

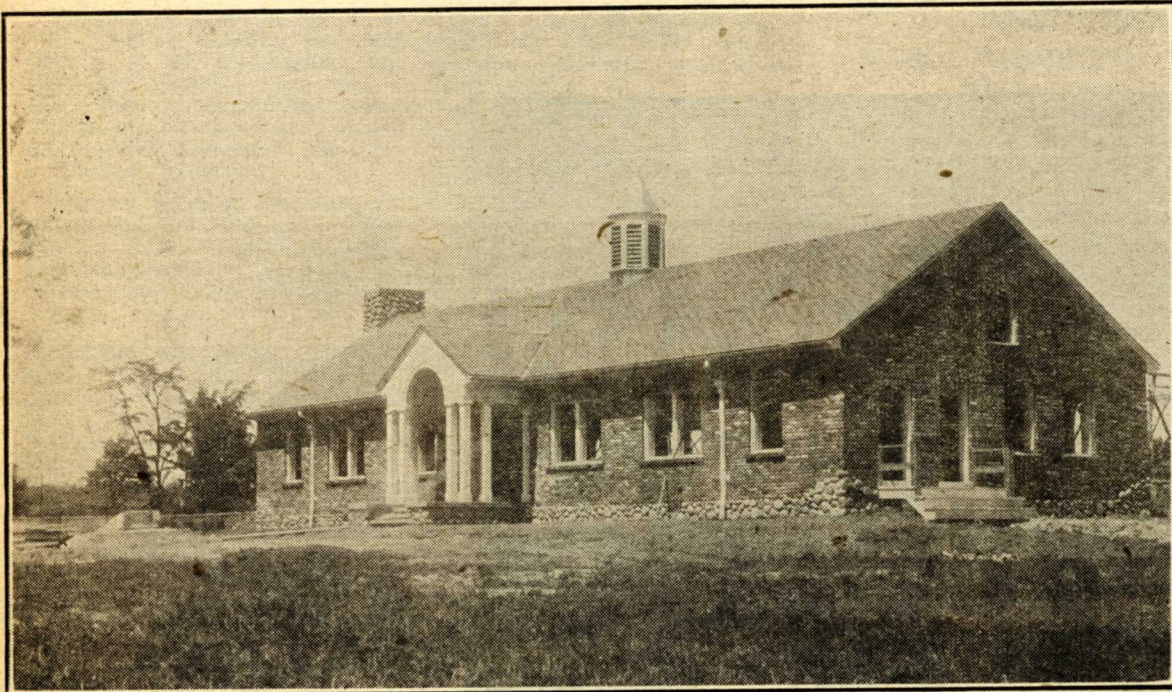
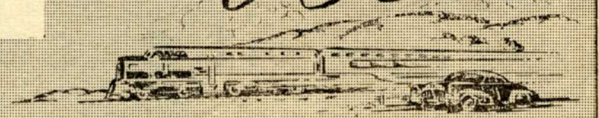
The Birmingham Eccentric

1878

Section
May 1953

Recreational Activities
Riding, Golf, Swimming, Gun Clubs

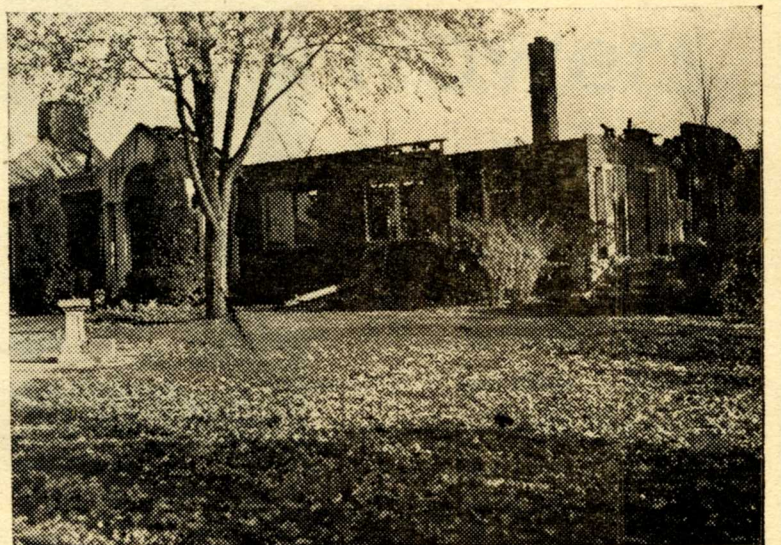
1953



SPRINGDALE CLUBHOUSE SHORTLY BEFORE PARK'S OFFICIAL OPENING
Now part of Birmingham, park originally belonged to Bloomfield township



FIRE DESTROYED CLUBHOUSE IN 1944
Defective cooling unit was blamed



ONLY THIS REMAINED THAT OCTOBER MORNING
Rubble was cleared away, clubhouse never rebuilt

3,000 Persons Crowded Into Park on Opening Day

A little over 20 years ago—Aug. 22, 1929, to be exact—more than 3,000 persons from the immediate Birmingham area made like the Arabs of old. In small groups and large parties they traveled many trails, laden with supplies, traveling on foot, on bicycles and in cars. The great exodus from the "cities" had one goal, the new Bloomfield Township Park.

Youngsters swam and played, the more sedate grownups made themselves at home around the cook stoves and picnic tables or walked along the shady paths, stopping to admire the wild flowers or just loll under some of the stately trees.

The baseball diamond, tennis courts and golf course came in for their share of the highlight. As the day wore on, music satisfied those who desired to dance, or just sit and listen.

At the end of that first day, Supervisor Robert Y. Moore and Justice Floyd Buck, R. J. Coryell, and Township Clerk James V. Bailey, along with the many others who had worked to establish the park and planned the opening day's program, felt well satisfied.

They had watched their neighbors and friends enjoy a wonderfully happy day and felt their time well spent. Those who visited the park were happy with it and proud

that such a lovely spot had been made available.

SINCE THAT opening day many thousands of persons have enjoyed the recreational facilities afforded by the park, located just north of the Birmingham city limits, and just west of the Grand Trunk railroad right-of-way.

It has become the mecca of small fry who talked the family into a picnic supper. It has become a favorite spot for families to gather and many of Birmingham's organizations have selected it for the scene of their annual picnics.

Its tennis courts and golf course

have been the starting ground for many a local player, some of whom have gone on to become more than "average" in their chosen sport.

ITS BEAUTIFUL clubhouse knew gay laughter, soft lights and music that set toes to tapping. Clubs, men's and women's, met there for luncheons and dinners and it might have been called "the busiest place in town".

In 1934 a contest to select a fitting and permanent name for the park was won by Florence Lawler, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Lawler, first of four persons to submit the name "Springdale".

Judges considered some 50 suggestions before making their decision and selected "Springdale". They chose this name mainly because many local residents had unofficially dubbed the park "Springdale" almost as soon as the park was opened.

ALTHOUGH sentiment ruled against it, the park has been maintained primarily for Birmingham

(Continued on Page 10)



PARK HAS PICNIC FACILITIES, SWINGS AND SLIDES FOR YOUNGSTERS
Nine-hole golf course, tennis courts also available to Birmingham residents

Sow an act, and you reap a habit;
Sow a habit, and you reap a character;
Sow a character, and you reap a destiny.
—Anon.

Although Birmingham and adjacent areas comprise men and women who have attained varying levels of business and professional heights, together with many who are secure in more modest vocational attainments, among them are vigorously revealed activities of many recreational types.

Enjoyment of outdoor physical exercise is evidenced by the fact that this area contains scores of golf clubs, lakes where sailing and fishing attracts thousands; tennis, too, has won its converts . . . and youth, guided by community direction, finds its pleasure upon baseball sandlots. Our schools program their own various forms of athletics, too.

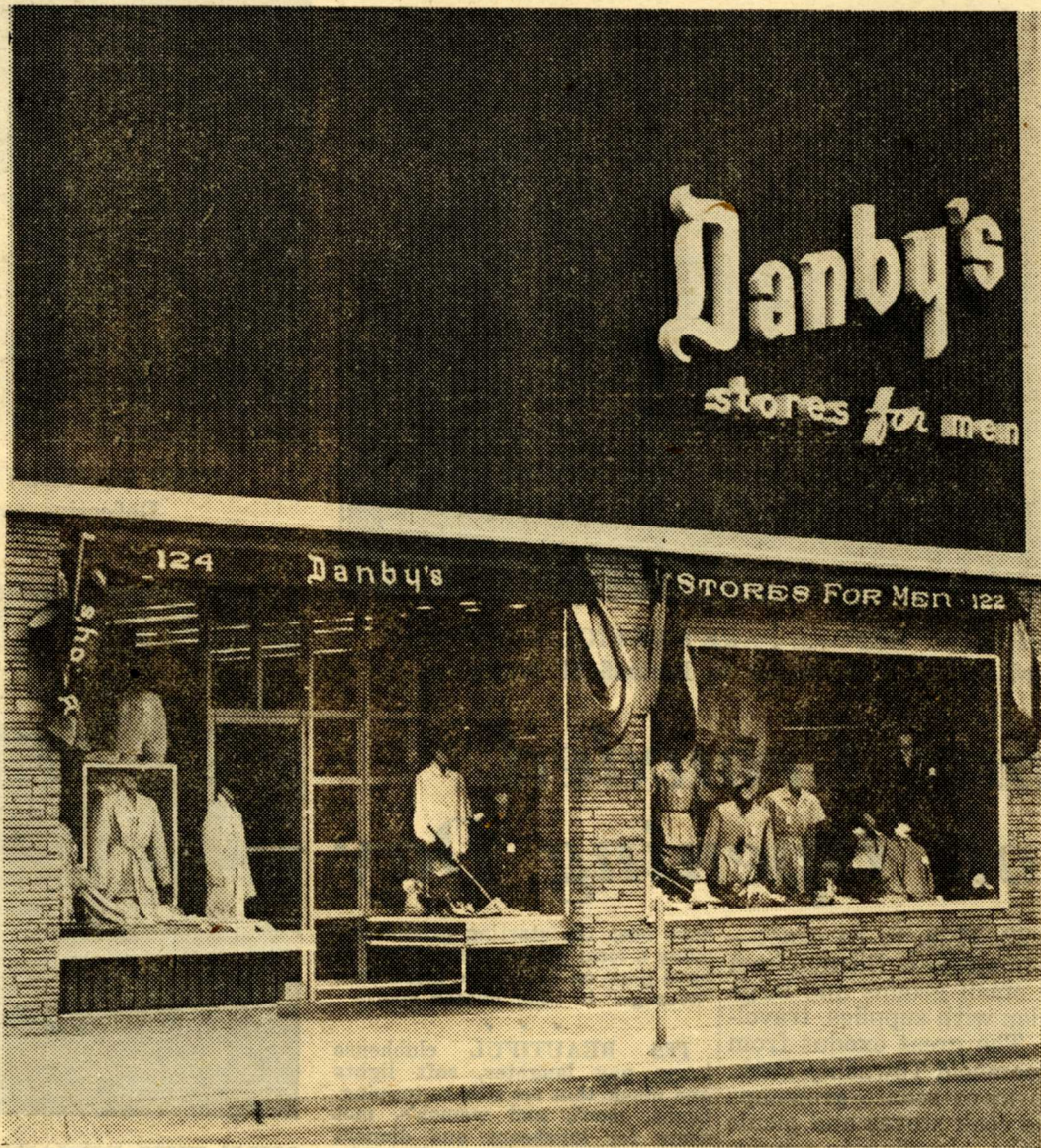
Others develop inherent aptitudes for painting and sculpture, for amateur photography, choral groups, musical training and dancing.

Indeed, it must be said that the majority of local people, while successfully engaged in their respective vocational and scholastic pursuits, still find time for those recreational activities that tend to develop "the complete man and woman."

