--Once Upon A Time They Fought To Narrow Birmingham's "Main Street"

By HELEN V. WALKER.

Continuous discussions about what is to be done regarding the widening of Woodward avenue reminds some of the older villagers of the time when there were just as heated discussions and strenuous words about making this same Woodward avenue narrower. For instance, J. Allen Bigelow and John Hanna remember distinctly when Woodward avenue was thirty-two feet wider, a matter of sixteen feet on each side.

Some of the men who were considered most progressive in their day began to find ways and means of narrowing "Main street's and bringing it up to more of a standard with the cities. On the east side of the street the old hotel, the National, and the few buildings that were scattered between the hotel at the corner of Hamilton avenue and Maple avenue, all kept their distance of sixteen feet back from the present lot lines.

Poppleton's general store, that has been torn down within recent years, is an example of the old business front and stood as a monument to the principals of H. A. Poppleton who believed that the sixteen feet belonged to the village of Birmingham. His store stood far back on the lot that is now occupied by the oil station at the north corner of Woodward and Hamilton avenue.

The first mention of property owners using this sixteen feet began when Ned Daines started to build a store on the corner of Maple avenue and Woodward avenue where the Schlaack meat market now does business. This was to be occupied by Frank Hagerman as a drug store, and the builders wanted to be thoroughly modern. The first ground was being taken out for the excavation of the building before any question was raised about the matter as to whether it would be lawful to utilize this sixteen feet for anything but road.

The matter was made into a law case and was carried into the courts where it was fought out quite as hotly as it was fought out around the stoves in the general stores here at Mitchell's, Nixon's, Blakeslee's, and very vigorously in the store of Mr. Poppleton who was "dead set" against it.

When the court let construction proceed on the Daines building it inspired several other Woodward frontage owners to something bigger and better. The next to assert his rights was Frank Ford who conceived the idea of the Ford Building, where the First State Bank is now located.

This corner had presented quite a different aspect than it does now, with the little building occupied by Blakeley and Hanna. It was always generally understood that the corner under the entrance to the State Bank was a public corner. There was a large pile of very large rocks there that had come long ago and never been moved, and the "gang" used to gather round here for a little physical exercise. The great prevailing sport of the day was to see which one of the fellows could lift the largest rocks the highest. According to all reports that have come down in history, Tom Hanna was the titled lifter. He was able to continuously lift the largest rock in the pile higher than any other two could accomplish the job together.

Well, it was these same rocks that had to be moved when this building was set forward sixteen feet to make the most modern building that was then known in the village. The corner that had made a public square was seemingly absorbed and that was the second move toward the general movement of sixteen feet "to a front."

John Hanna, who owned the opposite corner at the southwest corner of Woodward and Maple avenues, began to see himself behind the times and began to make inquiries about a new front for his building, which was added soon after. According to the story Mr. Hanna tells, his property once came out to a square like most ordinary streets but villagers tramping around the corner closer and closer each time established the line of Mr. Hanna's property, a rather "round corner."

Those anxious to have a widened Woodward avenue say, "We should profit by the mistakes of our forefathers; if they had looked ahead these fifty years, consider the saving to the state department on roads at Lansing today."

First Church of Christ, Scientist.

Services at Church Building, Woodward avenue, south of the D. U. R. waiting room.

Sunday, 10:30 a.m. Sunday school, for children up to 5 years old, 10:30; from 5 to 20 years old, 11:45.

Wednesday evenings, 8 o'clock.

All are invited.

Free Reading Room, open Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 2:30 to 4:30 p. m. and Wednesday, from 7 to 8 p. m.

Mr. and Mrs. George Gulbowski of Bloomfield Hills are expecting to entertain at a dinner party on New Year's eve for twenty guests.

Mrs. Meyers of Emmons avenue fell on the icy sidewalk last Friday and was rather seriously injured. It was necessary to summon a doctor, but she is recovering.

January 5

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Eco City News.

SANTA CLAUS TO HAND OUT GIFTS AT ECO CITY

Santa Claus is to come in the most approved style in Eco City tonight with the exception of the reindeers, which will likely have to be supplanted by a team of horses. Plans that have been agreed upon by the Eco City Civic Association will bring the sleigh, Santa Claus and his team across the fields to the Community Chapel to unload his pack there and distribute gifts to members of the community who will gather. This approach of Santa Claus will be enough to re-establish his existence in the young minds inclined to question that jolly person.

