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# Birmingham Eccentric

"For a Bigger and Better Birmingham"

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WELCOMES NEWS ITEMS,  
TELEPHONE TIPS OR  
WRITE THEM IN. OUR OF-  
FICE IS OPEN UNTIL SIX  
O'CLOCK EACH DAY.

FORTY-EIGHTH YEAR—NO. 39.

BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 1926

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SEARCH FOR NEW  
SOURCES OF GROWTH OF  
CITY 1925

Year Just Closed Presages  
Bright Future For Village  
Of Birmingham  
IS REAL DETROIT SUBURB

Real Estate And Building  
Development Are Great-  
est Factors  
By Rosalind Knox  
Much has happened in Birmingham during the past year. In fact the village has become such an active community that an annual account of its progress and varied interests is increasingly difficult for the simple reason that the expansion of Birmingham knows no bounds while its review, taking place in a small newspaper, must be restricted to a few narrow columns. Therefore, only the more important happenings of the last twelve months in the village and township can be noted.

Woodward Widening  
The widening of Woodward avenue by the state from Detroit to Pontiac, was the first step in transforming the village into a real suburb and a great many people, attracted by the natural beauty of this part of the country, but in the past deterred from making permanent homes here because of narrow road to Detroit, established themselves in the village and vicinity during 1925. Last year the number of building permits issued exceeded by over a third those of the previous year. Property values have greatly increased and the business of real estate and building firms was greatly accelerated.

The most disturbing factor in the village life was the problem of widening Woodward avenue through the municipality itself. With the exception of the west side between the D. & R. waiting room and Willets street, the Governor at the close of the year had not disclosed what the width would be, nor with what cost the expense, and until this is settled there probably will be no new building erected on the main thoroughfare.

Health and Wealth  
That Birmingham financially has known a healthy and prosperous year was confirmed by statements of the bank officials to the effect that both banks have been in excellent business and bank deposits during 1925. The number of bank, disease casualties and crime Birmingham has been as fortunate in the lightness of the year as it has been in other respects. During the first two months of the year three houses and one office were robbed; three people hit by automobiles and one boy hurt.

(Continued on Page 7)

HOME TOWN EDITORS  
TO HOLD STATE MEET

Annual Meeting of Michigan Press Association Friday 4-5

East Lansing, Jan. 14.—Editors of the state's "home town" papers will gather at East Lansing on February 4, 5 and 6, for the annual meeting of the Michigan Press Association, the oldest and largest of the kind in the country.

The editors' gathering, following the custom of recent years, will be held during the last day of the annual Farmers' Week at the Michigan State College, which is scheduled for Feb. 1 to 5 of this year.

Ways and means of developing a paper which will be increasingly efficient in serving the needs of the "home town" where it is published will form the backbone of the program for the conference. In addition to an interesting series of papers from the ranks of the Press Association itself, a half dozen men with national reputations in the newspaper field have been secured as "head" speakers of the various programs.

Outstanding among the social features of the meetings will be a big banquet on Friday evening, Jan. 5, to be held in the new Union Memorial Building at M. S. C. The banquet will be followed by a special theater party for members of the association.

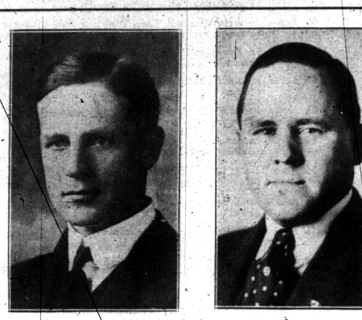
David H. Bell, editor of the Cass-Michigan Press Association, and Len W. Feigener, editor of the Nashville News, and executive secretary of the association, are planning the details of the conference. An attendance of between 175 and 200 is expected.

FATHER-SON BANQUET  
PROGRAM UNDER WAY

Fathers and sons of Birmingham and vicinity are promised a splendid annual banquet on Friday evening, February 11, when they gather at the high school auditorium to observe their relationship during a special Father-Son Banquet. The program is made to accommodate between 450 and 500 people, according to J. F. Wenzel, of Hamlet, general chairman of the affair.

This annual Father and Son Banquet is put on under the auspices of the local branch of the Y. M. C. A., of which R. D. Lynd is secretary. The year's banquet will contain several unique stories, good speakers, as well as a forty-piece brass band from Detroit's high schools, which will be placed on sale about a week before the banquet.

## Officers Of New Realty Firm



Announcement was made this week by Robert R. Allen, of 513 Knox street, Birmingham, of the formation of the Robert R. Allen & Co., dealers in real estate. A formal opening of their office at 217 South Woodward avenue will be held Saturday, January 16.

"We expect to do a general real estate business, including homes, business properties, acreage, and investments," said Mr. Allen yesterday. "Detroit, with its rapid growth, demands a strictly residential section such as Birmingham and vicinity, which gives such an organization as ours a large field of service."

