

The Birmingham Eccentric

PART FOUR

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STATE TO PAY \$1,500,000.00 FOR RAILWAY

Grand Trunk Project Cost Will Be Given Back In 15 Years

TO RETURN CHARTER

Construction of the railroad for the Grand Trunk system between Birmingham and Royal Oak, will cost the state \$1,500,000, according to state officials in the first accurate estimate on the total outlay required to complete the project. All other funds spent by the state in acquiring right-of-way and building the new road bed, will be returned by the Grand Trunk in 15 annual installments.

However, the cost of a million per mile to the taxpayers is of little monetary consideration in comparison to the financial benefits to be derived after the project has been completed and paid for by the railroad, Kit Clardy, declares. For at the end of 15 years the Grand Trunk will surrender its almost tax-free charter and will pay taxes thereafter of more than \$250,000 a year instead of only \$25,000 a year.

In effect, the state will be paying \$1,500,000 in order to increase its revenue at least \$250,000 a year. Before construction was started the various estimates ranged from \$3,000,000 to \$7,000,000 and more.

Officials were able to make this first definite estimate of the cost of the project to the taxpayers because work has reached a point where Kit P. Clardy, assistant attorney-general in charge of the undertaking, was able to state definitely that the total outlay required will not be more than \$6,000,000. Before construction was started the various estimates ranged from \$3,000,000 to \$7,000,000 and more.

General O. B. Fuller show that \$3,750,000 has been withdrawn so far from the treasury to meet the cost of the railroad construction and right-of-way. Clardy says there is another \$1,250,000 will be necessary.

All the money used to be returned to the state without interest after the Grand Trunk has taken possession of its new line. In the meantime, the law requires the highway department to pay interest on the money, which is being borrowed from the sinking fund to retire the state highway bonds. As the interest rate is 4-10 per cent, the cost of this item over the 15-year period will total about \$1,500,000, if Clardy is correct in predicting the project can be completed for \$5,000,000. The interest will not be returned by the Grand Trunk.

Most of the \$3,750,000 spent to date has gone for right-of-way. There are three more parcels of land still to be condemned and the state has yet to reach settlements with owners of property adjacent to the railroad's new tracks. The additional cost depends entirely upon the total amount of these settlements, which have been ordered by the supreme court.

Clardy believes that because of a rapid transit system, the Grand Trunk will inaugurate when the new line has been taken over, property values in the district will be increased, rather than damaged by the presence of the railroad. If Oakland circuit court commissioners agree with him, the outlay required to meet these settlements will not be great. There are 7,000 subdivision lots affected.

Clardy next week, will file answers to three suits now pending before Judge De Witt H. Merriam in the Wayne circuit court. He will ask dismissal on the grounds that all questions before the court already have been settled by the supreme bench.

The assistant attorney-general

Ice Changes "Piety Hill" Into Toboggan

Woodward avenue north of Birmingham Thursday morning resembled a frozen-over river, and the traffic on it looked like a slow motion picture. Automobiles seemed to be creeping along, and to one accustomed to watching them whiz by at a breathless rate, the contrast was very funny indeed.

Police chiefs of Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Royal Oak and Ferndale reported that there were no serious accidents, although there were occasional traffic tie-ups and some rather humorous happenings as a result of the ice. The hill on North Woodward avenue in Birmingham between 8 and 10 a. m. proved a Waterloo for many automobiles, buses and trucks, which, after coasting down sideways at varying speeds, experienced difficulty in climbing up again.

Danger spots in Bloomfield Hills, according to Chief William Putman were on Long Lake Road at the Bloomfield Hill Club, where there is a dangerous curve in the hill, and on the Lone Pine Hill at Christ Church. Accidents here as elsewhere were averted, however, despite many skidding machines. A great deal of danger was eliminated on Woodward avenue by the wise action of Chief Putman in fixing the traffic signals at yellow, so that vehicles were not compelled to run the risk of trying to stop unnecessarily. As it happened, motorists were compelled to stop frequently to scrape the ice on their windshields, which formed as soon as the rain struck.

One faithful commuter, who has been making daily trips into Detroit for years, reports that she waited in the rain for 15 minutes for a bus under the protection of an umbrella, and when the bus came along, she couldn't fold up the umbrella, because it was frozen stiff.

Recalls Similar Storm "This ice storm recalls a similar one of five years ago," she said. "I have to climb a winding hill to get to Woodward, which ordinarily takes five minutes. But this particular day, the hill was a sheet of ice, and I literally had to crawl along it to get up, using my hands as much as my feet. After 15 minutes of struggling, when I had nearly gained the top, I dropped a school book which I had to have that day. It slid all the way to the bottom of the hill and some distance beyond. There was nothing to do but go back after it."

Another commuter reported an amusing incident in Ferndale. The bus, in which he was riding, had to stop for a traffic signal. Repeated efforts on the part of the driver to start it were of no avail, whereupon, all the men in the bus got out and pushed. This was successful but after the bus was started, the driver was afraid to stop it again. The men ran after it and jumped aboard, one by one. The fat man, of course, being the last.

