

# BUILDINGS SHOW CITY'S PROGRESS

## History of Birmingham

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larged in 1925 and Barnum in 1929. Holy Name Parochial School was built in 1928. Birmingham's five school buildings, with a capacity for 3330 students, last year had a combined average enrollment of 2661 students.

The Methodist Church was the first to organize here under the Rev. William Pattee in 1827, and in 1840 its first church edifice was built. The present church building in use by this denomination was constructed in 1872.

The Presbyterian Church was organized in 1834 with Elijah S. Fish as its first pastor. The first church building was erected in 1844, a later one in 1860, and the present brick edifice on Woodward avenue in 1916.

St. James Episcopal Church was organized in 1894 and held services in Liberty Hall until its present building was erected 18 months later.

A Baptist Society was organized in 1833 but disbanded in 1840. The congregation reassembled in 1870 when its former church on Bates and Willetts was erected. This building was replaced by the present edifice in 1928.

The United Presbyterian Church was founded and its building constructed in 1895.

In 1916 a group of residents founded the Christian Science Society of Birmingham and held services in a large, remodelled residence on Woodward avenue. This Society was incorporated in 1924 as The First Church of Christ, Scientist, of Birmingham, Michigan. Its present building was completed in 1927.

A Lutheran congregation was organized in 1924 by its pastor, Rev. L. A. Schuessler, and the temporary chapel of the Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church was dedicated.

The Holy Name Catholic Church was founded in 1921 with Rev. W. W. Ryan as its first clergyman, and one year later its chapel on Harmon avenue was dedicated.

Other denominations and faiths have flourished here from time to time without establishing themselves in permanent buildings.

### The Incorporation

Incorporation of Birmingham took place in 1864 with J. C. K. Crooks as president of the board of seven Trustees. In 1885 a new

charter was granted which provided for six commissioners. A change in 1918 provided for a village manager and set the number of commissioners at three. Still another charter change in 1927 raised the number of commissioners to six again, retained the village manager, and provided for a village president. With the incorporation of Birmingham as a city in 1933, the village president became the city mayor and the village manager the city manager. The number of commissioners remained at six.

The growth of Birmingham in recent years has brought about many improvements in the city. The efforts of enterprising citizens have made Birmingham one of the best equipped cities of its size in this state.

Through the efforts of women under the leadership of Miss Martha Baldwin, a Ladies' Library Society was formed in 1867. This group's efforts largely made possible the opening of the present Library building in the third block of the city's civic center.

A brief summary of significant events in the history of the city would include:

The founding of the Birmingham Eccentric by George Mitchell and Almeron Whitehead in May, 1878.

The founding of the Exchange Bank, Birmingham's first bank, by Mitchell and Whitehead in 1887.

The beginning of the operation of electric cars between Detroit and Pontiac, through Birmingham, by the Oakland Railway Company in 1896, and the final discontinuance of this service in April, 1931, when busses replaced the street cars.

The disappearance of the maple trees on Woodward avenue, long a Birmingham landmark, when they were cut down to make room for the new super-Woodward avenue highway in 1925.

The dedication of the Birmingham Community House in 1929 and the completion of its new building on Bates street in 1930.

The removal of the Grand Trunk Railway tracks one mile east on Maple avenue and the completion of the new station at its present site in 1931.

The completion of Hunter Boulevard and the new postoffice in 1933, a foregone conclusion at this writing.

Birmingham is today one of the most attractive suburbs of Detroit, America's fourth city. Always a residential community, the city, with plans for an even greater growth, is without industries. Its population is estimated at between 12,000 and 12,000 persons. Its remarkable growth in business has been responsible for the establishment of many new buildings and the construction of hundreds of beautiful homes. Its paved streets, running from the great highway that is its principal traffic artery, are lined with majestic maple trees. Keeping their city a residential community has been the work of the majority of Birmingham's citizens.

