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FORTY-NINTH YEAR—NO. 8 | BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 1926 | $1.50 PER YEAR—SINGLE COPIES 5c

VILLAGE VALUATION TOPS 12 MILL.

New Tax Roll Accepted By Commission; Valuation Is $3,922,000 Over 1925

BUDGET IS FIXED

With the formal acceptance of the new tax roll by the Birmingham Village commission, a new high valuation mark for Birmingham real and personal property has been set. According to the new tax roll, the 1926 assessed valuation has been placed at $12,582,600 marking an increase of $3,922,900 over the figure accepted one year ago. Never in the history of the village has a single year shown such a remarkable increased value. In percentage figures the 1926 assessed valuation is 46 percent over that of 1925.

Together with the acceptance of the valuation figure, the commission gave their official sanction to the 1926 budget whose figure, $151,000 is deemed sufficient to meet the carrying expenses of the village for the current year. The budget for 1925 called for appropriations of $108,000. In spite of the rapid developments already underway and even more pretentious ones planned throughout the village for the coming year, the increase in the budget is not extremely great.

The tax rate for 1926 has been reduced from $12.50 per thousand to $12, a decrease which may be attributed to a greater increase is assessed valuation compared to the proportionate increase in expense.

In reviewing village records of the past four years it is of interest to note the variation in the figures representing the assessed valuation and their comparisons with those on ensuing years. In 1922 to total valuation was slightly over $5,000,000 with the tax rate set at $15 per thousand. In the next year, 1923, the tax rate remained the same while the assessed valuation went but a few thousand dollars higher. In 1923, the figure came to over the $7,500,000 mark while the tax rate dropped to $12.50 where it remained until the recent change for 1926.

According to village treasurer Charles Plumstead, the village is to

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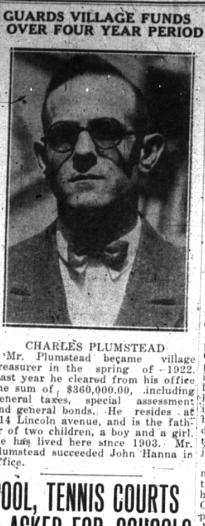
GUARDS VILLAGE FUNDS OVER FOUR YEAR PERIOD



CHARLES PLUMSTEAD

Mr. Plumstead became village treasurer in the spring of 1922. Last year he cleared from his office the sum of $360,000.00, including general taxes, special assessment and general bonds. He resides at 814 Lincoln avenue, and is the father of two children, a boy and a girl. He has lived here since 1903. Mr. Plumstead succeeded John Hanna in office.

MAY BUILD LARGER COMMUNITY HOUSE

Workers Met Tuesday To Discuss Past And Future Administration

ROLL CALL TOTAL $3912

In an attempt to formulate policies for a future Community House which might be expected to meet the increasing demands upon the present community center, about twenty-five interested workers for the Community House project met Tuesday evening in the assembly room of the House before a log fire in the grate and discussed the situation.

Mrs. Charles Shain, chairman of the Community House Board, in her opening remarks paid tribute to Miss Mary Griffith, house hostess, for the part she has played in making the Community House and its work so prominent in the life of the community and each of the speakers who followed echoed the praise which they had heard of her good works, both in welcoming the 19,000 people whom her report showed had used the house during the year and in going about the village on errands of social adjustment.

Miss Griffith's report showing 389 meetings held in the house during the past year and 1638 persons who had received employment through the Community House files, was a surprise to most of the audience. Mrs. Arthur Hartwell, secretary of the board, stressed the fact that almost 350 women and men had assisted on

(Continued on Page 8)

"Although the text of Birmingham's proposed new Zoning Ordinance is being published in The Eccentric for four weeks, as required by law, the Ordinance itself is not complete without reference to a map which our committee worked out," said Walter M. Pratt, of Southfield avenue, chairman of the Zoning Commission, yesterday. "Therefore, I would suggest to all persons interested in knowing how their property may be affected by the proposed Zoning Ordinance to see the map at the village clerk's office, corner of Martin and Pierce streets.

