The Birmingham Eccentric

20 PAGES, PART 1

FIFTY-SECOND YEAR—NO. 6 BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, MAY 23, 1929 $1.50 PER YEAR—SINGLE COPIES 5c

E. W. "Cy" Osborne, local Ford dealer, was away from Birmingham for about two years, and certainly seems glad to get back. "Cy" always brings new life to the place he hovers about.

GREEN PRAISED FOR VETOING DEATH BILL

Governor Attacks Rigidity Of Wood-Lennon Measure

SIDETRACKED 2 YEARS

(Special to The Eccentric)

Lansing, May 22.—Telegrams of congratulation and praise are being received by Gov. Fred W. Green for his veto of the Lennon-Wood electric chair bill which makes capital punishment a lost cause in Michigan for at least another two years. The only manner in which it can become a law now would be a two-thirds vote majority from both houses, which is not considered probable.

Gov. Green criticized the measure in vetoing it, claiming it was one of the most extreme of its kind. He censured its inclusion of women and minors and its failure to give courts discretion.

He maintained such a measure demands a referendum because it would not work out unless backed by strong public sentiment. He further stated he believed wealthy criminals would escape its clutches while the poor would be its victims.

Refuting the argument that it would reduce crime, he said:

"In my judgment, the reason for the lower murder rate in England is more attributable to the fact that justice is speedy and sure rather than that it is severe. We should develop certainty and swiftness of punishment before we resort to this extreme manner of punishment. I agree that there are a few criminals that would be deterred by fear if we had capital punishment; however, these advantages are more than counterbalanced by the evils of this bill."

Mrs. George T. Hendrie, of Bloomfield Hills, was one of the first villagers to wire congratulations to Gov. Green. She telegraphed both as an individual and for the Woman's International League for Peace and Freedom. She suggested a constructive state-wide program for the prevention of crime.

"Gov. Green prevented the State of Michigan from reverting back to a stage of semi-barbarism", she said. "His courage in the face of the pressure in favor of the capital punishment bill was admirable.

"There is much to be done by way of constructive and educational work for the prevention of crime and our association is making plans now to attempt a study. We hope enough light may be shed on the actual sociological causes of crime before the capital punishment bill comes up again to reveal it as the antiquated and barbaric measure it actually is."

Current Comment

Mrs. John J. Gaffill, Southfield avenue: "I was elated to hear of Gov. Green's veto of the death bill. Capital punishment is a backward step. The death penalty has been in existence in Michigan before and found ineffectual in deterring crime."

* * *

Mrs. H. Earle Correvont, Community House: "Green's veto of the death bill was a step away from the barbarism that threatened the state. Capital punishment does not remove the cause of the crime, nor does it remedy the situation."

* * *

Rev. R. M. Atkins, pastor First Methodist Church: "Gov. Green is to be congratulated for vetoing the capital punishment bill. He has in this case allowed his humanitarian characteristics and instincts to control his actions."

ASSESSMENT BLANKS BEING DISTRIBUTED

Blanks for objections to tax assessments on village property are being distributed at the office of A. W. Noonan, village assessor today, and will be presented to the board of review when it meets, May 27, 28 and 29.

"The forms should save a great deal of time and enable the board to have all the information it wants concerning the objections to taxes," Mr. Noonan said. "Everyone should put his objection in writing on the blanks which will be given out between now and the time the board meets."

The assessment roll for the village is completed and ready for the board which will meet in the municipal building. Besides Mr. Noonan, Walter Connelly and Robert K. McClelland are on the board.

FOR SALE—American broad-tail coat size 18, trimmed with large collar and cuffs of silver fitch; also same trim and around bottom, excellent bargain. 584 Tooting Lane. Phone 1574. —Adv. 6

FOR ARTISTIC MATERIALS The Devoe Paint and Art Shop, Theatre Building. —Adv.401f

LARGE light housekeeping room and kitchenette. Nicely furnished. Bath with shower. 897 S. Chester St. 6*

OLD HILL GROUP TO MEET JUNE 21

Further plans for the reunion of the Old Hill School association are to be made at a meeting tonight at the home of Mrs. Belle Ward on Park street. The general outline of the reunion was made at a meeting last week.

