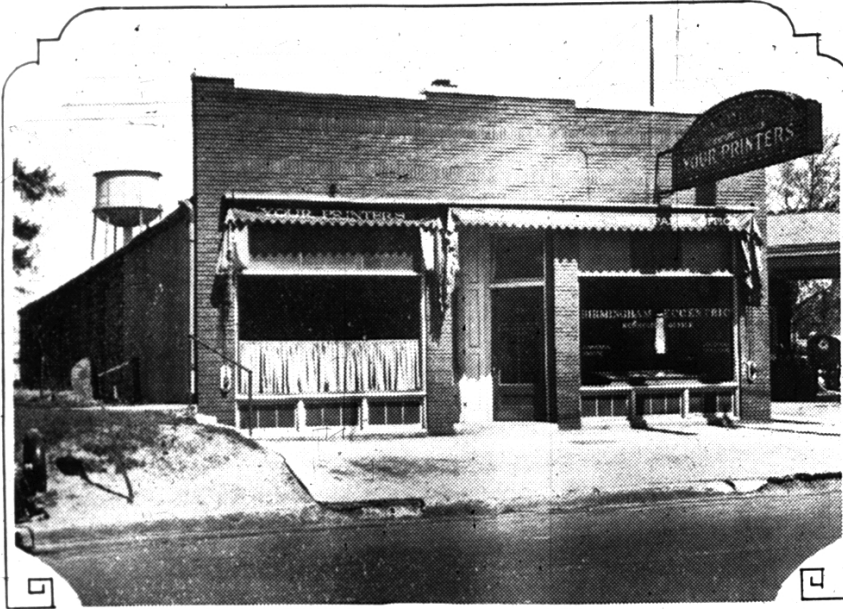


# The Eccentric-- Now and Then



Above is the home of The Birmingham Eccentric, the largest combined newspaper and job printing plant in Oakland County and perhaps the largest office and plant of its kind in the state. On the left may be seen the office of The Eccentric 25 years ago. It was then in the Majestic building on west Maple avenue. In this picture the Shain drug store then housed in the building erected by J. A. Bigelow may be seen on the left.

## 'YER OUT—

"Yer Out!" was a relatively new expression in the Birmingham of 50 years ago, but it was fully as decisive a term in diamond vernacular as it is today.

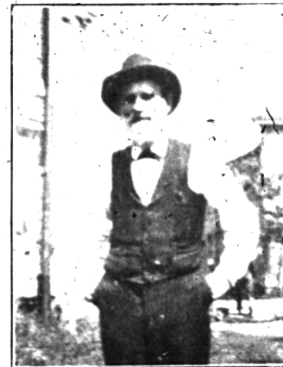
In the early '70's Birmingham organized her first baseball team. Interest in the new sport had taken a firm hold upon a half dozen of the younger generation in the village, and with a few back lot practice sessions the number was sufficiently augmented to fill all bases and put the average assortment of players in the field. Among the most enthusiastic the names of George Mitchell, Till Trowbridge, Frank Allen and Steven Trowbridge stand foremost.

After several days of desperate endeavor in teaching the novices the bare fundamentals of the game, a few of the more seasoned players decided that competition was the "sine qua non" in their path to championship laurels. Games were finally scheduled with Rochester and Royal Oak teams, and the nameless nine went out to war.

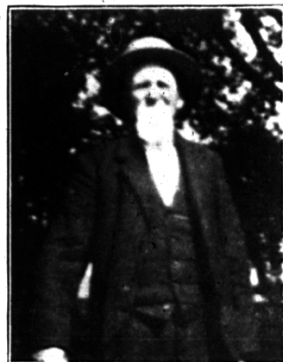
Riding into Rochester early one afternoon to take care of a scheduled combat with that village's proud team, the Birmingham nine, all crowded upon a rig behind a single horse, felt the crying need for food. Hence, when an inquisitive Rochester citizen hailed them and said, "What team is that?" it was quite natural for one of the Birmingham boys to reply, "We are the Hungry Nine from Birmingham!"

The name stuck for many years—years in which county championships or near championships came often as feathers in the caps of Birmingham's first baseball team the Hungry Nine.

## Remember?



LYMAN G. PEABODY



JOHN BALDWIN

## A Woman With Civic Pride

Of the many conspicuous characters in Birmingham village life during the last 50 years, perhaps Miss Martha Baldwin holds one of the most prominent places in the historical spotlight. The accompanying photograph is a typical one, according to persons who remember her, for Miss Baldwin, or "Mattie" as she was familiarly known, was most often seen riding around in her carriage, with a sharp eye alert for means of further beautifying village property.

Her interest in civic development of every nature was unbounded. She was influential in the forming of many civic societies and associations in the community, among which were the Ladies' Library association, and the Ladies' Cemetery association. To each of these interests Miss Baldwin devoted no small amount of her time and money with the result that she was loved by all Birmingham.

"Mattie's" creed called for a scrupulously clean village, and it was no unusual sight to see her dismount from her carriage, pick up a tin can or a bit of paper, throw it into the back of the vehicle, and drive along. She was instrumental in influencing the town board to pass several ordinances relative to the enhancement of the village's natural beauty. Through her efforts it was a violation of law to tie a horse to a shade tree, which would jeopardize the survival of the bark. Mattie once had a Methodist preacher



arrested for such an offense. Discovering that residents were particularly careless about throwing waste papers into the street she had large wire baskets placed about the town as receptacles, and to further assure immaculate cleanliness, hired, "Paddy" Wilson, cemetery sexton as general clean-up man.

Birmingham owes much to Miss Baldwin for her unflinching interest in virtually every phase of village life in years gone by.

(Continued from Page 17) Ten years later and after lively battles came the inauguration of

the water works and then a fire tower and the first fire department of volunteers. Then the start of the library.

The first newspaper in Birmingham was The Eccentric founded in 1878.

So goes the history of the ideal residential community. The Birmingham of the days of John Hunter has become the village of contentment and left to their heirs has leaped in value with the construction of the Woodward avenue superhighway which connects Birmingham with Detroit 17 miles to the south and with Pontiac 8 miles to the north.