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FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 1926

SOME OF OUR TREES ARE DOOMED

That there are many citizens of Birmingham who love trees is easily manifested. First, why would we have so many beautiful elms and maples here? That the wonderful trees which now tower over our streets are appreciated and loved by our present citizens is evidenced from the many remarks of praise heard from time to time.

Regrettable as it may be, Birmingham has arrived at a period in its history when some of these splendid trees must make way for material progress. Wherever society centers and builds a community, a certain space must be restricted to business frontage, and where business frontage exists there is found no room for grass, trees or shrubs. This system may be wrong, but it does exist—for the modern scheme of taxation demands that business areas be made to carry high costs, consequently, they must provide revenue.

As Birmingham continues to grow more businesses will spring up in the community; gradually certain streets will lose their beautiful trees. Some day, streets that are lined with beautiful trees today will take the same course that happened to the head of a bald-headed man—there will be little if any adornment.

Of course, this is too bad from an aesthetic standpoint—but, somehow, aesthetic things seem to have no place in the world's business marts. For, folks, who ever saw a rose bush growing on a cash register?

THE VERSATILE FRANKLIN

The celebration of Benjamin Franklin's birthday anniversary is more general than usual. There seems to be a widespread feeling that the principles which the statesman and philosopher enunciated need special emphasis at this time, that he is still a wise friend to go to for advice and that the present generation could learn much of value from his teachings.

It is significant of Franklin's amazing versatility that among those who will pay tribute to his memory this week are organizations of printers, publishers, scientists, librarians, policemen, firemen, street cleaners and postmen. Franklin first learned his bread as a printer. Later he founded a magazine whose successor is still being issued. Just 202 years ago his half-brother established in Boston the New England Courant with which young Franklin began his literary career.

Scientists honor his name because of the researches which led to the invention of the lightning rod and other important devices. Librarians are interested because Franklin founded the first public library in the colonies. He was also responsible for establishing the first fire department and police force in Philadelphia, and for insisting on the paving and cleaning of the streets. His services as postmaster-general are well known. If there were a diplomats' union it, too, might well pay tribute to the man who was the earliest exponent of the doctrine of "open covenants openly arrived at" and who represented his country at foreign courts in a sturdily democratic manner. And prohibitionists, too, they should not overlook Franklin's practical example of abstinence for the benefit of his fellow printers during his sojourn in London.

It may be said of "the poor Richard" that he practiced what he preached. He was not spoiled by prosperity, for that prosperity was the result of sticking to the common sense rules he had laid down for his life. Franklin's is one of the great historic figures associated with the founding of the republic that has grown in dignity and appreciation with the years.

IF EVERYONE BOUGHT HERE

What would be the dividends payable to Birmingham if every citizen on December 31, 1926, could truthfully say he or she had not violated a community resolution for 1926 to "buy at home?"

The increased business which would obtain for home-town merchants from such a community resolution might seem inconsiderable to those who buy seldom if ever through the mails, but to that person acquainted with postal money order statistics and the number of mail order catalogs annually pouring in to the resulting loss to the community is staggering.

At this time, when community co-operation and loyalty are doing so much for community growth and prosperity, it seems that an intensive and concerted campaign for one solid year for 100 per cent incultation of the "buying at home" habit would discover for every community the hidden "foundation of prosperity."

Presupposing that the mail order catalog cover has been clamped down tightly for one year by the whole community the probable benefits which would accrue to the community are amazing. Firstly, thousands of dollars annually shipped out of town would pour into home town stores. The increased business would encourage the merchants to store improvements, the purchase of larger stocks, the lowering of prices and to otherwise improving service. The benefit to the public of better stores, larger stocks, lower prices and better service is obvious. Business begets business. It is the busy town which attracts new industries, new business, new citizens, and new buildings. Population increases and building improvements distribute the tax burden over a larger area, lightening it for the individual.

CLEANSING THE RIVER ROUGE

County Drain Commissioner Arthur Spencer is a busy man these days. His job is that of keeping unincorporated sections of Oakland County as free from unsanitary conditions as possible.

The River Rouge, which flows through Birmingham, is a source of constant perplexity to Mr. Spencer. The

TO THE NEW YEAR

Oh New Year, beautiful and bright
And filled with visions of delight,
A welcome glad to you!
With resolutions we shall toil
And strive our utmost not to soil
Your pages clean and new.

We're glad to have you here at last.
Mistakes and failures of the past
Will trouble us no more.
No time for sad regrets and vain.
With you we shall begin again,
As oft we have before.

A wealth of kindness and peace
Grant us, and love that shall not cease,
So earth may seem like heaven.
With courage mark our path each day
And patience strew along the way
Till nineteen twenty-seven.
—Beatrice McDonald.

rapid increase of new homes outside of this village, with consequent disposal of sewage into the River Rouge, & making this once clear stream an open sewer of pollution.

Mr. Spencer believes that the only solution of the problem is to build a large trunk sewer through Bloomfield township, into which may be connected not only Birmingham's sewage disposal, but that of individual homes and estates outside of the village.

Perhaps Mr. Spencer is right. But whether the people would howl against a dandy, big special assessment is another thing. Why not try it and see, Mr. Spencer?

THE COUNTY FAME ELECTION

A good deal of conjecture is being made in Oakland County political circles regarding the coming fall elections. In many of the County offices, however, the present incumbents are serving their first terms. Among these are Frank Schram, sheriff; Arthur Spencer, drain commissioner; Burton P. Daugherty, clerk, and Maurice Baldwin, surveyor.

Floyd Losee, treasurer, is completing his third term of office. Thomas Lytle, one of the three road commissioners, is closing his second term; he has held his office for 12 years, ever since it was first established.