RAY A. PALMER  
ROBERT R. ALLEN

## 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF BIRMINGHAM

Local Lodge Plans Public  
Address And Pageant For  
Next Week

BISHOP ROGERS TO COME  
What promises to be one of the most gala weeks in the history of the Birmingham Masonic lodge will take place Wednesday and Thursday of next week when exercises will be given commemorating the 75th Anniversary of Masonry in Birmingham.

Robert K. McClellan, Grand Master of the local Blue Lodge, has been working industriously for many weeks in preparation for the event. Rogers to come.

Clarence Villet, local president of the lodge, will preside at the exercises. The program will include a public address by Bishop Rogers, and a pageant of the history of Masonry in Birmingham.

## 8TH HISTORICAL FILM HERE NEXT WEDNESDAY

Next Wednesday the eighth film in the series sponsored by the American Association of University Women, "The Era of the Revolution," will be shown in the physical lecture room of the high school. The famous "Boston Tea Party" and other characters of the American Revolution will be shown.

Samuel Adams, John Hancock, Paul Revere will appear in this interesting picture of colonial life. Tickets will be free showings—\$4.45, 4.45, and 7.10.

## TO BEGIN CARE OF ALL CRIPPLED CHILDREN

Oakland County Crippled Children's Society Ready To Start  
In Week Or Two

At a joint meeting of members of the four Rotary clubs of Oakland County Tuesday noon at Northwood Inn, Royal Oak, Hugh Van De Walker, of Ypsilanti, president of the Michigan Society for Crippled Children, outlined a program for continuing work in this county. This work will be started at once by the four Rotary clubs of this county.

## BALDWIN GIRLS LOST CAGE GAME THURSDAY

Though the girls' basketball team at the Baldwin High School played hard and well in the gymnasium last Thursday night it was forced to acknowledge defeat at the hands of the Southeastern High School. The score that was 22-26. This was the first time the Baldwin girls had lost a game. Thurston was the best player on the team. He was followed by Pullin, who was the star of the Birmingham squad. The line-up was as follows: Birmingham—Cook, Ross, Taylor, Southworth, Teleschak, Thurston, Kirkbride. Southeastern—Hull, Shapin, Murkin. The game was played at the Baldwin High School at Ferndale.

## WOODWARD IS STILL UNSETTLED IN B'HAM, SAYS THAD D. SEELEY

Removal Of The Grand Trunk  
Tracks Through Birmingham  
Gives Roadbed To State  
GOVERNOR'S NEXT MOVE

Seeley Says May Be Three  
Years Before Railroad Is  
Out Of The Way

Just what does the agreement between the State of Michigan and the Grand Trunk railroad relative to moving the railroad's tracks to a point east of its present right of way mean to Birmingham? What will be the State's attitude toward building a highway through this village, since the tracks are to be removed? These and a dozen kindred questions are on the lips of local and nearby citizens this week.

Seeley Does Not Know  
Realizing this, The Eccentric immediately got in touch with Thad D. Seeley, of Pontiac, who represents the State in securing right of way for the Woodward project.

"The agreement between the State and the Grand Trunk railroad which was arrived at Monday night, and the last barrier to complete this highway has been removed," said Mr. Seeley. "It is not possible to say just how long it will take to get the tracks out of the way."

Anne Campbell, known in private life as Mrs. George W. Stark, editor on the News editorial page, and in the Birmingham Eccentric, is the author of a book of verse, "Companionship," named after one of her poems.

## C. BINGHAM RESIGNS COMMISSIONERSHIP

Well Known Village Official  
Quit Monday Because  
Of Non-Residence

D. LADD IS SUCCESSOR

Charles A. Bingham, one of Birmingham's best known and highly respected citizens, Monday resigned his position as a member of the Village Commission, to take up his residence in Pontiac.

Mr. Bingham was serving the first year of his second term, making his tenure almost three years on the commission.

David H. Ladd, of Madison avenue, was appointed Monday night to fill out Mr. Bingham's vacancy until the annual village election in March.

Following is Mr. Bingham's resignation to the commission by letter:

"I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th inst. regarding my resignation as a member of the Village Commission."

"I am sorry to hear that you are leaving Birmingham. I have known you for many years and have always appreciated your presence on the commission."

"I am sure that your resignation will be accepted and that you will find a new home in Pontiac."

"I am, Sir, very respectfully,  
Your obedient servant,  
Charles A. Bingham"

The Hon. Charles J. Shain, President, Birmingham Village Commission, Birmingham, Michigan.

Dear Sir:  
Recent developments have compelled me to leave my residence in Birmingham in favor of my property in Southfield Township. It is therefore necessary for me to resign my position as a member of the Village Commission.

(Continued on page 12)

## IS GIVEN THE WORLD AS HIS BIRTHDAY PRESENT

Birthday presents vary in dimension—some folks get a box of hosiery, some get automobiles, some get a new car.

But this is the brief story of a little girl who spent most of her first birthday in the hospital. Her birthday presents were the love and care of her mother and father.

