



## SPRING WASH GOODS

### Ratines

Plain colors, basket weaves, checks and plaids.

### Dotted Swiss Voiles

All of the season's popular shades.

### Novelty Silk Crepes

Fancy and plain colors.

A Beautiful Array of New Materials Awaits Your Approval.

## Palmer Begole & Co.

### Brunswick

#### RECORDS RELEASED

No. 2507

BENEDICTION OF THE SWORDS (from "Les Huguenots")

FINLANDIA (Stellens)

Vessella's Italian Band

No. 2534

THE ROSARY (Nevin), Saxophone Sextet, The Wiedt Ensemble

VISION D'AMOUR — Saxophone Solo

Rudy Wiedt

No. 2484

HALF PAST TEN—Waltz

MY THOUGHTS ARE YOURS—Waltz

Paul Ash Orchestra

No. 2552

I DON'T WANT YOU TO CRY OVER ME—Comedienne

ST. LOUIS GA.—Comedienne

Marion Harris

No. 2549

SAY IT WITH A UKULELE

—Fox Trot

SO THIS IS VENICE—Fox Trot

Bennie Krueger Orchestra

LEONARD ELECTRICAL CO.

134 W. MAPLE AVE.

Birmingham, Michigan

John McGregor

BUILDING CONTRACTOR

I build the Best Honor-Bilt Homes in Birmingham

ESTIMATES AND PLANS

"The Man with Experience"

TELEPHONE 398

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Letters intended for publication in the People's Column positively must be signed. Unsigned communications are thrown away. The editor, the contributor, and the writer are held responsible for the content of the letters.

Editor Birmingham Eccentric:

I see by last week's Eccentric (Feb. 1) that our commission is offering to sell water to residents outside of Birmingham. Well, I wonder never cease? Has the big tank at the waterworks expanded, and the wells become gushers, that we have so much water now? It's only a little while since we heard that we had enough water for lawn or for fire protection. Tank no good, etc. Will someone please explain.

John McCarroll,

Birmingham, Feb. 5, 1924.

The next time you need Gasoline

avail yourself of the courteous service

you'll find at the American Gasoline

Moos, Auld, Bell & Co., 2612 E. 1st St.

### STAGE ALL SET FOR THE DAD - SON BANQUET

(Continued from Page One.)

been served. About 450 fathers and sons are expected to be present. At eight o'clock the program proper, Earl G. Potter acting as toastmaster. After the invocation, Melvin C. Hart will lead the dads and sons in group singing. "What Good Are Fathers?" given by John Gore, and "The Old Woodpecker" by Ben Palmer, come next followed by selections from the Bloomfield Quartet. Everyone remembers the quartet as the four Birmingham men who furnished the entire program over the Detroit Free Press radio a short time ago. They are F. J. Homberger, first tenor; W. S. McAlpine, second tenor; D. K. Hall, first bass, and Percy G. Burnett, second bass. Mrs. Jack Welch is their accompanist and director.

The next big thing on the program will be a group demonstration, which will be a splendid opportunity for fathers and sons to become acquainted with other fathers and sons present. Just before the big speech of the evening the quartet will sing again, and then Dr. M. S. Pittman, director of Rural Education at the Michigan State Normal College, will give an address, "Dreaming Dreams," directly after this the entire assembly will sing "America," from which time everyone will be free to go to the refreshments, which in most cases will be the renewing of old friendships, and the beginning of new.

As in past years, Birmingham will have the best banquet in Oakland county; only those in charge of the banquet, S. S. Kintner, Joseph Daulton, Y. M. C. A. and Hi-Y boys are outdoing themselves this year, so a very special affair is expected.

### TWO BANQUETS HELD FOR EMPLOYEES HERE

As the first one this year, came two banquets given by Birmingham employers for their employees. Thursday, Jan. 13, A. R. Craig, local baker, entertained his employees at a four course dinner in the small dining room of the Bir-Wood Inn. Acting as toastmaster, Mr. Craig introduced the speaker and guest of honor of the evening, William Mountain, manager of the Fleishman Meat Co. of Detroit. Afterward came the responses by employees to a toast made by Mr. Craig.

