

# The Birmingham Eccentric

PART TWO

SIXTY-SECOND YEAR—NO. 49

BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 1940

\$1.50 PER YEAR (In Oakland County)—SINGLE COPIES, 5c

## History of First Presbyterian Church

### Society Organized In 1834; Present Church Built 1918

(Editor's Note: Following is a third in a series of church histories written by the Rev. Theodore Wiggazer, Jr. Next week, the Baptist Church history will be reviewed.)

By THEO. WIGGAZER, JR.

The First Presbyterian Church is the second oldest of Birmingham churches from the standpoint of continuous history. (The Baptist Church was organized in 1832, but its history has not been continuous.) The Presbyterian Church was organized in 1834, seven years after the Methodist Church came into existence. First services were conducted in the barn of Deacon Elijah Fish at the maple grove on Pontiac Road, and at the time the organization the congregation had nine members. In 1835, meetings were begun at the Davis (later the National) Hotel.

The original name of the congregation was The Presbyterian Society of Bloomfield, but at the annual meeting of Feb. 20, 1850, the name was changed to that of the Presbyterian Society of Birmingham.

**Met At School**  
According to a history written by Mrs. Thomas E. Navin in 1934 on the occasion of the church's centennial, the next place of worship after the Davis Hotel was the old wooden school house which stood on the lot on the corner of Mill (West Maple) and Chester streets. The last record of a meeting in this old school building was that of May 1, 1843.

The next place of worship, according to Mrs. Navin's account, was the Methodist church building, which was used for a time for afternoon services for \$100 a year.

The first church edifice of the Presbyterians was built and dedicated in the summer of 1844, the second year of the pastorate of the Rev. E. H. Fairchild. The lot on which this church was built was donated by John W. Vanderhoff, being a part of the land he had obtained from the government. (It was situated near what is now the southeast corner of Maple and Woodward avenues.)

**New Church in 1860**  
Services were continued here until the spring of 1860, when, on the first of March, it was sold at auction for \$150, and removed by the purchaser, Henry J. Slumberg, to a lot on the west side of Woodward (then called Saginaw) avenue north of Mill (Maple) and there used for political meetings.

Work on a new church was started, and on Dec. 5, 1860, it was dedicated and free of debt. The entire cost of the church, including the furnishings which were supplied by the ladies, was \$2,500. In order to provide for this sum, the whole cost was apportioned among the holders of 42 pews, leaving 10 free pews. The pews were valued from \$30 to \$65 and were sold at public auction.

According to Mrs. Navin's research, the pastor then was the Rev. S. N. Hill. He took an active part in village affairs and in 1870 organized and taught the first district school. The present Hill School, built in 1879, was named in his honor.

The files of The Eccentric for

### PRESENT PASTOR

**35 Instructional Leaders Named For Citizens' Day**

Robert V. Moore, chairman of the Ways and Means committee of Oakland County's Citizenship Day program, planned for Sunday, May 13, today announced the appointment of 35 instructional leaders from throughout the county. It will be their task to present to new 21 year old voters the wealth of instructional material recently completed by the University of Michigan faculty.

Letters inviting them to serve are going out from his office today. Mr. Moore said, "and we plan to announce their names within the next week, pending their acceptance. We are making plans for three countywide meetings in which this material will be explained to these group leaders by three members of the U. of M. faculty."

Meanwhile, several hundred organizations from the county have signed resolutions, many of which are already taking an active part in preparations for the festival.

Selection of suitable site for the actual program this week occupied the attention of Judge George R. Hartick, general chairman; Henry S. Booth and S. V. Norton, members of the executive committee. These sites under consideration in Pontiac are Oakland Park, Pontiac High School athletic field and Wagon Wheel home of the Pontiac high football team.

### FORMER PASTOR

**4 Minor Crashes Occur in City**  
Four minor auto crashes were reported by Birmingham police during the past week-end. Monday at 9 a. m., Vernon D. McLarty, of 363 Elm, going east on Forest and crossing Hunter, collided with a car driven north on Hunter by Ernest M. Crich, 370 East Maplehurst, Ferndale. Harry Mudge, Jr., of 352 North Woodward avenue, driving south on Adams, near Maple, collided with the truck of Joseph M. Dougherty, 928 East Maple, going north on Adams, last Thursday evening. Dougherty was preparing to make a left turn.

Jack E. Birthing, of 1030 Riverdale, driving north on Woodward avenue, near Adams, dozed off and broke his headlight on the rear of a truck going in the same direction, he reported to police. The truck driver did not stop.

Fenders were dented last Friday when Mrs. Florence Porter, 579 Brown, turned left on Woodward, near Adams, and collided with a car driven by Gordon Bekwith, of Pontiac.

