

The Birmingham Eccentric

PART TWO

Only during the stress of temptation is your character tried, my friend. Because you receive a temptation to do wrong, you become stronger. Temptations are barriers which lead to climb to CHARACTER!

FIFTY-THIRD YEAR—NO. 39

BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 1931

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POLICE CHECK CLUES IN FITCH STORE THEFT

Loot From Haberdashery Will Exceed Several Hundred Dollars, Report

\$100 REWARD OFFERED

Police were continuing their search today for thieves who broke into the David Fitch haberdashery in the Wabeck Building sometime between 4 a. m. and 5:30 a. m. Dec. 31 and escaped with loot valued at several hundred dollars. The store was looted several months ago.

Men's furnishings, including shirts, 50 dozen neckties, fur-lined gloves, an expensive overcoat, articles of jewelry and evening wear were included in the loot. A reward of \$100 for the arrest and conviction of the thieves is announced by the proprietors. A few fingerprints left by the hands on showcases are being checked in the hope of giving additional clues as to the identity of the burglars.

The theft was discovered at about 5:30 a. m. by Patrolman George Stephenson. Several cartons of belt buckles scattered over the sidewalk in front of the store first attracted his attention to the robbery, Stephenson reported. Upon further investigation he found that the lock on the door had been forced.

Patrolman Joseph MacGregor, who later investigated the theft, expressed the opinion that experienced burglars must have committed the crime because of

TAKES OFFICE



Birmingham's representation in the county government was further added to with the beginning of the New Year when G. Dewey Kimball, above, local funeral director, took office as county commissioner with J. Lee Voorhees, of Pontiac. Mr. Kimball favors the establishment of a county morgue. He is 32 years old and married. He is a member of the American Legion, The Lions Club, and the Knights of Pythias.

the evident skill with which they forced the lock to gain entrance to the building. An accurate list of the goods stolen and its value will not be determined until after an inventory has been taken, Mr. Fitch said.

Oakland County Is Example Of Costly Gov't, Expert Says

Arthur J. Lacy, chairman of the property owners' division of the National Association of Real Estate Boards, in an article entitled, "The Cost of Government" printed in the Detroit News last Sunday, urges the consolidation of various governmental branches as a partial solution of the delinquent tax problem. As an illustration of what he terms the evils of an archaic form of taxation which imposes on real estate a disproportionate share of the tax burden, Mr. Lacy cites the following figures on Oakland County as an example of the condition which he claims is nation-wide.

"Permit me to present some figures just applied to me regarding Oakland County—one of our richest counties, with an assessed valuation in 1928 of \$302,148,500. Its share of the state tax for that year was \$843,086.31, of which \$276,342.97, or 29.32 per cent was returned delinquent. It cost Oakland County \$16,485,000 for the advertising of 41,214 descriptions of land for the May, 1929, sale for unpaid taxes of 1926. At the May, 1930, tax sale, lands were sold for delinquent taxes for 1927 amounting to \$1,000,000. It is stated by the state, in its report, 1930, that 19,350 delinquency in the payment of taxes for 1929 in some of the local units of Oakland County is as follows: Southfield Township, 60 per cent; Farmington Township, 38 per cent; Avon Township, 35 per cent; city of Royal Oak, 32 per cent; and city of Farmington, 30 per cent. In the city of Pontiac there is a present delinquency of 32 per cent in the payment of the July, 1930,

taxes, and approximately 17 per cent of the 1929 taxes remain unpaid. A certain 120-acre farm near Farmington, which was subdivided and placed on the tax rolls as lots, accumulated in three years time \$58,000.00 of unpaid taxes. The present bonded debt of the county, townships, cities, villages, school and special assessment districts of Oakland County is \$63,568,020.29, which is \$302.90 for every man, woman and child in Oakland County, according to the 1930 census.

"In the entire state of Michigan the taxes for 1928 were returned delinquent on 9,113,883 acres of land and 973,109 villages and lots for \$217,475,52 unpaid local taxes and \$25,782,094.23 unpaid local taxes—a total delinquent amount of \$243,257,619.23 for the single year of 1928 in the astounding sum of \$28,829,438.75—a sum largely in excess of the entire state tax levy of \$20,500,000.00 in property for that year. The cost of local government in Michigan represented 30 per cent of the heavy burden which caused this excessive delinquency.

