

The Birmingham Eccentric

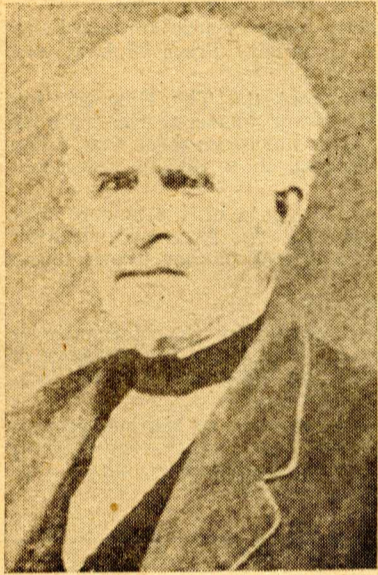
1878

SECTION
May 1953

A

History of Birmingham
and the
Story of The Eccentric

1953



JOHN HUNTER

Birmingham's pioneer settlers



JOHN HAMILTON

B'ham Today Belies Gov't Survey Made In Early 1800's

One hundred and thirty-four years ago southern Oakland County was a wilderness. Today, as part of the Detroit metropolitan suburban area, it boasts a population in excess of 200,000 people. During this period Birmingham has grown from a one-family settlement in 1819 to its present estimated population of over 20,000.

This is the story of that growth . . . from days when the original few families hewed out of the forests their humble log cabin homes, subsisting at first on meager diets, to the present highly developed residential community, with about every modern comfort and convenience the inventiveness of mankind has created.

IN SPITE OF THE discouraging report made to Congress by the government surveyors in 1815, there were some venturesome pioneers who braved the discomforts and hardships of that original Michigan wilderness to come to what is now Birmingham and build their homesites and their future.

In 1812, Congress had passed an act requiring that two million acres of land be surveyed in each of the territories of Louisiana, Illinois, north of the Illinois river, and the territory of Michigan. In all, there were to be six million acres set apart for the soldiers of the war with Great Britain.

THE LANDS were surveyed and appropriated under this law in Louisiana and Illinois, but the surveyors reported that there were no lands in Michigan fit for cultivation.

Their report stated in part: "Taking the country altogether, so far as has been explored, and to all appearances, together with information received concerning the balance, it is so bad there would not be more than one acre out of a hundred, if there would be one out of a thousand, that would in any case admit of cultivation."

However, the brave men and women who came to Michigan, when the first public lands were made available in 1818, proved the report at variance with the actual facts, once they had penetrated through the low and marshy belt surrounding Detroit and entered into the beautiful and fertile country of the "interior."

MOST OF THE early settlers to this area were from New England and New York, although New Jersey and Pennsylvania contributed their share of immigrants.

In 1815, the quickest route from the East was by stage to Buffalo and then by schooner to Detroit and after that by slow ox team or on horseback through the dense timber, swamps and tangled morass to the fertile land beyond.

The first steamer, named "Walk-

in-the-Water" after a celebrated Huron Indian chief, made her appearance on Lake Erie in 1818 and
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DEDICATION

TO THOSE OF THE LONG, LONG AGO who, working and pioneering against the raw wilderness of this Northwest Territory, over part of Chief Pontiac's old Saginaw Trail, laid the first foundations of Birmingham;

TO THOSE WHO FOLLOWED in succession, braving the discomforts of crude habitation and whose efforts, through wearying days of work, and nights of trying to rest up for the morrow's endless labors, builded upon the foundations of the first pioneers' efforts;

TO THE PEOPLE OF TODAY who, facing unparalleled community growth, are making their social, civic and economic contributions toward a better area in which to live and raise their children;

TO A BENEFICENT PROVIDENCE, Whose influence has guided and prospered both the people and this fairest of all fair lands on our earth's surface;

TO THOSE WHO SHALL FOLLOW, adding to what they inherit a larger measure of the goodness of their own times and their own efforts;

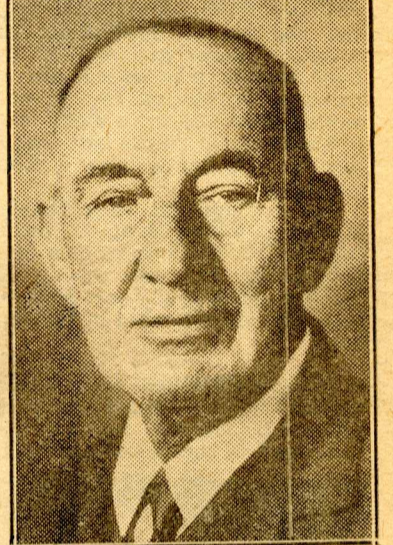
AND TO ALL who have made it possible for The Eccentric to be welcomed into their homes, their offices, and their stores, chronicling the births and deaths, the courtships and the marriages, their hopes and their aspirations . . . during good times and times of adversity . . . over three-quarters of a long century - - - - -

TO THESE, this special 75th Anniversary Edition of The Birmingham Eccentric is dedicated.

THE PUBLISHER



ALMERON WHITEHEAD



GEORGE H. MITCHELL

The two founders of The Birmingham Eccentric

The Eccentric's Story — 75 Wonderful Years In A Fine Community

With this special edition, The Birmingham Eccentric commemorates its 75th year of continuous publication as this community's weekly newspaper. Those years are not much more than half of the 134 years that span the life of Birmingham . . . but they are fruitful ones, indeed.

They begin when Birmingham was a small rural village, its inhabitants numbering 800 men, women and children. Today that population within the city limits now approximates 21,000, while leading away from Birmingham, in every direction, are scores of thousands of others within our Oakland County—about 400,000 in all.

The Eccentric's first date of publication was May 2, 1878. Today it completes 75 years of uninterrupted publication.

Over this three-quarters of a century The Eccentric has been issued approximately 3,900 times. It is the oldest Birmingham business enterprise today.

IT WAS FOUNDED by two men, George H. Mitchell and Almeron Whitehead. The former was a life-long Democrat, the latter a Republican . . . and ever the twain did meet in editorial combat in its pages.

Indeed, for some time, they printed parallel editorial columns, revealing their individual views and opinions. In spite of this, the world failed to reach Utopia as rapidly as both young—and then unmarried—journalists desired.

It is significant that these two young men, working together as

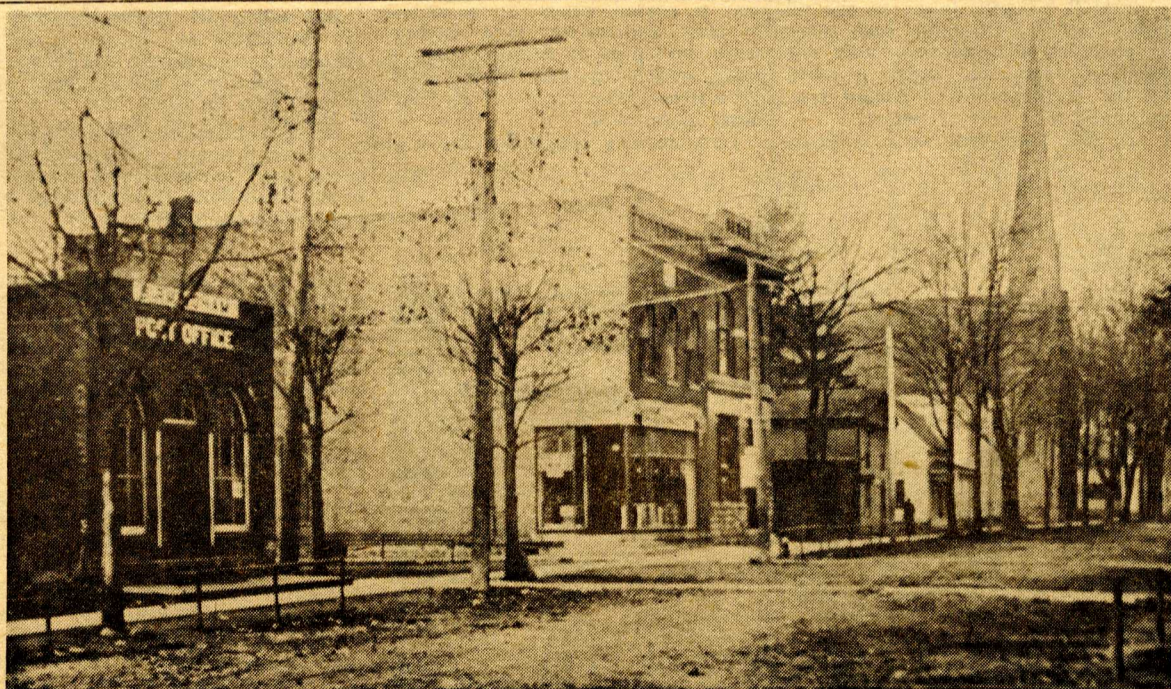
business partners, were to play important parts in the development of Birmingham. They not only founded The Eccentric, but started Birmingham's first bank, and operated in their general store at the southwest corner of W. Maple and Pierce streets, (where Shain's Drug store now stands) the community's first telephone exchange.

LIKE MANY youngsters, both Whitehead and Mitchell apparently had the usual quantity of desire to smell printer's ink. This desire was partially fulfilled in 1875, for it was in that year that they sent to Boston for a small Novelty printing press and a few fonts of type. At the time Whitehead was employed by Captain J. Allen Bigelow here, and Mitchell worked for one of Birmingham's then leading businessmen, Frank Hagerman.

