PLAN MEMORIAL RITE FOR BINGHAM

Exchange Club Sponsors Movement To Honor Its First President

Plans for a memorial service in honor of the late Charles A. Bingham, whose death during the past week has thrown a blanket of grief upon many local and nearby citizens, are going forward today. The service, according to H. T. Ellerby, John Lawson, Luther D. Allen, and George R. Averill, representing the Birmingham Exchange Club, sponsors of the movement will be held in the Birmingham First Methodist church Sunday afternoon, Nov. 8. Mr. Bingham was an attendant of that church.

The subject was brought up Tuesday noon before the Exchange Club by Ralph C. Moulthrop, and was adopted immediately. Mr. Bingham was the first president of the Exchange Club.

The committee in charge will extend an invitation to every local civic and fraternal group with which Mr. Bingham was at one time connected. They include the village commission, Community House, Y. M. C. A., DeMolay and Masonic organizations, Real Estate Board, as well as friendly non-member relationships with Rotary, Lions and Gyrophytes.

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which the county is presently unable to remit to the village. If this money is released to the village in the next three months the village will be able to meet its current expenses until the middle part of February without borrowing.

The village then will borrow in January or February in anticipation of 1932 taxes to meet expenses for part only of the first half of next year. This is only normal and in any other times than these would not excite comment. This year was the first time for several years that we did not borrow before the end of or shortly after the beginning of the fiscal year for current expenses.

The village has this year met its bond and interest obligations, paid its current expenses to date, paid, in the early part of the year, bond maturities in excess of collections in the amount of about $15,000, and paid in August $45,000 of notes maturing Nov. 1, thereby saving interest charges.

This warrants the conclusion that the village finances are in splendid shape, notwithstanding a present tax delinquency somewhat less than 48 per cent, or about 10 per cent higher than normal delinquency.

Expenses during the year have been kept not only within the budget, which was adopted only after careful study but further economies have been effected which will result in a saving of some $15,000 included in the budget. Seven fewer persons are employed by the village than were employed Jan. 1 and this process of reduction of payroll and other expense is being continuously made.

The question of tax collections, however, ought not to be lightly dismissed. Many can pay no part of their taxes. Taxes are in the nature of village accounts receivable. The village cannot operate indefinitely unless it can collect its accounts. Those who can pay will perform a patriotic act if they pay now.

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mand. These loans may be made on notes, bonds, mortgages and other sound securities commonly classed as frozen assets, so termed because they could not be used for loans from the Federal Reserve Banks as now constituted.

The business of the corporation will be entirely with banks, and the whole system will work closely with the established Federal Reserve System.

Subscribe to The Eccentric; $2 per year, two years for $3.50.

SATURDAY IS LAST TAX-PAYING DAY

Saturday is the last day for paying 1931 village taxes. Taxes unpaid by that date will be returned to Pontiac for collection as delinquent, with the accruing penalties.

To date, collections have been the slowest in years according to Charles E. Plumstead, village treasurer, and unless the receipts of the last three days are large, the delinquent roll will be even greater than that of last year.

Full-Time Treasurer Seen As Boon To Efficiency In Township Offices

Elimination of the possibility of error and a saving in payroll is claimed for the system inaugurated in the Bloomfield Township offices for the first time this year in which the township treasurer is made a full-time official and the services of part-time employes are not required.

"We have attempted to anticipate the peaks in our work," says Lloyd B. Reid, township engineer, "and as a result have eliminated the peaks altogether."

The new arrangement, with Mrs. Margaret Plumstead as the township's first full-time treasurer, will mean that this winter, for the first time in the township's history, no extra help will be needed at tax collection time. Previously, from two to four girls, working several weeks at a time, had to be employed to aid in making up tax statements and receiving collections.

Work Together

Full credit for the success of the new arrangement does not evolve upon the treasurer alone, however, Mr. Reid pointed out. The willingness of other township employes to co-operate has also had its share in achieving the desired result.

"Unlike the methods followed in most other offices," Mr. Reid says, "Bloomfield Township employes have always been willing to pool their efforts on a single task requiring immediate attention, regardless of his or her recognized title.

"For instance, there have been times when the entire staff, including the supervisor himself, has worked together in filling out assessment cards writing up tax statements, spreading assessment rolls or some other united task which must be done in a hurry, even though it may be the duty of a single official to get the particular job done.

Saving Seen

"Thus it comes about that everyone in the office knows how to work at everyone else's job, and outside help, meaning extra expense and the introduction of the possibility of error, is no longer needed.

"This system has enabled us to keep our assessment rolls up to date as soon as the various tax rates are determined and we can start writing them in, even though we have been severely handicapped this year by the fact that the rolls have been for several weeks in the possession of the county supervisors and later, the State Tax Commission.

