All anybody possesses is CONSCIOUSNESS and TIME; material possessions are mere pieces of baggage, capable of being lost on the broad highways of life. Think HAPPINESS.

The Birmingham Eccentric

22 PAGES, PART 1

FIFTY-FIRST YEAR—NO. 39 | BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 1929. | $1.50 PER YEAR—SINGLE COPIES 5c

SOUTHFIELD EXTENSION IS UNDER STUDY

County, Village Officials Offer Substitute For Wayne Plan

PLANNER IS CONSULTED

Plans proposed last Thursday by the Detroit Rapid Transit commission, through its engineer, Major John P. Hallihan, to make a 204-ft superhighway of Southfield avenue through Birmingham, from west Maple avenue to a point on the Adams road at Wattles road, were opposed by village and county officials. As an alternative Village President H. T. Ellerby and County Road Commissioners Isaac Bond and Luther D. Allen, as well as County Road Engineer Leon V. Belknap, proposed the continuation of Southfield avenue, as a 120-ft. road, from a point at Lincoln avenue, along the River Rouge to Lakeside drive, along the west side of Quarton Lake to Quarton road, thence east on Quarton road to a continuation of Kensington road to the new grade crossing established at Adams and Big Beaver roads.

Besides Birmingham and county road commission officials, there were representatives from other southern Oakland County communities, as well as State Highway Commissioner Frank P. Rogers and his assistant, Grover C. Dillman. The meeting was held in the office of the Wayne County road commission.

Would Cause Removal

"At present, Southfield avenue is a dedicated 204-ft. highway up to Lincoln avenue in Birmingham, and the proposal to make it 204-feet through Birmingham's park system and the Rouge valley east of Woodward avenue at Ravine road would not only ruin Birmingham's park area, but would necessitate the removal of many homes," stated Village President Ellerby. "For that reason Oakland County road officials, as well as we of Birmingham, opposed the project, and suggested the 120-ft. alternative plan.

"This latter plan would branch Southfield avenue off at Lincoln avenue, along the River Rouge to Lakeside avenue, to Quarton road, and east on Quarton road to Adams road at Big Beaver road. This highway would be of the boulevard type, and would prohibit trucks going over it; the trucks can be sent east to Woodward avenue."

Planner Consulted

Definite plans for determining an outlet for Southfield avenue, however, will be delayed until Birmingham obtains the recommendations of its recently hired planner, Arthur C. Comey, within the next two or three weeks, Mr. Ellerby said. Expense of either project would be shared by the state, county, and village.

Southfield avenue, originating in Lincoln Park, Detroit, is looked upon by the Wayne-Oakland County (Super-Highway commission, a group of road commissioners from both counties authorized by the 1925 Legislature to study mutual transporation problems, as a great relief artery for the west side of Detroit.

BABY BOYS LEADING NEW YEAR'S LIST

Jerre Robert Maynard is Birmingham's first baby born in 1929, if all reports are true. Jerre was born last Thursday at the Grace hospital, in Detroit, and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John D. Maynard, of 525 Forest avenue. Mrs. Maynard was Miss Harriet Muhlitner, of St. Clair.

Two days later came the announcement of Birmingham's second 1929 baby, another boy. He is James Arnold Berndt, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Berndt, of 606 south Adams road, born Saturday at the St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital, Pontiac. Mr. Berndt is director of the band and orchestra in the Baldwin High School.

Dog Saves Life Of His Master

Sandy Finds His Friend Pinned To Ground, Summons Help

John Rhubottom, 78 years old, a retired undertaker of Fenton, who is visiting at the home of his daughter, Mrs. C. C. Wilmot, 701 Madison avenue, told yesterday of an incident when the heroic efforts of his Airedale terrier, Sandy, recently saved his life.

Mr. Rhubottom was working in his garage at Fenton, when a wardrobe weighing 700 pounds fell upon him, pinning his lower limbs so that he was unable to move. He could not summon assistance, and was slowly becoming exhausted when help reached him 10 minutes later through the efforts of the dog.

