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O'CLOCK EACH DAY.

# Birmingham Eccentric

PART TWO  
OAKLAND COUNTY'S GREATEST  
WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

"For a Bigger and Better Birmingham"

BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1926

\$1.50 PER YEAR—SINGLE COPIES 5c

FORTY-NINTH YEAR—NO. 30

## New County Road Commission Office in Pontiac and Group of Officials

How many of these men do you recognize? They are all well known in Oakland County, most of them being county officials. The picture was taken at the recent opening of the new offices of the Oakland County road commission in Pontiac. With the completion of the building all offices of the road commission are under the one roof. Among the Bloomfield men present at the opening of the building were Robert Y. Moore, supervisor, and Luther D. Allen, of the road commission. Both are in the first row of this picture.

Members of the Oakland County road commission are carrying on their business in their beautiful new building at the Telegraph road and the intersection of the Grand Trunk railway tracks, Pontiac. This picture gives a good idea of the size of the building and the garage for county equipment in the rear. The structure was just recently completed and is said to be one of the finest of its kind in the middle west. The approximate cost is \$65,000. This does not include furnishings.

### Glimpses

at and about BIRMINGHAM  
By RAYMOND GIRARDIN

They huddled together in the back seat of a small automobile and slept. It was a mother and her daughter of about six. Both wore of the same pattern from the soiled, red, coat with the straggly fur collar to the worry lines on their faces that even sleep did not remove. The course, work worn hand of the mother was almost flat on a burlap sack in the machine. It was not resting there; it was merely there. Hands like that run into the millions in this world and seem, somehow, to symbolize the lives of their owners, on burlap sacks and not even resting.

If only all this traffic would cease for one day, if the noise and the rush and the odor of gasoline could be obliterated. I do not ask that rose petals take the place of asphalt pavement and that the mechanical noise-makers be donated to the prisoners in Siberia. I merely wish that something more interesting—than how to avoid being hit by two street cars, a hearse and three trucks—so no one could go about and not feel as if a nurse were pouring ether over his nose.

Helpful. Why did you not tell me in the first place about all the same-

vars you own? There should be no question about your future. Fact is, I think you awakened to life with a golden spoon clenched firmly between your teeth. Samovars in Russia were used for brewing tea. No one here is interested in tea. I don't have to draw pictures for you do I?

Dead leaves on soaked streets . . . and the hissing sound of auto tires skidding . . . says he's gotta lotta relatives in Birmingham, because his wife's people live here . . . knows them by the thousands . . . people . . . if he can find one who will listen . . . should not be allowed to display blankets in shop windows so early in the morning . . . now he is talking about the national debt . . . enlightening . . . thinks it is a frame up by these yere anarchists . . . or a publicity stunt . . . rows of plate glass windows . . . carries a huge rock of butter . . . another channel swimmer, I suppose, but heavens . . . could take the Russian army with him . . . turning off the water in that drinking fountain soon . . . then on again . . . slow moving women with large bags for groceries . . . raincoats . . . voices of motorbuses have range but no variation . . . remember what she said about a one way street . . .

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where one way traffic had the edge and the library reminds me that Of Human Bondage should be in Detroit now instead of on my desk. Oh, there he is again . . . his wife has relatives.

It was more like spring than November. Long rows of windswept trees gave promise of buds as they stood in the sunlight. The day was one for song, and laughter, and romance. A young lady and a young man waited for the same street car. She was very white and red from soap and powder and the dressmaker. Neither noticed the other until the car came and with many more they started for the front entrance. He just a few inches ahead of her and started to climb aboard. She pushed him out of the way so thoughtfully that he almost fell. Then she merely looked at him as he stood dumbly like an American in a Paris look store. This happened on a day that was more like spring than November. The long rows of windswept trees gave promise of buds as they stood in the sunlight of a day for song, and laughter and romance.

For the past few minutes I have been able to do little more than gaze at the keyboard of the typewriter and wonder where I read a phrase that will not leave my mind. It is "giving off the odor of rosewood and wetted ash" . . . I should be pleased to hear from anyone who can identify it.

Cold of these nights crowds most persons from the streets. It is unusual, while walking off the beaten path after the various curfews have blown, to encounter another who cannot disregard the habits of his diabolically youth. I have never wondered about the little, old man I encountered occasionally in these strolls. Three times now I have met him and he has always crossed the street before there is danger of passing. He fears me, I suppose. He fears my turned up coat collar and turned down hat. He thinks either want to rob him or encroach upon his thoughts. But really, I mean the fellow no harm, and nothing but coincidence arranged in meetings.

To maintain a youthful point of view as one grows in maturity, one must know, a noble quality. I admire it in others. I often strive to accomplish it myself. But I am discouraged. I am through. There was no reason in the world for two children on a street, but I shall not mention because I may again have occasion to use it, to have so much pleasure in throwing rocks at me. And if ever again I become so involved in such a silly paragraph I hope the linotype machine breaks down.