They paid \$90 for the press, and kept it at first in Whitehead's bedroom. Here, during their spare hours, the two disciples of Benjamin Franklin, Printer, learned how to perform simple typesetting, and turned out small printing jobs—including calling cards at 25 for ten cents. (In those days you could get three dandy cigars for a nickel, too.)

FOR NEARLY three years these young men kept their fingers in printer's ink, all the while visioning greater typographical worlds to conquer.

Being young men of deep con-
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MAPLE JUST WEST OF WOODWARD AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY
For short while, Eccentric was housed in building which man is walking past

Past 33 Years Recalled By Eccentric's Publisher

By GEORGE R. AVERILL

Editor and Publisher of The Birmingham Eccentric

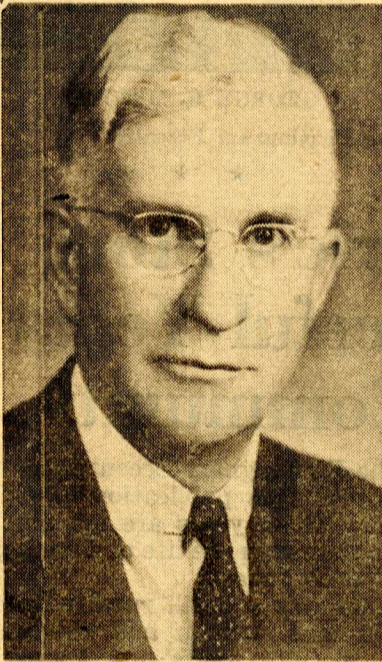
It was a typical Michigan winter day, cold and windy, on that February 14, 1920, morning when I assumed ownership of The Birmingham Eccentric, then located in the rear half of the lower floor of the building on Pierce st., a location now occupied by McCoy Tailors.

The entire "works" was scattered about this room, including two small hand-fed job presses, two antique cabinets containing varieties of type that almost dated back to Gutenberg.

A much-used and battered "make-up stone" also lay upon a scarred frame-work. In one corner stood an old-fashioned roll-top desk. Two beat-up typewriters bravely beckoned to the combination bookkeeper and society reporter and myself. One male printer, who leased the job printing equipment for a small weekly rate and gave eight hours a week to help "make up" the paper for the press, also occupied the room.

Not a single bit of mechanical equipment to be used in setting type for the newspaper, or a press to print it on, was among the meagre equipment—nor had any such ever been located in Birmingham.

THE ECCENTRIC was, then, a typical "country weekly newspaper office". Indeed, for one who had been used to the hustle and bustle



GEORGE R. AVERILL

of a large city's daily newspaper, my new working environment was dominated by an atmosphere of lazy leisure.

Birmingham then had a population of 3,680, and its area was exactly one square mile. Today that city population has reached an estimated 21,000, and the city area has more than quadrupled . . . to say nothing of the rapid expansion and growth of the entire area contiguous to Birmingham.

THE ECCENTRIC in 1920 consisted of eight 7-column pages, four of them containing local news, the other four the traditional "patent insides"—these latter furnished by a syndicated newspaper service. They were a mixture of various long and short stories, plus the familiar advertising that covered everything from Lydia Pinkham's Vegetable Compound to the best harness equipment for farmers' horses.

Frank E. Van Black, by trade a Linotype operator, was "getting out" The Eccentric. Eight months before he had made an agreement

with George H. Mitchell, one of The Eccentric's co-founders (who for years had been sole owner) to purchase the newspaper. By training, he was neither a reporter nor a publisher; he took over the weekly in the hope of selling it soon—at a profit.

SO I BOUGHT Van Black's interest and paid up Mitchell.

My dominant efforts were directed toward "getting and printing the local news." So I began, for the first time in Birmingham's journalistic history, "to cover" all public meetings and report them in The Eccentric. So it was that, for 15 years, I seldom missed a village council, board of education, or township board meeting here.

My youth and enthusiasm kept me going at top speed for many years. For in my new role I soon learned that my job consisted not only of reporting and editing, but writing and selling advertising, getting subscriptions, collecting bills, helping to "make-up" each issue—and also to wield a broom and mop. (May I say right here that "those were happy days," too?)

ACTUALLY, THE type for The Eccentric, from Feb. 14, 1920 to Oct. 1, 1920, was set on the then lone Linotype in the office of the nearby Royal Oak Tribune (then a weekly), and the printing of each issue also was done on their aged hand-fed Campbell press. This latter was done every Thursday night by myself and Lynn D. Miller, editor of The Tribune.

First, we'd "put The Tribune to bed" and after it was run off we'd print The Eccentric. I'd bring my papers up to Birmingham that night, affix the addressed labels to them, and get them into the post-office in time for delivery Friday morning. (In May, 1926, I changed publication day to Thursday.)

ON THE FIRST of October I began setting the type mechanically in our own small office—or rather the Linotype operator I hired did so. That eased the mechanical problem quite a bit, although it was not until July 20, 1923, that I had purchased and installed a large hand-fed combination newspaper and job printing cylinder press upon which, for the first time, The Eccentric was actually printed in Birmingham.

This date marked the increase in the size of The Eccentric, from eight to 12 pages, with eight to ten pages local and the remainder "patent insides."

FOUR YEARS later, as the village and The Eccentric both grew, I installed a newspaper web perfecting press, on which a newspaper is printed and folded from a continuous roll of paper.

In the meantime, our commercial printing department increased

in size, as did our staff. The progress has kept right on, until today your "Home-Town Newspaper" is recognized as one of the best of its class—its printing production far superior to most. Our present total employe list averages from 75 to 80 people.

Many and varied are memories of the first years I worked to "get out" The Eccentric.

BIRMINGHAM in those days was more "village-y" than it is today, or even has been for more than a decade. There were fewer people here, not so many organizations to belong to, no radios, TV programs, and few motor cars.

Oakland County, in the early Twenties, was beginning to attract new residents, and the Detroit realtors were quick to see the possibilities.

Soon paved roads began to come into existence (plus higher county taxes). Farmers hereabouts were selling their lands. Subdivision stakes supplanted crops. The boom was on!

ROUSED FROM its traditional easy-going way of life, Birmingham's village council began to wrestle with the problems of "growing pains." New improvements must go in. Our dwindling water supply, obtained from the old steam plant on West Maple at Baldwin, finally gave way to electrically operated deep well pumps.

But before that was accomplished, many were the local civic "fights" over bond issues for elevated storage tanks, new pumps, and finally the acquisition of three blocks of land and houses where our Civic Center now is.

Those "fights" were real ones, too. No verbal holds were barred. People took sides—you were for or agin' the issue of the moment.

INDEED, SCORES of times, when elections were coming, The Eccentric would be filled with dozens of letters written by the citizens. Often there were so many of them that I'd have to print them in quite small type (like our classified ads today) in order to get them in an issue of the paper.

Naturally, The Eccentric took its own stand on the issues of the day. It is needless to say that it, and that meant me, were damned, even villified by the few that had different notions . . . not to forget the fragment of "old-timers" who were against everything.

LATER ON, when I was able to increase the news staff and relieve myself of some of the routine responsibilities, I often found myself waging editorial opposition to certain of our Oakland county and state officials. (Those were the Happy Days of adolescent maturity in this business!)

On the whole, though, Birmingham's business and professional people, together with its enlightened residents, measured up to their contemporary responsibilities.

School officials seldom were without problems of more buildings, more teachers . . . and when the nation's banks closed in 1933 every unit of government had its troubles.

THAT CONDITION had been prevalent since 1930, too. There was a period when the collection of taxes fell so low that teachers were paid part of their salaries in scrip, which was used to buy their bare necessities from co-operative local merchants.

Considerable credit for the high

A Consistent Winner

To encourage improvement and progress in the arts and crafts, for centuries various contests have been held by these respective groups. The tradition, of course, carries on today.

Included in such contests are American newspapers, divided between the two major groups, the dailies and the weeklies.

It is with considerable personal pride that The Eccentric reminds its readers that this community newspaper, under the present ownership, has received numerous awards from State and National Press Associations.

* * *

THESE AWARDS are symbolized in the form of framed certificates, plaques of silver and bronze, and silver-plated cups.

From the Michigan Press Association, The Eccentric has received distinguished awards for excellence of typography, general excellence of news coverage, and for community service.

Several times it has received first prize awards for excellence of front page make-up from the University Press Club at Ann Arbor.

In National Editorial Association contests, The Eccentric has been awarded top prizes for about every phase of the planning and production of a weekly newspaper, including three first prizes for excellence of job printing produced in a weekly newspaper plant.

Indeed, it was so far ahead of other plants in this respect that, by mutual agreement with NEA officials, The Eccentric withdrew from annual competition so that other and smaller plants might win.

* * *

IN A NATIONAL CONTEST sponsored by the Mergenthaler Linotype Co., The Eccentric also won first prize for its plan of promoting merchandising and advertising programs for its local business concerns.

The Eccentric, in this special 75th Anniversary Edition, records these facts not only to take a modest bow for its organization, but to reflect proper credit upon our own community, whose support has helped to make these successes possible.

type of subdivisions and homes here must go to the numerous realtors whose influence in the development of Birmingham and vicinity has been tremendous. They organized the Birmingham Real Estate Board in 1921, and it has been very active since those early days.

In the early Twenties quite a few farms were adjacent to this area. A familiar Saturday sight was the number of horse-drawn wagons and buggies "in town". A number of hitching racks still stood on Maple and Woodward avenues.