June 21 is the date for the association's get-together which will bring former students of Birmingham's early educational center from many parts of the country.

Officers will be elected in the morning and the evening will be marked by a banquet at the First Baptist Church. Following this an entertainment program is expected to be given in the auditorium of the Barnum school. Speakers and stunts are to be planned by the committees which will be named next Thursday, Mrs. Ward said.

BOARD GIVES TAX STATUS

Answers Questions Of Bond Issue Effect On Assessments

If the proposed bond issue for construction of an addition to the Barnum School and the opening of a public swimming pool at the school is approved by voters June 10, will the taxes be higher?

This is the question put most often to the Birmingham board of education and here is the board's carefully drawn answer in full:

School building plans are always conditioned by finances. The building program of the Birmingham district since the erection of the Baldwin high school in 1918 has been on a pay-as-you-go plan, financed in part by serial bonds paid each year from school taxes. This has kept the bonded debt at a low point as is shown by the following table:

Bonds paid 1918-1929	$ 348,250.00
Buildings, sites and equipment paid for by direct tax and included in the budgets from 1918 to 1929	80,250.00
Bonded debt, July 1, 1929, old issues	1,117,100.00
Bonds to be paid in 1929-1930	21,000.00
Assessed valuation 1928-29	21,988,150.00
Limit of bonded debt — 15% of valuation	3,300,000.00
Bonds authorized but not issued	740,000.00
Proposed new Barnum school issue	245,000.00
Cost of school property including proposed Barnum school	1,930,600.00
Total debt including new issue is 47% of legal limit	
Debt service 1928-1929, bonds and interest	141,508.50
Debt service 1929-1930, bonds and interest	140,798.50
Net tax levy, 1928-1929	406,780.77

The tax rate for schools this current year is $18.50. For the coming year the tentative budget shows an increase of $18,000 in total expenditures which includes an allowance for caring for the enlarged Barnum building for the last half of the year and for the estimated increase in attendance of about 200 pupils.

This increased cost can well be taken care of without an increase in the rate, if the assessed valuation shows the normal increase for new buildings The supervisor of the township, who makes assessments on which school taxes are raised, from incompleted work thinks that the assessment will be lowered on many properties and if the total assessed valuation for the school district is not raised over that of this year, the rate will have to be raised.

The lowering of assessed valuations with a higher rate will result in the same cost for most taxpayers in money paid as would the same vaulation as this year with a lower rate. It is realized that the taxpayers are willing to support the building program if the tax rate is not raised.

The board of education can assure this, if the assessed valuations are increased in proportion to the valuation of new buildings, but if there is a decrease in valuations the tax rate will probably be raised in proportion.

HUSBAND, WIFE RULE ROTARY

Co-operation will mark the ensuing year for members of the Rotary club and the Rotary Anns—that is if the presidents have anything to say about it. A husband and wife hold the respective presidencies.

Mrs. Warren P. Gibson, of Riverside drive, last night was elected president of the Rotary Anns at a meeting held at her home. A month ago her husband, Dr. Gibson, was chosen president of the Rotary club.

Other offices of the Rotary Anns will be filled as follows: Mrs. H. A. Manley, first vice-president; Mrs. Thomas Neal, second vice-president; Mrs. Ralph Coryell, secretary; Mrs. George R. Averill, treasurer; Mrs. Ross Riddell, chairman honor committee; and Mrs. Frank Mulholland, chairman courtesy committee.

LONG LINE FOR PARADE

Twelve Organizations To Be Represented Memorial Day

Twelve organization will be represented in the Memorial Day parade here, according to plans today by the American Legion.