"Very few criticisms have been directed at the proposed Ordinance," continued Mr. Pratt. "Local people are almost unanimous in their approval of such legislation for Birmingham. We hope that everybody interested will go over the Ordinance on or before June 23, the date of the public hearing, so that, when the Ordinance is finally adopted, it will meet with the approval of the greatest possible number of citizens."

POOL, TENNIS COURTS ASKED FOR SCHOOLS

Board Hears Suggestions For Added Athletic Facilities For Students.

Spokesmen representing various outside bodies appeared before the school board this week to talk, not of "ships and sealing wax," but of drains, tennis courts, and swimming tanks. The present drain for the Pierce school area runs about 300 feet beyond the school on Pierce street and then ends in a ridge of ground, with the result that the school property is in a continual state of flood. Joseph Brooks, supervisor of Southfield township, was asked by the board of education to be present at the meeting so that some arrangement could be made about the installation of a relief drain. Mr. Brooks said that his township would be willing to pay a share of the expenses provided that the area in question did not belong to Birmingham, otherwise, it would be up to the village to lay the drain. Mr. Randall, business manager of the local schools, will confer with the village manager, Harry Starr, and it is expected that some agreement will be reached in the near future.

Arthur Hartwell appeared for the Exchange Club to put in a plea for more and better tennis courts in the village. The board is in receipt of a letter from the club recommending that the village and school board supply the necessary money and equip at least one cement and several earth courts which are to be controlled by the board of education. The letter was signed by a special committee, J. H. Sheridan, Arthur Hartwell, and M. C. Hart. In addition, Hartwell said that the commission had agreed to duplicate any amount up to $1000 that the school board might decide to expend on the building of courts. The board accepted the offer of the commission and Mr. Randall was delegated to visit some of the courts in Detroit to observe their construction before making a report of the cost of local courts.

Espousing the cause of a local indoor swimming pool where Boy Scouts could learn to swim or take their tests instead of going to Detroit as they now do, Lloyd L. Stanley, scout commissioner, J. J. Martindale, and J. F. Wensel asked the board what it would do and how soon. R. J. Coryey voiced the opinion of the other members when he said that to build a pool in the high school would cost around $100,000, while if one were made at the time of the erection of the new school on the Hill school site it would cost less, be larger, and be more satisfactory in every way. The board, though giving no promise of an immediate new school and its attendant pool, said that it was very probable that building would start within the next four years.

Bancroft Brien, son of Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Brien of Vinewood avenue, returned from the university of Michigan on Monday.

Over last weekend Mr. and Mrs. Hendrik Brusse of Knox street entertained Mrs. Brusse's sister, Mrs. Charles Lang, Mr. Lang, and their daughter, Dorothy, of Fort Wayne

Friday, June 18, Hammelef's open.

From now on—lunches at Hammelef's.

TO BE BACCALAUREATE SPEAKER SUNDAY EVE

Rev. Weldon Crossland

HOLD BACCALAUREATE EXERCISES ON SUNDAY

Seniors Choose Pontiac Pastor For Baccalaureate Address

Reverend Weldon Crossland, pastor of the Central Methodist Church of Pontiac, will deliver the Baccalaureate address to the graduating class of the Baldwin High School in the Baldwin auditorium this Sunday evening. Reverend Crossland has entitled his subject "The Best Gifts." His ability as a speaker is well known in Birmingham and his forthcoming appearance is being anticipated with pleasure by many. The service which will be a union service as usual will be participated in by various of the local ministers.

Rev. McCurdy, Of St. James, To Wed In Fall

Charles H. McCurdy, for the past nine years rector of St. James' Episcopal church here, Monday evening formally announced to his vestry his approaching marriage, August 15, to Miss Violet Hilda Barnes, principal of the high school at Bridgewater, Massachusetts.

Their marriage is the culmination of a romance that dates back to their early school days, when Rev. McCurdy was a New England youth. They plan to spend their honeymoon in Maine.

Exchangites Discuss Adams Athletic Site

As the result of preliminary investigations made by Arthur Hartwell, as head of a committee from the local Exchange club to look into the matter of providing an athletic field for the Adams grade school, president Ralph Wilson directed Mr. Hartwell to continue his committee's efforts in this direction, and to report next Tuesday on his progress.