### CIVIC ASSOCIATION FAVORS C. J. SHAIN

South Birmingham Group Delegates Action Taken On Recall Of President

E. L. Filer and L. B. Irwin were the principal speakers at the informal meeting of the South Birmingham Improvement association last Thursday evening at the Bannville Avenue Congregational Church. Mr. Irwin is president of the organization and Mr. Irwin has charge of the subdivision on east Ruffer, Humphrey and Bannville streets. Both speakers stressed the value of organized effort and the necessity for neighborly cooperation to better improve south Birmingham. Both also united in expressing the opinion of the community by deploring the action underway to have President Charles J. Shain recalled. A majority of the 45 members attending were from the east side of Woodward avenue, but the club hopes eventually to recruit more members from the west side. A lunch was served and there was community singing after the speeches. Let The Eccentric be "Your Printer"

### Commissioners Occupy New, Spacious Offices

Structure Combines Comfort And Utility; All Branches Are Under The Same Roof For First Time

"Comfort and utility" . . . This is the most appropriate manner in which the many visitors to the new offices of the Oakland County draftsmen's table. All light comes from the ceiling so that there is no glare on the worker's eyes. The Garage . . . The spacious garage at the rear of the office is divided into two sections. The large front section is a storage garage for county trucks, tractors and other road machinery. Here, all of the county vehicles and additional ones that may be needed for several years may be easily stored. The rear end of the garage, which is partitioned from the storage department, is a repair shop, equipped to handle the repairs on all county automotive vehicles. Beneath the rear of the garage is a basement in which the steam plant for both office and garage is located. The Oakland County Road Commission now has three garages throughout the county, in addition to the new central plant.

Entering the front door of the office building, the visitor finds himself in a small waiting room, flanked on both sides with chairs. Directly in front, inside a railing, is the telephone operator's switchboard, to the left, and a stenographer's desk to the right. Behind the switchboard is a hallway leading to offices at left and right, directly ahead, in line with the street door are the stairs leading to the second floor. The entrance lobby is of walnut finished with all steel desks. The walls are decorated a dark yellow.

Down the right branch of the hallway, the first door leads to the commissioners' private office. This is simply but beautifully appointed with all-steel desks and comfortable swivel chairs. There is also a charming red brick fireplace. This is the library room at the meeting Thursday night by Miss Blanche K. Kerns, librarian. Eighty-eight borrowers were added to the list during that time, the report stated. The increase in the number of the library was April of this year when 2,329 books were loaned. In September there were but 2,009 books in circulation. Another indication of the added interest being taken in the library by residents of the village is shown by the fact that 181 persons borrowed books Saturday. Most of these were taken care of in the evening. During the month 33 new books were added to the shelves. Fourteen names of the other follow: Non-Fiction: World's Best Orations, edited by D. J. Brewer, 10 volumes; History of Roumania, Joseph McCabe. Fiction: Her Mother's Daughter, Nabro Bartley; Lord Raingo, Arnold Bennett; The Keys, Margaret De Land; Sea Fog, J. S. Fletcher; Lampico, Joseph Herberheimer; Saviors of Society, Stephen McKenna; Bar 2, Joseph Herberheimer; Hildegard, Kathleen Norris; Harvey Gardner's Crime, E. F. Oppenheim; Un-Queenie, James J. A. Rees; The Hat, M. R. Kinehart and Avery Hopwood; The Dead Ride Hard, L. J. Vance; Harmer John, Hugh Walpole; The Fainted Room, Margaret Wilson; Gallant Lady, Margaret Wildemmer. Fiction: Isabel Carleton's Friends by Margaret Ashmun; Hoosier School Boy, Edward Eggleston.

The increase in the number of persons awarding themselves of the books has been steady and members of the board expect to see this continue through the winter. Dr. Hugo Kupelsky of Vienna has established the fact, by ten year's research, that the brains of suicides average 4 ounces heavier than those of people who die a natural death. splendid system of indirect electric lighting has been installed. 52 Issues of The Eccentric for \$1.50

Both the office building and garage present a beautiful exterior appearance, built entirely of red brick and concrete. The new units include an office building 60 feet by 34 feet and to the rear of this garage 150 feet by 75 feet. The approximate cost is \$65,000, including everything but interior furnishings.

### NEW HIGH MARK SET BY VILLAGE LIBRARY

2,335 Books Borrowed During October; 33 New Volumes Added To Shelves

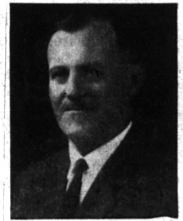
A new high mark for circulation was reached at the Baldwin Park library during October when 2,335 books were loaned, according to the report submitted to the board of the library board at their meeting Thursday night by Miss Blanche K. Kerns, librarian. Eighty-eight borrowers were added to the list during that time, the report stated.

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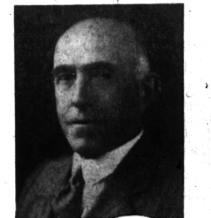
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