

# The Birmingham Eccentric

PART TWO

FIFTY-SECOND YEAR—NO. 4

BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, MAY 9, 1929

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## CREMATION PIONEER SEES DREAM FLEED

Dr. Erichsen, Advocate Of Movement, Notes Progress

### ASSOCIATION PASSES

Announcement is made of the turning over of the business of the Detroit Crematorium, owned by the Michigan Cremation association, to the Woodmere cemetery association of Detroit. Dr. Hugo Erichsen, of Harmon avenue, Birmingham is secretary of the crematorium association and was one of the pioneers who investigated the movement in Michigan and has lived to see the cemetery association, which at first opposed it so strongly that it refused to sell it building space, now accepting it.

The remains of Dr. Erichsen's mother was cremated in 1885 at Lancaster, Pa. When he returned to Detroit he began working on the organization of the Michigan association. Dr. H. C. Erichsen, of Detroit, acted as chairman of the first meeting held Aug. 7, 1885 in the old Harmon Hall.

A committee consisting of C. Schulerberg, Dr. Erichsen and Emory A. Hartig, was appointed to prepare a constitution and by-laws and afterward it was signed by Dr. Erichsen, C. D. Erichsen, Dr. U. Kreitz, Dr. A. N. Pierce, William Voigt, William C. Brittan, Casper Gnaul, C. E. Eisenhardt, S. R. McCracken, A. F. Diederich, Gabriel Chiera, Ferdinand Ahl, Hugo Bloominghaus, Dr. Andrew J. B. Jenner, Charles A. Wall, Carl Spengler, John McGarry, Albert J. Voelker, Dr. C. E. Eggeman, Charles S. Bart, F. L. Domstreich, C. Schulerberg, Emory A. Hartig, Herman Klotzel, Richard Scharschmidt, Amelia E. Randolph, Dr. J. H. Carsten, Dr. B. Rudolph and G. Herman.

Interest was maintained by a series of articles in the newspapers and a complete organization was effected March 31, 1886, with capital stock fixed at \$25,000 in shares of \$25 each.

### Officers Elected

The officers and directors elected were: Dr. James F. Noyes, president; Dr. Hugo Erichsen, vice-president; Moses W. Field, treasurer; and A. M. Low, secretary. An attempt was made to secure a site in the Woodmere Cemetery but it was declined by the cemetery trustees. A site on Marston court, one block east of Woodward avenue, was purchased but the residents of the neighborhood objected and the owner of the land refused to deliver the deed. Later six lots were purchased at Koch and Oakland avenues, but that Charles A. Lewis so, finally a site was obtained on what is now Fulton street, a long way west of the

## Glimpses at and about BIRMINGHAM

By **RAYMOND GIRARDIN**

THERE IS NO UNDERSTANDING THE MACHIAVELLIAN circumstance which allows creatures, made to the image and likeness of man, to sink into that state of existence which earns for them the misnomer of "tramp." Romantic stories of the open road, Tully tales of the ties and those who know them, somehow fail to imply the filth and the squalor and the helplessness . . .

One time I was in an automobile accident at First and Michigan avenues in Detroit. The other driver had come through a red traffic light. Many of this forsaken tribe looked on at the crash, but I could not find one who could be coherent about the fact that two machines collided, let alone the details.

In the days before the saloon became the meeting place for only the rich I used to see these men fighting in the streets. A smarting, gouging and biting at one another in a state of madness. But that is no more. The drunkards among them now are weak, submissive, befogged.

Such hovels one gets into; such squalor he sees. The other night I was led into the basement of the Genesee County jail at Flint to inspect what they call their "tramp cellar." Into a darkened, damp and cramped room, a hundred bits of breathing flossam crowd for sleep. Playthings of the many storms, they seek refuge here one night, in an alley the next, back to the tramp cellar the next. There are shelves along the wall, four high and divided into compartments, each accommodating three of these persons who cling to the border of life. Many prefer the floor. Its dampness to them is the dryness of an August sun; its chill, the mellow warmth of a grate fire. No more nauseating odor exists than that which comes from the hundred unwashed bodies that sprawl in a murmuring sleep. That night it covered us and choked us like a heavy, evil cloud. The thought occurred to me: it was decomposition—decomposition of mindless bodies and shriveled souls . . .

then city limits. There, on a lot of 120 feet front and 100 feet depth, a crematorium building was erected in 1887. A number of the leading physicians joined the enterprise, among them Dr. E. L. Shury, Dr. Justin Emerson, and Dr. Herman Kiefer.

The structure was completed in November, 1887, and on Dec. 10 the first cremation occurred, of the remains of Mrs. Barbara Schorr, of Millersburg, O. Cremation was then a novelty and the newspapers made much of the affair because at that time there was a strong prejudice against this method of disposing of the dead.

The Modern Method The modern method is to cremate the remains with the casket and the residue usually amounts to about four pounds of ashes, which are then placed in an urn and deposited in the columbarium or, carefully sealed, they are delivered to the family for burial in a cemetery lot.

In 1911 a memorial gate to the grounds was erected in memory of Dr. Herman Kiefer, who for eight years was president of the association.

