



Completion GGGS BUILDING

have a 17-foot ceiling height.

Occupying the corner location will be the Economical Drug Company; an arcade store adjoining will be occupied by the Birmingham Department Store; the F. W. Woolworth Company will occupy the next store; while the Piggly-Wiggly organization have chosen the store to the southward.

The new Briggs Building is an indication of the future of the retail center . . . influenced by the Wider Woodward avenue, the coming of Rapid Transit, and the fact that Birmingham's population has doubled in five years. The new Briggs Building foreshadows a growth certain to come to the village of Birmingham with its many advantages.

available space
upon request.

GGGS

Development Company
Randolph 1870

FIRST VILLAGE LIBRARY WAS ON NEW BRIGGS SITE

A \$200,000 business block stands today on a spot made historical by Birmingham pioneers. It is the Briggs Birmingham building at east Maple and Woodward avenues a two story structure complete in every detail necessary to the modern business block.

Five well-stocked stores, featuring merchandise found only in a metropolis, now stand ready to attract shopping villagers. On a second story modern, attractively furnished office house various business concerns.

A few months ago this was the site of one of the most historical landmarks in the village, the old library building. Until 1927 the old city covered red brick building housed the village offices, the police and fire departments as well as the few volumes which then comprised Birmingham's library.

Was Village Landmark
The very bricks in the Old Library Hall which for more than 25 years served as the center of village activities represented the community spirit of the village when villagers made their donations in building materials rather than money. Even the purchase of the lot meant months of struggle for the \$1,500 price attached to the property in 1894. Recently the land was sold to the Briggs company for nearly \$100,000.

Shoe sales, Mother Goose socials, plays were given in those strenuous years of activity to raise money for the purchase of the lot. Finally the members of the library society made their final payment on their lot and offered it to the village as a civic site, but the village fathers were not interested. Not until the dauntless women of the library society threatened to put up a sheet iron structure on the site to serve as a temporary library did the villagers take notice and grudgingly agree to help in the building of a library.

Was Struggle in 1895
So those pioneers struggled until Dec. 1895 saw the completion of the building at a total construction cost of \$4,500. Nearly \$2,500 of this sum was loaned by Miss Martha Baldwin one of the most enthusiastic workers, and the person for whom the present library was named.

But the struggle was not over. For years members of the library society worked diligently staging benefits for their building and its equipment. Until 1907 when the Ladies' Library society turned the property over to the village the building remained the private property of the group.

Even from that date the growth of the library was gradual. The building was supported by a half mill tax which proved inadequate for any marked expansion. Event-

ually the police and fire departments and village offices came to be housed there. Here they remained until 1927. Today a municipal building located in the civic center replaces this old landmark as a nucleus of village activity, while the library is housed in the new Baldwin Public Library on Martin street.

BUILDING REPORT SHOWS INCREASE

An indication of Birmingham's rapid growth in building construction during 1929 is revealed in the November report of Donald C. Ebers, building inspector, issued today. Comparative statistics of the value of new buildings listed with his department show an increase of \$158,414 up to Dec. 1. During the past month five permits were issued for residential and commercial buildings and 20 were issued for private garages and miscellaneous structures. While this number is a decided decrease from those issued in previous months it is a representative number issued at this time of year.

Two commercial buildings permisses for structures valued at \$18,500 were issued, a double residence valued at \$9,000 and two single resident valued at \$23,000 are also planned, it is indicated by the permits issued.

Sub-Contractors and Supply Companies for the NEW BRIGGS BUILDING

- Lath and Plaster
 - Roofing
 - Tile and Terrazzo
 - Painting
 - Plumbing, Heating, Ventilating
 - Stokers
 - Erecting Steel Joists
 - Membrane Waterproofing
 - Gravel and Sand
 - Electrical Work
 - Cement
 - Lumber
 - Brick
- E. R. Surridget Inc.
 - Michigan Roofing Co.
 - Detroit Tile & Mosaic Co.
 - Henry A. Lesson
 - Ralph Peckham
 - Detroit Stoker Co.
 - Rylands-Weir Construction Co.
 - Michigan Roofing Co.
 - Manning & Locklin
 - Ainge Electrical
 - R. C. Moulthrop Lumber Co.
 - Mellen & Wright Lumber Co.
 - Michigan Pressed Brick Co.

F. W. Woolworth Co.

5c & 10c Store

Will Open Soon

at

129-131 S. Woodward Ave.

in the

NEW BRIGGS BUILDING

— Watch —

The Birmingham Eccentric
for Opening Date



Progressive Birmingham
can't help but feel

PROUD
of the New Briggs Building

Piggly Wiggly

is
Elated to Become
a Member
of the

Birmingham Family

"Progressive Merchandising For a
Progressive City"

Our New Store Will Open

Sat. Dec. 7, 1929

in the

Briggs Bldg. - 145 So. Woodward

A CARNATION FREE TO EVERY VISITOR

Quality Meats - Fancy Groceries

PIGGLY WIGGLY