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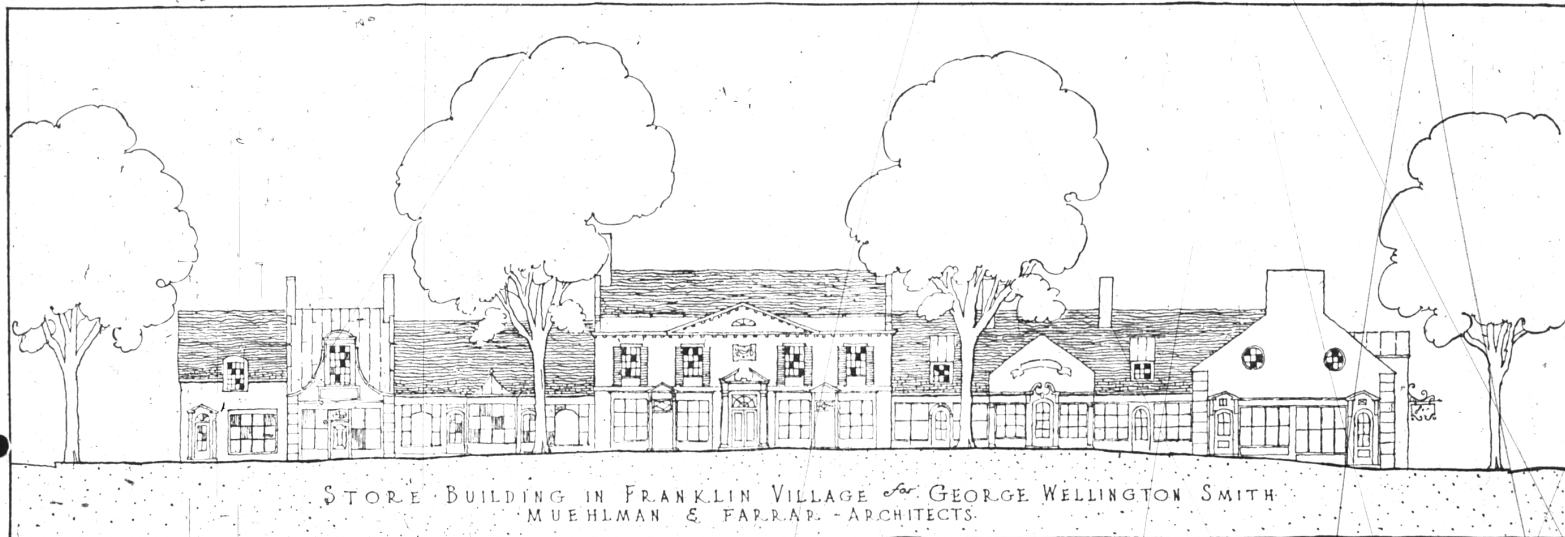
OAKLAND COUNTY'S GREATEST
WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

FIFTIETH YEAR—NO. 18

BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, AUGUST 18, 1927

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MODEL COLONIAL STORES :: IN CONTEMPLATION FOR :: VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN



STORE BUILDING IN FRANKLIN VILLAGE FOR GEORGE WELLINGTON SMITH
MUEHLMAN & FARRAR—ARCHITECTS.

Interest has been manifested in the plans of George Wellington Smith, developer at Franklin village for the building of a group of business establishments which will preserve the architectural character already established in many of the other buildings in Franklin Village, and at the same time define the type of buildings to be erected on Franklin road in the future.

Plans which have been prepared by Muehlman &

Farrar, architects, are of Colonial origin, and conform to the countryside of the Franklin River valley, and the old mill and Colonial homes which are landmarks in this vicinity.

Through the establishment of a business community of this type, each tenant and store keeper will have a distinctive and individual shop, but at the same time will form a part of an attractive whole, architects say.

In speaking of the plans, Mr. Smith states that he has already had numerous inquiries in regard to business locations from people who propose tea rooms, shops, and stores of various kinds.

"It is our idea," said Mr. Farrar, "to preserve the Colonial type of architecture that has been identified with Franklin since it was established in 1824."

Franklin, of course, was one of the earliest settlements in Oakland County, and the location was chosen on account of the beautiful countryside and the natural fertility of the soil. It is really a vast amphitheater along the banks of the Franklin River, and is now being selected as the location for permanent country homes by several who desire to live in the Franklin district of Bloomfield Hills.

MITCHELL TELLS SECOND CHAPTER OF LIFE, WORK, CUSTOMS IN BIRMINGHAM DURING THE EIGHTIES

CHAPTER II
I have seen the commission issued to the first post master of Birmingham, John N. Heth had it, and it was issued to Hon. O. Poppleton, by President Buchanan in 1848. Mr. Poppleton was a Democrat. The post office was in his drug store, where the Standard Oil company now has an oil and gas station. Just as soon as the Republican party, born at Jackson, under the oak, came into power, George L. Lee, druggist, was made post master at once. He had the office in his drug store in the south end of the National hotel building.