The church and the Civic Association are combining their efforts for the Christmas program which will follow in the church, after the coming of Santa Claus tonight. The church for their share are planning on music and a simple program, while the Civic association are centering their interests on having an old fashioned and jolly time about a huge Christmas tree.

Automobiles will be stationed out in the fields with their bright lights turned "Santa-ward" to aid the children in seeing, and to assist Santa in picking his way across the fields. He will come south on Southfield avenue likely, and across the new Indian Village subdivision there. His pack will contain something of interest to every Eco child.

COMMUNITY DANCE JAN. 24.

January 24 was set as the date for the community dance at a meeting of the Civic association last Friday evening at the home of W. E. Barrett. The dance is being promoted for the purpose of bringing the subdivision folk together in social gatherings which proved so successful last spring. The committee selected by the association to arrange the dance have set the admission price at 50c—fifty-five cents, which it is expected will just cover expenses and will make it possible for every one in the community to attend. The dance is to be given in the I. O. O. F. Temple in Birmingham.

Loyal Ladies Society.

The annual business meeting and election of officers of the Loyal Ladies Society of the Bennaville avenue Congregational church is to be held in the church the second Thursday in January when the women expect to make their plans for the year.

On Hunting Trip.

With friends from Detroit Mr. and Mrs. Owen Wingate spent last week-end on a hunting trip in northern Michigan. With the game from their trip they were hosts at a rabbit dinner Tuesday evening at their home. Included in their guests were Mr. and Mrs. William Edward Henry and family of Bird avenue, and William Gotterman and Harold Bishop of Detroit.

The Present Day Club, whose meeting would come on Tuesday evening of next week, will be postponed a week, when the members will meet at the home of Mrs. Cogswell on Bird avenue for their holiday party.

Irving Peternell entertained ten young friends from Eco and Birmingham with a small party at his home on Davis avenue last Monday evening. One delightful feature of his program was a short series of violin selections by Mr. Peternell, who is an accomplished violinist.

Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Burke of Bird avenue are entertaining over the holidays for Mrs. Burke's mother, Mrs. Harry Fiske, of Decatur, Ill.

Mr. and Mrs. O. S. Baker and family of Smith avenue expect to spend Christmas with Mrs. Baker's brother, C. E. Gittins, of Milford.

Mr. and Mrs. Irish, with their family from Detroit, and Mr. and Mrs. George Filby of Chatham, Ont., are here this week as the holiday guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. Filby of Emmons avenue.

Over last week end Mr. and Mrs. Earl Bisso of Emmons avenue, were in Detroit with Mrs. Charlotte Bisso.

A guest of Mr. and Mrs. O. S. Baker of Smith avenue last week-end was Dr. A. B. Baker of Grosse Pointe, a brother of Mr. Baker.

Over the holidays Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Stevens and family of Smith avenue will be guests of Mr. Steven's mother, Mrs. Anna Stevens of Oxford.

Clifford MacColeman of Albion is spending the holiday vacation here with his mother, Mrs. Roy Vandewater, on Bird avenue. Mr. Coleman is a student at Albion college.

Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Beebe left this morning for Muskegon to spend the holidays with Mr. Buckema, Mrs. Beebe's father.

After spending last week-end in Owosso as guests of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Beers and Mrs. C. W. Beers, have returned to their home on Smith avenue.

Among the many who are visiting relatives during the holidays are Mr. and Mrs. Meyers Converse who are with Mrs. Converse' parents, Mr. and Mrs. Kirby, in Pontiac.

Mr. and Mrs. James Gordon of Davis avenue left today for Ann Arbor where they will be for the remainder of the week with friends.

Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Beers are expecting to entertain over Christmas for Mr. and Mrs. J. Wade and son from Shelby, Mr. and Mrs. C. Wright of Redford, and Mr. and Mrs. J. Rounds of Detroit.

Mrs. Earl Bisso was among the guests at luncheon last Wednesday when Miss Frances Von Kass entertained ten friends at her home.

At Christmas dinner tomorrow Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Fyfe will entertain for Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wilson of Starr Acres and Mr. and Mrs. James Johnson of Davis avenue.

Among the week-end guests in the south end of the subdivision were Mr. Swift and his daughter from Detroit who were guests of Mr. and Mrs. William Reid of Bird avenue, and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Ruggles of Detroit, who visited Mr. and Mrs. Alton Ruggles of Davis avenue. Miss Margaret Stockman of Detroit also spent a part of the week-end with her sister, Mrs. G. G. Breitfield, on Davis avenue.

