

# Birmingham 106 Years Old; Shain Narrates Its History

Editor's Note: The following pages are read Saturday by Charles A. Shain, president of the Rotary club and former city engineer, at the dedication of the new Kings-Birmingham branch of the "History of Birmingham" around the theater occupied by the paper.

By CHARLES J. SHAIN  
To attempt to recall the history of this city in the short time allotted would be futile. I shall touch on a few points only, when

1812, the more venturesome sought, lured by the confinement and seeking new lands and a new home. To work north through the swamps of Royal Oak until they came to the green and rolling hills of Bessemer.

Here at the very feet of the hills, about 1819, settled the early families of Birmingham. Among these families were the Willets, the Merrills, the Hamiltons and the Hunters. Our interest today it might be fitting to recount the legend of the naming of our village. Tradition has it that among the early pioneers was an iron worker, presumably an Englishman who erected a foundry and made his trade here. One morning the residents of the little community were surprised to find a sign board announcing the name of the place as "Birmingham" and so it has remained although the foundry had trade here. One morning the residents of the little community were surprised to find a sign board announcing the name of the place as "Birmingham" and so it has remained although the foundry had trade here.

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**SPEAKER**



MRS. HOPE E. HALLGREN  
Mrs. Hallgren, a village commissioner, was one of the principal speakers Saturday at the dedication ceremonies of the new Kings-Birmingham theater. (See page 1.)

**ROAD REQUEST TURNED DOWN**

**Commission Refuses Pave-ment For Redding Road District**

A further request by Walsh, James & Wasey, real estate firm, for the village to reduce its paving in the Redding road district is tabled indefinitely today following the village council's meeting Monday night.

Paving was already placed in the district when it was annexed to the village five years ago. A Walsh, representing the real estate firm, said the property had been sold with the understanding that the village would make the paving.

W. Whiting Raymond, also a representative of the firm, shared the village has received \$70,000 in taxes from the district of Birmingham and that the granting of the pavement was more than right. He also said they were merely following the usual procedure in asking for the improvement.

In turning down the request it was the consensus of opinion of the commission that the village was not in a position financially to do the work and that there is no question as to whether the

**ROTARIAN ADDRESSES VILLAGE EXCHANGES**

Members of the Birmingham Exchange club were given the opportunity Tuesday noon of hearing about the recent Rotary International Convention held at Oostend, Belgium, by Charles J. Shain, president of the local Rotary club who attended the Convention. Shain, who presided at the convention, including the appearance of Rotary's only King speaker, King Albert, of Belgium, also told of conditions in England, France, and Belgium, and gave an interesting description of the Old World and its people.

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**LOOT IS SMALL IN BURGLARY**

**Sweet Tooth Robber Escapes From Store With \$10 Worth Of Candy**

Police today are working on bit cents cases which they hope will result in the arrest of the thieves who broke a lock on the door of a candy stand at Woodward and Second streets Saturday night and carried off a lot of candy valued at \$10.

George Bowman, owner, discovered the robbery Sunday morning when he opened the store. A pair of shoes and a pair of trousers were also stolen. Some of the time of the robbery, a search for the thief did not make a search for it, please say.

**MORE OCCUPY NEW BUILDING**

Several new houses for the Kings-Birmingham theater building on Woodward avenue south of the city are announced today by W. T. Whitley, Birmingham representative of the Briggs Commercial Building Company, which is the builder of the building, which moved Monday afternoon from its old site to the new site on Woodward avenue. The building, which is a four-story structure, will be ready for occupancy in about a month. The building is a fine example of modern architecture and will be a landmark in the city.

**LEGAL NOTICES**

STATE OF ALABAMA, County of the First, ss. I, the undersigned, Clerk of the said County, do hereby certify that the following is a true and correct copy of the will of the late John W. Smith, deceased, as the same appears from the records of the said County, to-wit: That the said John W. Smith, deceased, did by his last will and testament, bearing date the 15th day of January, 1927, bequeath unto the said John W. Smith, Jr., the sum of \$10,000, to be paid to the said John W. Smith, Jr., at the expiration of one year from the date of the death of the said John W. Smith, deceased, and that the said John W. Smith, Jr., is the only person named in the said will as the beneficiary of the said sum of \$10,000, and that the said John W. Smith, Jr., is the only person named in the said will as the executor of the said will.