He was succeeded by John Allen Bigelow, son of Jonathan Bigelow of Franklin. Mr. Bigelow, quite young, was one of the very first to enlist. During the army life, he lost his left arm, and from that suffered greatly during his long life, which was a busy one too. His war life was dangerous and eventful, but he emerged from it all with the title of Captain.

having gone forward from a private to this desirable position. During his first enlistment he was captured by the Confederates and at Andersonville prison he suffered the pangs and privations of a Yankee prisoner. After sometime, however he was paroled, and just as soon as possible after his return, re-enlisted under the name of John Allen and served his country under Custer, with whom he became a warm personal friend. Of course he became a cavalry man with all its stirring life.

Starts Out At 16
At the close of the Rebellion, he returned home and soon afterwards opened a little grocery store in the old Academy building which he had bought. Not long after his many friends had him made post master, and here I began my life work in 1870, 16 years old just old enough to be sworn into office. Soon after his return he was married to Miss Isabelle Whitehead, of the Elizabeth Lake country. She it all with the title of Captain, was to me just like a mother and

my two years of life with Mr. Bigelow were long to be remembered, for the happiness and good times I had there. To me Mr. Bigelow was always kind and generous. He was a great fisherman and he and Frank Durkee had many a fine day fishing in the nearby lakes of old Oakland County.

Back to Old Birmingham!
Beyond the hardware store of Mr. Irving on the west end looking northward, was a small brown frame building in which I attended school, taught by Mrs. Jane Willets Hunt, Mrs. Dr. J. C. Crooks, Mattie Baldwin and a Miss Beardsley. It afterwards became a cooper shop run by Mr. Samuel Patrick, where he made thousands of apple barrels for the nearby farmers. Then there was a long lane leading to the slaughter house used by Wm. Brown, the leading and only meat market then in town. This building was a barn belonging to Mrs. Elijah Whitehead. On this side of the street and north, there was nothing in the line of dwellings or stores, just a meadow and woods and the decayed remains or ruins of the old lannery, belonging to the Willets.

Right across the street on the drive of the hill going towards Pontiac, on the east side of Saginaw street lived Mrs. Willets with her invalid husband, Elijah, who was a paralytic, and was unable to move. How well I remember him! At that time under 10 years of age, I had to go after the day's milk, three cents a pint and five cents a quart. Some mornings I would be a little early, and would arrive before the good lady had done the milking. Taking up her pail to go and milk the cow, she would say to me: "Now, George, don't light his pipe while I am gone, will you?" "No, Ma'am." I would promptly reply, but as soon as she closed the door (and it never mis-) I came a voice from the full round flood face, surmounted by a sheaf of heavy snow white hair, heavy bushy voice, commanding: "Boy, light my pipe!" I was scared to death—afraid to do it and doubly afraid not to, and he always won. Under the bed was a heavy wooden box, but of heavier wood, amply filled with pipes, tobacco and matches. I'd strike a match and he would pay away at the pipe and be happy. I would watch for the coming of Mrs. Willets, and go down the outside cellar-way with her, and as soon as she strained my quart of milk, I would grab it and run for home, knowing as soon as she went into the house she would see at once how well I had minded her. It seems that two or three times it had set the bed a fire from his smoking. Sch! Sch!

Quoit Pitching Popular
From 1864 to about 1880 pitching quoits in front of the National hotel right out in the street, was a favorite pastime and well followed. Also "one-old-cat" and "two-old-cat" were played in the middle of Saginaw street daily by men and boys, all of these in front of the old National. Once a daughter of Tom Stone who came driving into the village one day (Continued on Page 6, Part 2)

FROM THE ECCENTRIC COLUMNS—of Long Ago

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

43 YEARS AGO

Mrs. Lizzie Irving, with her two sons, Willie and Fred, have been visiting relatives and friends in Marshall, and on Saturday last Mrs. A. C. Ellis and Master Johnnie Irving met them at Lansing, where they visited the family of George B. Martin, formerly of this place, and other relations, and took a trip through Jackson county. Good time, well, rather. Just what Mrs. Irving needed after her recent severe indisposition.

James W. Hoffman and wife left last Monday for their new home in Barnesville, Ohio. Before settling down they will visit at Pittsburgh, Pa., for a short time.

Married, on the 20th inst., at the home of the bride on the Red Run, Mrs. Wakefield Bradley to Mr. Hugh Wilson, of Birmingham, the Rev. Silas Finn officiating.

Parties who are stealing our corn are known. If you stop it, all right; if not, an invitation will be extended to visit John Bodine. Now, take notice. Schrite and Todd.

Miss Lucy and Sarah Richmond and Jennie Mathews of Detroit were the guests of Mrs. G. C. Gibbs this week, returning Tuesday last.