THE ORIGINAL Baldwin Public Library was located on the southeast corner of Maple and Woodward, on the second floor; you reached it by climbing long stairs.

Below were the village offices, where the council met each week, and where the half dozen municipal employes worked. The village manager, clerk and lone policeman were there, together with two chaps who then constituted our "Public Works Administration."

In a narrow sort of hallway, fronting W. Maple, was located the village's only automotive chemical fire truck. Volunteer firemen handled local fires, and most of the business men and some of their clerks belonged to it.

Often, when the siren sounded for a fire, many local business places would be without any clerks to serve the customers until the fire was put out.

ONE NIGHT, at a council meeting, a call came in for help at a burning house out on Big Beaver Rd. Ernie Gardner, who ran a shoe repair shop on W. Maple next to the "Fire Station", responded and I quickly joined him.

It was a cold winter night, and I sat alongside Ernie, holding a big flashlight on the road ahead (the car's own lights had failed to work) and almost got frostbite because I had no gloves on.

What a difference between those volunteer firemen - one - chemical - truck days in 1921 and Birmingham's excellent fire-fighting organization in 1953!

BACK IN 1920 Birmingham's annual village budget was the staggering sum of \$51,538. The 1953 budget is \$1,089,425. Nine hundred forty-four pupils were attending our public schools, and this year it has gone over the 6,000 mark. That early year 44 deaths occurred within the village, and 47 babies were born . . . and nearly everybody knew those who passed on and the parents of the newcomers. Life was simpler . . . but no easier.

Well do I remember the first village election I reported. There were 1162 registered voters, but only 31 of them voted, perhaps so few because no contests existed—so often the same officials were re-elected.

AND THERE was good, old Nick

Mooney, at one time the entire police force in the village (except for the manager, who was "Chief"). Nick worked at all hours, though mostly daytime, and now and then evenings to patrol the business section. Of course, if he had a hot "clue" that might solve some local petty larceny, he might "work the clock around." Nick was liked by everybody.

It was he who, when holiday and Sunday traffic over the narrow Woodward-Maple intersection became more confusing, first commanded the hand-operated traffic signal there. No lights were attached to that slight framework, nor did Nick even have a whistle. But he had a sternness of countenance that made up for the lack of modern gadgets.

AS WEEKS went on, traffic got heavier and heavier. As I recall it, he "left the force" in late '21, but after a year had passed he re-applied for his old job, and got it. Came the first Sunday . . . and Woodward-Maple traffic had trebled.

Valiantly, Nick handled the migratory motorists all that day and unto darkness, and he did all right, too. Nobody smashed into anybody . . . not even into Nick.

But the next day Nick Mooney resigned.

I queried him: "Why don't you stay, Nick? What's your reason for resigning so soon?"

HE GAVE ME a studied look, shifted the ever-present quid of tobacco from one side of his jowls to the other, and replied: "Too damned much confusion and commotion on this street for me to handle; too many horn-blowin' autos to keep me feelin' safe! 'Tain't like it used to be!"

From those humble beginnings the "force" has grown to its present staff of 75 to 80. Woodward avenue, once a bit narrower, whose ancient oaks, elms and maples formed a continuous arch overhead, has given way to more surface and less original beauty. The world was being put on wheels.

Woodward avenue had to be widened . . . for along its 16-ft. strip of thin pavement ran the old D.U.R. interurban cars, the route being from Detroit to Pontiac.

AS THE USE of motor cars increased, the accident and death rates along Woodward increased. One year 50 people were killed in crashes. So the movement began to widen it. The businessmen and women along the route formed a Wider Woodward Avenue Association. Realtors played a good part in it, too.

And eventually Gov. Alex Groesbeck ordered the project to start. He promised to transform "America's Most Dangerous Highway" into "The Nation's Widest and Most Beautiful Thoroughfare."

And so it happened. The Grand Trunk Railroad used to run over

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ECCENTRIC BUILDINGS TODAY HAVE 85-FT. WOODWARD FRONTAGE
Editorial, advertising depts. at left; business, printing offices at right

Eccentric Known Nationally for Job Printing

By PAUL NEAL AVERILL
Business Manager of The Birmingham Eccentric

It is traditional in the history of community weekly newspaper operation that "job printing" is an associated by-product of the overall publishing effort. And, traditionally, The Eccentric, from its very beginning became the village printer to supply the statements, letterheads and envelopes for local business firms and merchants.

For almost 50 years, the printing "by-product" represented 10 to 15 per cent of The Eccentric's annual business volume.

About 25 years ago, however, a trend began to effect a reversal of



PAUL NEAL AVERILL

the "traditional" operation of The Eccentric. The "by-product" assumed an increasingly dominant role in its operation. As a result, today the newspaper volume represents 29% of total annual sales

(Continued from
Page One)

many early settlers took passage on this boat.

Another route to this area was across Canada and over the Detroit river. This was the route taken by John W. Hunter, Birmingham's first settler, and his brother Daniel.

THE TWO young men, seeking a homesite, had left their families in Auburn, New York, and, traveling by sleigh across Canada, crossed the Detroit river on the ice and arrived in Detroit in March 1818.

There they awaited the arrival of their father, Elisha Hunter, and the rest of the family who came the following July via Buffalo where they embarked on the small schooner "Neptune" with about 30 other passengers, mostly land hunters, and made the passage in 21 days to Detroit.

In the spring of 1819, they came to what is now Birmingham. John Hunter already had entered the northeast quarter of section 36, Bloomfield township, at the land offices in Detroit.

IT IS VERY probable that between the period of 1818, when they first arrived in Detroit, and 1819 when they came to Bloomfield, the two brothers came here to "prospect" and to choose the land before entering it, since many land hunters did this.

That same year 1819, and very nearly at the same time, came Elijah Willets and John Hamilton who settled on land near the Hunters.

Other settlers that year in the township were Dr. Ziba Swan and family, Amasa Bagley and family, William Morris, Ezra Baldwin and family, and Sidney Dole.

THE FIRST log house was erected by John Hunter, near the Saginaw trail, an Indian footpath that led from Detroit to Saginaw, but by mistake it was located on the Willets tract instead of his own land as he had supposed.

The spot where that first house was built (a log cabin could be built in 10 days) was between what is now Mulholland's store and Willets street, set back from the trail.

This spot was chosen because it was an opening and the ground sloped down to the river. Conditions were favorable there for a "good prospect and good air", a precaution against the "ague" which often laid settlers low.

HUNTER, AFTER discovering

while the job printing volume accounts for 71% of yearly business.

THIS SITUATION makes The Eccentric unique to the extent that it has become by far the largest community weekly newspaper printing and publishing plant in the State of Michigan and one of the largest in the United States.

It was in 1929 that The Eccentric, as a newspaper, carried the largest volume of advertising of any of the nation's 10,000 weekly newspapers.

The use of advertising in its columns by Birmingham merchants was the major source of business expansion available to The Eccentric and its further growth was accordingly limited to time and area growth.

HOWEVER, the expansion of printing volume had no geographic barriers and could be developed to the extent of The Eccentric's energies and competency in that field.

So, in 1930, although handicapped by inadequate commercial printing equipment and lacking general experience in the production of "advertising" or quality job printing, The Eccentric introduced its services to buyers in the metropolitan area.

It had at that time, a large hand fed cylinder press (purchased in 1923) used for printing the newspaper each week. It also had two hand fed platen job presses, a folding machine used by the newspaper and a fairly adequate com-

posing room including several linotypes (typesetting machines).

WITH THIS modest range of facilities, The Eccentric naively embarked into the broad commercial printing field.

Its first objective sighted the potential of local residents related executive-wise to Detroit businesses. A mailing list of 107 such Detroit business men living out here was purchased for 70c a name—with a feeling of extravagance—and a concentrated, intensive direct mail campaign was carried on to interest these persons to consider their "home-town" printer as a printing supplier to their companies.

The campaign, carried on with this list continuously for five years, resulted in 82 of the companies becoming customers of The Eccentric. Today, a majority of these first customers continue to use The Eccentric as a supplier.

AS ACCEPTANCE of its printing service increased, The Eccentric added to its equipment.

Automatic cylinder presses were installed, more typesetting machines and composing room equipment were added. Bindery facilities and mailing services were enlarged.

As it developed increasing experience, quality of product was enhanced and by 1940 The Eccentric gained a reputation for fine work in the 4-color process field—the zenith of commercial printing performance.

Today, printing from The Eccentric reaches the four corners of the world. Its presses run advertising printing with type in many languages (including Russian).

Included among its customers are national advertising agencies, automotive companies, the nation's largest industrial concerns and retailers, utilities and a wide variety

of miscellaneous users of the graphic arts field.

ITS PRESS equipment is almost exclusively automatic and includes both conventional letterpress process and the relatively new offset printing process. Daily press output capacity exceeds a half million impressions each day.

Originally, because of its geographic "isolation," it became necessary for The Eccentric to become self-contained in the development of services and facilities necessary for complete and total handling of a printing order.

The majority of metropolitan area printers emphasize press room facilities and extensively depend on outside typesetting and bindery sources from trade houses specializing in supplying such services to the printer.

DEVELOPMENT of a self-contained operation under one roof has resulted in The Eccentric's facilities becoming well balanced and its departments' coordination of work processes becoming quality-controlled.

The production of a job through its plant enjoys an independence from the hazard and delay of outside, non-controllable processors. An indication of facility development is evidenced by the fact that The Eccentric composing room is the largest of any printer (exclusive of trade house plants) in the Detroit area.