This section of the Anniversary Edition tells about many of the recreational facilities that abound in and near Birmingham.

Congratulations....

to the birmingham eccentric on
it's seventy-fifth anniversary



Today, as everyday, we re-dedicate ourselves to serve the people of this great community as faithfully and conscientiously as you have served them in the past seventy-five years, so that in the years to come we may enjoy a portion of your continued growth and prosperity.



Top Golfers Respect Oakland Hills Course

"Fore", the golfer's perennial cry, has been ringing out over Oakland Hills Country Club's world famed course for the last forty-seven years.

The course, situated on what was originally the Miller Farm on West Maple road, has developed into what golfdom's high-ranking pros consider one of the trickiest links in the country.

The original clubhouse was the Miller home and the first pro shop, presided over by the redoubtable Walter Hagan, was the hen house.

When the club was founded in 1916, 125 names comprised the charter roll. Now over 600 members make use of the commodious colonial clubhouse built in 1920, the pool which opened in 1938, the modern tennis courts and the course, redesigned for the 1951 United States Open Championship by Robert Trent Jones.

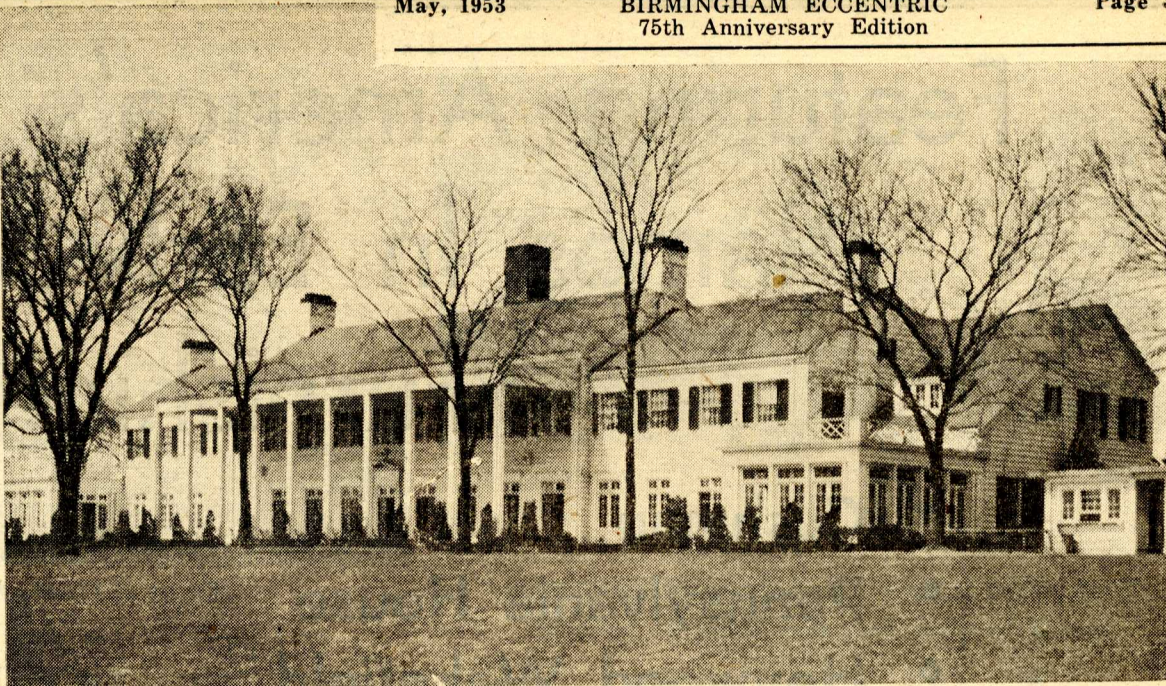
THE HISTORY OF Oakland Hills dates back to 1916 when it was organized by Joseph Mack, Norval A. Hawkins, Edward A. Lovejoy and Ezra A. Jones, who selected the site of the course and

assumed the preliminary work of organization.

The initial meeting of the new club was held at the Detroit Athletic Club in October, 1916, when Mack was elected president; L. S. Trowbridge, vice-president; R. B. Harmon, secretary; and A. P. Ewing, treasurer.

Property at the intersection of West Maple and Lahser roads was secured and Donald Ross engaged to lay out a course.

THE CLUB HAS been the scene of three United States Open Championships, one Woman's National Amateur, as well as several West-



EAST SIDE OF OAKLAND HILLS' NOTED CLUBHOUSE
Veranda affords excellent view of much of golf course

ern Golf Association events, including the Western Open. The 1951 Open attracted golf-

dom's biggest names, and was won by Ben Hogan with a 287, three under par.

Oakland Hills has been debt free since January 26, 1951, when final bond issue was retired.

Detroit's First 'Auto Club' Became Pine Lake C C

On June 23, 1902, three years after Col. John Jacob Astor had succeeded in organizing the Automobile Club of America, a group of Detroit business men and automobile enthusiasts formed the Detroit Automobile Club which developed and evolved into the present Pine Lake Country Club.

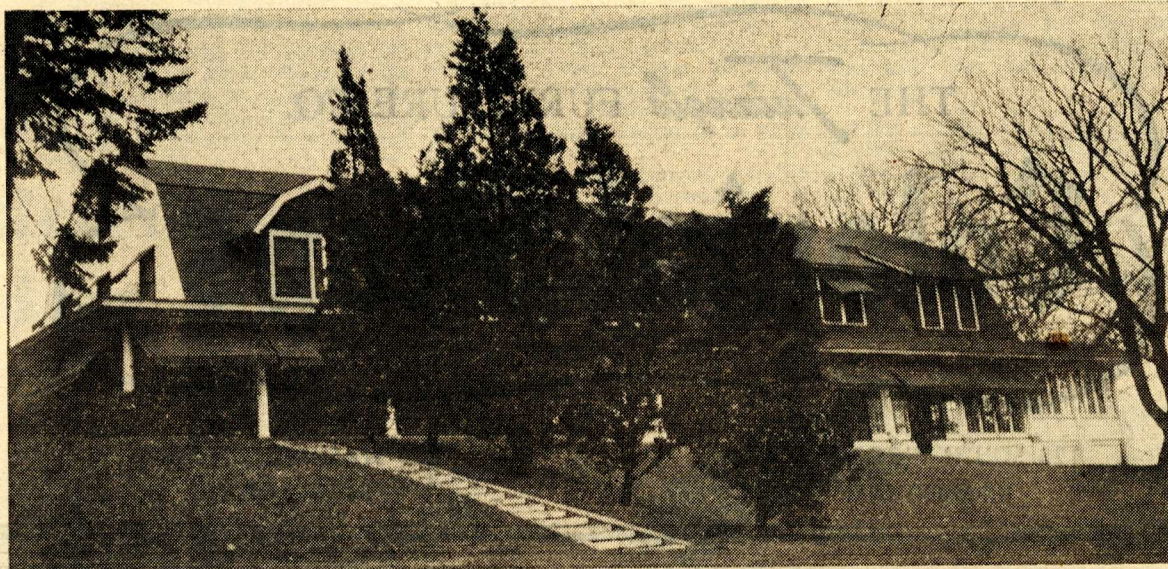
The original membership consisted of practically everyone in the area who owned an automobile in 1902; Russell A. Alger, Jr., Henry B. Joy, George Duffield, Bertrand C. Whitney, William E. Metzger, Dexter M. Ferry, Jr., C. A. Ducharme, C. B. Kennedy, F. O. Page, Hugo Scherer, Bert R. Shurley, Albert H. Schmidt, Rev. John McCarroll, W. H. Burtenshaw, P. M. and W. C. McMillan and Edwin S. George.

After holding meetings over Metzger's Auto Show Room, the club moved to the country, near Birmingham, at the suggestion of Col. George.

Pine Lake was selected as the club headquarters because it offered an ideal objective for a motor tour, and a standing prize was offered to anyone who successfully made the trip from Detroit to Pine Lake and back in a day.

LATER, IN 1905, a clubhouse on the Pine Lake property was built. The club's early history was closely intertwined with the growth of infant automobile industry.

On June 15, 1906, the president, Col. George, planned a hundred



PINE LAKE COUNTRY CLUB AS VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH
The steps and slope lead directly to the water's edge

mile run to the club from Detroit, via Ypsilanti, Saline, Ann Arbor, South Lyons, New Hudson, Farmington and Orchard Lake.

The 'tours and runs' committee sadly announced the postponement of the project due to rain and impossible roads.

Early files include an authorization to the treasurer to pay \$50 to Michael Zimmerman of Inkster, in part compensation for the death of his horse which was accidentally

killed from jumping astride a post from fright at the time of the club's Century Tour.

On May 31, 1906, the secretary was instructed to write the Birmingham council regarding a complaint about members disregarding the law and running their cars through the village at a speed in excess of eight miles an hour.

BY SEPTEMBER, 1907, the following names had been added to

the roster: Henry Ford, John F. Dodge, James Couzens, Horace E. Dodge, F. L. Klingensmith, R. Hupp, E. LeRoy Pelletier, John W. Anderson, W. E. Flanders, C. Harold Wills, Horace H. Rackham and N. A. Hawkins.

It was not until automobiles were a dependable means of transportation that golf developed at Pine Lake. A course was considered in 1916, and the first seven holes were completed the following year.

In 1919 two more holes in the woods were authorized and there was a complete nine-hole course at Pine Lake. Golf became increasingly popular, and the club's course was highly regarded.

It became necessary to add to the golf facilities in 1923. Additional land was bought and A. A. Moore paced it off and drew a rough sketch of an 18 hole course which was laid out by William Connellan and built by Ernie Way.

The new course opened for play with a tournament on the Fourth of July, 1924. Subsequent changes have improved the layout, and additional land bought in 1931 has enabled a lengthening of the course.

THE TRANSITION from an automobile to a country club was brought about largely through the efforts of W. C. Hartman, Manly D. Davis, E. S. Hammond and Robert K. Vinton.

Hammond was president and Hartman secretary when the golf discussion began in 1914. Hartman was the first golf champion. Vinton was president when the name was changed to Pine Lake Country Club in 1921.

Subsequent administrations have developed swimming, tennis, sailing and other sports.

The clubhouse was enlarged to its present size in 1913, at the instigation of Henry Ford, James Couzens and Col. George.

Louis H. Cole is the current president. Membership now totals four hundred.

\$127,872 Paid in 1921 for B'ham Country Club Site

A. C. Briggs, A. A. Carson, M. J. Joyce, A. W. Kludd, R. B. Locke and J. L. Whitehead were among the first to recognize the 161 acres of land on the southwest fringes of Birmingham as the potential location of a naturally-endowed golf course.

These 161 acres, heavily wooded and bisected by the meandering River Rouge, were purchased in 1921 at their behest from A. V. Lee, acting for C. K. Latham, S. O. W. Bell, Dr. F. J. Crawford and Case Stillwagon, the owners, at a cost of \$127,872.

Thus the Birmingham Golf Club was founded late in 1921. The golf course, entered from 14 Mile road, was designed and laid out by golf architect William Diddel, and later revised by Wilfred Reid, assisted by Dave Kennedy. Jim Anderson was Birmingham's first golf pro.

IN APRIL, 1922, the first meeting of the members was held and first officers of the board named. A. V. Lee, president, headed the slate with Dr. W. H. Robinson, vice-president; M. John Joyce, secretary; and G. W. Beasley, treasurer.

The membership grew rapidly until it numbered 250. The first clubhouse was an old farm house that once stood on the opposite side of Northlawn drive which parallels the course on the north side.

Later a frame clubhouse was built on the brow of the hill, and housed a kitchen, dining room, lounge and men's locker room which accommodated 20 lockers.

