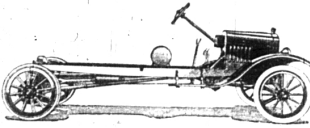


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During January, Sabbath School is to begin at 10:30 A. M. and preaching service at 12:30. You are invited.

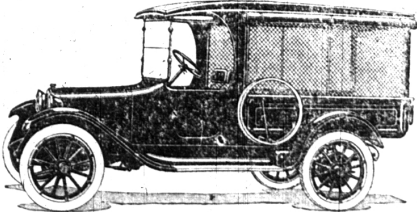
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Autocraft Garage

Birmingham Phone 301

### FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

Village of Birmingham, Mich.,  
January, 1919.

Gerard Alan Abbott, Business Manager  
D. M. Johnston, President and Commissioner  
Fred V. Quarton, Commissioner  
Philip Schlaack, Commissioner  
Thomas E. Harris, Clerk  
Viola La Grant, Treasurer  
W. C. Harris, Attorney  
Dr. C. H. Raynolds, Health Officer  
Blaine T. Coleman, Village Engineer  
Allan Higelow, Assessor  
James Woodruff and Volney Nixon, Board of Review  
Richard Lake, Police Captain  
Neil Black, Fire Captain  
Charles Hutton, Chief Engineer, Water Works  
Henry Norton, Chief Asst. Engineer, Water Works  
James McKinley, Second Asst. Engineer, Water Works  
Library Board, Betta M. Barr, President  
Cassius Crawford, Charles Vliet, John Hanna, Alice M. Hartwell, and Belle Higelow, Trustees.

Daisy Durkee, Librarian  
The Village Manager submits the following report covering the period from April 1, 1918, to and including the 31st day of December, 1918, entering the new year the Village of Birmingham as an organization of community will have many topics and problems of unquestionable importance for due consideration.

The nine months just completed have been notable in many respects. Many readjustments were inevitable due to a new form of government and war time conditions. The Federal Government imposed many restrictions upon corporations, either public or private and we have been effected by both shortage of labor and material at certain times when under the most favorable elements the successful manipulation of the Village affairs was a problem in itself.

One of the first undertakings by the Manager and one which received the approval of 95% of the residents was a change of offices early last spring. The Clerk, Treasurer, Commissioners and others identified with the municipality have transacted their affairs in a remodeled room on the first floor of the Library building. This has spared many a strenuous sigh and placed the office equipment in a more inviting atmosphere.

The Manager feels extremely grateful to many residents for the courtesies and assistance rendered. Notless than a score of women residents have manifested a keen interest in the civic affairs of the town and with proper cooperation the accomplishments possible in this growing town are unlimited.

I believe the town is greatly in need of an organization which might be founded on neither religious or fraternal affiliations.

A Booster Club so to speak or what is known in some localities as a Board of Commerce or Civic League. Such an organization might accomplish much in the way of local betterment, either commercially or morally. The secret of all Municipal Progress is Cooperation and "Cooperation" spells team work.

The first Village Manager entered Birmingham's new charter under his dates April 1, 1918. Things were in a chaotic condition. The former administration having lack of cooperation were allowing repairs and improvements to remain unattended.

The water service contained leaks in fourteen different places throughout the streets and while the responsibility in many cases rested upon the property owners the Manager considered it advisable making the repairs first and pass on the merits of the case afterwards.

The Village had never experienced police protection. It was the custom to use constables, marshals, or deputy sheriffs, in plain clothes. Some of these men were employed on the fee system and not over scrupulous in the arrests which they made. Two uniformed men were engaged. The Manager in patrol the streets handle the traffic and enforce the Village ordinances. One Henderson Motor Cycle was added to the police equipment and this machine had been used successfully in handling the traffic.

All violators of automobile ordinances have been prosecuted by the local justice with the result that all penalties and fines have been placed by the credit of the Municipality. During former years many arrests were made and cases prosecuted under the State Laws with the result that the Village did not participate in the fines. Although Birmingham was becoming popular due to the treatment accorded many motorists.