In 1933 a Detroit sales office was opened at Milwaukee and Cass. Today four salesmen represent The Eccentric printing department.

ALTHOUGH MUCH of the sales volume is accounted for by Detroit buyers, the area of its services generally includes the southeastern section of Michigan and extends north to Bay City and northwest to Lansing. Less than five per cent

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75th Anniversary Edition

of its total annual printing is produced for Birmingham area buyers. The Eccentric employs an average total of 75 to 80 employes to produce the newspaper and printing.

The range of work produced by The Eccentric includes the basic single color classifications and extends through to the more elaborate single and four-color printing represented by catalogs, manuals, special editions, brochures and publications.

IN THE LATTER classification, The Eccentric has tended to become a specialist and produces more publications than any printer in Michigan. These publications, commonly called house organs, are produced by The Eccentric for internal and external use by industry and for clubs, associations and professional and trade groups in and out of Michigan.

The Eccentric, in many cases the mailer for such publications, has been an important contribution to local post office revenue and has helped Birmingham's post office gain its present rating.

On the preceding page in a boxed story relating to The Eccentric's history, mention is made to the many awards received by it in recent years.

ONE SUCH AWARD indicating the growth and size of its printing department honored The Eccentric with the recognition of best among all combination newspaper printing-publishing plants in the United States.

Today, because of the obvious emphasis it places on its printing operation, The Eccentric has withdrawn from any competition in the newspaper field for recognition (Continued on Page 14)

Birmingham's History—As a Village and City

his error, built another log house a short distance southeast of the first on his own land but again near the Saginaw trail. In this house he soon opened a tavern.

About the time, John Hamilton opened his tavern, which also was his residence, near the spot where the Birmingham National Bank now stands.

Opposite this, and near the house that Hunter first built, Elijah Willets built his tavern-dwelling. Thus, there were three public houses standing but a few rods apart and erected by the town's first three settlers.

Daniel Hunter did not remain in the settlement long. He is discovered in Royal Oak in 1836 where he erected and was operating a tavern and boarding house.

NEITHER DID Elisha Hunter purchase land in Bloomfield. He later moved to Southfield township where he bought land and settled.

The settlement became well-known to the immigrants and land seekers for there was tremendous activity in the buying of land for homesites and for speculation.

The taverns of Hamilton and Willets became noted stopping places for weary travelers, for Hunter did not keep his place long as a public house. The settlement was generally known as Hamilton's or Hunter's or Willets'.

That first year, the three families worked together for their common good, pooling their resources and efforts. Rufus Hunter, younger brother of John and Daniel, who was 15 years old when the family settled here, recalled in 1877 that he, his brother John, and John Hamilton walked to Paint Creek (Rochester) that spring of 1819.

THEY EACH brought back a bushel of red potatoes on their shoulders for seed, the first seed planted by white men in Bloomfield. They also planted a small quantity of corn. Thinking of the future, they planted apple seeds for future fruit trees.

The Hunters and Hamiltons had brought swine with them and it is probable that Willets did likewise. In need of oxen to plow the land they borrowed an ox team from John Graham at Paint Creek (where they had gotten the seed potatoes) to plow the ground for their first meager crops. John Hunter later procured a cow and a yoke of oxen, the first in the township.

THEY SURVIVED the hardships of that first spring and the winter

that followed. The larders often were empty and the cabins, while withstanding the cold, offered little in the way of the conveniences of life.

The usual diet of the early settlers consisted of salt pork, corn meal and potatoes, varied occasionally by venison and bear meat.

However, the soil was rich and the settlers prospered. Attracted by reports of the success of the men and their families, others came from Detroit and settled near them. Soon many families were in the vicinity and thus started the influx which still continues 134 years later.

IN 1820 came Deacon Elijah S. Fish, Daniel Ball, Asa Castle and his son, Lemuel. The daughter of Elijah Fish and his wife, born a month after they had come to the settlement, was the first child born in the township, but the little girl lived only a short time.

Daniel Ball, who was the father of Horatio Ball (the surveyor who had marked the great oak tree at Royal Oak with the letter H), settled in the southwest quarter of section 36 in 1820, the section now bounded by Pierce, Lincoln, Southfield and 14 Mile Road.

Religion played a part in the lives of these hardy folk. As far

back as 1821, an itinerant Methodist preacher, traveling up the Rouge river, held impromptu meetings in Willets' barn.

DEACON FISH was a staunch Presbyterian and it was at his barn and house that the first meetings of that denomination were held and the first organization effected.

Dr. Ezra Parke was as staunch a Methodist. Sunday afternoon meetings were held at his home in 1822, at which the doctor himself conducted the services at which his wife sang.

The Methodist church organization was the earliest in the township. In 1827, it was led by Rev. William Pattee, a preacher of the Ohio conference.

Soon the settlement became known as Piety Hill. The land was slowly cleared and the settlement grew. The yesterdays and to-morrows faded into days of hard work, for the hours were long and the play was little.

FRANK DURKEE, one of the settlers, cut and burned more than 100 trees one winter and sold the ashes for lye-making. He received in payment, one pair of boots, one bushel basket, a few groceries and six yards of calico.

Cutting poles all day long, an-

other man retrieved a letter from the post office with his total day's wages of 25c.

Tea cost from \$1.75 to \$2.00 per pound when it could be gotten.

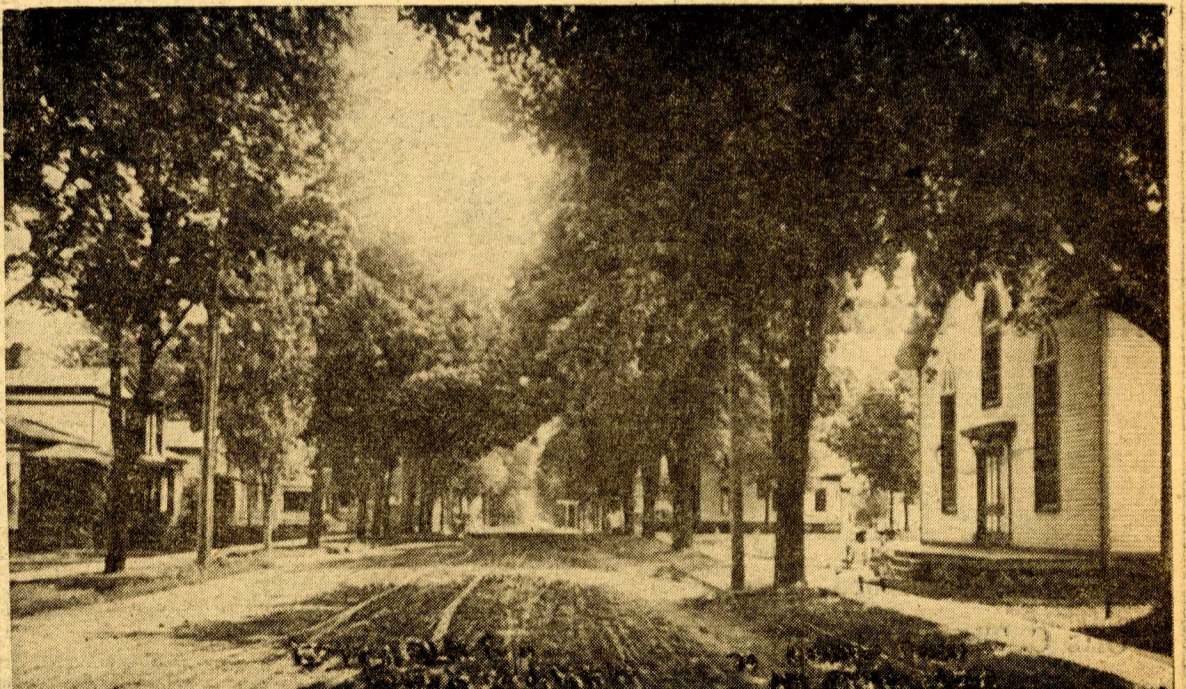
Government came here officially in 1827 when Bloomfield Township was organized. The first township meeting was held at the home of John Hamilton in May of that year. The board of inspectors consisted of Samuel Satterlee, Laban Jenks and Elijah S. Fish.

TOWNSHIP OFFICERS were elected for the following year: Lemuel Castle, supervisor, Ezra S. Parke, clerk; John Todd, Joseph Park and Abraham Crawford, assessors; John Ellenwood, John W. Hunter and William Lee, commissioners of highways; Wilkes Durkee and Apollo Dewey, Jr., poor masters; Oliver Torrey, collector; Erastus Burt and Oliver Torrey, constables.

Fifteen road overseers, nine fence-viewers and three poundmasters also were elected.

A bounty was offered by the township on wolves at \$5 a head and the poor of the locality were provided with an appropriation of \$50.

STORES CAME and so did factories. Elijah Willets started a (Continued on Page 6)



E. MAPLE ABOUT 1890, BETWEEN PRESENT HUNTER AND WOODWARD
Note Presbyterian church at right, distant "T" warning sign of railroad

"We Insure
Everything
But Yesterday"

At the

Beresford
Thompson
Agency

INSURANCE
YOU CAN
DEPEND UPON
FOR
EVERY PURPOSE

176 N. WOODWARD
Birmingham National
Bank Building

Midwest 4-8930

Edwin M. Beresford
Otis C. Thompson
Louis Hascall

(Continued from
Page One)

Story of The B'ham Eccentric

Page 4 May, 1953
BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC
75th Anniversary Edition

victions, with a growing concern for the civic and business progress of their town, they secretly nurtured the idea of starting a weekly newspaper. They bought more printing equipment and soon were ready to launch their "colossal" journalistic enterprise upon the unsuspecting village in which they lived and worked.

