THE ECCENTRIC WELCOMES NEWS ITEMS. TELEPHONE THEM IN OR WRITE THEM OUT AND BRING THEM IN. OUR OFFICE IS OPEN UNTIL SIX O'CLOCK EACH DAY.

# Birmingham Eccentric

"For a Bigger and Better Birmingham"

16 PAGES, PART 1

OAKLAND COUNTY'S GREATEST WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

FORTY-NINTH YEAR—NO. 15 | BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 1926 | $1.50 PER YEAR—SINGLE COPIES 5c

## SEEK BIGGEST VOTE IN LOCAL HISTORY AT TOMORROW'S BALLOT

### Hartwell Has Perfected Huge Corps Of Workers To Comb Community

### THREE PLACES TO VOTE

Backed by the largest group of enthusiastic citizens that ever interested itself in a local election, Birmingham is confidently expected to go to the polls tomorrow, Thursday, July 29, and cast the heaviest ballot in its history. Under efficient leadership of Arthur W. Hartwell, an organization of workers has been perfected for election day that will literally comb the community in an effort to have every citizen vote on the three bond issues up for approval.

**Where To Vote.**

In Precinct No. 1, which includes all village residents north of the center line of East and West Maple avenues, Elis L. Larson, of 712 Oakland avenue, is leader of the group that will get out the vote. He is assisted by the following captains: C. H. Ranney, 716 Oakland avenue, Adolph Myers, 974 Yorkshire, Lawrence Thomas, 514 Madison avenue, Edwin J., Paulus, 724 Kenesaw, B. G. Stewart, 421 Park, Louis Hascall, 210 North Woodward, Clyde H. Wood, 201 Greenwood, C. H. Sodenberg, 220 Puritan, Fred Mallender, 119 Pilgrim, and W. A. Kendall, 411 Greenwood.

**Second Precinct.**

John B. Howarth, of 505 Pierce street, is leader of the group of workers in Precinct No. 2, which includes the voters situated south of East and West Maple avenues, and north of Lincoln avenue. His captains are: Robert R. Allen, 518 Knox street, Ed L. Filer, 126 East Ruffner, Walter Y. Stanley, 104 Brownell, R. A. Palmer, 318 East Maple, T. D. Lynch, 216 Frank, Lester Slusser, 509 Pierce, Roy McAlpine, 709 Southfield, John Wendorph, 302 Brown, J. V. Bayley, 803 Brown, Thomas Navin, 406 Southfield, Arthur J. Tuggey, Pleasant avenue, and Ralph I. Coryell, Shirley Drive.

**Third Precinct.**

The leader in Precinct No. 3, which takes in all the village territory north of Lincoln avenue, is Guy Laughlin, of 110 Bird avenue. His captains are: Ed. L. Filer, 126 East Ruffner, R. J. Henneberry, 234 West Hennaville, or Harry Taschner, 248 West Emmons, Mrs. Victor R. Madden, 123 Smith, Otto Breitfield, Davis avenue, Otto F. Beier, 925 Pierce street, and Harold Eade, Birmingham boulevard.

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## ZONING ORDINANCE IS REMOVED FROM BOOKS

### Sufficient Legal Names On Petition To Suspend It Monday Night

After checking over the list of names attached to a petition circulated by James Campbell, local realtor, for the outlawing of the recently adopted Zoning Ordinance for Birmingham, the village clerk Monday night reported that sufficient names were legal to give it an official standing before the Commission. Immediately the Village Commission accepted the petition which, under the terms of the Village Charter, automatically suspended its operation.

The suspension of the Zoning Ordinance leaves Birmingham wide open to various types of buildings, the only restrictions holding on property being those contained in original subdivision plats. The labor of many months, on the part of the committee that drafted the ordinance, was swept aside in the action of suspension.

Village officials said this week that, unless something occurs to call a special election previous to the annual village election next March, the proposition of placing the Zoning Ordinance before the voters will not be done until the latter date.

