

The Birmingham Eclectic

PART TWO

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VILLAGE IN CABLE AREA

Telephone Co. To Spend \$2,000,000 During 1928 On New Equipment

In carrying out its plan to connect the cities of both sides of the state and intermediate points means of a long distance telephone cable, the Michigan Bell Telephone company is building at approximately 200 miles of cable, a cost of nearly \$2,000,000 during 1928, according to J. W. Whitham, manager of the company's Birmingham exchange.

When completed in 1930, the telephone highway will connect with Port Huron, Mo. (Cleveland, Bay City, Saginaw, Flint, Hills, Birmingham, Royal Oak, Detroit, Wyandotte, Trenton, Monroe, Toledo, Ann Arbor, Jackson, Battle Creek, Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids, Niles, Benton Harbor, and other points along the line of the cable, and will join the New York-Chicago-St. Louis lines. The total length of the line in Michigan will be more than 850 miles. Over parts of the state there will be parallel lines. The total ultimate cost of the project is estimated at \$10,000,000. At various points, it is connected several thousand miles of open wire toll circuits, tying in every telephone exchange in the state. More than 22,000 long distance calls are now using annually over the cable. It opens circuits of the Michigan Bell company, and by the end of 1930 it is expected that the number will be increased to 30,000. During the next two years another 200 miles of cable will be added to complete the plan. "This does not mean, however, that the Michigan Bell company will cease to build toll cables after 1930," stated Manager Tate. "Their construction will continue indefinitely. This is merely a definite plan that has been arranged, and a goal to be reached at that time. As long as the company will continue to build toll lines, it will continue to build toll lines."

A monument is to be erected to the man who invented postcards. A suitable inscription might read: "Wish you were here."

Glimpses

at and about BIRMINGHAM

By RAYMOND GIRARDIN

I give you roses, Sapphires for your hair. Wind whips cliffs On a crumpling shore Night love beats Like a victor's hammer.

These lines, anonymous by the way, caused a discussion of the same old question that has bothered people since love letters were written on a rock with a harder piece of rock. The question is "What is poetry?"

A friend assumed the pedagogical attitude for the sake of the discussion and said that the word "poetry" could have no place in a poem. Someone else said the image pleased therefore the word could be used and the lines could be poetry.

It was a yes and no discussion and I have been wondering whether or quibbles will not be like that.

People quibble over terms—art, poetry, beauty, right and wrong and a thousand others.

I hope some day to know why they talk so much.

This paragraph has to do with something remote from talks of poetry.

The place was called a night club. By it a man, things became more quiet and talk was hesitant. Two ladies next to us were having a serious talk. One told the other he was a doctor and began to diagnose. Then he prescribed and the potential patient took exception to the prescription because he did not believe the doctor was a doctor. Then the doctor prescribed that the patient go far away. He said it would be best.

Voices of the talkers became louder and a corps of waiters came on the double. They stood by to keep the boys within the bounds of respectably speaking.

The patient, who no longer was a patient but merely a very drunk man and a very hostile young man made his declaration. "I'm from

Villager Recalls First Auto Ride; Tells Of 'High Hats' On Street Cars

"I should say I do remember my first ride in a 'gasoline buggy.' That was way back in 1902 when a car ran on one cylinder and we called it a 'one lung gas buggy.' And would you believe it, we went 25 miles an hour in one of those things.

"E. L. Bailey, who has spent a great deal of his life in the home at 227 Hamilton avenue, and whose claim to distinction lies in his being a conductor on the Detroit United Railway 23 years, was speaking.

"You see," said Mr. Bailey, "it took a lot of courage to get in one of the first autos. You didn't know where you would land. I remember one of the first to take a ride in Oxford, where we were living then, was an old man. He made us young fellows who were more timid feel cheap when he got out after his ride. He considered it one of the greatest moments in his life."

WE HEARD IT SAID BY— Joe McBride, old resident of Troy Township: "I have seen Bloomfield and Troy townships change since I was born in this section. Few farms are left today; 150 dozens of stakes to which we used to tie the cattle years ago have given away to the thousands of lot stakes in the many subdivisions. The trees are gone, too. There used to be lots of elm, ash and maple trees in this section, with quite a bit of oak, but not so very much now. This part of the state never was the scene of much lumbering; most of the lumber was cut from time to time by the farmers for their own use.

FROM THE ECCENTRIC COLUMNS

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

One night last week the Birmingham corner band serenaded a juror who came very near being taken completely by surprise, but after listening to two very few well executed airs he recovered sufficiently to invite the boys in to a modest little lunch, after which the anglworms come from that cross our sidewalks? We don't know but opine that it is a sign of good fishing. Can anyone tell?

25 YEARS AGO

When the Baptist people do anything, they do it right. The next on the program is a concert by the Y. M. C. A. glee club. That and what heard so be appropriate.

IONIA AWAIT'S VILLAGE MAN

Holloway To Be Returned To State's Prison After Pontiac Jail Term

Homer Holloway, 24 years old, 606 Brown street, today is in the Oakland County jail at Pontiac serving a sentence of 90 days imposed upon him by Justice Fred B. Gordon of Ferris last Thursday when Holloway pleaded guilty to contributing to the delinquency of a minor. When his 90-day term is completed he will be returned to the Michigan Reformatory at Ionia for four years for breaking parole.