AWARDED DAINTY PRIZE Frank Hill and William Spence today are the proud possessors of a dainty nursing set for dolls, the "dainty prize" they were awarded at the regular luncheon meeting of the Gynophytes Friday at the Community House. Thomas Mills was awarded the first prize. The next meeting, Dec. 20, will be under the direction of Willoughby Dell.

Squirrels seeking winter homes in attics have cut through the roofs of more than a score of residences in Evanston, Ill. declared today that the railroad project will be completed next summer, four years after it was authorized by a special session of the legislature. The Grand Trunk will then begin repaying the state in 16 equal installments, the first of which will be due a year from this month.

IT'S CHRISTMAS TIME

AT THE

Open Evenings

for

Your Convenience!

L. E. Davidson
BIRMINGHAM DEPARTMENT STORE
Birmingham's Foremost Store

Shop Early

for

Best Service!

Practical Gift Suggestions For Men!



Interwoven Socks

No man ever has too many pairs of socks, and if you select Interwoven Hosiery you're sure to meet with his approval on Christmas morning.

50c to \$1.50

Superba Ties

Hundreds of ties in solid colors and varied patterns in all the desired silks are offered in this great selling. It's your chance for gift giving.

\$1 to \$3



The Thoughtful Giver Includes Hosiery



Just look over the stunning assortment of gift hosiery and see how delightfully you can fill a dozen items on your Christmas list. From your own experience you know that nothing is appreciated more. All the newest shades.

95c to \$2.95

10% less by the box

- Adler Gloves \$1.95 to \$5.95
- Scarfs \$1.95 to \$4.95
- Stetson Hats \$8.50 and \$10
- Melton Hats \$5 and \$7
- Bradley Sweaters \$3.95 to \$10.95
- Radio Coats \$9.50 and \$11.50

For The Children!

- Leggings \$1.00 to \$4.95
- Berets 95c
- Sheepskin Coats \$8.95
- Corduroy Jackets \$5.85
- Cord'oy Knickers \$2.85
- 4-pc. Suits . . . \$13.50 and \$16.50
- Overcoats . . . \$5.95 to \$14.95
- Belts 50c

Gift Lingerie



Gifts Dainty and Delightful

Gift Wrappings!

Dainty tissue wrappings with ribbon bows and your card within . . . your gift postpaid free anywhere in the U. S. A. Use this complimentary service and save your own time and money.

Here is an opportunity to select lovely gift things that will have a cordial reception. Sheer crepe, chiffon, and triple voile in the newest patterns and all the smart new delicate shades.

Practical Gift Suggestions For Men!

Manhattan Shirts

Broadcloths and madras are here in collar-to-match, neckband and collar attached styles. Solid colors or patterns, by Manhattan.

\$2 to \$5



Lounging Robes

A lounging robe . . . what every man wants at the close of the day. There are many good looking ones here in soft wool or silk.

\$10.50 to \$25

- Manhattan Pajamas \$2.50 to \$7.50
- Linen Handk'ts 50c
- Hickok Belts \$1 to \$3
- Leather Coats \$13.50 to \$25
- Billfolds \$1
- Luggage \$4.95 to \$29.50

For The Children!

- Girls' Coats \$5.95 to \$25
- Brother & Sister Suits . . \$1.95
- Leather Coats . . . \$10 to \$19.50
- Leather Gloves . \$1.50 & \$1.95
- Wool Gloves . . . 25c to \$1.25
- Sweater Sets . . . \$3.95 to \$6.95
- Sweater Suits \$3.95

Visit Our Lingerie Section

The very things you have thought you'd like to give, if they weren't so high you'll find in our Lingerie Section so reasonably priced . . . Pajamas, negligees, sets . . . a lovely selection.

Gift Certificates!

If you are in doubt about a certain gift for a certain person, play safe with a Gift Certificate. We have them in all denominations. The recipient comes here and makes his own selection.

The House that Jack Built

We have some very nice homes for sale now at very attractive prices. Will consider good Birmingham vacant and small amount cash as down payment.

J. E. BURRIS

BUILDER
BIRMINGHAM

Phones 1514-1757

845 Pierce St.

Under The

- Phillipine Gowns . . . 95c to \$3.95
- Silk Nightgowns \$3.95 to \$13.50
- Rayon Pajamas . . . \$1.95
- Silk Pajamas . . . \$6.95 to \$15
- Silk Step-ins . \$1.95 to \$3.95
- Rayon Vests \$1
- Rayon Bloomers . . \$1
- Silk Negligees . \$4.95 to \$35
- Quilted Robes . . . \$7.95 to \$25
- Bathrobes \$5.95

Gift Tree

- Silk Slips . \$1.95 to \$7.50
- Kid Gloves . \$2.45 to \$5.95
- Fabric Gloves . . \$1 to \$1.85
- Scarfs . . . \$1.95 to \$4.95
- Bags . . . \$1.95 to \$18
- Coolie Coats . . . \$4.95
- Fitted Cases . . . \$7.50 to \$35
- Jewelry . . . \$1 to \$5.95
- Handkerchiefs . . . 25c to \$1.25
- Parasols \$3.95 to \$12.50
- Leather Coats . . \$16.95