**Good Guess**  
"What great battle was fought in Massachusetts?"  
"The battle of Lexington."

**THE REV. W. CLARENCE WRIGHT** was pastor here from 1930 until his death in 1937. He was called to the Wilshire Presbyterian Church, Los Angeles.

byterian Church at that time was as follows:  
"The building is old and heated by oil-fueled stoves." (No longer the case, of course.) "The people are cordial, and Rev. Jamieson is very diligent in looking up newcomers. The services are embellished by a good choir. The Church also has a flourishing Sunday School and Boy Scout Troop." (Feb. 21, 1933.)

**Present Status**  
At the present time, First Presbyterian is one of the city's largest and most active religious bodies, having a membership of nearly 1,000. The Sabbath School has an enrollment of 250, with 100 men the average attendance. The Women's Union has a membership of about 250 and a very high percentage of attendance.

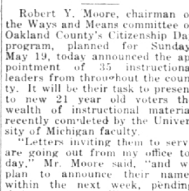
The present minister, the Rev. W. Glen Harris, has been here almost two years, and the full-time director of religious education, Miss Virginia Burkhardt, began her task here in the summer of 1939. The church help support two missionaries, the Rev. William B. Lyon, in Korea, and the Rev. Donald Schwab, Laguna, N. Mex. F. W. Dubois is president of the Men's Club and Mrs. W. D. Harris is president of the Women's Union. N. S. Grubbs is superintendent of the Sabbath School. Miss Emma Esslinger is organist and choir director. The Men's Club sponsors the Sea Scout Ship and George Boutwell is chief usher.

**Other Organizations**  
Other groups to which specific note has been given were a Ladies' Literary Club, sponsoring cultural activities; and a Ladies Church Society whose purpose was to add necessary church equipment from time to time. When this group purchased 100 hymn books in 1899, The Eccentric was constrained to remark: "The public can't sing at the Presbyterian Church."

Birmingham was looked upon as a place of delight and relief by the Presbyterian ministers of Detroit in the early days of the century. They, together with their wives, made frequent trips on lovely summer days, and we have the charming picture of seeing them roam the streets of our village, and being entertained at the local Presbyterian Manse. The picture somehow expressive of the pleasing charm that has always been peculiarly characteristic of Birmingham.

In 1913, a series of impressions on local churches appeared in The Eccentric, written by Eugene Griggs. His impression of the Pres-

### BUILT IN 1918



First Presbyterian Church was put into use in 1918. Enlargement of the building to accommodate growth of the congregation has been discussed in some quarters of the membership.—(Eccentric Photo)

The Sabbath School has an average attendance of about 300 and our morning worship service averages between 500 and 600.

There are three choirs and three youth groups all very active.

### Rep. George A. Dundero

Rep. George A. Dundero has introduced in the U. S. House of Representatives a resolution which has for its object the deletion of questions concerning personal income from the schedule for the 16th census.

### Colonial Home - Quanton District

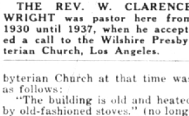
Cozy 3-bedroom, air conditioned oil heat, weather-stripped, insulated, copper pipes, copper screens, attached garage, kitchen has 2 corner cupboards, breakfast nook. Price \$8,500.00.

Enjoy this modern home—owning is better than renting.

For details . . . Call 1250

**Walsh James & Wasey Co.**  
1250 BIRMINGHAM, BLOOMFIELD, LANSING, NORTH BIRMINGHAM, NORTH MACOMB, MICHIGAN  
Main Offices . . . Pontiac, Mich.

### HOW'S Your AVERAGE?



Figures just released by the American Bankers Association reveal that the average savings deposit per inhabitant in the U. S. is \$135. This includes men, women and children of all ages. So to get your family average, just multiply. A family of four would have an average savings account of \$780. How's your average? If it's higher than this, you're lucky. If it's lower, get started saving.

### INSURANCE - BONDS THE BIRMINGHAM AGENCY

CHAS B RANDALL  
OSCAR P PETERSON

Insurance for Every Need  
PHONE 840  
106 S WOODWARD - BIRMINGHAM

### The Birmingham National Bank

"Birmingham's Community Bank"  
MEMBER FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

### Insecurity . . .

Is a feeling most people have who rent. There is always present the fear that their house will be sold from under them, or that their landlord may raise the rent. Their children—have no permanent environment. You can avoid this fear and supplant insecurity with security by building your own home and paying for it at less cost than rent. Let us show you these attractive sites.