When the dinner had been finished and all sat around the festive board, with fitting speech, his employees presented Mr. Craig with a gold Masonic emblem ring.

At 8:30 the next night, Feb. 1, employees of the Boughner Bros. Garage had a splendid chicken dinner at the Bir-Wood Inn, given by William E. and Charles E. Boughner. The dinner, which marked the beginning of a monthly observance of the same sort in the future, was really a "get together" of employers and employees in an effort to systematize work at the garage.

During the evening a resume of activities since the beginning of Boughner's inclusion in the first two customers of the establishment, John Bryson and Dr. N. T. Shaw. William Boughner traced the success of the garage from 1914, when it began to handle Ford cars, up to the present, when it handles the Hudson, Essex, Overland and Willys-Knight exclusively.

Just before the banquet finished the employees adopted as their future motto, "Prompt and courteous service given with a smile at all times."

### CITIZENS THEATRE CO. ROYAL OAK, HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING

Excellent success achieved in the past year in providing for the people of Royal Oak and vicinity better entertainment than ever before offered them, was reported at the annual meeting of the Citizens Theatre Co. of the Baldwin theatre, on Jan. 28.

The construction of a theatre of the size and beauty of this house in Royal Oak was something in the way of an experiment, but the confidence of the community in it has been sustained by the patronage accorded it. The skilled management of R. W. Eberhard, the manager, has been a big factor in the past year's success.

Officers and directors elected for the year were: J. A. Metzger, president and general manager; J. H. Baldwin, treasurer; directors, N. A. Starr, E. D. Molison, C. E. Rouse, E. A. Wilcox, George Borsard, Peter Backer.

### ST. VALENTINE DANCE AT MASONIC TEMPLE

Noise, fun and friendliness will make the dance and card party Wednesday, Feb. 13, at the Masonic Temple, on South Woodward avenue, a gay St. Valentine's affair. Amid long strings of serpentine, balloons and confetti and floating bouquets, the dancers will sway and step to the music played by Gordon's Music Boys. In rooms gay with spring flowers and ferns, mah jong, bridge and 500 will be started for those who do not dance, prizes being provided for the winners.

Masons and Eastern Stars are working overtime to create the old romantic spirit of St. Valentine's day for fellow members and their friends.

In charge of the dancing are Mrs. Roy Montgomery, chairman, Mrs. Mrs. Hal Schickel and Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Burdette, cards, Mrs. Hattie Todd, and refreshments, Mrs. George Forrester.

By all indications, the affair promises to be a "roaring success."

Everyone should be at the door when the valentine cards are pinned on as a pass to an evening of entertainment," said Mrs. Montgomery.

### VILLAGE MANAGER'S ANNUAL REPORT TELLS OF 1923 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

(Continued from Page One.)

\$7081.28 to \$12,000.00. The sum of this reserve invested in the 6% special obligation bonds of the village. The operating surplus, which is maintained in the future, and increased if necessary to provide sufficient funds to pay all operating expenses until taxes are collected, thus making it unnecessary to borrow money for the purpose. During 1923 the sum of \$708.45 was paid in interest on money borrowed for operating purposes, but in 1924, on account of an available cash surplus, this amount was reduced to \$208.40. The village is in need of many public improvements, most of which will have to be obtained by bond issue and special assessment, among which are, improved water supply, pavements, lighting facilities and improvement of graveled streets. This question should be carefully studied and an improvement program laid out for at least 5 years in advance. Respectfully submitted, H. S. STARR, Village Manager.

### Financial Condition

The village treasury has more than held its own, according to Manager Starr's report. The net operating surplus on Dec. 31, 1923, in the General, Street, Water, and Sewerage funds is shown to be \$14,912.77, including all 1923 obligations unpaid on that date.

The sinking fund reserve has also increased from \$7,081.28 at the end of 1922 to \$12,000.00. The amount of the sum of \$6,745.58 has been invested in the six per cent special obligation bonds of the village.

The exact cause of the falling of the roof is believed to be the fact that the concrete, which had been poured 40 days before the roof was properly set, due to freezing. The removal of the supporting timbers allowed the roof to fall, the weight of the concrete being too heavy for the structure.