Mr. Hartwell, in his report Tuesday of this week, said that members of the school board are in favor of the proposed athletic field, but are reluctant about placing the question before the voters, inasmuch as the necessity for new schools in the district is constantly looming up before them.

"I believe that members of the Birmingham Exchange and Rotary clubs will stand behind the school board in obtaining the athletic field for the Adams school," said Mr. Hartwell. "These officials, in return, will probably welcome any assistance that they may get to put over the best plan for the physical and mental development of the boys and girls of this district."

UNION SERVICES THIS SUMMER

At a meeting of the ministers of the village it was arranged to hold union evening services beginning the twelfth of June. Each church will take its turn for a period of services, the pastor preaching in his own pulpit for this period. The services will begin in the Presbyterian. The co-operating churches are the Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian and United Presbyterian.

B'HAM TRACKSTERS LOSE COUNTY MEET

Pontiac Boys Force Maroon and White Stars to Third Place

In the county track meet last Saturday at Ferndale in which competition was reduced to a minimum by the bulwark of Pontiac's team, Birmingham surrendered two cups to the orange athletes and gained third place in the final standings. It was a spectacular day for Pontiac who broke seven of the 10 new marks hung up in the county contest, and gained ten first places.

Third Place For Birmingham

The local Maroon and White lagged behind throughout the contest and scored but 20 points compared with Pontiac's 70, and Ferndale's 53½. Compared with last year's team, Birmingham was slow.

Pontiac went away to the front in the discus, javelin and relay contests, winning the meet and relay cups from Birmingham which the latter team captured last year. It was a disappointment to Birmingham supporters to see the team fall short of the much anticipated success which last year's victory created.

Newman Stars

Captain Newman was high point man for the meet and brought 19½ points to Pontiac's score. Second, third, and fourth high point men also came from the Pontiac team with 18, 11¼, and 10 respectively. These four men increased Pontiac's score by almost 60.

New Records

Morris of Ferndale broke three records, the shot, discus, and javelin.

Newman broke the 220 yard dash and equalled the century time for the county meet.

Criger set new marks in the mile and quarter, clipping 16 seconds off the first and five and three-fifths seconds off the latter. He won easily in each event and it was apparent that he could have lopped a half dozen seconds off the mile, and two or three in the quarter.

McIntyre of Ferndale cut two fifths of a second off the low hurdles mark. Bazely of Ferndale lowered the half mile one and two-fifths of a second. Morris boosted the shot mark two feet and the discus five feet. The Pontiac relay team cut two and two-fifths seconds off their event mark.

Pontiac Ten Firsts

Ten first—50 points.
Five seconds—15 points.
Two thirds—6 points.
One fourth—1 point.

In three events the Orange finished one-two, the shot, discus and javelin.

Finals In Class "A"

100-Yard Dash: Newman (P.), first; Tompkins (P.), second; Harris (P.), third; Lapham (R. D.), in order. Time—10-2-5.

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Mile Run—Criger (P.), first; Bailey

DETROIT SCHOOL HEAD ADDRESSES THE P.-T.A.

James G. Lake Stresses Importance Of Parent-Teacher Organization Throughout Country.

Nearly 250 parents, members of the various Parent-Teacher Association groups in Birmingham, attended a pot-luck supper and meeting at the Baldwin high school last Thursday night. Julian E. Frost was general chairman of the affair.

Introduced by Clarence Vliet, superintendent of schools, who acted as toastmaster, James G. Lake, principal of the Jane Cooper school of Detroit, made the main speech of the evening. He stressed the need for Improvement in Parent-Teacher groups throughout the country, stating that "as character is the backbone of the child, and is the big task for the teacher, the work of the schools must be supplemented by the home; homes ought to be reinforcing agencies for the schools."

The need for good Parent-Teacher programs throughout the year was emphasized by Mr. Lake, who said that only in this way is it possible to attract sufficient parents or teachers to the meetings.

Mrs. Fred Johnson and Mrs. H. J. Hart, local delegates to the state Parent-Teacher convention at Holland, Michigan, made reports at the banquet.