Sandy made five trips back and forth to neighboring houses and Mr. Rhubottom's home in a frenzied effort to save his master. Each time he would lick the face of the injured man, and then, barking violently, would run off in another direction. He finally succeeded in dragging to the scene, a six year old girl who summoned the help that saved his life.

Mr. Rhubottom suffered the partial paralysis of his lower limbs as a result, and is now compelled to use a cane.

Though Sandy has shown great love for his master during the four years Mr. Rhubottom has owned him, it has taken this last experience to win for him a lasting place in his master's heart.

"I'll never part with Sandy", Mr. Rhubottom said with vehemence. "Not as long as I live." Sandy is with him now at his daughter's home, and is one dog that need never worry about his future bones.

REBATE SEEN IN ROAD WORK

Officials Act To Have $25,000 Returned To Taxpayers

If plans to have the Oakland County road commission take over parts of Lincoln avenue, Cranbrook road, and west Maple avenue, as a county trunk line, mature, property owners along the lands in question will be relieved approximately $25,000 which they have been assessed by Birmingham.

This rebate possibility is seen today while Village Manager James W. Parry, Village Engineer Harold H. Corson, and Township Supervisor Robert Y. Moore are working to win approval of the county board of supervisors, now in session in Pontiac, to bring the proposed project under the Covert road act.

Behind the project is a desire to relieve Southfield avenue of much of its through north traffic to lakes and summer resorts, most of which now enter Birmingham on Southfield avenue and congests east and west Maple avenues while continuing north.

It is proposed to pave the Lincoln avenue extension from Southfield avenue west to Cranbrook road, thence northerly to west Maple avenue. Under the Covert road act, a share of the expense would be born by the county, as well as maintenance costs later. Local officials view the project with approval, since they see in its being made a county trunk line the elimination of a long controversy with property owners in that section who have been divided in their demands upon the village for street improvements.

POLICE CHIEFS HERE DURING FEBRUARY

Chiefs of police from municipalities of Wayne and Oakland counties will hold their regular luncheon meeting Feb. 7 at the Chateau Tea room it is announced by James Anderson, Birmingham chief of police.

ANNEXATION APPEAL SEEN

Beverly Hills May Take Case To Supreme Court, Attorney Says

Beverly Hills residents, in an effort to invalidate the annexation of their subdivision to the city of Royal Oak may appeal their case to supreme court, according to a statement by Orville H. Foster, attorney for the Beverly Hills residents. It is generally conceded that residents of the subdivision prefer to be a part of Birmingham.

The facts in the case are that a petition was filed with the county clerk Dec. 4, 1926, for an election on annexation of certain territory which did not include the plaintiffs' property from the township of Royal Oak into the village of Berkley.

Petition Filed

Two days later a petition for annexation of certain territory to the city of Royal Oak was filed, with a petition for a special meeting of the supervisors.

The special meeting was called for Jan. 10, when the election for Royal Oak annexation was called. The election was held, and the proposal carried.

The contention of the plaintiffs that the supervisors would have met to consider the Berkley petition because more than 90 days would elapse before the next regular election was denied by the court.

The opinion of Judge Glenn C. Gillespie who heard the suit gave the following opinion:

"Regardless of the legal aspects of the case, plaintiffs do not make out a case which appeals to a court of equity. They did not sign the so-called Berkley petition, and their property was not included in the area described therein. The success or failure of those interested in adding to the territorial limits of Berkley would not have affected the subdivision in which plaintiffs' property is situated in the slightest degree. Then too, after the election had been held, instead of promptly availing themselves of the speedy remedy of quo warranto to test the validity of the proceedings by which the special election had been called, they sat idly by until Aug. 6, 1927 before filing their bill of complaint, and even then did not, until May 16, 1928, in their amended bill of complaint, set forth the grounds upon which relief is now asked.

"In the meantime, the City of Royal Oak has exercised jurisdiction over the territory annexed, made certain improvements therein and entered into committments for other improvements. Before a court of equity can intervene under such circumstances the inadequacy of plaintiff's remedy at law must clearly appear and their grounds for equitable relief must be plainly established.

"From what has been said it is apparent that plaintiffs have not made out a case which will entitle them to the relief prayed for. This makes it unnecessary to determine whether or not the statutory remedy of quo warranto should have been resorted to. There is much authority for holding that it is the sole and exclusive remedy for determining the validity of such an election.