"What shall we name our newspaper?" was the question that then confronted Whitehead and Mitchell. "Call it the Birmingham Picayune—there's a fine paper by that name in New Orleans," advised Tom Flynn, a local resident of those days.

"HUH—THAT sounds a little too peculiar," reacted the future publishers. "We'll have to find something more appropriately different."

And they did—as 75 years of subscribers and others have found out.

At a meeting of the Eccentric Club, an organization of Birmingham youths (one of the solemn vows of which forbade matrimonial ventures), members Whitehead and Mitchell announced that they were seeking a name for the proposed

new Birmingham weekly.

The immediate result was that some club wag exclaimed: "Call it The Eccentric, after our club . . . how can you think of calling it anything else?"

THAT EVENING the club, by unanimous vote, adopted the name. For as one of them stated: "Already throughout much of Oakland County the name has had considerable advertising, and this ought to help you get subscriptions."

And thus it was that Messrs. Whitehead & Mitchell found a name not as peculiar (they thought!) as Picayune—"The Birmingham Eccentric." It was then, and is now, the only newspaper on earth bearing that odd name—a name that hasn't a single simple journalistic connotation.

(How an eccentric name so often calls for facetious synonyms! It has been called "Off-Center", "Gimlet", "Oddity", "Peculiar", and numerous others. So different from the more common "News", "Journal", "Press", etc., etc.)

FOR A SHORT period, The Ec-

centric was printed in Pontiac, at the shop of that city's then publisher Bill Poster. While the type was composed and the pages made into forms in Birmingham, the actual press work for many years also was done in Detroit. In 1919 press work was done in the shop of the Royal Oak Daily Tribune, then a weekly.

During the intervening years, however, the meager assortment of type and the small job presses owned by Whitehead & Mitchell were moved from Whitehead's bedroom to the second floor over a store on the west side of N. Woodward, just north of the present Wilson Drug. From this point it made another move to a ground floor store, a location now occupied by a shoe repair store on East Maple. Yet another change in location took it over Lowes' store, now the location of F. J. Mulholland Co.

THE NEXT move was to the rear of the small building on Pierce street, now occupied by McCoy Tailors. It was in this building that George R. Averill, present editor and publisher, took over The Eccentric February 14, 1920.

Averill remained there for two years, when he purchased the building at 220 N. Woodward, and moved the equipment, (now including the first Linotype type setting machine owned by an Oakland County weekly newspaper, excluding the Royal Oak Tribune.) Soon a large press was installed and for the first time all mechanical operations were done in Birmingham.

COMING FROM Detroit, where he had been employed as a reporter on the old Detroit Journal, Averill knew little about the mechanics of printing. Neither had he acquired much practical experience in the field of advertising and merchandising.

"Necessity being the mother of invention", he soon learned that if The Eccentric were to remain a going business, he would have to acquire more knowledge of the publishing operations.

This he was able to do . . . as a combination editor-reporter, em-
Concluded on Next Page

The Eccentric

VOL. 1, NO. 1.

BIRMINGHAM, THURSDAY, MAY 2, 1873.

PRICE, TWO CENTS.

<p>C. W. JENKS, Dealer in Coffins, Caskets, and all goods generally sold by undertakers, repairs furniture. Also agent for the Sweepstakes Threshing Machine, and other agricultural implements. 1</p> <p>OWEN SWAN, Birmingham, Mich., can cure the following diseases by his new method: Coughing, Driving on One Rein, Shying, Falling, Baulking, Running at the Eyes, Stovring, and all diseases caused by imperfect medication. 1</p> <p>J. BALDWIN, Blacksmith. Horse shoeing done cheap, and in a first-class manner. Repairing of all kinds done at short notice. 1</p> <p>WM. H. CAMP Will attend auctions at any time and place, on short notice. Terms reasonable. Horse and Cattle Farrier. 1</p> <p>FRED. R. LAMB, Plain and Ornamental Painter. Paintings, graining, gilding, varnishing, kalsomining, wall tiding and paper hanging. 1</p> <p>MRS. L. T. FURMAN, Birmingham, Mich., has just received a new stock of summer millinery; also a fine line of fancy goods, hair goods, zephyrs, etc. No trouble to show goods. 1</p> <p>SAMUEL McCRUMB, Boot and shoe maker, wishes it understood by all, that his prices for cobbling are way down. Tapping boots, 50 cents; other work in proportion. Give him a call. Satisfaction guaranteed. 1</p> <p>NATIONAL HOTEL, Geo. E. Daines, Proprietor. Sample rooms for commercial agents. Good livery in connection with the house. 1</p> <p>E. L. PARKER, D. D. S., Office first door west of Presbyterian church. Nitrous Oxide Gas used for extracting teeth. 1</p> <p>DETROIT & MILWAUKEE R. R. MARCH 18, 1877.</p> <p>Until further notice trains will leave Birmingham as follows:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GOING EAST.</p> <p>Holly and Saginaw Express, 7 33 a m Mail, 4 54 p m Evening Express, 10 06 p m</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GOING WEST.</p> <p>Saginaw Valley Express, 9 35 a m Mail, 12 00 m Fast Milwaukee Express, 6 50 p m Night Express, 11 54 p m Sunday N. Mixed, with sleepers, 11 35 p m</p> <p>Refreshments at Detroit, Owosso and Grand Haven. The telegraph line open for public business. Sleeping cars on night trains.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CONNECTIONS.</p> <p>AT DETROIT—Canada Southern and Great Western Railways for all points East, Michigan Central, Michigan Southern and Grand Trunk Railroads.</p> <p>AT MILWAUKEE—With the Milwaukee & St. Paul, Western Union, Milwaukee & Northern, and Chicago & Northwestern Railways, for all points north and west.</p> <p>Passengers for the Canada Southern leave Detroit depot, foot of Third street, on through cars.</p> <p>Passengers for the Great Western Railway leave Detroit depot on through cars, at 3 35 A. M., and 12 30 and 7 P. M.</p> <p>Tickets are sold at the Detroit & Milwaukee Railroad Ticket Office, at all principal places in the United States.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">S. B. CALLAWAY, Gen. Supt.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Eccentricities.</p> <p>Now slaughter the weeds in that boss garden.</p> <p>Hugh Irving's new residence is progressing finely.</p> <p>John Bodine intends giving his house a coat of paint.</p> <p>No fears need be entertained of a severe drought this month.</p> <p>Let the dear old hen set if she wants to. What's a hen's time!</p> <p>Miss Hattie Hall left home last week to teach at Easton Rapids, Mich.</p> <p>A five year old son of George W. Brayman's is quite sick with a high fever.</p> <p>We shall be pleased to hear more from "Botic," on any subject, at any time.</p> <p>Commercial travelers, more commonly known as "drummers," are very plentiful. Subscribe for THE ECCENTRIC before you forget it. Fifty cents per year in advance.</p> <p>Just think! A paper containing the local news of Birmingham and vicinity, one year for fifty cents.</p> <p>Mrs. Sarah Parks, of Troy, who has been dangerously ill for some time past, is said to be improving.</p> <p>Lyman has been fishing—caught a shiner—hangs it in the breeze from his front steps. It is a tin one.</p> <p>Edwin Miller—another horse sick—inflammation of the lungs—Dr. Gus. Torrey—will recover.</p> <p>A. Partridge, County Treasurer, has recently had his residence painted, and generally overhauled.</p> <p>Lew. Eost left here last week for Pontiac, to work at the carpenter trade, for the Kimball barn builders.</p> <p>F. R. Lamb has finished graining, and otherwise finishing the interior of F. Hagerman's dwelling.</p> <p>You can get anything in the shape of a picture frame which you may happen to want, at Stockwell's.</p> <p>George Shane thinks he will move into his new house, and have everything in apple pie order, by the last of July.</p> <p>Daisy Sibley, grand-daughter of A. Partridge, is at this writing quite sick, and in danger of congestion of the lungs.</p> <p>J. K. Corson is doing a fine business in the way of selling plaster, brick, etc., from his warehouse at the D. & M. depot.</p> <p>The D. & M. pay train passed through here April 23, leaving its employees at this place something like one hundred and ten dollars.</p> <p>We are informed that during the late gale a school house was blown down at South Farmington, during session, but can gain no particulars.</p> <p>We mail a copy of this issue to a large number of our friends, and should be glad to receive, by return mail, the price of one year's subscription.</p> <p>Mr. and Mrs. Frank Ford and daughter, who have been spending the winter among the orange groves of Florida, are expected home in a few days.</p> <p>One day last week George Crawford shot an immense loon. Please don't expect a pun, for a pun our word we can't call him a loon-atic for doing so.</p> <p>We are informed that Bowers & Clark, of Troy, have begun sawing again, and will this week get their heading machine in first-rate running order.</p>	<p>Rev. Theo. Middlemiss moves into the house formerly occupied and owned by M. M. Toms, as soon as a few repairs and general fixing up are completed.</p> <p>Miss Anna Hall, teaching in the Todd District, was compelled to give up her school on account of a severe cold, but will resume teaching as soon as she is able.</p> <p>A five year old son of J. S. Cannon, of Southfield, had his skull fractured by a binder accidentally thrown from a wagon, and striking him upon the head.</p> <p>We notice James Webb, of Pontiac, in our midst, and learn he has the contract for plastering the new houses of George Shane and H. J. Bloomburg, on Mill street.</p> <p>Trees, etc., were delivered, last Friday, by Birby & Proper, from the well known house of E. C. Peirson, Waterloo, N. Y., known as the Maple Grove Nurseries.</p> <p>Mrs. E. D. Lusted and daughter, visiting I. & M. Lowes, intended to have started for home last Saturday, but on account of Dolle's being very sick, the return was postponed.</p> <p>All communications must be addressed to THE ECCENTRIC, Birmingham, Mich., and must have the writer's name attached; otherwise they will be consigned to the waste basket.</p> <p>Specie payment resumed! Prof. Webster received the first five dollar gold piece at par in payment of tuition fees at the Union School, recently. We are anxiously awaiting our turn.</p> <p>A large bill board, one hundred feet long by ten and one-half feet high, adorns Troy street, on M. Toms' lot, and covered entirely with handsome posters, announcing our first circus.</p> <p>Every one reading this will please to consider it a personal invitation to call and subscribe for THE ECCENTRIC—one year for fifty cents. If you cannot call, send the money by a friend.</p> <p>Mr. Bloomburg, of An Sabie, Mich., a young man visiting at H. C. Ellis', is the first daring young man of the season that takes his life in his hands, and mounts Mitchell's velocipede.</p> <p>We received a circular, yesterday, cautioning us to look carefully at ten dollar bills, as a great many new counterfeits are out. "Grate spunes!" What does a ten dollar bill look like, any way?</p> <p>J. P. Rundle, living one and one-half miles west, on the farm formerly owned by Wm. Brown, by digging or boring forty feet, has secured a fine flowing well, throwing water two feet above the ground.</p> <p>The Birmingham Cornet Band is improving very fast under the supervision of Prof. F. H. Sherman. Its rooms are over the shop of C. W. Jenks, and can easily be found any evening after six o'clock, by the noise.</p> <p>The friends of Mrs. John Daniels, of Troy, will be sorry to learn of her death, which occurred on Sunday, the 21st inst. Funeral services were held at the Troy church, Rev. D. Costello, of Parshallville, Mich., officiating.</p> <p>Not long since Jack Baldwin (now, if we said John, you wouldn't recognize him) hired two boys to kill his ancient canine, with the understanding that they were not to let Bert know it. They "woodbined" the dog, went up to school, called out Bert, and confidentially yelled: "V's killed your dog!" Joke on the mourner.</p>	<p>Mattie Baldwin has had built a bird house complete in every respect, by windows and all, for the accommodation of "our birds," and for the pleasure and entertainment of "our folks." She has purchased and has at home a new piano.</p> <p>No matter how much you may delve and dig and spruce things up, the wife of the next man who occupies your house will say, "It isn't fit for hogs to live in," and will go right to work to make it so. What a comfort to an over- neat housekeeper!</p> <p>Mr. and Mrs. McAllister Randall, of Dundee, Mich., drove over and made their best of friends happy by remaining a week, making a short visit to all and returning by same conveyance. On his return Mr. starts on the road selling goods for the well known tobacco house of K. C. Barker & Co., of Detroit. Success to you, Mr. Mc.</p> <p>Peter Day, Sr., an early settler of Troy, lies at the point of death, suffering from a complication of diseases, namely, rheumatism, heart disease and erysipelas. Mr. Day is in his seventy-ninth year, and has been a resident of Troy township forty-six years, living in one place the whole period with the exception of one year.</p> <p>Our friend, G. Frank Allen, who went to Sault Ste Marie to take charge of a bakery at that place, returned by next boat, the position being already filled, and by an oversight of a Detroit party, he also left to fill the same position. Frank has the satisfaction of taking an early pleasure excursion to the Sault at the expense of other parties, anyway.</p> <p>During the gale last Wednesday, Darius Horale had eighty rods of fencing blown down. Wm. Toms, also of Troy, had forty rods of fence tipped over. At the same time our esteemed friend, M. M. Toms, was struck by a barn door, which was suddenly blown shut, and received a severe wound in the head, over his right eye. Dr. James A. Post attends the invalid.</p> <p>Henry Martin, of Troy, lost a valuable horse, on Tuesday last. On his way home from a birthday party at M. M. Toms', he noticed the horse appeared strange driving to the postoffice; then starting for home, his horse staggered, and immediately after being unhitched, dropped dead in front of J. Baldwin's blacksmith shop—very convenient for Jack to remove the shoes.</p> <p>George Toms has plowed, hoed, raked and planted, and now he says, "look out for the banner garden of this burg." If the past may furnish a shadow of coming events, we may rest assured he will carry the broom. Last summer his father's cow jumped into George's "gardeu," and got lost among the pig weed, and, finally, after a vigorous search of two weeks' duration, she was found at the foot of a giant mullein, in a starving condition. And last summer, wasn't a very good season for weeds, either?</p> <p>Our young friend, Grosvenor Daniels, occupied the pulpit of the M. E. church, last Sunday evening, and preached a very eloquent discourse, which was listened to with great attention. Mr. Daniels is a capable orator, and the possessor of a remarkable degree of eloquece, and during his visit at his father's we hope to hear him often. He has just finished a three years' course of study at Evanston, Ill., and expects soon to accept a call from a town in Saginaw county. Success to him wherever he goes, and sincere wish of his many friends in this vicinity.</p>
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bryo printer, advertising salesman, bill collector, plus a variety of janitorial duties.