"Recently two counties in Tennessee were consolidated with one set of county officials for both, cutting the taxes squarely in half, from \$2.60 on the hundred of dollars to \$1.30. Commenting on this in its September, 1929 issue, Capper's Magazine said: "We really wanted to obtain a greater reduction in local taxes, three or four counties could be combined into one and be more efficiently managed by one county seat, especially if a county manager was put in charge. We shouldn't need much urging."

"A reorganization of this nature is a justification for the township unit of government. A radius of three or four miles then reached the rural locality—that was about the range of the circle of our personal acquaintances. The same territory contained the neighborhood. The automobile, radio, telegraph, telephone, daily press, and zoning ordinance have enlarged the neighborhood area and given us a radius 10 times as great as the neighborhood—times as large. In the horse and buggy age, 20 miles was a day's journey; now an auto or automobile is a matter of hours. What does all this mean? It means that the unit of government can be enlarged without a surrender of the principle of local self-government to which we are all committed. In practical effect, our townships are not as large now as a section of land is 30 years ago. It is as ridiculous to maintain a township government now as it would have been to maintain a section government a generation ago.

Gets New Post



DR. ARTHUR W. NEWITT

For the past 10 years Birmingham health officer, Dr. Newitt, above, has left for Midland, Mich., where he will serve as county health officer. Dr. and Mrs. Newitt left last week. Dr. Newitt resigned as health officer, Oct. 31 and his resignation was accepted with regret by the village commission. Dr. Newitt was largely responsible for the organization here of a village health department and the program for its advancement. He is succeeded by Dr. William Lloyd Kemp, 832 Oakland avenue.

\$3,400 RECEIVED IN SEAL SALE

County Tuberculosis Association Returns Still Coming In, Mrs. Hale Reports

The annual Christmas seal sale of the Oakland County Tuberculosis Association has netted more than \$3,400, according to the report of Mrs. Zolpha B. Hale, secretary of the association. On Dec. 31 the returned were \$7,340.65 which was \$290 more than the total of last year, Mrs. Hale said.

Returns are being made at a rate of almost \$100 per day in response to the several thousand letters sent out by the association before Christmas. In order that file clerks may ascertain exact totals as soon as possible, Mrs.

FIRST BABY OF 1931

Birmingham's first child of 1931 is a baby girl, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Hababuams, 1899 Glenwood avenue, born at the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital at 6:50 p. m. Jan. 1. The girl was the second born in the county after the new year.

Hale urges all persons solicited to reply as soon as possible. It is planned to send a follow-up letter to all delinquents by Feb. 1, requesting them to send money for the stamps or to return the stamps, Mrs. Hale announces.

GOOD PRINTING

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220-222 N. Woodward Ave.
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AUTO IS FORCED IN DITCH; 2 HURT

Driver On Wrong Side Of Road, Continues On Way After Accident

Mrs. A. Chapman, of An street, suffered an injured nose and left shoulder at 3:50 a. m. Friday when the automobile in which she and her husband were riding went into a ditch on the Greenfield road, 500 feet south of the Fourteen-Mile road.

Frank Conant, 928 Madison avenue, the driver of the car, told the police that he was forced to drive into the ditch to avoid striking another machine, being driven south on Greenfield road on the wrong side of the highway. The other machine did not stop, he said. Conant suffered a slight head injury.



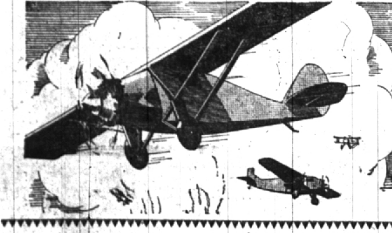
"IN BIRMINGHAM HIGHLANDS"

This charming home is located on Bryn Mawr Drive just south of West Maple Road. Contains five bedrooms with three baths, all exceptionally large and well arranged. Open every evening and Sunday afternoons.

J. E. BURRIS - Builder

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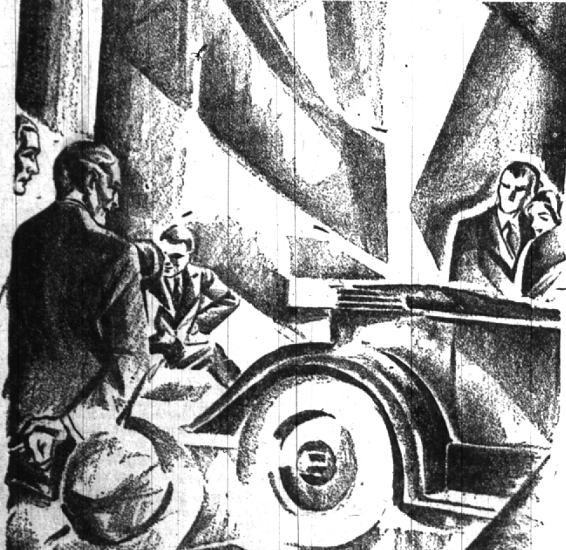


The Law of Motion

Mother Nature decrees: no living plant or animal stop growing or it will decay. And in business you must be alert and growing or else die. Printed matter and advertising are the life blood of business and make for growth and health!

