

The Birmingham Eclectic

PART TWO

FIFTY-FIRST YEAR—NO. 5

BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, MAY 17, 1928

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CREDIT BUREAU IS NOW OWNED BY MERCHANTS

E. W. Lackie Sells Out Interest in Organization to Businessmen's Group

DIRECTORS ARE NAMED

Birmingham merchants now own and operate their own credit bureau. A board of directors headed by Charles G. Parks, of the Parks Coal company, and including William A. Olson, of Olson's Market, as vice-president, and Dr. Fred L. Tucker, dentist, as secretary and treasurer, now manage the organization, purchased from E. W. Lackie.

Mrs. L. E. Kunkle, formerly in charge of Mr. Lackie's collection department is manager of the bureau. She is assisted by Mrs. Esther Reish, manager of the reporting division.

The credit bureau is affiliated with two national bureaus, the Retail Credit Men's association and the Credit Service Exchange, as well as the Associated Credit Bureaus of Michigan.

The managing board, consists of R. O. Maultrop, of Maultrop Lumber and Coal company, Philip Williams, of the Williams Foot Shop and Frank Mulholland, of the Mulholland Dry Goods com-

FROM THE ECCENTRIC COLUMNS—of Long Ago

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

43 YEARS AGO

Ice cream is ripe. The Misses Kroger, of St. Clair, visited the family of H. Bartels last week and had a most enjoyable time.

When you step into the post-office, now, step high; a new stone door-step in the place of the old hollowed out one makes many an upright person stumble.

Wm. Midgley is in our midst and in the past few days sank very satisfactory wells for Dr. C. M. Raynolds, Mr. Hanna and Mrs. A. D. Stuckey.

The Birmingham Eclectic started in on number one of its ninth year last week. Birmingham people should be proud that they have the Eclectic, as it "can't be beat."

As yet the legal advisors have not been appointed. The bureau will conduct credit investigations and reports, according to the plans of Mrs. Kunkle. The third week of every month the bureau will meet and report. By advance bulletins the bureau hopes to save the merchants many difficulties from professional swindlers, Mrs. Kunkle said.

WE HEARD IT SAID BY—

William Van Every, local builder: "I think that John A. Wenderph is a good fisherman. No matter what Harry S. Starr may think of Houghton Lake, I have taken many fish from its waters. And I don't believe all fishermen when they speak about fishing, either."

WOMAN HURT IN HILLS CRASH

Attempted Left-Hand Turn Ends in Mishap at Bloomfield

One woman and two men were injured in a collision of automobiles early Saturday in Bloomfield Hills. None was hurt seriously.

The woman was Miss Ann Hackman, 288 west Fifth street, Fort Wayne, Ind. She was riding with J. C. Kennell, 3115 Highland avenue, Fort Wayne, when their car was struck by a truck driven by Herman Willis, 629 Lakar street, Detroit.

Two unidentified men riding in the rear of the truck were said by police to have been injured and taken to their homes in Fort Wayne. The truck was driving north on Woodward avenue when struck, he told Hills police. He said he gave a signal to turn to the left but was struck before he started to turn.

25 YEARS AGO

"Catch the sunshine, catch it quickly. It is passing rapidly away; The week's bill is due today."

And age the small boy (?) hunched the festive frog both for pleasure and profit.

Ice cream Saturday night on the lawn by the Exchange bank. Price 5c and 10c.

Business is like fishing. If you don't keep your hooks baited and all your lines out, you don't get any bites.

Mrs. McDonald, of Lexington, was a welcome guest of her sister, Mrs. Elmer Munro, last week and to say the ladies had a good time don't explain half.

Wixom Bros. circus, which shows here on Tuesday, May 26, has no recommendation from other communities for this work.

Will "Rasty" Wright of Grand Rapids, has been town "shaking" his many old friends. "Rasty" is waxing wealthy in the second city and we are all glad of it.

A nightingale on Maple avenue singing sweet songs all the night long, so say the dwellers of this beautiful thoroughfare.

Mrs. Hendricks entertained folks from the city the past two Sundays. Mrs. Robinson and children, Bert Shug and wife and young lady friend.

REALTY BOARD HEARS EXPERT ON BUSINESS

General Motors Sales Executive Urges Understanding Of Details

CHALK TALK IS GIVEN

At the regular monthly meeting of the Birmingham Real Estate board held last Monday night at the Lone Pine Inn, B. G. Koether, director of sales section of the General Motors corporation, was the guest of honor and principal speaker.

Which was introduced by L. E. Colgrove, of Colgrove, Buck & Tillotson, who were in charge of the program for the evening.