Many residents of the village have criticised the means used to suspend the Ordinance, declaring that property values would suffer here while

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## *Say That You Will Vote Tomorrow*

By George R. Averill

For the past several weeks you have read many articles concerning the three bond issues up at the special village election tomorrow, Thursday, July 29; you have also listened to many arguments on the question. Your mind is probably made up as to just how you will vote.

You will, however, do well to remember that this mere act of voting, a rather prosaic and routine thing to do these days, is the only way individuals have to **MAKE HISTORY** for Birmingham! For, you know, the collective result of many votes determines the conditions of government under which we live—therefore the mere act of voting ought to mean much to us.

If you would sum up the progress of the human race during many recent centuries you would find that it consists **CHIEFLY** of man's ability to take affairs of government from the hands of Kings and Kaisers, and to place them in the hands of you and me. That is the real heritage that our ancestors have left us; every other condition of society is a mere by-product of democratic form of government.

Every day you, Mr. and Mrs. Birmingham, make sacrifices for yourselves and for others; the invisible acts of your lives of ttimes would be fitting material upon which to build the story of some heroic struggle. You are capable of doing **FINE, SPLENDID** things—are you going to pass up your duty to yourself and your town, to the very children whom you love?

We don't believe that you are. We feel that, somehow, this wonderful community of Birmingham, blessed with natural advantages and with citizens whose ideals are high, is going to respond heartily to Thursday's ballot box; that it is going to so respond because it is the individual's **DUTY** as well as privilege to officiate in the destiny of his home-town.

And, we hope and trust, that the results of the election will manifest the fact that Birmingham citizens stand squarely back of their elective officials' plan to provide a new public library, a new fire hall, and the two blocks of land to complete the Civic Center.

## PAVING CONTRACT IS AWARDED TO TAYLOR

### Local Men Given Job On Village Streets At Cost Of $102,110.00

Contract for the paving of numerous Birmingham streets was awarded last Thursday morning to the Taylor Construction Co., a local concern, the total cost of which will amount to $102,110.00. James W. Taylor and John B. Taylor, both of Madison avenue, are the owners of the successful bidding company.

Original bids by the three competing companies were: R. D. Baker, total of $111,116.85; Bartling & Dull, $110,150.00; Taylor Construction Co., $106,510.20. The Taylor bid was cut down $4,500.00, however, when the village commission agreed to accept a one-year instead of a five-year maintenance bond.

**Streets To Be Paved.**

Streets affected and the amounts against each as contained in Taylor's original bid are: Daines street, $6690.00; Oakland avenue, between Woodward and the railroad, $10,032; Brown street, from Pierce to Southfield, $34,317.50; Poppleton avenue from East Maple to Oakland, $12,250.00; Oakland avenue, from the railroad to Adams avenue, $28,140; widening of Brown street, between Pierce and Woodward, $6,662.50; Elm street, from East Maple to Forest, $7,417.50.

**Start At Once.**

"We are bringing our equipment down from Waterford, where we just completed a paving contract for the county," said James W. Taylor this week. "Work will be started at once in Birmingham, and, we hope to have the entire village paving project finished before October 1."

Other streets in Birmingham that are due for curb, gutter and regraveling are awaiting a new set of bids, to be opened August 2 at the village commission offices. New bids are sought because only one bidder entered when the first advertisement on the projects was made public.

### EXCHANGE PICNIC

Members of the Birmingham Exchange club, Tuesday evening enjoyed a picnic party at the home of C. R. Evans, on the north shore of Wing Lake. The affair was staged at the expense of that part of the membership that lost a recently closed six months' attendance contest.

## *Proposed Municipal Site Offers Splendid Chances For Beauty Spot*

On page one of the second section appears a drawing of the proposed municipal site consisting of four blocks, some partly owned by the village at present and the rest to be voted upon for purchase in the bond election to be held tomorrow. The drawing shows, in a goodly way, the relation of one block to the other and all of it as a whole. It explains the campus effect which the four blocks combination will produce.

The present streets running north and south between these blocks will be done away with. Sidewalks, simulating a college campus, will be laid diagonally from the corners of the blocks, and to and from the buildings. A regular park landscape will be effected around the site.

