

QUARTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

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EDWARD J. BULLER
District Manager

Harold Blake
2045 W. Maple Rd.
B'ham 2496

White Again Chosen U.-M. Club President

Lee A. White, 652 Brookside drive, was re-elected president of the University of Michigan Club of Birmingham at a meeting Sunday afternoon. Mr. White has been president of the club since it was organized more than a year ago.

E. S. Reid, Jr., was re-elected vice-president, and Everett Judson was chosen secretary-treasurer. Mr. Judson and George Miller were elected new members of the Board of Directors.

The club is planning a membership campaign to enroll all University of Michigan graduates and former students who are residents of Birmingham and vicinity, and will also sponsor a series of lectures this winter.

NEW TYPE TRAFFIC LIGHTS PROMISED

State Highway Department To Install Traffic-Actuated Signals Here, Parry Says

Traffic-actuated signals, which turn green automatically at the approach of a car from either direction, are being installed on Woodward avenue in Birmingham at Brown street, Maple and Oakland avenues, according to City Manager James W. Parry.

Mr. Parry told the City Commission Monday night that two representatives of the State Highway Department had already begun a survey preparatory to installing the lights. They will be put in at the state's expense, he said.

The highway department has already installed this type of light from Six Mile road to Royal Oak, and intends to extend the system as far north as Saginaw, according to information given by the representatives to Harold H. Conson, city treasurer and engineer.

At present, the lights are operated on a set time schedule for changing. At Maple avenue, for instance, the light shows green for Woodward traffic for 30 seconds, and then turns green for Maple traffic for the next 40 seconds.

Mr. Parry said he believed the only change the traffic actuated lights would make would be to keep the signal green on Woodward street for 30 seconds, and then turn green for Maple traffic for the next 40-second interval.

This would not allow the signals to change from red to green and back to red again in less time than is now allotted to traffic, both automobile and pedestrian, to cross either street. Parry explained that would keep either street open as long as no traffic appeared on the intersecting street. This would be especially serviceable for Woodward avenue traffic late at night when the traffic on the three intersecting streets where lights are erected is very light, he added.

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In Attractive Christmas Wrappings
50c and \$1.00 per lb.

163 N. WOODWARD
WE DELIVER

PHONE 35

9 O'Clock TOWN

FEELING STILL BAFFLES

Webster Calls Inquest Verdict In Beer Garden Case 'Very Peculiar'

Although it is believed improbable that any warrants will be issued in the death of Dec. 3 of Byron G. Farrah, 51-year-old Birmingham carpenter, the verdict returned by a coroner's jury in the latter Saturday left room for at least a minimum of doubt that the matter is a closed incident.

The verdict was that Farrah, who lived at 163 Merrill street, "came to his death as the result of a post-mortem condition, which was possibly aggravated by a blow on his head, said blow being delivered by Orville Robbins."

Robbins is the clock truck driver and former lumberjack who, according to the testimony of several witnesses, was seen striking Farrah with his fist when the two quarreled over the positions they were to occupy in a square dance at the morning of Dec. 1. Farrah died 30 hours later of an edema of the brain.

Webster Ducey, a "very peculiar one," in the opinion of Assistant Prosecutor Charles P. Webster, who presided over the inquest, which was held in the Commission room of the Municipal Building.

"I don't know whether any warrants will be issued or not," Webster said. "Of course, if a warrant could be issued whether an inquest had been held or not, it would have been. However, since it had been held, and I don't believe the prosecutor will take the initiative in a case of this kind, I don't know how Farrah's relatives feel about it."

It was at part of the verdict which said the death was the result of Farrah's "post physical condition" that the most interesting testimony was given by Dr. J. P. McConkie, the attending physician.

Dr. McConkie, in answer to questioning by Norman C. Orr, Robbins' attorney, said that Farrah had badly defective teeth, and that his blood pressure was slightly above normal. The doctor testified that he had difficulty in believing at first that a blow of a fist would cause the brain swelling which was the cause of Farrah's death, and said that this would have been only "remotely possible" under ordinary conditions.

