## Mr. Whitehead's Last Lines Were Of Death

It is peculiarly significant that the last article ever written by Almeron Whitehead, president of the First National Bank, who died Sunday morning, concerned a scene of death and death's abode in Greenwood Cemetery. Readers of The Eccentric will remember that, a few weeks ago, Mr. Whitehead was the author of "Old Stuff," a column carried in this newspaper. This last article contained a brief story of romance that surrounded the courtship of two of Birmingham's recent older citizens, the last paragraph of which was as follows:

I sat near the graves of these two in Greenwood Cemetery the other evening; the vesper songs of a myriad birds and the murmur of the nearby brook sang their requiem, the crimson sunset tinged the flowers and shrubbery with a warm good night like a benediction as I read upon the two modest, unpretentious markers, the names of these two whose story I have so lamely endeavored to tell. They were:

J. Allen Bigelow, 1839—1926.
Isabell W. Bigelow, 1844—1926.

And now, should you go over to old Greenwood and gaze upon the tombstones you may see a new record added to the register of those who rest beneath the aging elms; it is

Almeron Whitehead, 1851—1926.

**ALMERON WHITEHEAD, PUBLISHER, BANKER. DIED EARLY SUNDAY**

(Continued from Page 1)

lishing a branch of the Detroit Edison Co. in Birmingham at an early date; in establishing a telephone exchange locally and rurally; in funding the first bank in Birmingham; and in publishing the first newspaper in this community.

**Born At Elizabeth Lake.**

Almeron Whitehead was born in 1851, Elizabeth Lake, Waterford township, Oakland County. His father, Almeron, was one of the first settlers of Waterford township; his mother's name was Anne. The son was educated in Pontiac and attended two years' of high school there. When he was eighteen, Mr. Whitehead left home to make a living for himself. He worked for one year in Saginaw, at that time a lumbering district, clerking in a general store. At the age of nineteen he came to Birmingham and worked for his brother-in-law, Captain Bigelow, who ran a general store. He received $100 dollars a year including room and board in this capacity.

**Formed Partnership.**

He worked for his brother-in-law for four or five years and then formed a partnership with George H. Mitchell. The two young men opened a furniture store and after some success, started a general store. It was this business that furnished the basis for all succeeding business enterprises conducted by them.

This partnership had the first safe in town. The general store was situated at the corner of Pierce and Maple avenues. Farmers would often come in and leave money there for safe keeping. This was done graciously. After a time "deposits" became so heavy that it was decided best to leave the money in a Detroit farmers part of the interest.

From then on, trips were made regularly to the Detroit bank either by Whitehead or Mitchell, the money being carried in a small brown satchel, otherwise unprotected. During these trips, it was suggested by the Detroit bank presidents that this partnership start a bank of their own. Whitehead and Mitchell discussed the proposition and both agreed to the idea.

**Started Exchange Bank.**

The "Old Exchange Bank of Whitehead and Mitchell" started in a small corner of the present building now occupied by Shain's Drug Store. It was fenced off and half heartedly resembled an office. Upon the decease of Erastus Beebe, $500 in cash was left to be handled in a checking account by the administrator, who happened to be Mitchell. So Mitchell opened an account with the New York Exchange Bank and became the agency for that institution. Thus it was that the bank grew to proportions large enough to warrant a building for itself and "about forty years ago we built the Old Exchange Bank of Whitehead and Mitchell next to Shain's" was Mr. Mitchell's recollection when interviewed.

This private bank continued until 1910, when the State Banking Law required affiliation with either a National or State charter. Two years later Mitchell withdrew interest in the banking enterprise and the division of assets resulted in his getting the Telephone Building and Birmingham Eccentric, with some petty real estate as his share.

After 1912, Whitehead confined his attentions to the First National Bank and Whitehead and Standart Co., both of which he was president.