Mr. Koether made an intensely interesting talk, dwelling on the necessity of knowing every detail of one's business and backing it up by an intimate illustration of conditions in every county and city in the United States.

With this knowledge of local crop and trade conditions, an accurate record of all new car registrations in each locality, General Motors is able to estimate the market for the immediate future with a knowledge which seldom fails, and advise the various American dealers on the number of cars they should market in the immediate future.

He urged his hearers to know the detail of their business as his experience of 27 years in the business world had proved that this was the key to success in any business large or small. He asked for co-operation among the various individuals in every line of business.

In addition to Mr. Koether, Eero Saarinen, art student made an interesting chalk talk, cartooning some of the members of the Real Estate board and their guests.

BALER WORKS OVERTIME

New Equipment Kept Busy During Cleanup Week; Found Successful

The new baler and shears recently purchased by the village for the disposal of refuse here is up to expectations today, according to Village Manager James W. Henry.

Installed on the village property at the east end of Hamilton street at a cost of \$1,200, the apparatus is being worked overtime because of the annual clean-up, under way here for the past two weeks.

The purchase was made after a survey of equipment used in other communities for this work. Birmingham has no suitable dumping ground for rubbish, said Mr. Barry, and machines which will utilize the waste seemed advisable.

Two men can operate the machines and although during the clean up period they are kept running constantly, at a normal time they will probably run not more than three or four hours a week, Mr. Barry said.

Aluminum, brass and copper are sold separately, only tin going into the baler where it is compressed into cube shaped wads. They are sold to junk dealers and later are used in the manufacture of cheap grades of cast iron.

The shearer is used for cutting up scrapes of tin for light baling. Both of these machines are run independently by motor. In their disposal of rubbish the village also sells all marketable bottles.

Telephone History Linked With Village Development

Lighting from a train at the Birmingham station in 1883, a dusty stranger made his way to the village and asked for J. three subscribers. A couple of years as manager satisfied Mr. Whitehead and he resigned. How- ever he had a hard job getting rid of the equipment, and after threatening to "bear the thing out by the roots," he succeeded in transferring it to the grocery store of Austin R. Parks, who then became manager.

A competing company was formed about that time, but growth was slow and it failed and retired from the field. For a short time Volney Nixon was (Continued on Page 3, Part 2)

COMPANY SEES GROWTH OF 12,500 IN 1928

An increase of 12,500 in the next 16 years in Birmingham is the forecast of the Michigan Bell Telephone company in figures released today. The company is planning on a population of 24,000 in 1944.

and I have a proposition to place before you."

This conversation is taken from a letter by Mr. Bigelow to George H. Mitchell, in 1909; and describes in detail the historical occasion when the telephone came to Birmingham. Sherman's proposition was to interest the uninterested Bigelow in the history of the exchange, and in the files of the Telephone company, according to J. W. Tatham, local manager for the Michigan Bell company.

Before Sherman had an opportunity to repeat to the village, Bigelow, who sounded like the vigorous crowing of a rooster in the new telephone situation, the crowing, however, was only a signal between two young men, Almon Whitehead and George Mitchell, the former employed in the postoffice and the latter in a store across the way. Between them they had rigged up a tin can-bladder type of telephone, and when they desired to converse with one another they signaled by imitating the rooster's crow.

Company Started

"Well," replied Sherman, with a smile, after the device had been explained, "you are the man I want to talk to I guess." Then he proceeded to interest Bigelow in the new telephone line being projected from Detroit, through Royal Oak, in Birmingham, and thence on to Pontiac and north. It was a big undertaking, and Sherman was endeavoring to interest the people in the village, either in taking stock in the newly formed company or in buying coupon books, which could be dealt out in trade after the exchange had been established. A line connecting Detroit and Port Huron had been built and was operating successfully.

Bigelow was interested, and together the two set out to sell the telephone idea of the village. Ira Slade, a commission merchant, was the first subscriber, with G. A. Watkins, life insurance man and Sheldahl pony breeder, the second. The Cooper Street farm, a half mile north of the village, was the third subscriber, and the change list hit Birmingham. The card switchboard was placed under the supervision of Mr. Bigelow and was located in his store and postoffice.

Several years later Whitehead

YOUTHS NAB SUSPECT IN STREET CHASE

High School Boys Catch Man After Alleged Attempted Swindle

Captured by two high school students after a chase on Woodward avenue Thursday, Thomas Kelly, no fixed address, is in the Oakland County jail today serving part of a 25 day sentence. Justice Floyd S. Buck imposed the sentence when Kelly pleaded guilty to a disorderly charge made by W. R. Thomas, of the Wesley Market, 111 north Woodward ave. (Concluded on Page 5, Part 2)

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