QUALITY PRINTING THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

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FIREMEN TO HAVE NEW ASSOCIATION

Officers Elected, Plans Being Made For Re-organization Of Former Group

Plans are being made for the re-organization of the Firemen's Fund Association as a result of the recent abolition of the volunteer officers. Carl Gaskill, president of the new organization announces. While no by-laws nor other regulations have yet been drawn up, officers have been elected and a meeting expected to be held in the near future.

At the meeting held recently, Mr. Gaskill was elected president, George Wimsatt, vice-president, and Lloyd McQuater, secretary and treasurer. The old association's fund, amounting to approximately \$700, was turned over by Charles Jones, former secretary of the organization, and was divided among the members of the department. Capt. William Thornton, acting head of the department, announced. Funds for the support and maintenance of the new organization probably will be obtained through dues, donations and fines, Capt. Thornton said. All members, both of the paid and volunteer departments, will join the new organization, it is expected.

Vaughn Resigns As County Agent

Harold M. Vaughn, Oakland County agricultural agent for the past five years, has resigned and E. D. Bailey of Holly, has been appointed as his successor, it was announced last week by C. V. Ballard, county agent leader of Michigan State College. Mr. Vaughn's resignation is effective Jan. 13.

Mr. Vaughn came to Oakland County Feb. 1, 1926 as county agricultural agent and because of his efforts and the combined efforts of farm organizations active in making Oakland County prominent in agricultural progress. Mr. Bailey for the past 10 years has been connected with the Holly schools as agricultural instructor.

By means of a double scanner, the new television equipment of W9XAP-WMAQ, Chicago, is able to switch from a group scene to closeups of several actors in a split second.

Just A Passenger, Mike's Challenge Lands Him In Court

Or How A Mood Moved Milan Into A Battle Against Too Great Odds

Mike Milian was in a pugilistic mood. There were a few sharp, well-defined words. They burst suddenly from the mouth of Mike. They were challenging words. And Sgt. Anderson accepted the challenge. At the Bloomfield Hill Police Station Mike reported, for a moment, when he was jailed for being drunk and disorderly. He asked that his wife be notified that he was being held, against his will. There was no need, however, to notify Mrs. Milian, where her husband was. She knew only too well. She was, in fact, also a passenger in the car that Mike had forgotten.

The driver of the car paid a \$3 fine for violating the traffic ordinance and Mike, who lives on Charest avenue, Detroit, arranged before Justice Floyd S. Buck, paid \$30 for being drunk and disorderly after pleading guilty to the charge upon which he was arraigned.

VILLAGER CHOSEN WORLD 'Y' ENVOY

Derwood Harris To Represent District At Assembly In Toronto

A signal honor was bestowed upon a Birmingham boy, Derwood Harris, when he was selected as one of eight delegates from the State of Michigan and more specifically to represent the six counties in this section of the state, to attend the World Assembly of Young Men in Toronto, July 27 to Aug. 2.

Three hundred and fifty delegates from all over the United States will be in attendance. It is expected that more than 40 countries will be represented. This assembly is under the direction of the World Committee of the Young Men's Christian Association.

Derwood Harris of Glangary Road, is 17 years of age and a member of the Baldwin High School. He has acted as President of his class for two years, is active in H-Y Club work, and is also known for his skill in football, baseball, and basketball. As typical American youth, this versatile young man is well fitted to be one of the representatives of the State of Michigan at this conference near Toronto, Mich. Harris has recently traveled in Europe and is therefore not unfamiliar with the living conditions of the boys of other countries.

An instrument has been developed which determines the condition of the oil in the crankcase of an automobile, and indicates when the oil should be changed.

"In the January Sale"

Society Brand Clothes

\$50 Stanwear Two-Trouser Suits or \$50 Stauchleys

THIRD OFF

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"Gentlemen! It's Time to BUY!"

P E C K ' S

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