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# Birmingham Eccentric

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FORTY-NINTH YEAR—SPECIAL

BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1926

COMPLIMENTARY ELECTION COPY

## RECALL FIGHT CONTAINS OFFICE

### Election Sidelights

Any election is serious, even if it be for the office of dog catcher of a remote hamlet. When the office of the village president is at stake, however, it becomes intense. If you think this particular election was not intense you should have spoken to people, yes sir, you should have spoken to people.

Many outsiders thought there was an epidemic of scarlet fever in the village from the number of red signs on the doors of houses before the election which were merely notices instructing citizens "how to vote."

Residents could often be heard on the streets throughout the day declaring that this would be a lighter vote than the one cast when zoning was a question. They said citizens believed at the last election that their pocketbooks were at stake and hurried to save them.

Charming women at the desks in Precinct No. 2 took care of the voters and one young man, who, apparently was casting his first ballot blushed all the way through the ordeal. The Eccentric offers a pink ticket, which was used only for 15 minutes, to the first persons who can say definitely whether the fellow voted as he intended to vote.

Wonder why women work on election boards? They are supposed to be the more curious sex, and it must have been an awful temptation to them to take a peek at the ballots and find out if Mr. Shain was winning or losing.

No more presidential elections national or local, till 1928. If people all over the country would become as excited about the election of the nation's president as they did here about the village president—there would probably be a noticeable increase in the number of deaths from apoplexy.

Two weeks from tomorrow night we will be saying "Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men" (in Old English lettering). Here's hoping nobody ever tries to recall Santa Claus.

"Slippery walks or no slippery walks I am going to cast my vote for Mr. Shain," said an elderly lady as she entered a voting booth. It developed that she had walked from the farther limits of the precinct to cast a ballot.

Machines sped through the streets of Birmingham throughout the day carrying voters to the polls. Both factions saw that weather conditions were as little barrier as possible.

As usual in elections, the losing side said in a somewhat doleful unison, "If everyone voted our way who said he would the outcome would have been different."

Despite the heat that predominated in the elections there was no disorder at the polls. So far as the police department was concerned today might just as well have been a quiet Sunday afternoon in the woods.

Our guess is that tomorrow morning Birmingham

### A Hard Fighter



**CHARLES A. BINGHAM** Mr. Bingham, who has been a commissioner himself, was the strongest backer of President Charles J. Shain in the recall election. Since the petition was first presented he has fought unflinchingly for Mr. Shain might retain his office. Although Mr. Shain had a great many friends who worked hard for him, none gave more than Mr. Bingham.

### MADISON PROTESTS ORDERED HEARD

Improvements And Extension Costs Estimated At \$25,475.00

Objections to the opening and extension of south Madison street from Lincoln avenue south to the Clawson road will be heard at the meeting of the village commission in the village offices Dec. 20, according to a decision made by the commission last Monday night. Manager Harry S. Starr presented estimates at that time showing that the work would cost approximately \$25,475.

### Hanna Tax Roll Given Treasurer

Village Clerk Hazel Lawler was instructed by the village commission at the regular meeting Monday night in the village offices to certify the Hanna tax roll for the special sewer and gutter on Hanna street and to give it to the village treasurer for collection. Property owners gathered for the hearing but no serious objection to the project was made.

**FOR SALE**  
LONG AMERICAN BROADTAIL COAT, luxuriously trimmed with Silver Fitch. Worn only four months. Also powder blue ensemble. MRS. W. M. BLYTHE. Phone 178-M.

It will feel more or less relaxed just as an individual who has finished a battle. Many also will have the same good fellowship toward the other side, whether it is the winner or loser, that marks any good sport.

George H. Mitchell, insurance dealer, gathered a crowd around him at the village offices shortly before closing time of the polls. He opened a window at the second story and announced to the world in general that the polls would close in half an hour. Neighbors, passers-by and incidentals at first seemed something murderous, judging from the shouts. After they were restrained Mr. Mitchell entertained them with a speech.

### Election Extra

The Eccentric believes this extra has been placed on the streets with the complete results of the election in less time than any other weekly newspaper has accomplished the same thing. It is supplying its readers with news sooner than many dailies, for that matter. All copies are being distributed free as compliments from this office to the citizens of Birmingham and others who are interested in the issue voted upon.

