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PART THREE

OAKLAND COUNTY'S GREATEST  
WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

FIFTIETH YEAR—NO. 11

BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 1927

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## SMILES, TEARS, MEMORIES FEATURE SECOND ANNUAL OLD HILL SCHOOL REUNION

By GEORGE G. WILLIAMS  
Smiles, tears and reminiscences  
abundant were found in evidence  
last Thursday and Friday when  
approximately 300 former stu-  
dents returned to the Old Hill  
School for their second annual  
reunion.

Registration of all who attend-  
ed was the first event of Thurs-  
day afternoon, after which the  
entire assemblage of old friends,  
aged by the swiftly passing years,  
turned back for a day to their  
childhood and recalled happy  
events, some more than four de-  
cades ago, when they blithely at-  
tended the old school in quest of  
knowledge.

**First Assembly Held**  
After getting acquainted with  
many friends, perhaps not seen  
in 40 years, they retired to an  
ampliously room in which they once  
before had sat as youths and joined  
in the program of events led  
by Clarence Vliet, superintendent  
of schools, and Ezra H. Mathew-  
son, president of the association  
of former students. A spelling  
contest such as was held when  
in 1868 was conducted by Mr.  
Vliet, after which former teach-  
ers were called on for reminis-  
cences and old songs were sung.  
Mathewson in a speech warmly  
welcome to the ex-students, seat-  
ed once more in the room where  
they learned their first learning,  
recalled, when in 1889, "toll-  
ed" still paid to The Hisawberg  
road between Pontiac and De-  
troit. The village tavern still ex-  
isted at that time and alcoholic  
refreshments could be obtained.  
While people could talk to De-  
troit by the telephone, its use had  
not become general and no ex-  
change party lines or measured  
prices was thought of. Few  
electric lights were to be seen  
and people were still using oil  
lamps in homes and for street  
lighting.

"How unbelievable, those days to think  
have been in those days to think  
we can travel safely at the rate  
of sixty miles an hour to all points  
in the United States today," Mr.  
Mathewson said.

He continued, "We appreciate  
the welcome given us in return-  
ing once more to the very rooms  
where our dear teachers ex-  
pounded to us the rudiments of  
the higher branches of learning. Liv-  
ing in ages of thrills, we can justly  
say, we are thrilled at this oc-  
casion."

**Oldest Member Talks**  
Victor Dennison, one of the  
oldest of the group, was called on  
by the assembly for a recitation  
such as he gave when he attend-  
ed school as a pupil. He recited  
two verses which he had once re-  
cited when he was about seven  
years old. He was able to repeat  
them after 70 years have passed.  
Mr. Dennison is 78 years of age,  
was born in Royal Oak in 1849  
and remembers when he was less  
than three years old, his father  
Daniel Avery Dennison, moved to  
Troy. "The cutting of my gran-  
mother's wood was my chief  
chore, and I literally hewed my  
way through school, cutting corners  
and cords of the material which  
my grandmother cooked my food  
with," he told newspaper men.

The former teachers who at-  
tended the meeting are Miss  
Leona McDonald, Miss Mary  
Utter, Mrs. S. Crosby Marsaw,  
Miss Mabel Keyser, Miss Sarah  
Wentz, Miss Margaret Pepper and  
A. L. Hanna Kirk.

**17 Of First Class Present**  
Seventeen of the students who  
were in the first class which began  
with the erecting of the school in  
1868 were present. They are

Miss Jennie Keyes, Hanna Corey  
Mitchell, Mrs. Addie Daines  
Brown, John Allen, Mrs. Jennie  
Hunt, Mrs. Ella Parker Benja-  
mine, Mrs. Miss Baldwin Mills,  
Miss Mamie E. Utter, Victor Den-  
nison, Oscar E. Angstrom, W. B.  
Carter, Mrs. Harriet C. Drake,  
Bell Harris, Alice E. Drake, E. H.  
Wooster, Geo. H. Mitchell, and  
Mrs. D. M. Johnson.