Miss Sadie Bradley, a pretty little black-eyed Miss from Romeo, has been visiting her friend, Miss Jenny Trout, the past week.

Mrs. Frank Andrews and son of Detroit visited with the family of A. C. Mulder this week, returning home Tuesday.

Miss Maggie Howe of Newark, N. J., cousin to Mrs. Albert Todd, is visiting at Albert's and also at Peter Reed's.

J. O. Beattie and family camped out at Pine Lake last week and had a most enjoyable time of it.

Mrs. Sarah B. Adams, of Genoa, Ill., is the guest of Mrs. Ed. Baldwin.

The ladies of the Presbyterian Church will give a lawn tea party for the groomer of Mr. E. C. Poppleton on Friday, Aug. 29. Tea will be served at 5 o'clock and for as long thereafter as occasion demands. Ice cream at any time is called for during the evening. All are cordially invited to partake of a cup of tea or of coffee with the ladies. Admittance 50 cents, 100 cents, ice cream 10 cents.

The gentleman who challenged the world on horseshoeing last winter can come this way, as Thomas Thorby fitted and set 70 shoes last Monday, alone, besides setting four tires and making driving into the village one day that for Tom?

23 YEARS AGO

The Ladies' Church Society of the Presbyterian Church will be entertained at the home of Mrs. Austin Parks next Wednesday afternoon, July 16th. All are invited.

Mrs. Jane Roche and granddaughter Miss Florence Kreger, returned home this week from a visit at Fowlesville with Mrs. Roche's sister, Mrs. David Walker.

Misses Tillie Walker and Emeline Mitchell are visiting at Fowlesville. Miss Walker visits her father, mother, brother and sisters, and Mrs. Emeline can only see Grandpa Walker.

George Shadolt has lately put up a new fence around his place, making a very decided improvement.

Miss Annie Huebner and Mr. Charles Huebner of Detroit have been visiting Mrs. Clara Wilde the past week.

Addie Bayley's three boys, aged 16, 14 and eleven years, have in less than three weeks harvested 60 acres of grass, 16 acres of wheat and 20 acres of oats, little Harrie, eleven years old, having done the raking and Johnnie doing the harder work, besides milking and taking care of 16 cows. How's that for active young Trojans?

Robert Bell, of Southfield, visited his sister, Mrs. Anna McGaffey, of Oxford, the past week.

Dr. George Raynold, of St. Mary's Hospital, is home on his vacation, also Frank Deer of Grace Hospital.

The many friends of Miss Nellie Randall are glad to see her home again after her summer outing.

Commenting on the advantages of eating nuts, Emile la Croix, in an address before the vegetarian society the other day, said: "You have heard bread spoken of as the 'staff of life', but I think it should be called the 'club of death'. The reason why you are stiff in the morning when you wake is that your pulse has been beating slowly in the night and has not wasted away any of this calcareous matter. It is necessary for fowls because they lay eggs with hard shells, but not for man."—Argonaut.

Mrs. Bunnell of Saginaw was the guest of her sister, Miss Carrie Blodgett, last Sunday.

A. Whitehead would be pleased to reward anyone who finds his lost alligator skin cigar case.

Wood Narrates Taming, Training Of Purple Grackle, Prevalent Here

Editor's Note: This is the eighth of a series of articles being written for The Eccentric by Wilcox H. Wood, 224 Southfield avenue, taxidermist and bird expert. Mr. Wood has made a life study of birds, and is a member of the State Department for the Conservation of Wild Life. Another of Mr. Wood's articles will appear in The Eccentric next week.

The purple grackle is perhaps the best known of our black bird friends. He appears early in the spring about the lawns and fields, where he is to be seen feeding on grubs and bugs which he finds in the grass. He will also eat scraps from the tables and chicken feed that you may throw to him. You will even find him following along the furrow as the farmer is plowing, where he picks up any quantity of grubs and other injurious insects.

All this is lost sight of, however, when the farmer plants his corn, for then the purple grackle changes from the friend to the foe of the farmer. He pulls up the young corn and eats it, sometimes coming down on the field in large flocks, destroying the young corn to such a degree that it often times has to be replanted.

The purple grackle has a special set of fall operations on the corn, also. When it is beginning to ripen, they alight on it and pull the husks off the ears and devour the kernels. In this way they destroy large quantities of corn, also.

(Continued on Page 3, Part 2)

ONLY ONE FIRE IN LAST MONTH

Chief Attributes Small Casualty To Sanitary Conditions in Village

Only one fire, a still alarm fire at which only one extra fireman was needed, occurred in Birmingham during the month of July, according to the July fire report made public today. This fire occurred at 116 south Woodward avenue. No damage was done.

This is the lightest fire report this summer, comparison with the other summer months shows. The clean-up week and the general (Continued on Page 5, Part 2)

The Early Bird Gets the Worm

and the early spray gets the fly—and is a big step in making the home "fly-less" the first of this summer.

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