After a few years it was found necessary to enlarge these quarters and at the time of the club's eighth anniversary the present English-style clubhouse was erected. The

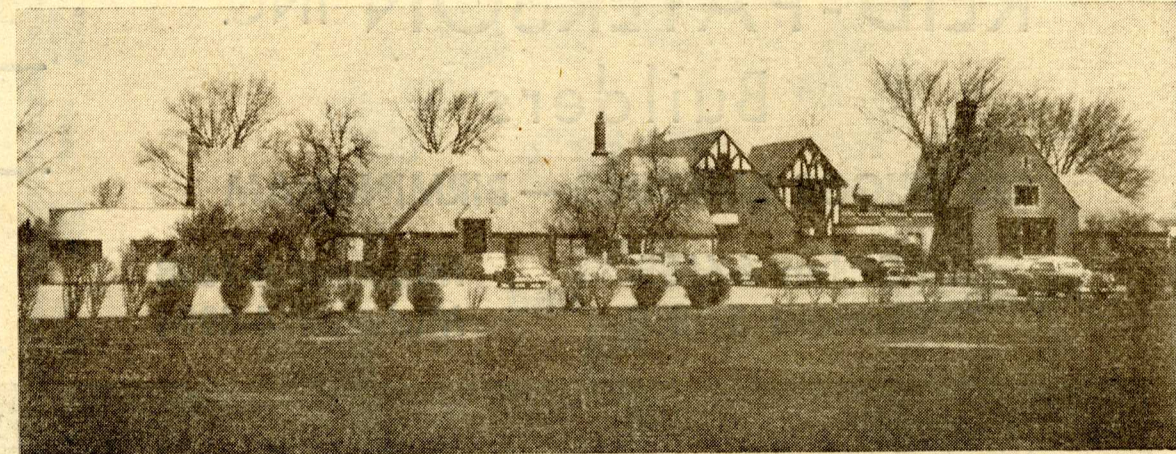
new clubhouse was opened March 30, 1930.

Among the improvements made during the Twenties was the erection of a storm shelter on the fifth hole, made from hand-hewed timbers from the old Hupp farm on Maple road. This was given to the club in 1925 by A. C. Briggs in memory of his wife and was furnished by contributions from Floyd Hitchcock, D. J. Healy, S. L. Beymer, W. D. Thompson, L. W. Porter and Percy W. Churchman.

THE DEPRESSION of the Thirties hit the club membership and operations were curtailed until reorganization proceedings were instituted at the annual meeting in November, 1942.

Spearheading the movement were the newly-elected board of directors which included Ray E. Forsyth, president; and Arthur Higginbottom, Simeon Janes, Arlie N. Leake, Clarence J. Sanger, Charles O. Slaght, Robert M. Wright, Harry E. Bissett, Ossie C. Eakins, James B. Brown, Adam MacKenzie and Lou Hascall.

The financial committee consisting of Janes, Clarence Sanger,



ENGLISH-STYLE BUILDING WAS CONSTRUCTED IN 1929-30
Farmhouse, frame clubhouse preceded this present structure

Forsyth and Leake organized a bond redemption plan which was concluded in the fall of 1943 when new articles of incorporation were filed and a charter issued.

OTHERS ACTIVE in the reorganization of the club were members of the 1943 board of directors, H. R. Conner, R. O. Wire, F. O'Connell, J. L. Hurley, F. W. Biringer, W. B. Russell, E. LeFevre, and E. Bamb.

Since that time, the club has maintained an active program of sporting and social events, and improved both clubhouse and course facilities.

Annual events are the Invitational Golf Tournament for the district's top amateur players, a

spring 'Tee-Off' luncheon for women golfers, a series of dinner dances, teen-agers' parties, and bowling league competition.

The building of a swimming pool is planned for the future.

THE GAME OF golf remains the center of club activities. The Birmingham Golf Club layout has been praised by prominent Michigan professionals as 'ideal' and their testimony has been borne out by the selection of the club for the playing of the 1953 National PGA tournament in July.

Heading the committee for the tournament which will draw the nation's foremost golfers is Arthur Zebedee, assisted by Drew Haneline, Harold VanHorn, James L.

Hurley, H. B. Smith, Chet Guilmet, E. E. Lindstrom, Elmer Ellstrom, A. Henry Embler, Otis Wilson, Thomas D. Clohecy, James Nick and Marvin Jordan.

Another 'feather in the Birmingham Golf Club's cap' was the playing of the Women's State Amateur Golf tournament at the club in the summer of 1952.

Present golf 'pro' F. Ray Maguire was preceded by Chick Rutan.

JOHN W. CALVERT is the current president with Arthur Zebedee, vice president; S. E. DuBois, secretary; and Fred M. Missal, treasurer. Mrs. Arthur G. Swenson is chairman of the women's board.

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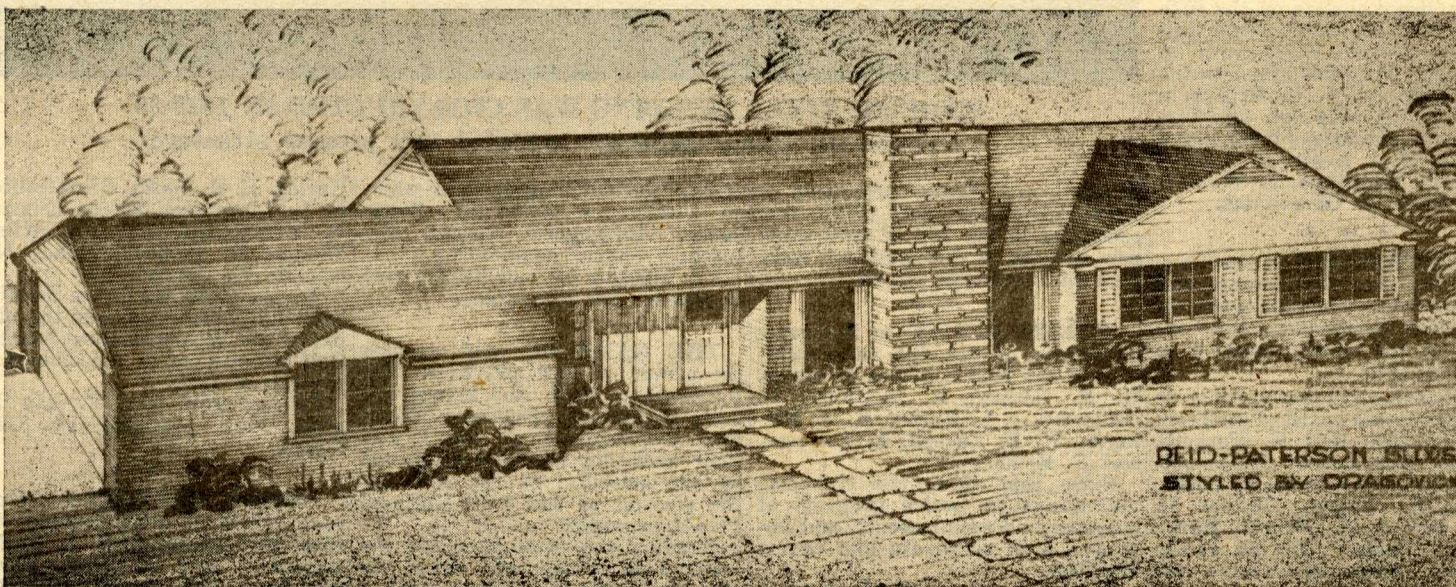
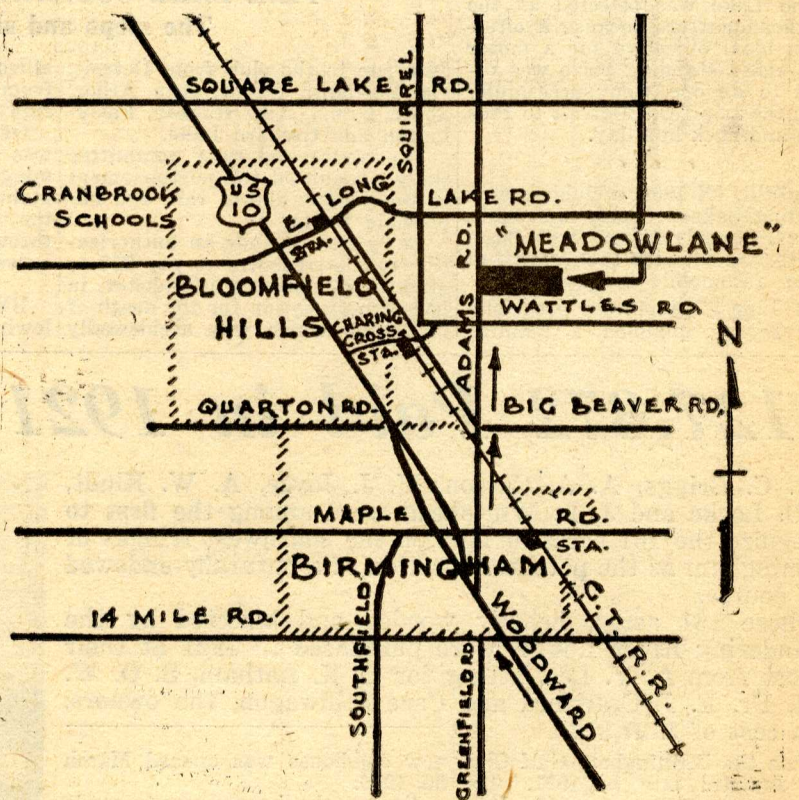
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A GOOD
NEIGHBORHOOD
DOES NOT
"JUST GROW"
• • •
IT MUST
BE PLANNED!

'I Remember—'

Recalls Mrs. Alta Ford Peabody, 272 Oakland, "When the boys in the village used to serenade the girls in the evening. Then it was the custom for the girl to invite the boys in and serve them refreshments.

"Bert Peabody and his friends—one of them played a guitar—serenaded me one night but I slept right through it and didn't know anything about it until the next day.

"That was the night they got Bert's father's old clothes, stuffed them with straw and made a dummy man. They then hung the dummy up high on the lamp post at Woodward and Maple streets.

"It hung there all day until Bert's father, Mr. Lyman B. Peabody, who was the president of the village, ordered it down and burned. He didn't recognize his own old clothes."

"I REMEMBER Andrew Wallace. He was a good old man who had a farm northwest of the village. Since there was no bank and my father had the only safe in the village at that time, Mr. Wallace would come in whenever he got any cash and put his money in our safe. But then he would come in every Saturday and take out 50c for the church—he was a Presbyterian—and \$2.50 to pay the hired girl.

Recalls Edwin O'Neal, 583 Madison: "That George Blakeslee, who owned the property, gave the city the land on which to build the fire tower on West Maple. The fire tower had a bell on the top that could be heard all over the village and was used to summon the volunteer firemen. The firemen also used to hang their fire hoses up along the sides of the tower to let them dry out so the hoses wouldn't rot."

Recalls Ella E. Davenport, 165 North Adams road, "the Birmingham race track, which in the early days was called the Birmingham Driving Park. It was located on the Davenport farm in Troy township, two miles north of Birmingham and three-quarters of a mile east of Adams road.

"It was reported to have been the fastest half-mile track in this area, although the track was used primarily for training horses. Horses from this vicinity and surrounding counties and even from Canada would come to the Davenport farm race track for racing and training.

"The stables were built more than 60 years ago. The horse barn was 90 feet long and when one was seated in a sulkey, one could drive the full length of the barn from either end. There were box stalls for the horses along both sides of the barn.

"THERE WAS A hard dirt floor in the barn and the rolling doors of the stalls and of the barn were of solid matching oak. The harness room was paneled in pine, just as nice as anything that could be found in a house.

