

## Growth Of Birmingham Postoffice Related By Postmaster James Cobb

By Rosalind Knox

Members of the Civil League were addressed Tuesday afternoon by James Cobb, village postmaster, on the history of the postal service and local postal conditions. The first postal service in the United States was started in 1639, according to Mr. Cobb, in the house of Richard Fairbanks where all over seas letters were brought to be delivered by him. In 1672 a monthly mail service began between New York and Boston, while in 1691 a Royal Patent was given to one Thomas Neill to conduct an international postal service from which the great national service has developed.

Postage stamps were first used in 1847 and stamped envelopes in 1852. In 1863 free delivery in cities of over 50,000 was commenced and has extended until at the present time all cities of 10,000 and a great many smaller cities have free deliveries. Special delivery began in 1855 and

the issuance of money orders in 1864. 56,000 offices in U. S. Mr. Cobb went on to say that there are over 56,000 post offices in the United States today and more than 200,000 employees handling between 750,000 and 850,000 letters every hour of the day throughout the year. They also daily issue and pay 250,000 money orders, register 125,000 letters, and issue 500,000 parcels of merchandise. The annual receipts of the post office department are more than \$300,000,000 a year, or about \$3 for every man, woman, and child in the country, while it costs the government \$10,000,000 a year for the transportation of mail and the pay of its railroad mail clerks. The United States handles more mail than Great Britain, Germany, France and Russia combined.

There are four classes of post offices. An office doing more than \$40,000 worth of business a year is in the first class, from \$5,000 to \$40,000 is the second class, from \$1,900 to \$5,000 is the third class, and all business below \$1,900 belongs in the fourth class.

### Much Growth Here

"Our own office," said Mr. Cobb, "has grown from one doing \$10,000 worth of business a year five years ago to \$30,000 last year. This means that we sell \$30,000 worth of stamps and stamped envelopes a year. In the last three years we have given from an office having four clerks and seven carriers to one having five clerks and 11 carriers. We average 100 money orders written and paid, insure about 50 packages and ship around 25 sacks of parcel post a day. "We are a receiving rather than a sending office and receive at least three times as much mail each day as we send out. This means that we are doing work that is being credited to other offices. For the business of an office is rated on the amount of mail it sends out, not what it receives."

### Carriers Walk 12 Miles

Our carriers walk about 12 miles a day on their two trips. Their salaries range from \$17.00 to \$23.00 or higher, so that it is no wonder that the post office is always short of help. Civil Service examinations are given only when we are actually in immediate need of employees, for there are so many better paid jobs that a man will not take the examination and then wait until the position is open for him.

### How To Help Here

"There are several ways that you can render more efficient the Birmingham office," continued Mr. Cobb. "Put your return address on your letters and packages, put on the necessary stamps, and give the entire address in legible writing. Don't place one cent stamps on post cards and two cents on newspapers and then wonder why they weren't received. Put letters going out of town in the drop box labelled for the purpose and local mail in the local box. Don't call for letters or packages if you live in the delivery district for they are delivered as soon as possible and questions keep the few clerks from their routine duties."

"We are always willing to accommodate people and will do everything in our power to make the mail service better but their cooperation is necessary. I am prohibited from working the employees more than eight hours in ten by the Civil Service restrictions and we are doing all that can be done with the limited quarters and workers at our command."

It was announced at the business meeting that the rummage sale for the benefit of the Pontiac Infirmary would be held April 17 in the Foreley Building on South Saginaw street, Pontiac. Judge Ross Stockwell of the Probate Court will address the next meeting of the League on courts and will especially dwell upon juvenile courts. Next Tuesday morning the League will go to Pontiac to see the arraignment of prisoners at the court house.

### Obituary

**Mrs. Elizabeth Sturgis**  
Mrs. Elizabeth Taylor Sturgis, the late widow of William H. Sturgis, died at the home of her only daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Sturgis Lamb on Brown street, April 1 at 3:15 p. m.  
She was born in 1840 at Honeye, N. Y., and spent her early life there. About 1860 she moved to Oakland County with her mother and has lived here ever since. She came to live with her daughter, Mrs. Lamb, in 1913. For the past three years she was confined to her bed almost constantly but kept her cheerfulness and patience to the end.

Surviving her are two sisters, Mrs. Abbie Beach of Collierville and Mrs. George Mattison of Pontiac; and one brother, John G. Taylor of Monroe. Burial services were held at the undertaking parlors of Daines and Bell, April 3, with interment in Crooks Cemetery.

### Phyllis Pearl

Phyllis Pearl, five year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Pearl of York-shire road, died suddenly at her home April 5. She was taken to Hutchinson, Kansas, for burial.

### EXCHANGITES DINED BASKETBALL TEAM

Members of the Baldwin High school boys basketball team were invited and praised by the Birmingham Exchange club at the Lone Pine Tea House Tuesday noon. It was the second annual dinner given by the club for the high school team.