The list of those to be in the line of march for the parade starting at noon, follows: police and fire departments, village commission, Legion, Legion Auxiliary, Girl and Boy scouts, Baldwin High School band, school children, Friendly Indians, units from the Pontiac National guard, and posibly a civil war veteran.

A program, arranged by the Rev. Floyd E. Logee, chaplin of the Charles Edwards Post of the Legion, will precede the parade start. It will be held in the auditorium of the Baldwin High School.

The line of march for the parade follows:

Formation at the Baldwin High School, then down Martin street to Pierce,down Pierce to Brown, then east to Woodward. The parade will turn north on Woodward proceeding past the reviewing stand at Maple to the Greenwood cemetery on Oak street.

THE ECCENTRIC IS 51 YEARS OLD

Village Newspaper Ranked Second Among 10,000 Leaders In U. S.

The Birmingham Eccentric this month celebrates its fifty-first anniversary.

During its half century of publication as a weekly newspaper in Birmingham it has grown from a small sized, four page paper to one which was ranked second among 10,000 of the leading weeklies in the United States in a recent survey made by the American Press.

When the newspaper was founded in 1878 by the late Almeron Whitehead and the late George H. Mitchell, it was published in a small room during the spare time of the founders. Today it occupies one of the largest weekly newspaper plants in Michigan and has 33 persons in its employ

It was purchased by its present owner, George R. Averill, in 1919 when it occupied space in what is now the Telephone building on Pierce street. Both the newspaper and the job printing departments of the Eccentric have kept pace with the growth of Birmingham.

CHILDREN HELP IN POPPY SALE

Children of members of the Charles Edwards Post of the American Legion and the Friendly Indian group will be on the streets Saturday selling poppies in the annual sale for the benefit of hospitalized war veterans.

Mrs. Harold H. Corson and Mrs. Harry Mudge will be in charge of the poppy distribution in the village. The sale will continue all day.

An attempt is to be made by the children to better the total of their last year's proceeds.

LIONS AWARDED FIRST HONORS

The Birmingham Lions club today is in possession of first "stunt" prize awarded at the state convention for the eleventh district held this week at Battle Creek. The prize, a silk American flag, was presented to the club at the regular luncheon at the First Baptist Church by the returning delegates.

The prize was awarded to the delegates from Birmingham at the banquet Monday night at the Masonic Temple in Battle Creek by a large vote after the Birmingham men carried away the show. Their act was one among many presented by delegates from all parts of the district.

The Birmingham club presented a one act farce "Flowers and Flukes." The delegates who took part were Joseph Dalley, Morris Kimmins, B. J. Meirow, and James Kelly. Several members made the trip Monday to attend the feature banquet. Among these were, Gene Parmenter, Paul Robinson, D. A. Green, Raymond Peck, P. G. Burnett and William Wood. The judges for the contest were the guests of honor at the banquet. Their choice was unanimous in favor of the Birmingham presentation and remarks of praise preceded the first award to this aggregation.

Mr. Meirow, president of the Birmingham club gave a short acceptance talk at the luncheon Tuesday noon.

At the regular club meeting yesterday at the First Baptist Church, the convention delegates again presented their prize winning stunt, the members and several guests being present.

President Meirow spoke on Birmingham spirit at the convention and made a formal presentation of the flag to the club. He thanked the delegates and the members, who made the trip, and said he hoped that many more will be able to attend next year's convention at Kalamazoo.

The convention for 1929, which came to a close Tuesday afternoon, was acclaimed the most suc-

(Continued on Page 2)

HILLS VILLAGE BANS SIGNS

Billboards Ordered Removed In Bloomfield Before July 1

All signboards must be removed from along the highways in Bloomfield Hills village before July 1, it was decreed by a unanimous vote of the village commission at a special meeting Tuesday night.

The action is the climax of a long debate over the situation. Many commission members and residents of the village expressed a desire to have the signs removed feeling they marred the natural beauty of the roads in the exclusive village. Objections were raised by the owner, however, and the matter was turned over to the planning commission.