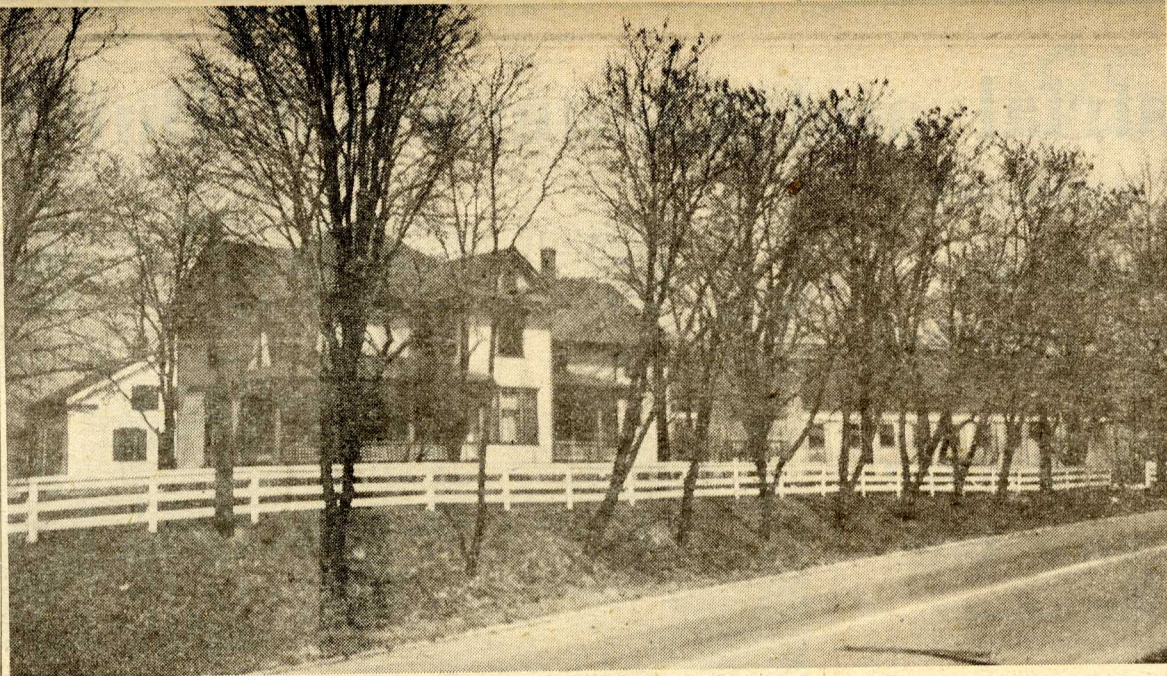
"We kept a harness maker on the place all the time. His name was Will Graham. The carriage room was in a corner of the barn and also was paneled in pine. Here the racing sulkeys and carriages were kept. "Curley" Coffin was the jockey and trainer at the tracks.

"The formation of the track still is there, although it has now grassed over. I know that from an airplane, the oval still is visible, because some men who flew over it recently came to see me to ask me about it.

"WHEN THE BARN was finished, a big dancing party was held in the hay loft which was big enough to hold 100 tons of hay. The flooring of the loft was of beautiful pine boards, six inches wide.

"Several hundred couples from all over came to the party to dance until the small hours of the morning. A big supper was served for all those people.

"The horse barn and all the other buildings on the place burned down more than 25 years ago and were never rebuilt."



HUNT CLUB IS LOCATED ON EAST LONG LAKE ROAD
 Facilities include 100 acres of riding ground

Fox Hunting Primary Objective of Bloomfield Open Hunt Club

First formal meeting of the board of directors of the Bloomfield Open Hunt Club was held on March 30, 1917 at the Detroit Club.

The hunt club, located on East Long Lake Road and Kensington, was organized by a group of horsemen from Birmingham and vicinity. At that time, the Grosse Pointe Hunt Club was the only club of its type in the area.

E. P. Hammond was elected club president at this first board meeting. Other first officers included George T. Hendrie, vice-president, and Henry F. Chaney, secretary and treasurer.

The original executive committee was composed of E. P. Hammond, George T. and William Hendrie, E. S. Nichols, Burns Henry, Sherman L. Depew, John Endicott, J. D. Rucker and H. F. Chaney.

THE BLOOMFIELD Open Hunt Club originally had less than 50 members. Membership now stands at 196.

Just as the number of members has increased, so has the club itself. The original club house, a small, white frame structure, is probably over 150 years old. The club now has a large club house, a dining room and an indoor riding ring.

Approximately 70 horses are at the club at present, but 250 can be accommodated there during shows. Four outside stalls which have a capacity of 80 horses, are used during horse shows. The clubhouse is the scene of the wedding receptions of many young people who have grown up enjoying club facilities.

The club has 100 acres of riding ground, and permission has been obtained from land owners to use 10 square miles of surrounding area for hunting grounds.

THE PRIMARY activity of the BOH has been, and is, fox hunting. A hunt is held every Saturday, weather permitting.

However, the club stages many other events for its members—cross country riding, skeet shooting and musical rides in the indoor ring. The club also has a large group of child riders ranging in age from five years on up.

Basically, the same activities have been enjoyed by members since the founding of the club in 1917.

The Bloomfield Open Hunt Club is the home of the Detroit Horse Show. Also, a New Year's Day show is presented by club members in the indoor riding ring annually.

PAST PRESIDENTS of the club, in addition to Hammond, are B. E. Hopper, George T. Hendrie, W. G. Lerchen, C. C. Winningham, F. W. Shuell, C. D. Pierce, D. W. Candler, C. E. Carey, A. A. Clark, Rocco DiMarco and T. E. Wilson.

J. R. Davis now is president. Other officers are H. J. Havermale, vice-president; Mrs. E. E. Fisher, secretary; and R. E. Lawlor, treasurer.

The board of directors consists of J. R. Davis, Mrs. E. E. Fisher, Dr. H. A. Furlong, H. J. Havermale, C. L. Hagerman, R. E. Lawlor, Mel. B. Lindquist, G. Fred Morris, C. C. Patterson, C. M. Pierce, R. M. Severs and T. E. Wilson.

C. C. Patterson and T. E. Wilson are joint MFH, (masters of fox hounds.)

Club officers are elected and installed in January each year.

HUPP CROSS ROAD in Bloomfield Village got its name from C. J. Hupp, whose estate covered 206 acres and extended back to Quarton road on the north. Later Judson Bradley subdivided this property which is now encompassed in Bloomfield village.

Local Doctors Used to Charge By the Mile

"Notice to the Public: We, the undersigned physicians, have adopted the following schedule of prices for professional services, to go into effect, May 1, 1912:

"Visits in the city—\$1.50.
 "Visits in the country—\$1.50 for the visit plus 50c for the first mile and 25c for each additional mile.
 "Confinement cases—\$10.00 and upwards, according to complications, plus 50c for each additional mile in country, not including any extra visits.

"Signed: Dr. J. L. Campbell, Dr. P. D. Hilty, Dr. C. M. Raynale, Dr. G. P. Raynale, Dr. N. T. Shaw."

THE ABOVE doctors explained that they felt justified in making these changes because their living expenses were 50-75% higher in 1912 than they were a few years before.

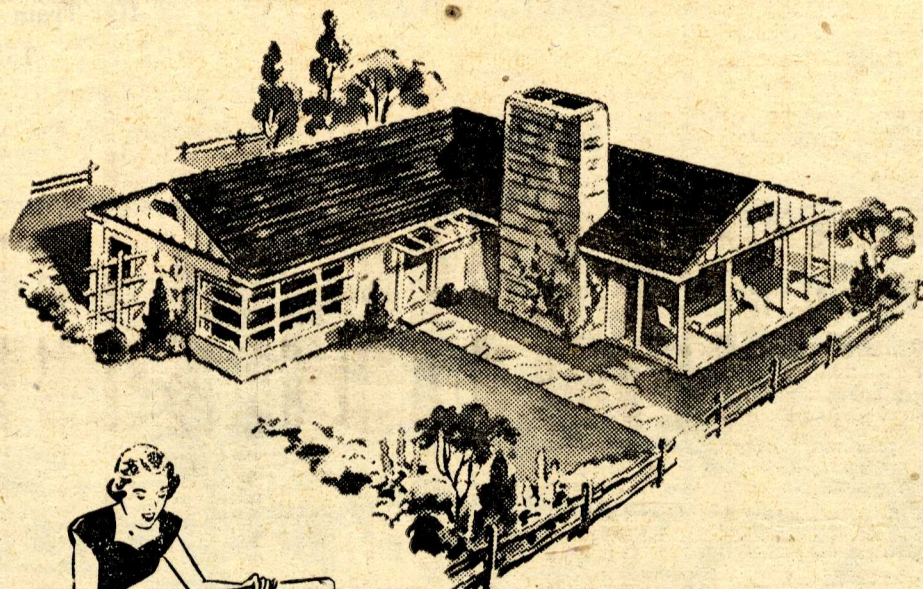
Likewise, they said, there was a general increase in wages and property values so that people were able to pay a reasonable amount for their services.

The above prices were not excessive, the doctors claimed, but were the same or less than those in nearly all localities.

A Clean Sweep for \$5

Owing to dull times, the broom factory owned by Charles Smith was idle and was sold to David Daniels in 1878. The cost of the entire works amounted to \$5.

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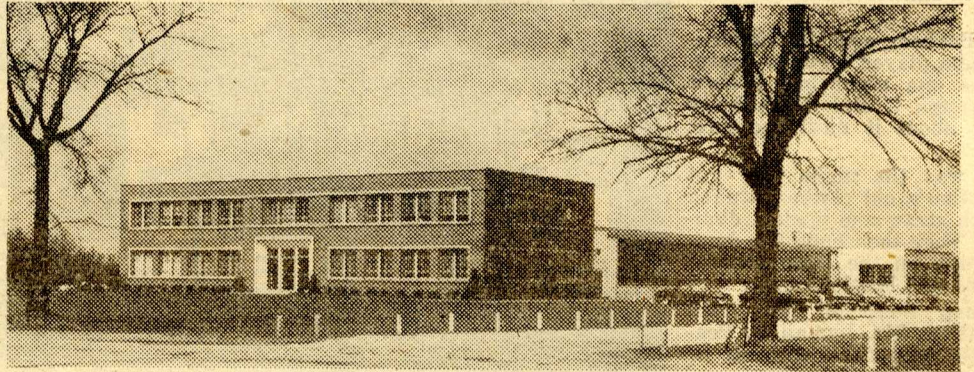
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1,250 Subscribers

In May, 1883, five years after its first publication, The Birmingham Eccentric's circulation was 1,250—the largest in the county with the exception of the Pontiac newspaper. The Eccentric had subscribers in 28 states and three territories at that time.

