

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

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FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 1925

THE PASSING OF HENRY WOOD BOOTH

One evening last week, while most of us were bent on obtaining food at the close of a day, the end of a drama of life took place in a home within a few miles of Birmingham; the curtain rang down on the last act of one of life's actors. As the eyes of Henry Wood Booth closed for the last time, none of us, knowing not of his passing, sensed any difference in our surroundings. And that is the way of life.

Births are recorded; folks are married; death overcomes us; and few people are aware of it when these things take place. We live, after all, in a pretty narrow vault, much unto ourselves.

In the passing of Henry Wood Booth, the 88-year-old "Sage of Cranbrook," the cause of religious uplift has lost a most sincere worker, and society has lost a most remarkable character. But, thanks to the printed word, Mr. Booth's multitudinous writings are left to a scrutinizing world, and his thoughts will live on.

"It is a very wonderful thing to live to the age of 88 years," said Bishop Brewer before a number of relatives and friends gathered in the First Presbyterian church to pay their last rites to Henry Wood Booth Thursday afternoon of last week. "To have attained this ripe age and weathered all the storms and tempests, as well as the fair weather of life. But, beyond all the strength of a ruggedness that may stand 88 years upon earth, to have actually found a purpose in life; to have tried sincerely to make the world a better place to live in—ah, that is an ideal existence, a tribute to Mr. Booth."

Yes, folks, to have found a PURPOSE, that is the wealth of treasure that made Henry Wood Booth beloved and respected by all. That is the keynote of a successful life. Most of us, perhaps favored by fortune, are content to TAKE from life all that material possessions may buy; so seldom do we try to GIVE something of that finer part of ourselves.

Henry Wood Booth was surrounded with every luxury that millions of dollars could buy, yet he chose to live quietly, his wants simple and few, so that he might GIVE to society the wealth of his MENTALITY. There is no doubt that his concern about the progress of society preyed more on his mind than would the desire for material wealth prey upon the mind of one who is materially inclined. And therein lies the difference between wisdom and foolishness.

God must have a cherished spot in His heart for Henry Wood Booth, who labored so hard, so steadfastly, for Him, over a period of 88 years.

BIRMINGHAM AND ITS TREES

Occasionally we are requested by one of our readers to write an editorial on a certain subject; this is one of those occasions.

Much has been berated, throughout southeastern Michigan in favor of this village of Birmingham. Nature, with a lavish hand, perhaps lingered tenderly, hesitating to lay aside her tools; when this vicinity was laid out. Filled with lakes and streams, dotted with glorious trees, Oakland County has long been a loved spot to those who like the out-of-doors. And Birmingham, our own village, has not been slighted in Nature's handiwork.

Undoubtedly, if one were asked what brings the first and greatest appeal in Birmingham, one would reply: "The trees—your wonderful Maples and Elms are a refreshing sight to the tired city-dweller and woman." There can be no question about the great part the trees play in beautifying Birmingham.

So we get down to a pertinent subject: Birmingham and its trees. Are we doing our utmost, as individuals and as-village officials, to preserve and propagate the trees that so splendidly color our community? This is the time of year when thoughts turn to the out-of-doors, and who denies that trees are friendly companions to mankind?

Birmingham, with its rapid growth, is bound to lose some of its great trees; modern business demands that an advertising, winning must supplant the mission of green leaves. But that should not deter us from planting trees in other parts of town. The trees on Woodward avenue are said to be 100 years old; beautiful as they are now, yet they were mere saplings when they were set out by wise folks in the dim past.

Isn't a tree, even a small tree—a benefit to a piece of property? Isn't it well worth while to plant one or more trees each year—aren't you more considerate of property that possesses trees than property which is barren? Certainly, you are!

Trees!—but we have had to close. We have written this at the request of W. D. Clizbe, of West Maple avenue. Mr. Clizbe, who recently attended the Schumann-Heink concert in Detroit, asked that we include a song which the prima donna sang. It was composed by Joyce Kilmer; undoubtedly you are familiar with it. Here it is:

TREES

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.
A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;
A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;
A tree that may in summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;
Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.
Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.

OAKLAND COUNTY'S UNFORTUNATES

Life—vibrating with youth or with an abundance of material possessions—is so often prone to overlook the

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

Her cheeks are plump and rosy and her hands are soft and white. Her face is framed in golden curls. Her eyes are big and bright. Although she's four, I call her baby and I always will. But she's her brother's playmate and he always calls her 'Bill'.

Their happy shouts ring out at dawn, and all the lively day. They seem to have the finest times together at their play. I leave my work to watch them, for it gives me quite a thrill. Just to see their eager faces and to hear him call her Bill.

They love the sunny days. They never mind the ice and cold. For whether traveling in the swing, or pirates brave and bold, Or camping with their lurches packed, or coasting down the hill, They always are the best of pals, my little boy and Bill.