A compromise was at first attempted. This would have barred all signs except the smaller ones. The action of the commission Tuesday includes all advertising signs, however.

Members of the commission were strong in backing of the ordinance which prohibits the bill boards.

The commission postponed a hearing on the paving of the Lone Pine road, from Woodward avenue to the Redford road, until the regular meeting June 4.

WOMAN'S TIP JAILS MAN

Stolen Watches Recovered Before Owner Misses Them

Arrested on a "tip" from a woman, Dyril Greenwood, 33, pleaded guilty to simple larceny in connection with the theft of two watches and was sentenced yesterday by Justice Floyd S. Buck to 10 days in the Oakland County jail. The watches were recovered.

The man was an employe of Roy McAlpine of Bloomfield Hills and stole the watches from his home, he admitted. They were not missed, however, and Mr. McAlpine did not know of the theft until after Greenwood confessed to Chief James Anderson.

The woman, whose name is withheld, told Pontiac police Greenwood had the watches and they informed Chief Anderson who made the arrest.

SCHOOL ISSUES DECIDED IN 2 ELECTIONS

Annual Meet, Board Member Balloting Set For July 8

BOND ISSUES JUNE 10

Residents of the Birmingham school district will cast their ballots at two elections instead of one this spring and summer, following a change in the state laws evoked by the Legislature.

The bond issue for an addition to the Barnum school and the building of a public swimming pool will be voted on at elections June 10. Candidates for the board of education will be elected July 8, the date of the annual meeting. The date was moved last year to June but was found unsatisfactory for the annual meeting in many parts of the state as the financial statements were not ready at that time.

The unexpected reversal will cause a lengthening of the campaigning time of the candidates and it is expected a small vote will be cast because of the larger number of persons away from the village on vacations in July

Registration for the elections are not necessary. A poll book has been prepared and will be used by the inspectors of election in the Baldwin High School building June 10.

Three persons are seeking places on the board of education. They are Guy W. Jensen and Ray Palmer, both present members of the board, and Mrs. Cora Farrar.

The bond issues for the swimming pool and the building addition total $245,000.

FUNERAL HELD FOR C. A. GRAVLIN

Greenwood Cemetery Is Resting Place Of Well Known Villager

Charles A. Gravlin, well known villager, was buried yesterday at 2 p. m. in Greenwood cemetery. Services were held at the residence at 487 Townsend street with Rev. Warner L. Forsyth, rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, officiating. Mr. Gravlin died Sunday at the St. Joseph's Mercy hospital, Pontiac, following a brief illness.

He was a native of Birmingham receiving his education in the schools here. He was employed in the painter and decorator business. For 35 years he has been active in village Masonic affairs.

Besides his widow, Mrs. Mary E. Gravlin, he leaves: four sons, Floyd C., Ernest A., Hugh E., Clyde L., all of Birmingham; and seven brothers and sisters, Mrs. Harvey Hedding, Mrs. William Hupp, Ed and Louis Gravlin, all of Birmingham, Mrs. Henry Pospeshil, Mrs. Daniel Andrews and Harry Gravlin, all of Detroit.

Six nephews acted as pall bearers. They included: Raymond Pospeshil, Earl Gravlin, Harry Hedding, Daniel Andrews, Clarence Gravlin and Joseph Pospeshil.

TRAILER OVERTURNS ON POLICE SCOUT CAR

Shortly after Sergt. Delos Anderson left a Bloomfield Hills police scout car in front of the police station at Woodward avenue and the Long Lake road Saturday, a trailer loaded with heavy iron castings overturned on the car, demolishing it.

A large truck with the trailer was going south on Woodward avenue when the accident occurred. Trees, shrubs, the curbing and pavement were torn up by the crash. The castings were scattered for more than 100 feet over the pavement.

The driver gave his name as Joseph Schmous, of 604 west Grand Boulevard, Detroit.

