

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

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GEORGE RODGERS AVERILL Editor and Publisher

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1926

THE RECALL OF VILLAGE PRESIDENT SHAIN

A thing that happens rarely in the life of any community has descended upon Birmingham within the past week, namely: a movement to recall its village president. Last Monday night a petition, circulated chiefly by William McCallum, president of the Star Motor Coach Line, and signed by 119 local people, was presented to the village commission, requesting that the proposition to recall Charles J. Shain be submitted to the local electorate. The petition was accepted, and Mr. Shain's name will appear on the ballot at a special election to be held within the next month.

Another petition, signed by 136 local business and professional men and women, was presented to Mr. Shain at the same meeting, asking that he stand his ground and thus preserve the dignity and respect of the official body, of which he is a part, as well as his own personal reputation.

Mr. Shain, in Mr. McCallum's petition, is charged with three things: first, violation and conviction of Ordinance No. 104, known as the Building Code; second, consent to and participation in the reckless expenditure of village money in regard to propaganda for the recently defeated Zoning Ordinance, and third, neglect of duty.

As we view the situation, more than a mere personal controversy is enveloped within the recall action. Mr. McCallum admits that he holds a personal dislike for Mr. Shain, but certainly this, alone, ought not be sufficient reason for incurring an expense to the village of several hundred dollars for a special election. Therefore, the only reason why Mr. McCallum, or anybody else for that matter, should be entitled to a recall election is because he has produced evidence to the effect that a public official has so conducted his office that some degree of physical or financial harm has been committed against the taxpayers.

Friends of Mr. Shain admit that Mr. McCallum won his fight for a building permit for a store at Frank and Floyd streets; they declare that the village commission perhaps overstepped its legal right in eventually refusing such a permit on an unrestricted piece of property. They do claim, however, that the commission was merely acting in good faith toward the people in that neighborhood who petitioned for the refusal of such a permit, asking that it be held up until the then proposed Zoning Ordinance was either adopted or defeated. These same friends also point out that, in September of 1925, when Orville S. Price, representing the Distilled Oil Products Co., sought a building permit for a gasoline station on an unrestricted lot at the corner of East Maple avenue and Worth street, Mr. McCallum was one of 35 signers to a petition asking the village commission to refuse a permit, on the grounds that a Zoning Ordinance was in process of formation at that time. Mr. McCallum's home is two houses west of the lot on East Maple avenue.

We, personally, last week referred this East Maple avenue permit situation to Mr. McCallum, asking that his sportsmanship qualities acknowledge that "turn about is fair play." So much for the charge against Shain of violating the Building Code Ordinance.

In regard to the charge of reckless expenditure of village funds for propaganda to put across the defeated Zoning Ordinance, Mr. Shain has said: "This charge is untrue, the only money that the village spent was for the official presentation of the contents of the Zoning Ordinance, as required by law. Not a dollar was spent by us for literature asking that the electors vote 'Yes' on the Ordinance."

As for the charge of neglect of duty, this is but a general charge that might be preferred against any public official, and will not gain much as an issue in the coming recall contest.

The Eccentric wishes to have it distinctly understood that it is not attempting to belittle the sincerity that Mr. McCallum may have for circulating the recall petition, neither are we trying to cover the personality of Mr. Shain with a cloak of glory; but we are seeking to do what we can to keep Birmingham what it is known for all over Michigan: "A community of homes where children thrive, and where intelligent and constructive public thinking has made it the residential mecca of thousands of people."

Mr. McCallum took over the Star Motor Coach Line and made it a real public utility for the North Woodward district, and he is entitled to much credit for it. Mr. Shain took over the reins of local government at a time when this village changed from the toddling steps of a near babyhood to the longer strides of an adolescent period in Birmingham's life, a period from which it—as with a human being—will never cease to emerge.

We believe that Mr. McCallum failed to realize the depressing influence upon Birmingham that is liable to result from his recall activities. We believe that the great majority of Birmingham citizens will rally to the defense of Mr. Shain—not only for Mr. Shain and his family and friends, but for the integrity which is vested in a public office, to the end that such an office may become sufficiently exalted to attract the best type of men to it for all future time.

THE USES OF MUD

"Mud," quoth the trans-continental tourist, "is the stuff that gets on an automobile in Iowa, Nebraska, and other western states. Sometimes, I have noticed, it even abounds in a large city, and is often tracked into the house."

"Mud-alinging," we observe, is not confined solely to

the centrifugal motion of an automobile wheel. Often it creeps into the propaganda used by opposing factions in an election. For such uses mud, we have learned, has various descriptions. When you seek its soiled contents for your own use, you look upon it as beautiful clay, capable of being moulded into patterns of charm; however, when the other chap uses it you may be inclined to look upon it at but a blemish upon the landscape.

