

FIFTY-SECOND YEAR—NO. 12

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## Bo BROADWAY

By JOSEPH VAN RAALTE

By Central Press  
New York.—It looks as if the Grand Opera were going to be organized before them of what effective organization has been done for men and women of the legitimate stage, and is trying to

do for screen players, fifty grand opera warblers met quietly the other night in a Broadway studio to organize the American Opera Singers' Association.

The situation is not without its possibilities. Should Little Bori,

some night, strike a high C above the soprano of the Ritzy Jeriza, a temperamental tehrby may be wafted through the fact frings on a farm in Kansas. He had to ride horseback so much as a young man that he swore if he ever got free of the farm he would not look at a horse as long as he lived.

Well, it was only 16 years ago that 112 letters met in Elks Hall in the Past Grand Circle (now shared by Christopher Columbus and Willie Hearts) to organize—let's see, what was it? Oh, yes, The Actors' Equity Association.

As Dave Warfield used to remark in the old Weber and Fields days: "He laffs laffs who laffs laffs."

### WELL, BARBERING IS AN ART

Two years ago in 44th street, east of Broadway, was built the Mayfair theater. It was intended by its creators, as an answer to the Aesthete's Prayer—a plush-lined, dude-inhabited temple of the draymah designed for and dedicated to the Arts. It was to be the New York rousing place for the Dramatic Bowd.

Anybody who has ever catered exclusively to the Highbrows and the Arts will tell you that while insisting on the maintenance of a certain high standard, they exhibit a coy reluctance when it comes to removing the rubber band from the old bankrupt.

Thus came the day when the Mayfair Management beckoned to the referee in bankruptcy and sometime later the place was turned over to a lot of sad-eyed Celestials, who operated it for a time as a combination Junk novelty and chop suey joint.

When a lot of gentle, yellow, chow mein architects cannot tune their cash register in a Broadway restaurant to the right key, it's a sign the house is haunted. So the Oriental shirt destroyers took a loss, packed up their Scotch piano—Mauda Lane's naive designation for a cash register—and for a time Mayfair was as deserted as Edinburgh on Tag Day.

Now it's to be opened as a shampoo and beard nursery, under the estate management of John Reisher, known to What's-Left-of-Broadway as "John the Barber."

John has figured in the metropolitan public prints oftener and more thrillingly than Peggy Hopkins Joyce. And when John became ennuied with publicity his family crashed the front page for him.

The Barb is nothing if not a showman. Across the front of the socially outcast Mayfair, Signor Hot Towels has erected a huge sign announcing the opening date and the further information that there will be in regular attendance "35 schooled barbers and 25 Folies Girls as Manicurists."

NO KINGDOM FOR A HORSE  
FOR HIM  
General James G. Harbord.



## 1776 and 1929

In 1776 America was a string of rebellious settlements along the Atlantic—embattled and poverty-stricken, hardly yet a nation—but steadfastly holding the ideal of freedom before the world.

1929 finds us large, prosperous, and strong, but still cherishing that ideal and setting aside a day in each busy year to do honor to those who first proclaimed liberty, to the peoples of the earth.

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## BREAK GROUND FOR BUILDING

Leases Signed For Briggs Structure At Woodward And Maple

Leases have just been signed for three prominent chain stores for locations in the Briggs-Birmingham building, according to an announcement by John C. Frost, Jr., manager of the real estate department of the Briggs Commercial and Development company. This announcement comes simultaneously with the breaking of ground for this new building at the southeast corner of Woodward and Maple avenues.

Leases by F. W. Woolworth company and Kroger Grocery and shopping activity of the new Briggs-Birmingham building. Mr. Frost continued: "It should be remembered, too, that the business district of Birmingham, which centers at Woodward and Maple avenues, draws its trade not only from rapidly growing Birmingham, but from all of Bloomfield Hills and the surrounding communities which have a very large purchasing power, but no business centers of their own. Leading chain stores, always alike to the value of the best business locations, have been quick to appreciate the immediate and future possibilities of downtown Birmingham, and of the southeast Woodward and Maple corner.

OH, JIMMY!  
The Citizens' Union, an organization of earnest, well-to-do rubber-tired spectacles, whose chief function for years has been to tell Tammy how she really should be governed, broke into print the other day with a red-hot, sizzling and sassy review of Mayor Walker's three and half years incumbency.

He was probably the only one in town who missed it, but that's all right, since you know Jimmy. A year or more ago on his trip abroad, after a journey across the southern Europe into France, he was asked what he thought of the Alps.

"The Alps?" said Jim. "I never saw them!"

FROM THE ECCENTRIC COLUMNS  
—of Long Ago

Bits Of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric—The Items That Make Up The Historical Background Of The Birmingham Of Today.

FIFTY YEARS AGO  
Any one wishing a Sunday morning Detroit paper can have them delivered at their home by Master Harry Simpson. They are brought here by a man on a velocipede arranged for running on the railroad track. He arrives here about 8 o'clock a. m., and runs to Pontiac making about 20 miles an hour. Leave orders at Hagerman's Saturday night, and get a paper early Sunday morning.

George C. Wallace of Stanton has bought the beautiful and valuable farm, known as the Duncan place. John Duncan, the former owner, gives immediate possession.

That invaluable book of historical reference and statistical matter for Michigan, Red Book for 1879, is at hand. It is compiled by Don M. Dickinson, and is valuable in many ways.

The Scotch Plaids of Southfield, and a part of the Hungry Nine of this place played a match game of ball on Mr. Welton's farm on Friday last resulting in favor of Birmingham Nine by a score of 34 to 11.