Ferris police reported yesterday Miss Lena Haire, 17 years old, 401 St. Louis avenue, Ferris, who made the complaint against Holloway was recovering from what they first believed to have been the effects of dope. She was held prisoner for three days by Holloway, the police claim, while there was a state wide search for the pair.

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SPEEDERS LEAD COURT DOCKET

Sixteen Persons Fined For Traffic Violations; Other Offenses Listed

Speeders topped the list of law violators brought before Justice Malcolm Hunt during March, according to the annual report made public today.

Nine persons paid fines totaling \$60 for this offense. Three persons were fined for reckless driving, two for passing a red signal light, two for drunkenness, and two for other minor traffic violations.

The fines totaled \$148.80. Under the state law, four persons faced the court. Two of these were for transporting liquor, one for fraud, and one for resisting an officer.

FIRE DEPARTMENT CALLED TWICE IN DAY

The fire department was called to two fires Friday. The first was at 4 p. m. and was a grass fire on the Aspen road. The property, which belonged to the village, was not damaged.

At 4:45 p. m. the department was called to Maple and Woodward where a Ford sedan, driven by Albert Lewis, 657 Jesse street, Pontiac caught fire. The damage amounted to \$10.

Try An Eccentric Classified Ad.

SCOUT PLAN IS ANNOUNCED

Boys Have Definite Schedule Arranged By Leader For Three Months

Scoutmaster Leo Billings, of Boy Scout troop 1, has evolved a plan whereby the troop will be instructed at all times of the program of coming events by means of a chart of events. The chart is now complete, and shows all events from the present time to the middle of June, when the meetings are discontinued for the summer.

The dates on the chart are as follows: April 17 Bird house contest between patrols.

April 23 Talk on birds by someone of local talent.

April 28 Bird study like with outdoor supper.

May 5 Talk in meeting of first aid, with instruction.

May 8 Nature study talk by local talent.

May 12 Nature study like, with outdoor supper.

May 15 Signaling, both International Morse and Wig-wag codes.

May 22 Talk on camping by a speaker from the Detroit Council.

May 26 Talk on archery; speaker not yet decided upon.

May 30 Decoration Day parade and exercises.

June 2, 3 Week-end hike to Col. Edwin S. George cabin at Mt. Sterling.

June 5 Talk on teeth by Dr. Fred L. Tucker, resident Boy Scout council.

June 12 Parent's night with closing festival.

June 16 Inter-patrol baseball games at Hartman field.

FINED \$15—Eldar Stevenson, 950 Devoey street, Flint, paid a fine of \$15 had decided somebody's herd of for speeding. Assessed by Justice Malcolm Hunt Thursday. The complaint was signed by Patrolman George Townsend.

X-RAY HERO HONORED—Some of the leading physicians of France assembled recently at the Saint Louis Hospital to witness the ceremony in which the Cross of the Legion of Honor was given to an X-ray machine. During that time he underwent eight surgical operations, including the amputation of his left hand, necessitated by injuries.

APRIL TERM OF COURT OPENS

Mr. Bailey came from Birmingham on Oxford in 1905 and became a conductor for the D. U. R. He has remained in service continuously.

"At first we used to run in one hour shifts," he said, referring to his duties on the street cars. "We doubled up, though, about the time the opera season opened. People were out on the street cars, silk top hats and all in street cars. We ran cars during the winter, but in the summer we ran in one or two just on the top-hats could catch the last car out of town."

"There used to be a race track—'D'—it was about 40 acres—where the Ford Motor company used to stand in Highland Park. Mr. Bailey answered in reply to a question about the appearance of the old railway between Detroit and Pontiac. "We did a rushing business, carrying race track fans who came over on Tuesdays. It was nothing like the crowds we get now when the Ford whistle blows."

Auto Spoiled Lawn—"In the summertime, we used to have a kind of lawn between and on each side of the tracks and we watered that grass like a spoiled child. The lawn was the pride of the D. U. R. We watered it all the time. We even had flowers on it. Well, along came the automobiles and with the automobiles came the dust. That dust just covered our lawn so you couldn't tell what was lawn and what was road. We couldn't do a thing about it. Roads weren't paved in those days.

"And that reminds me of another thing," he continued. "The dust those 'one lung' buggies carried along with them was a real long to remember, especially if you happened to be standing close enough to get a generous whiff in the nose and eyes. You could tell an automobile was coming miles before it reached you. First you saw a cloud of dust, and just about the time you had decided somebody's herd of for speeding, the contraption would be almost upon you and the next thing you knew, you had swallowed plenty of dust.

"That's not saying anything about the noise they made. When you heard a racket that sounded like the discharges in a kitchen were having a dance with the crockery, you could be pretty sure an automobile was somewhere near. People didn't bother much in those days about achieving that low purring of the motor. They considered themselves lucky to be going at all. Noise was no handicap to a car."

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