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Birmingham Eccentric

"FOR A BIGGER AND BETTER BIRMINGHAM"

18 PAGES, PART 1

Oakland County's Greatest Weekly Newspaper

FIFTIETH YEAR—NO. 30 BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1927 $1.50 PER YEAR—SINGLE COPIES 5c

BIRMINGHAM AWAITS PROSPERITY WEEK START

DRIVER FREED OF BLAME IN CHILD'S DEATH

Witnesses Say Fatal Injuries To Marie Thompson Were Unavoidable

SERVICES ARE HELD

Everett Soweis, 11-Mile road, stands exonerated today of all blame in connection with the accident Friday afternoon in which Marie Thompson, the seven-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Thompson, 212 Palm street, was killed almost instantly. Soweis made a statement to Norman Orr, assistant prosecutor, the same day. No inquest was necessary, according to Coroner O. C. Farmer, who was called to the scene of the accident.

Marie walked into the side of the two-ton steel truck which Soweis was driving east on Maple avenue, according to the driver's story. "I saw several children standing on the curb as I passed, and the next thing I heard was screams. The child had evidently run right in front of one of the big rear wheels."

Marie was going to the store with some of her playmates when the accident occurred, her parents said. She had returned home shortly before from the Adams School, where she was a pupil in the second grade.

She was taken to Dr. Herbert E. Moore's office, where she died without regaining consciousness. Milton Hudson, of Ferndale, who was riding with Soweis, and John Adams, Townsend street, witnesses of the accident, corroborated Soweis' story.

Funeral services were held from the Daines and Bell funeral chapel at 4 p. m. Sunday afternoon, the Rev. Henry S. Evans, pastor of the United Presbyterian Church, officiating. The body was taken to Rockford for Burial.

Besides her parents, Marie leaves four brothers, Robert, 8 years old, Raymond, 5, Stanley, 3, and Gordon, 11 months old. Mr. Thompson is a salesman with the Walsh, James & Wasey real estate firm.

PRAISE GIVEN NEW LIGHTS

Autos Can Pass Signals At 22 Miles Without A Stop

The three new traffic lights, at Oakland, Brown and Lincoln avenues on Woodward avenue, proved a great aid in the handling of traffic Sunday, according to Police Chief James Anderson. Cars were kept moving at a good rate, with no hold-ups, he said. No accidents occurred Sunday, police reported.

The new lights are set so that after making one green light, the driver will hit all green lights if he drives 22 miles an hour. The light at Lincoln avenue will be kept running every day, as the others are, Chief Anderson announces, although it was at first planned to have it going only on Saturdays and Sundays. Installation of the controlling machinery cost the village $1,200, James W. Parry, village manager said.

The Lincoln light is run in 20-second shifts. The other three

(Continued on Page 2.)

FOR SALE
Tenor banjo, Baron professional model. Metal parts silver plated. Complete with plush lined case. $75. Phone 435-XM. adv.29*

CONNELLY BUILDING CO.
We finance homes costing up to $20,000. adv.11f

Dance every Saturday night at Hefliker's Hall, Orchard Lake and 12-Mile Roads. First class music and supper. adv.30

Buy your life insurance from L. W. Porter, P. O. Box 24, phone 1295. adv.26tf

AND THEN, WOODWARD IS A STATE HIGHWAY

"Birmingham village limits, speed 20 miles an hour." Warning sign.

"If motorists drive at the rate of 22 miles an hour they may successfully pass all the green traffic lights." Statement from a village official on the installation of the new Woodward avenue traffic lights.

"Something," remarked John Birmingham, "is inconsistent!"

DEADLINES

The first edition of The Birmingham Eccentric daily will be on the streets of the village and delivered to homes in Birmingham Monday morning and each morning of the week thereafter. During the week, the following "deadlines" for news and advertising copy must be observed:

News: Not later than midnight prior to the date of publication.

Advertising: Not later than noon of the day before publication.

Classified ads will be run in the regular Thursday edition of The Eccentric only. Front page liners, however, will be received for insertion in the daily editions.

SIX INJURED IN ACCIDENT

Two Autos Collide Head-On At Woodward And Chesterfield

Six persons are recovering today from injuries sustained when two automobiles, driven by Harry Godding, 1930 Concord street, Flint, and S. L. Young, 10022 Petoskey street, Detroit, collided head-on at Woodward avenue and Chesterfield road last Thursday afternoon. Harold H. Gumester, Rochester, is in St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital, Pontiac, suffering from body bruises, and Charles Metz, 327 Sugar street, Rochester, was dismissed from the Hospital after being treated for bruises on his face.

