BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC.

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PEOPLE'S COLUMN.

This column will be devoted to the residents of Birmingham, who wish to make use of the same for the discussion of all matters pertaining to the welfare of the community.

To the Editor—You know the "Friendship Village" stories. Mrs. Zona Gale writes them. She lives in Portage, Wis. Mrs. Gale also has written a very wonderful novel, called "Birth." Long recently when the latest of the "Friendship Village" series was published I wrote to Miss Gale expressing my hope and the hope of other readers, that she would write more stories like "Birth" and fewer of the "Friendship Village" type. It has seemed to the great many of us and to the—I think—the professional literary critics of the larger city newspapers, that the "Friendship Village" stories were in truth too sweet with sentiment, that human beings were not really so kind-ly and pleasant as Miss Gale made her villagers, in short, it has seemed that the people in the stories were a bit too good to be true.

Now to my own embarrassment I find myself to be wrong and Miss Gale to be right. Right here in Birmingham I have found a real "Friendship Village." In Birmingham I have found people so pleasant, so kind and so good hearted as any of Mrs. Gale's villagers. Here I am in my quarantined home—not even within the village limits, but on what I like to call the Ashmoo outpost. In my two hours' walk outside, I walk down with one little child and my 75-year-old mother, and I to her bed. Everywhere we go, independent on me for attention are only my sick people, but always a kind word or a pleasant chat, and a bucket of fuel for furnaces, and thirsts for coal. If I neglect the chores my neighbors are so kind as to remind me of my business for fear I may forget. When I go to them, if I inquire of my neighbors where I can find a boy to run an errand, I have to run him from the street boy who offers himself to me. I have to run after him and return him to my neighbor, lest the dog be put to his own use instead of his brown eyes. If I need a fire in my furnace, it goes out on me. If I neglect my furnace, their furnace will shoot up, and I think, desperately, the absolute impossibility of being a nurse and to keep and wipe prevent take charge of four furnaces.

But, as I say, Birmingham has proved a "Friendship Village." A tired, overworked doctor is finding his way through the snow and drifts to the sick rooms once a day. A remarkable woman, Mrs. Frances "Little Minister" has, for days, daily through the bitter cold with a basket full of food on his arm. This food has been sent by kind-hearted women who doubtedly know how absolutely tired I am and how I can be in preparing meals for my family. Some second sight must have shown them me offering burned beans and badly scorched bacon to such people whose appetites are somewhat hard to please. Anyway, the hot appetizing soups, the daintily-served meals, the delicious baked apples, the fragrant coffee, the tempting jellies, the good Samaritan, the lady who has brought have made me realize what a horrible error of judgment it is for a man, acting person, a monkey around a cook stove when invalids are to be fed.

Of course, the really astonishing part of it all is that I've never met the sinners of these gifts. I have met the Little Minister three times, and that most casually. In fact, being one of their church members, who communicate chiefly by long distance, I've never been inside their church. It had always seemed to me that when a man had money enough to cover the amount of the church pledge, with something left for incidentals, such as taxes and Bob, and his children to Sunday school, he had done most done his duty.

The most astonishing feature of the case, however, is that I live in the village only a few months.

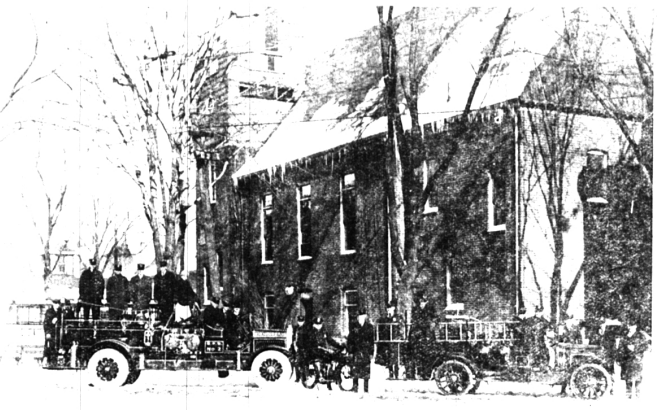
Like most people who have lived and raised a family in a city, I ordinarily think about the people around me. City people are not friendly. They're just polite to their wife, for instance. I lived quietly all in Chicago when our children were little more than babies. I was blundered through sickness, never thinking of calling on the people across the hall to give a hand or take any or all of the family fixed up. When things got bad I have seen both sides to have doctors and nurses, even when doctors and nurses were scarce. We've lived in several different cities and scores in three in which I didn't know a single soul in the office. I have been able to dispense with neighborliness. In fact, I didn't know there was such a thing.

