

**Help! Police!**

A half century ago in Birmingham a shrill "Help, Help, Police!" might and might not have brought results, with the odds in favor of the negative conditional. Emergencies requiring the aid of police were exceedingly rare; so were the police.

"... Drive your buggy as fast as you please in the old days," sighed a veteran who now "steps on the gas." "Never have to worry about some hard-boiled cop pulling alongside with a mean grin on his face and a ticket in his hand. Wish Nick Mooney was the arm of the law again."

Sole rights of exercising police power in the village of half a century ago went with the privilege of wearing a shiny town marshal's badge. The reimbursement for the job was fittle or nothing, the hours for work uncertain and subject to convenient arrangement, and the police station wasn't. In spite of these ostensible handicaps the stern champion of peace seemed always available at crucial moments, although this test was rarely made because of the lack of such moments.

'Old Timers' will remember such famous figures as will be recalled by mention of some former incumbents as marshal here: Charley Mudge, Jim Beatty, George Fay, Harvey Hedding, Dick Lake, one Baker, Mack Hunt, Webb Bray, George Toms, Charley (Red) Smith, Nick Mooney and Flying Dan Bray.

Jim Beatty, huge of stature, will be remembered in connection with Birmingham's only first class shooting which resulted in the extermination of one burglar discovered in Ed Poppleton's house together with a narrow escape for Ed whose hair was virtually parted by one of the intruder's bullets before he was finally shot. Jim took expert charge of the turmoil on the following day, and arranged to have the dead man on display.

Jim has other feathers in his cap. His arrest of a watch thief about to board a train at the local depot was spectacular, to say nothing of its indication of Jim's prowess as detective.

In the early days the office of town marshal was frowned upon by the village council. Once, when Almeron Whitehead was on the board, a circus was opening in Pontiac. Aware of the danger from vagrants invariably following circuses, Whitehead suggested the appointment of a night watchman in Birmingham. In spite of all arguments the board voted against such a needless expenditure of money, but Whitehead was certain of the necessity of such a guardian. George Fay offered to do the work for a dollar a night. The board fumed at the price of safety, and refused to appropriate so. Whitehead, with the courage of conviction, paid George his dollar a night. Fay held the post for some little time, and was finally recognized as an institution by the board members, who agreed to retain him regularly. His work began with darkness and concluded with the opening of Alec Park's store at daylight.

Of later years in Birmingham's crime wave perhaps the mention of a near murder, or at least what might have been a murder may suffice. Nick Mooney, well known resident today, was the town marshal at the time. A man in the southern limits of the village returned from Detroit with his wife to find the front porch of his residence splashed with blood. Murder was, of course, the answer, while to find the murderer and murderer was the problem. Nick took over the problem end of the case and investigated diligently, only to find all clues ineffectual. Two or three days later a man told Nick he was passing the mystery shrouded home, had seen a racoon on the porch and had killed it with a club, taking the dead animal away with him. Birmingham sighed with relief. The police were (or was) pleased.

# We Believe

—in this community, in its growth and prosperity. We pledge our co-operation to its forward looking enterprises and to YOU, its citizen.

We expect to grow greater year by year—and to grow by serving.

Probably this is the bank YOU need for your success.

# History

The First State Savings bank was incorporated in 1908 and at the time had two employes (Mr. Hagerman and Mr. Cobb). Each succeeding year brought greater growth until in 1917 new and larger quarters were needed. An old building on the present site served the needs of the institution until 1926. Two years ago the splendid building now serving the bank was built and fittingly dedicated. Today the First State Savings Bank has 16 workers in its employ.

*Capital:*

Nov. 2, 1908	\$ 20,000
Feb. 26th, 1916	\$ 40,000
June 21st, 1920	\$100,000
Dec. 31st, 1926	\$200,000

*Resources:*

Dec. 31st, 1915	\$ 568,088.34
Dec. 31st, 1920	\$1,526,520.53
Dec. 31st, 1925	\$2,484,849.78
Apr. 20th, 1928	\$3,201,160.93

## FIRST STATE SAVINGS BANK

BIRMINGHAM

MICHIGAN

*Officers:*

FRANK HAGERMAN, *President*  
 THOMAS H. COBB, *Vice-President*  
 ARTHUR C. PECK, *Cashier*  
 ROBERT C. PECK, *Assistant Cashier*  
 BERNARD A. SHROCK, *Assistant Cashier*

*Directors:*

THOMAS H. COBB    ARTHUR C. PECK  
 FRANK HAGERMAN    ROBERT C. PECK  
 W. B. HARRIS    HARRY W. RAINY  
 W. W. MASTERS,    FRANK SCHUMACK  
 FRANK J. MAURICE    T. B. SMITH  
 A. L. MOSES    J. C. STAHL, JR.