School picnic today.  
Uncle John Long, not long ago sold three sheep with the wool off, for five dollars each.

R. E. Trowbridge was selected to serve on the delegation for the specifically declined. Col. Burleigh of Ann Arbor was appointed in his stead.

Two enterprising Birmingham girls waited till the old folks had started for Orchard Lake, last week Thursday, and then packed their little lunch basket, and footed it up to the circus, to see the "snakes and wax figures."

Wonder what Frank Crouch of Troy has been up to? We hear that the constable of Troy nearly killed his horse hunting up Mr. and taking him to Pontiac. Hope nothing serious.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO  
Mrs. Hila Cromery is working in the Postoffice.

Guy Blair is now manager of a ball team at Wyandotte.

Some towns have a law against buying junk from minors.  
Belle Corson, who has been teaching at Clinton, is home for the summer.

The catalpa trees opposite the park on Maple Ave. have been a week of bloom during the past week.

Mrs. L. M. Durkee and daughter, Miss Daisy, are out west visiting with Mrs. Durkee's son, Mr. Jefferson H. Irish.

Those young men who go to the school house and spit tobacco juice all over the steps, had better

Briggs-Birmingham building will be occupied by the Economical Drug company. This store will take the Woodward and Maple corner a "brigs spot" at night as well as a busy location during the day. The Economical drug chain, which operates 35 stores, is backed by maintenance of its own laboratories and the manufacture of many of its own products.

W. Woolworth company has taken a 30-year lease on the large store adjoining, with entrance both Woodward and Maple avenues. The same merchandising appeal which has made leaders among the country's national chains will bring shoppers to this new business structure.

The first unit of the Briggs-Birmingham building to be completed is a one-story block of stores, fronting 150 ft. on Woodward avenue and 189 feet on the street. The entire four-story building is designed to carry a later addition of three floors, so that eventually an imposing four-story building is planned to occupy this strategic Birmingham business corner.

## DIVIDENDS PAID BY ASSOCIATION

New Record Set By Building And Loan In State, Secretary Reports  
Semi-annual dividends paid today to members of building and loan associations of Michigan brought the total dividend for the year to \$7,500,000, it is reported by Robert K. Allen, secretary of the Oakland County Savings association. This amount sets a new record for the 72 home-building organizations of the state, he said. "The dividend was paid to more than 225,000 members of building and loan associations, whose total investment averaged \$150,000,000 for the year," he declared. "The investment today is estimated at \$160,000,000."

In addition to paying a record dividend, the associations throughout the state have added substantially to their reserves and undivided profits and are in the strongest position in their history, according to Mr. Scott.

NEIGH! NEIGH!  
"Jack, who is Dorothy?" asked the young wife one morning. "Dorothy? Why, didn't I tell you? Dorothy, my dear, is the name of a horse I backed yesterday. It won—here's a ten for you."

The husband returned home in the evening. "Jack," said the wife, "you know the horse you backed yesterday?" "Yes," replied he, dubiously. "Well, it's been ringing up on the phone."

Miss Maud Berry took a flying trip to Detroit, Friday last.

Frank Ford and son Bert have gone on a business trip to Nome, Alaska.

The Ladies' Aid of the Baptist church will meet with Mrs. W. T. McClellan on Wednesday, July 12.

The Knights of Pythias will observe Pythian Memorial day next Sunday at Greenwood cemetery at 3 o'clock, and at the Crocus cemetery in Troy at 5 o'clock. Hon. Elliott G. Stevenson, a member of the Birmingham lodge, is expected to make an address under the oaks at the entrance of Greenwood cemetery. The Pythians will be assisted by a delegation from Pontiac. The interested public is invited.

The Farmers club of Troy will meet with Mrs. Hodgson July 2.

Miss Belle Ward has arrived home from Alma college where she graduated from the kindergarten department last week. She takes charge of the kindergarten, a department of the Pontiac schools, and we predict a grand success for this young lady. Miss Ward was president of the graduating class and was very popular at Alma.

FIVE YEARS AGO  
A \$100 reward is offered for the capture of Homer Holloway, Birmingham boy, who, according to a notice on the board of the road camp near Ionia. He was serving a two and one-half year sentence on the charge of contributing to the delinquency of a minor girl.

Clarence Vliet, Jr., is serving this summer as a Junior officer at Camp Brady at Waterford.

The 10th anniversary of the settlement of Franklin is to be marked by a home-coming Aug. 9. James H. Lynch, of Pontiac, attorney, president of the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical society, is to be in charge of the program.

Week seen the death of four old residents. Alfred Johnston, 74 years old, died July 11 at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Edgar Park of Fierce street. He was a former member of the board of review, the school board and village council.

## TELEPHONE COMPANY TAX TOTAL GIVEN

Total taxes of the Michigan Bell Telephone company for 1928 amounted to \$3,235,000.00 or \$6.15 for each telephone in service and returns from 154,000. The earnings available for taxes and returns from 154,000 telephones, or nearly one-third of the 606,000 average number operated by the Company in 1928, were required to meet the Company's tax payments for the year.

The state of Michigan benefited from the Michigan Bell company's 1928 tax payment in the amount of \$2,799,972.00 or 27 1/2% of the available earnings. check for that amount was delivered to Auditor General Orman B. Fuller at Lansing on Saturday June 29. The federal income taxes totaled more than \$900,000.

NO LASS? "Can you lend me \$25?" "I could, but I never lend money—it only breaks friendship."

"But, after all, we were never very good friends."

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