"Sweet are the uses of mud," saith the politician, "when I am using it."

SELLING THE OLD LIBRARY

Some of these days, perhaps after the new Baldwin Public Library is completed, the old library site at the corner of Maple and Woodward will be sold, and the money credited to the general fund of the village treasury. Who will buy it? Well, that's hard to say definitely. Maybe the state, if it puts through the Wider Woodward project, will purchase it; if not, then some enterprising person, mindful of the future of Birmingham, will become the owner. In any event, however, Birmingham's treasury is bound to be replenished—at least that is what our present village commission promised when we all voted bonds for the new library.

HONORING BIRMINGHAM

Birmingham may take especial pride in the recognition given one of its public servants when, last week, Clarence Vliet, superintendent of the public schools here, was elected president of the Schoolmen of Oakland County. Much may result from one man's activity at the head of a committee or an organization; that the school authorities of the County would honor a local man by placing him at their head proves that they place considerable faith in his ability to lead them in their work. All of which reflects to the good of our community, whose schools are second to none in Michigan.

"BLESSÉD BE NOTHING"

There are two things which take place in life which every newspaper is bound to publish from time to time, namely, stories concerning death and taxes; all other things in life more or less "just happen." Last week The Eccentric set forth details of this Winter tax rate, as given by Robert Y. Moore, Bloomfield township supervisor. One cent more on each thousand dollars of valuation, or \$30.19, is the rate you will pay this time as your contribution toward the support of school, township, road, state, and county government. Nearly a million dollars must be raised in taxes in Bloomfield township alone, all of which is separate from the regular Summer village tax which is paid for purely local government. That's a lot of money. Those of you who own much or little property may wince a bit every time you learn that the tax collector is making his rounds—that is quite natural; for a solution to such problems we refer you to the Bible, which states, in part, "blesséd be nothing."

An easy way to make a friend is tell someone he works too hard.

Married men are said to work harder; single ones say they have to.

Those looking forward instead of backward see what's coming first.

The main trouble with the girl of today is she refuses to act like the girl of yesterday.

WHEN I AM ILL

When I am ill and weary, When life seems cold and hard, The days are not so dreary If mail time brings a card.

When life seems cold and hard, The long hours quickly flee If mail time brings a card, Or other gift for me.

The long hours quickly flee When flowers from a friend Or other gift for me Keep thought in happy trend.

When flowers from a friend Bid weariness depart, Keep thought in happy trend And gladden all my heart;

Bid weariness depart, For messages or flow'rs, Shall gladden all my heart And help me while the hours.

For messages or flow'rs, Or some one heaven sent, Will help me while the hours, Some friend on mercy bent.

When some one heaven sent Shall sit beside my bed, Some friend on mercy bent, To soothe my troubled head;

Shall sit beside my bed To chat of pleasant things And soothe my troubled head Till pain and care take wings;

To chat of pleasant things Until my lips shall smile, Till pain and care take wings And all things seem worth while.

My lips shall know a smile When life seems cold and hard And all things be worth while If mail time brings a card. —Beatrice McDonald.

FROM THE ECCENTRIC COLUMNS—of Long Ago

Just Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files of The Eccentric—The Items That Make Up The Historical Background of The Birmingham of Today.

25 YEARS AGO George A. Ford, of Grand Rapids, visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Ford, one day last week.

Pontiac will soon have a canning factory in full blast. The amount of capital stock is \$25,000. We are informed that Mrs. E. A. Pate is on her way to Detroit last week which netted her over a hundred dollars.

Mrs. G. Simpson and Mrs. S. W. Fuller are spending the week in Ann Arbor attending the state inter-denominational Sunday School convention.

The women's clubs of Oakland County are to meet in Pontiac next Wednesday for the purpose of forming a county federation. The following clubs are interested in the movement: Rochester, Farmington, Oxford, Pontiac and Birmingham. It is hoped that many other clubs in the county will join the organization.

The Ladies Literary club held its meeting last Monday evening at the pleasant home of Mrs. Mary Durkin. About 25 members and a large number were present. Mrs. Poppleton had charge of the subject of the evening, "The Far American." She gave a very delightful account of the Rainbow City. The subject for next week is in charge of Mrs. Egleston, Russia, Ivan the Terrible, Early Russian History and Russian Fairs.

The merry club of the Jumping Jacks met at the home of Miss Winifred Robinson last week Wednesday evening and reported a fine time. They meet again this (Friday) evening with Miss Ethelyn Blakeslee. The members of the club are as follows: Winifred Robinson, Ethelyn Blakeslee, Ethel Roy, Ethel Johnson, Clara Purdy, Lucie Castle, Blanche Greer, Lew Erwin, Eva McClellan, Ford Purdy, Earl Ward, Earl Barr, Bert Kerr, Jack McDaniel, Beryl Hanna, Glenn Schaeck, and George Dier.