This is where the location is transferred to 413 Riverchase avenue, Birmingham. In the home of Mr. and Mrs. George G. Steelman, the world was presented with the little girl who was born on January 14, 1925.

First National Bank Held Annual Election  
At the stockholders meeting of the First National Bank, Birmingham, Mich., held Jan. 12th, the following officers were elected:

Charles A. Whitehead, President; Herbert R. Earle, Chairman of the Board; A. Whitehead, Vice-President; Charles B. Randall, Vice-President; M. T. Jarvis, Cashier.

## Detroit News Post Here Monday

Compact Made In Detroit Monday  
By Sir Henry Thornton  
And Groesbeck

Old Charter Given Up  
But Problem Of Woodward  
Avenue In Birmingham  
Still Unsettled

Monday afternoon, January 12, 1926, will always be remembered by residents of Oakland County as the day that the State of Michigan, through its Governor, Alex J. Groesbeck, and the Grand Trunk railroad, through Sir Henry Thornton, president of the Canadian National railway, made a compact whereby the Grand Trunk tracks eastward so that wider Woodward Avenue, from Royal Oak to a point north of Birmingham, may be completed without prolonged delay.

Corrects Tax Problem  
This agreement not only prescribes the early completion of the Woodward Avenue project, but corrects a tax situation between the railroad and the state that has prevailed for more than a century. It provides for the surrender of the Grand Trunk's special charter, which will increase tax revenue from \$25,000 to \$200,000 annually for a period of years, and then increase the rate exacted from other railroads.

State Advances Money  
In return for the willingness of the Grand Trunk to abandon its right of way, the State agrees to purchase a new 196-ft. right of way to finance the cost of removing said tracks. This money will be repaid to the State by the railroad.

Agreement Published  
Following is the agreement which Sir Henry Thornton signed Monday: To Honorable Alex J. Groesbeck, and the State Administrative Board.

During the past six months our Mr. Bowler has been negotiating with the State through you, to settle some of the various matters in which the State and our company are mutually interested, namely: the removal of the tracks of the Grand Trunk Railroad Company from Woodward Avenue to an eastern location, and the surrender of the special charter under which the Detroit, Grand Haven and Milwaukee Railroad Company has been operating for many years.

We now make the following proposition: (Continued on page 12)

## PLANNING COMMISSION TO BE NAMED JAN. 18

Village Officials Preparing  
Ordinance To Create  
New Body  
TO SERVE THREE YEARS

Birmingham's Planning Commission will be crystallized next Monday night when village officials are expected to pass a formal resolution resulting in the appointment of five citizens to act in that capacity.

To Serve Three Years  
Village attorney Frank L. Doty was instructed last Monday night to prepare such an ordinance, giving the village commission authority to appoint citizens to serve for three years.

The first personnel, however, will be for varying terms, providing for the re-appointment or replacement of members, thus assuring a continuance of program for municipal needs.

It is held in many places that the creation of a Planning Commission for Birmingham is a long stride towards efficient and constructive municipal growth.

## FREE TEXT BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS IS UP AGAIN

Detroit Board Of Education Member  
Talked To Adams Parent-Teacher Association

Lester Rich, a member of the Detroit Board of Education, addressed the Parent-Teacher association of the Adams school at the monthly meeting Tuesday night on the free text book system in the Detroit schools.

Mr. Rich, who is chairman of a committee to investigate the free text book system in the Detroit schools, said that the Detroit schools have had free text books for many years.

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## LOCAL BASKET BALL TEAM DEFEATS YPSI

Last Friday night the local boys' basketball team played and won its first game in the Southeastern Michigan High School League when it defeated the Ypsilanti team.

The score was 12-21. Long shots made most of the goals for the winners. Only two out of Birmingham's 15 free throws made good. The ones missed would have won an ordinary game.

Tonight the Birmingham team will go to Ypsilanti to play its second league game.

## VOTERS MUST FILE 3 OFFICES IN SPRING

Entire Village Commission Personnel  
Subject To Change  
In Spring

All three offices of the village commission must be filed in the Spring, according to information this week from village clerk Hazel Lawrie.

The resignation of Charles A. Bingham, which was accepted this week for the reason for this.

The terms of president Shain and members of the commission are such that while that of Mr. Bingham continued until 1927, he has remained in office. The resignation of Mr. Bingham, which was accepted this week for the reason for this.

## GRAND TRUNK AGREES TO TRACK RE-LOCATION

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## LECTURE ON INDIA AT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Dr. Edmund D. Lucas To Speak Here  
Next Monday Night  
At Church

Dr. Edmund D. Lucas will speak at the Presbyterian church on Monday night, January 18, on the subject of "India, a great land of the future."

The church has arranged a picnic and supper at the home of Mrs. J. H. Lucas, president of the church, to follow the lecture.

Dr. Lucas is a well known lecturer and has given lectures in many parts of the country.

He is a member of the American Baptist Convention and has been a member of the same for many years.

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