### BIRMINGHAM GIRL SCORES IN PLAY

Marion Trumbull, Baldwin Grand Rapids in State College Production

News has come of the unusual success of Marion Trumbull in the leading feminine role of "The Goose Hangs High," a comedy by Lewis Beach, which was produced at week-end Theta Alpha Phi, honorary dramatics fraternity of Michigan State College.

Miss Trumbull, who is in her junior year at M. S. C., is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. Trumbull, of Ridgedale avenue. She was graduated from Baldwin High School in 1924.

The role of Lois Ingals, the unconservatively flapper, who plans a great future without thought of the money required, and who is ignorant of the fact that the financial state of the family is not the best, and who finally comes through with flying colors, falls to Miss Trumbull.

In reviewing the performance, a Lansing paper said: "Especially noteworthy was the acting of Miss Marion Trumbull, who played the part of Lois Ingals, the young college girl who made glorious plans for her future without considering the fact that she was causing her parents expense and worry."

This play met with considerable success in its first run, and its success insures a high grade of interest in the future activities of the society, which is formerly devoted to fitful comedians.

### H. S. Starr Denies Resignation

Rumors that Harry S. Starr, village manager, had tendered his resignation to the village commission were definitely spiced today by a denial from Mr. Starr.

The report was branded as without foundation by Mr. Starr who said he did not know where it came from.

Vast reports current in Birmingham for several days were that the resignation of Mr. Starr was to take effect on the expiration of his present contract in March.

### Retains Office



**CHARLES J. SHAIN** Congratulations began to pour into Mr. Shain's home as soon as results of the election were made known. The congratulations for his defeat were not only from Birmingham citizens but came from other cities by mail telegraph and long distance telephone.

### EXTEND TIME FOR CHILDREN DRIVE

All Residents To Be Given Opportunity Of Helping Child Sufferers

Announcement was made late yesterday that the Birmingham group of the Oakland County chapter of the Michigan Society for Crippled Children would continue its drive for memberships through the week.

Although the quota of \$1,500 is understood nearly to be reached, the extension of time is allowed so that all residents of the village may have the opportunity of giving a membership for at least one year. This costs \$1.

The money goes for the relief of crippled children in the state and the drive is state wide.

Birmingham has been generous to those canvassing for the association asked by Joseph Strop, chairman of the drive, to communicate with Robert Peck of the First State Bank.

### NO OBJECTIONS TO LINCOLN OPENING

Assessment Method For District Meets Approval Of Property Owners

No serious objections being raised to the method of assessment, for the extension of Lincoln avenue from Southfield avenue to the Cranbrook road, by property owners at the meeting Monday night of the village commission.

Improvement to the district will involve the expenditure of approximately \$104,000. Distribution of the taxes are agreed upon by owners and the village.

### Christmas Carollers Planning Program To Be Sung In Village

Carol singing on Christmas Eve is everywhere this year from those who are interested in preserving the beautiful rituals which symbolize the spirit of Christmas, and Mrs. Charles Shain, chairman of the Community House board, has announced the intention of the board to make the Community House the radiating center this year for groups of Christmas carollers who will, by carrying the lovely messages of the carols to more village homes than ever before.

### G. M. C. Head Resigns

C. W. Matheson, for several years vice president of the General Motors corporation and the Oakland Motor Car company has resigned from both positions, it was learned today.

William Tracy, his former assistant, succeeded Matheson as general sales manager, it is understood. Both men live in Birmingham.

No announcement has been made as to what Mr. Matheson intends to do. There is talk, however, that he is to join a truck company.

### FIRE DAMAGES VILLAGE HOME

Damage estimated by the owner at about \$50 was done to the home of Lee Smithman, 163 South Woodward, by fire, Monday morning. The fire, Mr. Smithman believes, was caused by sparks from the chimney. It started on the roof, and that is where the damage was done.

### How They Voted on Recall Election

(First Precinct)  
Yes 162  
No 397  
(Second Precinct)  
Yes 318  
No 377  
(Third Precinct)  
Yes 81  
No 69  
Totals  
YES 561  
NO 443  
TOTAL CSAT, 1404; SPOILED, 2.