William Renfold, 3994 Broad street, Detroit, is in Detroit Receiving Hospital, where he is believed to be suffering from a fractured skull. Bert McBride, of the same address was treated at the police station for cuts on his hands and Godding for head cuts.

As Godding was driving north on Woodward avenue, according to Patrolman Edward Myers, who investigated the accident, a car driven by W. H. McGarr, of Brookdale road, pulled in front of him, forcing him to the side of the road and head-on into Young's machine. McGarr did not stop, Myers said, and was brought to the police station to make a statement but was not held.

VOYAGERS ASKED TO NOTIFY POLICE

All persons who intend to be away from Birmingham for the winter are requested today by Chief of Police James Anderson to notify the police department before they leave, so adequate protection to the homes can be given during the owner's absence.

Patrolmen will make regular visits to the houses, the chief said, and every effort will be made to protect the property while it is left alone.

Birmingham has not had burglaries in a comparatively long time, he pointed out, and said the aim of the department is continually to reduce losses to citizens through this medium.

Names and addresses will be accepted over the telephone or by personal application at the station.

ROYAL OAK OFFICIALS EXPLAIN ADVANTAGES OF CITY GOVERNMENT

George A. Dondero, Royal Oak attorney who was president of that community when it changed its form of government from a village to a city in 1921, and R. J. Whitney, present city manager and representative of The Eccentric this week they see every advantage and disadvantage in Birmingham changing to the city government.

A petition calling for a special election on this issue is before the commission of Birmingham now and the election is expected to be called for sometime in early December.

"Royal Oak as a city is able to look after her own interests," said Mr. Whitney. "As a village her projects were always tied up with those of the township. The result was less independence on the part of both the city and the township and a heavy tax that Royal Oak was compelled to pay the township for which the village received no benefit.

Would Not Change Back

"I do not believe that anyone here would change back to the old form of government so satisfactorily as the city form working.

"Not only have we a fair representation on the county board of supervisors, as would Birmingham, but we are able to manage our own business in the city with a freer hand. There is practically nothing, so far as I can determine, in favor of retaining your village form of government while there is everything in favor of the city."

Mr. Dondero believes that Birmingham may well profit by the experience of Royal Oak and change to a city.

"Both communities have a great deal in common," he said, "and I believe that what is true of one will also hold, to a great extent, true of the other. Our problems have proved similar in many instances but the problems of Royal Oak seem to be solved more easily since that community has become a city.

"Of course I am talking for the future of Birmingham because we must consider improvements of this sort in the light of the future. (Although do not lose sight of the

(Continued on Page 3.)

RESIDENCE THEFTS AND BURGLARIES
Only those who have Insurance against BURGLARY can rest easily when leaving their homes, even if but for a few hours. Suburban homes are usually "easy picking" for crooks. Rates are reasonable. See us about it. Best companies. Lowest rates.
WHITEHEAD & STANDART CO.
J. Bj Howarth D. G. Howarth
Real Estate - General Insurance adv.26tf

CITY PLAN IS DISCUSSED BY MOORE, VLIET

Schools Would Not Be Affected, Superintendent Says

TAX SAVING IS SHOWN

People of Birmingham will be saved even a greater amount of taxes than estimated by President H. T. Ellerby if Birmingham changes to a city government.

The change will not materially affect the schools.

This was indicated at the village commission meeting Monday night when Robert Y. Moore, township supervisor, and Clarence Vliet, superintendent of schools, discussed informally with the commission effects of the proposed change which is expected to be voted on at a special election here in early December.

It costs the tax payers of Birmingham $5,129.00 for the township to collect the state and county tax, Mr. Moore said, and if the city collected it, the estimated cost would be $3,000, hence Birmingham would save $2,129.00 in this item as well as the amount saved from being free of tax for township improvements.

Schools Unaffected

Mr. Vliet reviewed the school situation, pointed out case after case and instance after instance from which the commission deducted that the schools would not be affected. Refusing to commit himself on the issue either as school official or as a private citizen, Mr. Vliet merely answered questions put to him by the commission and skillfully avoided allowing his talk to merge into a debate.

Mr. Moore said the city could apportion the school budget that would be spread on the tax roll of the school district. Southfield and Troy township supervisors spread their part of the assessment, he said.

Several questions were put to Mr. Moore and Mr. Vliet by Lawrence Hulbert, commissioner.

