

SEVERE TAXES... PROPERTY TAXES... A 50 PER CENT INCREASE... Supervisor Allen Engaged in Spreading Figures Furnished Last Fall

In response to a request made by Luther D. Allen, supervisor of Bloomfield township, two experts from the State tax commissioner's office at Lansing arrived in Birmingham Tuesday of this week and began work which will result in an increase of approximately five millions of dollars on the property of Bloomfield township. When completed, Bloomfield township's tax roll will show an assessed valuation of over twenty millions of dollars last year was \$15,000,000.

The arrival of the tax experts, who worked all day Tuesday on Mr. Allen's tax roll, is the start of the revision of Oakland county's equalization made by the state tax commissioner last fall, when a few of Oakland's northern townships were substantially raised in assessments.

Summed up in a few words, the spreading of the seven million dollar valuation of the township property will mean about a fifty per cent increase for everybody both in Birmingham and the rest of the township, according to Supervisor Allen. Contrary to popular belief, it will not mean that the amount of taxes collected will be 50 per cent greater, because, when a large sum of money is needed for taxation purposes, the rate automatically falls when the assessment is increased. However, in the present analysis, residents of Bloomfield township will pay, in proportion to the assessment, more than 50 per cent of the tax.

Figuring Birmingham at the last assessment total, which amounted to \$5,275,000, Supervisor Allen decided that the amount of the 50 per cent increase would bring it to \$7,912,500.00. The balance of the \$2,637,500.00 assessed at about \$1,800,000.00, Mr. Allen expects to spread according to the assessment within the next few days.

Examples of the new valuations set by the tax experts show that Birmingham residence property will be increased about 60 per cent. In the business district, property will be increased about 60 per cent, with some at 80 per cent. One business block, now assessed at \$100,000, will be raised to \$150,000, and the other from \$30,000 to \$40,000. The balance will be raised in a like manner, it was said by Mr. Allen.

Some same two tax experts began working on Troy township's tax roll yesterday, when an increase of about 50 per cent was estimated. Mayor Adams' last assessment figures will be made.

Being a member of the Masonic fraternity does not give immunity from the pang of hunger—old ladies of the local Eastern Star Chapter will confound for about 30 men, including visitors from Detroit, Royal Oak and Pontiac, gathered round the banquet at the local McMillan Temple Monday night and, with frequent helpings of verbal savagery, created the most hilarious of Birmingham Masonic Chapter No. 93. Incidentally, Albert W. Wasey, well known local humorist, will receive the Degree by the officers of this Chapter, Detroit.

John Hanna Eschberger, High Priest of Birmingham Chapter, who acted as general chairman of the affair, led the job to its triumphant end to Past Master Charles A. Bingham, who, with much abusive humor, and a few sentences, introduced a series of speakers. Past Master Bingham presented to James H. Torrey, George Forrester, Charles G. W. Wasey and Robert K. McMillan, with appropriate eulogies, a speaker, the Rev. J. Allen Bigelow, a member of the Birmingham Chapter, and the oldest living Mason in Birmingham, was the guest of honor during the banquet.

Oh, well—why yes, speaking of wells, we still have with us the new one being drilled at Sineola west of Woodward avenue. A question directed at the village commission Tuesday night brought forth the information that the Layne & Bowler Co. was continuing its operations at that well site. Another well at pumping it will be made, it was learned.

Yes, James Likes Robert Emmet

If "Jimmy" Lynch, well known Pontiac architect, keeps his word, he will cut this piece out of the Eccentric and bring it to the Birmingham office of his former employer, when a bill about seven years ago was presented for payment.

It came about in this manner: The editor of the Eccentric met Jimmy at the Pontiac office of Commerce at lunch last week. The lawyer mentioned the fact that newspapers are sometimes prone to get things twisted—that when his name was mentioned in an article it was often being but eulogized, especially when the thing concerned politics.