- 23 Acres—hillside view with stream frontage.
- 15 Acres—gently sloping to a clear stream.
- 15 Acres—on a high bluff with wooded ravine and rushing stream.
- 19 Acres—hillside with unsurpassed view.

These are a few of the many desirable locations we have for your inspection. The prices are all amazingly low.

Call  
**MAX BROOK INC.**  
ESTABLISHED 1895  
112 S. WOODWARD AVE. 3087 W. GRAND BLVD.  
BIRMINGHAM 1212 MADISON 8782

### TAX BIDDING SERVICE, Inc.

Agents to represent your interest at Public Auction Sale of State owned lands in

Oakland, Macomb and Wayne Counties  
John W. Cherry, Jr. Lloyd R. Linton  
(Res. Phone B'ham 2252)

BONDED REPRESENTATIVES  
305 Peoples State Bldg. Pontiac  
Telephone 6800

### OWNER BEING TRANSFERRED

4-bedroom, 2-bath home . . . for lease  
This beautiful property consisting of one acre of ground, beautifully landscaped, attached 2-car garage, over 150 feet frontage on live stream. This property is not for sale and therefore tenant will not be disturbed and may secure a 2-year lease if desired.

Get Ready for Spring Building  
SELECT YOUR LOT NOW

- 80 x 182 wooded . . . \$1575
- 120 x 186 wooded . . . \$3175
- 125 x 150 near school . . . \$1875
- 110 x 125 good location . . . \$1200

**Judson Bradway Co.**  
REALTORS  
259 S. Woodward Ave. Phone B'ham 38

### WANT ADS COST LITTLE AND GET QUICK RESULTS

### National Children's Week—Mar. 6-12

CHILDREN SHOULD BE TAUGHT THE VALUE OF SAVING MONEY

The old adage "It's not what you make but what you save that counts," is a splendid thought to instill in the minds of our boys and girls during National Children's Week now in progress. Just a few cents a day SAVED will amount to a neat sum in a few short years. And safety is assured through an agency of the U. S. Government.

Open An Account For Your Child Today For As Little As \$1.00

**BIRMINGHAM FEDERAL SAVINGS & LOAN ASSN.**  
243 EAST MAPLE AVE.

### FORMER PASTOR

**THE REV. FLOYD EMERSON LOGEE** was pastor of First Presbyterian Church from 1925 until 1929, when he accepted a pastorate in Bismarck, North Dakota. Word received by Birmingham friends this week revealed that Emerson Logee, son of the former minister here, had resigned as assistant director of Admissions at Wooster (Ohio) College to become U. S. probation officer for the Northern Ohio district.

**MARCELO WIMMINS ARCHITECTURE**  
Phone Birm'ham 1415

### Spring Building for Foxcroft . . .

Foxcroft is that community of traditional American Homes out Maple Road, just west of Telegraph.

A Building program is now set up for this unique development. Four houses have already been built and sold . . . four more are scheduled to start in the near future and others will start as the program progresses.

The plans for these lovely homes are on display in our office and are available to those interested in country living without isolation.

They include:  
CALIFORNIA HOUSES  
RANCH HOUSES  
COLOONALS  
CAPE CODS

Prices range from \$9,850 to \$12,500 complete, including site, landscaping and financing. Liberal financing is available.

A call from you will bring a courteous representative to your home with complete information . . .

PHONE 1400  
**SNYDER BUCK & BENNETT**

Rep. George A. Dundero has introduced in the U. S. House of Representatives a resolution which has for its object the deletion of questions concerning personal income from the schedule for the 16th census.

### Colonial Home - Quanton District

Cozy 3-bedroom, air conditioned oil heat, weather-stripped, insulated, copper pipes, copper screens, attached garage, kitchen has 2 corner cupboards, breakfast nook. Price \$8,500.00.

Enjoy this modern home—owning is better than renting.

For details . . . Call 1250

**Walsh James & Wasey Co.**  
1250 BIRMINGHAM, BLOOMFIELD, LANSING, NORTH BIRMINGHAM, NORTH MACOMB, MICHIGAN  
Main Offices . . . Pontiac, Mich.

### HOW'S Your AVERAGE?

Figures just released by the American Bankers Association reveal that the average savings deposit per inhabitant in the U. S. is \$135. This includes men, women and children of all ages. So to get your family average, just multiply. A family of four would have an average savings account of \$780. How's your average? If it's higher than this, you're lucky. If it's lower, get started saving.

### INSURANCE - BONDS THE BIRMINGHAM AGENCY

CHAS B RANDALL  
OSCAR P PETERSON

Insurance for Every Need  
PHONE 840  
106 S WOODWARD - BIRMINGHAM

### The Birmingham National Bank

"Birmingham's Community Bank"  
MEMBER FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM