

Do you ever ponder the beauty, the harmony, the orderliness that is contained in the plan of the world? Should a human beings be more like the floral world—lovely to behold?

FIFTY-THIRD YEAR—NO. 50

BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 1931

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80 PAGES, PART 1

THIS and THAT

Boar on 'Take Action' on Gravel Pit Transaction

By L. A. D.

Did you notice the remarkable resemblance to a piggy bank the sand and shadows have formed in the Bloomfield Township Gravel Pit? A few weeks ago it might have washed it away but the picture appeared in last week's issue of The Eclectic. The resemblance is so real we were at first undecided just what should be done. Immediately a march for G. L. Borkum (the sculptor who is carving statues of Civil War heroes out of a mountain near Chattanooga); then we considered buying some meat to feed the animal. After a while the idea came so intensely real we went to the telephone and were just about to call John Miller and ask him to come out from the Detroit Zoological Park when we realized the township owned the pit and there to feed the bear. It wasn't ours to sell.

Chase Olson, Michigan's walking encyclopedia, has gone back to school. Word comes from Purdue University that Chase Olson, who left the halls of learning there in 1890, is resuming his studies there. The man with knowledge on a myriad of subjects undoubtedly includes the alphabet. "The older we grow the more we realize that there is always more to learn."

Clare H. Ogden, village attorney, the other night referred to a certain corner of the township as "their Mr. Smith." We wonder how many "Mr. Smiths" there are on the trust company's payroll.

The present dog ordinance for which you, as a dog owner, pay taxes, was originally designed to protect owners against damages to livestock caused by vicious dogs. Perry A. Miller, supervisor, and a justice of the peace, had a hurried call the other day to appraise the value of 21 dogs in the doghouse in Bloomfield Township. No, if they'd only enforce the hitting post ordinance.

Then there was the Birmingham resident who tells this story as evidence for the existence of Russia. During the Christmas vacation, he said, he sent an order for Christmas cards to the printers. He instructed the printer that he wanted a silver star in the corner of each card, and a candle in the opposite corner. When the cards were returned there was a bright red star in one corner and a tractor in the other!

To our amazement, we learned the other day that there are not a few persons in Birmingham who believe in the village committee who sign all their checks with the well-known "X."

Dr. Fred L. Tucker, who ministers to the aching teeth of unfortunate when he isn't engaged in the duties as Village Commissioner, naturally expresses himself in terms, unconsciously, at the end of the dental profession or the medical profession. "But it was somewhat a surprise the other day when he heard the valuation of the proposed width of an alley's throat."

A certain w.k. advertising man of Birmingham was visited recently by another Birmingham man while the village was out of the room, his son entertained the visitor. The bright red star in the questioning age and he questioned at length. After a while the visitor, who had been visiting for many queries, called out to the wife of the first mentioned, w.k. "Say, Mrs. Whitcomb, where does your son get his first for knowledge?" "Well," she replied, "he gets his knowledge from me and his first from his father."

Q.—What was the little boy's father doing in the kitchen?"

Grief, in the vernacular of the day, may be anything from criticism to downright reprimand. And Albert W. Noonan, village supervisor, is a good example of the latter. When the village owners complain if the value of their homes is raised or lowered, he objects when the valuation is raised because they feel it means more taxes and others complain if the valuation is lowered because it makes it more difficult to sell their homes at the right price.

The other day a certain gentleman in one of the outgoing dials, telephoned to advise that he should not have to pay any taxes. "But what about the police and the fire department?" "I've got a good way of getting away and I've got a well for my water supply."

Mr. Noonan should have replied, but didn't.

"Into each life some rain must fall, but why in the nether regions do you get it?"

Hunt's Motion to Have \$104,850.00 Purchase Invalidated, Gets No Support; Vaughan Promises Probe

The majority of the members of the Bloomfield Township board are not officially disposed to action which might invalidate the contract for the purchase of the \$104,850.00 township gravel pit which was the subject of the board Tuesday morning when a motion by Judge Malcolm Hunt, offered with such a purpose, found no support. Judge Hunt's motion was prompted, he said, by the recent opinion of George A. Cram, chief counsel of the Oakland County Prosecuting Office, who declared the gravel pit was purchased illegally.

HOUSE PASSES TOWNSHIP BILL

Measure Would Require Public Meetings; Affects Bloomfield Township

Township boards having assessed valuations exceeding \$25,000,000 will be required to have public meetings, twice a month, with notice of meetings to the public, an amendment to the township act, introduced by Rep. Phil J. Miller of Oakland County.

Could Refuse to Pay

In the event the township board did not believe the taxpayers could refuse to pay that part of the township tax assessed on the gravel pit, the township board would be required to pay the tax.

VILLAGE TO GET NEW POSTOFFICE

Treasury Dept. Recommends \$150,000 for Construction of Building Here

Reports that Birmingham is to have a new \$150,000 postoffice and that the Treasury Department has recommended that the village be allocated that amount for the purchase of a site and building for the new postoffice.