At present the village offices are situated on the northeast corner of the first block, facing Pierce street. If the bond election goes through, this block will be the future home for the new fire hall and the new village offices which will undoubtedly be forthcoming in the next five years, in the opinion of Charles Shain, village president. The cost of the new village offices, with a police station incorporated within the same building, when it is built five years from now, according to President Shain, will be defrayed to a great extent by the money received in the sale of the former village offices and present public library, police and fire department at East Maple and Woodward avenues.

The second block west of Pierce street will be used for purposes to be determined later. To own it for future expansion is the purpose of buying it now. It would be suitable for a federal building, community center of some sort, a recreational park, a band stand, or something which may arise in the future.

The third block, owned by the village, will be the future site of the new proposed library. This is the block on which the former town hall stood. At present there are a number of houses built on it which the city rents. These homes will be torn down and cleared for the library if that bond issue is passed.

The fourth site, on which the present Hill school is located, will be the future home of the million dollar high school which the school board considers building. Two lots facing Southfield avenue in this block are yet to be bought.

According to reports made by John A. Wendorph, member of the Planning Commission, the municipal centering tendency is favored by all large as well as small cities in the country. In many places the centralized buildings make up what is known as the Mall. This is not a new idea, the ancient Greeks and Romans having first used it.

## BLOOMFIELD HILLS CITIZENS WILL TALK ON INCORPORATION

### Will Meet At Bloomfield Hills Country Club Thursday Evening

### NEED CHARTER MEMBERS

In order to conform to the state laws relative to the incorporation of new villages, which compels the submission of names of citizens to act as a Charter Commission, residents of Bloomfield Hills will meet at the Bloomfield Hills Country Club Thursday evening, July 29, and choose at least five citizens for such offices. The question of incorporating Bloomfield Hills Village will be submitted to the residents of the affected territory only at the September 14 primary. At the meeting Thursday night Carl Pelton, of the law firm of Pelton & McGee, Pontiac, will be present to answer legal questions.

**1925 State Laws**

Referring to the method of incorporating a territory as a village, the 1925 state laws read: "That the question of incorporating a new village from Territory located in a township or townships shall be determined by a majority of the votes cast at an election at which only the electors residing within the territory

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## BLOOMFIELD OBTAINS STATE PRIMARY FUNDS AMOUNTING TO $17,649

### Awards Are Made On The Basis Of 2,103 Children In Public Schools.

Bloomfield township schools this year will receive the sum of $17,649.00, from the state primary fund, most of which goes into the Birmingham School District. The apportionment was made on the basis of 2,103 children in Bloomfield township schools.

The total Oakland County share of the state primary money this year amounts to $493,993.19, according to the report received last week by County Clerk Burton F. Daugherty. This is based on a per capita payment of $13.25 for each pupil in last year's census. This rate compares with $13.70 per pupil in 1925; $14 in 1924 and $11.57 in 1923. The total amount of primary money distributed at this time amounts to $16,216,672.

This county's share was apportioned on the basis of 37,298 children. Because District No. 3, Commerce, distributed its money is to be paid to Fractional 10 of Commerce on two children or $26.50 and $13.25 to Six Fractional of White Lake on one child. District No. 3 Fractional of Oxford employed one unqualified

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ELECTION RETURNS

For complete and accurate information regarding the outcome of the bond issues at tomorrow's special election call The Eccentric office, 11 or 12. A courteous reporter will be glad to give all the details of the balloting.

