If you would like to pierce the veneer of the materiality of life with something that regenerates impoverished souls, drive slowly these days through the country, where tree and bush have donned gay patterns.

The Birmingham Eccentric

16 PAGES, PART 1

FIFTY-FOURTH YEAR—NO. 27 | BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1931 | $2.00 PER YEAR—SINGLE COPIES 5c

THIS and THAT

By G. R. A.

The Bank of England is known as "The Old Lady of Threadneedle Street." I suppose she keeps her eye on her knitting, too—or she might be darned.

—

I hope you read "From A Woman's Angle," the column written each week in The Eccentric by Marjorie Elaine Porter. There's a lot of homespun interest in the terse paragraphs that find their way on to newsprint via Miss Porter's nimble fingertips. Men, too, will get a new angle on feminine affairs by reading the column.

—

For the sixth consecutive time, without opposition, Luther D. Allen has been elected president, and William M. Story has been chosen clerk of Bloomfield Hills Village. Mr. Allen used to be supervisor of Bloomfield Township, and now is chairman of the Oakland County Road Commission. Mr. Story looks after W. T. Barbour's Hills' property.

—

The Creator

He takes the sound of the dropping nuts
And the scent of the vine-sweet air
In the twilight time of the year's long day;
When the spent earth kneels in prayer;
He takes a thousand varied hues
Aglow in an opal haze,
The joy of the harvests gathered in,
And makes the Autumn days.

—Selected.

—

Reports from Germany indicate that her people are becoming increasingly devout, attending church in greater numbers. This is attributed to the poverty stricken condition of its inhabitants, who are now finding it necessary to suffer tremendous taxation in order to pay for the World War. When men find that their physical resources are not capable of carrying through life, they turn to the intangible, yet omnipresent, support of Deity. God will not be denied!

—

One million dollars worth of gold weighs about a ton and one-half. Just think how much easier the poor man's load is than the millionaire's. And then keep right on hoping to be a millionaire, eh? grow strong carrying burdens, eh?

—

A clock so accurate that it is correct to one ten-thousandth of a second is being installed in the Bureau of Standards, at Washington, D. C. Probably to enable the members of the Senate to close their speeches on time during the next Congress.

—

Hon. Newton D. Baker, Secretary of War under President Wilson, makes this keen observation: "Surely there must be something higher in air than that every individual shall ride round in a car over a perfect road at a speed of 60 miles per hour, with no place to go and nothing to do when he gets there."

—

It is reported that in Michigan today there remain 800 blacksmiths and 70 livery stables. The remainder of the corners are used by filling stations, I suppose.

—

The W. C. T. U. has started a campaign to raise a million dimes, for purposes of espousing the cause of prohibition. Here's a chance for John D. Rockefeller to get his name in the newspapers again.

—

The Village of Birmingham offered $104,000 worth of refunding bonds three weeks ago, but received no bids. That means that the usual channels through which such bonds are sold have been closed. A year ago those bonds would have been bought quickly. One reason that municipal bonds do not find ready takers these days is because of the great increase in delinquent taxes. Municipal bonds are no better than the faith and credit of the people who comprise the community that tries to sell them, and the fear and distrust that in times like these attends the investment of money, in the case of the above bonds, however, investors who appreciate the comparatively good condition of Birmingham's finances ought to find little objection to buying them.

HAVE YOU MET?—

Dr. and Mrs. Claude W. Behn and family who moved from Detroit to Birmingham on June 15 and now reside at 986 Glenhurst drive. Their family includes a son, Claude W., Jr., who is six years old and attends the Quarton School, and Barbara, who is one year old. Dr. Behn, who is an obstetrician, has his office in Detroit.

VILLAGE OPENS MOVE TO GAIN GAS RATE CUT

Will Carry Consumers Power Probe Through Southern Oakland

NO FRANCHISE HERE

Preliminary steps toward a thoroughgoing investigation of the gas rates charged by the Consumers Power Company, in which every municipality in Southern Oakland County will be asked to participate with a view to bring about substantial rate reductions, are being taken today in accordance with action moved by the Village Commission at its meeting Monday night.

