

Life always holds something just ahead of us. That is why father always watches Christy...

FIFTY-SECOND YEAR—NO. 24

BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1929

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THE BIRMINGHAM FREE PRESS

Parents Send Fights Death From Bullet Wounds Order Is Issued To School Board; Meeting Called

ASSAULT HEAD UNDER \$20,000 BAIL

Motive Still Lacking in Assault on Former Officer

SANITY TEST GIVEN

George Townsend, 34 years old, former Birmingham patrolman, was fighting for his life in the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital late last night with two bullets in his head...

Townsend's condition was considered grave last night and hospital attendants reported he was fast losing ground before a shock of pneumonia which developed.

Meanwhile Birmingham police and Oakland county deputies were striving to find a motive for one of the most mysterious assaults in the history of Birmingham.

Admit Shooting Gorman admits he shot Townsend last Thursday night and damaged the car from the automobile in which they were riding at the west Maple and Telegraph roads.

Both bullets which were fired at close range from a .25 calibre automatic pistol entered the head...

The wounded man resigned from the police department last July, Tuesday night he and Gorman and the two left together in Townsend's car.

He readily admitted having fired the shots, and throwing Townsend toward the ground when riding the machine in a clump of bushes...

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Fights For Life



GEORGE TOWNSEND

5000 EXPECTED AT HUNT RACES IN BLOOMFIELD

Annual Colorful Riding Exhibitions To Be Held Saturday

FINEST HORSES ARRIVE

Once again the equestrian world turns to the Bloomfield Open Hunt club for the outstanding racing event of the season.

More than 5,000 persons are expected to witness the event in one of the largest crowds of enthusiasts ever to throng the course.

Entry lists give promise of heated competition with horses from some of the finest stables of the middle west as well as from England among the entrants.

Color to Hill. Again the color of the old English hunting days will be brought to the Hills.

The crimson coated judges, the flags flying against the blue of the sky, the glare of the hunting horns will again lend to that atmosphere which is so much a part of the race.

Interest centers about the Bloomfield cup trophy, which for the past two years has been captured by W. O. Briggs' magnificent racer, "Lieut. Seas."

Although "Lieut. Seas" is not entered in this year's race it is expected to appear.

Admission is free. Tickets are \$1.00. The race is held on the 18-hole course with nothing unusual happening on the first two holes.

LABORER FALLS FROM BUILDING

Fracture Of Hip Incurred By Worker On New Brigs Building

A fracture of the hip was incurred Monday by J. R. Bateman, Detroit, laborer on the new Brigs building, Maple and Woodward avenues, when he fell from the second story of the building which is under construction.

He was rushed to the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital at Pontiac where it was found he also is suffering from cuts and bruises.

Wounded fell near new Quaker School in Birmingham. Remains in building. Price \$2,750.00. Bertha, 230 N. Woodward at Oakland. Phone 1451.

FOR ARTIST'S MATERIALS The Three Paint and Art Shop, 144 So. Woodward Ave. Phone 2112. Tuesday, Sept. 24

COACH'S LETTERS

Johnson's Opinion Last Fall Department of Interscholastic Athletics Baldwin High School Birmingham, Michigan

G. F. JOHNSON, Athletic Director. Dear Mr. Gore:

As you requested, I am listing here some of the objectionable things in connection with our game with Mt. Clemens. I refrain from criticizing the officials too much, because it would have no good effect.

The most objectionable feature was the type of play used by Mt. Clemens players. There is every evidence of intentions on their part to deliberately injure our boys.

There were many times when their players made tackles and piled up after the whistle had blown. Some cases were flagrant. It seemed quite apparent that in blocking and tackling vital spots were aimed at.

Necks and legs were twisted in tackling. I personally saw three distinct cases of clipping. I had to remove three men from the game who were simply unable to continue because of constant mauling.

Our conception of High School football is not to injure opponents, but rather to prevent such and to treat them with every respect.

The school officials of Birmingham had no knowledge of this letter until it was read to the Board of Interscholastic Athletics on Sept. 15.

Coach Johnson offers the following letter as explaining his position today in the matter of football relations with Mt. Clemens:

Johnson's Opinion Today Birmingham, Michigan, September 24, 1929.

To Whom It May Concern: The above letter was written one week after the Mt. Clemens game in 1928.

Mr. Russell Gore, father of one of the Birmingham players, professing ignorance of football and it rules wished me to explain to him the conditions surrounding the game and what were the possible objections to the game from our angle.

Parents of boys on the Birmingham team have been approached recently with a petition to not allow their boys to play in the game this year.

The fact that 200 photostatic copies were made of my letter to Mr. Gore shows that someone intended to use it for publicity purposes against my wishes and intentions.

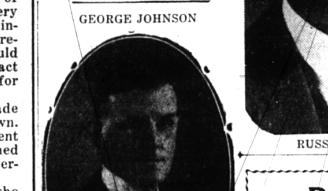
I hope this explanation will make the situation clearer to a number of people who are interested in this matter and wish to have the facts.

(Signed) G. F. JOHNSON.

CENTER OF CONTROVERSY



GEORGE JOHNSON



RUSSELL GORE

Both Sides of Fight

Editor's Note: The Eccentric herewith presents, for the benefit of parents and school officials of this district, two communications which have come to its office this week.

