BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

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FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 1925

WHO IS THE VILLAGE OF BIRMINGHAM?

Once every 365 days the Village of Birmingham, under the terms of its Charter, sets aside a time when its citizens may go to the polls and, in secret ballot, determine what they want for another year. Next Monday, March 9, is the day in 1925 when Birmingham holds its annual village election; on this day two officers will be elected, two bond issues decided, and three Charter amendments voted upon.

There are now 1789 registered voters in Birmingham. President Shain and Commissioners Bingham and Bell will be almost paralyzed with joy if two-thirds of them attend the polls—and they are quite willing to be thus stricken, too.

Did you ever stop to ask yourselves just who "Birmingham" is? A part of the answer to this question may be learned if you, as an individual citizen, will walk over to the nearest mirror in your home and gaze upon the reflection of your countenance. Every citizen is a part of our fair village, and may add, or detract, from its value and worth-whileness.

You are asked at next Monday's election, to choose a commissioner to succeed C. A. Bingham; since Mr. Bingham is the only candidate in the field, you will re-elect him. And he deserves it, too.

You are asked to choose a new clerk. Two candidates are seeking this job. One of them is Mrs. Lawler, whose experience and ability is fitting reason for her re-election. The other is Mrs. A. R. Looney, whose sincerity is unquestioned, but whose ability as a village clerk is not, in our estimation, comparable with that of Mrs. Lawler.

Then there is the question of voting bonds to the amount of $29,900 to build an elevated water storage tank. Perhaps you are undecided on this question. Ask any competent engineer what he would do if he, as an individual, owned the local water system; he would tell you that he could save money by erecting an elevated tank to be used in conjunction with the present water works system. He would tell you that he would do this job **AT ONCE.** What is good for an individual concern to do, in order to create a profit, is good for the corporation of Birmingham to do. We trust that local electors will approve the $29,900 bond issue for the elevated tank.

There is little, if any, opposition to issuing bonds to the amount of $12,900 for enlarging the water mains of Birmingham. Everybody is agreed on the saneness of this program. This issue will undoubtedly carry easily.

Then there are three Charter amendments to be decided upon. One of them pertains to changing special assessment bonds to general obligation bonds, so that they may be easily and more cheaply sold on the market. This is a good business move on the part of the village. It should carry.

Suppose you owned a valuable piece of property on a street, and wanted a certain improvement installed, to be paid for by special assessment. Let's assume that your property is assessed at $4,000, and that the cost of the improvement against your property would amount to two hundred dollars, to be paid in five years; now, on your street is a vacant lot, assessed at six hundred dollars, which will get as much benefit from the improvement as your own property, and which ought to pay as much as you do for this improvement. Under the terms of the present Charter an assessment of not more than 25 per cent may be levied against any piece of property for special assessment purposes; your property could be assessed for more than enough to pay for the improvement, but the vacant lot could not be assessed for more than 25 per cent of its assessed valuation, in the above case just $150, or less than the amount necessary to pay its share of the improvement. The balance of the $300 would have to be paid from the village treasury. To correct this unfairness, the village commission asks that the amount that can be levied against any property be raised from 25 to 50 per cent of its assessed valuation. Isn't this a fair proposition? Then it is hoped you will support it next Monday.

The third Charter amendment sought by the village commission is simply to change the method of nominating members of the Baldwin Public Library Board. Instead of having a group of people get together in a caucus, and thus nominate members for the board, it is planned to have them nominated by petition, and then balloted on at the annual election—the same way the clerk and commissioners are elected. The proposed change will bring a more representative choice of the people.

ONLY PLEASE REMEMBER TO VOTE. The place of voting is in the old Town Hall, corner of Merrill and Bates streets, Birmingham.

AND THE GREATEST OF THESE IS "FEAR"

Beyond the power of man to prevent, there exists in this world of ours a **POWER** that is almost incomprehensible, though often its manifestations are accepted and understood by some.