Mr. Utter, one of the first stu-  
dents entered in the sixth grade  
of the school, remembered many  
of the teachers and recalled how  
students used to bring pickles to  
school and pass them around. An-  
other incident, brought to light  
by Clara Aldrich, which many re-  
membered was the act of Pro-  
fessor Jones in throwing a dog  
out of the window one day.  
George H. Mitchell, among the  
original students said, "The boys  
before had sat as youths and joined  
in the program of events led  
by Clarence Vliet, superintendent  
of schools, and Ezra H. Mathew-  
son, president of the association  
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electric lights were to be seen  
and people were still using oil  
lamps in homes and for street  
lighting.

**Horn Book Used**  
During the spelling bee, a  
horn book was used. The horn  
book is a quaint affair used to aid  
children in spelling during a pe-  
riod of about 10 years, 1600 to  
1700. It is shaped like a small  
paddle, covered with transparent  
horn, on one side under which  
the alphabet, vowel sounds, and  
the Lord's prayer could be found.  
On the back an old English verse  
was sometimes written. Copies  
of this horn book, which the girls  
wore on strings around their neck  
and the boys placed on their heads  
while entering class, to aid them  
in standing erect, were given to  
all the old students. In the spell  
down, started by Mr. Vliet with  
three letter words, John Hanna  
surprised the gathering by spell-  
ing "him," "hi-m" and "hi-y-m."  
Adding that he did not care to  
take a chance.

The group concluded its first  
session by singing favorite songs.

**Many Enjoy Banquet**  
Continuing with the happy  
amicability of the day before the  
former classmates of the Old Hill  
School on Friday took part in a  
banquet following an out-of-town  
trip through Birmingham visiting  
friends who were unable to at-  
tend. More persons were present  
for the reunion banquet than had  
appeared the day before.

More important than the list  
of events and extensive program  
which was planned, was the con-  
versation bringing back the good  
old days when "We stole water-  
proofed out of Jones' patch and  
played hooky from school. The  
impressions of childhood were  
mostly happy, but often in re-  
calling those precious days  
moisture crept into the dimmed  
eyes, and a longing for the happy  
care-free times, tugged at the  
heart's of many. Before the ban-  
quet at 1 p. m. the hall of Bal-  
dwin Hills School was filled with  
a hum of voices from knots of  
people whose memories they re-  
called again and again.

After the dinner, H. Grant  
Race, toastmaster, led the speak-  
ers who were chosen from the  
group, in telling of other days.  
He said, "I have attempted to  
catalogue the impressions I have



Top: The former students of the Hill School assembled at their second annual reunion Thursday and Friday in the auditorium of the school where they used to study. A spelling bee was held. Upper insert: Victor Dennison, one of the oldest class members attended the reunion. Lower insert: Hal Gibbs renewed old acquaintances. Lower group: Turning back the years. Left to right: Mrs. Mary Haines of Pontiac; Mrs. Addie Daines Brown and Miss Baldwin Mills. (Courtesy Detroit News).

**WELCOME CONTINUES  
AFTER FIFTY YEARS**  
Something of the spirit of  
the reunion of the Old Hill  
school was shown at the re-  
assembly Thursday afternoon in  
the former classroom of the  
school. When the very former  
pupils were seated in the large  
study hall, a man who has seen  
years pass since he was a stu-  
dent, went to the blackboard,  
and in a hand that had been  
slightly unsteady by years,  
wrote in large letters, "Wel-  
come."

Oscar Angstrom, who said he  
was one of the first scholars to  
make application to the Bir-  
mingham Union School, the first high  
School, praised George Mitchell  
for his success and told how Mr.  
Mitchell, as a boy, was one of the  
smartest in the class. After  
leaving school he started working  
at two dollars a week, said Mr.  
Angstrom. "It was not long be-  
fore George had started a local  
newspaper known as 'The Bir-  
mingham Eccentric.' From this  
present name 'Eccentric' was de-  
rived," continued Mr. Angstrom.  
Mr. Angstrom described Mr.  
Mitchell's gradual success after  
leaving a drug store which sold  
everything "from groceries to ton-  
ic pills" said Mr. Angstrom re-  
called that he had known Victor  
Dennison well in those days,  
boarding at the same place. Mr.  
Dennison, a serious man, had not  
noticed him carrying books one day  
and told him that he thought he  
would come out on top of the  
heap. Mr. Angstrom said this  
was true of Mr. Dennison that  
he would come out "on top of the  
heap."

