THE
BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC.

Devoted to Our Own Locality--We Labor for Its Interests.

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THANKSGIVING

Day Dinner Given by the Auxiliary of the Cemetery Association Was A Big Success

With Thanksgiving dinner at the hall the work of the Auxiliary of the Cemetery Association of Franklin was closed for the summer.

With the united efforts of the members it was one of the most successful dinners ever given in this locality. The day was ideal, and every one seemed in the spirit of thankfulness and joyfulness, and none more so than the ladies of the Auxiliary for the wished-for success of the day was fully realized. The dining room was beautifully decorated, the tables bountifully supplied, the matrons and aides attending promptly to their patrons, while a corps of workers under the leadership of Mrs. H. J. Broughton were kept busy in the kitchen.

Down stairs were found Mrs. W. J. McKinney with her workers busy at the candy and pop corn sale, also Mrs. Fred Clew at the fancy work and apron table, while in one corner Mrs. S. G. Forman and Miss Sarah E. Sly were kept busy showing and selling the Recipe Book which was compiled for the Auxiliary by Miss Sarah E. Sly from recipes contributed by members of the society and those interested in the cemetery.

Spread over a rope was the beautiful quilt contributed by Mrs. Fred Clew and quilted by the society. In the absence of the chairman, Mrs. D. M. Wood, the report of the sale (which will be found elsewhere) was read by Mrs. W. C. Foreman. Mrs. Herbert Masters took charge of the entertainment program which was thoroughly enjoyed by every one.

At the October meeting held at Mrs. Grinnell Porters, articles from the Pontiac Press Gazette and the Detroit Press were read which stated that Sept. 30 was to be a legal holiday and to be known as Memory day.

Through the courtesy of Mr. Coleman of the Press Gazette, it was learned that Mr. J. T. Daniells of St. Johns, was the author of "Memory Day" and I quote the following from a letter received by Mr. Coleman from Mr. Daniells

"Memory Day is not a legal holiday. Before signing the act, Gov. Warner wrote me asking if it were intended that the day be a legal holiday. I replied that it was not so intended because Decoration day being a legal holiday had been so sadly desecrated through the sports and games indulged in on this day, and it is hoped that Memory day not being a legal holiday will therefore be devoted to the sacred purpose only for which it has been established.

A set-day in the spring time and a set-day in the autumn time is not too much to give to caring for the graves of the loved ones, and this nation needs to halt in its mad rushing after national possession."

In the Pennsylvania German (a monthly magazine) we find the history of Memory Day by Mr. Daniells and it is as follows:

It was on Dec. 6, 1903, that the dread angel, Death, visited the home of the writer and took from earth to Heaven, the spirit of my precious wife and leaving this once happy home lonely and desolate. One only child—our baby boy—died many years ago.

In the following spring, after placing the portion of sacred earth, in the rural cemetery, four miles distant from the home, in becoming condition, and removing the remains of our child from the grave, by the home where flowers had bloomed upon it, and burying our baby by the side of its mother; it was there, as I stood by the graves of my dead, in loneliness and sorrow, and thought of the deep interest which my dear wife once felt in the highest welfare of all who came within her influence; it was then and there, that the pesire came to me—almost irresistibly—to do all in my power, in memory of my precious wife, to better the condition of the graves of our dead.

With this purpose in view, my resolution offered at the annual meeting of the state association of Farmers' club, held at the state capitol, in December 1904, was adapted and endorsed by the state Grange in session also at the same time and place. The resolution asked that Sept. 30 be designated "Memory Day" and be devoted to appropriately caring for our cemeteries and making beautiful with flowers the graves of our dead.

Taking up this matter with our legislature at the following session, success resulted, an act being passed in accord with the request of the above resolution.

My request, soon after to the governor of the state, Hon. Fred M. Warner, asking that we issue his proclamation inviting the people to observe "Memory Day" was compiled with and the proclamation issued.

As the years pass Memory day is being more and more generally observed throughout Michigan and the hope is cherished that the time is not far distant when Memory day in the autumn time will be as generally and helpfully observed over this entire land as Decoration day is now observed in the spring time.

The writer is laying careful plans and with the promised aid of influential friends, hopes to accomplish this.

Upon communicating with Mr. Daniells it was learned that these poems and hymns would not be sold, but that he would gladly send a copy of each for each member of the auxiliary. Mr. Daniells sent the poems and hymns and they were distributed among the members on Thanksgiving day.

May the hymns be sung in each home so that we may use it to open our first meeting in April, and may the beautiful words of the poem dwell in our hearts and stir us to active work in remembering those near and dear to us who repose in the little cemetery overlooking Franklin.

By Memory day 1912, may we not have our new fence for the cemetery, a tool house, alleys graded and monuments and markers straightened?

