

Birmingham before today

By MINNIE HUNT SALTZER

Before Birmingham's municipal water system was installed, the residents depended on privately owned wells for their water supply. Some of the wells were of the old-fashioned stone and mortar variety. Later, brick wells came into use. The first well drilled in Birmingham was John Midgley, of Franklin. Others were Ed Daniels and Orson Hunt.

During the summer months, many of the wells would go dry and residents with deeper wells would supply water to their less fortunate neighbors. After the advent of bathrooms and cess pools, the water works system was installed. Considerable credit is due Frank Hagerman, former town president, for the consummation of this project.

The building which housed the water works and the reservoir was a one-story brick affair situated at the foot of the hill on West Maple avenue near the bridge. Adjoining this, on the east side, was a two-story frame house used as a residence by the engineer and his family. Near the house, at the front of the brick section, was a sign, "Birmingham Water Works." There were shade trees on the front lawn.

First Well Recalled

The water was supplied then, as now, by artesian wells. The first well of this type in Birmingham was the old "Mineral Spring" which was situated about 200 feet north of the Maple avenue bridge, between the old grit mill and the River Rouge. Before the water system was installed, the villagers fought fires by means of bucket.

CASH AND CARRY

Men's 3 Pcs. Suits 80c

Ladies' Plain Dresses CLEANED AND PRESSED, PECK'S Woodward - Near Maile

brigades, the water being supplied from the neighboring wells. On the night the old MacLaughlin house burned, the women of the neighborhood stood in front of their homes and beat tin pans together to arouse the sleeping inhabitants.

(The MacLaughlins were the great grandparents of Ross Hutchinson. Their house stood at the corner of Merrill and Pierce streets on the present site of the William Hunt home. The Hunt house was formerly owned by Julian S. Lee. I. N. Baker did the masonry and Renwick Logan and the Mills of the basement windows are made of marble from the Keweenaw Mountains. A block of white marble in the wall is from Lookout Mountain, and some of the pipes used in the plumbing are from Andersonville Prison).

Barn Moved

Birmingham had no organized fire department until 1891. This was a volunteer company with one horse cart and 200 feet of hose. Sometimes the firemen would haul the horse cart by hand, but often any vehicle that was handy would be pressed into service.

In 1892, a fire tower was built on West Maple avenue opposite Shain's Drug Store. Additional hose and a new horse cart were purchased in 1893. The fire tower was a tall structure, covered with corrugated iron, and painted red. It was large enough at the base to accommodate two horse carts. It tapered gradually toward the top where a fire bell was installed.

Hose Dried

After a fire, the hose was drawn up to a frame work, inside the structure, and there left suspended until it dried thoroughly. It was then lowered and re-wound on the horse cart ready for the next fire. The town was divided into five fire districts, each with its allotted number of white blazes.

All fires were reported by phone to "central," and the operator would call the engineer at the

water works, designating the section of the town in which the fire had broken out. The engineer, in turn, would pull the whistle cord in the engine room and the surrounding countryside would reverberate with one long blast, then one, two, three, four or five short blasts, depending upon the section in which the fire was located.

After a fire, a long blast of the whistle indicated the blaze had been extinguished. Another custom was the blowing of the whistle at 7 A. M., noon and 4 P. M., each day except Sunday. Our first water works engineer was Ed Chamberlain, whose wife was called "Bet." He was foreman of the G. A. Watkins Pony Farm, but resigned that position to become water works engineer.

Other Engineers

He was succeeded by Ira Reed, who had also followed Mr. Chamberlain as foreman of the pony farm. Other engineers were Walter Nichols, now of Cranbrook and Ellsworth Randall. Guy Miller was assistant engineer.

As time passed, more equipment was added to the fire department. The fire tower was abandoned and a new chemical engine and other apparatus were housed in the northeast corner of the old library building on East Maple avenue.

Among the first of the volunteer firemen were Albie Whitehead, George Mitchell, Maurice Blair, Phil and Frank Schlaack. In 1910, the department consisted of James Cobb, Bill Olsen, Neil Clark, Harry Cockerline, George Spencer, Lester Purdy, Clarence Ruffenburg, Ora and Ray Clark and Bill Thornton. Extras were Stanley Todd and Ernest Hunt. Regular firemen received \$1 for each fire call to which they responded.

Band Concert Spoiled

The Birmingham band, with Elmer Cowan as leader, used to give weekly concerts at Baldwin Park. One evening, when the concert was in full swing, the fire whistle started sounding in opposition to the band. The fire was at the home of George Spencer, one of the firemen. Mrs. Spencer had been ironing just before going to the concert and had left her electric iron turned on.

The iron burned its way through the ironing board, and then through the floor into the basement. No serious damage was done, but the band concert was ruined for that evening.