FOR SIX YEARS Averill guided The Eccentric toward a larger development. Following removal of the office to 220 No. Woodward ave., the staff was augmented by several additional printers, another reporter and an advertising salesman. Birmingham, under the impetus of the suburban real estate boom of the 'Twenties, began to grow, and with it the newspaper and printing office.

It was in 1926 that Averill's youngest brother, Paul N. Averill, who then was a student at the University of Michigan, joined The Eccentric. Within a few months of his arrival, he expressed a desire to assume responsibility for the advertising department of the newspaper. This was given him.

POSSESSED OF a natural bent toward the science of selling and merchandising, it was not long before his abilities were evidenced in increased volume . . . and The Eccentric was on its way toward meeting its community responsi-

bilities, both as a chronicler of local news and a media for aiding the development of local business concerns.

Visioning the possibility of further development of the printing part of the business, Paul suggested to his brother George that more effort should be made to attract outside business, and he has been largely responsible for the growth of our commercial printing department ever since.

TODAY, The Eccentric's combination newspaper and printing departments rate among the largest and best such enterprises in the nation. Included in its service to printing customers is a Detroit sales office. Day and night mechanical shifts of compositors and pressmen are maintained.

Under the present ownership, The Eccentric has distinguished itself and its community by winning many State and National prizes for both journalistic practices and excellence of the color, as well as black and white, printing production turned out.

IN 1936 George, or "GRA" as he is known in the office, incorporated the business, making avail-

able to Paul an interest in it. At the present time the brothers Averill are operating under a co-partnership.

Two of GRA's sons now are associated with The Eccentric—George Wm., managing editor, and John, a printing salesman.

In 1945 The Eccentric added to its operating space the building at 234 No. Woodward Avenue, and at present uses a total of 17,500 square feet of floor space in its two buildings.

The first subscriber to The Eccentric was George K. Updike, the annual subscription price being one dollar.

MANY LOCAL people were hired from time to time to set the type, by hand, for early issues of this newspaper. Some of them were, or became, printers—although, outside of setting reading matter and a variety of small advertisements, the work included simple job printing, such as envelopes, letterheads, statements, dodgers, auction bills, and cards.

Among those early typesetters were Charles Fisher, Ed Jarvis, Charles Hoffman, Cal Jenks, Maude Gates, Olive Dennison, Lucy Ward, and Hazel Wendorph. Except Fish-

er, most of the other men became outstanding in other business and professional lines, according to Mr. Mitchell.

THE ECCENTRIC, over these 75 years, has grown from a little four-page edition (pictures of the first issue are printed elsewhere in this 75th anniversary number) to one that averages 28 larger pages.

Its number of employees has grown to the present staff of 80.

Other phases of the development and growth of The Eccentric will be found on other pages of this edition.

'I Remember.'

Says Edwin O'Neal, 583 Madison: "That there wasn't a cement sidewalk in town when I first came here—all board walks. One of my jobs on the village council was to check them. Frank Hagerman and I used to walk all over the village on the board walks just to see if there were any loose boards that would fly up and trip people."

THE ECCENTRIC,
FIFTY CENTS PER YEAR.
WHITEHEAD & MITCHELL, EDITORS
THURSDAY, MAY 2, 1878.

OUR SALUTATION.

It is not without many misgivings and heart felt appreciation of the manifold difficulties to be encountered that we issue this, our first number of THE ECCENTRIC, which we design to publish every week for an indefinite period of time.

One of our objects in undertaking this, our first effort in the way of journalism, is to furnish a live home paper, replete with all the news of the day, but more particularly the local items of importance occurring in Birmingham and immediate vicinity, at a price so low that few, if any, can truly say, "I cannot afford to take a wide awake home paper."

Our facilities for obtaining home news are excellent, and we will take every legitimate means in our power to furnish our readers with all of the many little incidents, accidents and "happenances" constantly occurring in our midst. Another object (and we may as well own right up,) is the following:



Which nobody will deny is usually at the bottom of, and is the real incentive to almost all the business enterprises of the day.