A committee appointed by Village President Harry Allen and composed of Commissioner Charles E. Lewis, James W. Parry, village manager, and Clare H. Ogden, village attorney, has been authorized to enlist the support of cities and villages from Ferndale to Pontiac in determining a just rate and to call on the State Public Utilities Commission in case a satisfactory arrangement cannot be made between the committee and the Consumers Power Company.

Reduction in the rates will be demanded on the grounds that present business conditions have lowered the production cost of gas and should therefore be followed by a corresponding reduction in charge to the consumer.

Cites Lower Costs

"People can't afford to pay the same rates now, when everything else is down, as they did in prosperous times," said Commissioner Lewis in pointing out that the price of coal, labor, machinery and other products have been cut to meet existing demands. "I think we're entitled to an investigation," he declared.

Decision to appoint an investigating committee was reached after Mr. Ogden had announced to the Commission that the only gas franchise in the village records expired in 1924 and that for the last seven years the Consumers Power Company has been operating here "without right or authority."

The only other document relating to gas utilities, Mr. Ogden said, was a resolution adopted in 1919 authorizing an increase in the gas rate to $1.20 per thousand cubic feet. No further permission, according to the records, was ever granted for gas rate increases. Prevailing rates charged by the Consumers Power Company in Birmingham are based on

(Turn to Page 2, No. 4)

OPPOSE TAX FOR FIRE PROTECTION

Eight Residents In Long Lake District Object To Township Plan

Establishment of a fire department for protection of unincorporated areas of Bloomfield Township is at a temporary stand-still today, following the filing of a protest by eight wealthy township property owners at a hearing in the Municipal Building last Thursday.

The eight objectors are all residents of the Long Lake district, some of whom have private fire fighting equipment and all of whom have access to the lake waters. Their petition objected to the establishment of a fire department "at this time, owing to our financial conditions." It was signed by Col. Edwin S. George, H. W. Potter, L. Stahelin, E. R. Thom, George B. Storer, H. E. Hills, G. D. Pope and E. B. Newton.

Township Supervisor Perry A. Vaughan announced following the meeting that he will interview each of the eight personally and attempt to overcome their objections. In any case, he said, their number will not be sufficient in comparison with the total number of township residents to cause abandonment of the project.

"There is a possibility," he said, "that we will be able to form the Long Lake district out of the proposal entirely, and set up the department for the rest of the township. There is a chance, too, that either Birmingham or Bloomfield Hills Village may be brought in with us on some arrangement or other."

Agitation for a township fire department was raised several weeks ago during the grass fire season when hundreds of acres of property were burned over and valuable trees and shrubbery destroyed.

A series of public meetings resulted in a proposal that the township spend $5,000 for equipment and hire four full-time firemen at $1,500 per year, the money to be raised by a special assessment tax. The equipment would be housed in the township highway garage in Bloomfield Hills and operated and maintained independently.

A. L. Moore Lays Bare County's Tax Problems

Blames Public Apathy, Unwise Improvements For Mounting Burden

One of the most comprehensive and constructive addresses ever given on the subject of "Taxes in Oakland County" was made Tuesday night when A. L. Moore, prominent Pontiac attorney and an expert in legal matters pertaining to property, talked for more than an hour to 300 interested men and women in Stevens Hall, Pontiac.

The occasion was the second annual meeting of the Property Owners Division of the Pontiac Real Estate Board. Birmingham was represented at the meeting with a delegation of 15 members.

Prior to Mr. Moore's address, Judge Arthur J. Lacey, of Detroit, chairman of the Property Owners Division, National Real Estate Board, talked on the subject of modern taxes. Both Judge Lacey and Mr. Moore admitted that, in the picture of mounting taxes—which have now reached a point were they are confiscatory—the general public must be included as a factor that made it possible. Public apathy, plus the pressure brought to bear upon public officials for improvements over the past 10 years, is held responsible for the staggering tax assessments now levied against real estate.

Mr. Moore was introduced by the toastmaster, F. Homer Newton. Mr. Moore's address, in full, follows:

"For many years, Oakland County has been celebrated for its beautiful scenery—its 500 lakes and delightful countryside. During the last few years beautiful estates have sprung up in various sections of the county. Located as it is in the very threshold of Detroit, and now served with a fine commuter service, Oakland County, under normal conditions, should be one of the most favorable spots in the world.

