

# BALDWIN PROGRAM HONORS EDUCATION

Junior Class Assembly On Thursday Depicts Growth Of American Schools

An assembly depicting the different stages in the progress of the American school was given last Thursday by the junior class of Baldwin high school in commemoration of American Education Week. The progress was shown in six scenes. A short synopsis was read before each scene, which contained facts about the advancement of schools and led up to each portrayal. Among the days when schools were first started, the pupils met at the homes of the members, later going to crude school-houses. This

was the first scene. The second scene showed an early girls' school. The third scene made a hit with the audience. It was a typical country school, with all its paper-walled shooting, squabbles over seats and books, and bright and dumb students. The fourth scene shifted to the different football uniforms used down through the years, from evening clothes, lace jackets, and tights, to the well padded, flashy uniforms of today. A modern high school room, complete with a radio which is used in classrooms to catch the latest news, was portrayed in the fifth scene. The various clubs in an up-to-date high school, the Chemistry, Dramatic, and Publications clubs, were the subject of the sixth and last scene. The dramatic club took a part from one of its plays, a melodrama of the gay '90s. The villain received the kisses of the audience when he appeared, and it all ended happily when the hero arrived with the mortgage money, at nine o'clock to twelve, the time the mortgage was due.

## Birmingham before today

By MINNIE HUNT SALTZER

Irving was born in the port of Ireland in 1815. He lived in England from 1819 to 1843 when he came to America. As a young man he was short in stature and somewhat stout. He was steel-rimmed glasses, well known in his time and looked at one over the tops of the rims. He owned the property that is a part of the Baldwin school site and his house and barn were located at the southern part of this lot, near Martin street. There was a board fence around the property. A gate at the north side of the lot, on W. Maple, gave entrance to a path that led up to the front door. The side entrance was on Chestnut street. There was a wide board walk along the Chester street, and the row of butternut trees there, about four feet apart, were in the walk. The house was a large two story frame building and it and the surroundings were always very orderly. Mr. Irving was the father of John and Mattie Irving and another daughter, whose name, I think, was Libby. His son's wife was Elizabeth Ellis Irving and their children were William, John and Fred.

The Merrill family lived in the large frame house, owned by the Brownells which stood on a slight rise of ground where the Birmingham theatre is now located. The Merrill children were Gertrude, Beatie, John, Edna and Charles. The Irving family lived south of the Frank Ford home on South Woodward. The Ford home is now the Masonic Temple.

In 1888 James B. Hunt and family lived in a house that stood on the present site of the United Presbyterian church. One afternoon John Merrill and the Irving boys were playing ball between the Irving home and the Pinder Worth home. Will accidentally hit John over the eye with a ball bat. John came running up the side walk screaming lustily. Mr. Hunt rushed out to see what the trouble was. Will Irving was following close behind John Merrill, whose face was covered with the blood that was streaming from the cut over his eye. When John saw Mr. Hunt coming toward him he yelled in a voice of anguish, "Oh, Jim! Am I killed? Am I killed?" and kept on running toward home as fast as he could go. His eye was quite seriously injured but gradually became all right again, much to Will's peace of mind.

Hugh Irving owned a hardware store in Birmingham for over forty years. This store building was a low frame structure and was located on the west side of Woodward avenue almost opposite the intersection of Hamilton and Woodward avenues. There was a covered porch across the front of the store and the main entrance was toward the north half of the building. The counter was along the north side of the store at the right of the door. A Fairbanks scale was out in front between the porch floor and the front walk, and here the farmers weighed their loads of hay and their deliveries of hay returned and had their wagons weighed. The front porch was used for displaying hardware, etc. One day, one of the housewives of the town asked Mr. Irving if he would tell her the best hackling for the top of a crock pot. (There were few, if any, kitchen ranges in those days.) His answer was, "A woman's greasy dish cloth, ma'am."

The first Mrs. Hugh Irving died and for several years Mattie Irving kept house for her father. Miss Fannie Fish became the second wife of Mr. Irving and they lived in the W. Maple Ave. home until his death. The Irvings were Presbyterians and owned a pass in the E. Maple

Avenue Church. The floor of this pew was carpeted and the back and sides were padded and there was a wooden seat. Mr. Irving and his wife, Fanny, always attended church. On those days the townspeople walked in and from church Mr. Irving would sit at the east end of the pew and Mr. Irving sat at the west end. After the preaching began Mr. Irving would drop off to sleep and his head would begin to nod. When this occurred, after waiting as long as he dared, I suppose for fear he would snore, Mrs. Irving would quietly edge her way along the pew till she could reach over and poke Mr. Irving, in the side, with her thumb. When he had roused up then she would quietly edge over to her corner of the pew again, while the members of the choir and the people sitting at the side and back of the Irving pew would have to smile in spite of themselves.

