

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

Published every Thursday at Birmingham, Mich., in The Eccentric Building, 126-128 North Woodward Avenue. Telephone 11 and 12. GEORGE RODNEY AYERLLS, Editor and Publisher.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1926

BIRMINGHAM AND A ZONING ORDINANCE

Birmingham's citizens, from now until the special election on October 19, are called upon to scrutinize most carefully a piece of legislation that is destined to have an impressive bearing upon the physical aspects of this community.

That such a thing as a Zoning Ordinance would ever be presented for the adoption of this community should not cause any darts of unfair criticism to be directed toward any elective body of men who present it to the voters; on the contrary, do we not elect public officials so that we may have a central clearing house for the consideration and administration of our collective public needs?

However, during the conduct of such a campaign, the average citizen is advised to be careful in forming his final opinion. Much reading material will be forthcoming from both sides. Last week, in an advertisement published in this newspaper, the opposition resorted to a rather scary and alarming kind of propaganda in attacking the proposed Zoning Ordinance.

As we see it, the proposed Zoning Ordinance promises to do much for the general welfare of Birmingham; it has been drafted with the idea of keeping Birmingham a residential community. It contains the same provisions of amendment and penalty that are found within other ordinances now upon the village books.

It is well for all of us to keep before our eyes the reasons why one person may favor such legislation, and why another may oppose it. Selfishness may be the fundamental reason for both favorable and unfavorable sentiment toward it. A person may favor it because, since it does not affect or change his property holdings, he wants protection; another may oppose it because, since it may affect his land values, he seeks protection for his pocket-book.

We believe that opposition to any public movement is proper and worthy of the honest respect of even those who think otherwise on the question involved. Opposition to King George's methods of dealing with the Colonies created the United States; opposition to the established order of things has become the vehicle of much of the world's progress. We need opposition, clean, fair opposition.

On the other hand, the adoption of the Zoning Ordinance is claimed by some to be harmful to their property holdings. They oppose it on the grounds that it will decrease the value of property which they have held for years, hoping that some day it might prove profitable. It is difficult to induce people in this latter dilemma to support a measure which, though promising the greatest good for the greatest number of people in our village, will work an immediate financial hardship upon them.

That Birmingham needs a Zoning Ordinance or some similar legislation to protect the single residences of this community is admitted by all—even including those who oppose the proposed draft. Is the text of the Zoning Ordinance to be voted upon October 19 believed to be the correct kind of legislation for the protection of Birmingham homes? The answer to this will be determined after the votes are counted.

In the meantime, let us welcome all the information upon such a problem that we can receive. Let us sift the proposed Zoning Ordinance to the very bottom—but let us do it in the most approved gentlemanly fashion. Let us be neighbors trying to solve a common problem.

MORE LOCAL POLICE NEEDED

Reference to the news columns of this paper over a period of weeks reveals the fact that Birmingham citizens are being subjected to a series of uninterrupted burglaries, and that no arrests have been made to aid in stopping the thefts. The reason for this, we believe, lies in the fact that Birmingham's police force is too small in personnel. Most of the local officers are on day duty, leaving but two or three to protect the community at night.

"TO BE OR NOT TO BE": 150 FEET WIDE?

A few weeks ago work was started on excavating for a new theater in Birmingham. This project, calling for an expenditure of approximately \$400,000.00, was so important that it became necessary for the Briggs Investment Company to determine whether to set the front building line in keeping with a 100-ft. Woodward avenue,

or a 150-ft. Woodward avenue. Finally, however, excavation was started on the basis of a 100-ft. Woodward avenue, and about seven thousand yards of earth were removed, creating the largest job of its kind ever done in our community.

A few days ago the Briggs people were informed that Woodward avenue was to be 150-foot wide, and that all their excavation work was fruitless; then began the re-filling process, earth being dumped in from excavation work in the rear of the project. Last Friday the work of refilling was stopped; the project held up for another period of time. All of which is costly to the people who support state government.

SENATOR COUZENS TO LIVE IN BLOOMFIELD

James Couzens, U. S. Senator from Michigan, has broken ground for a million dollar home at Wabek, his large estate in Bloomfield township. We commend the Senator for his good judgment in choosing Bloomfield township as his chief domicile. We also commend the beauty of this same township for having sufficient attraction to bring such a notable character as Mr. Couzens to its hills and lakes.

JUST A LITTLE GAS

Now that residents of Southfield township have given the Consumers Power Company a franchise to install gas mains in their territory, we presume that the ancient and honorable institution of the woodpile will vanish from our neighboring community. That is the way of progress. We congratulate Southfield on its farightedness, however, and hope that it becomes individualistic enough to confine its gaseous elements to subterranean pipes as the days go by.

"Go slow" does not apply to the pedestrian in crossing a street. The best throat specialist probably would be of no benefit to some women.

Sleeping sickness is quite common about 7:00 o'clock in the morning. It makes one sick to think of getting up. About the only reason why there are fewer wicked standing in alippery places nowadays is that so many persons are driving.

If jazz bands are really going out, about all the drummer can take up to employ his versatility is short-order cooking.