## Mr. Whitehead Owned Many "First Things"

**Almeron Whitehead was a progressive individual, both in business and personal course. He was always receptive to new ideas that were basically sound and fundamental. As proof, consider the following innovations which he was the first person to purchase, inaugurate, or own among Birmingham citizens:**

**1st Phonograph**
**1st Bicycle**
**1st Bathtub**
**1st Telephone**
**1st Gasoline Automobile**
**1st Safe**
**1st Typewriter**
**1st Bank**
**1st Letter Press**
**1st Newspaper.**

**It was not because he had a mechanical trend of mind that new things attracted him; it has been said of him that "he didn't know how to open a monkey-wrench".**

## BREAK IN OLD MAIN IS CAUSE OF WATER HALT

A break in a four inch water main on Baldwin avenue, just opposite the water works station on West Maple avenue Monday night shortly after seven o'clock, resulted in Birmingham being without water until 4:45 o'clock Tuesday morning. Workmen under the direction of manager Starr, labored all night to repair the damage. It was necessary to drain the entire network of mains in the village before the damaged pipe could be reached. The break occurred in an old main, which was supplanted by a new one eight inches in diameter.

Wait for the "Factory-to-You" Sale at Shain's. adv.15

## *The Original "Birmingham Eccentric Club"*

*Reading from left to right—bottom row: Frank Randall, deceased; Stewart E. Opdyke, address not known; Almeron Whitehead, deceased; John F. Aiken, deceased; McAllister Randall, California; top row: Wm. C. Jenks, Detroit; George R. Mitchell, Birmingham; Eben D. Parker, address not known; and Walter North, Detroit. This group of nine "young" men includes Whitehead and Mitchell, the two partners who started the Birmingham Eccentric in their "spare time" in 1878.*

Above is a picture of the original group of nine men who, over fifty years ago, constituted the membership in what was called the "Eccentric Club." The clique was patterned after a club described in Jules Verne's "Around the World in Eighty Days." The club described in this book was supposed to have existed in London, England, and its membership was chiefly known for their regular commitment to revelry and cut-ups. How successful this local group was in imitating the Jules Verne example is a matter of hearsay only. However, it is definitely known that all nine members would regularly board a buggy and make a trip to Orchard Lake or some other lake in the neighborhood each Sunday and feature their behavior by stunts and a happy-go-lucky attitude. Incidentally, it was agreed upon, among all, that nobody was to marry; since then each in turn has shed his celibacy.

**Starting The Eccentric.**

Two of the members of this group were Almeron Whitehead and George Mitchell. These two young men de-

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**BELL WILL RING**

**Starting at noon tomorrow, the bell in the Methodist church tower will be rung at intervals of an hour until six o'clock, and from then until the polls close every half hour. This is to REMIND YOU THAT TODAY IS ELECTION DAY IN BIRMINGHAM—TO BE SURE TO VOTE.**

## SIX NEW ANNEXATION PROJECTS UP SEPT. 14

### Village Seeks New Lands To Square Boundary And Water Supply

### ANSWERS LAST CALL

Petitions have been circulated and filed with the county clerk at Pontiac calling for the submission of six annexation propositions to Birmingham at the primary September 14. The lands under question, four of which are in Bloomfield and two in Troy townships, are sought by village officials for two main purposes; first, to make more uniform the boundaries of Birmingham and, second, to provide future sources of water supply.

**Four In Bloomfield**

The lands in Bloomfield township to be voted upon are Bloomfield Woods subdivision, west of the village; six and two-thirds acres near the Birmingham Golf club known as the Henry W. Smith property; Riverview subdivision, below the Quarton road between Woodward avenue and the present village line; and Bloomfield subdivision, Maywood Villas subdivision, A. C. McGraw, Mrs. C. D. Ardussi and others.

The above four propositions will be voted upon by the residents of the affected territory, the village of Birmingham, and Bloomfield township-at-large.

**Two In Troy Township.**

Two propositions upon which residents in the affected territory, in Birmingham, and Troy township-at-large will vote are all that land in Section 30 not already included in Birmingham, situated north of Birmingham Estates and east of Adams road, and all the remaining territory in Section 31 not already in the village, situated north of Clawson road and west of Coolidge Highway.

## FRANKLIN PREPARING FOR "HOME-COMING"

### Gala Time Promised In Nearby Village Saturday, August 7th

Extensive preparations are being made for the Franklin Home-Coming to be held on Saturday, August 7.