Last week, when an earth tremor was recorded over half of the United States, many thousands of people were panic-stricken when the buildings in which they were employed began to tremble; and as pictures fell from the walls they scampered, frightened as mice, to the streets.

SOMETHING beyond the help and assistance of man-made energy was at work on earth, and members of the human family became filled with fear for their safety.

Witness the working of cold and heat. Enclose water in a vessel and allow it to freeze; it slowly expands one-eleventh of its volume, and the **POWER** that is created by a force of Nature breaks through the vessel, even though it be made of thick iron. Take the same water and apply enough heat to it and the expansion of the water as it becomes a gas creates a natural energy—all in harmony with a law not made by man.

Isn't there a law of love, of truth and honesty—a law that works equally as naturally as disturbances to the earth, or as the changes that take place when heat and cold are applied to water? And isn't the violation of this law as sure to bring a certain result as any law of Nature?

The fact that the elemental seasons bring changes to earth and its inhabitants proves beyond a reasonable doubt that mankind was created to adapt itself to certain conditions of which it had no part in making. And the greatest of these conditions is the actual adoption and living of the Ten Commandments.

There is nothing on earth to fear except **FEAR.**

REGARDING THOSE CLERKSHIPS

There are two highly important positions in the public affairs of Bloomfield township that are often underestimated by the people. One of them is that of clerk of the village of Birmingham, and the other is clerk of Bloomfield township. Both are to be filled within the next week.

Two candidates are running for election to the office of village clerk. One of them is Mrs. Hazel Clark Lawler, present clerk, who has been in the office for several years. The other is Mrs. A. R. Looney of Purdy street, who is employed as a dressmaker in a local tailoring establishment. Mrs. Lawler, who is an excellent stenographer and typist, is thoroughly acquainted with the duties of the office. Mrs. Looney, although perfectly sincere in her desire for the clerkship, has never, we have been told, had any experience as a village clerk, and is now studying typing in a Pontiac business college. After she has become proficient in secretarial duties, undoubtedly Mrs. Looney would make a capable clerk, but, at the present time, she cannot compare to Mrs. Lawler as an asset to the taxpayers of Birmingham in a public office. Birmingham will make no mistake by re-electing Mrs. Lawler to the clerk's office next Monday.

James Bayley, acting township clerk, was appointed to the office January 1. Previous to that time he had been acting as deputy clerk for Robert Y. Moore for many months. Mr. Bayley is reported to have spent most of his life at office work, and he has the support of local men and women who are conversant with the duties of the township clerk's office.

Opposing Mr. Bayley are two other candidates, Harry Johnson, local painter, and Roy D. Montgomery, automobile salesman. The Eccentric does not question the sincerity of either of these two men for the office, but it does question whether or not they would become of as much value to Bloomfield township as Mr. Bayley, with his present experience, will. Bloomfield township is the second richest township in Oakland county. The matters which the township board must decide from now on will require a clerk who, both by nature and by ability, is wide awake to the duties of the office.

We believe that Bloomfield township will make a great mistake if it does not elect Mr. Bayley to the office at the township primary tomorrow.

FLOWERS TO A CHILD

Flowers sweet and fair and fragrant,
All so pure and undefiled,
In the freshness of their beauty,
Given to a little child.
"May I put them in the window?
May I have the finest vase?
For they are so very lovely,"
Still more lovely is his face.

Flowers nurture thoughts of beauty
In a little growing mind,
Scatter seeds of love and kindness,
As a gentle summer wind
Scatters seeds along the roadside
That will bloom in flowers gay.
Lovely thoughts in little children
Blossom into deeds some day.

Tenderly he watches o'er them,
Beams upon them with his smile.
Even after they have faded,
Begs to keep them for a while.
Sweet and pure and fair and fragrant,
Cultured flow'rs or blossoms wild
Messages of beauty carry
To a little loving child.

—Beatrice McDonald.

FROM THE ECCENTRIC COLUMNS—of Long Ago

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

43 Years Ago

Did you vote or did you get an office?