"Tax statements are also filled out in advance as far as possible, so that there will be little appreciable delay in sending them out on time even though the rolls are held up."

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the man whose job it is to watch those things.

Asks For Investigation

"I don't say that these charges are true, but I think a thorough-going investigation is needed. I believe there are men on the Com-

The following unsolicited statement was received by The Eccentric yesterday from Fred W. Johnson, Adams road:

"Purely as an interested onlooker, I dropped in at a session of the Village Commission Monday evening. From the point of view, knowing that it is the lot of public officials to receive much condemnation and but little commendation, I am impelled to express an opinion.

"In my business I have had many contacts with similar bodies. I have never seen in such a body an average ability so high, nor such a keen individual grasp of the problems and responsibilities confronting them.

"Many cities of many millions would be fortunate if they could enlist such ability in their service. Birmingham is to be congratulated."

mission who don't know how the money is being wasted.

"With economy being practised these days from Washington right down to the smallest hamlet in the county, it's high time we start to make some savings in our own village.

"I could pack this hall several times over with dissatisfied citizens who absolutely know that money is being wasted and employes are not earning their salaries."

Charges Concealment

Charges that attempts to go after the facts to support such claims were frustrated by village employes themselves, and that "the man who goes after the information is snuffed out" drew instant fire from Hulbert and Parry.

"Anybody who comes into this building to get information gets it if it's in any way gettable," Parry claimed.

Pressed for specific cases of unnecessary payroll expenditures, Tuggey said he believed the building and electrical inspectors "aren't earning their money," and that "there are a lot of people who want to know what the engineering department is engineering."

Spikes Script Rumor

Parry replied that the building inspector's salary "is essentially paid for by the buildings themselves." He declared that during the building slump this employe has spent more than half his time on the new building code and the remainder of it in inspecting buildings and in assisting in the engineering department.

Tuggey next reported a rumor that village employes were soon to be paid in script. He was answered in a statement by Hulbert that "according to the budget I have here we have enough money on hand to carry us into January."

In answer to questions fired by Tuggey, Parry reported that the annual village payroll is about $20,000, between 40 and 50 per cent of which is for police and fire departments, that no schedule of salary increases has been carried out in any department for the past two years, and that on the other hand, there have been "no material reductions."

Loafing Is Charged

Tuggey next turned his attack on the "stenographic" force. "It is reported," he said, "that you can go into the women's rest room in the Municipal Building any time of the day and find two or three stenographers asleep."

"I'll give two weeks of my time and undertake to show you, Mr. Parry," he continued, "that all your stenographic work can be done by 60 percent of the present force."

When Parry pointed out that there is only one actual "stenographer" in the building, Tuggey said he intended his remarks to include the entire staff of women employes.

Hits Violation Bureau

In referring to the violation bureau where motorists accused of minor traffic violations are given the privilege of paying fines without appearing in justice court, Tuggey claimed he "could save the village from $400 to $500 a month in fines you never collect."

He amplified this statement by claiming that offenders are often allowed to go free without paying their fines and without leaving security on the bare promise they will come back later but never show up.

Claiming that the violation bureau is contrary to state law, he declared his intention to "get an answer to the question of why the village is in competition for my business as justice of the peace if it takes a year and costs everything I've got."

Praises Hackett

He paid glowing tributes to Chief of Police John P. Hackett and his force, and claimed "they know the violation bureau system is wrong."

He claimed that speeders are brought before the violation bureau no matter at what speed they are charged with driving, even though the traffic ordinance provides that offenders charged with travelling more than 40 miles an hour should be haled before a justice.

In answer to Tuggey's charges that information is withheld in village offices, Allen said:

"I agree with you that the people ought to know what's going on, and you may get that by going to any village department.

"Street-Corner Gossip"

"But you cannot rebut scandal. It isn't altogether fair to the Commission to come in here unless you have some definite information."

He cited the "comprehensive, and accurate data compiled by the engineering department," and admonished Tuggey not to "come in here and hand us street-corner gossip. If you have anything definite we'd like to hear it."

Later, Allen declared that "if you can convince us that there is anything wrong with the charter which can be improved, we will be glad to change it." His statement was in answer to Tuggey's claim that "too much authority is delegated to one man" (the village manager), and his suggestion that the charter be amended in this respect.

Allen also advised Tuggey through "mandamus or other proceedings to find out if the violation bureau is illegal."

Sees $25,000 Saving

Returning to the subject of village expenditures, Tuggey said: "I believe your payroll could be cut $25,000 and I would be glad to give you my time to show you how to do it." Among other things, he charged the village with sending out many unnecessary letters, and declared that Parry "does not know how to handle labor because he was educated along different lines."

Lewis pointed out that the fact that the regular scale of salary increases has been abandoned in the police and fire departments "means in effect that half of our employes have really been cut, since they start at a low wage and were hired with the understanding that the schedule of increases was to be carried out."