What would you do with an article that was truly eulogistic?" was asked of Mr. Lynch.

"Say"—he began to gesture as if by an Irishman can—"why, yes—I'd hang it in a frame next to Robert Emmet's portrait."

So, Mr. Lynch, although we have not exactly gone the limit in eulogizing Robert Emmet and the rest of Ireland, still we will do our best to make that certain son of Erin who practices law in Birmingham as eulogistic as possible. We'll see what a bad fellow that is.

DETROIT SUBDIVISION... Birmingham Gardens, on East Maple Road, To Bid For New Residents. 1,300 FEET FRONTAGE.

What is claimed to be one of the prettiest new subdivision developments in the Birmingham area has been recently opened on East Maple Road, by the Realty Development Co. of Detroit, specialists in subdivisions.

This new development, which is known as Birmingham Gardens, is located just east of the village limits, and has a frontage of 1300 feet on East Maple Road, which is a uniform 60 feet wide into lots of forty and fifty feet in width, the depth of these lots varies from 130 to 180 feet.

The company is sparing no effort to make Birmingham Gardens a suburb of Birmingham, with a high standard of living in temporary quarters on the company's program of improvements which will result in graveled streets with broad concrete curbs, shade trees, sidewalks five feet in width, water and sewers.

"We believe in Birmingham," asserts Arthur A. May, general sales manager of the company. "We believe in living in temporary quarters on the company's program of improvements which will result in graveled streets with broad concrete curbs, shade trees, sidewalks five feet in width, water and sewers."

BETCHER LIFE, DAVE—TIME TO CALL A HALT

"I am opposed to paying any outstanding bills for building in Birmingham more than two years old," declared Commissioner Bell at the adjournment of the local officials' meeting Tuesday night.

The matter was brought up when a bill about seven years ago was presented for payment.

"Anybody who has a bill against this village ought to collect it within two years," said Commissioner Bell. "This idea of waiting for years for payment of something must be stopped; people may have legitimate claims, but they shouldn't make it necessary for the officials in power at any time to establish communication with the spirit world for substantiation of a claim."

None Yet Make Bid For Office On Commission Field Wide Open For Candidates To Fill Offices Of President and Commissioner. MUST BE IN BY FEB. 16

Everything is quiet in Birmingham's political circles. Although March 10, the date when the village election, is approaching, to date there have been no petitions publicly circulated for candidates to fill the offices of president and commissioner, which will be vacated in the fall.

The American LaFrance mechanical fire pumper, ordered last summer after local voters approved a \$12,500 bond issue, is said to have been delivered to Birmingham Tuesday of this week. Manager Starr believes that it will therefore be in use in Birmingham within the next week or two.

Predicts 1924 As Banner Year For Real Estate Boom James G. Pierce Co. Claims Wider Woodward Development Will Bring Home-Seekers

"1924 is bound to be the greatest year for Woodward avenue, between Highland and Pontiac," that was ever said by a real estate man in Birmingham, according to James G. Pierce Realty Corporation, owners of many subdivisions in Oakland County. This week, through their salesmen-

Local Man Starts Society At Miami JOHN HANNA ELECTED VICE-PRESIDENT OF 'MICHIGAN SOCIETY OF MIAMI'

An association to be composed entirely of residents of rapid transit Detroit district was undoubtedly started at Miami, Florida, according to word received this week from John Hanna, a Birmingham man well known resident of Birmingham, who has been elected first president of the Michigan Society of Miami. An all-day picnic was held January 22.

578,325.00 BIRMGOST BIRMGOST

Figures Compiled By Starr Show Last Year's Activity Double Of Year Ago ISSUED 154 PERMITS

Estimated That Nearly \$750,000 Spent In Birmingham During Year Closed

What is said to be perhaps one of the best building records Birmingham ever recorded on the books of the village was closed when the report was taken from the 1923 calendar, according to figures just compiled by Village Manager Harry S. Starr. A total of 154 permits were issued during the year representing the value of \$758,325.00.