**Then The Parting**  
"Though I did not go to the  
Hill School," E. H. Wooster told  
the group, "I went to the Old  
Academy which burned down be-  
fore the Hill School was erected."  
Mrs. Bell Smith, president-elect,  
expressed her gratitude for being  
called to the office for the en-  
suing year.

Wade Booth told stories and  
sang several solos. He was ac-  
companied by Elmer Kile. It  
was announced that Mr. Booth  
was performing at the Temple  
theater in Detroit this week. Fol-  
lowing this, Norme Patterson of  
Birmingham also sang.

With handshaking and farewells  
the group disbanded late in the  
afternoon, looking forward to the  
pleasures of again assembling for  
another reunion in the future.

**SERVICES HELD  
FOR PIONEER**  
James McKinley, 70, Suc-  
cumbs To Heart Attack  
At His Home

Funeral services were held at  
3 p. m. Saturday for James Kin-  
ley, 70 years old, who died sud-  
denly Thursday at his home of  
acute dilation of the heart. Al-  
though he had not been in very  
good health for some time, he had  
been active until the day of his  
death. He died at his home, 533  
Henrietta street. Burial was in  
Southfield township. He was born  
there Feb. 6, 1857.

Mr. McKinley was a farmer in  
this section for many years, hav-  
ing retired and moved into Bir-  
mingham some 30 years ago. The  
Rev. Floyd Emerson Loges, pastor  
of the First Presbyterian Church,  
read the funeral services. Six of  
Mr. McKinley's nephews acted as  
pall-bearers. Besides his wife,  
Mrs. Wilhelmina McKinley, Mr.  
McKinley leaves two sons, Victor,  
who lives at home, and Reuel, of  
Auburn Heights, Pontiac, one  
daughter, Mrs. Walter Baker, who  
also lives at home, and one broth-  
er, David John McKinley, of Roy-  
al Oak, and four grandchildren.

**SECOND PROBATE  
OFFICE IS SEEN**

A second probate judge for  
Oakland County following the  
taking of the 1930 census is seen  
today by Probate Judge Ross  
Stockwell.

"Action of the legislature in re-  
ducing the required population  
from 250,000 to 180,000 will in-  
sure the addition to the county,"  
he said. "The judge believes the  
1930 census will show a popula-  
tion great enough to warrant the  
new appointment."

**FIRE DEPARTMENT  
WILL START SOON**

Plans are being completed by  
Fire Chief William Olsen today  
for the start of the first full-time  
fire department in the village  
tomorrow. The men recently ap-  
pointed to serve regularly on the  
department are Fern Griffith,  
George Jones, Roy Weier and  
Stan Peppeler. More will be  
employed later.

According to plans, two will  
work during the day and two at  
night. The volunteers will con-  
tinue to serve on the department.

Fred Channert of Chicago ad-  
vised from a policeman as to  
how to keep his wife from beating  
him, and was told to go home and  
kiss her.

**Franklin Village**

Franklin Village, with its winding  
drives and pleasant vistas, is attracting  
people of character who are as appre-  
ciative of the refinements of life as of  
the utilities. Such people come to  
Franklin Village with the knowledge  
that rigid restrictions and careful plan-  
ning have assured them a neighborhood  
of character for all years to come. The  
generously plotted parcels, from one-  
third acre to two acres in size make  
ideal building sites.

Drive west on Maple Road just  
beyond Oakland Hills Country  
Club, then a mile south on  
Franklin Road.

**George Wellington Smith**  
Franklin Properties

ADDRESS: Franklin, Mich. TELEPHONE: Birmingham 1170

**PARTICIPATE IN REUNION**

LUTHER D. ALLEN  
JAMES COBB  
SUPT. CLARENCE M. VLIET  
MISS JENNIE KEYES

GEORGE H. MITCHELL

OLD HILL SCHOOL

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