Mr. Moore declared the assessed valuation of Birmingham should be kept down to avoid an increase in state and county tax. That there is no danger of the supervisors raising the tax here was attested by Mr. Moore who said the valuation of Birmingham has never been before the county board.

"As a supervisor do you recommend to separate the assessable area of Birmingham from the township?" asked Mr. Hulbert.

"Yes," Mr. Moore replied.

Birmingham's share of the town-

(Continued on Page 3.)

VILLAGE ATTORNEY SEES ELECTION AS MANDATORY

In the opinion of Clare H. Ogden, village attorney, an election on the proposed change to the city government is mandatory, he reported to the commission Monday night. In his report he said the petition asking for the change met all the requirements called for by the charter. It is within the power of the commission to set the date for the proposed special election on the issue.

STORES PLAN TO CLOSE ONE HOUR TOMORROW

All persons in Birmingham are asked to pause in their work for two minutes when the fire siren blows at noon Armistice Day, tomorrow. Practically every store in Birmingham will close between 11 a. m. and 12:15 out of respect to the soldier dead. Ceremonies are to be held in the Baldwin High School and the Adams School.

HOMAGE PAID WAR HEROES

Traffic To Halt For Two Minutes On Armistice Day, Tomorrow

Birmingham's observance of Armistice Day tomorrow will be solemn and brief.

Traffic is to be halted for two minutes at noon, following the

PRESIDENT ISSUES ARMISTICE DAY PROCLAMATION

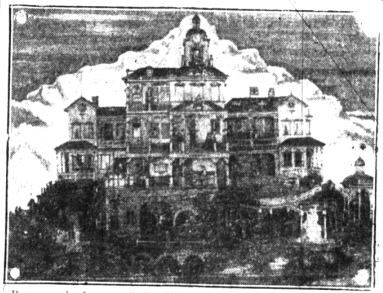
Village President H. T. Ellerby yesterday issued the following Armistice Day Proclamation:

"Another year has rolled along its way and again we, as a nation, are reminded of the observance of Armistice Day, and what it means to our civilized world. Armistice day came to us Nov. 11, 1918, in the midst of the greatest mortal conflict ever thrust upon a world of men and women. Millions of fine men, boys, and many women gave their lives on foreign battle fields to save the cause of peaceful living. Armistice Day came into their lives too late to save them from continued life among us; to them we owe a deep and everlasting gratitude. To them we owe all that we are and all that we have.

"A proper observance of Armistice Day in Birmingham is in accordance with the spirit of Nov. 11. Let us pause in our daily affairs this Armistice Day and reflect upon its meaning, to the end that we, today, may so shape our lives that every means at our disposal will be used to remove any cause for another conflict. Let us pay our tribute to our soldier dead through useful, sacrificial living, permeated with a love and a fellowship that is leavened with kindness and tolerance.

"Therefore I, H. T. Ellerby, president of the village of Birmingham, request that our citizens properly display American flags from all homes and all business places on Nov. 11, all local business places close from 11 a. m. until 12:15 p. m. Nov. 11, and that traffic on our streets be suspended from 12 until 12:02 p. m. I also earnestly request that every citizen of our community and nearby territory attend the Memorial Services to be held in the Baldwin High School and the Adams Junior High School between the hours of 11:30 a. m. and 12:15 p. m. Nov. 11."

PROSPERITY WEEK FEATURE



Bergmann's famous Swiss Village, a picture of which is shown above, pronounced the most complete mechanical exhibit in the world will be on display in the Birmingham State Bank building throughout Prosperity Week. The display presents the activities of a Swiss Chateau, and is complete in every detail even to the flowers that bloom in the garden every six minutes. It is carved of spruce wood, contains 222,000 working parts, and the original clock works still operate it, but an electric motor supplies the power instead of large springs.

PLAN START OF CAMPAIGN FOR SAFETY

Parents, Teachers Asked To Co-operate In Education Of Youth

MOVE FOLLOWS DEATH

Preliminary plans for a campaign to safeguard the lives of school children are under way here today following a discussion of the matter by the village commission Monday night at the regular meeting. The tragic death of Marie Thompson, seven years old, 212 Palms avenue, who died Friday as the result of injuries received when she was run over by a large truck gave an added impetus to the movement.

Cooperation of the school board, the police and fire departments, boy scouts, the Parent Teachers associations and other agencies are to be sought by Manager James W. Parry, who will work in conjunction with Lawrence Hulbert and Mrs. Hope Halgren, members of the police and fire committee of the village commission. Conferences are to be called, it was decided Monday, and the matter discussed in detail.

