

## Birmingham Before Today

By MINNIE HUNT SALTZER

Before Woodward avenue was paved, a driveway connected Woodward with Pierce street, running along the north side of the Irving Bailey property and of the land occupied by the Volney Nixon store (now the site of the Levenson Building).

On the north side of this driveway, and facing Woodward avenue, was a two-story brick building owned by Arthur Blakeslee brother of Mrs. D. M. Johnson. The first floor was occupied by a hardware store, and the second floor by the apartment of Mr. and Mrs. Blakeslee and their daughter, Ethel. On the southwest corner of Woodward and West Maple avenues was the store of Lyman Peabody and Son. Next to this, on the south, was the harness shop of E. A. O'Neal. Between the harness shop and the Blakeslee store was a row of low frame buildings belonging to the Lowes Estate.

This row of buildings was set back from the street line about 25 feet and the entire surface of the space in front was covered with a plank walk. Along the west side of the sidewalk and about five feet from the curb was a row of large maple trees, and at the curb was a row of hitching posts. The row of low buildings contained the George Riffenburg Shoe Repair Shop, the Baxter Jewelry Store, the George Toms Barber Shop (Mr. Toms was the father of Charles Toms), and the Kennelton Bakery.

**Celebrations Recalled**  
Directly across the street and west of the library building was an open space. At the rear of the library was a small frame building used by David Doty (father of Oleane Doty) as an office. At the southeast side of this office were the Doty Marble Works.

On the Fourth of July there would almost always be a celebration, and a platform would be erected in the open space at the corner. In the evening, the fireworks would be "tucked off" from this platform.

During the day there would be

foot races, horse races, tests of strength, ball games, band concerts and other entertainment. No Fourth was complete without a greased pig contest and a greased pole climbing contest.

Most of the townspeople and many others from the surrounding country would congregate on Woodward avenue to see the fun.

### Pig Runs Wild

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Ward lived in the house at the southwest corner of Henrietta and West Brown streets. They were the parents of Mrs. John H. Rackman (Stella), Mrs. H. Hendrick (Lucy), and Dr. Earl LeGrand Ward. One Fourth of July, Mr. and Mrs. Ward and their children were standing in front of the Lowes Block at the edge of the curb watching the men and boys chasing the greased pig. Stella had on a new dress, of which she was very proud.

Suddenly, the pig decided to take to the sidewalk and came, head on, directly to Stella, ran between her legs and knocked her down, ruining her new dress. Of course, the young people laughed, and Stella cried. To add to her humiliation, some one yelled, "Why didn't you hold him when you had him?" To her, the Fourth of July is always an unpleasant reminder of her upsetting experience with the greased pig.

Some times the village fathers did not deem it necessary to observe Fourth of July with a public celebration, and on those occasions the residents either celebrated at home or went to other towns.

### Bruce Farm Described

Mr. and Mrs. William Bruce (Grace Barnum) lived on the Barnum farm in a house which stood well back from Pierce street and west of the present site of Barnum School. There was a nice lawn with a row of trees on each side, between the lawn and the adobe fields, and there was a syringa bush and a rose bush beside the house. A driveway ran along the south side of the house and a windmill with enclosed sides stood just inside the lot line at the southwest corner of the house. The house has since been moved nearer Pierce street, in line with other houses there.

Mr. Bruce would always lay in a supply of fireworks before the Fourth, and his three daughters, Grace, Iva and Ethel, would invite the neighborhood children and many from other parts of town, to be their guests for the late afternoon and evening. Games were played, and as soon as it became dark, Mr. Bruce would fire off the skyrockets, pin wheels, Roman candles and other fireworks, much to the enjoyment of all the children present.

Another Fourth of July incident I recall vividly occurred when Laurence Ward absent-mindedly dropped a piece of lighted punk into the pocket of his coat, which contained a bunch of medium sized fire crackers. It certainly made him hup around in an excited state of excitement among the children who were helping to celebrate Independence Day on the lawn.

### Playmates Recalled

Some of the children who played on the Ward lawn in those days were Charlie Cowles, Ross Hittell, Archie Hatch, Elmer Perry, Mildred, Nellie and Lou Randall, Frances and Bessie Quish, Sarah, Lizzie and Will Ennis, the older Ward children, and myself. We would swing in a hammock which was stretched between two large apple trees, play croquet, and climb trees.

Mr. Ward liked to work in his garden, and enjoyed many a hearty laugh at some of our youthful sallies. In the fall, we would rake up huge piles of leaves in the street and have potato roasts. Mrs. Ward, always so calm and gentle, even when she had to correct the children for some misdemeanor, was much beloved by all of us.

Later, Mr. Ward built the house that stands on the southeast corner of Bates and West Brown streets. The old house was sold and the old playground became another pleasant memory.

### MAN, WOMAN AND GIRL FINED FOR BEER PARTY

Arrested when police found them drinking beer while sitting in a car parked in the driveway of the Hendrie estate in Bloomfield Hills early Monday morning, a man, a woman and a girl pleaded guilty to charges of being drunk and disorderly when arraigned before Justice H. A. O'Dell.

Earl S. Burgess, 26 years old, of 99 Hamilton court, Pontiac, was fined \$15, and Dorothy Slaybaugh, 21, of 25 Ester street, Pontiac, was fined \$5. The latter's 16-year-old sister, Lucille Slaybaugh, same address, was turned over to Oakland County juvenile authorities, in whose custody she has been on two previous occasions, police said.

**STATE OF MICHIGAN**—In the Probate Court of the County of Oakland. At a session of said Court, held at the Probate Office in the City of Pontiac, in said County, on the 1st day of July, A. D. 1935.

Present, Hon. Dan A. McGaffey, Judge of Probate.

In the Matter of the Estate of James Anderson, Sr., Deceased.

Homer A. Carr, administrator of said estate having filed in said Court his final account and petition praying for the examination and allowance of his final account, determination of the balance of said account, assignment of the residue of said estate, and the discharge of said administrator.

It is Ordered that the 29th day of July, A. D. 1935 at eight o'clock in the forenoon, at said Probate Office, he and is hereby appointed for hearing said petition.

It is Further Ordered, that public notice thereof be given by publication of a copy of this order, for three consecutive weeks previous to the day of hearing, in the Birmingham Eccentric, a newspaper printed and circulated in said County.

DAN A. MCGAFFEY, Judge of Probate.

By THE COURT: RUTH M. MACK HARBOLDT, Probate Register.

July 2-11-14.

Those  
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Community  
who  
demand the best  
have used

**Pontiac  
Dairy  
Milk**

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A Summer Suggestion  
ICE COLD

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Buttermilk

FOR DEPENDABLE  
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OFFICE  
PONTIAC 4121  
OFFICE

GOOD PRINTING can be obtained quickly and economically by requesting an obliging printing salesman at The Eccentric office to give you his attention.

## NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS

The City taxes for the year starting July 1st, 1935, are due July 1st, and are payable now at the City Treasurer's Office.

They are payable up to and including August 31st, 1935, without further charge. Starting September 1st, 1935, a charge of  $\frac{1}{2}$  of 1% will be added, which charge will be increased by  $\frac{1}{2}$  of 1% on the 1st of each succeeding month thereafter up to and including February, 1936.

Pay your taxes promptly and avoid needless expense.

H. H. CORSON,  
City Treasurer.

June 24, 1935.

**CASH  
TO FINANCE**

REPAIRS  
REMODELING  
MODERNIZING

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new plan

• If lack of a convenient source for a loan has prevented you from repairing or remodeling your house, now you can go ahead. We can arrange a loan for you in amounts of \$100 to \$2000, under the reasonable credit requirements of the N. H. A.

Now is the time to act. Labor and materials are reasonable and the generous privileges of the Finance Plan provide

1. Very moderate rates

2. Repayment of loan in monthly installments

Complete information on the whole operation—from estimate to paid-for job—may be had at our office.

**LAWSON & SON**

DEALERS IN  
LUMBER — COAL — BUILDERS' SUPPLIES  
Phone 111 — 624 Forest

# FOOD SPECIALS

PRIME  
**Sirloin  
Steak**

FOR BROILING

lb. **35¢**

PRIME STANDING

**Rib Roast  
BEEF**

lb.

**29¢**

FRESH DRESSED

**Stewing  
HENS**

lb.

**29¢**

FRESH DRESSED—MICHIGAN

**BROILERS** lb. **25¢**

SPECIAL FOR THE 4TH

FRESH DRESSED—YOUNG HEN—MICHIGAN

**TURKEYS** lb. **33¢**

GENUINE 1935 SPRING

**LEG O  
LAMB**

lb.

**27¢**

SWIFT'S—CIRCLE S

**SMOKED  
PICNICS**

lb.

**25¢**

PHILADELPHIA  
**Cream Cheese**  
3 Pkgs. **25¢**

BORDEN'S  
**Cheese**  
2  $\frac{1}{2}$ -lb. Pkgs. **29¢**

FULL CREAM  
**Cottage Cheese**  
2 lbs. **15¢**

**Maxwell House Coffee** lb. **29¢**

EDUCATOR — The real butter wafer

**SMACKS**

2 pkgs. **35¢**

SILVERSPRING  
**Gingerale**

CLUB  
SODA Doz. **95¢**  
PLUS BOT. CHG.

Hellman's Blue Ribbon  
**Mayonnaise**  
PTS. **27¢** QTS. **45¢**

**Watermelons** LARGE RIPE

Crosse & Blackwell  
TOMATO JUICE 3 cans **25¢**

JOHNSON'S INSTANT FUDGE lb. **19¢**

Weideman's Manzanilla  
STUFFED OLIVES 3 pt. jars **\$1.00**

Weideman  
PLAIN and STUFFED OLIVES 2 tall jars **29¢**

Best Value  
SOLID PACK TOMATOES 2 No. 2½ cans **27¢**

Libby's  
Sweet and Sweet Mixed Pickles Qt. jar **25¢**

Weideman's  
FRUIT SALAD and COCK TAIL 2 No. 1 cans **37¢**

Premier Brand  
WET SHRIMP 2 cans **29¢**

Weideman  
WHITE MEAT TUNA FISH 2½ size cans **39¢**

**STIRRE'S**  
QUALITY FOODS • ECONOMY PRICES