"A decree will be entered dismissing the bill of complaint with taxable costs to defendants."

New Location—Grinnell Bros. Music House. 129 So. Woodward Ave. Phone 2175. —Adv. 39

SIFT CHARGES, BREWER ASKS

Prosecutor Points To Obstacle In Path Of Investigators

A committee of seven members of the Oakland County board of supervisors today is investigating charges made against Willis M. Brewer, chairman of the board of auditors, following a request made by Brewer Monday before the board that the accusations be probed. Fred Dernberger, a former member of the board of auditors, charged Brewer with using county labor and funds in a selfish manner.

A possible handicap in the investigation is seen today, however, following the opinion given by Prosecutor Norman C. Orr that the committee is without the power necessary to subpoena witnesses. The witnesses will either appear voluntarily or not at all.

The charges were made and later retracted in a sworn statement by Dernberger who said he was under the influence of liquor when he gave out the newspaper interview. Dernberger also said the Pontiac newspaper which published the interview misquoted him seriously.

Denial Is Read

Brewer read to the board both his own denial of the charges and the retraction by Dernberger. He asked that the matter be thoroughly aired however, and suggested the appointment of the committee to investigate.

Those named to make a study of records in his office are: Joseph Long, Commerce; William Leece, Brandon; Howard C. Hillman,

(Concluded on Page 2)

HILLS TO HAVE MAIL DELIVERY

Approval Of New System For Bloomfield Awaited Today

A substation of the Birmingham post office will be located in the William T. Barbour building at Long Lake road and Woodward avenue and a house mail delivery will be made in Bloomfield Hills village twice daily, it is expected today.

route map of Bloomfield Hills is to be submitted to Postmaster General Harry S. New following the investigation of the situation by a U. S. inspector who conferred with James Cobb, Birmingham postmaster.

The mail for the 180 hills village homes will be sorted in the Birmingham office and delivered to the substation where it will be distributed by two carriers. A revamping of the rural routes in this section from both Birmingham and Pontiac is necessitated through this change. Both post offices supply rural delivery in sections of the territory.

The change will be made following the final approval from the federal post office.

Pay your automobile insurance premiums on a monthly installment plan. H. T. Ellerby, phone 1134. —Adv. 39tf

A Really Fine Radio—The Freed-Eisemann Radio in exquisite Grinnell designed cabinet with built-in Dynamic Speaker, tubes; everything complete to attach to aerial, $225. Free demonstration. Terms. Grinnell Bros. 120 So. Woodward Ave. —Adv. 39

Authors, Attention! Saturday Is the Day

Saturday is the dead-line! Readers have until Jan. 12 to send in their manuscripts for the contributor's page of The Eccentric which will appear Jan. 17. Poets are vying with short story writers for first place and the page promises to contain much of literary worth. Let us have that short story, or essay you have written. It will not be too late for our contributor's page until 5:30 p. m. Saturday.

BANKS NAME NEW OFFICIALS

Prosperity Reported At Annual Meetings; Few Changes Made

Birmingham's banking institutions this week held their annual election of officers. Each of them passed through a prosperous year of 1928, and prophesied continued prosperity for 1929.

The First National Bank reelected its 1928 directorate, and added the name of H. Lloyd Clawson, of Northwood, as a new director. Others are T. R. Donovan, Elmer C. Huston, M. T. Jarvis, A. T. Lowes, T. W. Miner, Robert Y. Moore, Chancey Nixon, Robert S. Porritt, Charles B. Randall, Harry L. Wallace, and John B. Williams.

Following the election of the directors, officers were immediately elected for 1929. They include John B. Williams, chairman of the board; T. R. Donovan, president; Chancey Nixon and Charles B. Randall, vice presidents; M. T. Jarvis, cashier; and O. F. Peterson, assistant cashier.

"Our institution increased its resourses over $250,000.00 during 1928," said vice president Randall. "Dividends totalled 10 per cent, eight per cent being the regular stock dividend, with an added two per cent as extra dividend. Last July we transferred $50,000.00 in undivided profits

(Concluded on Page 2)

POLICE START LICENSE WAR

Motorists Warned To Place 1929 Licenses On Cars Before Saturday

Police will start issuing violation tickets to motorists driving with 1928 licenses on Saturday, Chief James Anderson announced today.

