Birmingham before today

By Minnie Hunt Saltzer

The first house on the south side of Middle street (Hamilton Avenue) and east of the old National Hotel was the home of A. Rogers and family. The Rogers were the parents of Mrs. Frank Roach.

The Roach children, Agnes and William (Billy) lived with their parents at Mrs. Rogers' during the last part of her life. Mr. Beckman, mother of Frank and Hettie lived in the Rogers home for a while. Mr. Hettie and family lived there.

Mrs. Saltzer

The present home of Mr. August Madge was built by Dr. Ferrine. The Otsler family lived in this house. Mr. and Mrs. Robinson and daughter Eva and Elliot (Mrs. Frederick Crawford) lived here at the time of Mr. Parker's death.

The old white hotel, home which was next to the old D.U.R.R. and M.R.R. was the Jacob Bachelor home. Mr. and Mrs. Bachelor, Mr. and Mrs. Farrand lived in this house. At one time there had a small store on S. Woodward Avenue on the site of the Lee store.

The J. Hoover house was the north side of Maple and Chester a half a block east of the Railroad. The Hoovers had two sons, Arthur and Frank.

Amos was the father of Mrs. Mary Hutchinson, wife of Robert Hutchinson. Jamie Lee lived in a home east of the Howland home and this was the Leet home when Mr. Leet worked at the depot for D. O. Wiley and Co.

Mrs. Ira Slade was a member of this firm and was the buyer for Birmingham and vicinity.

It was in the Leet home that the first wife of Ed. Wildes died. Mrs. Maggy Beatty Wildes, of Quarton Rd. is the widow of Mr. Wildes.

Mrs. McStay and her son Marrell Dennis, also lived in the Leet house before they moved to S. Pierce street. I believe her son Charles Dennis lived in Texas at this time. Jim and George McStay were sons by her second marriage.

The house on the north side of the street west of the railroad was the property of E. R. Adams and later the home of Mr. and Mrs. Gorham. Their daughter was the first wife of Levi Allen who now lives in Greenville, Mich.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Burnett and family lived here after the death of Mrs. Gorham. The house west of the Gorham place was owned by A. Leet. Mr. and Mrs. O. B. Fuller lived in this house. The next owners were Mr. and Mrs. Miller. Mr. Miller died suddenly. Mr. Hulda Miller was a resident of Birmingham for many years. After Mr. Miller's death Josephine and Eva Hutchinson and brother Robert lived in the Miller house. Mr. Jack Baldwin bought this from the latter part of his life. I believe that the house which later was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Rainey and family and stood between the Gorham and Miller houses was built for Wm. O'Neal and family. Mr. O'Neal is a brother of Mrs. Gorham and lives in Saginaw, Mich.

The old brick house which was east of the Miller house was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Mortimer Smith.

This was the first brick house in Birmingham. Mrs. Smith was the former Mrs. Cornelia Hunter daughter of John Hunter. She was the first white child born in Chicago. She was the mother of Emma, Frank and Charlie Smith. I believe at age of Cornelia was the father of Mrs. Edward Jarvis (Cornelia Smith).

Mrs. Cornelia Hunter was the mother of Mrs. Jay Jarvis. Mr. Mortimer Smith ran the old foundry on E. Maple.

The Curtis house was east of the Smith home. Mr. Curtis had a daughter Frances and a daughter Belle. Frances was a Detroit teacher and an active member of the Woman's Literary Club. Mrs. Curtis and her daughters loved flowers and had many beautiful specimens in their yard.

The next house belonged to E. C. Hopkins. Its owners Mr. Alex Park, bought the old Toms home on S. Woodward, this house became the home of Mrs. Ellen Drew and Mr. Samuel Toms. Mrs. Toms was the sweetheart of Henry Stiff. Mrs. Sarah Stiff died in this house. This was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Mills. She survived Mr. Mills. They both passed away in this home.

The children of August and Myra Madge are Harry, Allan, Mrs. Gertrude M. Motz and Mrs. Marion M. McKinley. Mr. Madge died several years ago. Mrs. Madge is still a resident of Birmingham.

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Rev. Roy E. Vale To Preach On Sunday

In keeping with the policy of the Woodward Avenue Church to bring once a month each month one of the outstanding Detroit ministers of a denomination other than Methodist, the Rev. Roy Ewing Vale will speak at the 11 o'clock morning service Sunday, April 5, 1937, at the Woodward Avenue Presbyterian Church will ask for the sermon, "Alert To A New Day."

At the morning service at 11 o'clock presentation of baptismal boxes to the church school children for their thirteenth birthdays will be made. Rev. Robert W. Woodworth will preach at this service.