By the time I had found out why in which the critics have noticed Mrs. Gale's book dull to the limits of neighborliness, I imagine that I, besides myself, have found a field of work without this high quality of community friendliness, and could so I. Anyhow I had come almost to believe that it did not exist outside the imagination of a few fiction writers. To argue about it, it seemed to me, like the most sensational novels, everything in the great romance novels.

You see, since the crisis, metropolitan newspapers have in every is inferred that they should be the attitude. City people are just as friendly as village people, but because neighbors come and go and often they get in the habit of not getting all about the people in the one hundred square miles of territory. The people next door—if you don't happen to know them, might be sick, dying, death and you would be sorry, was anything wrong until you saw the hearse drive up to the door. Then of course, you'd feel that you were a bit of a neighbor. And you'd blame the whole thing on that strange indifference not in city callous and uncaring. Well, I'm on the fact that it's rather trouble-some to be always making new friends in the neighborhood, which changes times most often. That's the tear of beyond the million mark.

What I am sure the people who have been kind to me will be glad to know is that their thoughtfulness they have shaped Birmingham in my mind, at least, as a "Friendship Village."

STRANGER.



PICTURE OF THE BIRMINGHAM FIRE DEPARTMENT.

The Birmingham Volunteer Fire Department was organized in 1884. At that time every person was required to bring a bucket and assist in extinguishing the fire by throwing water on it. That was about seven years ago.

Several years later, when the water works were in place, hose cart and ladder wagon, hand drawn, was purchased which proved to be a great improvement and saves labor and time. This continued several years, after which a chemical combination hose truck was purchased, commencing at the department on foot, which was very inconvenient. But as the growth of the village has become so greatly extended that the volunteers cannot depend upon the village for protection, it was necessary to provide the department both by men and equipment. Today we have a 75 men and two combination chemical and hose apparatus, with a total pump capacity of six hundred gallons per minute, and 2,000 feet of hose, which is sufficient to reach any part of the village. The department is composed of 75 men, 50 active members and 25 honorary members. The department is equipped with a complete set of rubber coats and boots, and a set of resuscitators, which are used in case of accidents. The department is under the direction of a board of trustees, consisting of the president, chief, two assistant chiefs, and the secretary and treasurer. The department is under the direction of the chief, who is assisted by the assistant chiefs, who are in charge of the department in his absence. The department is called out by the fire whistle, which is located on the water tower, and by telephone. The department is called out on average about twice a month, and has never lost a building since its organization. The department is very proud of its record, and is ready at any time to render assistance to its neighbors, when called upon, and has done so many times.

LOCAL WOMEN SHARE ESTATE

ESTATE WORTH $80,000; DAUGHTERS ESTABLISH THEIR RELATIONSHIP.

Widow Had Claimed Louis Ketcher Estate as Sole Heir and Later Remarried.

Two residents of this village, Mrs. Laura B. Randall and Mrs. Mary Hauck, with a sister, Mrs. Nellie Hurd, of Ithaca, Mich., are entitled to share in the estate left by Louis Ketcher, a Swede, who died in Detroit, in the Eaton county circuit court during May, they are daughters of the dead man. They are heirs-at-law of the estate of Mr. Ephraim Rose, of Midland. Ketcher left an estate consisting of real estate and valued three years ago at $20,000 or more.

When Ketcher died he received year ago, his property was claimed by the widow as his sole heir. She married Archie Gregoire a short time after Ketcher died. Gregoire died shortly afterward.

In bringing suit to obtain part of the property the sisters claimed that Ketcher had been married to a Scandinavian Mashan and that the brides were daughters of the first wife and Mrs. Hauck by the second according to her testimony. Mrs. Hauck had gone with him to Bay City, but had soon left for Detroit and none of the daughters had heard from Ketcher for several years.

When Ketcher was married in Bay City, Mich., ago, the age given in the affidavit would have made him 19 years of age when the first daughter was born. The daughters produced a Bible in which the name of Louis Ketcher was given with date of birth, and claimed to have been in all in Chicago when one of them were little more than babies. I'm blundered through sickness, never thinking of calling on the people across the hall to give a hand or take any or all of the family fixed up. When things got bad I have seen both sides to have doctors and nurses, even when doctors and nurses were scarce. We've lived in several different cities and scores in three in which I didn't know a single soul in the office. I have been able to dispense with neighborliness. In fact, I didn't know there was such a thing.

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STRANGER.

GOOD TIMES FOR GIRLS

CAPTAIN MRS. HAGAN WANTS TO ADD ANOTHER TROOP OF GIRL SCOUTS

Instructions Received By Members Are a Benefit Worth Organization's Efforts—More Members Wanted.