This will be the first Home-Coming since Franklin celebrated her 100th birthday two years ago. It was decided at a special meeting of the Franklin Improvement Association to take over the responsibility of putting on the Home-Coming, owing to the fact that the officers of the Home-Coming Association, through unavoidable circumstances, were unable to act.

The site selected for the event is an ideal one, donated by George W. Smith. It is the creek flats adjoining the old McCrumb mill. There is a beautiful flowing spring on the grounds, a swimming pool, shade

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ALMERON WHITEHEAD

In whose memory Birmingham's official American flag drooped at half-mast all day Tuesday. Local business places closed between 2 and 3:30 o'clock while funeral services were being conducted at St. James' Episcopal church, with burial in Greenwood Cemetery.

## Reminiscences Of Whitehead's Cronies

"In the forty-two years of our friendship, never a cross word was exchanged" stated George H. Mitchell, former partner of Almeron Whitehead, who died here last Sunday morning. "I remember once, in the store at Pierce and Maple avenues, how I had asked Whitehead if he had swept behind the counter. He replied: 'look and see and if you think it is dirty, sweep it up yourself!'"

**Had Literary Ability.**

"I often wonder what would have become of Whitehead if he had pur-

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## VILLAGE WATER BAN LIFTED LAST FRIDAY

### Officials Request, However, That Sprinkling Be Used Moderately

Birmingham's recently enacted water ban was lifted last Friday. Circulars were delivered about the village, notifying that a maximum of two hours daily would be allowed for sprinkling. It is the hope of the village commission that all residents will comply with the two-hour request, because final connections to the mains of the new well are not fully completed, and will not be for another week or ten days.

**Using Much Water.**

According to figures on file at manager Starr's office, the average daily consumption of water during May was 575,000 gallons; during June and July so far the daily consumption has increased to over 800,000 gallons per day. Statistics used in determining the amount of water necessary per capita fix 50 gallons per day as the average; estimating Birmingham's present population at 8,000, manager Starr says each person uses about 100 gallons.

**2,500,000 Gallon Supply.**

"With our new well soon ready to give its maximum capacity of 1,500,000 gallons of water per day into the village mains, Birmingham was never better off for a water supply," manager Starr said this week. "Our total water supply, except in dry weather, ought to afford us 2,500,000 gallons per day when all connections are completed to the new well."

**Care For Ten Years.**

"Of course, as more homes are built here we shall have to install new wells from time to time. It is my belief that, pending the time when Birmingham will get its water through the Metropolitan Area plan from Detroit or Lake Huron, we shall be able to get underground water in quantities sufficient to care for our needs for ten years into the future; this ought to be done at a maximum cost of $100,000.00, whereas our share of the cost of getting water from Detroit now would be at least $500,000.00.

"I hope the time will come, however, when Birmingham, Pontiac, and other communities will be able to band together, under a Metropolitan

## ALMERON WHITEHEAD PUBLISHER, BANKER DIED EARLY SUNDAY

### 75-Year-Old Citizen Of Birmingham Buried In Greenwood Tuesday

### LIVED HERE 54 YEARS

By Paul Neal Averill.

Almeron Whitehead, co-founder and president of the First National Bank of Birmingham, died peacefully last Sunday morning at 10 o'clock. A purple draped wreath silently announced to passersby that the three-quarters of a century old man had finally succumbed to an illness that had threatened him for over a year. He had suffered for fifteen years with neuritis which had, prior to his death, shattered his large physical frame to a state of almost helplessness; heart disease had been the cause of his recent decline which terminated in a congestion of the respiratory organs.

**Lived Here 54 Years.**

Services were held yesterday afternoon at the local St. James Episcopal church, W. R. Blachford of St. John's church, Royal Oak, officiating. Masonic rituals were enacted at the grave in Greenwood cemetery before a large gathering of Birmingham friends who had assembled to pay their last earthly homage to this beloved citizen. Many heart strings were tugged by sorrow and regret as the man was laid to rest, for in his 54 years in Birmingham he had made many friends and found a place in the hearts of many whom he had befriended.