"Motorists have had ample time to get their new licenses and we have had them on sale here so it was easy for them to be supplied. There is no excuse for not having the 1929 license tags on cars by Saturday and arrests will be made for violation on and after that day," the chief said.

He also announced the tag sale will be continued at the station in the municipal building until next Tuesday.

More than 1,300 sets of 1929 tags have been issued from the Birmingham license bureau, Anderson said. The total cost which has not been definitely computed, is more than $30,000, he estimates.

VILLAGES MAY ESCAPE PAYING TAX ON ROADS

Moore Seeks To Save Birmingham, Hills, Toll On Township Highway

LEGALITY QUESTIONED

If plans now under consideration by Township Supervisor Robert Y. Moore are found legal, in the future property in Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills Village will not be assessed for township highway improvements; this year Birmingham property is paying approximately $14,000 or $1 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation, to the highway improvement portion of the township's 1929 budget.

This plan of eliminating the two villages in Bloomfield Township is based upon the result of an Act passed by the 1925 State Legislature, wherein incorporated villages must be rebated in the amount of 50 per cent of the money that their assessed valuations pay into township treasuries on highway improvement taxes.

Village Buys Gravel

The subject was first brought to the attention of the village commission early last spring, and Hazel Lawler, former village clerk was directed to take up the matter with the Bloomfield Township board, which she did. In the meantime, and pending immediate settlement of the affair, the township board entered into an agreement with Village Manager James W. Parry to sell Birmingham road gravel from a new gravel pit which the township purchased some time last year on the Updike road. According to Parry, about $600 worth of gravel was purchased from the pit during the summer.

"As soon as we obtain a settlement with Birmingham on the amount of gravel it used from our pit, we shall give them a check," said Moore yesterday. "Approximately $3,000 was originally due the village of Birmingham in highway improvement tax rebates for 1927; I estimate that about $7,000 is the amount for the taxes we are now collecting, and which we shall return in March or April, when our tax roll is closed for the year."

Moore stated that he first was made aware of the rebating Act early last spring and, because his board was unaware of it, had not prepared for the return of any monies to Birmingham. However, this year the highway improvement tax rate for the township was raised from 50 cents to $1 to provide for this contingency.

"A very important phase of this subject escapes the attention of people when they forget that our township board, as a body, merely accepts the various tax items such as school tax rates, state, county, covert road, drain, and township highway improvement rates, from other sources," stated Moore. "For instance, the Bloomfield Township highway improvement tax rate is determined by an elected official of the township, the highway commissioner, John Wilson our present highway commissioner, reports to the township board the amount of money he needs for the ensuing year, and we put it in the general tax roll.

(Concluded on Page 2)

Commissioners Pitch Fast Ones

And The Note Takers Get Riled While Ordinance Is Amended

Ladies and gentlemen, it is settled, and the commission has adjourned.

The village ordinance regulating motorbuses will be "amended to comply with the practices of the commission."

That all sounds simple enough but before it was so ordained by the board Monday night there were so many surprises that Myrtle Carson, village clerk, reporters, and a few spectators were somewhat dizzy trying to get it all straight.

The original ordinance provides all motorbuses, before they may operate on the streets of Birmingham, must be licensed by the commission, specifying both engine and vehicle numbers. Application for several licenses was made by the Eastern Michigan Motorbuses and the application blank did not supply the numbers.

Commissioner Lee A White said the numbers should be supplied before the board approved the licenses. President H. T. Ellerby maintained it was not necessary. Away they went.

Then Commissioner Scott Hersey started the first of a barrage of motions. He pitched over a fast, "I move that we grant the license." Commissioner White shot back a faster amendment which called for compliance with the ordinance. The amendment resulted in a split vote of three and three. Commissioner Laurence Hulbert being absent. Then the original motion was voted on and carried.