"For many of us, it is the home of our birth, or others, it is their home by adoption, but regardless of whether we were born in this county, or have come here voluntarily, we are all interested in the welfare, the prosperity, the safety of its interests, and in its future prosperity.

"During the past few years, a (Turn to Page 3, No. 6)

Tax Expert

A. L. Moore, Pontiac attorney and chairman-elect of the National Property Owners' Division, who gave an enlightening address on Oakland County's tax problems in Pontiac Tuesday night, will be one of the speakers at an open meeting to be held in the Birmingham Community House next Wednesday to protest the re-assessment of the county by the State Tax Commission.

TAX PROTEST MEETING SET

State's Re-assessments To Be Attacked At Open Session Wednesday

Local developments this week in the situation raised by the State Tax Commission in re-assessing Oakland County were:

1. A public meeting sponsored by the Property Owners Division of the Birmingham Real Estate Board will be held at 8 o'clock next Wednesday night in the Community House to protest the new valuations.

2. Part of the township tax rolls were secured by the state Tuesday for the purpose of writing in the new valuations. The others have not yet been called for.

3. The committee of seven wealthy Bloomfield Hills property owners appointed at a public meeting last week to evolve a plan of attack on the State Tax Commission will hold its second meeting tonight.

The protest meeting in the Community House here next Wednesday will be addressed by A. L. Moore, Pontiac attorney, and Raymond H. Berry, Detroit tax attorney who has been hired by Bloomfield Township to investigate the legality of the re-assessment.

Urges Large Attendance

In announcing the meeting yesterday, Charles A. Bingham, secretary of the Property Owners' Division, emphasized the fact that it is open to the public and urged every taxpayer in the vicinity to attend. Charles J. Shain, chairman of the Division, will preside.

Up to late yesterday the state had made no request for the tax rolls on property in the southern half of Bloomfield Township. The

(Turn to Page 2, No. 2)

ATTACKS GOVERNOR

"Within the memory of my own life, I know of no more staggering blow against the morale and security of Oakland County than the one given this fall by the State Tax Commission," said Mr. Moore in his address Tuesday night. "If there is any representative of the Tax Commission, of the Governor, or anybody else connected with state affairs, in this room tonight, I want them to know that the present state administration has done more harm to Oakland County than any other administration I can think of. In spite of the times, of the already tax-burdened residents of our county, the Lansing officials have come here and doubled, tripled, and even quadrupled, the assessed valuations." Thunderous applause followed the statement.

Changes Made In Township Offices

Activities of the township engineering department hereafter will be charged to the general fund rather than to a separate engineering fund, and the office of the department will be moved into the general offices of the township, Perry A. Vaughan, township supervisor, announced yesterday.

No members of the department have been laid off, and the only saving contemplated from the change will be the rent charged by the village for the office formerly occupied by the engineering department on the second floor of the Municipal Building, and the village may even refuse to forego this, Mr. Vaughan said.

Village Manager James W. Parry said the subject had not yet been brought to his attention by township officials.

PRINTING PROBLEMS
are ironed out to your satisfaction, Folks, when you bring them to The Eccentric's printing department. If you call us at 11, 43, or 13, we'll be glad to send a salesman to see you, too. —Adv. 27tf

State Librarians' Group Honors Her With Presidency

Mrs. Thomas

Mrs. Nancy B. Thomas, librarian of Baldwin Public Library, was signally honored by members of her profession last week when she was elected president of the Michigan Library Association at the annual convention in Battle Creek.

Other officers named were C. Tefft Hewitt of Muskegon, first vice-president; Mrs. Clara Clark, of Painesvale, second vice-president; Miss Elizabeth Skinner, of Detroit, secretary, and Miss Edith Chamberlain, of Flint, treasurer.

Mrs. Thomas succeeds Prof. Carleton B. Joeckel of the department of library science at the University of Michigan. Mrs. Thomas served as treasurer of the association in 1929-30. She has been in charge of Baldwin Library here since November, 1927.

