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Birmingham before today

By MINNIE HUNT SALTZER

The John W. Hunter Home
The frame house that stands on the north side of W. Brown street and the second door east of Bates street was originally the home of John W. Hunter, and stood on a rise of ground just back of the present site of the Boughner garage.

Mary Ann Beardslee was a teacher who came to Michigan from New Jersey with her parents, Charles and Sarah Beardslee, in 1828, in a covered wagon. The chair on which Mrs. Beardslee sat while enroute from New Jersey to Michigan is now in Pontiac, and is nearly 250 years old. Mary Ann Beardslee boarded and roomed with the Hunters, and her room was at the front of the second floor.

Marcus Culver was a fanning mill manufacturer and the sweetheart and later the husband of Mary Ann. He made many business trips to Detroit by way of the Inian trail. This was a long, tedious trip in those days, and Culver liked to tell his children how he used to lean from the window and watch for Mr. Culver's return, and when he would come into view she would run down the trail to meet him, after each hazardous trip.

Later this house became the property of the father of Mrs. Ellen Tams Dreyer. There was a gravel walk at the back of the house that led to the garden and at the sides of this path, placed at regular intervals, were plaster of paris forms which at one time had been used elsewhere to block hats. This property was finally purchased by Alex Parks, and the Parks family lived in the frame house for a few years, then sold it to Henry Randall, grandfather of Charles, Earl and Mae Randall, and Beale and George Casey.

Mr. Randall had the building moved to its present site on W. Brown street near Bates. Mr. Parks built a large brick house on the old site. Many pleasant evenings were spent there by the young folks of the town. The Alumni banquet for the Class of '96 was held here. It was here also that the beautiful home wedding of Polly Parks and Webster Bray was solemnized.

Lawn Socials Popular
Lawn socials were popular in those days, and the Parks lawn was often used for these. Japanese lanterns would be hung to illuminate the lawn, and flower-decorated tables would be placed in attractive places. If the socials were held on Saturday evening, either the Birmingham band or the Franklin band would dispense sweet music to draw the crowd. The bands made no charge for the music but were treated to ice cream and cake.

One evening Mame Leet was helping at a social on the Parks lawn. Some one called for a glass of water. The tables were filled and Mame had a plate of ice cream in her hand. She placed in on a nearby chair and hurried away to get the water. Retta Blumberg (Mrs. David McClellan) came along just then, wearing a new silk dress. She saw the unoccupied chair but did not notice the plate of ice cream, and sat down on it, thus ruining her dress. Of course Retta was very much disgusted and Mame was terribly embarrassed over the mishap, which Retta still vividly recalls.

A row of large willow trees extended from the west lot line of Mr. Randall's property on Brown almost to the northwest corner of Brown and Henrietta streets. Mr. Randall was a Civil War veteran. He and his sons, George and Elsworth, owned a threshing outfit for a number of years. After his retirement from this business Mr. Randall came to town to live. He always dressed in dark blue and wore a G. A. R. hat. The willow trees were cut down in 1895 and in the spring of '96 Mr. Randall planted some maple seeds around the willow stump that marked his west lot line. I was watching him do the planting, and when he finished he said to me, "Now, if any of these grow, some day you can tell folks that I planted the seeds, and when I planted them."

George Toms, father of Charles, owned the first house on the north side of Merrill street east of Chester. He also owned the lot at the northeast corner of Merrill and Chester streets. This lot he used for a garden. There was a row of maple trees along the sidewalk, and each spring there would be quite a number of maple seedlings in Mr. Toms' garden plot. A week or so after Mr. Randall had planted the maple seeds I was passing Mr. Toms' place, on my way home from school, and noticed several small maple seedlings growing beside the walk.

Joke On Here
I remembered the number of seeds which Mr. Randall had planted around the stump of the willow, and so I pulled up the same number of seedlings. When I reached my home at the corner of Bates and Brown streets I tipped over to the stump and planted the seedlings around it. There was an enclosed porch at the front of the Randall home, with small windows at each side, and in the door.

As I straightened up from my kneeling position, I heard some one laughing heartily, and discovered Mr. Randall in the doorway. It seemed he had been watching me through the porch window all of the time, and the joke was on me instead of on him.
Later on the maple seeds which he had planted began to grow. Mr. Randall kept the two nicest seedlings, and later separated them, and they became beautiful trees. I believe one is still standing where the old stump stood.

We'll Help Stretch Your Budget

Last week the response to our innovation of offering BUDGET SPECIALS for the week end was most gratifying. Our regular customers appreciated this EXTRA SPECIAL, and many new customers were delighted with the quality of our merchandise... and the SAVING which our prices afforded them. Again we are offering BUDGET SPECIALS for this week end. We invite you to participate in the SAVINGS.

BUDGET SPECIALS

Steaks	Sirloin Porterhouse Round	LB.	29c
SHORT RIBS OF BEEF		lb.	15c
ROLLED RIB BEEF ROAST		lb.	33c
ROLLED RUMP BEEF ROAST		lb.	33c
FRESH GROUND SHOULDER BEEF		lb.	15c
Pork Roast	Picnic Cut	LB.	23c
LOIN ROAST PORK	Rib-End	lb.	28c
LAMB	Shoulder Roast	LB.	19c
SHOULDER BEEF POT ROAST		lb.	22c
Bacon Squares		LB.	32c

Wisconsin — Longhorn MILD CHEESE	lb. 22c	Philadelphia CREAM CHEESE	3 pkgs. 25c
		Weideman Brand PURE MAPLE SYRUP	qt. 65c
		Libby's — Fancy RED ALASKA SALMON	can 23c
		Libby's — Whole Kernel GOLDEN BANTAM CORN	2 No. 2 cans 29c
		Weideman Brand TOMATO JUICE	2 No. 2½ cans 25c

Beechnut Coffee LB. 26c

Ivory Flakes Large Size Pkg. 21c

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Royal Gelatin All Flavors Chocolate Pudding Pkg. 1c With each purchase of Gelatin 3 Pkgs. 17c

Hart and Weideman Brand PUMPKIN	2 No. 2½ cans 25c
Weideman Brand FRUIT COCKTAIL	No. 2½ can 27c
Fancy — No. 1 MICHIGAN POTATOES	pk. 19c
Sweet and Juicy ORANGES—Med. Size	2 doz. 45c

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