Captain Mrs. Hagan would like to build another troop of Girl Scouts. Any girl at the age of 10 to 18 can join the organization.

The aims of scouting are to bring the girls closer together, to develop character. The program has for its aim to unite in one organization the girls from such social activities, to develop such social and civic spirit, the chance for leadership, the time to which the volunteers subscribe, and the promotion of ability to serve of scouting badges are the distinguishments of scouting.

They succeed in bringing about an improved health, improved standard of conduct, a more wholesome attitude, a growing of imagination as well as practical knowledge.

The objects and ideals for the girls are: "Be helpful, cheerful, courteous, kind, be the open. The standards of the Girl Scouts are expressed in their laws and promises. The motto and slogan which are as follows:

Laws

1. A Girl Scout's honor to be trusted.
2. A Girl Scout is loyal.
3. A Girl Scout's duty is to be useful and to do a good turn daily.
4. A Girl Scout is friend to all and a sister to every Girl Scout.
5. A Girl Scout is courteous.
6. A Girl Scout keeps her word.
7. A Girl Scout is a friend to animals.
8. A Girl Scout obeys orders.
9. A Girl Scout is cheerful.
10. A Girl Scout is thrifty.

Promise

On my honor I will try to do my duty to God and to my country, to help other people at all times, to obey Scout Law.

Motto

Be prepared.

Slogan

Do a good turn daily.

Capt. Mrs. Hagan will meet with all new girls in the M. E. church parlors between 3 and 4 o'clock Mondays.

FRANK TUCKER PNEUMONIA VICTIM.

Frank Tucker, a former employee of the Lincoln company, age 44 years, died of pneumonia following influenza last Tuesday night at his home on Frank street. The widow and a daughter survive the deceased. Although Mr. Tucker had lived here but a year he had made many friends and was well liked by every one who knew him.

A Masonic funeral was held at the house on Frank street Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock with burial at Rose and Park cemetery.

WILL DISPOSE OF BLODGETT ESTATE.

Mrs. Lydia A. Blodgett, who died at the 12-Mile road recently, left a will in which she disposes of her estate, which estate, estimated at $2,000 in realty and $2,700 in personal effects. To her daughter, Hazel H. Chase, she left $1,000, to a son, Lee C. Blodgett, $1,000, daughter-in-law, Mrs. Cora M. Blodgett, $100, grandchildren, Mr. Marjorie Blodgett, $1,000, and daughter, Leola L. Blodgett the home in Royal Oak with its two and a half acres of land together with the furniture. The real estate is to be divided among the three children.

JNO. D. RIKER, M. D.

Practice limited to

EYE, EAR, NOSE, THROAT

PONTIAC, MICH.

BIRMINGHAM SCHOOL NOTES

[illegible]

MANY DEATHS DURING WEEK

The body of Eva Tuxworth, aged 20, who died of pneumonia Sunday, was shipped from Detroit Tuesday for burial in Greenwood cemetery, Ithaca. Services were held at the home, Tuesday afternoon. The deceased was a member of the Ann Arbor chapter, O. E. S.

The body of Mrs. Lodge, 47 years old, who died of influenza Sunday, was shipped here Monday from Grand Rapids. Funeral services were held Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock at Dunn & Reid's. Burial took place in Oak Grove cemetery, Pontiac.

She is survived by her husband, Walter A. Spencer, her parents, and Mrs. Celia Reed of Troy, and other more distant relatives. Mrs. Spencer was a member of the home here.

Mrs. Grace Elson died at the home of Catherine Sunday at her home in Northville.

She is survived by a brother, Frank A. Lindsley, and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John D. Lindsley, all of Northville.

Mrs. Elson was formerly of this place, having lived here with her parents before moving from here some years ago.

The funeral services of Mr. Clark and two year-old son, Edward were held Monday afternoon at their late home at Royal Oak, with burial at that place. The mother and child both died of pneumonia. Surviving are the husband, Paul Clark and two small sons, the parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey White of Royal Oak, two sisters, Mrs. Harry Minder of Detroit, Mrs. Dora Farnard of Royal Oak, and a brother Harry White of Washington, D. C.

Mrs. Hannah Hopkins, mother of Frank A. Lindsley, died at Clare on Tuesday afternoon.

An ECCENTRIC want ad will sell the things you don't need.

CITIZENS LEAGUE HOLDS MEETING

MEETING HELD IN STUDIO OF FIELD BUILDING ON WEST MAPLE, TUESDAY NIGHT.

Prime Movers in the Forming of This Organization Were Not Present on Account of Sickness.

[illegible]

PHONE 38 PHONE 65

OUT OF THE ORDINARY

For your party or dinner from our stock of good things to eat.

