

The Eccentric

PART THREE

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BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1929

VILLAGER'S KIND DIES HERE

Mother Of Mrs. Bertha Gullet Succumbs In Village

Funeral services were held at 1 p. m. Monday for Mrs. Sarah J. Davis, 81, who died early Saturday while visiting at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Bertha Gullet, 287 east Maple avenue, av. Robert M. Atkins, pastor of the First Methodist Church, officiated. Burial was in Marine City.

Mrs. Davis had been the guest of her daughter for nearly a month, coming here from her home in Marine City.

Besides Mrs. Gullet she leaves her husband, David, of Marine City; three sons, John, Albert, and David, and another daughter, Mrs. Edith Willis, all of Detroit.

AMONG THE WOMEN

VILLAGE WOMAN RECALLS "TONIES"

By DOROTHY E. WILLIAMS
That was what Birmingham of more than half a century ago dubbed the group of nine young feminists who banded together, principally to have a good time. The times when the Tones flourished are recalled today by Mrs. Emma O. Robinson, 73, of 607 Vinewood avenue, one of the surviving members of the group. Officially they were known as the "Washingtonians," but to the villagers they were the Tones. Primary among the principles of the club was a vow to shun the company of the young men of the village. Marriage was not to be thought of by the Tones.

"Marriage was had nothing on the vows we had to take," Mrs. Robinson laughed. "But that wasn't the sole aim of our club. We wanted to have a good time among ourselves. We just weren't interested in the young men," she said.

Different Village
But the Birmingham of the Washingtonians knew was not the Birmingham of today. "In those days girls enjoyed visiting among themselves. Although there is still the same friendliness between girls of today, it does not seem so general. It does not seem that the girls have changed so much as the environment. The Tones existed in the days before automobiles and motor cars, in the days when an evening in Detroit because of its distance, was impossible to the villagers.

But the Tones borrowed the very idea of their organization from the young men of the village. In 1875 a group of young men formed the Eccentric club, from which the paper later derived its name. Just as the Tones were pledged to shun the opposite sex so had the Eccentrics taken their vows. As their own reports show, any member of the Eccentrics who married was entertained at a dinner and then "sent adrift."

It happened that George H. Mitchell, founder of the Birmingham Eccentrics, was the first married and was dropped from the organization.

Band Together
The Eccentrics had not been organized more than two years when these nine girls decided to band together in a similar organization, starting a rivalry which was to exist for years.

But Mrs. Robinson, then Emma Chatfield, is not the only villager of today who was among that group. There was also Miss Mary Utter, now living at 139 Town street, Miss Hattie Drake of Detroit, and Mrs. Maggie Brown Weist, of Santa Monica, Cal., and Mrs. Mary Simson MacManus, of Dallas, Tex., were also members of the club. The four remaining members of the group now deceased were: Miss Flora Keyes, Miss Jennie Keyes, Miss Della McKinstry, and Miss Kate Simpson.

Five of this group later married and were "sent adrift" by their sister members. Once a month these nine young women met for a social evening and the home of Mrs. Electa Keyes, west Maple avenue, was their usual rendezvous. These meetings were the cause of much speculation from the Eccentrics but as someone put it, "the boys only got as far as the keyhole."

But these meetings were not the only occasion for these friends to congregate. They were always together. They had attended the Academy on west Maple avenue together and later the old school, situated on west Maple avenue at Southfield avenue. The close of school days still found the nine friends in the village, Mrs. Robin-

ONE CASUALTY IN WEEK-END TRAFFIC

Man Slightly Injured In Collision Despite Many Autos

One casualty was reported from automobile accidents in the village over the week end despite heavy traffic. Stewart A. Richard, 3006 west Grand boulevard, Detroit, sustained a broken nose when his car was forced off the road, skidding into a ditch.

The driver of the other machine, Mrs. A. Healey, of 2540 Yorkshire road, Birmingham, was released after making a statement to the police. Serg. Edward Myers investigated.

son at that time being a teacher at the old Hill school.

So the Tones gathered for their secret meetings, living their social lives, content in their small circle. The very secrecy of their meetings gave them prestige. The activities often inserting mystic symbols to bewilder the readers. "The Keperess, the Dream Book" was one office which the reporters created in this sorority of half century ago.

From the Paper
One report of a meeting in 1875 reads: "We haven't said much about the Tones lately, but that handsome band still flourishes, and have their regular monthly meetings and banquets as heretofore. Last week they met at their rendezvous on Mill street and indulged in a late supper and still worse—worse than the Hungry Nine—these giddy girls, after retiring across and ate another hearty meal. The k. o. t. d. b. (Keeper of the Dream Book) was present next morning at the meeting and destroyed his pet melons, both musk and water, in memory of Misses Emma Chatfield and Maggie Brown who soon leave for E. Tawas to resume their labors, educating the E. Tawas youngsters in a far superior manner than they ever dreamed of."

