

Philatelists' Auction To Be Open to Public

Birmingham Stamp Club members are planning a public auction on Dec. 14. The affair will be held at the Community House beginning at 8 p.m. At the bourse and exhibit held Sunday at Ferrdale, Robert Thomas of Birmingham was awarded first prize in the junior general division. First place honors for seniors were shared by Leo Moses and

Emory Wellman, with second honors going to E. E. Pula, Marvin Preston and Charles Yapp.

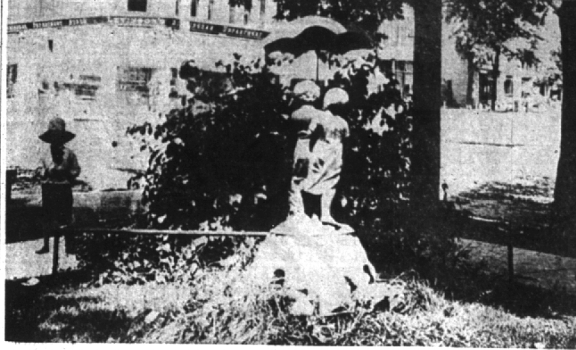
WE HEARD IT SAID BY—
AN UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN SHOPPER: "What Birmingham needs is a good general department store. We certainly have enough high-price specialty shops here."

It is estimated that there now are 43 million houses in the United States. When all of them are equipped with TV antennas, can you imagine the joy that will abound in the bird kingdom, with plenty of perch room available for the feathered friends of the air?

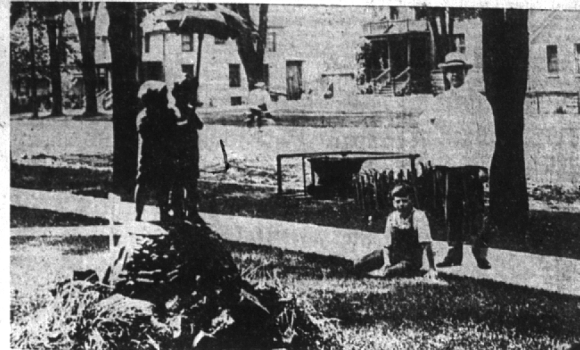
The Birmingham Eccentric

Birmingham Background

• Local History in Story and Picture •



THE BOY AND GIRL AND UMBRELLA FOUNTAIN beautified the 'library corner' in days gone by, the corner now occupied by Cunningham's Drug store. Donald Plumstead in the young lad standing on the sidewalk. Plumstead still lives in Birmingham



on South Glenhurst. At right is another view of the fountain with Donald Plumstead and Guy Taylor, a village barber in the picture. (Photos from the collection of Mrs. Harry Allen).

KAY COOLEY

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City Finally Abandoned Pretty Little Fountain

Shortly after water began to gurgle through the water pipes of the new Birmingham water supply system, the Village Improvement Society began to think of schemes to beautify their home town with practical and ornamental fountains.

In March 1891, this estimable organization announced that plans were made for an ornamental fountain to be placed at the depot and asked donations for it from the townspeople.

They responded and by June of that year the fountain was in operation. It was enhanced by the planting of shrubs and flowers by the society.

The fountain proved to be a sight to be proud of. Many passengers on the railroad commented favorably on the welcoming sight and on the little town that would do to the trouble and expense of beautifying the spot.

THIS PUBLIC reaction spurred the women in the village even further. By July the Ladies' Library Association decided to Birmingham a small triangular piece of ground at the southeast corner of Woodward and Maple for use as a small park with a fountain.

The Library Association had just recently purchased the corner property, which was called the Stanley corner, for \$1000 and then decided enough of it to the village for the small park and fountain. The library which was to come on that property had not yet been constructed. (It was built in 1893.) The village council accepted the deed and the responsibilities that went along with it, and Martha Baldwin went to Chicago to select the fountain which was to beautify the corner.

WITHIN A few months the fountain was the main intersection was spouting, but it proved a

little disappointing at first because of the great amount of water that was used.

One village war remarked that it would require Lake Superior to furnish water for it.

Village fathers who now were responsible for the fountain had smaller pipes installed and a spraying attachment placed on top.

Now that fountains for beauty were installed in the town, the Village Improvement Society turned its attention to a fountain whereby man and beast could quench his thirst and plans were made accordingly.

In May of 1892, a drinking fountain stood on the northwest corner of Woodward and Maple, nearly in front of the store of Blakelee & Hanna (a general store specializing in boots and shoes.)

THE WATER BASIN for the horses was giving much joy and satisfaction to the members of the village and was low enough for most dogs, too.

After a time, the city fathers began to have their difficulties. The fountains needed painting

every once in a while, they had to be turned off in the late fall and turned on again in the spring.

Village rascals kept throwing rubbish in them and the basins had to be cleaned out.

During the years, notices in The Eccentric would read: "Please, Mr. President, do give our fountain a couple more squirts of water. It is a dead give away on our water system."

OR, "NOW is the time for our village fountains to be turned on. Why hasn't this been attended to?" Or, "Children are not to throw sticks, stones or rubbish of any kind into the fountain at the corner."