ADONIS SLY,
President of Auxiliary of Cemetery Association.

From the Sunday News-Tribune.

Natural Gas in Royal Oak

OAKLAND COUNTY HAS A GAS HISTORY AND THERE ARE MANY WHO BELIEVE THAT IT WILL YET BECOME A PAYING PRODUCER

EPISODES IN OAKLAND COUNTY'S GAS HISTORY.

ROYAL OAK, Mich., Dec. 2.—A belt of gas runs northeast and southwest through the township of Royal Oak is fully proved to extend at least six miles, and it is known that it is from 50 to 200 feet wide. Experimental people have proved the facts.

Thirty years or more ago Almon Starr, a pioneer of Royal Oak township, who owned a farm of 400 acres, declared then that underneath his farm was something different from the regular formation, for the reason that cars of the Grand Trunk railway, passing a mile or so on the west side of his place, for a certain distance seemingly less than 40 rods, would rattle the windows and shake them while passing this spot, and before reaching this "shaky" spot on either side this vibrating line of what is now known to be the gas belt, the rattling of the windows, or the vibration did not still be felt and heard in the Starr home.

Scientific men, promoters and farm lease seducers for many years past have run over this section of country periodically, supposed to cover wealth in gas and perhaps oil and coal, seeking leases.

Experts pronounce the indications, marks and symptoms in this gas region to be exactly the same as in the Ohio oil regions. Men who know declare the oil came to the Onkoms by farmers digging wells for water, striking gas, and after years of "fooling around," striking oil.

A record is on file in the Hammond building, Detroit, of a deep well made by interested individuals who, after going deep, struck and drilled through 200 feet of the finest rock salt. Some fondly believed that exactly the same bed of salt can be found in this section of the country as the Solvay City below Detroit enjoy, by going deep enough.

Years ago, 15, to be precise, men with the best machinery possible to be had, came to the farm, then, to Mr. Horace Hall, now the Lavery farm, in Royal Oak township, erected a tool and drill house, and with an engine worked an one winter in the closest secrecy and boldness drilled, according to report, over 2,000 feet into the ground—then packed up and left for parts unknown, and no one a bit the wiser, it was reported at the time that they were boring for the Standard Oil Co. What they discovered no one was ever able to find out.

At the farm of N. E. Springsteen, a well-known farmer, inventor and stock raiser, whose farm is one mile north of Royal Oak Village, gas is found in large quantities, and on its discovery it came very near destroying his farm house in a big blaze. At the time this occurred the danger was so great that carpets were ripped from the floor, furniture was hustled out, and the house gutted of all its contents, so sure were those present that the house could not be saved. It was, though.

Mr. Springsteen's farm is 80 acres, and 20 years ago the owner had well drivers after water. At a depth of 120 feet they struck the gas vein, through ignorance of the result, some curious workman applied a lighted to the pipe or tube in the well. The result was paralyzing. A big blaze shot 100 feet into the air with a roar that was deafening.

Water came in along with the gas, and to this day both come from this well in generous quantities. A bowling well also on this farm shoots out gas and water.

Edwin Starr, who inherited the Almon Starr farm, previously mentioned, and who lives on the old homestead, about one-half mile northwest of the Springsteen farm says that in the '80s J. Harvey Carter, a veteran, driller now living in Birmingham, and one with Pennsylvania oil well experience, drove a well for him 223 feet through 25 feet of a quicksand so dense, compact, compressed and peculiar that a drill left standing in the piping or casing only half a minute had to be raised with jacks-screws. After drilling through a black rock water was struck, not a flowing well, although it came up in the casing nearly to the surface. The water having a salty taste was only used as wash water, and it was some time before gas was noticed in it by bubbles rising in it while standing in the tank and by its curious odor.

A match held at the opening where the water emptied into the tank will blaze 6 to 8 inches and will burn steadily. Every six months or so the float coils in the range have to be cleaned out of a sediment that collects and stops the flow of water. With a strong wind blowing the windmill is pumping fast taking the water out freely, the gas indications are much stronger than otherwise for when the pipe is full of water it has a tendency to hold it down.

In another place on this farm at a depth of 120 feet a well of good water was put down with no trace of gas at all.

According to Mr. Starr's theory this gas vein has got to be hit exactly, centered as it were, to get the big result hoped for.

Henry Langer, whose farm home is two miles west of Royal Oak village, on the Ten and One-half Mile road, which means 10 1-2 miles from the Detroit City hall, is a prosperous farmer and owns 160 acres of this rich prospect. July 25, last, Mr. Langer struck his first gas well at a depth of 95 feet, the casing not being driven down he was unable to control that well. The gas—blue fly-flowing several hours, then sand, water, gas and mud were all blown to a height of many more than 100 feet. Inside of 12 hours a four-inch hole had been rimmed out to a 12-inch hole, but it gradually choked itself down and is still boiling. The second well was closed up and the pressure tested. The gauge registered 44 pounds to the square inch. This well is also plugged at present. The third well with the casing was driven below the gas vein and a fine well of water for all domestic purposes at a depth of 70 feet.