We sincerely hope that no one will criticise too severely, this our first attempt at writing "copy," but be the consequences what they may, we alone are to be blamed or praised for it, as we have depended solely on our own resources, and have not borrowed or brought to our assistance either local or city talent.

We will endeavor to make The Eccentric a most welcome visitor to every household in the village, and in our remarks, which we will feel called upon to make on any occurrence, taking place in our vicinity, we hope no one will endeavor to impress us with the opinion that a brick house has fallen on us, before we have time to retract our rash assertions, whatever they may be, and we would inform our friends on the start that we have purchased a full stock of defensive weapons, and intend to "do right and fear nothing."

In order that we may make our editorial as dollar-ous as possible,

we hereby show the other side of the Start! Announcement! Wonderful, but True!



And kindly suggest in connection therewith, that one of the above (in silver) will insure the reception of THE ECCENTRIC every week for two years, value received. In conclusion, we sincerely trust that our patrons will never have occasion to "shake us" otherwise than by the hand of friendship.

The building of the Detroit Free Press caught fire by a gas explosion at 5:40 Monday morning, and with its contents was entirely consumed. Loss, \$50,000; insurance, \$42,000. The paper appeared as usual the same morning, and will not miss an issue. The work of rebuilding has already been commenced.

Money Order Postoffice.

Our Postmaster, Mr. Bigelow, has received the following circular from the First Assistant Postmaster General, which explains itself:

POSTOFFICE DEPARTMENT,
MONEY ORDER OFFICE,
WASHINGTON, D. C., April 78
The Postmaster General has designated your office as a money order office of the second class. The money order system will be put in operation until on or about July 1 next, and you will, in due season, be notified of the date on which your money order business will be commenced.

Yours respectfully,
C. F. McDONALD, Supt.
This will prove a great convenience to the patrons of this postoffice. Having no bank in our village, money could not be transmitted with absolute safety without sending by express, which was too expensive for small sums. Verily the world is marching on.

Royal Oak.

One of our citizens, Mr. L. D. Werner, has been very sick the last four weeks. His trip to California will probably be postponed for a while.

George F. Aldrich has been appointed express agent at this village, in place of J. M. Finn, who resigned.

Some of the persons elected at the last town meeting, felt as though they had been nearly scooped, so they did not accept of the offices to which they had been elected. A special election to fill vacancies will take place May 4.

[Owing to our cases getting out of "sorts" we are unable to give the balance of our correspondence this week.—EDS.]

SURGICAL.—Drs. T. A. McGraw, of Detroit, and Jas. A. Post and C. M. Raynole, of Birmingham, performed a successful surgical operation, on Tuesday last, by removing a cancerous tumor from the breast of Mrs. John Truesdale, of Troy. The same day they also amputated the foot of Mrs. Skinner, of Macomb county, who has been a sufferer from the same disease for thirteen years; and late in the evening they removed a tumor from the throat of Mrs. E. L. Jennings, of this place. A pretty good day's work, and all the ladies above mentioned are doing very well, considering the circumstances.

Start! Announcement! Wonderful, but True!

S. O. Peters & Co.'s



Great American Circus and Monster Coliseum!
Will Exhibit at Birmingham, Tuesday, May 7, 1878.

It being our desire to present the principal novelties of the day, we take great pleasure in announcing the great and only PROF. WILLIS, the American Blondin, who will appear every day at one o'clock P. M. in his daring

FLIGHT TO THE CLOUDS!
Walking a single rope from the earth to the highest point of our Mammoth Pavilion. A TERRIBLE VENTURE, yet he never falls.

Behold our bright constellation of stars: MR. MILES ORTON, the undoubted and indisputable Champion Bareback Rider of the World, will positively appear every afternoon and evening in his great bareback act, "The Apollo Belvedere," terminating with his great carrying act, introducing the infant wonders, Masters Bernard and Walter. Next comes a star of equal lustre, the beautiful and daring gymnast, M'LE LOYAL, Truly styled the Flying Meteor, or Queen of the Air, finishing her act with the Great Sensational Leap in Mid Air, fifty feet from bar to bar, appropriately termed

THE LEAP FOR LIFE.
M'DLE MARIE, M'DLE FANNINE, MR. CLAUD ORTON, SIG. CAWAYA,
THE BENTLEY BROS., LITTLE BARNEY, CALEB & NORTH,
AND MONS. PIQUET.

DOORS OPEN AT 1 & 7 P. M. ADMISSION, 25 CENTS.

H. Irving & Son!

DEALERS IN

Hardware, Stoves and Tinware

LUMBER, SHINGLES, BATH, SASH, DOORS AND BLINDS.

PLASTER, STONE AND WATER LIME, PLASTERING HAIR

AND BLACKSMITHS' COAL.

We keep all the LEADING BRANDS in the market, viz: Oliver Chilled, Advance Chilled, Milwaukee Chilled, and Steel and Diamond Iron; and ALL KINDS OF AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS. Call and see the

CHAMPION MOWER AND REAPER!

We wish it to be distinctly understood that our prices, in all the above line of goods are guaranteed to be as LOW AS THE LOWEST. Scroll sawing done to order.

H. IRVING & SON,
Birmingham, Mich.

Beresford Thompson Agency

"We Insure Everything But Yesterday"

At the

INSURANCE YOU CAN DEPEND UPON FOR EVERY PURPOSE

176 N. WOODWARD

Birmingham National Bank Building

Midwest 4-8930

Edwin M. Beresford
Otis C. Thompson
Louis Hascall

Historical Story of Birmingham

Continued from page three

tannery in 1827 and in 1828. Hunter began the operation of a blacksmith's shop and foundry. Hamilton's tavern developed into a hotel—the National House (where the Birmingham National Bank stands today).

In 1833 Sullivan Kelsey opened the first store and three years later Piety Hill had a post office, also in Kelsey's charge.

In 1832 Roswell T. Merrill and his son-in-law, William Brown, bought the Hunter foundry. As business grew, he added to it the manufacturing of threshing machines and farm implements.

Orrin Poppleton, son of a Troy township pioneer, opened the third store in Piety Hill. In 1831, Merrill erected a brick store for T. A. Flowers, who at the same time became postmaster. This was the first brick building of any kind in town.

IN DIRECT contrast to the Birmingham of today, the community in the first half of the 19th century

was one of industry. Its inhabitants were engaged in the factories and foundries which had sprung up.

In 1832 there was a meeting to choose a permanent name for the village. The result was made known the next morning when a large sign "Birmingham" appeared on the front of Merrill's foundry. The name is said to have been suggested by Hugh Irving, who was reminded by the flourishing industries of his old home in Birmingham, England.

But as suddenly as the place grew as a manufacturing center, just that suddenly did it again fade into a farming town and one for residences. Although Birmingham never had a spectacular fire which wiped out everything in its path, most of the foundries and factories were burned out at one time or another and never rebuilt.

TIME PASSED rapidly. The community was growing. Soon there was a railroad. Five hundred to six hundred people lived in Birmingham by 1839 when Sault Williams promoted an extension of the

Detroit, Grand Haven and Milwaukee railroad to the community.

In 1864 the village was incorporated with J. C. K. Crooks as president of the first board of seven trustees. It comprised an area one mile square.

Ten years later, and after lively battles, came the inauguration of the water works and then a fire tower and the first fire department of volunteers.

About this time "Mattie" Baldwin was influential in getting the Ladies' Library Association started.

A NEW village charter was passed in 1885, providing six commissioners. About ten years later the "electric" cars came to Birmingham.

In 1913 another village charter providing for three commissioners went into effect and in 1927 the people of the village again amended the charter, re-establishing the board of seven men.

When Birmingham became a city in 1933, the seven commissioners remained, one of them being ap-

pointed mayor, and the village manager became the city manager.

Improvements and progress had continued in Birmingham. Woodward avenue was widened into a superhighway, beginning in 1925, and the Hunter cut-off was begun in 1931.

THE GRAND Trunk railway, which formerly ran through the center of town, was moved east to its present location and with its commuter service in 1931, on the new right of way, brought Birmingham closer to Detroit than ever before.

New schools were built, new public buildings erected and beautiful new homesites were built in the town and the surrounding area.

Birmingham still is a residential community, but the aspect of a sleepy village town has faded forever. It now is a bustling suburban community with excellent stores, fine homes, good schools and ever so many children and dogs. Its 1953 estimated population is more than 20,000.

"WE INSURE
EVERYTHING
BUT YESTERDAY"

FOR 75 YEARS
BIRMINGHAM
HAS DEPENDED
UPON

The
Eccentric

FOR NEWS
OF
The Community
in which
We Serve

Beresford
Thompson
Agency

General
Insurance

176 N. Woodward
Birmingham National
Bank Building

Mldwest 4-8930

Edwin M. Beresford

Otis C. Thompson

Louis Hascall

The gale of last week Wednesday did considerable damage in this vicinity. John Snow, living about two miles northeast of this village, had the entire east part of the roof of his barn blown off, all the chimneys on his house completely wrecked, fences laid low, and confusion generally. John informs us that he was on the roof of his house making some repairs, when the "breze" occurred, and the way he clung to the roof was a caution to his finger nails.

Some needed improvements are being made at the D. & M. depot, under the supervision of the company's gentlemanly foreman, Mr. Denamore. The old depot and waiting room, which has been gradually sinking into the ground for the last ten years, has been raised and propped up, the siding is to be torn off and new boards put on and battened; the waiting room will be oiled, and a new floor, doors and windows put in; the ticket office will be served likewise; a new platform in front and on the side, and the whole building will receive a coat of paint. We suppose our genial and accommodating ticket agent, J. P. Crauch, will out do himself in his new quarters.

