WHY THEY WERE HAPPY HERE

50 YEARS AGO

No Progressive Movements. No ambitious women and mad drifters. No real estate booms. No social classes. The fact that a lady did not marry by like a fine engine. No traffic police. No political parties. No Woodward avenue controversy. No street fighting amongst. No radios, world series ball games, trans-Atlantic flyers. No newspaper with screaming headlines. Crime waves of bobbed hair detectives. No bobbed hair at all. No discussion amongst women smoking cigarettes, wearing short suits, driving cars. No bridge, tennis, golf enthusiasts or persons gone crazy on a bigger and better way. No parking problems, companionship of delinquent teams. No cross-word puzzles, people who imitated dope addicts not who thought it smart to use the word 'hawk.'

No Progressive Movements. No cigarette ads testifying that Babe Ruth would stand on his hands and knees for 74 miles to have some blouse of his way. Cigarettes, on the other hand, that guaranteed 48 severe and body shaking back's to every backboard. No young intellectuals, futurist painters. No pretensions of the house. No jazz music, not jokes about politics. And the Scotman.

No Progressive Movements. No dependable alarm clocks. No wire from the department on the Telephone company. No cafeteria.

No stories heard from a traveling salesman.

No collar ad men, every billboard, stories of the World War or something similar.

No Anniversary Editions. No Progressive Movements.

The Birmingham Eccentric received its name from the fact that when in view of the Birmingham and they in turn took the name from a club in one of June Veere's novels. These three people are, bottom row, left to right: Frank Randall, Hattie K. Chadwick, Mrs. I. Whitehead, John F. Alger, Millard Randall, top row. Wilham Smith, D. H. Bynum, and, third from left, Mrs. Mitchell, Elen L. Parker, and Walter North. The picture was taken in about 1879.

A TEMPERANCE PLEDGE

A pledge I make, no wine to take. Nor brandy, rum, that turns the head.

Nor whisky hot, that makes the average man.

Nor teet, rum, that runs the town.

Nor will I sit by drinking guns.

Hard cider, too, will never do.

Nor wiser, give, my heart to you.

Nor sparkling ale, my face to face.

I proclaim this to the world to bring.

Cold water from the well of life.

So here I pledge perpetual hate To all that can intoxicate.

Selected from "Dr. Chas.'s, The Book for the Million" 1887.

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TOWNSHIP TAX SHOWS CHANGE.

A comparison of the tax roll of old Bloomfield Township with the almost soaring figures which represent the cost of running the township in recent years should bring a gleam to the eyes, and perhaps a wish for much, much greater economy in taxation method to Bloomfield's present day residents.

During the past 50 years, according to a carefully preserved tax roll of 1842 found in the township office here Bloomfield, assessed valuation had hopped from $14,750 to more than $500,000, while the tax rate halved in the original one half.

The fine old handwriting of Richard Rich, Bloomfield Township supervisor in 1842, a total of 29 residents who owned property described and appraised in the age-yellowed document. On the last page of the roll the tax of these 29 are arranged in a sort of alphabetically, and at the bottom of the array of figures comes the grand total of $1,1572.42. State and county de- mand added $869.15; and the total roll is $1,166.58.

Today the total is only very large property dollar mark.

It must be remembered however, that most of the land in Bloomfield Township in 1842 was still government owned and therefore not assessable. Land grants, however, were not unsually enormous wilds, and it was unusual to find farmers with many hundreds of acres. At this time the population was estimated at 18,000 to 18,100, together with an annual property roll of $8,836,000 being to frontage at $1000 per frontage.

Under Mr. 1852 tax rolls, the tax rate was about $2.22 per thousand, and the levy was more according to total assessed valuation. Today the rate is about $5 per thousand on a somewhat lower assessment basis.