In October 1893: "Why not repair the drinking apparatus on the fountain at the corner?"

In the spring of 1894, a committee of the village board took a firm hold of things and once more tackled the problem of the fountain at the library corner.

Dentist D. M. Johnston, H. I. Daniels and John Hanna, who had that branch of the cares of the village council, saw to it that a

new fountain was installed and the basin fixed.

THE FOUNTAIN showered blessings upon the passersby instead of water, and the splashing and splashing of the little boy with the umbrella was refreshing and acceptable to all. It was the pride of the village.

But fountains require constant attention and gentle reminders still appeared in the local paper.

In August 1895, The Eccentric pointed out that the drinking fountain was rusting badly and was to have been painted at the same time as the fire tower and hadn't been.

In February 1897 appeared the following plea: "Will our city dads please put the little boy and girl and umbrella fountain in commission this summer and do it right away quick? Now please, Mr. President, let 'er gush."

By 1898, the Village Improvement Society, seeing that the village council was not going to do anything about the fountain

situation, obtained permission from the village board (which was probably given with great relief), and from the Ladies' Library Association and got the fountain back in operation after a two-year lapse.

Again in 1900 the organization took over and painted it and the urchins under the umbrella looked with disdain at the rusty drinking fountain across the street.

By 1901, the village board had had enough of fountains on the library corner. They disclaimed all title to the land and as the village had not maintained it for more than two years consecutively, the land reverted back to the Ladies' Library Association.

WHAT BECAME of the little boy and girl under the umbrella is not generally known.

Mrs. Harry Allen, a long time resident of Birmingham, said "When the Briggs building went up on the old library corner, the park and fountain had to go. The fountain was transferred to Baldwin Park where it stood for many years."

Red Cross Volunteer Is Honored

Speaking at a meeting of Oakland county Red Cross volunteers last week, Mrs. Theodore C. Wedel of Washington, D.C., outlined the three main reasons for carrying on the work of the organization.

The deputy director of volunteers for the National Red Cross, climaxed her address by presenting a special award of merit to Mrs. Ferd M. Brook of Bloomfield Hills, one of the national chapter's 70 volunteer field consultants.

Mrs. Brook started her Red Cross work in 1941 as a Gray Lady at Grace hospital, Detroit. Her Oakland county projects have included organizing the Gray Lady service at Pontiac General hospital. She was named volunteer field consultant for midwestern area some time later.

MRS. WEDEL said the first reason for supporting the Red Cross is the fact that its philosophy of neighbor helping neighbor helps keep alive the personal concern for others that at no other time in the rush of today's living.

"Secondly," she said, "the Red Cross is the same throughout the country and the world. A Red Cross volunteer can go from one point to any other in the world, and walk into a Red Cross post and start work."

"We have no barriers of race, religion or nationalities. We work together as one to help unfortunate and build brotherhood."

"The third reason for Red Cross support is that it is purely a volunteer organization, supported by gifts not taxes, and largely run by volunteer workers."

CONGRESS, several times, has offered to subsidize the Red Cross, she told the group, "but we have always declined. We think the neighbor helping neighbor because he wants to, not because he must, is best and should not be destroyed."

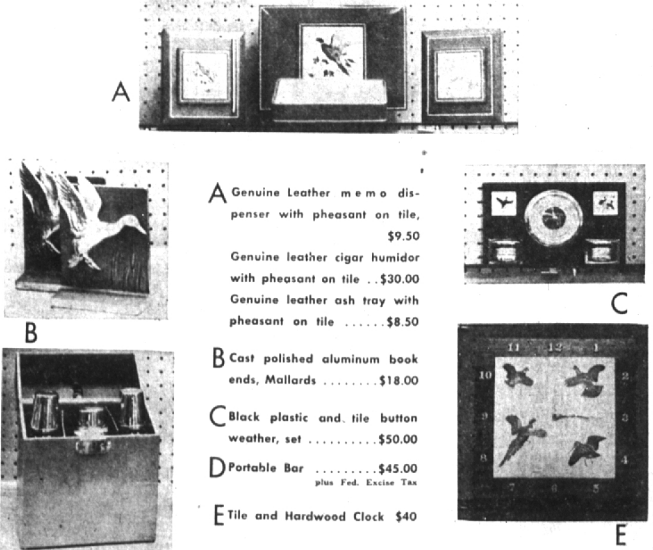
"There is a growing tendency now the part of people today to say 'Let the government take care of it' no matter what the need may be. If everyone starts to depend on the government for everything we can easily get to the point of governmental leaders saying 'Vote for me—' else!"

"If we are to preserve our liberty we must keep voluntary organizations alive and functioning."

WE HEARD IT SAID BY—
MRS. A. G. BILLESDON of the Lathrup PTA: "Newcomers this year to Lathrup school's annual Feast of Carols will be rewarded with the Christmas spirit that prevails as their children carol the fine old songs."

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SPORTSMAN



A Genuine Leather memo dispenser with pheasant on tile \$9.50

Genuine leather cigar humidor with pheasant on tile \$30.00

Genuine leather ash tray with pheasant on tile \$8.50

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