At night two little weary folks are ready quite for bed, I hear their prayers, then kiss each little precious sleepy-head. My heart's so full of joy, it seems that some of it must spill, When I hear their "Good-night, brother," and his answer, "Good-night, Bill."

—Beatrice McDonald, R. F. D. No. 4, Birmingham.

sadder phases of existence, that there arise, at various times, situations which imperatively demand attention. Most of us are so taken up with the business of living, of earning a living, that we never pay much attention to what happens to the unfortunate soul who, in life's struggle, falls by the wayside and later becomes a ward of society.

Oakland County, growing faster than possibly it ever dreamed it would, is the possessor of a situation that may be materially assisted at the spring election on April 6. On this date the people are asked to approve a three-quarter mill tax, the proceeds of which will be added to other money on hand, with which to build a county infirmary, detention home, contagious disease and tuberculosis hospital. This task will not work a hardship upon any citizen of Oakland County, and ought to be approved by the people.

In this and future editions of The Eccentric will be found stories of what the officials of Oakland County are trying to do to relieve suffering humanity. Please read them, tell your neighbor about them, and then attend the polls on April 6.

FROM THE ECCENTRIC COLUMNS—of Long Ago

Just Bits of News Cleared From Old Files Of The Eccentric—The Items That Make Up The Historical Background Of The Birmingham Of Today

43 Years Ago "Down by the shore" is a drama of 62 pages, quite interesting and well plotted. Library Hall tonight and to-morrow night. A social time and dance after the opera is over in Library Hall. Everybody welcome.

Two silk handkerchiefs were purchased from the cloaks of ladies at the last party at Library Hall. The party who took them can return them and save trouble.

Erasmus Beebe will sell at auction on the premises, two doors west of the post office in this village on Saturday, April 1st, a lot of household furniture. Mr. M. Thomas will wield the hammer.

The Republicans of Southfield have had their caucus and nominated William Erity for supervisor, Lysander Dunbar clerk, Jno. Bassett, draft commissioner and the rest of the ticket we are unable to remember.

John Hanna has taken the position at the post office which will be vacated by Thomas Smith about the middle of April. That rare and radiant youth of John's will grow more merry than radiant we fear after he has achieved the regular three-times-a-day question "Any mail for us?" asked by the average youngster after their parents have got the mail.

On Wednesday last week James McCollum of Pontiac and Miss Mollie Kelly of this place went down to Royal Oak and were quietly married by Rev. Silas Fern on last Saturday. They then went to Pontiac to visit the bride's sister and where they will remain until the floor and broke her ankle in two places. It was rather unfortunate for a honeymoon.

Alex McKinney's only cow died recently. He left the barn door open as usual and she ate a barrel of meal. Alex has our sympathy in his bereavement.

The following is the Roll of Honor for the term of school just closed, that is the names of all pupils who have not been absent nor tardy during the term:

Hugh School—Lucy, Libbie and Mary Allen; Maggie, Beatty, Kittie Buel, Zilpha Hayes, Edward Broughton, Mary Cooper, Tina McClelland, Mattie Simpson. Grammar Department—Johnny Truscott, Duncan Rule, Minnie Gylett, Nettie Young, Emma Young, Carrie Parks. Intermediate—Austin Parks, Robie McBride, Sarah Truscott, Ezra Matheson, Ella Robbins, Ella Adams, Etie Scott, Eva Hutchinson, Berra Hattie Simpson, Estella Barzaviz, Ellen Cooper, Jennie Manser, Sias White.

2nd Primary—Seymour Adams, Tommy Cooper, Charlie Reynolds, Bertie Brown, Polly Parks. 1st Primary—Alice Adams, Ross Brookway, Frankie Brooks, Nannie Carter, Annie Cooper, Charlie Tompkins, Leo Matheson, Charlie Tompkins. The following is a list of scholars tardy or absent but once:

Miss Alice, Frances Bassett, Mary E. Richardson, Frank Park, Lena Pettibone, Cassius Carter, Guy Walter, Fred Shabbott.

25 Years Ago

Notes on the blizzard, Friday, March 16—Whitehead having attended a meeting of the members of the bank—especially snow banks, at McGibby's waiting for the car—Dan

New 1925 Developments

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Quarion Lake Estates—North Unit Improvements in 1925.

Birmingham Forest Hills On Adams Avenue. To be annexed and improved in 1925.

Brookside Hills Estates On Long Lake (paved) Road. Near Bloomfield Hills Country Club. Improvements in 1925.

Birmingham Estates—Addition No. 1 On Adams Avenue. To be annexed and improved in 1925.

Lone Pine Road Estates On Lone Pine Road and Gilbert Lako. Improvements in 1925.

Lone Pine-Franklin Road Farms Consisting of large parcels.

Other 1925 developments will be announced on April 15. For exact locations see out map of the Birmingham-Bloomfield District. Copies may be had, free of charge, at our office, 217 South Woodward Avenue. Ask for a copy.

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