### SCHOOL CENSUS RECEIVED BY BOARD

Considers Site For Schools For Birmingham Of Years From Now.

Census reports considered at the meeting of the school board Monday evening showed little variation in the number of children in the three sections being considered as sites for additions to the school system of Birmingham.

In the area north of the river and west of Woodward avenue, where the Chesterfield School would be built, there are 205 children. Two hundred and four children live in the area west of Woodward and south of Maple avenues, which would be taken over by an addition to the Barnum School, and three hundred in the area south of Maple and east of Woodward.

### LAND AGREEMENT IS AUTHORIZED

Village President Charles J. Shain and Village Clerk Hazel Lawler were authorized by commissioners at their meeting Monday night to execute an agreement with Gettrude Van Valkenburg for the purchase of lot 47 Merrill plat, for the proposed center.

### WHERE THEY VOTED

Polls in the village were open for the election from 7 a. m. until 8:30 p. m. central standard time today.

Voting was at the following places:  
Precinct No. 1, Harmon and Woodward avenues.  
Precinct No. 2, Commission rooms, village hall, Pierce and Martin.  
Precinct No. 3, Lincoln and south Woodward avenues.  
The ballot read: Shall Charles J. Shain be called from the office of president of the village of Birmingham.

## President Beats Opposition By 282 Votes

Charles J. Shain was retained in office by a majority of 282 votes at the special recall election today.

A total of 1404 votes were cast in the village. Of these 843 voted against Shain's recall while 561 voted for it. A majority vote only was required.

Shain carried Precincts No. 1 and No. 2, while No. 3 went against him, by 11 votes.

The result is considered extremely close and backers of the village president were worried until the last ballot had been counted. Only two spoiled ballots were reported.

Precinct No. 2 favored Shain remaining in office by a vote of 397 to 162. Precinct No. 2 favored him by a vote of 377 to 318 while in Precinct No. 3, the vote was 81 for his recall against 69 opposed to it.

This was Birmingham's first vote on a recall election for a village officer and the closeness of the tally surprised many.

William McCallum who opposed Shain had his strongest following in Precinct No. 3, figures show.

Many declare that the manner in which the election was carried on was illegal. They say the ballot should have had 200 words summarizing the charges on it as well as a 200 word rebuttal. This is provided for by the village charter. It is believed that the alleged irregularity will not be contested by McCallum, however.

Veiled intimations were made by McCallum that the fight had not stopped with the outcome of the election. While nothing definite could be obtained from him as to future plans it was learned through other sources that further action was to be taken against the executive office.

After being told of his victory following the counting of the votes Shain issued the following statement to citizens of the village:

"For the vote of confidence given me by the electors of Birmingham, I am most grateful. To all those friends and neighbors who have so loyally supported me in the personal attack made upon me, I wish to extend my sincere thanks.

"I have always tried to merit this confidence in both my private and public life, practically all of which has been spent in this village. I shall endeavor to so conduct myself in the future as to deserve your continued confidence and respect."

McCallum said: "We have tried and succeeded in keeping the fight a clean one. We have also tried to keep it impersonal. It was continued for the good of the village of the future. We merely wanted Birmingham to be prepared in what we thought was the best possible way for the village that will have so great a growth within the next few years."

Should the election have resulted in Shain's recall McCallum would have had a candidate to run in the new election which would have followed. While McCallum would not name the man he selected as the candidate it is understood that many sources believe W. W. Henry, of Sunny Crest, north Woodward avenue, and one of the signers of the recall petition, was the person he had in mind.

Voting at Precinct No. 3 was light during the day. Most of the ballots were cast during the morning and afternoon in the evening. At 6 p. m. there were 180 ballots in the box.

Precinct No. 2 had 485 votes in the ballot box by 6 p. m. while there were 385 at the same time in Precinct No. 2. This total of 1060 was running a close second to the total at the same hour during the zone election.

An official of the Briggs Investment company of Detroit, builders of the new Birmingham theater, tried to get in contact with Shain today to tell him he would do anything possible to show the village the formidability of the work not holding up the construction of the theater as it has been charged.

The official, who was in communication with The Eccentric, declared the commission had done a great deal to aid them in completing the building and that charges to the contrary were not accurate.