Industrial and Commercial Buildings

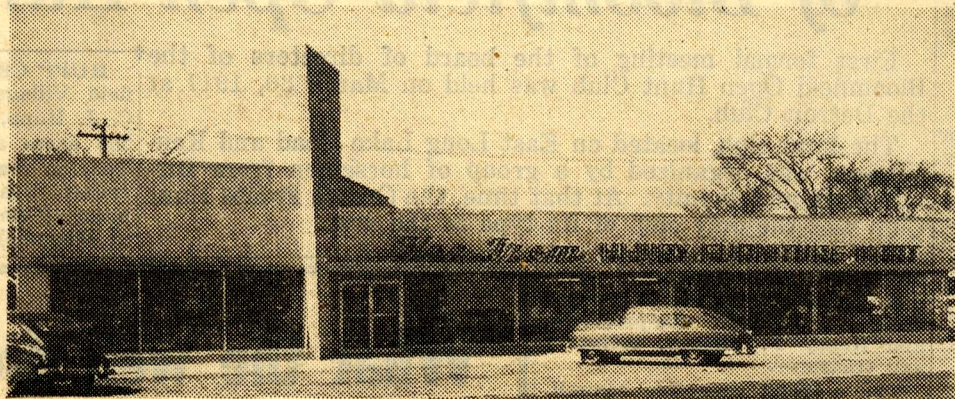
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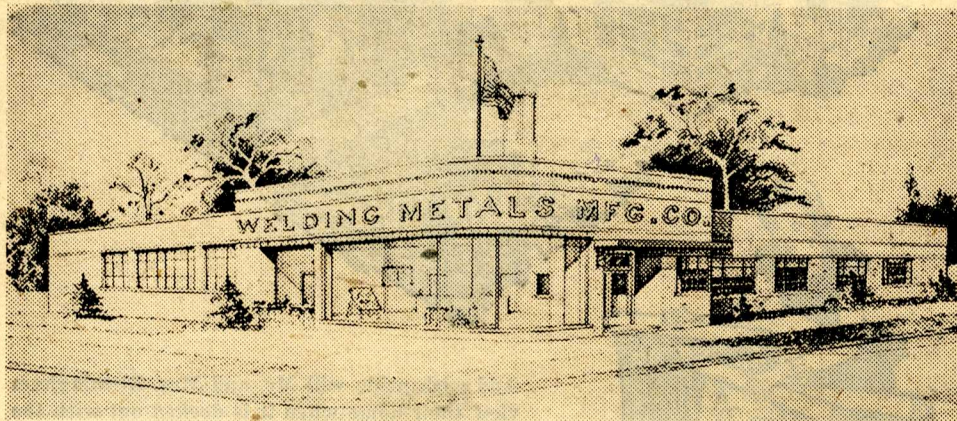
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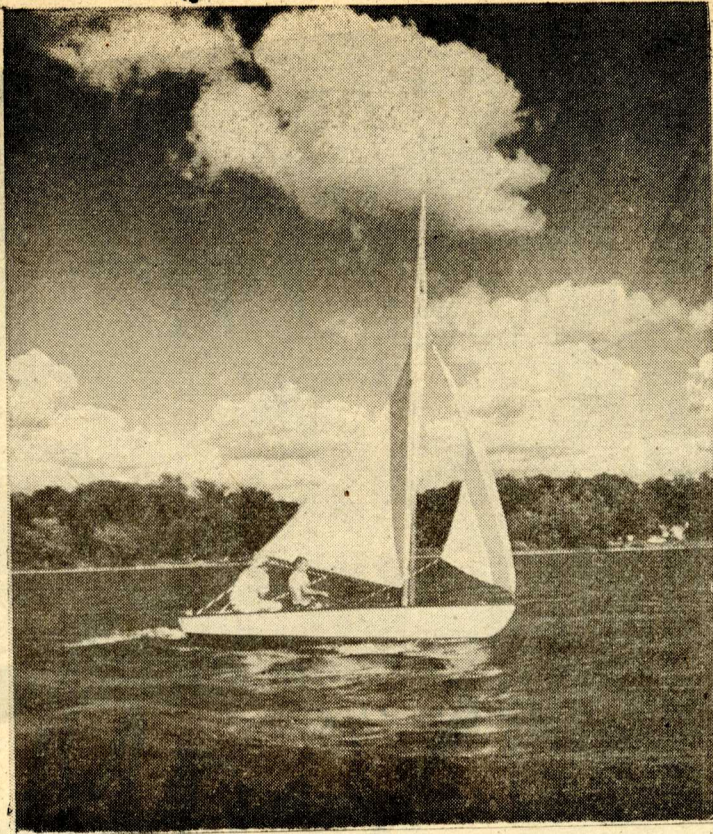
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SAILING IS FAVORITE OF MANY MEMBERS
'Fleet' in constant use during good weather



LONG VERANDA PROVIDES GOOD VIEW OF BEACHSIDE ACTIVITIES
Tennis courts (in foreground) known throughout area for their excellence

Orchard Lake CC Attracts Entire Families

Widely known as an outstanding family club, Orchard Lake Country Club boasts activities for all age groups and interests. On any sunny summer day, grandmothers may be seen playing bridge on the screened veranda, or supervising her toddler grandchildren at the beach.

Mother, having deposited school-age offspring at the waterfront, is perhaps golfing with a ladies' foursome. Grandfathers, in club rowboats, may be angling for bass over one of the lake's deep holes.

Juniors are everywhere, manning the club's 15-vessel comet-class sailing fleet, or swimming, or playing tennis on one of the four all-weather clay courts.

When day is done, the whole may gather for a steak-fry by the lake, or assemble in the clubhouse for dinner.

ALL THIS varied activity is the fulfillment of the dream of Willis C. Ward, founder of Orchard Lake Country Club. As early as World War I, he had planned the conversion of his orchard farm into a country club for young people and their families.

The property, imbued with Indian legend, is set in the rolling lake country of Oakland county. Apple Island, in the center of the lake, was a chosen haunt of Chief Pontiac, and is believed to be his final resting place.

The waters of the lake have been the scene of sailing races since the Civil War and once, prior to 1914, a special train of spectators traveled to its shores for several of the more spectacular races.

In the past, the frozen lake in winter was popular with Scotsmen who met for curling matches.

In order to capture the scene's beauty, a wooden observation tower was constructed many years ago atop the hill now occupied by the clubhouse, highest vantage point for miles around. When the clubhouse was built this feature was retained, the familiar square tower serving as today's observation point.

WARD'S CHERISHED plan became reality in 1925 when, meeting with 12 friends at the Fox and Hounds Inn, he donated the property and became the group's first president.

Captain C. H. Alison, famed English course designer, was com-

French Merchant Invested in Acres

Peter Desnoyer, who was a French merchant in Detroit, never was a resident of Bloomfield or Southfield township but he purchased lands in both townships merely as a matter of investment or speculation.

In Bloomfield township alone he bought 960 acres from the government, entering his first land (the south half of section 33) on March 16, 1819. The other land, the south halves of sections 34 and 35, he entered on Sept. 21, 1821.

On the River Rouge in the southeast quarter of section 35, a saw mill was built some time in the 1820's and although it may have been built at Desnoyer's expense, it was never operated by him.

The Birmingham Golf Club now is situated on land once owned by Desnoyer.

missioned to lay out the links which opened with a tournament on August 3, 1927.

At the first directors' meeting, May, 1927, Harold Lee Ward, son of the founder, was elected president. Kramer Smith became vice-president; Cyrenius A. Newcomb III, secretary; and Harry Wallace, treasurer.

Membership soon increased to 50 families. Facilities consisted of three tents, one serving as a pro-shop at the first tee, the others as men's and women's dressing rooms at the beach.

The senior Ward had loaned his five sailing boats, called the 'Butterfly Fleet', for racing activities, and these operated from the site of the present Frederick G. Weed home.

Ward's own boat dock, constructed in 1914, became the swimmers' diving raft and is today the oldest piece of equipment in club service.

ACTIVITIES began in earnest in 1928 with facilities and membership rapidly expanding. Ten 14-foot sailing dingys and two rowing dingys were purchased. Hewitt Noble, life-long Orchard Lake resident and sailing wizard, was employed as sailing master. A cottage was built near the first tee to serve as temporary club house and golf shop.

The clubhouse opened in late 1929 and succeeding seasons have witnessed numerous additions to the original building. A rambling, white-painted brick structure of colonial architecture, it now accommodates the 515 present members for dining, dancing, cards, or plain porch-sitting, as well as providing locker room facilities for men and women.

The beach house, complete with lockers, boat equipment storage, and a long veranda, was erected in 1930 at the lake edge of the hillside. To the waterfront, already equipped with a sand bottom, was added a boardwalk, and sailing dock.

Nearby, a large picnic ground furnished with stoves, tables and children's swings, proved so popular that this area was doubled in size in 1952.

TODAY Orchard Lake is one of the few organizations of its type to offer year-round sporting as well as social activity, and perhaps stands alone as a club having a roster whose active non-golfers equal its golfing membership.

In winter, the club offers informal dinner-dances each month. Outside, skating, skiing and tobogganing are available. Busiest of the "off-season" activities is the club's mixed bowling league in which more than a hundred members participate.

The present board of governors

include James G. Neal, president; George W. Davis, vice-president; served for many years as the club's Vaughn S. Garrison, secretary; George H. Crane, treasurer; and Kenneth D. McGregor, Thomas E. Neal, Sydney Oldberg, Louis G. Seaton and Burt R. Shurly, Jr., board members.

The staff is headed by Ralph Norwood and his wife, Betty, formerly of the Charles River Club

near Boston. Tommy Shannon has golfing pro.

Howard Auer supervises the waterfront, and Jean Hoxie, nationally-known tennis teacher, directs play on the courts.

THE ANNUAL schedule calls for sailing picnics, family dinners, dinner-dances, tournaments for all sports, interclub meets, football parties, and the annual club

"Birthday Party" with its blazing barbeque on the lawn.

Derby Day, the climax of the summer's activities, is culminated with a costume ball.

Truly harking back to founder Ward's dream is the annual July 4th celebration for the children which presents free icecream, a circus, races, talent show, tea dance, and the climax, a display of fireworks over Orchard Lake.

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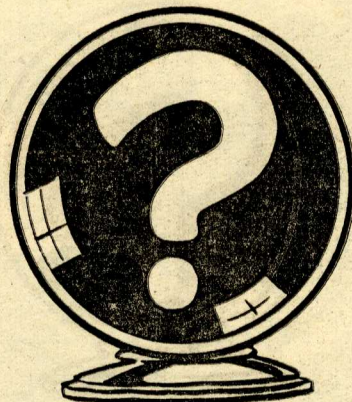
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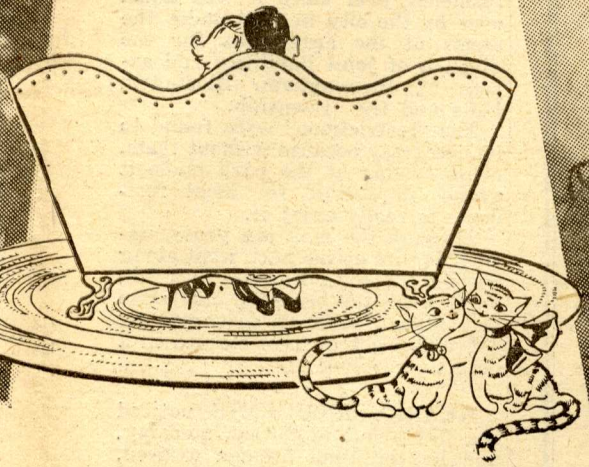


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'50



'44



'46



Springdale Park

(Continued from Page One)

residents, ever since it was taken over by the city in 1934 under the terms of the agreement for the division of joint liabilities and assets of Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills and the township.

The "restrictions" were found to be necessary because without them, overcrowding at the park made it nearly impossible for local residents to really enjoy it.

Through the next ten years, until 1944, life at the park went along without incident. But late that fall, on Oct. 29, the beautiful clubhouse was almost entirely destroyed by a fire thought to have started in a defective cooling unit.

NEARBY RESIDENTS noticed the fire about 5:30 that morning, and by the time firemen arrived, flames had eaten their way through the roof and the entire south end of the building was a roaring furnace.

The club house had been used the night before for a private Halloween party. After the guests had gone the manager, Albert los Rios and a member of the Birmingham police department, made a thorough check of the building and found no indication of the holocaust which was to claim it a few hours later.

Firemen were greatly hampered in fighting the fire, having to run a hose nearly 2,000 feet to the stream in the center of the golf course.

The loss exceeded \$25,000.

Although the question of building a new club house has come up several times, no plans have yet been accepted. Whether or not a new club will be built at the park is something only the future can tell.