A feature of the evening's entertainment was an Indian Cantata in which students, under the direction of Miss Ethel Tilton, supervisor of music in the high school, took part. Miss May Brunstead, another music teacher, sang several songs. J. E. Wenzl and Arthur Des Rosiers gave a violin duet, accompanied by Miss Martha Loecher at the piano.

From now on—lunches at Hammelef's.

"PLAY LIFE" REVEALS, BUILDS CHARACTER

Athletic Director Says Supervised Games Are Necessary To Youth

SPOKE TO ROTARY CLUB

Declaring that "play life reveals and develops the character of a boy or a man," P. J. Lee, connected with the Detroit Y. M. C. A., and for the past 23 years engaged in physical and recreational activities for boys in both the United States and Canada, spoke before members of the Birmingham Rotary club Monday noon. He was the guest of Rotarian Robert D. Lynd.

"If we only knew deep within our hearts and minds what a wonderful lesson boys and girls obtain while playing, no community would pass up the opportunity of giving its time and its money toward the establishment of supervised play life for its youth," said Mr. Lee, who is also a 33rd degree Mason. He was once wrestling champion of Canada, as well as its best singles tennis player.

Mr. Lee made a stirring talk on his observations of character development in boys; he said that there is no better place to determine a boy's characteristics and aptitudes than in the friendly competitive field of play and athletics. Many times, too, he has been able to supply the needed stimulus toward successful attainment in youths under his charge.

"The people of Birmingham will make no mistake by organizing out-

(Continued on Page 8)

REALTY ORGANIZATION TAKES THIRD MEMBER

CHARLES E. BUCK

CHARLES E. BUCK NOW IN LOCAL REALTY FIRM

Saunders-Colgrove Adds New Member As Business Volume Increases.

Charles E. Buck, for the past two years a resident of Birmingham, is receiving the congratulations of a large group of both Birmingham and Detroit friends on his entrance into the well known local real estate firm of Saunders-Colgrove, to be known henceforth as Saunder-Colgrove-Buck.

In discussing this latest enlargement of the firm, John B. Saunders said: "Our reason for again enlarging our organization is that, as great as the demand for Oakland County property has been, we know that it is still in its infancy and with the definite plans we have for the future, we needed another member in the firm and we felt that Mr. Buck has the qualifications in question.

For a good many years Mr. Buck has been associated in an executive capacity with that outstanding sales and advertising counsel, Theodore F. MacManus, where he has been active in some of the largest national selling campaigns in the country. Prior to joining the MacManus organization, Mr. Buck acted in a similar capacity with the Hupp Motor Car Company.

During the period in which he has resided in Oakland County, he has made a study of real estate values and feels that this section is the natural outlet for thousands of Detroit families who are tiring of city life and are turning to the many beauty spots of Oakland County as the ultimate end of a search for suitable home sites.

In commenting upon possibilities in Oakland County development in the near future Mr. Buck remarked, "As with everyone else who has lived in Oakland County for any length of time, its beauty and charm has gotten into my blood and I feel that both from an investment and a residential standpoint, Oakland County, especially in this section is destined to include some of the most desirable property in the state of Michigan. With the many miles of improved roads, in which Wider Woodward, the world's greatest highway, is an important factor, more and more people are enjoying their better transportation facilities to act as eye witnesses to the unsurpassed natural beauty of Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills and the many improved subdivisions that are meeting with enthusiastic approval of new home builders."

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Hammelef's grand opening, June 18

SAVES MONEY FOR B'HAM AS MANAGER SINCE 1922

HARRY S. STARR

Above is a photographic reproduction of the countenance of Birmingham's village manager, who took up his managerial duties here in May, 1922. He lives in Worth street, and has three children, all girls. It is estimated that he has saved local taxpayers many thousands of dollars in engineering fees because of his ability along these lines.

EARLY DATE SET FOR ANNUAL STREET FAIR

St. James' Church Event Scheduled For June 16th; New Features Are Planned.

The announcement of the date for the Annual St. James' Street Fair comes as a surprise to the many people who look forward each year to this attractive event. Saturday, June 26th, has been chosen instead of the usual Fall date. More of the school set can be present at this time and their help, as well as youthful enthusiasm will go far toward making the Fair more of a success than usual.