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. Robt. Hanna and wife heard of this invention at the Army Ordnance building in Detroit Sunday last.

At Home—Mr. and Mrs. Geo. C. Hupp costly settled in Mrs. Ellen F. D. M. Johnson the past three weeks, and what more desirable place to live, it is right next to Mitchell's.

Deputy Sheriff V. A. Van Every made an arrest last Friday that may prove a very important one. Two men supposed to know something about a murder that was committed near Grayling last month were taken to Pontiac by him and held to await the action of the Grayling authorities.

Miss Emeline Mitchell accompanied by Miss Tillie E. Walker are at Fowlerville for a two weeks' visit with the parents of Miss Walker.

The Cobb Brothers, James and Thomas, better known as "Tom," are safely ensconced in F. Hagerman's drug business, the boys having purchased the same last week. Both of the young men are prime favorites and we predict for the new firm unbounded success.

The handle factory of J. N. Zimmerman is busier now than ever, in fact is a beehive of industry. This aggressive business man is reaching out for more business, realizing that "keeping at it everlastingly brings success." A purchase of ten carloads of timber from the South in lengths and sizes for the mill of all kinds will keep his large force of men busy all winter, saying nothing of baseball bats on the side to be turned out and shipped. This is the best industry in Birmingham and we are proud of it.

A lot of work every day is being done up on the new school grounds reserved for the new building is being pushed. Mr. Pierson of Pontiac, has the stone work in charge. Abe Burns is doing the furnishing and the hauling. Ed Daniels furnishes the brick and Willis B. Carter is on hand and will have charge of the entire carpenter work. Each man will see that his department is rushed to a quick finish.

An intelligent dog brought help to Ellsworth Mottross, who fell from a hickory tree while gathering nuts last week. The lad broke his arm and dislocated his elbow and was helpless. The dog after vainly attempting to drag the boy home, left him, returning quickly with assistants.

The trial of Cyrus Windlater at Pontiac made it necessary to have a

43 YEARS AGO. There was a little social out at Jim Shan's last week and after the house was over, Herbert Prince brought his two girls home only to find there was no key to get inside and the little fellow like a little man carted his load of sweetmeats back to Jimmie's to stay all night, and in the morning the little man was found safe in the pocket of the Miss who couldn't find it the night before.

Hon. O. Poppelton was drawn on the U. S. Grand Jury at Detroit last week. After an absence of eighteen years Mr. John G. Wilson will visit the scenes of his former days—his old New York home at Buffalo. On his way there he will visit relatives in Ohio and Pennsylvania. Mrs. W. will accompany him to Ohio and remain at the latter place until Mr. W. makes his return trip.

After a week's vacation in the Queen's domain, Dan Johnson, our musical dentist, has returned to his accustomed haunts, but his head is chock full of new professional ideas. He has a new patent method of administering gas or vitalized air, which he claims is the nicest thing in the world for the painless extraction of teeth.

George Shadholt and Joe Gravidin dug 166 bushels of potatoes in one day for Fred King of this place recently.

They do say that Brother Fox, of the Rochester Era, celebrated his silver wedding on Wednesday of last week. Judge Hoyt was an honored guest.

Messrs John Rainey and Will Wright after a season of successful ball playing with the Muskegon baseball club are home for the winter and will rest up for another term in the diamond field next season.

Birmingham is growing, we now have three first class hardware stores, two drug stores and another one pronounced a spick, span, new, first class dry goods and boot and shoe store about to open with a \$5,000 stock.

The biggest thing in the fruit line that we ever gazed on was brought in by Eugene Brooks one day last week, and consisted of a luscious big pear about the size of an ordinary pumpkin. It measures some 14 inches around and weighs a trifle over two pounds. It was sent from Los Angeles, Cal., to Eli Brooks, St. Denver, Colo., and was thence forwarded by the brother Eugene, who will preserve it in alcohol, provided he can get a barrel big enough to hold it.

Miss Sarah Brown, whose parents live near Big Lake, is a charming, vivacious, petite body, is at present learning the art of dreammaking at the dry goods house of L. A. Smith & Co., of Detroit, Mich., and we have the promise of a Mother Hubbard as soon as she becomes proficient in the art.

Miss Katie Kaniff got the \$5 gold piece offered by C. B. Pittman for the best bread at the recent fair. She signed a contract to the effect that she was only 19 years old, but some of the envious ones are spiteful enough to say that all of 29 winters and a cognate number of summers, are hers.

Agreeable to an invitation extended to us by Messrs. Frank Crouch and Emma Brown on Friday evening last our entire editorial staff took our two better halves and hid us away to the residence of Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Tibbs in Troy, where their

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numerous friends had supplied them with a good genuine, old-fashioned house-warming. Arriving at the house at about 10 o'clock p. m. we found the broadest of smiles adorning the happy countenances of Galsie and his hospitable helpmate and they were like the spirit of gladness which seemed to pervade the merry everywhere at once, while the honest notes of Sherman's band made music for the tripping feet of young men and maidens, while the older folks



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