W. T. WHITLEY, Birmingham, Ala., Attorney at Law.

**LEGAL NOTICES**

Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, is holding office in the will of the late John W. Smith, deceased, as the same appears from the records of the said County, to-wit: That the said John W. Smith, deceased, did by his last will and testament, bearing date the 15th day of January, 1927, bequeath unto the said Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, the sum of \$10,000, to be paid to the said Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, at the expiration of one year from the date of the death of the said John W. Smith, deceased, and that the said Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, is the only person named in the said will as the beneficiary of the said sum of \$10,000, and that the said Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, is the only person named in the said will as the executor of the said will.

W. T. WHITLEY, Birmingham, Ala., Attorney at Law.

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**STUDEBAKER'S ERSKINE SIX**

**1** Stop the next man or woman you see driving an Erskine Six. Ask their frank opinion of this low-priced, high-quality Six built by Studebaker. Below is what Erskine Six owners in all parts of the country replied:

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"I have owned Studebakers before and I naturally expected a great deal from the Erskine Six, but it surpassed my highest expectations. In appearance and performance it has it all over any car anywhere near its price."  
L. D. Lakeland, Florida

**Admired by Everyone**  
"People you pass on the street stop and give a second look. Am well pleased with its power plant. Drove up a mountain with a steep grade and went in high all the way."  
J. C. L., Hot Springs, Ark.

**Unequaled for the Money**  
"I don't think the Erskine can be equaled by any other car for the money. The easiest little car I ever rode in. I certainly don't have to have a very large place to turn around in."  
G. W., Orange, Mass.

**Enjoys the Hills**  
"The little Erskine certainly takes the hills easily. Climbs right up without a murmur, and seems to enjoy it. Has lots of power."  
G. E. C., Werrington, Minn.

**Prettiest on Market**  
"My personal opinion is that it is the prettiest car on the market. I believe it is the coming car, as it hugs the roads even around curves at 40 to 45 miles an hour - one feels perfectly safe in it."  
O. R. H., Charlotte, N. C.

**Performs Beautifully**  
"I owned Studebakers before and 5 months ago I resolved to take a chance on an Erskine. I always was a great gambler and I am glad I took this chance. My Erskine has gone 6,000 miles and it's a great car. It has more pep than a motorcycle and it gives me between 20 and 25 miles per gallon. The upkeep is nothing. I have had only a little service on the car and it has been all right."  
N. L., Philadelphia, Pa.

**Little Beauty**  
"I do not think that any other car on the street today has a thing on the Erskine."  
W. M. K., Freehold, N. J.

**Eastest Riding of All**  
"My Erskine is the easiest riding car of any I have ever tested. I have driven several cars, but I think none of the Erskine than any car I have ever driven."  
R. H. L., Abilene, Texas

**Best Pickup**  
"Has more pickup than any car I have ever driven."  
A. A. M., Pierre, S. Dakota

**Best Small Six on Road**  
"I honestly believe that the Erskine Six is the best little six on the road. Without a doubt it is the neatest in appearance. Its difference in body design is most pleasing."  
P. H. H., Knoxville, Tenn.

**Three Erskines in Family**  
"Yes, we have three Erskine sedans in our family. That's how good we think they are."  
N. S. D., Washington, D. C.

**Wonderful on Hills**  
"Last Sunday I made a trip to Banning, encountering some pretty stiff climbs and sharp curves. Finally I came upon a popular sedan which sells for half again as much as the Erskine, slipped around him and went up a steep hill. I guess that took the heart out of him, for I never did see any more of him. Now I am not afraid of any of them when it comes to going up a hill in high gear."  
W. H. C., Riverside, Calif.

**Stands Hard Usage**  
"I am very well pleased with my Erskine. I give it hard usage and it stands up very well."  
C. M. J., Tacoma, Wash.

**Performs Like a Charm**  
"My wife and I are more than pleased with our car. We have just returned from a trip to Florida. We had a heavy load of about 700 pounds and met plenty of Georgia mud on the return trip, but the Erskine performed like a charm."  
H. A. R., Knoxville, Tenn.

**Most Comfortable**  
"The Erskine is the most comfortable car on the road."  
E. C. S., Bellingham, Wash.

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