Arthur Hartwell, in behalf of the Exchangers, made a short talk to the boys, praising them for their efforts to personify many athletics. Because Captain Latham was ill, Claude Streb, captain of next year's team also made a short talk and William Plotkin sang several songs.

### One-Time Producer

The pineapple plant produces one fruit and then dies.

### PRESIDENT PRO TEM

David H. Ladd, village commissioner, Monday night was appointed village president pro tem; he succeeds commissioner Velle Bell in that office. It will be Mr. Ladd's duty to fill the place of President Charles J. Shain whenever the latter is unable to attend the commission meetings.

### FRANKLIN'S ORIGINAL EPIGRAPH IS MADE PUBLIC

Benjamin Franklin's original epigraph, which had been kept hidden in the collection of a Chicago business man since its discovery twenty years ago, has been made public.

The inscription differs in only a few words and punctuation marks from the widely known epigraph of "Poor Richard." It follows:

The body of  
B. Franklin  
Printer

Like the cover of an old book:  
Its contents torn out  
And strip of its lettering  
and gilding

Lies here food for worms.  
But the work shall not be  
wholly lost

For it will, as he believed,  
appear once more

In a new and more perfect  
edition

Corrected and amended  
By the author.

### COMMUNITY HOUSE NOTES

Friday, Apr. 9—Civic League Party, 8 p. m.

Miss Smith's Dancing Classes, 2-8 p. m.

Saturday, Apr. 10—Boys, 10-12: 1:30-5:30; 7-9.

Sunday, Apr. 11—Sunday School, 11 a. m.

Monday, Apr. 12—Bonstelle Dancing Classes, 2:45-5 p. m.

Tuesday, Apr. 13—Literary Club, 2:30 p. m.

W. B. A., 8 p. m.

Scout Council, 8:15 p. m.

Wednesday, Apr. 14—Teachers' Meeting, 8:15 p. m.

Thursday, Apr. 15—Business Girls' Luncheon, 12 noon.

Boys—All afternoon until 5 p. m.

### GEORGE ARLISS IN "OLD ENGLISH" AT THE GARRICK

George Arliss appears in Westgrove Ames' production of John Galsworthy's play, "Old English," at the Garrick Theatre, in Detroit, for two weeks beginning on Monday, April 12, with matinees on Wednesday and Saturday. A year ago Arliss made his first appearance anywhere in the character of Sylvanus Helythrop. The part has proven the most successful role Arliss has acted, not forgetting his diabolical and diabolical Rajah of Rukh. For 200 performances he acted it in New York. In Philadelphia, Boston, Chicago, Baltimore and Washington he has broken all records for a dramatic star.

"Old English" tells the story of the staunch, alert, unscrupulous shipbuilder who in his eighty-sixth year still fighting his battle in commercial circles and domineering every one about him. When about to make secure the remainder of his life and the fortunes of his grandchildren, he meets his first defeat. He goes to his end with his colors flying, unrepentant, unafraid, without self-pity. He is a gorgeous, human portrait. The cast includes the players who impressed New York last season.

### Remarkable, but True

It's a most amazing thing, but if you tell a man that there are 323,541,018, 214,527,216 stars in the sky, he will accept it as a fact. But if you put up a notice saying, "We Paint," he has to go and dab it to see if it's true.

### Small Courtesies Count

In all the affairs of human life, social as well as political, I have remarked that courtesies of a small and trivial character are the ones that strike deepest to the grateful and appreciating heart.—Henry Clay.

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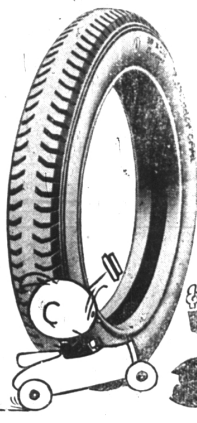
25 CENTS

From Birmingham

That rate is effective after 8:30 at night if you call by telephone number—which is known as an "Any-one" call. It costs less than a call to a certain person by name—which is a "Particular Person" call.

The "Anyone" rate is lower after 8:30 p. m. than before that time. The Long Distance operator will give you rates.

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**STOP!**  
**LOOK!**  
**READ!**



### HIGHLIGHTS IN HISTORY

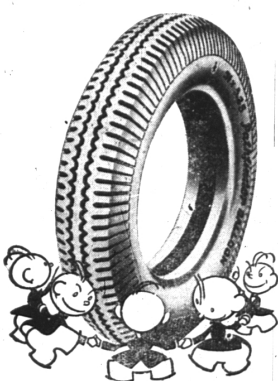
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MATS. WED. and SAT. at 2:30 P. M.  
NIGHTS at 8:20

\*\*\*

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**ARLISS**

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**"Old English"**

By JOHN GALSWORTHY

\*\*\*

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