IN 1949 Birmingham Plan Commissioner James Hogan told other members of the plan board that he felt the park had taken on the role of a "white elephant" and should be sold. Hogan pointed out, in a discussion of recreational facilities, that the park was then used by many outsiders and was doing Birmingham residents little or no good.

Hogan's plan was rejected and Springdale continued on its way to provide Birmingham with a "close home" picnic ground.

Young women, whose husbands are away all day, have formed the habit of "dropping in at the park for a picnic lunch with the children." It is near their homes, it provides cooking and sanitation facilities and there is always the great American friend, the "hot dog" available at the "office" where golfers also can rent or purchase supplies.

FOR A NUMBER of years, until 1952, it was the official home of Birmingham's Girl Scouts whose cabin was built in the woods near the golf course by members of the Lions club.

The girls have held weekend campouts, overnight camps and have conducted many of their craft programs in the cabin.

Since uniting with the Metropolitan Detroit Council, the cabin no longer can meet the girl's needs and awaits an official decision on its future.

And so it has gone, for more than two decades. It has been the playground for young and old. It has seen its share of skinned knees on the slides and swings; it has seen its shares of burned fingers, smoke filled eyes and either scorched or half-cooked meals.

IT HAS WITNESSED the thrill of a hole-in-one; the face-reddening experience of a tennis player's tumble as he stepped on a free ball. It has heard the thrilling sounds of happy children mingling with the voice of the birds that live in its trees.

Truly it has served Birmingham well, and should the decision ever be made to discontinue it, there are many in Birmingham who would mourn it as they would the passing of a tried and true friend.

A Young-looking 84 Years

By 1878, John W. Hunter, Birmingham's first settler, was living in Waterford township. He visited old friends in Avon township in October of that year and according to the Rochester Sun's report of the visit, "The old gentleman is 84 years old and is as smart and vigorous as most men of 40 or 50."

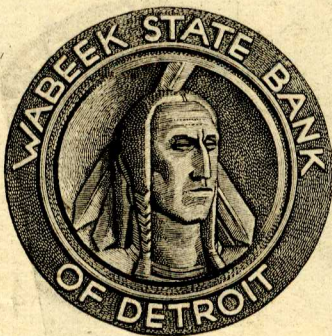
Wabeek, too, marks an anniversary!

This month, together with The Birmingham Eccentric, Wabeek's Birmingham office is celebrating an important founding anniversary. It was just twenty years ago, that the Wabeek State Bank began to serve this area.

Faith tells the story of the growth of the Birmingham office of the Wabeek State Bank of Detroit. This faith lives today in the homes of Birmingham, in your home, and in each of the many homes and businesses in the community that *bank with Wabeek!*

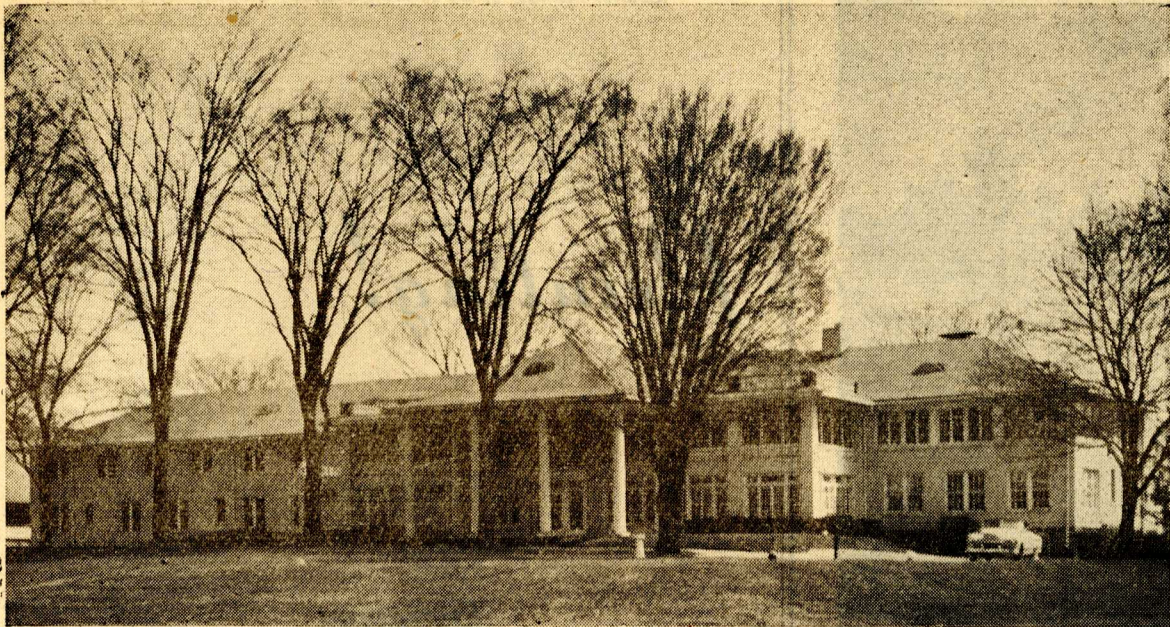
As time is measured, twenty years is not long. But measured in the growth, in the progress, and in the prosperity of a community, the history of the Wabeek Bank in Birmingham has been a long and a happy time.

We look forward to twenty times twenty years of service to this community. And we pledge ourselves always to be your *neighborly* bank, returning your faith with friendship, and offering you the most complete banking service!



Wabeek State Bank of Detroit

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CLUB'S MAIN ENTRANCE OVERLOOKS COURSE'S FIRST TEE, 18th GREEN
In early days, members' main interest was in 'automobiling'

Hills Club Chartered in 1909

"The purpose of said (Bloomfield Hills Country Club) shall be to promote social intercourse and to provide for them the convenience of a club house and the period for which said Club shall be incorporated shall be 30 years." Thus is stated the purpose of the Bloomfield Hills Country Club in a record of the Club's history.

The club, which was chartered in 1909, was organized by a local group of men. Associated with the founding of the club are William T. Barbour, Edwin S. George, William B. O'Brien, George G. Booth, M. H. Chamberlain, John C. Donnelly, Milton A. McRae, William J. Chittenden, James T. Lynn, Arthur Pack, G. Bert Gunderson, John T. Shaw, Frank C. Root and Charles Stinchfield.

Edward S. George served as first president of the club and William T. Barbour as vice-president. Club officers are elected from the board of directors.

Included on the first board were William T. Barbour, George G.

Booth, M. H. Chamberlain, William J. Chittenden, Edwin S. George, William B. O'Brien, James T. Lynn, John T. Shaw and Sidney D. Waldon.

BLOOMFIELD HILLS Country Club was originally set up for 400 members. At present, there are 350 stock and 475 over-all members.

The primary activity of the club has been, and still is, golf. However, in the early days of the Club, "automobiling" was of vast interest.

Today the club offers to its members golf and a large clubhouse for social activity. Special events often

are staged such as holiday parties, a Ladies' Day and a regular golf event. Meals in the club's large dining room are available for members.

Bloomfield Hills functions as a social and golf club and provides these facilities for its members.

MEMBERS OF the present board are John S. Bugas, H. Gray Muzzy, Stuart A. Cogsdill, Lester A. Coleman, William D. Downey, Arnold D. Freydl, Louis C. Goad, Ormond E. Hunt and Donald B. McLouth. Meetings are held monthly at the club.

Lester A. Coleman now is president of the club. Other officers are Louis C. Goad, vice-president; H. Gray Muzzy, treasurer; and Ormond E. Hunt, secretary.

Harry Thompson, who was club manager for 32 years, is now retiring. He will be succeeded by Charles Bangs.

Congratulations ...and thanks

As long-term residents of Birmingham, it gives us a special pleasure to join with our neighbors in congratulating The Birmingham Eccentric on its seventy-five successful years of service to this city.

This year the Wabeek Building also marks a milestone . . . our 25th anniversary! For twenty-five years we've tried to give business and professional people of Birmingham a well-kept and efficient home for the important work they do.

Our congratulations to The Birmingham Eccentric . . . and our thanks to the people whose support made possible these two anniversaries.

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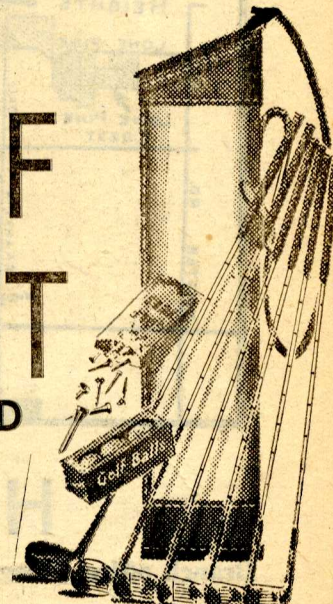
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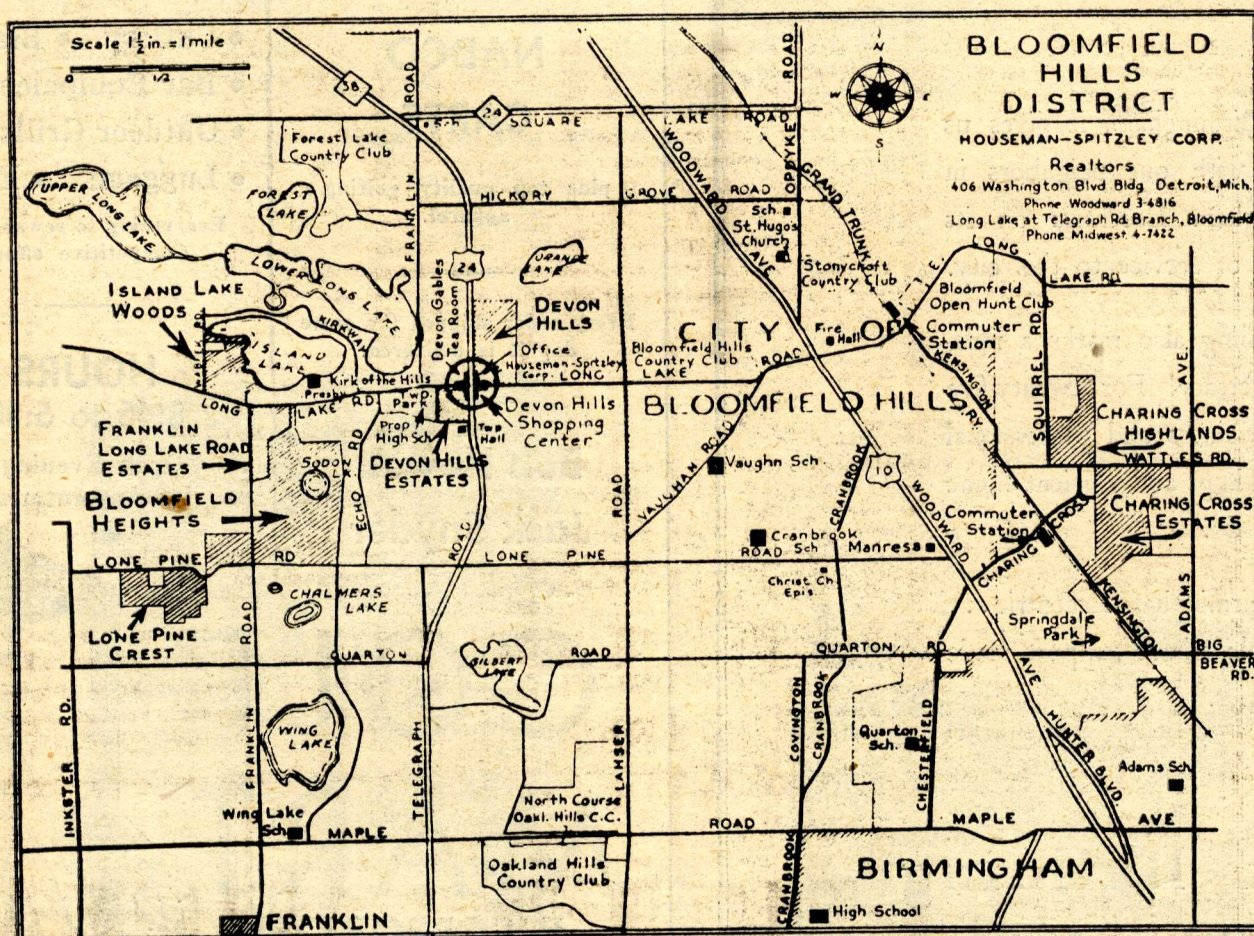
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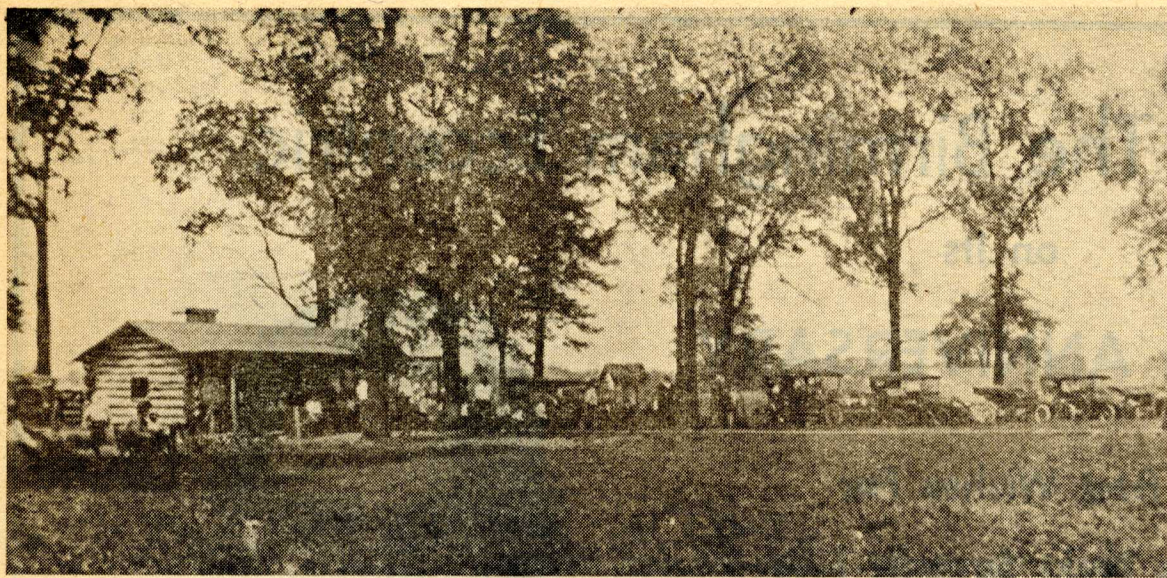
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Attractive hill sites; lots of trees and orchards.