The event of the day will center around the Plaza of the Baldwin High School and the same green white and yellow, colors of Old Italy, will mark a gala scene.

Mrs. W. C. Harris is General Chairman, assisted by Mrs. F. J. Miller as Vice Chairman. Mrs. Harris called a meeting of the entire committee at her home "Wayside" on Quarton Road on Friday last. Those attending were Mrs. T. R. Donovan, who has undertaken the dinner, and Mrs. F. J. Williams who arranged the luncheon; also Mrs. George T. Hendrie, who will supervise the Dairy and Mrs. N. T. Shaw the baked goods. Mrs. Charles Buck promises that the balloons and grab bags will be even more attractive than usual, and Mrs. George Albert Moore, assisted by the young people, will make candy most delectable. Mrs. Clarence W. Gail was also present as was Mrs. Irwin Neff, whose White Elephant Booth is an annual institution. Mrs. H. M. Krull announced aprons in the process of completion and Mrs. Stowe Baldwin is looking favorably upon all the showers these days which will bring her more vegetables and flowers for her sale on Saturday, June 26th.

Heretofore the events of the day have centered about the huge Bazaar. This year, there will be no general sale, but the day is set aside as a market day for the housewife as plenty of frolics thrown in. The fair will open at 1 P. M. with a parade, which should be in the committee's declined to make known, up to this date, and then will follow street Singers and Dancers and Players of all kinds.

According to committee heads, many unusual features are reported a place in the coming Fair which will undoubtedly constitute a leading social event of the summer season.

ST. JAMES FIELD DAY PLANNED FOR SATURDAY

The annual basket picnic or field day of the St. James Church School will be held at Holiday House, Pine Lake, this Saturday afternoon. All children and their parents who have no means of transportation are asked to be at the church at 1:30 p. m. where cars will be waiting to take them to the lake.

The picnic, under the direction of the board of religious education of the church, will take place at 5 o'clock. Paper plates, ice cream, and coffee will be furnished by the school. Lynch is in charge of the luncheon and John Cooper has charge of the games and swimming. There will be special games for the small children. The parish is invited.

COMSTOCK TALKS ON GROESBECK METHODS

Democratic Candidate For Governor Spoke Here Monday Night

STRIKES AT AUTOCRACY

Decrying the apparent "dictatorship" which Alex J. Groesbeck has instituted during his three terms as Governor of Michigan, William A. Comstock, Democratic candidate for Governor, spoke before a local audience in the Baldwin high school auditorium Monday night. He was introduced by Mrs. O. E. Beier, president of the Woman's Civic League, which sponsored his appearance here.

"I am told that there are very few Democrats in Birmingham and that, therefore, my audience this evening is largely composed of Republicans. This does not bother me a bit. In fact I like it. We are all citizens of the State of Michigan and therefore, regardless of Party are interested primarily in good government," began Mr. Comstock.

"Under our system, parties are necessary. It is not Party politics that are evil, it is partisan politics. There is a vast difference. I have been actively interested in Michigan politics since 1911. I have chosen to exercise my political activity through the Democratic Party. I can truthfully say that in that time I have never lost sight of the fact that primarily I am a citizen interested in good government. I have always regarded my Party as an instrument toward that end.

Parties Are Necessary

"Parties are necessary in order to give individuals the chance for expression of differences of opinion on questions of principles and methods of government. The best government is obtained when we have but two parties, because in Democracy one of the cardinal principles is majority rule. Whenever the political situation becomes confused by the entrance into the field of more than two parties, we are likely to get minority government, which is contrary to our fundamental principle and if persisted in always leads to confusion. The same thing holds true of factional differences inside Parties.

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PLAYERS TO INCREASE MEMBERSHIP TO 200

Annual Meeting Shows Local Organization Is In Fine Standing.

Approximately 80 of the 151 members of the Village Players, local amateur theatrical organization, were present at the annual meeting and election of directors at the Community House Wednesday evening of last week. Reports were made by Waldo Fellows, president, Rolfe C. Spinning, secretary, and Mrs. Frank Briscoe, treasurer. They showed the Players to be in good financial condition, possessed of much enthusiasm, and the facing the prospects of staging their first fall show in a new playhouse in October. It was voted to increase the membership from 150 to 200 this year.