A new law ordinance has been adopted giving the village the right to license dogs from which would be derived a fee previously enjoyed by the state.

It is customary for State Laws to prevail where there are no incorporated Towns or Villages. Where a municipality exists the violations which possible should be listed under the local ordinances thereby placing the fines to the credit of the Village.

The streets and roads of Birmingham though attractive during inclement weather, their dense verdure require considerable attention. In many instances trees are entirely too close to each other and their growth is in an upward direction. This causes the tops to blow off or split during storms with the result that they are apt to fall on telephone or electric light wires and impair the service.

If many trees were removed the streets would enjoy the same protection from the sun but not to the detriment of the road beds which at certain times of the year show a wet and insubstantial condition simply because sufficient sun light and circulation do not penetrate to the wet spots of the shady streets.

Many electric lights suspended over the thoroughfares cast their rays but a comparatively short distance without illuminating enough light so as to greatly reduce the efficiency of the lamps.

If trees could be removed by mutual consent of residents and Village authorities the remaining trees would become more symmetrical, healthy and attractive.

The Woodward Ave. pavement requires attention in certain places where crevices or depressions occur. The Manager consulted with the Detroit Asphalt experts regarding the matter and it was decided to postpone all repairs until next April when the work could be more satisfactorily attended to and the delay would in no manner cause the Village to forfeit any of its rights under the bond.

It is to be hoped that the Village will extend the pavement on West Maple from Bates street to the Village limits thereby completing the plan for a continuous pavement from Birmingham to Farmington.

About four miles of streets were traveled or resurfaced during the past year. The streets which received special attention were Frank and George streets between Frank and George streets on Ann was equipped with a storm sewer with necessary catch basins and manholes. The sewer creek was laid in an excavation along the West side of the street as not to materially interfere with the road bed.

Comparatively little was done in the way of installing additional sanitary sewers during the past season. The distance between the Grand Trunk railroad on the East and Woodward avenue on the West along the thoroughfare known as Hamilton avenue or Middle street was furnished with a sanitary sewer laid the required depth through the middle of the street.

In several places the thoroughfares were improved by additional storm sewers outlets or catch basins. One of these drains was installed at the Southeast corner of Brookside and Park street. Another at the North corner of Bates and Hill streets. Other streets and a third the driveway extending North from West Maple avenue to the Postoffice Building. The latter drain was installed by the Village but at the expense of the property owners whose places bordered the alley.

The W. W. Henry residence on the West side of North Woodward beyond the Village limits was in an unsatisfactory condition this winter due to several feet of water in the basement because of no proper outlets. Permission was granted Mr. Henry to secure relief from this situation by running the line to the West side of Woodward avenue inside the Village limits and draining the premises in this manner. This work was done at Mr. Henry's expense.

The drainage at the Southwest corner of Lincoln at Woodward is an unsatisfactory way of disposing of that portion of the sewage which finds its outlet at that spot. The sewage travels along the ditch paralleling Woodward and finally winds its way across the field. This swamp hole not only contains polluting water but is a breeding place for mosquitoes.

A community septic tank designed by the Village Engineer was installed on Village property in Euclid avenue just East of Woodward. This furnished an outlet for the new Presby-

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## THE DETROIT EDISON CO.

nished an outlet for the new Presby-

terian church and also enabled the residents on the East side of Woodward from Oakland to Euclid, also dwellings on the West side of Fendale and several on Oakland avenue to abandon the old cesspits located on the brow of the hill just South of Ravine road, the overflow from which emptying into the River Rouge just east of the Woodward avenue bridge.

The septic tank at Southdale avenue and Wallace streets was put into operation last July and is satisfactory performing its functions. A very small proportion of the residences are con-

nected with it. Some streets contain branches of the sanitary sewer which have never been put in operation. Other streets are without the sewer or the service. The necessity of furthering this project can not be over estimated. In other branches of the sanitary sewer are put in operation it would be difficult to improve upon conditions which prevail about certain abodes.

The Slag bed is adjacent to the Septic tank. This consists of a cement lined cavity approximately 30 feet long by 20 feet wide and 9 feet deep. (Continued On Page Eighth.)