

Within the breast of every human being there is the potential flower of love for another. In the haste of modern life, too few of love's seeds are planted—and we have man's inhumanity toward man.

FIFTY-THIRD YEAR—NO. 50

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

\$2.00 PER YEAR—SINGLE COPIES 5c

## TAXPAYMENT DELAY IS AID

\$744,061 Received By Township; \$309,000 Paid In March

Because of the extension of the time for the payment of taxes to the township treasurer, Birmingham Township's tax collection this year has been greatly assisted, approximately \$300,000 having been paid during the month of March.

The final tax collections made without the addition of a penalty this year amounted to \$744,061, Mrs. Thomas reports. The total paid to have been collected was \$1,358,809.77. Of the \$25,202.84 assessed against bank stocks held in the township, only \$13,842.47 has been paid and most of this was under protest.

The reason the banks are protesting the payment of these taxes is based upon a Supreme court decision handed down last December which ruled that certain bank stocks in protest which had already been assessed, could not be taxed again. These stocks should be deducted from the results assessment, the court ruled.

Whether the decision should affect property assessed last June six months before the Supreme Court's decision, is the problem which now confronts both the bankers and township government in the state. R. J. Coryell, township supervisor, said.

## OAKLAND COUNTY NEWS

At Island Lake, near South Lyon, the pavilion formerly used as a bath house will contain all the concessions this summer. A complete new water system, recently installed, is to be ready for use during the 1931 season. Two old storage buildings, and two concession houses on the grounds when the Department of Conservation took over the property, are being removed. Space formerly occupied by the old buildings will be converted into picnic and auto parking grounds.

Clawson has adopted a budget which will make the tax rate the same as last year, \$11.25 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. The police force has been reduced from three men to two, and a similar cut has been made in the department of public works. The village clerk together will be placed on a part-time basis.

In Royal Oak, costs of operating the city garage are maintained at a lower level now for 63 cars in the various kinds of service, with less employees, than when the service was first started six years ago, in spite of the fact that every piece of equipment is now thoroughly overhauled each winter.

Bayden Almond of Holly availed of a serious railroad wreck last Wednesday by removing a heavy steel shoe from a road scraper, found across one of the rails at the crossing one mile south of Holly, clearing a passenger train came along.

Holly taxes will be delinquent only about 25 percent on the collection that is just closing, in these days when in many sections less than half the taxes are paid, the Holly Herald reports.

With completion of three of possibly five new water wells, New Hudson is feeling a greater sense of security from fire. One or two others may also be installed. Since the city has just purchased a fire engine, and a siren has just been ordered.

The county declaration and ratification contest was held in the Holly high school yesterday afternoon, with seven voters and 10 declaimers representing Pontiac, Oxford, Ferndale, Royal Oak, Keego Harbor, St. Fredericks, Milford, Berkley, Holly and Birmingham.

To raise funds for boys' athletic work, a box social was given at the Waterford school Friday night, with a magician and a reader furnishing the program of entertainment.

Berkley villagers will be able to pay local taxes in two installments, July and October, if the village charter amendment to be voted on April 6 passes.

A thousand teachers of southern Oakland county attended the institute meetings in Royal Oak Saturday morning, with teachers from the University of Michigan as speakers.

The first mystery play ever to be given in Oxford, "Out of the night," will be staged tomorrow night by the Junior class of the high school.

Appointment of 13 postoffice clerks for the Royal Oak postoffice has been authorized effective Apr. 1, and alterations of the postoffice are being rushed for completion before Apr. 1 when the

local branch probably will be definitely established as an independent office separate from Detroit. Mail is now sorted in Detroit. The new branch, recently authorized \$190,000 for a federal building in Royal Oak and construction will be completed before the lease on the present building expires.

Rochester's all-star girls' basketball team will play the Royal Oak girls' team in the high school gymnasium at 4:30 p. m. Others of the gymnasium are held at 7:30 on track practice. Class teams have been organized and each girl is compelled to enter three events, the 55-yard dash, high jump, broad jump, baseball distance throw, basketball, goal throw, baseball pitch, potato race, traveling rings and relay. A meet was planned for the class teams for Mar. 30.

The first outdoor track meet of the season for Rochester boys took place at Dearborn Saturday afternoon.

An auction sale of horses was held in Holly last Friday. Twelve of the Western horses were sold, with the average price a little higher than \$90. The highest price was \$135 and the lowest \$40. Another group of horses was sold in Byron on Wednesday for the same dealer.

Pastors and choir of the Methodist churches of Holly and Milford exchanged services Sunday for the evening service.