**Untiring And Energetic.**

His records prove him to be untiring and energetic. During his terms of office as village president he succeeded in getting concrete sidewalks and kindred improvements made in the town. The water works came as the result of his untiring efforts. The bonds for the $16,000 water works were bought by his bank in an effort to prove his individual unselfishness.

In spite of the protests of merchants and farmers who claimed an electric railway would kill off the cattle and depreciate land values on the one hand, and prevent development of Pontiac and Birmingham because people would go to Detroit to buy merchandise on the other hand, Mr. Whitehead work incessantly in successfully obtaining the right-of-way for the D. U. R., at first known as the Detroit and Pontiac lines, between Highland Park and Pontiac. The property which he obtained for this right-of-way was, at the time, worth about $100,000. Because of the personality of the man, Whitehead was able to obtain the entire stretch for $8,300, most of it being given free.

The Detroit Edison, the telephone company, and a number of other instances show him to be of the progressive type. "He always worked for the advancement of this community in face of any opposition," declared his partner.

**Married In 1877.**

In 1877, Mr. Whitehead married Emma Bodine, a Birmingham girl. Little is known about the courtship of this pair, yet, one can easily picture a romantic youth, wooing his Juliet with soft words and pretty phrases, knowing that poetry and writing in general were part of his mental equipment. One son, Raynale, was born to this couple. Mrs. Whitehead died August 26, 1911, and left Mr. Whitehead a solitary figure in the picture, the son having left home to make his way in the world. However, Mr. Whitehead was fortunate enough to have Miss Sarah McCord, who came from Ireland 18 years ago to live with them, and who has taken care of him since his wife's death. Miss Sarah McCord is now Mrs. Wylie Groves.

The son, Raynale Whitehead, survives his father as the only close relative in a resident of Chicago, assistant National sales manager of the Yellow Coach Company. His children, Helen, Sally, and Ann are the only grandchildren Mr. Whitehead ever had.

His nephews and nieces, many of them local, are: Colonel Mortimer Bigelow, San Diego, Calif; William Leggett and Kate Leggett, of Drayton Plains; Mrs. T. R. Donovan of Bloomfield Hills; Mrs. Irwin Neff, Mrs. Archie Utter and John Garrett of Birmingham; Seward Bacon, Washington, D. C., and Belle Bacon, of Boston, Mass.

**Was Masonic Master.**

At the time of his death, Mr. Whitehead was the oldest living Past Master of Birmingham Lodge No. 44, F. & A. M. Daniel Johnson succeeds him in this title. He received the 32nd degree some years ago. At one time he was a member of th Knights of Pythias; in a branch of this latter organization, he was the national treasurer of the Dramatic Order of the Knights of Khorassan.

With Mr. Harvey Parke, founder of Parke Davis Company, Mr. Whitehead was instrumental in building the local St. James' Episcopal church. His family stock has been consistently Episcopalean.

There is no doubt, that when certain of the old timers in town, and close friends of Almeron Whitehead, read the poem "Jack", printed elsewhere in this issue, written for Jack Kaiser, memories will be brushed up considerably and they will again recall the big, husky stature of Mr. Whitehead making the rounds of town in his line of work, always humorous, energetic, and friendly.

**Pall Bearers.**

The active pall bearers were chosen from those associated with him in the bank. They were: D. A. Green; Chas. Buck, Percy Burnett, Earl Randall, Shanley Rosso, Melvin Roberts, Chas. J. Randall, and James B. Cannon.

The honorary pall bearers were: T. R. Donovan, A. R. Lowes, Chauncey Nixon, Robert S. Porritt, Elmer C. Huston, Chas. B. Randall, John B. Williams, Harry L. Wallace, Herbert R. Earle, and John B. Howarth.