The driver was charged with reckless driving and fined $25 by Justice Henry W. Harpster, in Pontiac municipal court.

TOWNSHIP REVIEW MEETINGS IN JUNE

Dates for the annual meeting of the Bloomfield Township board of review is announced for June 11 to 18 inclusive. The meetings will be held in the Township offices in the municipal building. Objections and suggestions concerning assessments for state, county, school, township and road taxes will be heard.

CORYELL ELECTED ASSOCIATION HEAD

Rolla J. Coryell is president today of the Michigan Educational association department of superintendents and school board members. He succeeds C. W. Crandell, former superintendent of schools at Monroe following a recent election.

LAST Chevrolet Four; perfect mechanically; cash or terms. No dealers. Call Birm. 1779-R. 6*

PROMOTED

SERGT. RICHARD LAWLER

LAWLER MADE LIEUTENANT

Police Officer Rewarded After Six Years Of Service

Sergt. Richard Lawler, for six years a member of the Birmingham police department, is promoted today to the newly created rank of lieutenant. He will assume permanent direction of the night force. The promotion places him next in command to Chief James Anderson.

Lieut. Lawler has been in police work 17 years. No one has been named to succeed him as sergeant.

In making the appointment, Chief Anderson said: "It is a recognition for the years of faithful service he has given the village. His new duties will be in line with those he has performed so well previously."

He came to the Birmingham department six years ago after two years on the police department at Pontiac. At that time there were four men on the department here. Today there are 14. For more than four years he worked on the night force, three years of which he was the only officer on the night force. He was made sergeant two years ago.

Previous to his coming to Pontiac, Lieut. Lawler was on the police department at Sault Ste. Marie for nine years. For two of the nine years he was a detective.

VILLAGE WORK DENOUNCED AS BILLS ARISE

Ellerby, Henry Hit Practice Of Private Contracting By Birmingham

SETTLEMENTS MADE

Practice of the village doing private contracting work was denounced at the commission meeting Monday night by President H. T. Ellerby and former Commissioner W. W. Henry. Mr. Henry appeared to discuss settlement of bills totaling $2,996.33 for gravelling of Catalpa drive in his subdivision and for work on sewer connections.

After charges were made by Mr. Henry that inferior gravel was used on the road, making it impassable during the spring, he warned the commission the village would "get in trouble doing work of this kind." He said he could have had the road work done by a private contractor for between $800 and $900 while the village charged $1,100.

Road to be Fixed

The road is to be repaired at village expense, following the suggestion made by Commissioner Laurence Hulbert.

"Could a private contractor have done the work more satisfactorily," Mr. Ellerby asked.

"He certainly could. The man who graveled Pleasant avenue quoted a figure between $200 and $300 less than that of the village and his work is fine," Mr. Henry said.

"It is a dangerous practice for the village to do work meant for private concerns," Mr. Ellerby said.

The remainder of the bill against Mr. Henry is for work done in supplying risers and crocks to the county drain. He protested the expense should have been borne by the county. The commission asked him to interview Arthur W. Spencer, county drain commissioner.

$50,000 in Debts

An additional bill of approximately $3,000 was agreed to be paid after adjustments were made by Thomas H. Cobb, representing a syndicate. The debt is for a road built in the subdivision owned by the syndicate.

The interviews were the result of a public airing at the commission meeting a week ago, of the fact that the village is owed $50,000, of which only a small portion is secured by written contract. Manager James W. Parry was instructed by the board to make immediate collections.

Villagers and the Village

BY THE WANDERER

Birmingham's annual clean up is completed today after an intense three day campaign last week. Refuse will be called for by the department of public works trucks if residents leave the request with the police department.

All the sports of the ancient city will be found at the Masonic Temple's circus at Pontiac, June 3 to 8. There will be clown races, obstacle races, high-jumping contests with Kentucky and Arabian hunters.

A petition from the Bloomfield Transit corporation asking permission of the commission to erect a shelter for its buses at Maple and Woodward avenue was referred Monday night to the police and fire committee.