Y. M. C. A. DRIVE IS UNDER WAY

Private Solicitations Have Brought Gratifying Results, Chairman Says

The annual Y. M. C. A. drive for funds to defray the expenses of the organization's boys' and girls' work for the coming year is well under way today under the supervision of Don Jordan, general chairman. The goal is $7,500.

The first part of the campaign is being devoted to private solicitation of individuals who have been special patrons of the Y. M. C. A. in the past.

Whether a general campaign will be necessary will not be known until the results of the private solicitation have been computed. First tabulations of the progress of the drive will be made Friday night, Mr. Jordan said yesterday.

"The committee is highly grateful for the support given thus far in the campaign," he said. "To date not a single person we have approached for a donation has refused us."

TOWNSHIP APPROVES ROUGE DRAIN PLAN

A resolution approving the system of sewage disposal for the Rouge drainage district as proposed by the County Drain Commission, was adopted by members of the Bloomfield Township Board at its meeting Monday evening.

The resolution provides that the system "be constructed as proposed at some future date when financial conditions permit, and that township officials be authorized to sign petitions for the publicly owned lands in Bloomfield Township."

No More Bummin'

Thumb Jerkers Given Official Bounce In New Traffic Amendment

A severe blow is dealt to the cadging business (or is it a profession) in Birmingham today with the publication of an amendment to the village traffic ordinance which prohibits the soliciting of rides in any vehicle by persons standing or sitting on streets, sidewalks or curbs.

The amendment was adopted by the Village Commission Monday night after an objective survey made by Clare H. Ogden, village attorney into the evils of hitch-hiking and means that are taken to obliterate the practice in other Michigan cities.

It was brought out at the meeting that henceforth it will be all right for a motorist voluntarily to make a "pick-up" of a weary pedestrian, but woe to the pedestrian, be he caddy or no caddy, who, in the accepted manner of the act, closes fingers into a fist, jerks thumb over right shoulder and hails: "Ride, mister?"

The village manager expressed some apprehension as to whether the legislation could be enforced against minors, but Mr. Ogden was of the opinion that if a few of the more skeptical offenders wanted to be shown, a good talking-to from the Chief of Police would turn the trick and make the village streets as free of grift-conscious bogus urchins as Quarton Lake is of swordfish.

RENTALS. Furnished houses: Lovely home, 8 rooms, 2 baths, oil burner, large lot, $125 month. Another, 6 rooms, garage, $50. Both well located. Unfurnished: 8 room house on corner, 3 car garage, shade and shrubbery, $60. 6 room house, large lot, lovely trees, $50. Half double house, $40; another $30. House in terrace on corner, $35. Another, $25. 2-room furnished apt., heated, $18.
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THREE VILLAGE CONSTRUCTION JOBS RUSHED

Woodward Widening And Sewer, Eton Paving Near Completion

OPEN ROAD NEXT WEEK

Urgent haste is being used today to force the completion before bad weather sets in of three important construction jobs in the village—the Woodward avenue widening, the Woodward avenue sanitary sewer between Lincoln and Clawson roads and the Eton road paving.

The last stretch of concrete on the Woodward widening project was laid yesterday at Eleven Mile road in Royal Oak, thus completing the strip north as far as Lincoln road in Birmingham. A few cross-overs, some to be paved and others to be graveled, still remain to be finished, but should be completed by Friday if the weather is good, A. S. Thomas, time-keeper on the job, said yesterday.

The pavement will probably be opened to the public the latter part of next week, Mr. Thomas said, although the shoulder work and clean-up jobs will probably not be finished for three weeks or a month.

First cement on the Eton road job—an 18-foot single strip pavement without curb or gutter—was poured yesterday and 314 feet were completed. The grading has been finished and laying of the remainder of the cement—about 1500 feet of it—is expected to be completed in two days unless rain prevents. The entire job, which is being supervised by the village engineering department, is expected to be completed and ready for use in about 10 days.

More than 1200 feet of tile had been laid up to yesterday in the Woodward sewer job, according to W. C. Russell, in charge of the work for the R. D. Baker Construction Company. Workmen are progressing north from Clawson road.

About 600 feet of 72-inch tile remains to be laid and the rest in smaller sizes, according to Mr. Russell, who estimated the job was about one-third completed.