The past masters of No. 44, F. & A. M. were also honorary pall bearers: Frank W. Blair, Daniel M. Johnston, Geo. H. Satterlee, William W. Masters, Ellsworth H. Randall, Chas. J. Shain, Earl R. Jenks, H. G. Hendrickson, James H. Terry, Maurice R. Blair, Percy W. Parmenter, John M. Rainey, Samuel M. Howting, Roy E. Brown, Clare W. Haven, Aaron Wilkinson, Charles A. Bingham, Harris A. Lamb, and Ernest A. Burtraw.

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

(Continued from Page 1)

teacher during the year and had $57.42 deducted for this reason. District No. 9, Southfield, also employed an unqualified teacher and lost $147.95.

The following table shows the distribution. The money will not arrive until next month and will be distributed by the county treasurer.

| | Children 5-18 Census | No. Included in Apportionment | Amount |
|---|---|---|---|
| Addison | 264 | 264 | 3,458.00 |
| Avon | 1,332 | 1,332 | 17,649.00 |
| Bloomfield | 2,103 | 2,103 | 27,864.75 |
| Brandon | 325 | 325 | 4,438.75 |
| Commerce | 437 | 437 | 5,790.25 |
| Farmington | 1,412 | 1,412 | 18,700.00 |
| Groveland | 148 | 148 | 1,961.00 |
| Highland | 349 | 349 | 4,624.25 |
| Holly | 671 | 671 | 8,890.75 |
| Independence | 306 | 306 | 4,054.50 |
| Lyon | 491 | 491 | 6,505.75 |
| Milford | 425 | 425 | 5,631.25 |
| Novi | 318 | 318 | 4,213.50 |
| Oakland | 192 | 192 | 2,544.00 |
| Orion | 529 | 529 | 7,009.25 |
| Oxford | 663 | 663 | 8,727.33 |
| Pontiac | 491 | 491 | 6,505.75 |
| Pontiac City | 9,630 | 9,630 | 127,597.50 |
| Rose | 154 | 154 | 2,040.50 |
| Royal Oak | 13,973 | 13,973 | 185,142.45 |
| Southfield | 600 | 600 | 7,952.25 |
| Springfield | 253 | 253 | 3,353.25 |
| Troy | 941 | 941 | 12,468.25 |
| Waterford | 520 | 520 | 6,890.00 |
| W. Bloomfield | 539 | 539 | 7,141.75 |
| White Lake | 222 | 222 | 2,941.50 |
| Total | 37,298 | 37,298 | 493,993.19 |

## FRANKLIN PREPARING FOR "HOME-COMING"

(Continued from Page 1)

trees "and everything."

Those wishing to bring their own lunch may do so, but Seba Bristol has charge of the concessions and will have a full line of meats, cakes, pies, ice cream, soft drinks, melons, etc., on the grounds for those who do not care to furnish their own.

The various committees are busy preparing for this affair. There will be a full program of sports from a penny scramble for the kiddies to a tug-of-war. This tug-of-war will be the feature of the day. The contestants of the "tug-of-war" will be placed on either side of the swimming pool, and the losers will be dragged through the pool, a distance of some 30 feet. The sport program will start at 10:30 o'clock and continue to 11:30 when an intermission of 1½ hours will be had for lunch.

Starting at 1 o'clock there will be a period of community singing followed by a speech of welcome and an informal reminiscent talk by several old-time Franklin residents. The speaker of the afternoon will be announced as yet by the committee.

Following the speech will come the program of sports, after which will be an intermission until 7:30 o'clock when a camp fire and weiner roast, with stories, etc., will occupy the remainder of the day. The band will furnish music throughout the program and several good vaudeville acts are being arranged for the after-dinner program, according to J. Bateman Wood, chairman of publicity.

Next week's Eccentric will contain a full program of the events and the members of the various committees.

On the first three Sunday of August the Union Services of churches in Birmingham will be held at the Methodist church at 7:30 o'clock in the evening. Rev. Robert M. Atkins, Methodist minister, will preach a series of three sermons discussing the general subject of "Good Will." August 1 his sermon topic will be "Good Will in the Community," August 8, "Good Will in the Nation," and August 15, "Good Will Around the World." The public is invited to these services.

