

Marvel at the bird life you see and hear these summer days; ponder their protection, and pray for more understanding of the Father that created you and your feathered friends.

# The Birmingham Eclectic

PART THREE

FIFTY-SECOND YEAR—NO. 7

BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 1929

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## JENSEN URGES BOND ISSUE

School Board Member Declares Barnum Addition Is Needed

Declaring himself in favor of the proposed Barnum School addition to be financed by a bond issue to be voted on June 10, Guy W. Jensen, incumbent and candidate for re-election to the board of education in the annual election July 8 said:

"The proposed Barnum School bond issue commands my active and whole hearted support. I am convinced that the school needs relief. There is danger of overcrowding and perhaps half day sessions. Half day sessions might be avoided by having children cross the Grand Trunk railway and Woodward avenue, but this is not desirable.

"The residents of the Barnum area merit gratitude and highest commendation for unselfish and actively assisting in providing modern housing and new equipment for the children of the

### WE HEARD IT SAID BY—

Commissioner Robert R. Allen "The village needs an ordinance regulating the height of awnings on the business streets."

residents in other sections. Now their children need, and are entitled to, the same modern facilities which are afforded the children in the balance of the school district, so it would seem to be only fair play for those not residing in the Barnum area to go to the polls on June 10 and vote 'yes' on the proposed bond issue and help residents of the Barnum district who are vitally interested in the passing of the issues."

### SERVICES HELD FOR INFANT BOY

Funeral services were held Sunday in West Liberty, Ky., for Edward Benjamin Hickey, nine-month old son of Mr. and Mrs. William Hickey, of Hunt road. Burial was in Geveon cemetery. The child died early Thursday after a brief illness. Mr. Hickey is employed by the Royal Oak post department.

## AMONG THE WOMEN

Mrs. Spencer Withee Carries On Art Work

By DOROTHY E. WILLIAMS  
It is only natural that Mrs. Barbara Thompson Withee, of Westchester Way, should be an artist. The child of a painter and a musician, from cradle days she lived in an atmosphere that knew art. Now she is prominently identified among Birmingham's younger social set, but she has not forgotten her early artistic interest. Mrs. Withee has continued both her vocal and artistic work, particularly in the latter field, concentrating upon etchings.

Detroit was her birthplace, but at heart she is a villager. In spite of years spent in traveling from state to state seeking the most beneficial climate for a delicate mother, the Thompson family regarded Bloomfield Hills as their home. When Barbara Thompson was seven the family moved to the Hills, settling on the estate now known as "Eastaways." There they lived for nearly 10 years, traveling about, but always returning to the Hills.

Mother Well Known  
Mrs. Walter Thompson, Mrs. Withee's mother, was well known to the artistic world for her portraits and landscapes in oils. Her father, although a business man, was tremendously interested in music, with the background of a child who grew to manhood loving music, stealing away from practical parents that he might have his hours of practice undisturbed. And it was the father's dream that one of his children should be a musician, so it was decreed from her very babyhood days that Barbara Thompson should be a musician, and that the younger brother and sister, should be the artists. But he did not reckon with fate. The father did not know that art would hold first place.

"My debut in the musical world came when I was five," Mrs. Withee laughed. "I took part in a piano recital in Detroit, the youngest of a flock of children, scared to death and finally running my performance by dashed off the stage to sob with my head in my mother's lap."

Gets Early Start  
So began her study of music, with little serious thought of the art which today demands her attention. But in the Thompson family art was just a part of living. Each day the children drew, bringing their sketches to their mother for criticism. Often the entire family gathered for theatricals which inevitably resulted in one of the cast posing for the others to draw.

Life was crowded with events for the Thompsons, tasks and entertainment running hand in hand for the three children. In spite of the tremendous amount of time she spent on her painting, Mrs. Thompson was vitally interested in her children and devoted considerable effort to giving them a

## SERVICES HELD FOR W. F. KNELL

Pioneer in Detroit Auto Trimming Business Well Known Here

Funeral services were held Monday afternoon at the Hamilton Funeral Chapel, Detroit, for W. F. Knell, pioneer in the automobile paint and trimming business in Detroit and well known in Oakland County. Mr. Knell died last Thursday night in the Bay City Hospital following an operation.

Dr. Chester E. Emerson conducted the services at the funeral chapel and Arthur Powley, worshipful master of the Palestine Blue Lodge, F. & A. M., spoke at the grave in Woodlawn cemetery.

Mr. Knell maintained a summer home at Pine Lake for many years. He was a member of the former firm, Knell & Adams located on Jefferson avenue, Detroit.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Charles Bloch, and a daughter. He was a prominent member of the Masonic order and for five years made his home at West Branch.

## SPEAKER



Dr. M. S. Rice will speak at the annual Ladies' Night banquet of the Baptist Community Brotherhood Tuesday evening in the banquet hall of the new Baptist Church. This is the closing banquet of the season and the annual election of officers will take place at this time.

## 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**  
A fire show will be given at Jas. O. Beattie's tomorrow p. m. John R. Nye manager and property man. Admission free.

A new side walk has been ordered on the south side of Brown street. The same is to run from Saginaw street, west to Pierce street, near Sidney Drake's pasture.