"Birmingham needs an educational campaign for its children more than the addition of a traffic policeman at its schools," President H. T. Ellerby said. "I believe the idea of safety should be driven home to parents and children constantly here as it is in Detroit. That city has had splendid results from safety campaigns and Birmingham, with its steady growth, needs to take similar precautions."

Commissioner Hulbert pointed out that children were given to running out into the streets after they were dismissed from school. Crossing the streets with the green traffic lights without looking to see whether autos were making right hand turns, playing in the streets and darting into the streets in back of automobiles were some of the practices that came to the attention of the commission.

RESCIND MOVE ON NEW WELL

Commission Reverses Action On Contracts; New Bidders Sought

Action taken by the village commission in approving a contract with the Keystone Well Drilling company for the installation of a new well here stands definitely rescinded today and Manager James W. Parry has instructions to prepare maps, diagrams and an estimate on the cost of the new project.

According to President H. T. Ellerby, in accepting the bid of the Keystone company last week, the commission did not follow the charter in the method of opening bids and making awards. This was called to their attention after the meeting, Mr. Ellerby said, and the correction made at the first opportunity.

In awarding the contract a week ago, the commission went

(Continued on Page 2.)

Crippled Child Drive Continues

Canvassers are active today in the annual drive of the Crippled Children's society, which began Nov. 6 and will last until Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 24. A part of the $2,000 quota which is Birmingham's has already been raised in the house-to-house canvass, according to David H. Ladd, chairman of the southeastern district of Oakland County.

Three classes of memberships are being sold, annual memberships, $1, subscribing memberships, $3, and contributing memberships, $5. The money raised will be used to bring relief to the crippled children of Michigan. The Oakland County quota is $10,000.

FRANKLIN MILLS
open for the Season. Special sale on barrels, kegs and jugs. Sweet cider for sale—Franklin. adv.27-29*

PLUMSTEAD REVIEWS CHATAUQUA AFTER 30 YEARS ON PLATFORM

By CLARICE TAPSON

Chatauqua audiences get what they want. If they want slapstick, they get it. If they don't want it, they don't get it. The real audience grows and develops discrimination, and those members of the audience who do not grow, are left behind to read confession magazines.

This is the opinion of Ellsworth Plumstead, for more than 30 years a trouper with the various Chatauqua troups in the country. Mr. Plumstead finished his last tour in September, and is now manager of the Birmingham branch of the Pontiac Dairy. He lives at 222 east Maple avenue.

"Audiences today appreciate what the chatauqua tries to do more than they did 30 years ago," Mr. Plumstead said. "They have developed and concentrated themselves, literally weeding themselves out. The members of the audience who wanted only silly slapstick are gone. The members who wanted something worth while outnumbered them, and concentrated their efforts until today our shows offer very little of the ridiculous and much of the best."

Aims At Education

Mr. Plumstead explained that the chatauqua was primarily an educational institution, with lectures one of the main features of the shows. Good things in the way of music and readings are also a part of the regular program.

"Time was when the chatauqua had to 'talk down' to the audience. Today the audience and performers are on a level. There is a pathetic interest between them, that makes working on the chatauqua platform a joy," he said.

Mr. Plumstead remembers when the chatauqua reached into little places where no form of entertainment had ever been put on, where the townspeople scarcely knew what it was all about. "But there was always somebody, sometimes just one, who made the performers feel that it was worth while. In

(Continued on Page 2.)

Lindy Expected For Air Circus

Schlee, Brock, World Flyers, Promise To Take Part; Theater Opening, Schools, Merchants Feature Program

With final arrangements practically completed for the program, Birmingham today looks forward to the start Monday of Prosperity Week and the opening of the new Kunsky-Birmingham theater.

Through arrangements made by Frank Conant, owner of the Ford Sales and Service here, and Harry Brooks, of the Ford Airport, one of the largest air circuses ever staged in Michigan will be brought to Birmingham on the afternoon of Nov. 19. Col. Charles Lindbergh may be here and William S. Brock and Edward F. Schlee, world flyers, will be the main attractions.

21 Planes Due

A squadron of 21 pursuit planes from Selfridge Field will be brought to Birmingham and several war manuevers will be demonstrated.

Whether the world flyers will make speeches has not yet been decided, but a large ovation in their honor will be planned, said Charles J. Shain, chairman of the program committee.

If Lindbergh continues his visit in Detroit until that date his appearance is practically assured, according to present indications.

General Pershing will be present at the dedication of former airplane number 1. His place will be taken by Charles A. Sink, state senator and dean of the school of music of the University of Michigan, and Wells M. Brewer, chairman of the county board of auditors who will act as master of ceremonies.