## Whitehead Often Penned A Rhyme

The "Jack" in the following poem, written by Almeron Whitehead who died here last Sunday morning, was Jack Kaiser, a local farmer and a great fishing pal of Mr. Whitehead's. These two men used to roam around to all the lakes in Oakland county. Jack Kaiser probably did more fishing with Mr. Whitehead than any other man, and the great affection which grew up between them probably gave rise to the writing of this poem, which appeared in "Recreation," a national magazine.

**JACK**
**By A. Whitehead**

I knew a place, in the olden time,
Far from the city's dust and grime,
Where the fragrant breezes blow,
And sun-kissed ripples come and go,
Where you could bet on a sure thing,
Of pike and of bass a goodly string.
Hard boiled eggs, beer, pickles and cheese,
Anything else our fancy to please,
A lunch for the gods—which the doctor said
If we ate, we'd be just as good as dead.
Never bothered us, not a mite,
"Always save to get a bite
When you're takin' one," Jack would say
Out on the lake on a summer day.

* * *

Jack has drifted to the further shore,
And we hear his kindly voice no more.
He always said, "When I get over there,
If the fishin' is only tollable fair,
I'll tell 'em sumthin' right off'n the bat,
An' I won't stay long; you can lay to that!"
Pity he couldn't drop us a line
To say if the fishin's poor or fine,
And what kind of luncheon and bait to fix
For an all-day jaunt on the River Styx.

* * *

Oh, for a day of the Long Ago,
Where the lake-born breezes come and go!
Out on the lake for a summer day,
Where the sun-lit ripples love to play,
And the waves splash up with a musical note
Under the bow of the old flat boat.

## VILLAGE COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS

Regular adjourned meeting of the Village Commission held Thursday morning, July 22, 1926, at 9 o'clock.

Present: President Shain, Commissioners Ladd and Bell.

432—Moved by Commissioner Ladd that the Taylor Construction Co. be awarded the paving contract at their bid of $106,610.00, less $4,500.00, for changing the maintenance bond from 5 years to 1 year, making the total bid $102,110.00, and that the certified checks be returned to the unsuccessful bidders. Yeas: Shain, Ladd and Bell. Nays: None.

433—Moved by President Shain that the following report given by Charles Plumstead, Treasurer, be accepted and adopted as corrected:

Village Commissioners,
Birmingham, Michigan.
Gentlemen:

Regarding maturities for retiring the bonds which will be issued under the proposed bond issues, I recommend the following:

| Year | Amount Retired |
|---|---|
| 1927 | $ 8,000 |
| 1928 | 8,000 |
| 1929 | 8,000 |
| 1930 | 8,000 |
| 1931 | 8,000 |
| 1932 | 12,000 |
| 1933 | 12,000 |
| 1934 | 12,000 |
| 1935 | 12,000 |
| 1936 | 12,000 |
| 1937 | 16,000 |
| 1938 | 16,000 |
| 1939 | 16,000 |
| 1940 | 17,000 |
| 1941 | 18,000 |
| 1942 | 18,000 |
| 1943 | 17,000 |
| 1944 | 19,000 |
| 1945 | 22,000 |
| 1946 | 22,000 |
| 1947 | 22,000 |
| 1948 | 22,000 |
| 1949 | 22,000 |
| 1950 | 22,000 |
| 1951 | 22,000 |
| 1952 | 24,000 |
| | $815,000 |

The above maturities comply with the requirements of the Evans-Baxter Law controlling bond issues by municipalities, and maintains the tax levy which has been established and maintained during the last five years. With the new bonds added to our present indebtedness, the annual budget requirements for the next 25 years will be $24,000. Added to the interest on public debt, the total Interest and Sinking Fund requirements will be $60,000. On a $20,000,000 estimated valuation for 1927 with the annexed territory included, this amount will require a levy of $3.00 per $1,000 as compared to a levy this year of $2.94, showing clearly that the addition of these bonds to our indebtedness will not result in an increase in taxes.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles Plumstead,
Treasurer.