Robbins himself was called as the last witness at the inquest, but Orr refused to allow him to testify, pointing out that in the event of an unfavorable verdict for his client, his testimony could be used against him in a trial. Robbins lives at 888 Haynes street, Birmingham.

Much of the evidence was highly conflicting. Alex McLeod, 1424 East Humphrey street, testified that after Robbins had either struck or pushed Farrah—he was unable to say which—Robbins left or was taken away immediately. Robbins and Robbins' 19-year-old son, Kenneth, grabbed Farrah to prevent him from striking his father out.

In the struggle which ensued, McLeod said, a woman wearing a red dress and glasses was Farrah over the face with a beer bottle. Asked if he could identify the woman from among the spectators in court room, McLeod pointed to Mrs. Violet Mattice, 760 Fairfax road, a sister of Mrs. F. F. Farrah, and he could not be certain of his identification.

Mrs. Mattice testified she wore a brown dress at the dance, and said she had no knowledge of the fight until she saw the woman in the red dress. She testified she wore a "deep wine-colored" dress, but denied she took any part in the scuffle.

Mrs. Farrah said she was sitting at a table with her back to the dance floor when her husband was struck, and that she knew nothing about it until informed by a friend. Then, she said, she "went down to find out what the trouble was," and found a woman pulling her husband by the hair. She identified the woman as Mrs. Esther Filby, 832 Emmons avenue.

Mrs. Filby admitted she grabbed Farrah by the hair, but maintained her only motive was to separate Farrah and Robbins and to stop the fight. She had known both Farrah and the elder Robbins for some time.

Accused Mrs. Farrah She further testified that as she was pulling Farrah by the hair, she struck her over the beer bottle and struck her over the fingers, apparently with the intention of loosening her grip. The blow was strong enough to bruise her fingers, Mrs. Filby said. Mrs. Farrah, a previous witness, had already testified she took no part in the fracas.

Mrs. Farrah said that she asked her husband what had happened after they returned home and that he replied, "You tell me. Bertha, I was just getting ready to dance when this fellow came up and said, 'I'm dancing here, and I'm an awful blow beside the head.'"

Miss Dorothy LaForge, who lived in the Farrah home, testified she was standing beside the chest when the trouble between Farrah and Robbins occurred. When she saw blows being struck, she put her hands over her eyes, she said. "There were a lot of people struggling together, but I didn't know who they were."

Gust Mahn Testifies
Charles Buchner, of Windsor,

Ont., testified that Robbins struck Farrah without provocation as the latter came out on the floor to dance with Buchner's wife. Farrah was knocked from 6 to 8 feet, Buchner said he testified he saw no action afterwards, and saw nobody wounding a bottle.

John, the owner of the beer garden, said he knew Farrah was a serious trouble, but said he testified Farrah had been hit until the matter was over. Farrah was taken to the hospital, and died there.

McLeod was the only witness who testified he saw a beer bottle come down on Farrah's face. This happened, he said, after Orville Robbins had left the beer garden and his son had grabbed Farrah and had jumped up and taken off his coat, and was starting in Orville Robbins direction."

He said he saw the hair-pulling incident. Speaking of striking the beer bottle, he said:

"I thought she was striking Mr. Robbins (Kenna Pulling) but I don't know. The bottle didn't knock Farrah down, and there was no further argument."

Howard Delongchamp, 584 Park street, in the block between East Long Drive road, Bloomfield Hills, and Mrs. Kelly, Orville's witness were Charles Rump, 3111 1/2 East Long Drive, Mrs. Walter Barton, 868 Ruffner street; Mrs. Buchner; Louis Marvacin, 1909 Highland avenue; Mrs. Farnham in the orchestra which played for the dance, and Mrs. Mattice.

East Long Drive road, Bloomfield Hills, and Mrs. Kelly, Orville's witness were Charles Rump, 3111 1/2 East Long Drive, Mrs. Walter Barton, 868 Ruffner street; Mrs. Buchner; Louis Marvacin, 1909 Highland avenue; Mrs. Farnham in the orchestra which played for the dance, and Mrs. Mattice.

Other members were Samuel Howling, Webb Hendricks, Mrs. Robert Peebles, Mrs. Howard Vandewater and Olin Hinton.