Mr. Langer tells the following interesting facts: "Forty years ago the first gas ever found in Royal Oak township, and was discovered by Horace Hall, and on this farm. This well was drilled for water, and gas blew everything out of the hole but the augur itself. Nothing was done with Peter Lawson, also a Pennsylvania oil expert, as foreman. This company settled down an eight-inch casing 2,500 feet, with powerful machinery, brought here for that purpose. They found gas in plenty and salt water, but struck at the bottom of the long and expensive hole for which they finished their work they drove a pointed pole into the casing, which well clear up to the top of the casing to stay. They left the following memoranda of their work, as to the geological formation at this point. They reported as below:

"Clay, first 40 feet; gravel, 5 feet; clay, 25 feet; quicksand and gravel, 95 feet; black slate rock, 150 feet; limestone, 85 feet; brown shale rock, 150 feet; layer of salt and lime rock, 475 feet; white sand, 110 feet."

The rest was not given; in all 2,640 feet. One layer of salt was 300 feet in thickness, and it was estimated that in all there was 500 feet of pure rock salt.

About one and one-half miles southeast from the Lavery wells, on his farm of 40 acres, William Purdy, while drilling for water, struck the best and most satisfactory gas well in these parts. Sixteen years ago this vein of gas was tapped for Mr. Purdy and ever since then there has been no weakening of its pressure. He utilizes it for all purposes, heats his farm house with a gas burner inside heating stoves throughout the house. In the kitchen range it has never failed a moment since November, 1895. At the time the gas was struck its pressure then was 32 pounds to the square inch. When tested some years after it registered 27 1-2 on the gauge. Later it has been made to warm the water at the barns and for the purpose of cooking feed for his stock.

Mr. Purdy argues that this gas comes from a still greater depth, as gas was in evidence in every hole put down, but one out of seven, on this farm. There is gas now in the water well (in which they drove the casing beyond the gas vein at time of drilling) and when the windmill is going at good speed it can be lighted in the tank at the house and will show up a big blaze.

The Goodwin farm, of 100 acres, now owned by Rev. Joseph Folta, of Detroit, is another example of a gas well that was struck by Mr. Volney Goodwin 15 years ago, who was the owner then of this farm. On its discovery he piped it to the house for lighting, cooked with it and used it to heat the house. A fine outdoor light was burned for years. At this writing the flow has nearly ceased at this farm, but it is the belief of all that if the casing was sand-pumped the flow of gas would come back as of old. This well blew out gas at 95 feet depth, and had a pressure of 25 pounds to the square inch.

The William Hilsinger farm, of 20 acres, joining Royal Oak on the east side, has all kinds of evidence of being right on top of gas. Twelve years ago, while drilling for water in the usual way on the gas belt, he found it, and it came with a rush. Pressure registered at 45 pounds to the square inch, and it has burned steadily ever since. At the same time, L. Gratzow found gas while sinking a well for water. Mr. Hilsinger found gas in two wells, and H. O. Doyle burned it and declared it to be good enough. Slate rock can be found here at 100 to 150 feet down, and coal is usually found just below the slate rock. In drilling here they went through four feet of sand, then clay and then this rock. In one of the wells of Hilsinger's gas bubbles out continuously. It never freezes in the coldest weather. Boys now have lots of fun placing a tin pan over the casing, lighting the gas and seeing the pan go skyward.

Numerous stories of a gas nature are all over the neighborhood. Ed. E. Daniels, drilling for water still west of the Purdy farm, very recently, struck a vein of gas on J. Renno Kinney's farm in Southfield, and a boy lighting a match at the opening was slightly burned.

J. Harvey Carter, veteran well driver of Birmingham, is now driving a well a half-mile north of Royal Oak village, on the line of the D. U. R. last Friday and Saturday, had all kinds of trouble with the gas that would make its presence known. It blew stones large as hen's eggs out from the casing 30 feet in the air and showed a pressure of 40 pounds. Monday he had passed the gas vein, and his worry is now over

History Extract
Page 113, of San Francisco Fire

The Hartford Fire Ins. Co.
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House at Auction

The house and lot on Hamilton Avenue, Birmingham, lately occupied by Mrs. Huldah R. Miller, having 89 feet frontage, will be offered for sale at public auction, subject to the approval of the Probate Court for Oakland County,

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

At 2 o'clock p. m., standard time, at the said premises.
TERMS---$200 cash at time of sale; balance cash on presentation of abstract and deed.
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