

Police Warn Stores Against Bogus Checks

Michigan retail merchants could save themselves more than half a million dollars in the busy December holiday shopping season by being vigilant against bogus check passing attempts, according to an estimate by Det. Sgt. George C. Craft, head of the State Police check section at East Lansing.

Sergeant Craft's opinion is based on his section's experience in December last year when 145 bogus checks totaling \$6,758 were processed. Bad checks submitted to the State Police for examination constitute about one per cent of the state total, and on that basis the frauds last December in Michigan would have approximated \$675,898.

Through October this year the section examined 1,431 bad check specimens totaling \$87,354, or nearly \$9 million worth on a state basis for 10 months. This is comparable to recent years in which Michigan businesses have suffered losses averaging \$1 million or more a month.

WITH PROSPECTS appearing good for high volume holiday shopping, Sergeant Craft urged mer-

chants and their sales personnel to guard against any relaxation in check cashing precautions. He noted that bad check passers can be quick to take advantage of any weakening of vigilance, particularly in holiday periods when driving business may overshadow a merchant's concern for the possibility of fraud.

Sergeant Craft made these suggestions:

- When the check endorser is a stranger, proper identification is a "must" rule to follow to avoid chance of fraud. This identification includes usually reliable evidence such as a driver's license or car license numbers. If still in doubt, ask for further identification. Bear in mind that identification offered can be fraudulent, too.

- The identification should be checked on the back of the check for reference if necessary for investigation later.

- Safeguard check blanks, canceled checks and deposit records to prevent theft and fraud.

- Report any check law violation to the local law enforcement agency and follow through on prosecution.

Seek Pay Increase For State Employees

Varying pay adjustments averaging 3.6 per cent for the State's 32,700 merit workers which would cost \$7.5 million a year, plus a \$1.3 million fringe benefit package were recommended to the Michigan Civil Service Commission by a staff study.

The pay adjustments recommended vary widely among the 2,000 different job classes in the state services, but generally would:

- Increase most pay grades between 3 and 4 per cent.

- Range between 5 and 11 cents an hour for approximately 25,000 employees; and from 12 to 20 cents for most of the other workers.

- Increase top grade positions from 2.7 to 2.9 per cent.

- Provide a very few specialist positions increases ranging mostly from 6 to 10 per cent.

THE FRINGE benefit package would add out-patient health benefits to the State's current health plan, raise the limits of group life insurance available to employees—increasing the State's contribution to both plans by \$298,000 (\$596,000 health; \$390,000 life), and increase annual lump sum longevity payments for employees with six years' seniority or more by 10 per cent at a cost of \$380,000.

The State currently contributes \$1.3 million and employees \$3.7 million to health insurance costs. The State contribution to life insurance costs totals about \$700,000 annually, with the employees paying \$400,000.

The Commission held a public hearing on the staff proposals Monday in the Lansing Civic Center and was expected to make a final decision Tuesday on what, if any, adjustments it will make in the pay plan effective at the start of the State's fiscal year next July.

Meanwhile details of the plan were circulated to state government officials, employee groups, and others interested in the State's pay problems.

THE RECOMMENDATIONS result from a survey which includes a ranking of pay rates in 42 classes of state jobs which cover over half the State's work force with 377 private Michigan business and industrial concerns of representative sizes and types in 15 geographic areas, and a similar comparison of 93 classes of jobs with

60 other public jurisdictions.

The study shows that 21 of 29 Michigan cities surveyed reported general pay increases and that of 22 states, 7 reported general pay increases and 7 others reported selective adjustments, and that Federal pay rates were generally increased from 3 to 6 per cent. It also indicated a general increase in pay levels for many of the private employers surveyed.

The staff recommendation indicated the proposed adjustments would keep the state in about the same pay position in relation to other employers it achieved last year when a 3.3 per cent wage adjustment was approved which was effective last July.

MCC in Rochester Grows to 98 Acres

Michigan Christian College, Rochester, has taken its most significant step since founding the college in 1959. This came about Nov. 10 when G. Wheeler Utley, chairman of the board of directors and E. Lucien Palmer, president of the college, signed the legal papers acquiring the 54 acre estate which joins the present college campus immediately to the east.

This historic occasion brought to an end negotiations which have been under way for several months with Mrs. Henry T. Gierok, owner of the estate.

The original campus purchased in 1957 consisted of 37 acres. Seven additional acres were acquired from Otis Gatewood, former president who purchased a nine acre plot which was separated from the present campus by Mrs. Gierok's 54 acre estate.

NOW THAT THE 54 acre estate has been acquired, it brings to a total a campus consisting of 98 acres. This has been the dream of the administration and the board of directors.

This now assures MCC an unusually stable future with reference to land requirements for the development of a constantly expanding college in this area. It also assures the college of becoming a senior college in the future when and if such a move would be

Civil Service Testing for Prison Posts

The United States Civil Service Commission announces that an examination is now open for filling male and female correctional officers' positions at Federal penal and correctional institutions.

Male correctional officers are needed at various locations throughout the United States; women are employed only at Alderson, W. Va., and Los Angeles, Calif. The entrance salary is \$5,505 a year.

To qualify, applicants must pass a written test and must have had appropriate experience which required dealing effectively with individuals or groups of persons and must demonstrate the judgment and ability to lead, supervise, instruct or counsel them.