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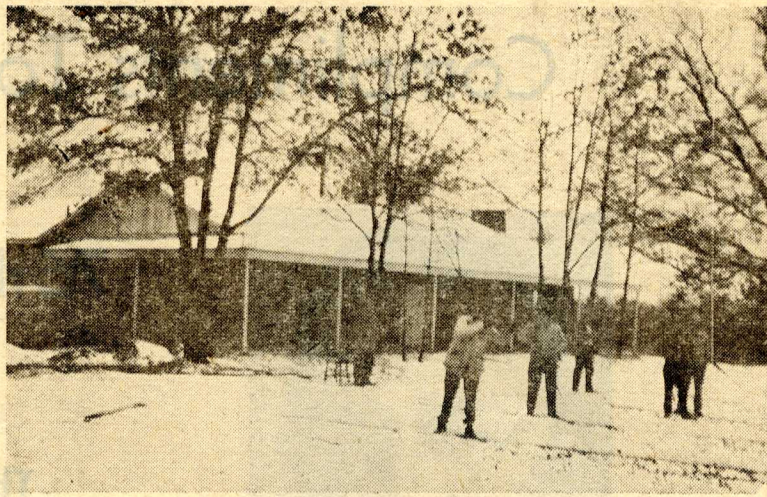
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AN EARLY SHOOT AT THE BIRMINGHAM GUN CLUB
This photo was taken about 1920



MEMBERS PRACTICE ON THEIR NEW SITE
Situated 10 miles west and north of B'ham

B'ham Gun Club Enters Into Its 41st Year

The Birmingham Gun Club, founded to promote the enjoyment of trapshooting and other social activities, is celebrating its fortieth year of operation.

First recorded meeting of the club was held on the Robert Porritt estate on Adams avenue on December 15, 1913.

Earlier meetings were said to have been held at Phil Schlaack's hardware store and in the Shoover barber shop.

The club was incorporated in 1916 and held weekly meetings at the outset. According to Bert Peabody and Philip Schlaack, charter members, the first president was W. M. Story with F. L. Schlaack

as the first secretary-treasurer; P. N. Schlaack, vice-president; R. S. Porritt, field captain.

Earliest records list between 20-25 members in 1913. Some of the charter members were Frank German, Bernie Schoonover, Jerry Terwilliger, E. Daniels, Bob Porritt,

Phil Schlaack, N. Schlaack, Bert Peabody, F. Schultz, H. Lowe, Ed Parks, Glenn Schlaack, William Hopson, A. Parks, S. D. Brickner, D. C. Huston, Fred Douglas, T. A. Robertson, J. W. Hartwick, Dr. Winslow and F. Evans.

DURING WORLD WAR I, the Northwestern Club, unable to get ammunition and other supplies to continue shooting, joined the Birmingham club, adding 29 more members to the local roster. Another 10-15 individual members joined, swelling the ranks to 70 in 1916.

Continuous operation of the club is a point of pride to members. It is the only club in the state and perhaps the entire Midwest to

hold uninterrupted seasons through two world wars and a depression.

State championship meets were held at the Birmingham club in 1944, 1945 and 1946 and another is scheduled to be held here again in 1954.

The first log club house was built on the Porritt property and used for 30 years rent-free. Ed Daniels donated the logs for the 20x20 building for the house which was used until the club abandoned the site in 1952.

THE CLUB, looking for a new location, acquired 50 acres on Richardson road in Commerce township and recently completed a modern clubhouse. When the property is fully developed, members hope to

have five electrically-operated trap fields.

Membership now totals 115. Present officers are T. D. Mansfield, president; Stephen D. Butts, vice-president; W. E. Bertolet, secretary-treasurer; Ed Parks, steward; Louis Bumgraber, field captain; Richard McClurg, assistant field captain; and Bob Porritt, president emeritus.

A favorite story among old members concerns the trophy shoot held between Birmingham and Flint on Sept. 26, 1917. The local team of McBride, Peabody, Lowe and Daniels missed only one target out of 125. A scheduled rematch with the Flint team never came off, as Flint members refused to meet again with the Birmingham club.

Municipal Recreation Coordinated by Board

Recreation became the concern of a separate group in Birmingham in 1946 when, through the cooperation of the Birmingham city commission and Birmingham board of education, the recreation board was founded.

Under the direction of Mayor Milton Mallender, commissioners met with school board members in an effort to eliminate what in the past had been a more or less duplication of effort.

A basis of operation was formulated which still is the key in the recreational schedules for the city's thousands of school and pre-school children.

A five-member board was established, with one term expiring each year. Two members are appointed by the city commission, two by the school board and one by the mayor from a list of three candidates presented by the board of education.

THE CITY MANAGER and school superintendent, or their duly appointed representatives, are ex officio board members.

According to Mrs. William Jackson, recreation board chairman, the board is not a "body to make decisions but to make recommendations."

She said, "We review requests for recreational facilities and relay our findings to the commission for its approval."

Equipment for the recreation program is owned by the city or schools, but used on a cooperative basis. City parks and school playgrounds to carry on comprise major elements in the summer programs. Equipment, owned mostly

by the school, is put into use wherever needed.

CURRENTLY the greatest demand is for baseball diamonds to meet the needs of the Little League, Little Bigger League, YMCA, Church league and others. Games are played on the site best suited to the age and physical needs of the players.

Operational funds are a part of the city's budget, with payment for materials, upkeep and supervisors charged against the fund.

Among the annual events sponsored and supervised by the recreation board are baseball leagues, swimming at Barnum pool, ice skating, riflery, handcrafts, music, dramatics, play periods tennis, golf, junior olympics and other forms of sport and play.

FUTURE ITEMS being considered include indoor roller skating at the high school gym, a model plane club, and an archery range.

Board activities stress safety and good sportsmanship. Children are taught to play together in harmony, even though in competition. The importance of being a good loser is stressed as much or more as the will to win.

Recent programs of the board include the development of Eton, Poppleton and Booth Parks.

Special Baseball Program For Boys Between 8 and 12

Birmingham's Little League baseball program was started in the spring of 1951 with former Detroit Tiger hurler Eldon Auken one of the promoters for the uniformed league.

Interested parents and backers soon agreed that youngsters would enjoy a competitive baseball league where they could learn the fundamentals of good baseball without missing the fun of playing with the kids in their own neighborhood.

City Recreation Department attempts to provide a summer baseball program for the smaller boys fell short of demands.

Birmingham was one of the first cities in this area to turn to an organized league for boys eight through 12 years of age.

IN 1951 the league was chartered and began its first season of play with four teams. Nearly 500 candidates attended the spring tryouts the first spring.

The next summer demand for more facilities forced league officials to double the size of the

program, fielding eight teams in an American and National league. This year nearly 600 boys took their turns at throwing, fielding and batting in tryouts for the teams.

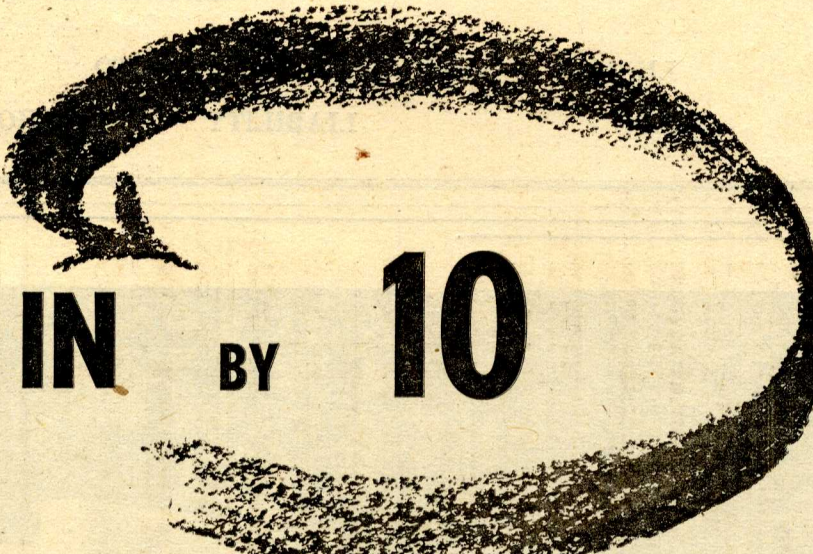
By mid-summer, officials realized that boys that did not make the teams still were without a chance to play regularly scheduled games and a farm system was initiated with another eight teams.

The regional finals were held here in 1952 but Birmingham teams were defeated by teams from Farmington and Livonia.

INTEREST IS expected to grow even higher this summer when the season begins.