The Parent's Side (By Russell Gore) The facts in regard to Mr. Johnson's letter are:

I do not have to profess ignorance of football. I admit it. But, unfamiliar though I am, I surprised, when I saw Birmingham boys struck in the face, that slugging was against the rules.

I saw the attack on Herman Schwartze, out of bounds after the whistle had blown. It seemed to me a cowardly attempt to cripple a gallant player.

Later I asked the boys after the whistle had blown. It seemed to me a cowardly attempt to cripple a gallant player.

I called Captain Roderick Cox, a boy in whom I have a lot of confidence, and asked him to bring me a long list of fouls that he himself had seen.

Two armed thugs who forced a woman gasoline station owner into the ditch and escaped with the \$310.00 intended to put in a Birmingham bank are sought today by police.

WHITE FLAYS PERSONS WHO SEEK TO SUPPRESS NEWS

"I believe it is essential to the welfare of democracy that newspapers seek the truth about things and people, and print them without fear or favor.

Two armed thugs who forced a woman gasoline station owner into the ditch and escaped with the \$310.00 intended to put in a Birmingham bank are sought today by police.

ARMED THUGS ROB WOMAN

Take \$361 After Ditching Car On Way To Birmingham Bank

The woman is Mrs. Mary Clark of the Thirteen Mile and Southfield roads. While driving to the village, two armed men in a small coupe forced her car into a ditch, ordered her out at the point of a gun and fled with the money.

She gave Deputy R. L. Hoops a partial description of the men but failed to notice the license number of their car. A search of the neighborhood failed to reveal men answering the descriptions.

IT HAD SWEET BIRMINGHAM group at its own guest for the public good; for, where it may hurt an individual to print something about him or her, it must be remembered that the publication of it will help many others.

Newsletters—except those (Turn to Page 2, No. 4)

Order Is Issued To School Board; Meeting Called

Library Commissioner Gore Cites Reasons For Canceling Game Scheduled For Oct. 18

Parents of 24 members of the first string Baldwin High School football team have to date signed an order to Birmingham school officials forbidding them to allow their sons to participate in the game scheduled to be played there Oct. 18 with the Mt. Clemens High school.

VILLAGE SELLS BLOCK OF BONDS

A block of village bonds valued at \$20,000 were purchased this week by the Detroit and Security Trust company whose bid was higher than the additional \$200,000 worth of village bonds, which have been advertised, remain unsold, however.

Leaders of the parents, who protest against what they have called by the board at the time as more may be added to the list. They also suspect a meeting, called by the school board to discuss with parents their cancellation of the game, maybe a trick to obtain the names of persons who signed the order.

The affidavit signed by Mr. Connelly says in part, "We take this action in the interest of the school and as a protest against methods employed by Mt. Clemens in last year's game."

Capt. Herman Schwartze, quarterback, and Donald Gore, star halfback, have been barred from the game by their parents since last summer. Names of the other players are withheld by Russell Gore, father of Donald, member of the Birmingham library board, and one of the parents who have openly protested against the game and against the apparent reluctance of the school board to order Coach George F. C. Hart to cancel.

The Principal Melvin C. Hart to the game this fall was made by Mr. and Mrs. Herman Schwartze, father of the star captain, who forbade their son to play. Mr. and Mrs. Hart (Turn to Page 2, No. 1)

G. T. HEARING DUE SATURDAY

Owners Of Land Adjacent To New Right Of Way Will Meet

Owners of property adjacent to the new Frank, right-of-way will meet Monday in the Birmingham municipal building at a consultation meeting between the state and the owners.

The cases will be heard by Judge H. A. Howick, of Pontiac. Mr. George Lovell, of Milford, and Lee Noble, of Oxford, commissioners appointed by Judge Dan A. McCreary to decide on awards.

According to E. B. Howarth, of Royal Oak, who represents the state in the matter of obtaining the right-of-way, the state will ask \$100,000.

Keep the memory of your children when they first started school with parents' Studio, Theater Building, Birmingham. Mrs. J. W. Milford, 240 So. 2d St. Phone 1451.

HAWKINS SQUARE FOR SALE A. J. Hawkins, 1317 Woodward Avenue, Royal Oak. Tel. 5135. Adv. 23-17

TOWNSEND MAKES STATEMENT TO PROSECUTOR IN SHOOTING

The following statement was made to Assistant Prosecutor Curt W. Augustine by George Townsend in the St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital, Pontiac, last Thursday night after he had been shot by Roy Gorman.

Statement of George Townsend made to Curt W. Augustine, Asst. Prosecutor, on Sept. 24, 1929. Made at St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital, in presence of Donald Mentie and Rufus Ford, clerks. (Mr. Augustine)

Question. What is your name? A. George Townsend. Q. How long have you lived in Birmingham? A. Six or seven years. Q. How long have you lived at Birmingham? A. Ten years. Q. How old? A. 34. Q. How old is your son? A. One is going on nine and the other is four. Q. Can you tell us what happened last night? A. The man (Turn to Page 3, No. 8)

FURNITURE STORAGE 264 Broadway St. Call Mr. Shumway, 1645 during day; 7021-74 evenings.