INCREASE SHOWN IN LIBRARY USE

In Month Of June 5,372 Books Are Withdrawn; 92 New Books Added

Circulation at the Baldwin Public library during June totalled 5,372, or 120 more than that of June 1929. Forty six registrations were added to the previously established total of 4,371 borrowers registered May 31. Books added, numbering 92, brought the total number of books in the library up to 12,285.

Of these 92, there were 37 adult fiction, 45 adult non-fiction, and 10 juvenile books. At the station established for South Birmingham children at the Pierce school, 39 books circulated on the two days, June 17 and June 24, on which it was open.

OFFER TO PURCHASE AIRPORT IS DECLINED

Members of the village Commission, in the absence of President Harry Allen and Commissioners Charles E. Lewis and Lawrence Hulbert, last week declined to consider the purchase of a municipal airport for the village as was urged by Don M. Harris and R. W. Grow.

Mr. Harris, sponsor of the Woodward Airport at Woodward avenue and Clawson road, outlined the project there as ideally situated for such a purpose and R. W. Grow, of Royal Oak, offered to sell the village the site of the Royal Oak Flying Club Airport at Crooks and East Maple roads.

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WHAT'S WRONG AND WHERE?

For solutions to above pictu re see Page 7, this section.

County Nonagenarian Recalls Old Scenes In And Near B'ham

(Concluded from Page 1, Part 2)

was prominent in the affairs of early Detroit was Old Salt Williams. Although he was christened Alpheus, no one ever seemed to know whether he had another name or not; he was always known merely by the nickname of "Old Salt."

This name is commonly misspelled "Sault," according to the Leggetts. They insist that it really should be spelled the other way, and that it originated from the fact that Williams got a corner on the salt market in Pontiac.

Williams was owner and chief driver of a stage coach line running out of Detroit. He constructed a railroad running out of the city, and then to prove he could do it, used to beat his own trains in with his stagecoach. In many other ways he was an extremely eccentric character.

One story Mr. Leggett tells about Williams is that one time an investigating committee was sent out to look up the number of casualties on the Michigan Central and Detroit and Pontiac railroads. The committee eventually came to Mr. Leggett and asked him about the casualties on his road.

"Well, the only case I remember which you could really call a casualty was that of a middle-aged couple who got on a train in Detroit, bound for Pontiac, and died of old age in Birmingham." It is understood that this case was not reported on the committee's records.

Old Salt stuttered badly, and this was the cause of many funny stories regarding him. One of the best is one Mr. Leggett vouches for.

Williams had always been interested in the operation of his own trains, but had never mastered the technicalities of the engineer's job. Once when he was on a train the engineer was taken sick and Old Salt took his place. The depot was on the site of the present Detroit Opera House, and the tracks ended beyond the depot in a sandbank, which served as a buffer. Williams got the train under way satisfactorily, but when he got going he couldn't stop the engine. Accordingly the train shot by the station and buried the nose of the locomotive in the sand bank. When Williams had dug himself out and spat the sand satisfactorily from his teeth, he exclaimed gleefully, "D-d-d-in't I-I-I give her h-h-hell?"

Salt Williams always refused to ride on the muddy streets of Detroit during rainy weather. Once during a storm he rode his horse down a sidewalk and was stopped by a policeman. When he learned that the fine was five dollars, he said, "Here's ten, for I'm comin' back."

Old Foundry Here

One of the prominent buildings in early Birmingham which Mr. Leggett remembers well was the old foundry. It was this factory which gave the village of Piety Hill the new name of Birmingham, for it was visioned that it would some day become a great industrial center. As a matter of fact, the foundry disappeared and the village became once more a residential community.

"The foundry stood apart from the village, by itself in a field," he says. "At that time the village was smaller than the present village of Waterford, and was connected with Detroit by a plank road, which was considered one of the best in the vicinity." A similar plank road extended out Jefferson avenue in Detroit.

It was in the building of this road that so much trouble was encountered in the swamps around Royal Oak. One story is told as illustration of the swampiness of the land. It is of the man who, riding through Royal Oak, saw a hat floating on the surface of a small pool. He investigated, thinking that there might have been a drowning. Under the hat he found a man, buried up to the chin in the soft mud. The traveler immediately started to aid him, but the buried gentleman said, "Never mind; it's all right so long as I've got a good horse under me."

Academy Here, Too

At one time there was a flourishing academy in Birmingham, Mr. Leggett remembers. It was operated by the Bigelow family, who lived in one end of the building, and was located on west Maple street, then known as Mill street, because of the old mill at what is now Quarton Lake.

Indians, too, were among the common sights to the early settlers. Mr. Leggett has seen crowds of Indians, with their squaws, horses, and dogs, and towing their traverses with packs on them, fill the roads from side to side, as they were on their way from their homes to Detroit to collect their annual spring pensions.

Indians Friendly

The Indians never offered the settlers any trouble in this district, he says. A queer custom which was always respected was that of putting a stick against the door from the outside. This signified that the owner was busy or away, and no Indian ever molested the house.