Concrete that is composed of sand or gravel, cement and water, must undergo a process of dehydration, or freezing of the water, before it sets," he said. Contrary to popular belief, the water does not evaporate into the atmosphere, but is absorbed by the cement through a natural chemical action, forming a perfect crystallization. When this dehydration process begins, it must continue without frequent interruption. If, a few days after concrete is poured, freezing weather sets in, this dehydration process is temporarily suspended, because the remaining water is frozen; if a thaw occurs, then the dehydration process again takes place and must continue without another period of suspension, for another freeze will probably make the concrete unfit for use. As far as the new addition is concerned, this may have or may not have happened. However, about the only other thing that could have happened would have been the placing of too heavy a load on the roof before the concrete was entirely set.

Entire excuse for any blame for the affair has been given the contractors, both of whom have built many buildings in this village. According to the contractors, the falling of the addition is but one of a series of accidents, accidents made with by contractors in other parts of the village. In the past two weeks, an eighty concrete floor, building in Benton Harbor was entirely demolished.

A total of 57 alarms were sent in during the year just closed, the report states, as against 37 in 1922. Forty-three of the fires were within the village limits, 14 outside. The average attendance at each fire was 17 firemen. The total value of property endangered by the 43 fires within Birmingham is estimated to be \$295,000.00, and the total fire loss amounted to \$43,000.00. Of this loss the sum of \$10,000.00 is represented by the fire in the Field Building, the only real serious conflagration during 1923.

Statistics covering this department were published in the Eccentric several weeks ago. It is noted that a total of 154 permits were issued during 1923, representing a value of \$78,725.00. There is a great increase over that of the year before.

Because he is a registered engineer, Manager Starr has saved local taxpayers the sum of not less than \$1,500.00 in engineering fees during 1923. These figures are in keeping with the volume of construction work done by the village during the past year, which requires the services of a registered engineer according to state law. About \$75,000.00 in public improvement, including general obligation and special assessments, were authorized during 1923, of which, with the exception of the new well, are completed.

During 1923 the sum of \$1,053.03, or \$241.05 more than in 1922, was spent in grading and scraping the gravelled streets of the village. \$1,448.26 was spent in re-gravelling portions of those streets that were in bad condition.

Manager Starr strongly recommends the construction of concrete curbs and gutters. The village has established and curb and gutter in place, gravel can be properly spread, crowned and rolled and thus put in a condition that can easily be maintained. One or two good coats of concrete will make a curb and gutter of concrete or stone chips, would make a wearing surface that would be practically dustless and that would stand water, thus keeping hard under all weather conditions.

The total consumption of water during the past year, from which no revenue was derived, according to meter records, and a corresponding average for such flat rate taps that remained, is estimated to be 66,954,000 gallons, or 5,173,000 gallons higher

than in 1922. This is an average of 58,000 gallons per tap per year. The net cost for pumping per thousand or gallons during 1923 was less than four and fourteen cents, as compared with four and seven-tenths cents during 1922. The village now owns a waterworks system valued at \$185,000.00. Manager Starr believes that a slight increase in water rates should be made to allow for operating and maintenance costs, and return at least five per cent on the investment. The village had a total of 1154 operating water taps, of which number 1132 were metered and 22 were flat rate.

### To Distribute Copies

A good many other phases of community welfare, including plans for the improvement of the village, which are impossible to publish this week. However, enough copies of the report will be printed to enable every taxpayer in Birmingham to have one within the next ten days, it is said.

### THREE FLOORS OF NEW HIGH SCHOOL ADDITION CRASH

(Continued from Page One.)

which latter, burdened with the second floor and roof, immediately crashed into the basement. Many citizens, attracted by the sight, or hearing of the accident from their neighbors, witnessed the final demolition of the west part of the addition which occurred about 11 o'clock.

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wide 16 new rooms. The part that fell was on the extreme west end, covering an area of 40 by 25 feet, representing the three largest rooms in the addition. The remainder of the structure is still standing, untouched by the part that fell.

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