Miss Ida May Ruggles has been seriously ill at her home on Davis avenue for some time but is reported as slowly recovering.

This week Mr. and Mrs. Milton Adams are entertaining as house guests, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Adams and children of Franklin.

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Musselman of Bird avenue and Miss Eva Frew of Chicago will have their Christmas festivities tomorrow with Mr. and Mrs. Frank Frew on Bird avenue.

Disliking The Various Cuts Of Meat Displayed, Mr. Lion Eats The Butcher

By DOROTHY PALMER.

Several rows of little boys, and a very much larger group of grown up people gathered in the community house Saturday evening to hear Augustus Pope of Bloomfield Hills and Detroit, describe his travels and adventures hunting wild game in Africa, and "taming a Ford" in that same country also. There were moving pictures to delight the audience both with the entertaining introduction and the captivating captions written by Dr. Torrey, a member of the party.

The pictures showed all the aspects of the trip from the "fuzzy-wuzzys" unloading ships at the Red Sea docks to an untamed Ford balking in the middle of an African stream and refusing to ford it, and many specimens of wild animals, most of them dead.

Before the pictures began, Mr. Pope described the boat trip through the Mediterranean, the Red Sea, and the Indian Ocean to Mombasa on the east coast of Africa, where the hunting party started inland. On the Red Sea, it seems, the heat is almost unbearable at certain times of the day. The beds are spread out on deck, the men's on one side and the ladies' on the other, in order to be as comfortable as possible. As the passengers dance until midnight, and the deck hands come out to scrub the deck about four o'clock in the morning, there isn't time for much but a nap before everyone must pick up his or her bed and walk, to leave the deck clear.

The first lion hunt occurred in Nairobby, some distance inland. It was reported that one lion had walked into town and into the butcher shop. After he had inspected the various cuts of meat, he ate the butcher. Mr. Pope said that he personally would prefer to meet a lion at first hand than a leopard, because a lion treated you like a gentleman and only took a few bites, (you might even be saved from that by lying still and pretending to be dead) but a leopard believed in mauling and tearing his victim to pieces.

Mr. Pope told the story of how several members of the party went hunting zebras and after stalking them carefully and finally tracking them down, found that they were wearing halters. There was no thrill in catching second hand zebras! Some pictures of fine specimens of zebras were shown, and also of an elephant which seemed like a small mountain. In a bout between the elephant and a train, it was said that the elephant could be counted on any time to win.

There were also movies of several kinds of strange animals, the giraffe in action appearing to be one of the strangest. He was described as a moving telegraph pole, and as he loped along through the tall grass, galloping with his hind legs and trotting with his front, the two motions combined to send such waves up his neck it was a wonder it didn't tie knots in it.

The familiar Ford was shown playing various roles, providing shade for the travelers, and acting as an African covered wagon, as it carried equipment across prairies and through streams. The terrific heat of the middle of the day made the party "get out and get under" the car, not for repairs, but because it furnished the only shady spot in the country. The accounts of the heat were very welcome suggestions on a cold December night, and helped to make the audience forget that they must step out into a Michigan winter climate when they had finished hearing about Africa.

Mr. Pope's lecture is one of a number outlined by the community house board for Birmingham people.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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English-Lutheran Church.

Divine worship Sunday at 10:30 A. M. Sunday School at 9:30. The personell of the Sunday School will meet Tuesday at 8 P. M. at Johnson Shaw Hall. A children's service featuring a children's Christmas program will be conducted on Christmas Eve at 7:45 P. M. Christmas Day service will be held on Christmas morning at 7 o'clock. This service, beginning under the lights of the Christmas tree and proceeding as the dawn of the most blessed day of all the year breaks gradually upon a worshipping congregation, is something you cannot afford to miss. The topic of the pastor's Christmas sermon will be "The Revelation of the Manger." Luke 2:1-15. Holy Communion will be celebrated New Year's Eve. Announcements are to be made at the parsonage, Rev. L. A. Schuessler, 505 Henrietta street. Phone 137 R.

Mrs. Isadore Hendricks of Park street will leave Saturday of this week to reside the remainder of this winter in New Mexico.

Miss Marion Patch of Dodge Road left last Friday for a two weeks' sojourn in New York City and Bermuda.

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LOST—Old fashioned bar pin, Tuesday, on West Maple avenue. Old gold and onyx with gold figures. Shell design at each end of piece. Phone 667 R. Reward.

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