FISH	PICKLES	JAMS
Sardines	Quart Sweet Gherkins	Welchs's
Lobsters	Quart Sweet Mixed	Beech Nut
Clams	Quart Sour Dills	Premier
Schrimp	Quart Sour Gherkins	Ferndale
Crab Meat	Heinz Sweet Gherkins	C. & B.
Scotch Herring	Heinz Sour Gherkins	Keeler's
Tuna	C. & B. Chow	Winters & Prophet
Salmon	Sweet Relish	Long's
	Sweet Onions	Monarch

Orange Marmalade, Mince Meat, Pickles, Salad Dressing, Olive Oil, Spaghetti, Macaroni, Soups, Cereals, Coffee, Tea, Kitchen Bouquet, Ammonia, Pickles, Lima, English Walnuts and numerous other goodies.

PRIME OLD NEW YORK CHEESE

Miner Grocery Company

Homo of Good Things to Eat.

Ford

THE UNIVERSAL CAR

The Ford Runabout is a Runabout in reality—a regular business messenger, solving the question of economical and quick transportation. The Contractor, Builder, Traveling Salesman, Collector, Solicitor, all find the Ford Runabout the most convenient as well as the most economical among motor cars. Durable in service, and useful every day in the year. We solicit your order for one or more. We ask your patronage in the repair of your car, assuring you of genuine Ford Parts, skilled workmen, reasonable prices.

Boughner Bros.

Birmingham

BANK OF COMMERCE TO BE ORGANIZED

THIRD ROYAL OAK BANK WILL HAVE CAPITAL OF $200,000.

Highland Park State Bank and Bank of Detroit Interests Identified With It.

Royal Oak is to have a third bank. The Bank of Commerce having been granted permission to organize by the commissioner of the banking department.

The following statement has been issued:

"Having been granted permission to organize by the Commissioner of the Banking Department, subscription list will shortly be circulated in Royal Oak for those who desire to become stockholders in this new bank.

"The capital stock will be $100,000, with a paid in surplus of $40,000, for which reason the stock will be sold at $110.00 per share. The interests identified with the new bank will be the citizens of Royal Oak, Michigan, and vicinity, officers and stockholders of the Highland Park State Bank of Highland Park, the Bank of Detroit, and other financial interests. We hope the limited amount of stock we have for Royal Oak will be sufficient to supply the demand.

"To add to whom the methods of business of these financial institutions appeal we submit our subscription list.

Table Pleasures Not for Them.

Tea, with fruit in summer and cheese in winter, constitutes the nourishment of the poorer classes in Persia.

Why?

Into the end of the handle of a new toothbrush can be inserted a card with its owner's name.

Chinese Locomotive Engineers.

Chinese engine drivers have the gentlest sense of touch with the air brake of any in-the world. A break in two is almost unheard of, and there is very little damage to cars in Shantung on Chinese railways.

$70,000 CLUB HOUSE FOR PLEASANT RIDGE PROPOSED

Plans For Formation of New Club Are Started—Charles Staff Secures Site.

Plans have been put under way by residents of Pleasant Ridge which it is hoped will result in the formation of a new club with an elegant club house at Ridge Road and Ten Mile Road.

In a circular letter sent to many members of the Pleasant Ridge colony, Charles Staff asks consideration of the plan. Mr. Staff, to make certain of the possession of the location the two roads, has bought a site having 50 feet on the Ten Mile Road and 220 feet on Ridge Road. He mentioned the northwest corner of each make the prospective members to consider the club plan and offers to turn over the property to them at cost.

Royal Oak residents, as well as people in Pleasant Ridge, would be invited to become part of the 150 members. It is then proposed to erect a $70,000 club house, having a large hall suitable for dances, lectures, picture shows, etc., a suitable dining room, billiard room, card room, pool room, reading room, bowling alley, etc. On the grounds there would be space for two tennis courts.

The idea is advanced as one around which a community center might be built a place for the entire families of members. The proposed membership fee is $300, with dues at $40 or $50 a year.

PARENT AND TEACHERS CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION.

A meeting for the purpose of organizing a parent and teacher co-operative association will be held at the Baldwin high school Tuesday evening, Feb. 10.

Mrs. Job of Highland Park will be present to assist in carrying out this plan. All mothers and teachers are most cordially invited.

The J. Clark Brands farm of Section 3, Southfield, has been sold to Detroit parties for $14,000 cash. The deal was made by John Hanna.

Mr. Cox and family have returned to their home on East Maple avenue after spending several weeks in New York.

Mr. and Mr. Welles of Worth st. entertained at dinner Thursday evening Mr. and Mrs. W. Wilmot and son John.