BOARD APPROVES ROAD COMMISSION

Supervisors Adopt Resolution Of Confidence; Members Take Wage Cut

The Oakland County Road Commission, the resignation of which was requested by the recently disbanded grand jury, was given a clean bill of health yesterday afternoon by the Board of Supervisors when it adopted a resolution expressing full confidence in the three members of the commission, Luther D. Allen, Isaac Bond and Herman Hillman.

The vote on the resolution was 35 to 7. Dissenting supervisors were Frank Springsteen and Peter Schroff of Royal Oak, Charles Holman and Clayton Lilly of Ferndale and W. H. Paddison of Oxford.

At the same time, Springsteen introduced a resolution calling for a reduction in the salaries of the road commissioners from $4,000 to $3,000, but since the Board of Supervisors is not allowed arbitrarily to cut salaries of officials while in office, the resolution was tabled and the three commissioners appeared voluntarily to accept a 10 percent cut, or a reduction to $3,600 each per year.

George Cram, Oakland County civil counsel, read an opinion to the supervisors in which he claimed they had the right to fix the salaries of the Board of Audi-

(Turn to Page 2, No. 5)

Village Players Will Open 9th Season Friday Evening

Lights will shine again from the foyer of the Village Players' theater, on Chestnut street, Friday evening after a summer of darkness, and the curtain will rise on the first program of the Players' ninth season.

The offering will include three one-act plays, with two "nifties" from the pen of W. A. P. Johnson in for good measure.

"The Widow's Veil" by Alice Rostetter will open the program. It concerns a discussion between Mrs. Phalen and Mrs. McManus across the dumb-waiter shaft in their tenement home.

Mrs. Harold Middleton is cast as Mrs. McManus, and Mrs. L. H. Clemett will portray Mrs. Phalen. Dr. J. B. Hasberger will direct the play, assisted by Mrs. C. G. Eden.

In "The Short Cut" by Percival Wilde, the second piece, Robert Clayton and Carlton Scott find themselves in the predicament of men who have been trapped in a mine for three days. Action takes place in the dark, and the piece deserves the name of "thriller," according to Mrs. L. H. Clemett, who is directing it.

"Society Notes," which will close the program, is a sparkling bit of dialogue from the pen of Winifred (Mrs. C. H.) L'Hommedieu, who was Miss Winifred Batchelor, sister of E. A. Batchelor, Detroit newspaperman, and resided in Grosse Pointe.

The scene is laid in a bower of sunflowers (designed by H. Ledyard Towle), and as the curtain rises, two prominent members of the negro colony are engaged in social chit-chat over the wash tubs.

Mrs. Warner L. Forsyth appears in the role of "Caroline," with Mrs. Charles E. Asper as "Lily." Mrs. Russell Lewis will direct the production, assisted by Mrs. Allen Joslyn.

Mr. John's two "nifties," "For Dear Old Rutgers" and "Apartment 324," will fill their "half minute." Each with entertainment between acts.

FURNITURE STORAGE
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—Adv. 21tf

Michigan Baptist Convention Opens Here On Monday

Convention Speaker

Governor Wilber M. Brucker will be one of the guest speakers at the Michigan Baptist Convention banquet in the First Baptist Church here Wednesday night. Attendance at the banquet will be limited to 450 guests.

Birmingham To Be Host To 1,000 Delegates At First Big Conclave

GOVERNOR TO SPEAK

Birmingham is preparing today for the role of host it will play next week to the thousand or more delegates expected to attend the annual state Baptist Convention, which will open Monday and continue through Thursday. It is the first large convention ever brought to the village.

Clergy and laymen of state and national prominence will be in attendance at the conclave, all sessions of which will be held in the Birmingham Baptist Church, and will be open to the public, with the exception of the convention banquet Wednesday night which will be limited to 450 attendants.

The list of speakers who will address the various group meetings and assemblies includes among its best known names Gov. Wilber M. Brucker, Dr. Bruce Kinney, director of Indian Missions for the United States; Dr. P. H. J. Lerrigo, home secretary of the American Foreign Mission Society; Grant M. Hudson, former congressman from the sixth Michigan district, and Miss Alice W. S. Brimson, president of the Baptist Missionary Training School in Chicago.