Commissioner J. H. McBride

(Concluded on Page 2)

DEATH TAKES F. H HOLT AT 61

Prominent Banker Dies Suddenly At His Home In Village

Frederick Hoford Holt, 61 years old, prominent Detroit banker, and well known to villagers, was buried at 11 a. m. Monday from the chapel of William R. Hamilton and company, 3975 Gass avenue, Detroit. Dr. Augustust Record was in charge of the services, with burial in Roseland Park cemetery.

Mr. Holt died suddenly at his home, 1011 Linden road, Friday afternoon.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Lillian Silk Holt; a daughter, Mrs. C. P. Vary, of Birmingham; a son, F. Farrington Holt, of Birmingham; two brothers, William Robert Holt, of Detroit, and Ferdinand C. P. Holt, of Manchester, Eng.; two sisters, Mrs. William Spafford Jones, also of Manchester, and Mrs. Jack Keene, Isle of Man, Eng.

Born In England

Mr. Holt was born in Manchester, Eng., Jan. 18, 1867, coming to Detroit in 1884, where he worked as a messenger in the Michigan Savings Bank. He was promoted to assistant cashier of this bank.

He has been associated with many important business enterprises, being an organizer and director of the Continental Real Estate and Trust company, and an organizer of the C. W. Warren company.

In 1916 he became associated with the F. A. Goodrich company, leaving the bank and later he was named district sales manager for Jones and Laughlin. He was also an officer of the C. M. Hayes and company.

Mr. Holt came to Birmingham with his family six years ago and since that time has taken a keen

(Concluded on Page 2)

'SIX PROBLEM' COMMITTEES GET STARTED

Citizens Named By Commission To Study Needs

MONTHS ARE REQUIRED

Emphasizing the present necessity of looking deeply into Birmingham's manifold problems, and declaring that the voluntary enlistment of many of the community's citizens will assist the village commission to a better solution of civic affairs, Village President H. T. Ellerby made a brief statement Monday evening on behalf of himself and fellow-commissioners.

The commission chamber was more than half-filled with men and women who had answered the village commission's call for volunteers to assist in going over Birmingham's problems, including charter revision, sewer supply, ordinances, sewer and waste disposal, finance, and building code. Additional members to the various committees may be added, it was said.

"In the course of your investigations, you may decide that existing methods and systems entirely meet the demands of Birmingham's municipal life; in that case your findings will undoubtedly reveal your satisfaction on such scores," said President Ellerby. "However, in many places you will find room for improvement, and these suggestions for bettering our village affairs are what we desire most."

Following President Ellerby's brief talk the regular commission meeting was adjourned for an hour, during which time the various groups went to individual rooms in the building and organized.

Meetings will be held at various times during the next few months, although it is hoped that some of the committees will have gone far enough to offer suggestions that may be put through at the spring village election in March.

Following are those who were present:

Charter revision: commissioner Lee A. White, chairman, William J. Thomas Parker, Francis F. McKinney, and Charles J. Shain.

Sewer and waste disposal: Commissioner W. W. Henry and President H. T. Ellerby. E. H. Tillotson, Harry Allen, Lawrence Thomas, and J. J. Martindale.

Ordinances: Commissioner Hope Halgren and A. D. B. Van Zande.

Building code: Commissioner Scott Hersey, Walter L. Connelly, Charles Soderberg, A. C. Wermuth and William Mellows.

Finance: Henry Hart, L. A. Morgan, and Herbert Gardner.

MORE FIREMEN SOON TO BE ADDED

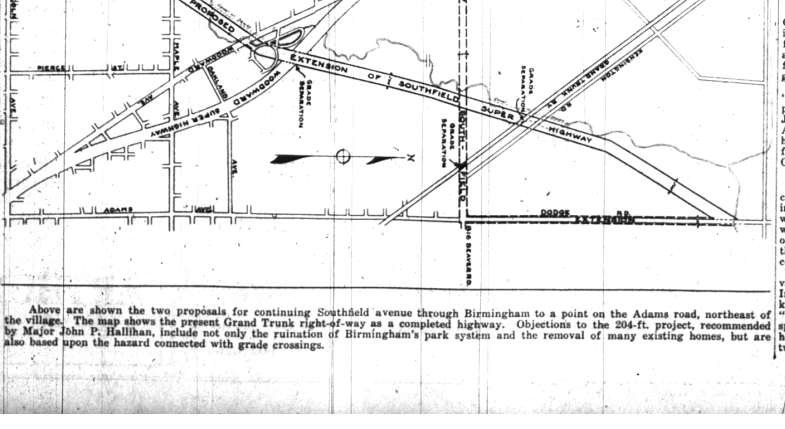
Promotions On Paid Force Make Griffith Captain; Weier, Jones, Lieutenants