Calendar of Coming Events

- Today—Oakland County Tuberculosis Assn. banquet in Community House.
- Monday, Mar. 30—School Board meets. Public hearing on the budget. Men's Club of 7th Denison University, concert 8 p. m., in Community Hall of the Baptist Church.
- Michigan League lecture by Prof. H. M. Jones on "The Future of the Community House." Gyroscopes luncheon at the Community House.
- Township Board meeting 9 a. m.
- Women's Literary Club open day, music and tea at Baldwin Public Library.
- First banquet of the Baldwin Y. M. C. A. (No. 3).
- Of all kinds, Fire, Windstorm, Automobile, Accident, Burglary and Theft, with a special feature on life insurance problems to you. No charge. Free will contribution over thirty years.
- THURSDAY & SON, Jewelers Whitehead & Standard Co., First National Bank Building. (No. 3)

ATTORNEY LITIGATES OFFER OF SETTLEMENT IN GRUEL CASE

Involuntary Manslaughter Trial Continues Today in Detroit Court; VILLAGER IS DEFENDANT

Counsel for Charles S. Matthews, Birmingham attorney, yesterday indicated that their client should offer to settle the case. Matthews is charged with involuntary manslaughter, a result of the death of Mrs. Brady, a housewife, who was fatally hurt by an automobile at Woodward avenue and the academy. Matthews is on trial before Judge John J. Maher in the Detroit traffic court.

THOSE FINGERS IN YOUR POCKETBOOK

Taxation, from the earliest times, has been largely a matter of government. In fact, even pocketbook. What those fingers extract is used for the maintenance of government. In those who serve in your protection and advancement.

NOTED ATTORNEY TO GIVE TALK HERE ON CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Thomas E. Chawke, of Chawke & Shan, one of the greatest criminal lawyers in Michigan, will speak in Birmingham next Wednesday evening, April 1, at 8:15 p. m., on the subject of Capital Punishment in Michigan.

EXPECT LEGISLATION

The meeting here next Wednesday night is expected to attract people from all over the Oakland county, as well as Detroit. Mr. Chawke is reputed to be a powerful platform speaker, and knows his subject exceedingly well because of his long association with the criminal cases which he has participated in for many years.

INSURANCE

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TAX REFORMS SPEECH BIG SUPPORT ORGANIZATION FORMED

With an impassioned plea for the taxpayers of Birmingham and county unite in a grand movement to bring about a reduction in taxes, although the township form of government, and are laws which have resulted in a jangling of indebtedness, until the deleterious condition of county indebtedness in excess of \$60,000,000, A. L. Moore, Pontiac attorney and expert on matters of government, last night addressed more than 150 members of the proposed Property Owners' District of the local real estate board.

ELIMINATED THE OFFICE

Long a center of controversy, the first department now is established as Perry who recently for his activities, desires it. "The reason for the elimination of Mr. Thorn is that there is no longer a need for them. In reorganizing the department we have eliminated the office of chief and for purposes of economy through the reduction of personnel."

COMMUNITY HOUSE SETS \$18,000 GOAL

A total of \$18,000 has been definitely set by the steering committee as the goal of the Community House drive which will take place officially from April 26 to May 15, 1931.

AD DRUG STORE WITH PERSONALITY WILL CELEBRATE SILVER ANNIVERSARY, APR. 1

This is the simplest story of a drug store. It has its beginning in an announcement and an anniversary. The well-known, well-established drug store has completed 25 years of personal service to a community.

Like everything else, Shaik's store had a beginning. As an infant, it began to sustain every week-day morning at 7 o'clock and on Sundays at 8 o'clock. Every day, Shaik's store has been in existence for 25 years.

Darry Discharges Vernon, Chief of Fire Dept.

Victory for Village Manager Is Seen in Appointment of Griffith As Permanent Chief

In the reorganization of the Birmingham Fire Department, Tuesday, which resulted in the dismissal of William Thornton, acting chief, and Leroy Weier, a fireman, while Vernon-Griffith was appointed permanent chief of the department, many villagers see a distinct victory for James W. Parry, village manager, who is responsible for the changes.

POLICE CATCH FEEBLE MAN

Lee Adams, 22, Alleged to Have Stolen \$609, Nabbed On Train

Quick action on the part of Birmingham police officers Tuesday resulted in the arrest of Lee Adams, 22 years old, a Negro, who had been driving a truck belonging to his home town at Winborne, La., with \$609 in cash and currency he had embezzled from the J. C. Chevrolet Sales agency.

MRS. SMITH, 64, RITES FRIDAY

Funeral services for Mrs. Zilpha Bayley Smith, 64, will be held tomorrow afternoon at 2:30 o'clock from the Whitehead & Standard Co. Episcopal Church and Rev. Charles M. Smith, Jr., pastor.

FENCE AT TOWNSHIP PARK WILL BE MOVED

Because the survey of the Grand Trunk railroad tracks that the fence of the Bloomfield Township park has been erected on the railroad right-of-way, the township board has decided to move and one of the golf course greens altered. R. J. Coywell, township clerk, Bayley has approved the plan.

During the day young mothers occasionally left their infants at their homes, but the rest of their shopping. Some of our most respectable citizens practice this kind of a "baby-sitting" (Turn to Page 2, No. 2)

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