2 TRUCKS IN CRASH ONE DRIVER INJURED

Orla Fitzgerald, 49 years old, of 612 West Second avenue, Flint, was cut and bruised Monday afternoon when a truck he was driving was hit in the rear by another truck on Woodward avenue, near Lake road, in Bloomfield Hills. The second truck was driven by Frank Kirwan, 42, of 110 Emmet street, Pontiac.

Both vehicles were traveling north. Fitzgerald, whose injuries were treated at St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital, signed a complaint against Kirwan, charging reckless driving. He indicated he would withdraw the charge if Kirwan paid for repairs to Fitzgerald's truck.

CITY DENIES GOLFER'S CLAIM FOR DAMAGES

A damage claim based on injuries sustained by Miss Jessie B. McKinney, of 1390 Cadillac avenue, Detroit, when a foot bridge at Springdale Park partially collapsed as she was walking over it May 3, was denied by the City Commission Monday night. Miss McKinney, through her attorney, claimed she received permanent scars on her shins in the fall.

The Commission denied the claim after formal proceedings had been filed with the city clerk by the attorney, indicating he may take the case to court.

Church News

First Baptist Church
Willits at Bates St.
Rev. L. H. Johnson, M. A. Minister.
Union morning worship at 11 in the Methodist Church. The Rev. C. W. Martin, of Tecumseh, Neb., will preach on "The Kingdom of God." Church school classes at 10 in the Methodist Church. The Rev. C. W. Martin, of Tecumseh, Neb., will preach at 4:45 in the Methodist Church. Prayer meeting Wednesdays at 7:30.

Christian Science Church
Chester and White Streets
Church each Sunday at 10:30 A. M. Wednesdays at 8 P. M.
Reading room in the church building is open from 10:30 A. M. until 4:30 P. M. Daily except Sundays and holidays. It is also open on Wednesdays before and after the service.

"Spirit" will be the subject of the luncheon in all Christian Science Churches throughout the world on Sunday, Aug. 11.

Among the Bible citations in this passage (2 Th. 1, 11): "There is one God, and one Spirit, even so are ye called in one hope of our calling: one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."

Correlative passages to be read from the Christian Science textbook, "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures," by Mary Baker Eddy, include the following (p. 241): "We should strive to reach the Hark breath where God is revealed, and the corner-stone of all spiritual building is purity. The baptism of Spirit, washing the body of all the impurities of flesh, signifies that the pure heart sees God and are approaching spiritual life in demonstration."

First Methodist Episcopal Church
Maple Avenue West at Henrietta
Rev. Dr. R. D. Hopkins, pastor.
10:30-Church School, including beginners, and the primary departments.
11:00-Morning worship. This will be a union service in which the congregation of the First Baptist Church will join.
4:45-Union young people's meeting.
7:45-Union evening service.

St. James Episcopal Church
Rev. Warner L. Forsyth, Rector
Phone: Rectory 189; Office 2216
8:00 Holy Communion.
11:00 Morning prayer and sermon.

Redeemer Lutheran Church
Lithuanian street Wednesday
Rev. Theodore G. Wiggner, Jr., pastor.
The church of 20th and 10th streets, morning worship will be conducted at 9 o'clock. No Sunday School.

Holy Name Catholic Church
Harmon at Woodland
Rev. James W. Carter, Pastor
Rev. A. J. Brannett, Assistant
Sunday Masses 7, 9, 11 A. M. and 12 noon.
Holy Day Masses, 6:15, 7, 8 and 9 A. M.
Daily Masses, 7 and 8:15 A. M.
Basilian Sunday by appointment.
Confessions: Saturdays, from 4 to 5:30 P. M. and from 7:30 to 9 P. M.

Birmingham Community Church
Rev. W. S. Hottel, pastor
Services in Masonic Temple
Sunday School at 10. Young people's meeting, 6:30. Evening preaching service, 7:30.
Prayer meeting and Bible study at home of L. B. Schuler, 651 Forest avenue, Thursday at 7 P. M.

United Presbyterian Church
H. Paul Henderson, pastor
Sunday Services:
Bible school, 10 A. M.
Morning worship, 11:15 A. M.
Prayer meeting, Wednesday, 7:30 P. M.

Embury Methodist Church
Rensselaire Ave.
Rev. Edwin King, pastor
Church school, 10 A. M.
Morning Worship—11:15 A. M.
Bible school, Wednesday, Thursday, at 7:45 P. M., at the church.

Christ Church Cranbrook
Rev. Dr. J. B. Hartman, pastor
Rev. W. H. Allenbach, assistant
Holy communion at 8 A. M. each Sunday and 11 A. M. first Sunday of each month.
Morning prayer and sermon, 11 A. M.