'Falling Pillars' Is Topic For Sermon

In the first of a series of sermons for the month of April, Rev. John E. Martin of the First M. E. church has chosen to speak of "Falling Pillars," a sermon on a changing civilization, at the 11 o'clock service, Sunday, April 4.

On the following Sundays he will speak on: "How We Got Our Liberties," a discussion of the political and religious liberties from the time of the Norman kings to our present Constitution; "Obstacles in the Way," a sermon showing the struggles of Christianity, and lastly, "Is Christianity The Final Religion," in which Rev. Martin will deliver a sermon of vital social implication.

Throughout the month the young people of the church will study the life of Christ, at their 6:30 meeting. The group will be under the leadership and direction of Mrs. Martin.

SMUGGLING.

France and the United States have entered into a reciprocal arrangement to cooperate in suppressing smuggling and apprehending tariff frauds. The customs service of each country, under the agreement, will promptly communicate to the other country information which might aid in preventing smuggling.

The MARCH of POLITICS

By JOHN H. O'BRIEN

The Spring election, April 5th, is but a few days off. It has attracted less interest this year than in any previous year, yet its importance to the average citizen has not diminished at all. It happens to be held this year at a time when national issues have covered the front pages of newspapers and occupied the discussions of radio commentators. All of us are intensely interested in the shifting events that concern the United States Supreme Court and the demonstrations of the unrest in labor.

It is perfectly understandable why the average citizen, preoccupied with these grave national questions, pays little heed to the approaching election. Yet it should be pointed out that it is folly to allow anything to happen to the proper administration of his educational system here at home or permit the state to allow unqualified men to sit upon his Supreme Court or to manage his highway building program.

There is very little after all to voting. It is true that the intelligent citizen has the duty to do to do his duty. A half hour's time will make him familiar with the training and obvious facts about each state candidate. A moment's conversation with a friend or official acquainted with the duties of the separate offices will be sufficient to instruct him sufficiently to vote with intelligence. And the physical act of voting takes but a minute or two. It is as simple as all that and yet thousands of persons who are directly concerned with one or more of these offices will do nothing about it April 5th.

The pall of indifference to voting has arisen from many causes. Some are blameless. Thousands are away from home during the voting hours. Thousands are bedridden. Thousands are physically incapacitated. Thousands are blind. Thousands are illiterate. Thousands are dictators. Thousands are Roosevelt and supporters of the Government. Many are so ignorant of the duties of the citizen that they do not vote because they feel that they are against both sides. It is an anomaly that the Roosevelt government, the chief dictator, is also the one that citizens do not have sufficient confidence in to vote against Roosevelt candidates.

The vote is a sacred privilege. It is also a duty. It is a duty that every citizen, at the right time, should perform. It is a duty that the intelligent citizen has to that every citizen should do. There are many things and which only a small percentage ever do. There are many citizens who will discuss politics by the hour; they have a stand on every public question; they will quote form speeches, newspaper and magazine articles and they have the proper solution to everything that arises—but they will not vote. This is to remind them, along with other types of nonvoters, that the proper time and place to express an opinion is on the ballot on election day. The election of April 5th might be as good a time as any to start voting.

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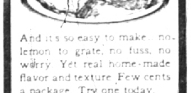

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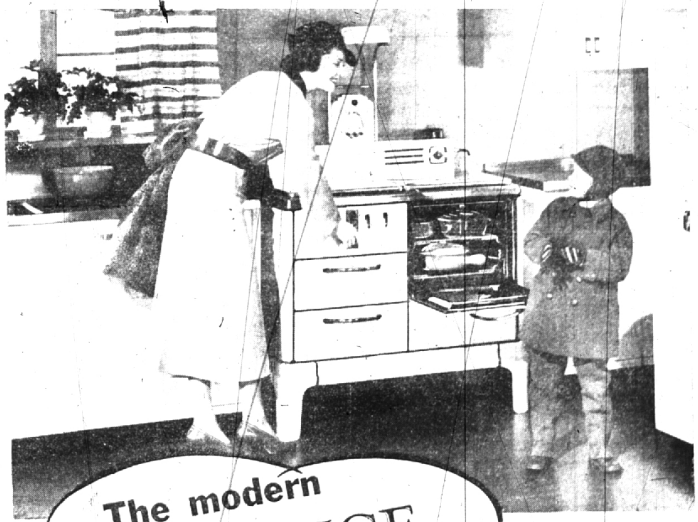

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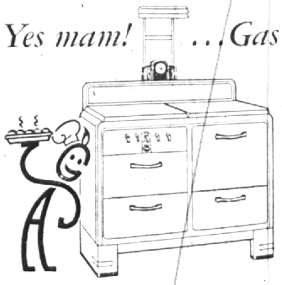

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