For several years public prejudice made cremations few and far between but gradually sentiment

# MAY WHITE SALES IN FULL PROGRESS

## Sheets - Cases - Sheeting Tabing

- \$1.95 72x99 Pequot Sheets \$1.39
- \$2.15 81x99 Pequot Sheets \$1.49
- \$1.95 81x99 Mohawk Sheets \$1.39
- 50c 42x36 Pequot Cases 1.39
- 55c 45x36 Pequot Cases 45c
- 45c 42x36 Mohawk Cases 35c
- 9/4 Lockwood Sheeting, yard 55c
- 42-in. Peppertubing, yard 29c

## Towels - Toweling

- 29c Bath Towels, 33x17 19c
- 59c Bath Towels, 43x21 45c
- \$1.25 Novelty Bath Towels 79c
- 75c Bleached Linen Towels 59c
- \$1.25 Hemstitched Linen Towels 99c
- Embroidered Linen Towels 99c
- 29c Stevens Linen Crash, yard 19c

## Bed Spreads - Linens

- \$12.00 Rayon Spreads \$7.95
- \$5.95 Rayon Spreads 3.95
- \$2.95 Crinkle Spreads 1.95
- \$5.50 Imported Linen Luncheon Sets \$3.95
- \$7.95 Imported Linen Luncheon Sets 5.95
- \$10.00 Imported Linen Luncheon Sets 7.95
- \$12.00 Imported Linen Luncheon Sets 9.95

## Dress Goods & Domestics

- 65c Peter Pan Gingham, yd. 39c
- 43c Dimities, yd. 29c
- 29c English Prints, yd. 22c
- 29c Rumson Percales, yd. 22c
- 29c Kalburnie Gingham, yd. 22c
- 65c Non Cling, yd. 39c
- \$1.25 Crepe de Chine, yd. \$1.69
- \$1.25 Celanese Voile, yd. 99c
- 18c Unbleached Muslin, yd. 13c
- 22c Hope Cotton, yd. 17c
- 29c Berkeley Cambric, yd. 22c
- 29c Fruit of the Loom, yd. 22c

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GREY shades for harmony of the ensemble.



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Supply your hosiery wardrobe needs right now while our stocks are fresh and complete.

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Smart Trench Coats \$4.95  
Values to \$6.95

New Smocks \$1.00  
In Several Good Colors

Silk Gloves \$1.00  
Values to \$2.00

One lot Hand Bags \$1.00  
Values to \$3.95

New and Improved 3 for \$1.00  
Kotex \$1.00

\$1.25 "Merode" Veats 88c  
All Colors

\$2.25 "Merode" Bloomers \$1.69  
All Colors

\$1.95 Silk Scarfs \$1.39  
Smart Color Combinations

\$1.25 Collar and Cuff Sets 89c

New Flowers 55c  
Values to \$1.00

Coolie Coats \$4.95  
Bewitching Oriental Colorings

Colored, Bordered Linen Handkerchiefs 10c

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An unusual purchase at an unusual price. A sense of obligation between ourselves and our patrons. These are examples of business integrity and store policy that have done much to give this store its prestige.

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## L. E. Davidson BIRMINGHAM DEPARTMENT STORE

116 So. Woodward Birmingham's Foremost Store

the face of a strong and stubborn prejudice. Some of the churches regarded it for a time as bordering upon the sacrilegious. Slowly much of the prejudice has faded away. The present officers of the crematorium association are: C. Leitch, president; Robert Schorr, vice-president; Gustave Schmeeman, treasurer, and Dr. Erichsen, secretary.

The Everts farm is the proud owner of seven wild goose eggs that are wonders in size and weight.

FIVE YEARS AGO Chief James Anderson warns all poultry owners that chickens must not be allowed to roam the streets.

Abandon addition to Barnum school; seek ECo City site. Architect's estimate of proposed building calls for \$180,000 construction cost.

## 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**  
Hot biscuits and maple syrup, whoopee!  
Barnabas Tibbals has a new barn, and we had'n gone to 'Town Meeting' we should never have known it.

Frank Crouch, of Troy, has a windmill in full running order, pumping an overflowing supply of clear cold water. Frank invites all the red ribbons to come and test his drink.

Our village was full of dignified solid looking men, accompanied by their wives, on last Tuesday, attending the meeting of the Oakland County Pomona Grange at the Grange Hall over J. S. Stockwell's store.

Hard boiled eggs were a noted dish at a festive gathering recently, after three or four different ones had broken them in their hands, and found they were raw, they seemed to have relish for any more hen fruit.

Base ball has sprung up. Town meeting next Monday. The Detroit Free Press is one of the best weekly papers in this state or any other state, and we don't care who finds it out either.

Two million boost in village property. Commission names Robert K. McClellan, of Harmon ave., tax assessor to replace Fred V. Quanton. Tax rate of \$13 on a thousand.

"Birmingham must eventually come to Detroit for water," declared George H. Fenkel, general manager of Detroit water department, before Exchange club. "You will find that all the water flowing underground in or near Detroit is of the same quality as to supply your needs even five years from today."

3,000 acres along Southfield avenue sold in past 12 months. Lands sell for prices ranging from \$300 an acre to \$1,000.

Obtain 60 day option on five acres of land for Eco school site. The land, which faces off Pierre street, is priced at \$2,000 an acre.

State asks paving bids for starting Woodward project. Proposals to be opened in Pontiac May 14 for paving and one-half miles of pavement, starting at eight mile road.

Luther D. Allen, Bloomfield township supervisor, announces candidacy for officer of county road commission.

Five new ordinances passed by village officials relative to the

## IT'S PLANTING TIME!



### Nature Is Ready To Help Beautify Your Grounds

SHE will reward you with beautiful grounds this summer, if you will plant ornamental and fruit trees, shrubs, flowers, vines and other growing things now.

Plant now and you benefit by the full spring growing season—to delay longer may mean the loss of an entire year in your planting program.

### Let Us Help You

First, by telling you how, where and what to plant to achieve the best effect. Secondly, by supplying you with fine, hardy, healthy nursery stock that will assure success.

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