The City of Birmingham is going to ask the Federal government to find out if the southwest section of town could qualify for U.S. conservation funds.

Commissioners Monday night approved a plan to contact the Chicago office of the Urban Renewal Administration on the matter upon the recommendation of the planning board.

The planning group had suggested that this might be one of the ways to explore for possible aid in improving the area bounded by Woodward, 14 Mile, Lincoln and Grant.

The City's planning consultants, Vilcan-Leman, told the commission and the planning board in October that they believed the southern portion of Birmingham could qualify for such assistance.

COMMISSIONER David F. Breck said he was in favor of the plan.

"Although I am reluctant to use Federal money, I feel we should know what's available to us," Breck said.

Commissioner Charles F. Clippert supported Breck's position. "I think there is something to be said for getting all the information possible," he said.

Mayor Charles W. Renfrew said he didn't see how the City could take this first step without seriously considering making application for funds.

MONDAY'S ACTION to ask the government to send a field representative to Birmingham was not unanimous.

Commissioner Robert W. Page voted against the motion, saying he believed "it was an administrative matter." Commissioner William E. Roberts was not present at the meeting.

The government representative will look at the area and then inform the City if it qualifies under the Federal Housing Act of 1954, according to City Planner William R. Brownfield.

BROWNFIELD SAID the study will be made at no expense to Birmingham and the City is under no obligation to seek the funds if it does qualify.

"The planning board wishes to make it clear that this action in no way obligates the City of Birmingham to the Federal government or any phases of the Federal program," Brownfield said.

Brownfield called the plan board recommendation "an exploratory" measure.

He also stressed that the recommendation did not mean it was the intent of the board to mean that the only way to accomplish the conservation of the area was through Federal assistance.

RENFREW TOLD Breck: "If you vote in favor of this step, it seems to me we are leading toward a federal program."

"If we get a positive answer and you're still reluctant to use the funds I don't see why we should proceed with this."

Commissioner Carl F. Ingraham said his vote in favor of the action "indicated I have reached the conclusion that we should go ahead."

Commissioner Robert W. Page said: "I don't like the connotation of this and I'm reluctant to have the Federal government come in."

"I don't believe this action (on the part of the commission) is necessary. This has been and is an administrative matter."

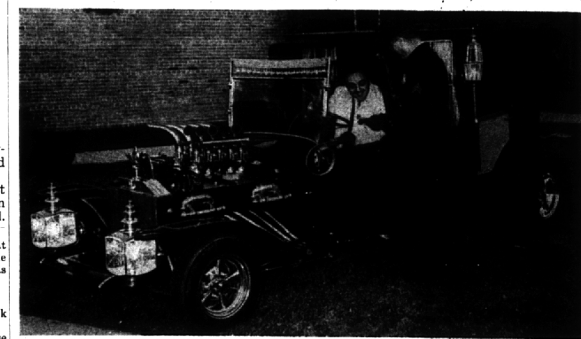
Renfrew said he did not think the administration had the authority to request \$4,500.

plans include aluminum siding for the exterior, an additional bath, a garage, new windows, relocation of the entrance-way, additional closet space and enlarging of one bedroom.

Cost of the project was estimated at \$4,500; so Gorman sought a \$10,000 mortgage loan from a savings and loan company to pay off his present mortgage and to modernize.

The company offered Gorman \$8,500; but he said that wasn't enough to cover his needs.

"We want to make the house more livable for everyone, while we were advised just to put up siding on the outside to make it look good. If something is left out of the project, it will be the outside work."



'Your License, Please'

Birmingham Police Sgt. Charles Blashfield did a double take Monday afternoon when he stopped this car on Bowers St. The vehicle is the "Munster-Koach" used in the television series called "The Munsters."

Builder George Barris (behind the wheel) had the car in town to visit the AMT Corp. in Troy. The Model Car Corporation will manufacture a scale model after the first of the year.

Teens Recommend Program To Cut Down on Shoplifting

A resolution on ways to eliminate shoplifting by youths was approved unanimously Tuesday night by the Eccentric Teen Panel.

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"Someone is going to live here for a long time, and we think we can be used for any purpose, while the specific use of the money must be given in the home improvement loan," said Smith.

"A bank wouldn't authorize a \$10,000 mortgage loan to Gorman because we are restricted to 60 or 66 per cent of the present appraised value of a home."

The Gorman home is appraised at \$12,800; the maximum mortgage is \$7,680.

Weatherman's Not Too Cheery

For the next five days, temperatures are expected to average five or six degrees below normal. The normal high is 38 degrees and the normal low, 28 degrees.

Any temperature changes will be minor over the next five days.

The skiers will find the snow base a little light in the Birmingham area. Precipitation is expected to be about one-half inch in the form of light snow on Friday and possibly on Sunday.

Mementos Tell the Groves Story

By MARY BAHN

Today marks the first anniversary of the death of Capt. Michael D. Groves, former Birmingham resident who went on to become commanding officer of the Presidential Honor Guard for the United States Army.

Groves, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Groves of Euclid Avenue in Birmingham, played a vital role in the rituals and ceremonies in Washington fol-

lowing the death of President John F. Kennedy.

He was seated at the dinner table at his Mt. Myer, Va., home with his wife, Mary, who was then expecting a baby, and his daughter, Kelly Ann, then 3, when he died of a heart attack a week after the Kennedy funeral.

in an Early American-decorated home, which they moved into after their home on S. Bales burned only a week following their son's death.

BOTH ABBEY subdued, but proud, when they talk of their son. Mementos of him are everywhere — his fraternity drinking cup, shattered in the move but carefully put together by his mother.

A bronze plaque honoring the soldier and presented by the Special Military Vehicles division of the Ford Motor Co. hangs in a breakfast along with pictures of Groves as a young boy and a young soldier.

Carefully-kept scrapbooks record historically Groves' duty in the East Room of the White House, where he was one of the soldiers who guarded the casket of the President.

(See GROVES, 2-A)

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Romance* stars social calendar. See stories, pictures on 1-C.

Columnist's art work is featured in her one-man show. See story, picture on 1-D.

Seaholm tops Groves, 82-62, in annual intra-city basketball contest. See story, pictures on 1-E.

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