Four 4-H sheep pills have been organized in the county, in Walled Lake, Holly, Ortonville, Clarkston, Orion, Holly and Farmington.

Members of the Farmington Business & Professional Women's Club Monday heard reports of the recent girls' Vocational Conference which they sponsored for representatives from numerous schools in Oakland and Washtenaw counties participating.

Boys playing an air-ride in the neighborhood of Adams avenue and Holland street at 7:50 p. m. Monday wounded a 12-year-old girl, Ann Bouchard, 1015 Holland street and another child, Gordon Brown, of Humphrey avenue, was reported shot twice in the right leg.

The shot which injured the girl lodged above her right eye. Her injury is not regarded as serious, however, police report. Three boys playing with air rifles in the neighborhood, were questioned by police and their air rifles were confiscated. The boys denied the charge that they had shot at the girl or at the Robinson boy.

A Bible, a small quantity of grape juice and \$12.25 in cash were recently taken by a thief or thieves from two churches at Paterburg, Va.

## KURTH-FITCH GAME, FRIDAY

Brazil To Referee Contest For 'Y' League Cage Championship

What is expected will be the most closely contested basketball contest of the season will be held tomorrow night at the Baldwin high school when the Fitch quintet and the Kurth Realty team, formerly the R. A. C., face each other in the game to decide the championship of the local Y. M. C. A. basketball league.

Preparations are being made to provide for a large crowd and David Brazil, former All-American football star of the University of Detroit and assistant basketball coach at the U. of D. will referee the game.

During the league schedule, Fitch remained unbeaten, confounding the Baldwin team at the gymnasium its schedule Tuesday night with a 22-16 victory over the First State team. The Kurth Realty five has lost only one contest, and that by a narrow margin, to the undefeated Fitch aggregation.

The contest will begin at 7:30 p. m.

Try an Eccentric Classified Ad.

## PEOPLE'S COLUMN

The Eccentric is pleased to receive communications for this column. All communications should be signed, but signatures will be kept confidential upon request.

March 25, 1931.

Editor, Birmingham Eccentric: Discussing economic conditions with some citizens of this village I heard of an action taken by someone in authority at the Municipal Building affecting a few more ounces of ironing some of the necessary work of the village. I refer to the cutting of hours and wages of men employed at the street department, etc. Investigation disclosed that the men sent out to clean the streets, part of whom had been working nine hours, 70 cents per hour, and the balance nine hours at 60 cents per hour. My information is that all these men were reduced two hours per day and 10 cents per hour, which will mean a reduction of 33 1/3 per cent in income.

Now I submit that no man can support a family decently on what these men have been called upon to accept. I learn that they are home-owners and tax-payers, and as such, are entitled to the respect and consideration of the rest of us who are in the same boat—meaning home owners and tax-payers—and since there is a quality to their labor, and a visible result of it, I would like to help them. If there is not sufficient work for them to do, why not cut the hours and leave the income the same? That is the progressive way and the economical way. Very many industries now have the six hour day, some the five hour day, and still others the six hour day, and five day week without loss of compensation to the employees affected, and those who have inaugurated such humanitarian reforms are enthusiastic when speaking of results.

It will be said immediately that the cut given these seven men was in line with a program of economy. Before that answer is given tongue, I desire to say that it is not economy, and if considered seriously must eventually fall within those classes of obsolete acts so well set out and decreed by the President of the United States and some of our greatest industrialists, when discussing the present era of stringency times.

If the Village commission is responsible for the situation I would like to ask "Why was not the amount cut from the top of the organization?" and "Is there anyone that really believes that the expensive organization of inspectors, clerks, messengers, etc., is necessary?"

The work of these men who have felt the blow, is necessary. The number could be doubled or tripled and plenty of work found for them to do, and the expense would not be burdensome. As an illustration some time ago The Powers That Be came along to my home, told me it was business frontage, and over my protest installed four water connections on my property. Now one of these connections was a replacement, but I was assessed \$25.00 beside the plumber's charges. Now I could take these seven men under discussion, furnish all the material for those four water connections, pay the men their top wages and install those four connections for less than \$50.00. Now who got the other two hundred? Must have been the ones who are not suffering wage cuts.

My taxes are too high. In fact they are more than I can pay, but if these seven men were given decent wages, say not less than eight dollars per day, it would add only about 10 cents to my taxes for a year, so why be mean and miserly about the matter.

T. C. HOELING,  
197 Merrill St.

## Forlorn Figures



We would all like to see a giant exercising on the athletic papa who is continually tossing his baby up in the air in the news reels.

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