First Presbyterian Church
W. Cleveland W. M. M. pastor
Bible school will convene at 9:45 with groups meeting in three departments. A qualified program of Christian education is conducted by this school.
Morning worship will be conducted at 11 by the Rev. W. H. Allenbach, D. D. of St. Mary's. O. Dr. Jennings preached during summer of 1934 and will be remembered by members of the congregation.
The evening service of worship will be conducted in the Methodist Episcopal Church at 7:45. Dr. Jennings will speak.

Franklin M. E. Church
Rev. Francis M. Carter, pastor.
Morning worship, 11:15 A. M.
Sunday School, 10:15 A. M.

St. Hugo of the Hills Church
Oakley road
The Rev. Daniel T. Wholhan, pastor
Sunday Masses, 8, 10 and 12:30 P. M.
Confessions: Saturday, 7:30 to 8:30 P. M.
Tuesday, Novena services at 8 P. M.

Birmingham Gospel Tabernacle
Rev. Alex Richardson, pastor
Services in E. of P. Hall
Sunday School, 10 A. M. Preaching service, 11 A. M. Young People's Society, 6:30 P. M. Evening service, 7:30 P. M.
Prayer meeting and Bible study at home of Mr. and Mrs. S. J. 365 Park street, Wednesday at 7:45 P. M.

BOYS! GIRLS! THERE'S STILL TIME... BUT NOT A MINUTE TO LOSE!

KROGER'S

ENDING PLACEST

Ends AUGUST 31st

GET IN TODAY! WIN ONE OF 5499 KEEN PRIZES!

96 BIG-FELLER BIKES! 5400 ROLLER SKATES!

FAMOUS MARGARINE

Wondernut 2 lbs. 29c

CLEANSER

Sunbrite 3 Cans 13c

ARMOUR'S

Corn Beef Can 19c

CORN BEEF HASH Can 19c

COUNTRY CLUB

MILK 10 Tall Cans 55c

FRENCH BRAND

COFFEE 2 lbs. 39c

WAYNE OR WOLVERINE

Beer Case \$1.44

Margate Orange Pekoe Tea 1/2 lb. pkg. 27c

Low Caramels 1 lb. 19c

Embassy Salad Dressing qt. jar 25c

Walnut Goggles Layer Cake each 39c

Bacon Bread loaf 10c

Barbara Ann Tomato Soup can 5c

Jewell Coffee 1 lb. 19c

POST BRAN FLAKES Lge. Pkg. 15c

SMALL PACKAGE 12c

POST TOASTIES Pkg. 10c

KRAFT MIRACLE WHIP Qt. Jar 39c

Gingerale 3 Bots. 25c

Latoria Club

For the Hands

Lux Soap 4 Cakes 25c

Flakes Sm. Pkg. 10c Lge. Pkg. 22c

SANDY'S

Dog Food 3 Cans 25c

Swifts—Genuine Spring

LEG O LAMB lb. 21c

Lamb Chops—Choice Tenderloin Cuts lb. 39c

Young Tender

Sirloin Steaks lb. 33c

Calves Liver—Sweet Breads lb. 39c

Jack Sprat—Whole or Leg Half

Smoked Hams lb. 29c

ICEBERG

LETTUCE Extra Large Head 5c

Extra Jumbo Size CANTALOUPE 3 for 25c

Golden Rise BANANAS lb. 5c

Rio Sweet Yams SWEET POTATOES 4 lbs. 15c

Potatoes 15 lb. Peck 19c

KROGER STORES

TRIAL ELECTRIC RANGE has shown me a new means of getting away from a hot kitchen

"I've always believed that the best way in the world to get away from a hot kitchen was to do just that... go to the mountains or the lake or the seashore, and enjoy cool breezes out-of-doors. But one can't spend the whole summer outside the city. And for those of us who must remain in the kitchen, I've found that there is still (thank goodness!) another solution to the problem. I've put a range in the kitchen that won't heat up the room... and life is much more bearable in the warmest weather. They told me that an electric range meant cool cooking comfort, and many extra hours to spend outdoors. My trial electric range has certainly convinced me that what they said is true!"

(Here are the details of the Trial

Plan for electric cooking: We will install an electric range in your kitchen without initial charge, so that you may give it a thorough trial. During this trial period, you simply pay for the service as registered by your meter, plus a monthly charge of \$1 for the range. If you decide to keep the range, your monthly payments will be applied toward the purchase price. If you decide that you do not want it, the range will be removed at our expense. Send in your application for a trial range today!

THE DETROIT EDISON CO.

A study of one thousand families using an electric range showed a cooking cost of LESS THAN 1¢ PER MEAL A PERSON