Additions to the paid staff of the Birmingham fire department are contemplated today it is announced by Fire Chief William G. Olsen.

An increase in the personnel of eight firemen follows the appointment of Vernon Griffith as captain of the company, with LeRoy Weier and George Jones as lieutenants. These men now hold office.

Present plans are to add two men to the department next week and two other later, making a total of 12 on duty in two equally divided platoons of 24 hours each.

SUGGESTED SOUTHFIELD EXTENSION SHOWN



Above are shown the two proposals for continuing Southfield avenue through Birmingham to a point on the Adams road, northeast of the village. The map shows the present Grand Trunk right-of-way as a completed highway. Objections to the 204-ft. project, recommended by Major John P. Hallihan, include not only the ruination of Birmingham's park system and the removal of many existing homes, but are also based upon the hazard connected with grade crossings.

Villagers and the Village

—By THE WANDERER—

The last vestige of the old Baldwin Library in the vacated church building at Maple and Woodward avenue is to go. It is a sign proclaiming to the world that on this site is the library. However, the library moved to its new quarters more than a year ago. The village commission ordered removal of the sign, which, members said, has lost its significance as well as most of its paint.

Rev. Warner L. Forsyth, rector of the St. James' Episcopal Church will again be in the pulpit Sunday it is expected. Rev. Forsyth has been recuperating from a severe attack of influenza.

Miss Alice Fox, formerly of the Delta Reporter in Gladstone, is a new member of The Birmingham Eccentric staff. She will divide her time between the news and advertising departments. She comes to Birmingham after considerable experience in newspaper work in northern Michigan. We hope you like her—we do—and that you will "give the little girl a hand."

L. E. Colgrove, member of the Birmingham Rotary club, gave an excellent example of gratitude when he thanked his fellow-members for the flowers which they sent him during his recent illness. Floral tributes are always sent by a Rotary committee to any of its indisposed members, and always evoke a word of thanks. Mr. Colgrove's remarks of grateful-

(Concluded on Page 2)

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'LITTLE CHRISTMAS' O WANE FROM OLD CHRISTIAN CUSTOM

By ALICE FOX

The tendency to observe "Little Christmas" appears to be falling into disuse among villagers, and few Birmingham residents are aware that last Sunday marked a feast day which formerly held great prominence.

The Feast of Epiphany, or "Little Christmas", as it is more popularly known today, falling on Jan. 6, is a feast of the Catholic, Anglican, and eastern churches held to commemorate the manifestations of Christ as the Son of God.

Started In Second Century

The observations of this festival can be traced to an earlier period in the eastern church than in the western. In the Greek Church, it was observed as early as the second century. It was celebrated in the Latin Church in the fourth century.

A popular name for this festival in England is "Twelfth Day". In various other languages it is known as "Three Kings Day", or, "Day of Kings". In England, special holiday celebrations were held on the twelfth day, or the twelfth night when the Christmas festivals closed. Following the provisions of the Council of Nicaea, the date of Easter was announced with great solemnity. Miracle plays were given in the churches in order to visualize to the people the events commemorated on the occasion.

Given During Mass

These were frequently given

(Concluded on Page 2)

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FOR SALE in Northwest section, 8-room house, strictly modern. Price $12,000.

FOR SALE, 9-room house, Mohegan Ave., 3 baths. Oil burner heat, large lot, etc. Brand new. Price $26,000, on very easy terms.

FOR SALE, 100 feet Frontage on East Maple Ave.

FOR RENT, 12 houses ranging in size from 5 to 9 rooms, in price from $50 to $150 per month.

FOR RENT, new store on Woodward Ave., next door to Postoffice.

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