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Quarton District

A foreclosed Colonial—3 bedroom house—reconditioned throughout—large living room—dining room—two-car garage—close to Quarton School—\$450 down with long terms on balance.

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Classified Ads should be in The Eccentric office not later than four o'clock Wednesday afternoon of each week. —Adv. B11

When W. F. Blake, Jr., won the prize pair at a party last week he took home with him not only a tan, squinting pig, but the obligation of keeping it as well. The pig is gradually getting the best of its amateurish master, it is like the owl, is a nasty beast and snaps at people in the manner of a dog. One night Bill Filgot to feed the pig, and he was bitten on the hand. Clothed in pajamas and robe, the young mortician despatched Mahn to the street to get the pig's supper. The animal's anger baffled his patience and, anticipating that the pig would chase him about the basement, nipping at his heels and actually gnawing at his trousers.

Paul Honore, artist, owns a most intelligent bound which knows its subjects by name and is able to distinguish colors on request. In the high school halls he has been a hero among the fellows in blue or black sweaters. The students, who perform their duties in the final analysis, have a lower IQ than the dog, were amused.

And Andy Bunyan's war-scarred mongrel who hangs about up-town, King-pin among the canines of that district, he asks where he pleases, crosses the streets with the lights, and just listens to the list of names that Andy comes around. Then he performs his chore of the day, leading Mr. Bunyan safely across the street.

Honorable mention goes to Rex, a cat which has a miniature we have seen. It resembles most closely a half of yam. Its picture in this mug makes us to tears.

LOWELL THOMAS NEXT SPEAKER AT INSTITUTE

Known to millions for his books, his news broadcasts and his lectures, Lowell Thomas, advertiser and reporter, will present two lectures Sunday at the Detroit Institute of Arts. At 3:20 P. M. he will tell about "Adventures All Over the World," and at 8:30 P. M. he will speak and show his motion pictures "From Singapore to Mandalay."

President Wilson assigned Thomas to record the history of the World War. With his staff of cameramen, he attached himself in 1918 to the Belgian, French, Italian, Serbian, American, British and Arabian armies.

Born in a Colorado mining camp, he sold newspapers in gambling halls and saloons. At 11, he mined gold underground. He worked on the three on the three on the three. When barely 21, he outfitted two expeditions and explored the sub-Arctic.

An Artist EASEL for XMAS GREEN'S

A mind picture that strikes our fancy is that of some one or number of persons heads bent beneath the midnight oil, wearily writing names on 6,000 coupons for the Christmas Green's Association prizes, with which you are familiar. It is reported that the Cranbrook Foundation invested in two fire trucks, and from the purchase received that number of Annie Oakley from J. Osborne's establishment could someone in for you upon the progress of the ticket writing, or is the lucky purchaser using a rubber stamp?

We wonder if you noticed the two ladies in the Sunday paper week ago, pictured among the artist artists, Jada Leland and Winifred Heid. They were formerly local girls, both B. H. S. students. We remember Winifred as a busy-voiced teacher who took leads in high school operettas, and Jada as the Tomboy who beat up on George Wilson.

Business was a bit dull when we approached the box office of an out-of-town theater last week, but idle time does not seem to bother the girl in the glass case, who was reading Plutarch's "Lives" when we came upon her. No ordinary cashier, this one.

A group of realistic writers under the tutelage of Miss Dorothy York were tricked nearly the other night by the FERA "creative writing" class. Asked to write words of onomatopoeic character which students filled in with "sizzles" and "murmurs." When these were collected, the little teacher announced with naive unconcern that she had "an amusing brochure" which she would read to the class. This column will ask permission to review the results.

Mary Beth Marks of Ferndale avenue gets the pretty lady mention this week. We have unlimited resource.

V. F. W. POST PLANS POT-LUCK SUPPER

The City of Birmingham Post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars will hold a pot-luck supper at the K. of P. Hall on North Woodward avenue at 6:30 P. M. Monday. The supper will be followed by an entertainment program, the principal feature of which will be an illustrated talk by Dr. Harold Leland, one of the staff of the Cranbrook Institute of Science.

Veterans and their families and friends are invited.

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