Tuesday evening. Other speakers may be obtained before that time in addition to Mr. Sink and Mr. Brewer, it is believed.

A street parade, exhibits by the schools on educational night, the pre-opening of the new theater, probably on Wednesday, with a special program, programs by the fire and police departments which will include fire drills on Monday night are other highlights of the week.

Merchants are busy today preparing their stores for visits from the people of Birmingham. They are planning to decorate their places of business and to have contests open to all.

Program of the Birmingham Schools is complete and announcement is made of it today by Superintendent Clarence Vliet and Melvin C. Hart, principal of the Baldwin High School.

Classes will not be held in the afternoon in either the Baldwin High School or the Adams Junior High School. The same classes, however, will be held for half hour periods in the evening from 7 until 8:30. They will be opened to visitors and parents and villagers are invited to attend the classes in both schools.

Class Games Thursday

During the day all the grade schools of the village will be open to visitors and after the close of the afternoon sessions teas and socials will be given in the buildings by members of the Parent Teachers Association.

Thursday afternoon will be featured by class games at the Barnum field participated in by students of the Baldwin High School, who will parade to the field from the school early in the afternoon. Considerable features are being planned for the parade which will include several floats.

At 8:30 p. m., the audience will go to the auditorium of the high school where a special musical program will be presented. The special feature is the Hamtramck high school orchestra of 50 pieces. Representatives of the Parent Teachers associations of Birmingham may talk at this assembly but Mr. Vliet said that part of the program is still indefinite.

The village will decorate the

(Continued on Page 2.)

'MODEL CITY' A FEATURE

Swiss Craftsmanship To Be Exhibited During Prosperity Week

A diminutive city peopled with quaint midgets that do everything but breathe and talk will be on exhibit in the Birmingham Savings Bank building Woodward avenue, south of Maple, during Prosperity Week. The history of the display is as interesting as the Model City and Swiss Village itself.

In 1850, Joseph Bergmann, a Swiss watchmaker, started to build the famous Swiss Village. He labored long and hard, completeing his life's task after 17 years of constant effort, but unfortunately taxed his mental and physical strength to such an extent that he died soon after the Swiss Village was placed on exhibition in Crystal Palace, London, Eng. It was brought to the United States by P. T. Barnum and placed in a New York museum. Later it was taken on a tour of the country with the circus, and has since been shown at practically every large fair and exhibition in the country.

In 1907 it was damaged by a flood in Lansing, and was kept in a storage warehouse for a number of years. Many mechanically inclined persons tried to repair the damage and get it back in working order, but all failed until it came into the possession of the Kempf brothers, who now have it here. They worked on the village three years and now have it working as it did when first built. It is carved out of spruce wood, contains 222,000 working parts, and the original clock parts still operate it, but an electric motor supplies the power instead of large springs.

The scene is of the activities of a Swiss Chateau. It is complete in every detail even to the flowers that bloom in the garden every six minutes.

The Model City, as its name implies, represents an up-to-date city, correctly planned and ar-

(Continued on Page 2.)

GENERAL PUBLIC TO SEE PRE-OPENING HERE

Tickets are on sale to the general public today for the pre-opening of the new Kunsky-Birmingham Theater which probably will be Nov. 16 at 8:30 p. m., according to the latest word received from the theater organization and from members of the Community House board who are in charge of the pre-opening. There will be but one performance that evening and dress will not be formal, members of the board announce. Announcement of the program will be made on Monday.

LAND IS LOST IN ANNEXATION

Birmingham School District Gives 160 Acres To Royal Oak City

In spite of a negative vote from Troy Township, the proposition of annexing section 32 of that township to Royal Oak passed by a good majority at Tuesday's election, with the four voters in the affected territory voting "Yes." The total vote was 1,712 for and 735 against, a majority of 977 votes. Troy's vote stood 73 against and 32 for.

Only 160 acres in the Birmingham school district, fractional No. 1, Bloomfield, were concerned in the annexation. Two families occupy this plat. The territory voted upon lies north of the Fourteen Mile road and west of Clawson village.

COST ASKED ON IMPROVEMENT

Manager James W. Parry today has instructions to prepare maps, diagrams and an estimate of the cost of the proposed construction of a concrete curb and gutter on Latham boulevard between Lincoln avenue and Saxon drive, following a resolution passed by the Commission Monday night at the meeting.

WATCH FOR FIRST EDITION MONDAY OF THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC "PROSPERITY DAILY"