A thrust at the feminists is shown in another article which quotes the Keeper of the Dream Book as solving one of the more weighty problems of the group by predicting, "That before the sun shall set 365 times, one mote of this charmed circle will be married."

OAKLAND COUNTY NEWS

Rochester expressed its determination to remain a village, Monday, by rejecting the city-manager form of government 59 to 47. Votes on the \$7,000 bond issue for extending storm and sanitary sewers, split nearly evenly; there being 286 for and 287 against the issue. A two-thirds vote or 388 were necessary to carry the proposition.

Every precaution is being taken by health officers of village and school to prevent the spread of scarlet fever, in Rochester which has threatened to become serious. Four children and one teacher have already succumbed and daily examinations are being made at the school.

Firemen were forced to use gas masks in their effort to extinguish a fire in the Hayes & Murphy drug store at First and Main streets Royal Oak. Damage estimated at \$2,500 was done by the blaze.

G. L. Adams of Detroit, a clerk, discovered the fire when he opened the store at 7:18 Friday morning. Fumes from the ammonia in the refrigeration system were so strong that he was unable to enter. He called the fire department.

Overnight parking is expected to be eliminated by an amendment to the traffic ordinance passed Thursday night by the Berkley commission. The amendment prohibits parking on the streets for more than five hours at a time.

An ordinance regulating the sale of meat, giving the health officer power to control its keep and sale, was also passed.

A woman's screams brought Patrolman Alvin Cardwell speeding to the vicinity of 84 LeRoy avenue Ferndale early Friday morning, where he found not a murder, but a skunk running around the neighborhood with its head tightly lodged inside of a tomato can. Cardwell shot the animal and the neighborhood resumed its slumber.

Milking 17 cows a day is too much work, according to Mrs. Inshabelle Bell, 378 North Philip Avenue, Detroit, who is seeking freedom from her husband and the drabness of farm life.

Tuesday in the court of Judge Robert M. Toms, Oxford Mrs. Irish recounted her long hours of toil and charged her husband with being profane when her efforts failed to meet his approval.

Funeral services were held Monday for C. Codling, secretary and treasurer of Codlings, Inc., Royal Oak clothing store, who died Saturday of carbon monoxide gas. He was hospitalized in the garage of his Royal Oak home while repairing his car and the body was not found until several hours later.

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FOUR MEN JAILED AS DISORDERLIES

Heavy Sentences Meted Out After Arrests In Bloomfield

Found guilty of disorderly conduct three Pontiac men and one Detroit are serving terms today in the Oakland County jail. One other paid a \$75 fine. They were arrested Sunday by Sergeant Deles Anderson of the Hills police, as they drove south on Woodward avenue in an alleged reckless manner.

The driver, John Marchbanks, 12 Clarence street, Pontiac, is serving a 45 day term. He was given an alternative of a \$75 fine. His companions, Jack Willey, 337 Judson street, Pontiac; Philip Howe, 1018 west Huron street, Pontiac; and Joe McGowan, 6729 Sparta street, Detroit, received sentences of 29 days. They were given the alternative of \$25 fines by Justice Floyd S. Buck.

A \$75 fine was the price James McGrath, of Auburn Heights, paid this week for being disorderly. He was given an alternative of 43 days by Justice Buck. McGrath was driving on Woodward avenue in a zigzag course.

When a friend failed to give her a promised ride, Mrs. Regina Jorka, 80, of Stevens point, Wis., walked 16 miles to attend the funeral of a friend.

Oxford high school has become a member of the Michigan High School Debating League this year and will compete for the interscholastic debate championship of the state, according to an announcement by Professor G. D. Dunsmore of the U. of M. Manager of the League.

WHO'S WHO AND TIMELY VIEWS

By JOHN L. CABLE
Congressman from Ohio
John L. Cable was born at Lima, O., Apr. 15, 1884. He is a graduate of Kenyon college and George Washington university. In 1908 he began the practice of law at Lima. He was prosecuting attorney of Allen county from 1917 to 1921. He was elected to congress in the latter year from the fourth Ohio district and has been returned each term since. He is a Republican.

Authority of the Interstate Commerce commission to regulate interstate air commerce in order to stabilize that industry is proposed in a bill which just introduced in the house.

The purpose of the bill is to stabilize the industry which has enjoyed the most spectacular development of any this country has ever witnessed—I mean commercial aviation.

BREWER NAMED LEGION HEAD

William M. Brewer, chairman of the Oakland County board of auditors, today is named one of the five national vice-commanders of the American Legion. He was given the office at the Legion convention at Louisville, Ky.

Protection and encouragement of infant industries is, and long has been, a policy of the American government, and the protection offered by this new bill is consistent with that policy.

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