Girls, seven in number, will probably be exposed next week for tearing round nights, and raising cain generally.

Miss Katie Caswell met with the mishap of taking a tumble into the creek one day last week, but was rescued by a brave little companion. There's romance for you.

The second annual hop of the Birmingham Driving Park will take place at National Hall on Tuesday, March 22nd. Keep your eye on the date and be sure and attend, for we are all taking a deep breath for a whooping good time.

A fine portrait of oils has graced our show window this week is the handiwork of Miss Libbie Neill, of Southfield. It is a full length, enlarged photo of the young artist's little brother, Master Rennie, and has attracted considerable attention. The photo does great credit to Miss Neill's artistic ability.

It has frequently occurred to us that if any of our readers, who are fond of stirring up discord in the neighborhood, by giving "Tom, Dick and Harry, a blast in the Eccentric, could take our position as knight of the shears and paste pot, for just one week, and hear the petty insults and double meaning, (Doubly mean) little slaps at this one and that one, which are continually being handed in, they would forever relinquish the foul habit of throwing mud at their neighbors through the medium of their local paper. We have repeatedly had copy handed in for use in our columns by people whom their brethren of the church would never suspect of such a vile thing as trying to strike their neighbors behind their backs, which contain the meanest insinuations and vilest personalities and when we offer to publish the vile mess if the writer will sign his name to the article in full they draw back in horrified amazement and object most vehemently to such a course of proceedings.

Edith Leet closed her school in District No. 3, of Troy, on Friday evening, February 24, with an exhibition which did credit to teacher and pupils; the house was crowded and many were obliged to go away without entering, owing to lack of room. Eliza Dawson, Carrie Schoch, Alice Dawson, Jay Chatfield, and Mark Chatfield were neither tardy or absent during the four month's term.

Frank Pearsall is a very warm friend of Charlie Miller, and as a testimonial of his brotherly regard and affection, presented him with a fine chicken, and Charlie out of the fullness of his heart gave him a deal of credit for it. But judge of the sad and cantankerous feeling of Miller, when he learned that Frank had come in the dead hour of the night and stolen back the poor old frost-bitten hen.

25 Years Ago

Where is it? It's Lent.

Detroit has been cruelly ravaged by bonfires during the week.

Old Mercury dropped down Saturday and stayed there for seven days.

The Modern Novel Club will meet at Library room next Saturday eve. Book to be discussed, Joseph Parker's "Battle of the Strong". Everybody welcome.

St. James' annual birthday party was held at the home of J. A. Bigelow Tuesday evening, and was as usual a very delightful evening.

The penny social given by the Prudent Patricians of Pompeii last Friday evening, passed off very pleasantly. The refreshments were of the best and disappeared in a corresponding manner.

Lenten Season having arrived, the Ladies' Whist Club have closed their festivities for a time. Their final meeting occurred at the home of Mrs. Stearns last Saturday, where they were sumptuously entertained.

Yes, on our fearfully blizzardy Tuesday, February 28, a bouncing baby boy arrived at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Webb Bray. All members of the family are happy over the event as it is the first grandchild in the Parks family.

Burglars have been making their annual rounds in this vicinity thus far having attempted to gain entrance at the home of Julius Rundel, and at Art Blakeslee's Store. Their efforts were futile, however, so they silently stole away. Was it home talent?

In the recent cold snap the fact was proven that an car may be equally as good a barometer as the much persecuted prognosticator. I'm inclined to doubt this statement, we respectfully refer you to Rev. Montrose Maxwell, who will perhaps relate to you his experience of last Sabbath.

When Mr. and Mrs. Herman Hendrickson returned from their bridal trip in Tuscola County last week Wednesday, they were tendered a surprise reception, which will not soon be forgotten by any of its participants. Many friends were present from Birmingham, Clawson, and other surrounding places. May they enjoy a life of unalloyed happiness.

Miss Maude Berry was surprised by quite a number of her young friends last Friday evening, and they had a jolly time until 12 o'clock.