Of the 1,000 delegates expected, about 400 will come from distant points and will be entertained in Birmingham homes. Committees from other churches in the village are aiding the host church in working the housing problem, and will also co-operate with the Community House in serving meals to the delegates.

Rev. D. L. Woodward, pastor of the host church, said yesterday that although accommodations had been found for the majority of the 400 visitors, a few would be forced to seek quarters outside the village. He asked those who would dare to accommodate guests to inform Mrs. Herbert Gardner, 172 Aspen road, chairman of the housing committee.

Both Governor Brucker and Dr. Lerrigo will address the Wednesday evening banquet. Dr. Lerrigo will also speak at the Wednesday afternoon session, while Dr. Kin-

(Turn to Page 2, No. 1)

GROSSE POINTE TRIMS MAPLES

Blocking Skill Gives Visitors 7-0 Victory; Baldwin Seconds Win

By EDGAR ZIMMER

The Grosse Pointe High School football team humbled the Baldwin High varsity in an S. E. A. A. struggle Saturday at Pierce Field, 7 to 0. The Birmingham second team won a one-sided battle with the Grosse Pointe seconds, 48 to 0.

The varsity squads were quite evenly matched in weight, but the visitors' excellent blocking gave them a slight advantage. Baldwin's offense started slowly and failed to gain with any consistency until the third quarter.

Birmingham's passing was tried often but without much success. Fumbles and penalties were common, both teams getting their share of each.

Grosse Pointe moved forward only 120 yards from scrimmage and gained only five first downs while Birmingham gained 193 yards and 10 first downs.

Punters Vie

In the first quarter Hunt of Birmingham and Wernet of Grosse Pointe waged a spirited punting duel, in spite of the high wind. Both made some long boots.

At the beginning of the second period Grosse Pointe advanced five yards and punted out of bounds on the 25-yard line. Birmingham lost the ball through a fumble on the second play and the visitors moved up to the 11-yard line, from where a double lateral pass, R. Shepherd to Wernet to Hanneman, was converted into a touchdown. Wernet kicked goal.

Baldwin began to make itself felt in the third quarter. In this period Hunt passed to Harris for a seven yard gain, and after a few unsuccessful downs Harris tossed a pass to Hunt who ran 30 yards before he was stopped.

Again in the last period Birmingham marched 33 yards down the field before losing the ball on downs. Incompleted passes were frequent in this quarter, Birmingham's missing seven. The game ended with the ball in Birming-

(Turn to Page 2, No. 3)

HUGHES' EXAMINATION POSTPONED TO OCT. 23

Examination for George A. Hughes, 36 years old, of 156 Waddington road, on a charge of negligent homicide, was deferred to Oct. 23 by Justice John E. Brondige of Royal Oak last Friday.

Hughes was the driver of a car which killed two women and injured two others in a collision at the corner of Woodward avenue and Thirteen Mile road on the night of Oct. 2. A witness claimed Hughes was driving on the wrong side of the highway, and he was held in $5,000 bond on a charge of negligent homicide.

The examination was postponed because the two women who survived the crash and who are expected to appear as witnesses are still in the hospital, Judge Brondige said.

SCHOOLS CLOSE AS TEACHERS CONVENE

Three Baldwin High Instructors On Program For Annual Institute

Birmingham schools will close tomorrow while all teachers throughout the system are attending the annual sixth district Michigan Education Association Institute in Detroit.

The Institute will continue through Saturday with all sessions being held in Masonic Temple. Attendance of all teachers is compulsory.

Birmingham schools will be represented at three different sessions on Saturday morning's program. Mrs. D. W. Waterman, dean of girls at Baldwin High School, will address a forum in compulsory education on "The Relationship between Persistence in School and Home Conditions." Melvin C. Hart, principal at Baldwin, will describe "What I as a Principal Expect of My Manual Arts Department" as one of the speakers in a discussion devoted to manual arts and industrial education.

W. S. Toothacker, science instructor at Baldwin, will be chairman of a meeting for physics and chemistry teachers at which one of the features will be a demonstration of a science club meeting presented by students of several different schools, including Birmingham's.

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