Yeas: Shain, Ladd and Bell. Nays: None.

434—Moved by Commissioner Bell that the President and Clerk be authorized to execute contract with G. A. Gessner, Inc., and that their bonds be accepted and filed. Yeas: Shain, Ladd and Bell. Nays: None.

Moved by Commissioner Ladd that the meeting adjourn. Yeas: Shain, Ladd and Bell. Nays: None.

HAZEL E. LAWLER,
Village Clerk.

Regular meeting of the Village Commission held Monday evening, July 26, 1926, at 8:00 o'clock.

Present: President Shain, Commissioner Bell.

Absent: Commissioner Ladd.

Minutes of meetings of July 19 and 22nd approved as printed.

435—Moved by President Shain that the following preamble and resolution be adopted, that

Whereas, pursuant to a resolution passed by the Commission on July 12, 1926, the Village of Birmingham has prepared Special Assessment Rolls according to maps, diagrams and estimates on file with the Village Clerk for the construction of sanitary sewer on Hanna Street from Watkins Street to the West line of Lots 11 and 12, Schlanck Brothers Subdivision, in the Village of Birmingham, and more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at an existing manhole at the intersection of Watkins and Hanna, and extending West on Hanna Street to the West line of lots 11 and 12, Schlanck Brothers Subdivision, and

Whereas he has reported them to this Commission as required by law, now

Be it resolved, that said Special Assessment Roll be filed for District No. 90, and that the Commission of the Village of Birmingham meet in the Village Clerk's office in the Village of Birmingham on August 9th, 1926, at 8:00 o'clock P. M., to hear suggestions and objections of persons interested in said special assessment, and that a notice of such meeting be published as required by law.

Yeas: Shain and Bell. Nays: None.

436—Moved by President Shain, that the bond of R. L. Hayden, covering Sidewalk Builder's License, be accepted and filed. Yeas: Shain and Bell. Nays: None.

437—Application of Robert Allen McKee and Alva L. Keller for Electrician's License, read and referred to the Manager.

438—Moved by Commissioner Bell that the President and Clerk be authorized to execute agreement with Leinbach-Humphrey Company. Yeas: Shain and Bell. Nays: None.

439—Communication from the Royal Oak Creamery Co. read and placed on file.

Commissioner Ladd arrived.

440—Moved by Commissioner Ladd that the contract for manhole rings, intakes and catch basin boxes and grates, be awarded to the Ann Arbor Inlet Co., at their total bid of $1,694.80. Yeas: Shain, Ladd and Bell. Nays: None.

441—Moved by President Shain that the following bills be allowed as rend:

Michigan Bell Telephone Co., $65.92; Grand Trunk Railway, $251.92; Richard W. Kelly, $46.37; Lloyd McQuarrie and Glenn Allen, $100.00; James Anderson, $62.90; Harry Smith & Son, $120.00. Yeas: Shain, Ladd and Bell. Nays: None.

442—Moved by Commissioner Bell that the President and Clerk be authorized to execute contract with the Taylor Construction Company, and the approval of the Village Manager and Village Attorney, and that the bond be accepted and filed. Yeas: Shain, Ladd and Bell. Nays: None.

443—Moved by President Shain that the following resolution be adopted:

Resolved that the Commission of the Village of Birmingham does hereby declare that it is expedient and advisable that Lincoln Avenue be opened and extended from Southfield Avenue West to the Cranbrook Road, and that storm sewer, watermain, curb and gutter and regraveling, with bridge over river, be constructed, and that the Village Manager be hereby instructed to prepare maps and diagrams together with an estimate of the cost of construction of such above named improvement, and file the same with this Commission, with all due haste. Yeas: Shain, Ladd and Bell. Nays: None.