Although we have not been informed officially that Mr. Lytle will be a candidate for reelection next fall, we have heard rumors that, should he do so, he will have stiff opposition from other parts of the County. He was elected when a resident of Farmington, but for the past two or three years he has made Pontiac his home.

Luther D. Allen, who was elected road commissioner at the last election, still has nearly five years to fill out; he is from the southern part of the County, geographically speaking. Ross Thompson, the other member of the trio of road commissioners, is from Highland, in the northwestern section of the County. He has nearly three years to fill out before his term expires.

It looks as though some candidate representing the northeastern part of Oakland County ought to have a pretty good chance of being elected—provided, of course, that Mr. Lytle does not try for reelection.

However, elections are like horse races and the weather—you can't tell until afterwards just what happened in the polls or in the clouds.

The world makes things hot for the man with cold feet.

Those who have money to earn never have money to burn.

The most dangerous crossing in the world is double crossing.

One difference between hugging and dancing is you dance in a crowd.

The president of Nicaragua has resigned. The usual rule is to throw him out.

A preacher says our grandmothers smoked. Maybe not until they were grandmothers.

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

Masquerade last night; full report next week. Look out for a bilizard.

Over 600 loads of ice have been drawn from the mill-pond so far this season.

Several passengers of the belated trains took dinner at the hotels of this place.

Stub Burns, Bert Bradway, and Stewart Joyce, together with other along that street, had their hen-roosts laid waste by chicken-thieves one night last week and are consequently wroth thereat.

G. Daines, E. Lamb, their respective wives, Ainsley Sewersby, E. Wooster, and C. H. Hoffman, were among the B-hammers who attended the masquerade at Clinton Hall last Friday night.

How will your name look on your paper with a big X on it? Your friends and neighbors will know as soon as they see it that you are "back on your paper." Better cash up with the poor but deserving editor this week and the blue pencil will pass you by on the other side.

25 YEARS AGO Mrs. Ernest Abolt and daughter, Alma, visited friends in Pontiac Monday last.

Born Tuesday, Jan. 23, 1901, to Mr. and Mrs. George Purdy, a son. All doing nicely.

T. Thrifty and wife now live in the Casey house on Henrietta street, having moved there last week.

Mr. and Mrs. George Powers, of North Farmington, visited their sister, Mrs. John VanEvery, Monday last.

At the shoot given at Pontiac, Thursday of last week by the Pontiac

Shooting Club, E. E. Daniels won the Oakland County gold medal. Should he win it twice more in succession it becomes his property. That his chances are good there is not much doubt, if the same made the following day by him is anything to judge from, breaking 25 blue rocks in succession.

Born January 17, 1901, to Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Baxter, a ten-pound baby boy. Mother and child doing nicely.

The Pansy Pedro Club met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Groer last Tuesday evening. Mrs. A. Ellenwood was the winner of the first prize, and the "booby" was won by Mrs. A. E. Greuber. Light refreshments were served.

For sale or trade—a Buffalo robe, a nice, large, black one. For particulars see Volney Lee.

Sheriff Brewster of Pontiac will shortly add a bloodhound to his force.

Queen Victoria passed away surrounded by her physicians and members of her family. The Prince of Wales is now King of Great Britain and Ireland and emperor of India. The queen's death places him on the throne as her legal successor. He will reign as Edward VII.

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No. 2. 280 Acres. Lone Pine, Franklin and Indian Trail, \$1650 A. 20% - 8 Years (Highest and most scenic Estate Acreage in Bloomfield)
No. 3. 70 Acres. Franklin Road, close to Lone Pine, \$1900 A. 20% - 8 Years (Fine contours of land for development, close to Pine and Chalmers)
No. 4. 60 Acres. fronting Quinlan, Lone Pine and Franklin, \$2400 A. 20% - 10 Years (Timber, orchards, hills, opening on Franklin)
No. 5. 110 Acres. In Franklin Park, on Franklin River, \$1500 A. 20% - 10 Years (The center of Best Part of (Southfield Hills) District)
No. 6. 45 Acres. adjoining Bloomfield Community Golf Club, \$1875 A. 20% - 10 Years (Large frontage on this new Club of Detroit Business Men)
No. 7. 35 Acres. Franklin Road at Bloomfield Community Club, \$1875 A. 20% - 8 Years (Frontage on both road and club grounds)
No. 8. 17 Acres. corner Franklin, Square Lake and Telegraph Roads, \$2000 A. 20% - 6 Years (3 Road and Bloomfield Community Club Frontage)
No. 9. 70 Acres. Long Lake (paved) Road, \$2350 A. 20% - 6 Years (Near Bloomfield Hills Country Club, waiting to be platted)
No. 10. 18 1/2 Acres. Long Lake (paved) Road, \$2500 A. 40% - 6 Years (Frontage on stream and wooded valley—adjoining retailing at \$7000 A.)
No. 11. 24 1/2 Acres. Lake frontage, with extra high elevation, \$1900 A. 15% - 6 Years (This is the only Lake Property at cheap price in Bloomfield)
No. 12. 6 Acres. Lake frontage (2 fine building sites), \$2500 A. 15% - 5 Years (Very high with timber and orchard, close to E. S. George Developments)
No. 13. 9 1/2 Acres. Lake frontage, same Lake as above, \$1600 A. 15% - 5 Years
No. 14. 100 Acres. Center of Avon (Township) Hills, \$500 A. 20% - 8 Years (Extra high elevation (with) timbered ridge)
No. 15. 18 1/2 Acres, north of, and close to Pontiac, \$230 A. 25% - 10 Years

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