Appropriate education may be submitted for experience. Announcements and appropriate application forms may be obtained from many post offices located throughout the country, from the Board of Examiners at the address below, or from the U. S. Civil Service Commission, Washington, D. C. Applications will be accepted by the Board of U. S. Civil Service Examiners, United States Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kans., until further notice.

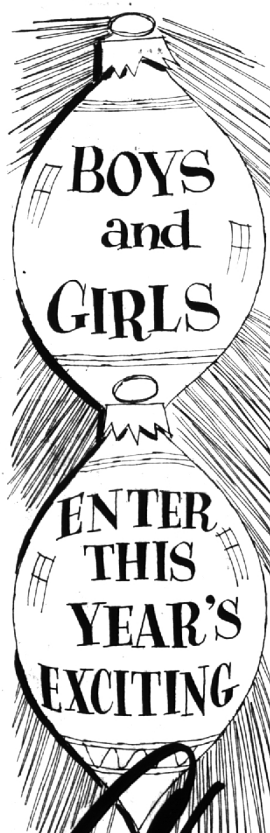
Resident Appoints Anti-Poverty Chiefs

Malcolm R. Lovell, Jr., former Birmingham resident and formerly vice president of the Birmingham Board of Education, and now director of the Michigan Economic Opportunity Office, has announced appointment of three executives to his headquarters staff in Detroit, effective Nov. 16.

The Economic Opportunity Office is a new state agency created recently by Gov. Romney to coordinate all anti-poverty programs in Michigan. It is located at 615 Boulevard Building, 7310 Woodward, Detroit.

The new appointees are John G. Thodis, William W. Layton, and James E. Jacobs.

The best bargains in town are sold through Eccentric Want Ads. If you have a "don't need" cluttering up your attic, garage or home, sell it now. Call 644-1100.



COLOR THIS PICTURE

Christmas COLORING CONTEST

Sponsored by The Birmingham Eccentric

NOTE: This Year There Will Be 2 Age Groups
Group 1—1st thru 3rd Grade Group 2—4th thru 6th Grade

2 FIRST PRIZES

SCHWINN BICYCLES One in each Age Group (Boy or Girl)

2 SECOND PRIZES

SHOCKPROOF WATCHES One in each Age Group (Boy or Girl)

Plus: EVERYONE WHO ENTERS RECEIVES A BOX OF PRANG CRAYONS

WHO MAY ENTER: ANY BOY OR GIRL OF SCHOOL AGE, UP TO AND INCLUDING THE SIXTH GRADE, RESIDING IN THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC CIRCULATION AREA.

CONTEST RULES

Read Carefully

1. Official Eccentric entry blank must be attached securely to each entry.
2. The entries will be judged on the basis of neatness, originality of thought and beauty. In making their selections the judges will take the age of the entrant into consideration. Children of employees of The Eccentric are not eligible to enter.
3. Paste or tape entry to a plain sheet of paper (such as typewriter paper). Entries must be mounted in this manner or they will be disqualified. They may be folded over, however, for ease in mailing. There is no entry fee of any kind.
4. You may submit as many entries as you wish, provided each is accompanied by a separate entry blank. Your school grade, from one to three or four to six, will determine in which of the two prize categories your entry will be eligible.
5. Fill out the entry blank completely. Have your mother or father go over it with

THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC
CHRISTMAS COLORING CONTEST for Children
ENTRY BLANK
(Fill out Completely—See Rules)

YOUR NAME _____ AGE _____

ADDRESS _____

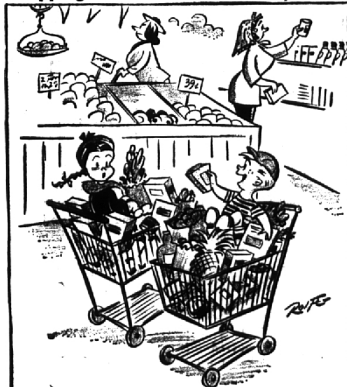
CITY _____ PHONE _____

SCHOOL _____

Mail or bring your entry to Christmas Coloring Contest, The Birmingham Eccentric, Birmingham, Mich. **GRADE**

PLEASE PRINT INFORMATION . . .
and ATTACH TO YOUR ENTRY!

Shopping Around By Rolfe



"I trade our cheese for your cookies!"

Arrivederci Says Writer

By RUTH VOGT
Special Writer

ROME—How does one say goodbye to a beloved city? One doesn't. Instead, the heart and mind carry away such thoughts as these: I thank you for the curbside streets you laid open for me to explore and to ponder.

I THANK YOU for the hundreds of kind people you exposed me to in the shops, in cafe houses, in council halls and the dozens of policemen who directed me so patiently.

I thank you, dear city of Rome, for preserving the history of our past via your ruins, your works of art, your fountains and your museums.

Through you, ancient spot sprawled along the Tiber, I have gained great insight.

Now I must bid you, friend, I leave thee . . . with love.

The Birmingham Eccentric classified ads get quick results because they're set in easy-to-read type and reach over 70% of the Birmingham-Bloomfield area. Place a Want Ad yourself in the Eccentric's busy Classified Supermarket. Dial Midwest 4-1100 for fast results.