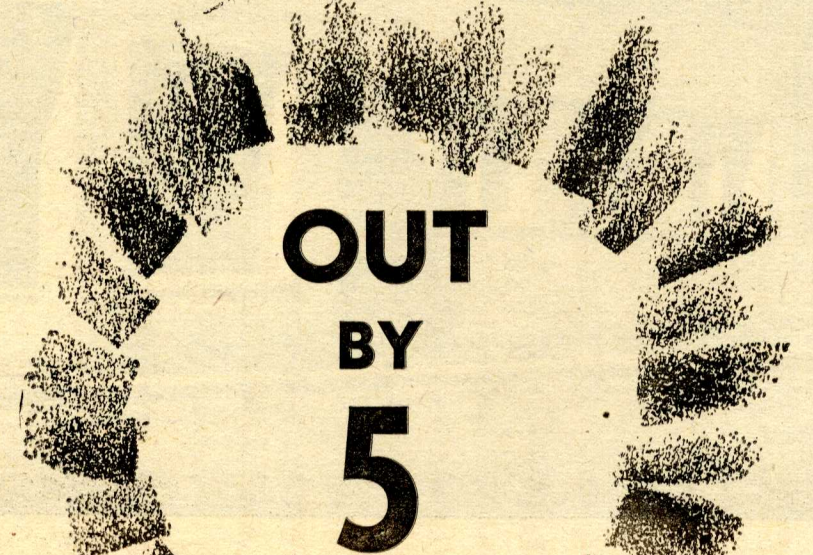
Other league officials at the time of the league's start were Dan Elliot and Jerry Walcott.

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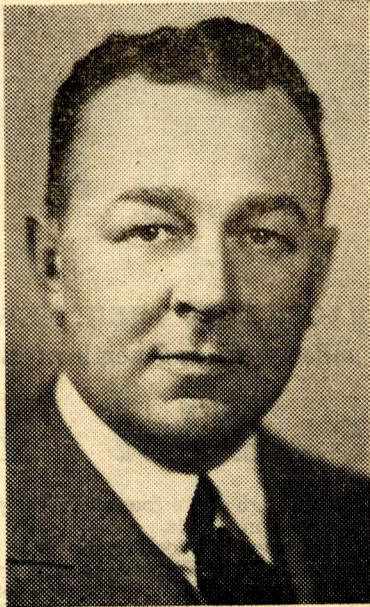
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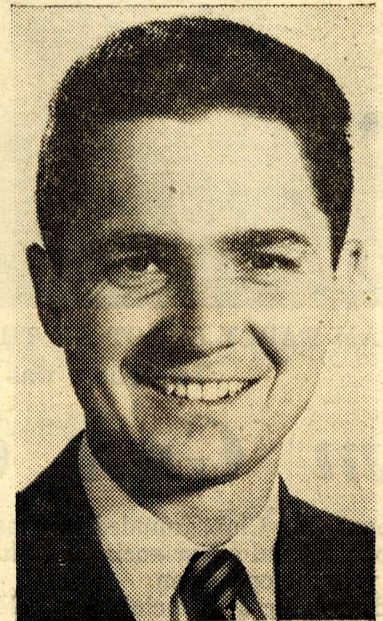


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Wing Lake Fish Drew Oldtimers

The fine art of fishing enjoyed by Birmingham anglers today was perhaps the most popular diversion in the days when Birmingham was a small village and the nearby lakes teemed with fish.

Many prominent villagers in the 1870's were enthusiastic fishermen and in the natural course of events, these enthusiasts banded together in the late summer of 1878 to form an organization which was called the Birmingham and Wing Lake Fishing Club.

By-laws and articles of association were drawn up in a strictly legal manner and adopted Dec. 10, 1878, dues were determined, officers elected and club property designated.

Membership was limited to 25 men. Charter members and first officers of the Birmingham and Wing Lake Fishing Club were J. Allen Bigelow, president; Lyman B. Peabody, vice-president; Joseph S. Stockwell, secretary; and John F. Durkee, Treasurer.

The first board of directors consisted of John Bodine, J. Allen Bigelow, R. E. Trowbridge, Joseph S. Stockwell, Walter North, Luther Stanley, and George Blakeslee.

OTHER CHARTER members were P. H. Sherman, Thomas Middlem, J. O. Beattie, J. B. Atchinson, J. P. Gibson, John Baldwin, William Satterlee, Frank Ford, Lewis Simpson, Josiah H. Alger, Frank Hagerman, John Irving, Melvin D. Sly, George E. Daines, Melvin Rose, and John M. Trask.

The capital stock of the club consisted of \$250 obtained from the sale of 25 shares of stock at \$10 a share, held by the charter members.

The object of the association, as outlined in the official record book of the club, was for "mutual enjoyment in fishing and boating; to provide a place of comfort and convenience and shelter for boats and horses in case of storm and heat from sunshine; for the protection of fish out of season; and for the re-stocking of our neighboring lakes with food fishes with assistance and in connection with the State Fish Commission."

DUES WERE FIXED at 50¢ annually and within the by-laws was written the procedure for the suspension or expulsion of any member for non-payment of said dues.

Rules and regulations were laid down by the board of directors regarding the privileges and property of the fishing club.

No member was allowed to use the fishing tackle of any absent member without the consent of the owner, but boats belonging to the club were considered to be the general property of all.

SUNDAY WAS one day that members had to forego their favorite sport for "No property of this club shall be used on the Sabbath nor shall the sale of any intoxicating liquors be permitted in the boats or boathouse of this club"—so said the by-laws.

For "mutual protection", no member was allowed to admit to the privileges of the club or the use of any club property any person except members of his own family. He could, however, take fishing any out-of-town friends visiting at his house.

A clubhouse was built on the shores of Wing Lake and the members of the club voted for the building of two boats as a starter. Tucked away in the club record book is the receipt for \$6.00 for the lumber and dressing of these two boats.

LATER ON, a small stable for horses was erected.

At the first annual meeting held June 11, 1879, at John Bodine's office (for he was at that time justice of the peace) Lyman B. Peabody was elected president of the Birmingham and Wing Lake Fishing Club and J. Allen Bigelow, secretary, offices which the two men held until the organization was officially disbanded in 1884.

Of the activities of this group little is known except what can be gleaned from the record book of the regular meetings.

In 1880 William Manser, the local cobbler, and Joseph Meade were accepted into the club to take the place of J. B. Atchinson and J. M. Trask who had moved away. Ira Slade and George C. Wallace became members in 1881, each paying the price of one share which

had now been reduced to \$5 a share.

A YEAR later the boathouse, barn and property of the fishing club was placed at the east end of Long Lake after a Mr. Pearsall had offered favorable terms to the club members.

The fishing association did not forget one of its purposes—that of restocking the nearby lakes with fish. It annually made applications to the state Fish Commission for young fry and in 1882 planted 120,000 walleyed pike, the only available plant at the time, in equal portions in Walnut Lake, Wing Lake and Island Lake.

Lake trout had been planted in Walnut Lake some years before and from all eye witness reports, the plant had been successful for the trout by this time were 20 inches long.

BY 1884 the Birmingham and Wing Lake Fishing Club was running into difficulty. In the first place, quite a goodly number of members had neglected to pay their dues, and the members of good standing were to vote upon the suspension of the negligent members.

Then too, Mr. Pearsall ordered the club to remove its property from Long Lake. The equipment was going to pieces, for Edwin Miller, the newest member of the club, reported that only two of the club boats were serviceable.

In fact, the finances of the club were in such state that they were in debt for 89¢. At the annual meeting in 1884, only 12 members of the 25 paid their dues and the 13 members in arrears for dues over one year were suspended.

THE FISHING club was in a "comatose condition—in fact, dead." At their final meeting in July 1884, the members voted to disband and the property of the club to be sold at public auction with the proceeds prorated among the members.

The auction sale was held the following week in front of Lyman Peabody's general store. After several spirited spurts of enthusiastic bidding, the property of the Birmingham and Wing Lake Fishing Club was sold to the highest bidder—Ira Slade.

For \$15, Mr. Slade received the club's property consisting of the boathouse, outhouse, barn and "two or three" usable boats.

OF THE 12 MEMBERS in good standing of the Birmingham and Wing Lake Fishing Club, 10 of them reorganized and a new club was born with the somewhat pretentious title of "The Birmingham and Pine Lake Fishing and Shooting Club."

Those ten members were Lyman B. Peabody, George E. Daines, John Allen Bigelow, Frank Hagerman, Edwin Miller, P. H. Sherman, J. O. Beattie, John Baldwin, Ira Slade and Frank Ford.

Article three in the club's record book stated that the "objects for which this association was organized was for boating, rowing, fishing, shooting, and preservation of game and fish in season."

IRA SLADE was persuaded to sell the property of the old fishing club which he had purchased at public auction to the new association for the same price—\$15—that he had paid for it.

Then to the eastern shore of Pine Lake the boathouse and other property built five years before, was carefully moved.

In the early days of August 1884, the members with their families and friends drove to the new site in family carriages for a day of fun and fishing.

Lyman Peabody again was the perennial president of the newly formed fishing and shooting association. A lease of the land at Pine Lake was obtained from John Ellenwood for three years with the



EARLY RESIDENTS ON CLUB'S 'FRONT PORCH'
Wooden ramp led directly into the water

privilege of a longer term. The yearly rental was \$15.

THE NEWLY ORGANIZED fishing club also was interested in the preservation of good fishing. It is, nevertheless, a little puzzling to understand why, in July 1885, Mr. Peabody procured 500 young carp and with the assistance of Alanson Partridge and E. C. Poppleton, deposited them in the mill pond at Birmingham (Quarton lake).

Carp, that year, also were planted in Gilbert, Wing, Island, Pine and Cass Lakes.

In June 1886, 250,000 walleyed pike were planted in Pine and Wal-

nut lakes, assisted by a member of the Michigan Fish Commission.

FOR FOUR YEARS the club book records the annual meeting, receipts and disbursements of the association. The last entry is dated May 7, 1888.

During those years the members of the Birmingham and Pine Lake Fishing and Shooting Club spent many happy summer days on the cool lake shore.

It is known that when Birmingham sizzled under the sun, members and their families migrated en masse to spend the day and even weekend camp outs at the lake.

Baseball League Organized for Teenage Boys

The Birmingham Little Bigger League received its charter from the national organization in March, 1952.

An outgrowth of the city's Little League, the new league was formed to give Little League graduates an opportunity to continue competitive baseball.

The opening year proved to residents that the demand for uniformed baseball teams, spurred to better performances by well-attended games and the atmosphere of the bigger leagues, was a natural one for boys.

Donald Chaffee was named the league's first president and four teams began to play regularly scheduled games in June of 1952.

Four Birmingham businesses sponsored the teams and the first year found a team of local all-stars making the trip to Trenton, N. J. and the Little Bigger League finals.


BIRMINGHAM gained the right to represent the Michigan-Ohio-Illinois district by defeating teams from each of these states in the regional finals held in Birmingham at the St. James field in mid-August.

The local team was defeated in the first round of the national finals.

With the opening of the League's second season near, league officials look for an even larger number of boys at the spring tryouts.

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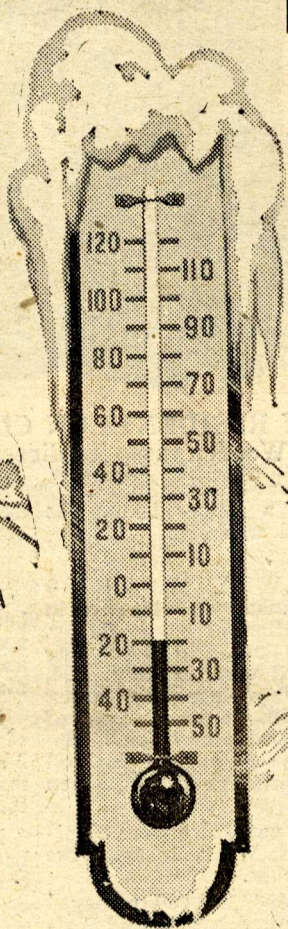
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