

FIRE DESTROYS OLD LANDMARK

Johnston Homestead in Franklin razed by \$2,000 blaze

One of Franklin's oldest landmarks was completely destroyed by fire Friday night, at damage estimated around \$2,000.

It was the place which has been known for several years as the Johnston homestead, located on Franklin road a mile south of the village of Franklin. According to old records, it was built about 100 years ago.

The home was occupied by a 17-year-old Detroit youth, who had lived there alone for several months following purchase of the place by his brother. The youth recalled smoke when he went upstairs to retire at about 10 P. M. He called neighbors who discovered that flames had broken out around the chimney and were fast

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spreading to all parts of the structure.

Handicapped by lack of water and ladders, the neighbors were able to exert but little effect upon the ravages of the blaze which had extinguishers, and when the contents of these were exhausted, the building burned rapidly to the ground.

Furniture in the downstairs rooms was saved, but that upstairs was lost with the home.

The homestead stood on an 80-acre farm which was taken up from the government by Madison Warren in 1828. Mr. Warren sold it to John Worthington, who in turn gave the property to his daughter, Annie, wife of Robert Johnson. The place has changed hands numerous times in recent years.

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Also Novelties from \$1.00 to \$5.00

PECK'S Woodward at Maple

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of M. S. C. has figuratively emphasized over the portals of every legislative chamber these words: "Be most careful not to criticize those in authority if you want to keep your job."

(Please remember, too, that Hazelman and Cox first took their criticisms to President Shaw, but he was so obstructed by Halladay and others that he was powerless to correct the difficulties.)

For nearly four hours last Friday six weekly newspaper publishers, representing many others in Michigan, sat and listened to the reasons for "bringing" the controversial trio, Joseph A. Baldwin, specially appointed by Attorney-General Voorhees, related the two months' findings of the case; before he had spoken 500 words I looked across the table at the eyes of Ed Schepers, of Midland, Vera L. Brown of Mason, Walter L. Ford of Brooklyn, and Elton R. Eaton of Plymouth. We know, instinctively and quite actively, that we were about to witness the application of some nice whitewash to one side of a political fence. We were not disappointed, although I, for one, am willing to admit that Baldwin's report, in its final paragraphs, did muster sufficient courage to figuratively hit the wrists of Halladay and Richards. What a helluva note, also.

It is not my intention this week to go into the details of the case. Suffice it say that Baldwin's evidence revealed practices among Halladay, Richards, Schepers (treasurer), and others that were, to say the least, somewhat embarrassing. For instance, Halladay and Schepers are well known as East Lansing bank where plenty of the college's funds are kept, and here many of the college's faculty were advised to deposit their wages; Halladay and Richards started the "Pleasant Inn" where about \$200,000 of the college's funds were spent during four years ago when that was worth \$150 that was worth \$150 that was worth \$24,000 (or \$14,500 per hen), and by demanding new beds got the building for less than \$11,000.

Let me repeat, I am not denigrating anybody who "thinks" much. Nor do I think other

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maintaining only about \$45,000 at most with which to operate the school from Jan. 1 to the end of the current school year if they should agree to turn over to the bondholders the full amount of their proportional share of the levy.

School Closing Feared

After studying the Crandall's report, they agreed they would be unwilling to assume the responsibility of meeting the demands of the bondholders on the instructional efficiency of the system, and that practically the only remedy was to close the schools.

The report showed that, had a partial day program been instituted at the beginning of the year, the consequent saving in teachers' salaries would have amounted to only \$61,606.11, whereas reductions actually made by putting married women teachers on half-time schedules and lowering the salaries of the remaining teachers has resulted in a saving of \$70,583.

Admittedly, the savings in Birmingham have been made, not in conformity to a sense of justice, but through the exercise of expediency," the report said. "Our decreases have been made at the sacrifice of the teachers."

The same members of the Board who will confer with the Advisory Council next week were authorized to constitute a committee to map out a campaign for the early collection of school taxes, the nature of which is not stated at least in part on the outcome of the conference.

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ending above the theater's canopy, and that the canopy itself would not have to be removed.

"I am not anxious to avoid all additional expense," the sign is absolutely necessary to attract transient and out-of-town trade, on which the theater depends for about 70 percent of its business, he declared.

Hubert For Enforcement

Commissioner Lawrence Hubert, through his lawyer voted for the extension of the ordinance for immediate enforcement of the ordinance.

"I don't see how you can deviate from the terms of the ordinance without receiving the ill-will of those who have already complied," he said.

Mr. Hubert, declaring he "never had been in favor of the ordinance," said that "if the Commission had passed a measure regulating the manner in which signs should be erected, it would have been more in keeping with good judgment."

Shaw's Sign Needed

Mr. Shaw, estimating that removal of the sign in front of his place of business would cost \$30, declared that because of his location on a side street, he would be forced to "move" unless the sign were allowed to remain up.

The grounds on which the Commission finally voted to extend the time limit for enforcement of the ordinance was that, under present business conditions, forced removal of any large sign would work an untoward hardship on the person affected.

Commissioner Frank S. Packard, who moved extension of the deadline six months, pointed out that a further extension could be petitioned at the end of that time if the business man saw nothing that he "would not be here then" to rule on the request.

Commissioners E. W. Osborne and Walter L. Connelly favored a year's extension, but both voted with the other three members present for the six-month extension after their motion was defeated. Commissioners T. B. Smith and Maurice Lowman were absent.

TAXATION CONTROL EFFORT IS URGED

Concentration of efforts to ward the control of taxation and the administration of political offices on the part of the Property Owners' Division of the Birmingham City Board was urged at the annual meeting of the organization in the Community House Tuesday night.

The recommendations were included in the annual report of the chairman Charles J. Shain, who reviewed the history and achievement of the group to date, and advised an increase in interest and membership.

New members elected to the Board of Directors included Elmer Huston, Robert S. Porritt, George E. Averill and Luther Hisecock. Eugene Walton was re-elected to serve another term. The directors will meet later to choose their own chairman.

Business transacted at the meeting included the adoption of a resolution submitted by John E. Martz, reducing the annual membership dues from \$5 to \$1.

Clarence Morgan, secretary of the Michigan division of the National Economy League on the subject of veterans' affairs and their relation to the state of government.

AMATEUR MAGICIAN PERFORMS FOR CLUB

Clarence Cummings, Baldwin High School student and amateur magician, entertained members of the Birmingham Exchange Club with his bag of tricks at the club's regular weekly meeting in the Community House Tuesday noon.

MOTORIST INJURED AS CAR HITS DITCH

Frank Fisher, 34, 29 years old, 687 Townsend street, is recovering today from injuries suffered when an automobile he was driving plunged into a ditch on the east side of Woodward, avenue near Oak street Monday night of last week.

Police were informed of the accident by attaches at St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital, where Fisher was treated for a rib fracture and lacerations of the scalp. He was taken to the hospital by another motorist.

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