The boat that used to plow Orchard Lake's briny depths, passed through our village last Monday, drawn by four span of horses. Capt. J. D. Wilson took observations, and steered for Detroit at 4 p. m.

**TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO**  
One of our village belles had to take a sudden trip to the depot one day lately. Spraying a man's wheel she mounted it. On her way back her skirt caught in the chain right on the car track on Woodward avenue. The man behind rubbered. So did everybody. The marshal came to the rescue spreading an immense umbrella.

The escape was made and the bustling dame walked home and the marshal returned the bike from whence it started.

**FIVE YEARS AGO**  
Sophie Lyons bequeaths \$100 each to Jack and David Gaffil.

Ralph Bunyan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Bunyan, of Brown street, won two medals at third annual Y. M. C. A. meet.

More than 100 members and guests of the Birmingham Gun club attended the annual shoot on Decoration Day.

Annual field day and picnic for members of the St. James parish scheduled to be held June 7 at the adjoining summer homes of Mr. and Mrs. Tunis W. Miner, and Mr. and Mrs. William Story at Pine Lake.

Spread assessment on Pierce street project. Cost per foot for curb, gutters and gravel amounts to \$2.87. Work scheduled to start August 1.

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**Memorial Day** Here is a day dedicated to the great host of those who have passed on, and particularly to that great and noble army of those who have laid down their lives in the defense of this country of ours.

In these men and women, America has indeed something of which she can be proud, and while the nation honors her dead, a great and sincere pride must perforce shine through the nation's tears.

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Amount of Certificate	PAYMENTS			
	Annual	Semi-Annual	Quarterly	Monthly
\$20,000	\$1,480.00	\$750.00	\$377.00	\$126.00
10,000	740.00	375.00	188.50	63.00
5,000	370.00	187.50	94.25	31.50
4,500	333.00	168.75	84.83	28.35
4,000	296.00	150.00	75.40	25.20
3,500	259.00	131.25	65.98	22.05
3,000	222.00	112.50	56.55	18.90
2,500	185.00	93.75	47.13	15.75
2,000	148.00	75.00	37.70	12.60
1,500	111.00	56.25	28.28	9.45

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Mrs. Spencer Withee

nearby little childhood. One of her most unusual gifts to them was a fairy tale, "The Land of Dreams" which she wrote and illustrated. It was a book that told the adventures of Barbara, Jane and Jack, her three children in fairy-land.

"Art was just a part of our lives," Mrs. Withee said. "I remember when I was only eight, mother gave me some oils and a canvas and sent me down to paint a certain bridge in Bloomfield Hills. She was very kind in her criticism, but for the most part the landscape was a failure. I still think that mother saved it merely because she could say, 'Here is something Barbara did when she was eight.'"

To the Thompson children there was little unusual in a summer spent in an artist's colony. I remember the summer we lived in an artist's camp in the Berkshire mountains," she said. "Mother was studying landscape painting, we children attended painting classes and, with all the seriousness of an eleven year old I took up pencil sketching for the first time."

**Lone Pine Inn—A School!**  
Mrs. Withee received most of her schooling at Miss Eades' private school located on the site of the Lone Pine Inn. Later she attended the Liggett school in Detroit, at the same time studying at the MacDonald School of Music. But it was not until after her mother's death that she really took up art seriously.

"My mother seemed so talented to me that I was ashamed to show her my work. Often I would tear up sketches that I made in secret for fear she would see them. After she died, I began to realize how much her training had meant to me and almost unconsciously I began to concentrate on the work. I was 17 then and a student in the Stickney Memorial Arts school in Pasadena, Cal. From then on art held the primary interest for me."

Shortly after this, Mrs. Withee came to Detroit where she studied at the Wicker Art school until the time of her marriage three years ago to Spencer Withee. Since that time she has made her home in Birmingham.

She is now particularly interested in etching, having done considerable work during the past year on scenes in Birmingham and its environs. "I enjoy etching but there is one thing I want to do above everything else. I want to master the art of doing miniatures in wax. It is a work for which Mrs. Thompson became famous, being one of two women in the United States to attempt such miniatures. The figures were fashioned and tinted by her own secret process. It is now the dream of her daughter to make such miniatures. "And I only hope that they will compare with those of my mother," she said.

### O. S. U. REQUESTS 25,000 TICKETS FOR MICHIGAN GAME

(Special to The Eclectic)  
Ann Arbor, June 1—The request of Ohio State University athletic authorities for 25,000 seats for Ohio fans planning to attend Ohio-Michigan football game at 19 has been granted by the University of Michigan Athletic association.

This request, according to Harry A. Tilton, business manager of the Michigan Athletic Association, is the largest ever made by a conference school at another conference school. Ohio's request for 17,500 tickets for the dedication game at the Michigan stadium was the largest until that time. The 25,000 tickets will be sent to the Ohio authorities and they will distribute them through their athletic association.

After judges picked the winner of a high school beauty contest at Chicopee, Mass., they discovered they had selected Robert Dunslop, who had masqueraded as a girl for the occasion.

# Planning Your Vacation

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