Wouldn't Cut Police

Tuggey asserted his program of reductions would not include either police or firemen.

His praise of Hackett was as unrestrained as his criticism of Parry had been severe.

"Give Chief Hackett a free hand and he'll show you things this department never dreamed of," Tuggey declared, claiming that restrictions had been placed on Hackett's authority, ostensibly by the manager. Hackett, who was in attendance at the meeting, flatly denied the implication.

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war flavor of the play is in keeping with the spirit of the occasion.

There is to be no public sale of tickets for either performance, but members have the privilege of selling guest tickets to their friends in Oakland County as well as outside. The Board of Directors is mailing out detailed information to all members on the method of securing guest tickets.

The Eccentric maintains three telephone numbers: 11, 12, and 13. A courteous switchboard operator will answer your call, whether it be for the placing of a news item or an advertisement, or information on your printing needs. adv-tf

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organization of the Michigan State Horticultural Society and of the Michigan Farm Bureau, the latter in 1918.

In 1920 and 1921 he served as a member of the Detroit Board of Commerce, and was entrusted with the supervision of the city's markets. The next year he organized an insurance company with C. A. Sparks as his partner. The company had offices both here and in Pontiac.

A few years later, Mr. Sparks sold his interest in the company, and Mr. Bingham and his son formed the partnership which they still maintained at the time of Mr. Bingham's death.

Active War Worker

His reputation for being a public-spirited citizen, willing and anxious to give his time and efforts to constructive thoughts and deeds to help others, was never more clearly established than during the days of the World War when Mr. Bingham served as a member of President Wilson's Committee of Seventeen on food conservation and organized the Southfield Township War Board.

He was also instrumental in organizing the Birmingham Exchange Club and served as its first president eight years ago. Prominent in Masonry, he was master of the Birmingham Lodge, and instituted a comprehensive educational program for lodge members. He was also a Knight Templar of the Pontiac Lodge.

He was the organizer and sponsor of the local chapter of DeMolay, and took whatever opportunity offered to advance the interests of the youth of the community.

Fought Tax Commission

At the time of his death he was secretary of the Property Owner's Division of the Birmingham Real Estate Board, and as such was actively engaged in the efforts of Bloomfield Township to have the State Tax Commission removed from Oakland County. He also served as one of the early presidents of the Real Estate Board.

He was a member of the committee appointed a few weeks ago by Village Manager James W. Parry to attempt to co-ordinate the work of the various welfare agencies of the village. He was a member of the Oakland Hills Country Club and attended the Methodist Church. As co-chairman of the entertainment committee for the Grand Trunk celebration on Aug. 1 he was one of the most active members of the festival organization.

Mr. Bingham served a full two-year term on the Village Commission from 1923 to 1925, and was re-elected in the latter year but was forced to resign in January, 1926, when he decided to reside permanently in his Bingham road home, which is outside the village limits. At that time, however, he was appointed to the Village Planning Commission and served for one year.

Served Community House

At the time of his death he was a member of the Board of Directors of the Community House and was vice-president of the Oakland County Building and Loan Association.

Mr. Bingham, or "Charley" as he was best-known to his hundreds of friends, was recognized as one of the most altruistic members of the community. His office was the daily Mecca for scores of persons, both men and women, seeking advice and help in personal problems, which was always gladly given even though it interfered with his own business and duties.

Surviving, besides the two sons, are two half-brothers, George Bingham and L. D. Bingham, and one half-sister, Mrs. E. C. Bristol, all of Birmingham.

Pallbearers at Tuesday's services were James W. Taylor, Harry S. Starr, Charles J. Shain, Clarence Vliet, Elmer C. Huston and B. J. Meirow.

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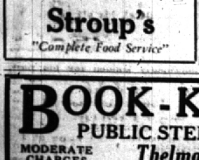
With the death of Charles Bingham there comes to me a distinct feeling of personal loss. Over a long period of years we had been associated in public, fraternal and benevolent enterprises and the pleasure of that association will linger so long as the spark of life remains. It seems impossible to believe that his cheerfulness, his earnestness and, above all, his loyalty, are no more available to us. This community has lost one who always met his responsibility and filled his niche, whether humble or exalted one who had vision and was not afraid to work for its fulfillment.

William G. Olsen, meat market proprietor: I knew Mr. Bingham for more than 20 years and was always impressed by his unselfishness. He was a man who lived for others. He put his heart and soul into everything he did. He will be greatly missed by the various organizations he served so well.

S. O. Wylie Bell, undertaker: Mr. Bingham was the finest man I ever knew in my life, and I believe he will be missed more than any other person in the whole community. He did so many things for so many people that his passing has left a place which cannot be filled.

We Deliver



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