Only once did a settler have trouble. This was with a young Indian, who "got fresh" and walked into a house while the master of the house was away. There were two women in the house, but the Indian ignored them and calmly taking a mirror from the wall, walked out with it. When the master of the house came home he was told of the theft. Promptly he gathered up a blacksnake whip and following the Indian a couple of miles up the road. He recovered the mirror, and evidently the chiefs approved of the recovery, for that was the last case of the kind.

The first piano in Clintonville, in fact in this part of the state, belonged to Mr. Leggett's mother. People crowded into the house to hear it anytime anyone would play.

WE HEARD IT SAID BY—

Floyd S. Buck, Justice of the Peace: "In cases of violation of the fish and game laws, costs often total three times the amount of the fine. The reason for this is that the last state legislature passed a law authorizing counties to hire a full time deputy as well as several part-time deputies. When a conviction is made, the state gets $4, the county $3 and the deputies, when a conviction to the regular court costs. Costs alone thus come frequently to $12 or more."

Two Village Boys Return From 2800 Mile Western Auto Trip

Trowbridge Gail, of Pierce street, and George Sargeant, of Manor road, who returned last week from a 2800-mile camping motor trip to the Black Hills of South Dakota, found the Black Hills an ideal place to spend the summer months.

Probably the most impressive part of their trip, Gail said, was the national memorial which is being carved on Rushmore Mountain.

"On our return trip we went to Keystone and drove as far up Rushmore Mountain as we could, then 'hoofed it' the rest of the way up to gaze at the national memorial which the noted sculptor, Gutzon Borglum, is carving in granite," related Gail. "When this great project is completed there will be three faces, Washington, Lincoln, and Roosevelt. The memorial itself is seven and a half times as large as the Sphinx in Egypt."

He characterized the memorial as "worth coming many miles to see."

Both Gail and Sargeant are Juniors at Baldwin High School, and both are members of the Baldwin High band. They left for the West June 16, returning to Birmingham Wednesday afternoon.

Among the other noteworthy places they visited were Hot Springs, the Wind Cave game preserve and national park, the State Game Lodge (summer White House), Custer State Park, which is the largest state park in this country, the largest gold mine in the world, at Lead City; the world's largest pickle salting factory, at Belle Fourche; the Orman Dam, largest earthen dam in the United States; Federal fish hatchery at Spearfish; and South Dakota Teachers' College.

At the close of The Eccentric's "Everybody Wins Campaign" the subscription price in Oakland County is going to be raised from $1.50 to $2.00 per year. Help a candidate now, and save.

—Adv. tf

$190 COLLECTED IN COURT FINES

Fines collected in the courts of Justices Floyd S. Buck and Malcolm Hunt last week totalled $190. C. J. Roberts, 1016 Beech street, Flint, paid a $50 fine Tuesday in Justice Buck's court on a charge of disorderly conduct. Sergt. Delos Anderson of the Bloomfield Hills police department said that Roberts drove through the village at an excessive rate of speed Monday night, ignoring red signal lights between Long Lake road and Orchard Lake road in Pontiac, where Sergt. Anderson succeeded in stopping him. He also was in possession of liquor, Sergt. Anderson said.

Three Detroit boys of 17 and 19 years of age, on their way with two young women to a lake resort, were arrested by Birmingham police officers Saturday for disorderly conduct. The girls were released, but the boys were held in the Birmingham jail until Monday morning, when their mothers came to Justice Buck's court and paid fines of $25 each. The boys were Walter Walsh, 1823 Leverett street; Edward Fitzgerald, 1553 Twelfth street, and Justin Conway, 1697 Porter street.

Glenn Taity, 20836 Ervine drive, St. Clair, Mich., paid a $25 fine in Justice Hunt's court Monday morning on a charge of reckless driving. Court costs of $5 were paid by Mrs. George Teges, of The Fox and Hounds Inn, Monday morning in Justice Hunt's court for speeding.

Three men sentenced by Justice Buck for speeding Monday were L. B. Ward, 415 Iroquois avenue, Pontiac, $15; John McCou, 643 Hendrie street, Detroit, five days; and Henry Davis, 139 Smith street, Pontiac, $10.

National bicycle championship races will be run at Kenosha, Wis., next September.

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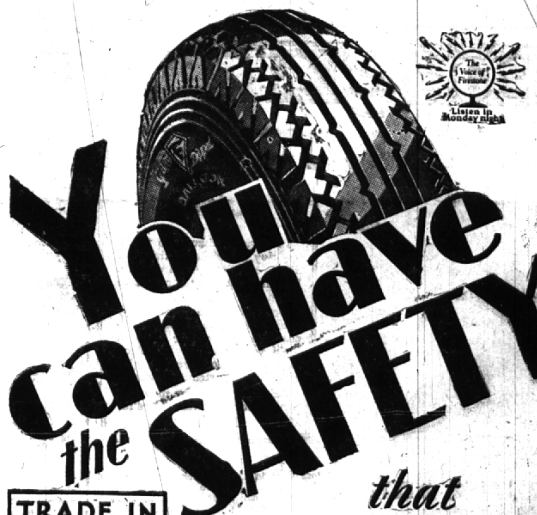

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