The figures show a great deal bigger than those for 1922, when only 90 permits, representing building valued at \$271,275, were issued on building in Birmingham during 1923.

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CAMPBELL DELAYS TALK ON CITY PLAN LOCAL REALTOR GIVES REASON FOR NOT ADDRESSING CIVIC LEAGUE MONDAY

Because he felt that he was being heralded as official head of the Birmingham Real Estate Board, a position which he has refused to accept, James Campbell, president of the League of Birmingham Monday afternoon (15) declined to speak before the Woodward Avenue Civic League.

UPON TO TEACH U. OF M. AIRCRAFT CLASS

Ralph H. Urpion of 312 S. Woodward avenue, Birmingham, international known aviator, will be in charge of the department during the spring semester, according to an announcement made by Prof. L. B. Gresham, head of the department. The instructor will be in the theory and design of lighter-than-air craft.

Field Furniture Shop is agent for Hallman Hamrick's... THE HONORABLE... To the Honorable... To the Honorable...

How Some Local Citizens Feel About Changing Over To City

"How do you feel about Birmingham incorporating as a city?" This question has been put to many with representatives of the Eccentric in contact, drawing forth various and diverse replies.

ELECTORS ASKED TO RAISE CLERK'S SALARY

Believing that the work of village clerk has grown to such bounds that an increase salary should be made, members of the village commission Monday night passed a resolution to have the clerk's salary raised at the next annual election which will raise the salary from \$1,300 to \$1,500 per year.

WINTER SPORTS CARNIVAL HELD Big Crowd Present At Quarter Mile Sunday Afternoon To See Races

FRITZ LOST RACE

Although a chilling wind swept across Quaton Lake, causing shivers and quarts to accompany the click of skis, a half-day skating championship over Ray Fritz, holder of the state three-mile title, and the state five-mile title, was held at the Michigan state fairgrounds, Jan. 23-25.

BLAZE DESTROYS OLD FARM HOUSE LOCAL FIREMEN MAKE VAIR RUN TO STRAND HOME TUESDAY NIGHT

A fire, which presumably had its origin in the basement, totally destroyed an unoccupied house on Woodward Avenue, Monday night. The fire broke out at about 11 o'clock, and the firemen who discovered the fire in the whole interior was ablaze. Firemen extinguished every fire in the house and the cause of the fire was discovered at about 11 o'clock.

LOCAL O. E. S. TO PUT ON ST. VALENTINE PARTY

Wednesday, February 13, will be the date of a St. Valentine's party given by the local Odd Fellows at the Masonic Temple on Woodward Avenue. Beginning at nine P. M. the party will consist of dancing, music for the dancers will be furnished by "Gordon's Melody Boys."

Statement Attributed To Governor About 200 Ft. Woodward Not Official HOLDING UP PROGRESS

The following self-explanatory letter was sent to both Governor Grosvenor and the Board of Public Works:

Commission Seeks Early Meeting To Settle Local Status Of Highway

The village commission has had its fourth meeting since the map prepared of Woodward avenue and shutting property, and feels that it is not meeting the needs of the village. The commissioners wish to co-operate with you in every way possible, and request that you arrange such a meeting at your earliest convenience.

Thank You Ladies, For Thanking Us

The Birmingham Eccentric, ever appreciative of its endeavor to render a newspaper service to the vicinity, is glad to have the ladies of the Birmingham Literary Club express their thanks for the manner in which the club has been taken care of. The club members are very appreciative of the courtesy accorded to it by the Eccentric.

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B'ham Estates Is Refused Fire Aid

At their meeting Tuesday night the village commission refused, temporarily at least, to offer from Birmingham Estates Co., owners of 100 on the east side of Woodward Avenue, \$1000 for insurance of the property.

ORDER PLACED FOR 350,000 FIRE BRICK

It is an established fact that... A glance through the advertising... which will bear up to the task.

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