With his death, Birmingham lost one of her most progressive pioneers; a man who contributed more than any other single individual to the growth and civic spirit of this community. A man who had vision and foresight; a man energetic and aggressive; a man, kind and romantic; a man who loved his fellow men and was loved by them.

**Was Public Spirited.**

For twelve years he served Birmingham in the capacity of village president and filled a number of other public offices that were attached in an honorary status to the village presidency. He was a staunch Republican and figured actively and successfully in the support of two gubernatorial candidates, Chase Osborn and Fred M. Warner. He was more than instrumental in bringing the D. U. R. tracks from Detroit to Pontiac; in building the water works; in making the library campaign of Martha Baldwin a success; in estab-

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## $104,671 IS COST OF LINCOLN EXTENSION

### Public Hearing On Assessment Roll Set For August 23

At a meeting of the Village Commission Monday night, August 23 was set as the date for a public hearing on the opening of Lincoln avenue, from Southfield to Cranbrook road, the cost of which is estimated at $104,671.00. The proposed street will be of the boulevard type, 66 feet wide. The improvements included in the cost are water mains, storm sewers, curb and gutter, and regravelling, together with a bridge over the Rizer Rouge.

The special assessment district to be created for the purpose of paying five-sixths of the cost of the project includes all the property south of Lincoln avenue to Northlawn, and all of Birmingham Hills subdivision to Saxon Drive, and all property north of Lincoln avenue to Maple from Cranbrook road to the east line of Coryell Park; east of this point approximately one-half of distance between Lincoln and Maple avenues east to Section line.

The remainder of the cost of the project is to be paid for from village funds. Manager Starr has been working on the plans for this extension for the past year.

Area plan, and get water direct by gravity from Lake Huron. This method will be better than tapping the Detroit mains, where we are sure of getting much distasteful chlorine in our water."

## *Rumor Not True That Balloon Company Will Locate Near Gas Well*

John Wendorph, superintendent of Roseland Park Cemetery, reports the discovery of gas on the cemetery property. Incidental with this report, comes the rumor that a balloon manufacturing company has succeeded in gaining a concession nearby for the purpose of inflating their output of balloons. After investigating the usual policy of balloon companies, The Eccentric is inclined to discredit this rumor, for the reason that balloons are particular about the kind of gas used in them and frequently give rise to protest when this condition is violated.

The well was discovered to be gas-bearing recently when workers were active in cleaning out the line which had evidently been clogged up two years ago when the well went dry. To their surprise, gas began to gush forth and has continued in a steady stream since. Not yet having decided what to do with the supply, which it is estimated, will supply about thirty homes, Mr. Wendorph has lighted the gas; it burns night and day with even pressure.

**FURNACE FOR SALE**

We offer for sale a square, sectional boiler, capable of supplying heat for 1500 feet of radiation. It is worth $250.00, but we will sell it for $100.00 to make room for a larger boiler. Apply at The Eccentric office.

## PARRY, COLGROVE AND MOORE NEW ROTARIANS

Clarence Vliet, as chairman of the Rotary Education Committee of the Birmingham club, Monday noon made a ten-minute talk on Rotary ideals to three recently admitted members, James W. Parry, electrical engineer, L. E. Colgrove, land development, and Dr. Herbert Moore, physician. Mr. Vliet admitted that Rotary has its foolish phases, but that it also possesses basic principles for the betterment of mankind.

The balance of the meeting was given to a discussion of the approaching bond issues at tomorrow's election. Clarence Vliet, George R. Averill, and Charles J. Shain spoke for a few minutes, each favoring the passage of the three bond issues for a new public library, new fire hall, and two blocks of land for municipal development.

Buy Rexall Products at Factory Prices in August at Shain's. adv.15

**DIRT FOR SALE**

AT NORTHEAST CORNER OF TOWNSEND AND CHESTER. PARTICULARS OF A. HART, RESIDING AT CORNER BUCKINGHAM AND OXFORD. PHONE 736.

August "Factory-to-You" Sale at Shain's. adv.15-16