The Thrift shop which has been run in connection with the Community House for the past two winters has closed for the summer, Mrs. Otto F. Beier, chairman, announced. "Any contributions to be made during the summer may be left at the Community House," Mrs. Beier said.

During the past year considerable progress has been made in getting rid of undesirable, inappropriate, or duplicated lake names. There are scores of "Mud" lakes, numerous "Round," "Crooked," "Clear," and "Long" lakes, several "Grass" lakes, etc. Barry County has five "Long" lakes and Ogemaw County three "Crystal" lakes. A committee composed of Dr. G. N. Fuller, secretary of the historical commission, R. A. Smith, state geologist, and L. R. Schoenmann of the land economic survey, act as a clearing house between the local communities and the United States geographic board at Washington. The committee makes no changes in names and recommends changes in lake and stream names only after the local historical societies and authorities have investigated and approved the proposed change, giving their reasons. Special effort is made to retain local historical and Indian names. Numerous "Mud" lakes were eliminated in Menominee in favor of more appropriate or desirable names. Grass Lake at Bellaire, Antrim County, has been changed to Lake Bellaire by approval of the U. S. geographic board. Similarly "Long" lake in Genoa Township, Livingston county, has been changed to Lake Chemung. Changes in certain stream names are now under consideration.

'Y' DIRECTORS O. K. CAMP SITE

Directors of the Birmingham Y. M. C. A. last night promised to pay the $7,500 share of the purchase price of the proposed camp site at Loon Lake, about 160 miles north of the village. The Pontiac and Royal Oak Y. M. C. A. are expected to share the cost and use of the camp site. Charles J. Shain was named by the Birmingham directors to represent them at meetings with the other clubs included in the proposed project.

VILLAGE PLAN DUE HERE IN THIRTY DAYS

A general plan for the village will be submitted in about a month by Arthur Comey, retained to prepare the plan, he said when in the village last week for several conferences with officials.

The work has been under way for several months and the plan is expected to be made with the idea of the future growth of Birmingham.

NEW PATROLMAN ADDED IN HILLS

Howard Robson, 33 years old, formerly with the Oakland Motor Car company at Pontiac, starts his duties today as patrolman in Bloomfield Hills village. His work will be largely office work, Chief Anderson said. Robson is a Bloomfield Hills ap[illegible]

Six Villagers Receive Degrees at U. of M. in June

FRANCES LOONEY

SARAH L. KNOX

MARGARET V. SABOM

ROLLIN M. SMITH

W. E. PECK

NELS W. BURKMAN

These villagers will receive degrees from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor in June.

Miss Sabom is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred W. Sabom, of Puritan road. She is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, national honorary scholastic fraternity and receives an A. B. degree.

Rollin M. Smith, who is also graduating from the literary college is the son of Mrs. Mabel Smith, of Lincoln avenue. He is a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon general fraternity and of Kappa Phi Sigma honorary fraternity. He was active on the Michigan Daily.

Mr. Peck also receives his A. B. degree this June. He is the brother of Raymond, Victor, Arthur and Robert Peck, of the village.

Mr. Burkman will graduate from the dental college. He is the son of Mrs. C. J. Burkman, of Bates street, and a member of Delta Sigma Delta fraternity.

Miss Looney is the daughter of Mrs. A. R. Looney, of Purdy street and recives her B. S. degree. She was a resident of the Adelia Cheever house.

Miss Knox will receive her A. B. degree. She is a member of Alpha Omicron Pi sorority and played a prominent part in campus activities. She was also a member of Theta Sigma Phi and Chi Delta Phi honorary fraternities. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. T. Knox, of Brady lane.

EARLY PUBLICATION

Because Decoration Day this year falls on Thursday, May 30, the regular publication day of The Eccentric, the paper will be published the morning of Wednesday, May 29. News and advertising copy, therefore, must be in the office not later than the noon of May 28.