Before and after the business meeting impromptu bits of acting were given by Mrs. R. C. Disarens, Thomas Murphy, Waldo Fellows, and Miss Evelyn L. Smith, dancer. Then followed a dance that lasted until after midnight, a buffet lunch being served during the dancing.

New directors for the ensuing year are: Mrs. Katherine Dwelley, Leigh Lynch, Miss Ruth Penny, Rolfe C. Spinning, and Waldo Fellows.

At a special meeting of the new directors held Tuesday night, Rolfe C. Spinning was elected president; Miss Elizabeth Penny, vice-president; Leigh Lynch, treasurer; Waldo Fellows, secretary. Mrs. Katherine Dwelley was appointed librarian.

Adams Athletic Site Would Cost $104,000

The question again coming up of a playground for the Adams school, the school board Monday night made and seconded a motion that it objected to the paving of Oakland avenue and that it should be closed between Worth street and Adams avenue for the protection of the school children. Leigh Lynch who had been previously appointed to find out the cost of an athletic field east of Adams avenue reported that the 26 lots in the proposed area would cost around $4000 each, a total of $104,000.

Friday, June 18, Hammelef's open.

Former Hill School Teacher Lost In Hudson Steamer Crash

Mrs. Arthur Lynn Hoag, of New York City, a former teacher in the Hill School, with her three year old daughter, Mary, were among the three people found missing after the Hudson River Day Line steamer, Washington Irving, was rammed and sunk June 1 in a fog by a freighter soon after it had left the pier. Search by divers has still failed to find the bodies and it is thought that they are on the ship.

Mrs. Hoag and her three children, Arthur, Betty, and Mary, were enroute to Niagara Falls to join Dr. Hoag who was there attending a medical convention. The family then intended to proceed to Tecumseh, Mrs. Hoag's girlhood town, to visit her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Wood, and go from there to spend some time with his mother, Mrs. Rose Hoag, in Bilasfield.

Arthur and Betty, aged seven and five, respectively, were saved, but it is believed that Mrs. Hoag was separated from them in the panic and refused to leave the boat until they were found. The other children were landed on the shore by rescuers and taken to their home, 3234 83rd street, Jackson Heights, Long Island, in Bilasfield and Birmingham where as Miss Wylma Wood she had the third grade in the Hill School in 1916 and 1917. She numbered among her friends in Birmingham Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Vliet, and Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Ford. From Birmingham she went to Ann Arbor where she met Dr. Hoag who was practicing there after his graduation from the University of Michigan. Beside being an instructor in children's diseases in the medical department of Columbia University, he is taking a post graduate course there.

"Me For The Hothouse Next Year" Sadly Announces Shivering Tomato

We, who have been complaining of cold weather in Birmingham, should lend ears to the stories and laments of farmers in Bloomfield Township; one of their statements, dated Monday of this week tells how "twenty frosts in the last twenty-one nights, three of them white frosts," have killed fruit crops, tomato plants, etc., and stunted and delayed the growth of all plants in general. Our personal discomfiture possibly has more of a selfish basis than theirs and yet they bear the problem heroically, year after year, sometimes finding the "grubbing" pretty hard.

This year the fruit trees came out burdened with blossoms (it was during that two weeks of warm weather), and gave every sign of a bumper crop. In fact, this two weeks' spell of summer air fooled the robins who are usually "unfoolable," and as a result many of them have been shivering these chilly nights. Then came the cold weather which, the farmers fear, has been the death of the much-looked-forward-to crop.

Tomato plants in many cases have been blackened by the repeated cold nights, and are now nothing but spindles. Potatoes planted two weeks ago should be above ground, but are not. Early corn will be quite tardy, likewise.

This condition is not local. Farmers throughout the country testify that the sun has failed them, and no matter how much rain we continue to have, the plants will not thrive. Scientists admit something is wrong and advance the statement that "old sol" is having a series of clouds, with the result that his light is being shadowed. Housewives are also admitting something is wrong, this they have learned from fruit stores—where tomatoes sell for 15 cents apiece.

Hammelef's grand opening, June 18