Social circles were all stirred up over our first social event which occurred Friday afternoon and evening of last week. While it was not exactly a debutante affair or "coming out" function, still the young people present were highly entertained and pleased beyond description. The young ladies and ladies young ladies and gentlemen were guests of Miss Helen Shaw, of Pierce street, and the occasion was to celebrate her fourth birthday anniversary. And they did celebrate. Games enlivened the event and made time fly. An elegant supper was served and everything of the best, with ice cream in brick form as the last grand surprise. The little hostess was equal to the event, and all were very happy indeed. Among those present we noticed the Misses Florence Fish, Emeline Mitchell, Laura Harnack, Beryl McClellan, Cora Peabody, Helen Kendall, of Detroit, Gladys D'Neal, Lucie Fisher and Anna Robinson. The gentlemen present were the Messrs. Edward Smith, James Montgomery and Milton Hubert.

The regular meeting of the Ladies' Church society will be held next Tuesday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Clabe, on Southfield avenue. The change of day is on account of

DIRECTORY

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Federation day at Pontiac, which will take many of our ladies on Wednesday. As this is the last meeting of the year and plans for the Christmas sale are in order, a large attendance is desired. S. E. Trowbridge, Sec'y.

We are indebted for a fine keg of new cider to our old friend, Mr. John Keyser, and it will all be absorbed before it gets hard, judging from its present liability to run. Thanks, Mr. Keyser. Some in and have-a-glass wid us.

Chas. Pike of Caro, is visiting his uncle, Thea, Cook.

43 YEARS AGO George Pearsall returned from the lumber woods last week.

William Brown, of Fowlerville, with his wife and son, Willis, are in town for a few days' visit. William enjoys living in his present quarters.

To Mr. Mattie Groves, nee, Wray, Nov. 3; a daughter, Robert, wears his hat at an angle of 45 degrees, and is very proud of his 10 1/2 pound girl.

Rev. Ipa W. Donelson united in the holy bonds of matrimony Wednesday, Nov. 3, Mr. John Shug of Troy to Mrs. Emeline Woodin, of this place.

Walter J. Power, of Bloomfield, was married to Miss Mary E. Wells, of the same town, on Monday, Nov. 5. We wish the happy couple a long and happy wedded life.

Birmingham used only to take three daily Free Presses. Now the energetic agent, Master Harry Simpson, every morning delivers twenty-five of the new and popular papers.

One day last week our old friend, A. C. Wallace was assisting in the slaughter of a pig when the animal ran under a corn crib, was followed by Mr. Wallace, who promptly "mounted" his porcine majesty to ride him out, but didn't duck his head quite quick enough, the projecting edge of the boards on the corn crib banged him on the head, punched him in the ribs and finally

scraped his ear almost off. In fact it was cut so badly that it hung down like a flap. Dr. Ragnale, happening along in the nick of time, rendered such assistance as was necessary, sewing up the nearly detached ear and bandaging the bumped head. We are happy to say that Mr. Wallace will recover, but the pig is a total wreck—no insurance.

Married at the residence of the bride's parents near Clawson, Wednesday, Nov. 3, Mr. Charles Auringer to Miss Jennie Goodell. Rev. Mr. Vivion tied the happy pair in his usual pleasing manner, reading them one quickly. The number of friends were present and we noticed presents and remembrances from the following: one very elegant crystal water holder by Mr. and Mrs. Goodell; china card receiver, Miss Lottie Wilson; tea pot, Mr. and Mrs. Goodell; silver spoons, Jacob Lawson; set of knives and forks, Samuel Harrison; sauce dish, Nellie Buel; fancy table spread and tidies, Daisy Auringer; fruit dish and pickle canker, M. Phelps and wife; lamp, Mr. Buel and wife; tea set, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Miles; fruit dish, Mr. and Mrs. Hendrickson; lamp, Herman Hendrickson; glass tea set, Mr. and Mrs. Keyser; glass water pitcher, Frank Harrison; card receiver, Mr. and Mrs. Allen Hendrickson; glass tea set, Maggie Phelps; bread and cheese plate, Fred Beah; bath towel, Mr. and Mrs. Boyer; table cloth, Mr. and Mrs. K. Lawson; and many others.

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Field Building Sold

SAUNDERS-COLGROVE-BUCK THE FIELD BUILDING on Maple Avenue, just west of Pierce Street, has been sold through this firm to one of the best known real estate investors in Detroit.

This sale is another illustration of our belief in the future of Birmingham real estate as a sterling investment.

We have a number of pieces of both business and residential property which, in our opinion, will never again be duplicated in their present prices.

In looking for either investment property, acreage, residences, or building sites, see

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