ASSESSMENT DISTRICT ROAD NO. 72
(Long Lake Road East)
HEARING OF OBJECTIONS

Notice of Hearing of Objections to the Proposed Improvement Under Act 59, Public Acts of 1915, as Amended, of Assessment District Road No. 72.

To all persons interested in said improvement, and to the Townships of Troy and Bloomfield and to the County of Oakland at large:

WHEREAS, the petition was filed with us as the Board of County Road Commissioners of the County of Oakland, State of Michigan, praying for the improvement of a highway traversing the said townships and lying within the proposed assessment district, said highway being more particularly described as follows: Commencing at the center of Woodward Avenue, so-called, and thence following the present travelled highway in an easterly and northeasterly direction through Sections 14 and 13, a distance of 5266 feet; thence northeasterly, easterly and southeasterly following the highway as laid out and established by the Township of Bloomfield through Sections 11 and 12; and easterly between Sections 12 and 13 to the intersection with the Dodge Road, so-called (all in the Township of Bloomfield, Oakland County, Michigan); thence easterly along the present travelled highway between Sections 7 and 18, 8 and 17, 9 and 16 and 10 and 15 of the Township of Troy to its intersection with the Rochester Road (so-called) all in Oakland County, Michigan; a distance of approximately six and one-fourth miles; and

WHEREAS, we have made our first Order of Determination stating that the said improvement was necessary as aforesaid and have caused a survey and specifications and estimates of the cost thereof to be made and filed with us as such Board of County Road Commissioners at our office in the City of Pontiac in said County of Oakland and State of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, the specifications made by us are not yet final and will not be made final until after the Hearing of Objections to the same by all persons interested therein; and

WHEREAS, we have determined that the boundaries of the proposed assessment district for improving said road to be and described as follows: Commencing at the northwest corner of the S. W. ¼ of Section 11 of the Township of Bloomfield; thence easterly on the west and south quarter line through Sections 11, 12 and 13 of the Township of Bloomfield and 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 of the Township of Troy to the center of Section 11; thence southerly on the north and south quarter line through Sections 14 and 14 of the Township of Troy to the center of Section 14; thence westerly on the east and west quarter lines through Sections 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 of the Township of Troy and Sections 13 and 14 of the Township of Bloomfield to its intersection with Woodward Avenue Road (so-called); thence northwesterly on the center line of Woodward Avenue to its intersection with the west section line of Section 14; thence easterly on the north and south section line between Sections 14 and 15 and 10 and 11 to the point of beginning.

WHEREAS, it is proposed to improve said road or highway with a Class "F" concrete pavement, together with all necessary and proper culverts, bridges, drains and grading, under the provisions of an Act entitled "An Act to provide for the construction and improvement of highways, to borrow money therefor and the estimation and collection of taxes for the construction thereof and to limit the sums of money to be paid by counties for highway purposes," being Act 59, P. A. 1915, as amended; and

THEREFORE, all land owners of the lands within the above described boundaries in the Townships of Troy and Bloomfield and to the County of Oakland at large are hereby notified that on the 16th day of March, A. D. 1925, at 2 o'clock P. M., Eastern Standard Time, we will be present at the Township Hall, Oakland County, Michigan, for the purpose of hearing objections to the proposed improvement.

All owners of lands within the above described boundaries in the Townships of Troy and Bloomfield and the County of Oakland at large and the Townships of Troy and Bloomfield at large are hereby notified that it is the intention of the Board of County Road Commissioners of the County of Oakland to assess all lands within the proposed and above described boundaries; the County of Oakland at large and the Townships of Troy and Bloomfield at large for the benefits derived on account of the improvement of said highway according to the plans and specifications on file at our office in the City of Pontiac, County of Oakland and State of Michigan.

Given under our hands this 13th day of February, A. D. 1925.

G. ROSS THOMPSON,
THOS. LYTLE,
LUTHER D. ALLEN,
Board of County Road Commissioners for the County of Oakland.

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