444—Moved by Commissioner Ladd that the assessment district for the opening of Lincoln Avenue be as follows:

All property south of Lincoln to Northlawn, and all of Birmingham Hills Subdivision to Saxon Drive, and all property north of Lincoln to Maple from Cranbrook Road to the east line of Coryell Park; and of the Saxon Drive property approximately one-half of distance between Lincoln and Maple Avenue, east on Section line. Yeas: Shain, Ladd and Bell. Nays: None.

445—Moved by President Shain that the following preamble and resolution be adopted: that

Whereas this Commission, by virtue of a resolution passed July 26, 1926, determined that it is expedient and advisable that Lincoln Avenue be opened and extended from Southfield Avenue West to the Cranbrook Road, and that storm sewer, watermain, curb and gutter and gravel, be installed, and bridge constructed over river in the Village of Birmingham, and

Whereas by virtue of the same resolution the Village Manager has prepared maps and diagrams of such above named improvement, and filed same with this Commission, together with an estimate of the cost of same amounting to $184,671.00 for the improvement,

Now be it resolved that all lots and parcels of land south of Lincoln Avenue to Northlawn, and all of Birmingham Hills Subdivision to Saxon Drive, and all property north of Lincoln 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 Avenue, east to Section line, will be benefited by said improvement, and shall constitute a Special Assessment District upon which a Special Assessment shall be levied to defray a portion of the expense of constructing such above named improvement, and

Be it further resolved that the Village of Birmingham shall bear 1-6 of the cost of constructing such above named improvement, and that the lots and parcels of land embraced in said Special Assessment District shall be assessed 5-6 of the cost of construction of said improvement and the full cost of house connections, according to benefits derived therefrom, and that the special assessments shall be divided into five equal installments, payable annually, beginning with the date of confirmation of a Special Assessment Roll of the above purpose, and

Be it further resolved that this Commission shall meet at the Village Clerk's office in the Village of Birmingham on Monday, August 23, 1926, at 8:00 o'clock P. M., to hear suggestions and objections to the proposed improvement, and the method of assessment thereon.

Yeas: Shain, Ladd and Bell. Nays: None.

446—Report was read from the Clerk stating that the required number of signers on the petition as presented by James Campbell and others, were registered electors of the Village of Birmingham.

447—Moved by President Shain that petition of James Campbell and others, protesting against the taking effect of the Zoning Ordinance, be received and that Zoning Ordinance be suspended in accordance with the provisions of the Village Charter. Yeas: Shain, Ladd and Bell. Nays: None.

Moved by Commissioner Ladd that the meeting adjourn. Yeas: Shain, Ladd and Bell. Nays: None.

HAZEL E. LAWLER,
Village Clerk.

Dale Carter, painter and decorator, announces that he has completed the painting and decorating of the model home built by the Judson Bradway company, located in Bloomfield Village, West Maple avenue. Further announcement will be made later by the company as to just when this model home will be open for inspection.


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**George H. Mitchell**

NOTARY PUBLIC
For Oakland Co.
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George H. Mitchell
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Office Phone: 40
House Phone: 452-J

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Phones: Office, 1070 - Residence, 1244

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MEN'S WEAR
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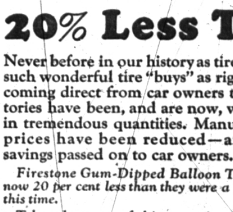

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| 30x3½ Ex. Size Cl. Cord | 9.95 | 29 x 4.95 " | 16.40 |
| 31x4 S. S. Cord | 15.75 | 30 x 5.25 " | 18.15 |
| 32x4½ " " | 23.35 | 31 x 5.25 " | 19.05 |
| 33x5 " " | 29.50 | 33 x 6.00 " | 24.10 |

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AMERICANS SHOULD PRODUCE THEIR OWN RUBBER.. Harvey S. Firestone