After Mr. Irving's death Mrs. Irving became Mrs. A. Trollop. The Irving home was sold to William Parks, father of Anna Grace, Fred, Hiram and Charles Parks. Mr. and Mrs. Trollop lived at the south-west corner of Woodward and Oak street. A gas station is now located on this site. Mr. Trollop was around ninety years old when he died. He and his wife were entertaining at holiday time and he went up to the mill pond and put on skates and demonstrated that though along in years he was still able to skate. The electric cars would take on passengers in front of his home at night, if signalled by means of a lantern or burning paper. When the guests went out that night to take the car Mr. Trollop went out to the tracks with them, carrying a lighted lantern with which to signal the car. With the snow on the ground he misjudged his nearness to the track and the car hit him, injuring him so badly that he died.

It was said that Miss Fish and Trollop were childhood sweethearts and that they were estranged through some misunderstanding which occurred during the Civil War. Mr. Trollop married and raised a family but Miss Fish remained single for many years. After Mrs. Trollop and Mr. Irving died the misunderstanding was cleared up and the childhood lovers were reunited and spent their remaining years in happy companionship.

In 1802 the Irving Hardware Store was sold by Mr. Irving to "Chas. Schlaack, of Glen and Rhea Schlaack and husband of Mrs. Hattie Schlaack. There have been several sons of Chas. Schlaack, whom were the Hops, L. Leo Traux and Elmer Huston. The old store was razed during the ownership of Mr. Schlaack and a new building erected on the original site.

## 9 O'Clock TOWN

Sol Warner . . . 83 year old gent of the road . . . whose residence consists of one night stays in Michigan jails . . . where he is treated as more or less of a star prisoner . . . shuffled into the Birmingham station Monday night and deposited his only dangerous weapon . . . an old fashioned razor of the non-safety variety . . . he has no home and no work and he has no work and no liking for permanent residence in a transient camp . . . so he travels north, south, east and west in Michigan . . . Sol is a tall, lean, withered man of big frame which, in his younger days, fitted him for his chosen work, lumbering . . . now there is no work for Sol . . . he followed him into the cell and talked about his travels . . . Sol may be old and he may be considered a sufferer by more ambitious folk, but Sol is in some ways as wise as his name sake . . . "action is life, inaction is death," Sol says . . . he won't go to the poorhouse because "all they do there is sit" . . . he prefers to keep moving from town to town . . . to sleep a night in the jail or the station and to leave town in the morning . . . "Birmingham is about the best town I make," said Sol. "I've usually got the jail to myself and I like to walk around the streets of the town . . . there are so many pretty houses and stores" . . . asked why he didn't go south in winter he said, "I've lived all my life in Michigan . . . I like the people better" . . . Sol has worked in most of the lumber camps of the Upper Peninsula in his lifetime . . . he did everything but load, he told the 9 O'Clock Town reporter . . . now in his wanderings he keeps an eye on how things are going in different sections . . . he thinks very little of the Rooseveltian policy of spending . . . "spending begets spending" Sol stated solemnly . . . he meets a number of men in the same condition he is, who had too much once and spent too much . . . and he views with alarm the huge number of people on relief in Michigan . . . Sol found himself on himself on relief, because he never stays in one place long enough to burden any one place . . . something in the nature of a family reunion took place in the jail here Monday night . . . Clarence Warner . . . 45 years old . . . another gent of the road and possibly a relative of Sol's, although we didn't find out . . . came in and applied for a night's lodging . . . at least they were old friends . . . we heard them greeting each other loudly as the younger Warner entered the jail.

A Mexican and an American worked together in a mine in Kansas. On several occasions the Mexican had rabbit for dinner and shared it with his workmate. "One day the American asked: 'Where do you get rabbits, Jose? I can't find any.' 'My wife she get 'em,' Jose replied. 'Eee!' night they come round the house and make noise. She shoot 'em.' 'Noise? Rabbits don't make a noise.' 'Sure,' asserted Jose, positively. 'Go 'Mew, mew.'"

A factory superintendent visiting Toronto threw a nickel toward the blind man's cup. The coin missed and rolled along the pavement, but the man with the dark glasses quickly recovered it. "But I thought you were blind?" "No, I am not the regular blind man, sir," he said. "I'm just taking his place while he's at the movies."

Officer: "You've been doing sixty miles an hour. Don't you care anything about the law?" Lady: "Why Officer, how can I tell? I've only just met you."

Joe: What caused the explosion on C's farm the other day? Jack: He fed a chicken some 'Lay 'em or Bust' feed and it turned out to be a rooster.

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