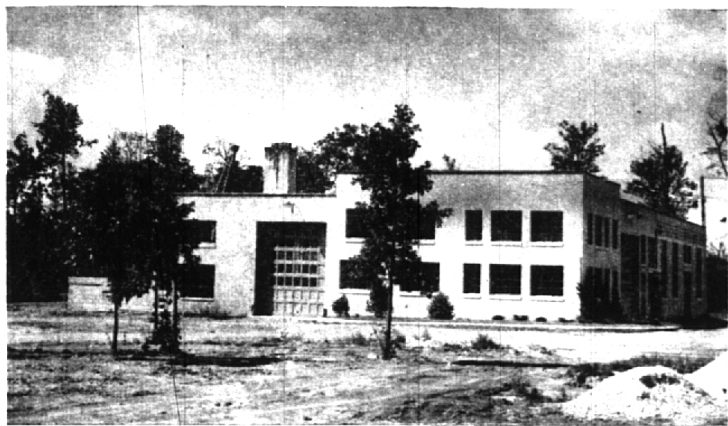
Such is the story of 120 years. Did John and Rufus Hunter foresee the Birmingham of today? It is unlikely that they did. Forcing a living from the uncompromising forest left them little time to dream of the years to come. Theirs was a task of heroic proportions, and today's Birmingham is a monument to the memory of the courage with which they accomplished that task. Yet even more is today's Birmingham a monument to all the men who helped to build it down through its first 100 years. It is a living tribute to their courage and industry and honesty; it is a symbol of the democratic ideals for which they lived. We who live here today are pledged to make it always more lovely, more neighborly, more enduring as a community each of us gladly calls our home.

## One of the City's Four Deep Wells



The West well, on West Lincoln avenue, is revealed in the picture delivering each day 1,500,000 gallons of water, pumped from a well owned and operated by the City, depth of 100 feet. A continuous average daily consumption whose water amounts to 1,500,000 gallons, is revealed in the picture. Due to the medicinal purity of the local water supply, no chlorine or other germ-killing chemicals are put into Birmingham's water supply.

## Birmingham's D. P. W. Warehouse



Opened within the past few weeks is Birmingham's new Department of Public Works Warehouse, situated on Eton road, next to the 300,000 gallon elevated water storage tank. It cost \$25,000.00, and in it is kept various equipment owned and used by the City. This Warehouse takes the place of the rather dilapidated storage rooms which the city once operated where the North-bound lane of traffic will run over Hunter Boulevard.

## "Just An Editor"



George R. Averill

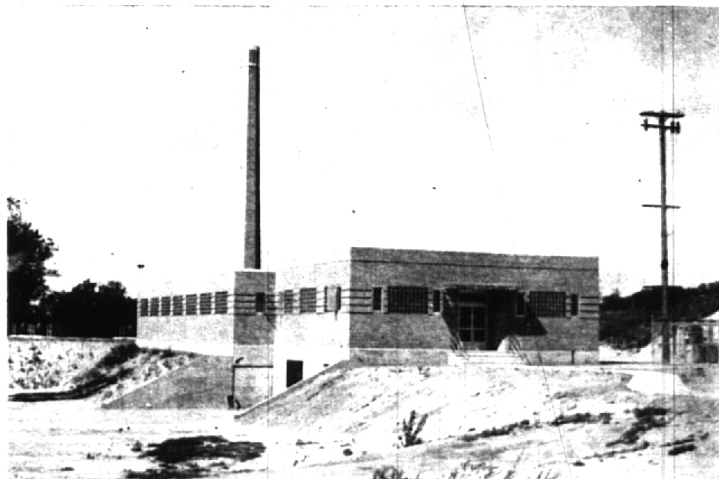
Mr. Averill is editor and publisher of The Birmingham Eccentric, and originated the idea of Birmingham's first Civic Loyalty Day. He is general program chairman for the event here Saturday, September 16.

## Elevated Water Tank



The 300,000 gallon elevated steel water storage tank is located on City property just south of the Grand Trunk railroad station, on the eastern boundary of Birmingham. Originally, it was built in 1924 and a little over a year ago was taken down from its location between East Maple and Oakland avenues, to make room for the new Hunter Boulevard, completing the Woodward avenue super-highway, and placed where it now stands. Water from the City's four deep wells kept it filled with the City's needed supply of that liquid.

## Modern Sewage Disposal Plant



One of the problems of an inland city away from a large body of water is the disposal of its sewage. For years Birmingham has been faced with this problem and

just two weeks ago it opened the above disposal plant, located at Cranbrook and 14-Mile roads, making it possible to eliminate all river pollution in its sewage prob-

lems. The plant was erected at a cost of \$165,000.00, a portion of which was borne by the federal PWA.