Several months ago the School Inspectors of this township met at the school house in District No. 4, in answer to a petition from the voters of said District, praying that the District be disorganized. The prayer of the petitioners being denied, their decision was appealed to the Town Board, who held a meeting and reversed the former decision of the Inspectors, and declared the District disorganized. The Joint Boards of School Inspectors of the towns of Troy, Bloomfield and Southfield met on Friday last to apportion the land of the said District, but owing to a little misunderstanding there was but one member present from Southfield, and consequently the meeting was again appointed for next Tuesday, May 7, when it is to be hoped that there will be a full Board, and the troubles of District No. 4 will be at an end.

Four years ago some of our citizens applied to the Michigan Fish Commission for some young white fish with which to stock some of the inland lakes of this vicinity, and among the rest Wing Lake was furnished with about 6,000 small fry. A few weeks ago Messrs. Sherman, Bigelow and Mills were fishing with a jack light on the aforesaid lake, and saw myriads of what they are confident were young white fish, varying in size from six inches to a foot in length. The fish were very swift, and the boys declare that they were unable to capture any of them, but are firm in the conviction that they were white fish. Now, who of our citizens will be enterprising enough to procure a gill net and place it in Wing Lake for a few days, in order that the community may be satisfied on this point? Don't all speak at once.

The papers informed us recently that the Hon. R. E. Trowbridge and family had arrived and settled again in our town, which pleased everybody. We now inform you Till Trowbridge, with his family, has also put in an appearance. Till's responsibilities consist of the following: One beautiful large black stallion, three years old, weighing 1,100 pounds, answers to the name of La Perche; another, named Bob, one year and ten months old, weighs 1,000 pounds; a span of mares, aged three and four years respectively, Flora and Dolly, or, as the Irishman said: "The Lady of the Mountain and the Lilly of the Valley." The span weighs 2,330 pounds. One brood mare, Sampson blood, sixteen years old, and one colt eight months old. The colts were all sired by Z. Chandler's imported Percheron stallion, Mark Antony. If the above "family cares" are not enough for one young man, not yet a voter, please send by postal card what is.

F. HAGERMAN,
Druggist and Grocer!

BIRMINGHAM, MICH.

Sells Drugs and Medicines at prices way down, lower even than Pontiac retail prices. Keeps also a carefully selected stock of fine

TEAS, COFFEES, SPICES AND SUGARS

Call for his 50 cent teas—none better in town. A large stock of LEAD, OILS, PUTTY, GLASS, etc., constantly on hand.

Get his prices on glass by the box before purchasing elsewhere.

A large supply of PURE PARIS GREEN just bought for

THAT BUG OF OURS.

Birmingham Livery Stable

In connection with National Hotel.

J. O. Beattie, Proprietor

I would call the attention of all to the fact that I have recently finished, and filled my NEW BARN with

New Carriages Meat Market.

From the manufactory of Ketchum Bros., of Romeo, Mich., and now have everything in first-class shape for the

LIVERY BUSINESS.

My prices are low and satisfactory. Carriages washed, and harness cleaned and oiled at my barn very cheap.

I am also agent for the KETCHUM BROS., of Romeo, Mich., manufacturers of the best buggies running. Any one contemplating purchasing a buggy will do well to call on me.

JAMES O. BEATTIE.

I. K. OPDYKE, SEE HERB

Proprietor of

BIRMINGHAM MILLS

Keeps constantly on hand a full line of

FLOUR AND FEED,
CORN MEAL,
GRAHAM FLOUR,
BRAN,
MIDDINGS,
CORN & OATS GROUND,
SCREENINGS,
ETC., ETC.

Flour and feed delivered to any part of the village free of charge.

Custom work solicited, and will be promptly attended to.

GEO. K. OPDYKE

R. A. THORNE.

L. CONVERSE.

THORNE & CONVERSE,

Proprietors of

CITY MEAT MARKET

Offer for sale very cheap, FRESH AND DRIED BEEF, SALT PORK, HAMS, SHOULDERS, and everything generally kept by a first-class

They also deal in general produce, and pay the highest market prices for

Butter, Eggs, Pork, Lard, Hams, Tallow, Shoulders, Beans, Oats,

and Corn.

They will soon have a wagon on the road, and sell choice meat cheaper than the cheapest.



WHY, FROM THE

Eccentric Job Printing

OFFICE.

We are prepared to print at all times.

VISITING AND BUSINESS CARDS,
SHIPPING TAGS,
ENVELOPES,
NOTE HEADS,
LETTER HEADS,
BILL HEADS,
STATEMENTS,
HANDBILLS, DODGERS, AUCTION
BILLS, ETC.,

At prices lower than the lowest, and in first-class style. Try this office before ordering elsewhere.

WHITEHEAD & MITCHELL,
Birmingham, Mich.

C. HOY!

Proprietor of

Birmingham Bakery!

And Dealer in

CONFECTIONERY, ORANGES,
NUTS, LEMONS, DATES,
FIGS, CANNED
GOODS, ETC.

JELL AND FRUIT CAKES

Always on hand.

CRACKNELL'S OATMEAL
AND
GRAHAM CRACKERS.

All kinds of Cakes, Cookies, and Fancy Baking done to order

CHEESE!
CHEESE!!
CHEESE!!!

The best cheese in the market always on hand, and sold cheap for cash at

C. Hoy's Bakery,
Birmingham, Mich.

Editor Would Use Rhyme from Time to Time

The Birmingham Eccentric of 1878 often used rhymes to inform its subscribers of the little happenings that befell village citizens. We suspect editor George Mitchell of this talent.

When one of the best citizens of the village (his name is not given) came into town to get aid in cleaning out his chimney The Eccentric commented:

"A smoking chimney and a scolding wife
Are the greatest torments of a life."

In the winter, when one villager slipped and fell, the Eccentric re-

ported the incident in this way:

"He named all the fiends of Hades
And his language was not over nice
As he walked off the stoop on his shoulder blades,
The boards being covered with ice."

BIRMINGHAM was a quiet village and when a man snored, it made The Eccentric notice:

"There is a man on Pierce street
And all the neighbors say
He lies right smack upon his back
And snores the nights away."

And when he draws a good long breath

He maketh such a sound
The air is filled with melody
For 40 rods around."

A 16-YEAR-OLD boy had a gun accident and it was reported:

"The pistol went off in his hand
In a way we don't understand
Then through his hand the bullet did rip

And took off a piece of his finger tip
And tore a great hole in his thumb.

This caused Homer Burns such terrible pain
That he never will fool with a pistol again
Not if he knows it,
By Gum!"

ONE OF THE good ladies of Birmingham almost fell into her cistern. The Eccentric in reporting this accident said:

"If the boards hadn't been stronger
Our item would have been

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BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC
75th Anniversary Edition

longer."
Sometimes, just for fun, the editor would slip a rhyme such as this into the paper's columns:
2 lovers sat beneath the shade
How 14-8 that you be 9
Have smiled upon this suite of mine;
It re-5's a heart, it palps 4 you—
Thy voice is mu6 melody.
'Tis 7 to be the loved 1, 2
Say, oh nymph, wilt marry me?
Then lisped she soft, why 13 ly!"

Settled in Southfield

Douglas Keyes, who was a charter member of the Birmingham Masons, was an original settler, coming to Southfield township from Niagara county, New York, in October, 1826. He purchased from the government 80 acres of land which today is the northwest corner of 9 Mile road and Evergreen.

Dr. Ziba Swan Was An Active Civil Servant

Dr. Ziba Swan, one of the early settlers in Bloomfield township and whose lands were just north of the Willets, Hunter and Hamilton settlement, filled several county posts during his lifetime.

He served as sheriff and deputy sheriff in the early days, being appointed by the governor of the ter-

ritory. He also served as township coroner in 1854, as county superintendent of the poor from 1842-44, and was on the first county board of commissioners in 1820.

Dr. Swan came to Michigan from a place near Albany, N. Y., and died about 1850.

AMUSEMENTS.

S. C. PETERS & CO.'S CIRCUS.—It is but seldom that Birmingham is favored with a first-class circus, but it seems we are to be honored this spring. On Tuesday next our village will be visited by S. C. Peters & Co.'s Great American Circus, said by all competent judges to be the most complete show traveling. The announcement alone of the engagement of Miles Orton, the undoubted champion bareback rider of the world, and Claud Orton, the double pirouette bareback rider, are enough to insure an audience anywhere, while they will be ably supported by little Barney, the child rider, Caleb and North, the daring acrobats, and the famous Bob DeBar, the funniest clown in the world, with a host of others. The price of admission has been placed within the reach of all, the nominal sum of twenty-five cents.

THE CONTINENTALS.—The Continental Vocalists—P. O. Hudson and C. J. Cromwell—gave a fine concert at the M. E. church, last week Tuesday evening. Their programme consisted of "Songs of other days, mingled with more modern lays." A large and appreciative audience greeted them, and should they ever return to this place, they are sure of a warm reception by their host of friends.

BLUEBEARD.—The pantomime of Bluebeard, at Library Hall, last Friday evening, was a decided success. The richness of the costumes, and the excellent acting of all, rendered the entertainment very pleasing. The discovery of the terrible room containing the headless remains of Mr. B's former wives, was a tableau well brought out, and excited the greatest merriment in the appreciative audience. Bluebeard's return, his murderous assault upon his wife, and the timely rescue, was truly exciting; and when the big brother (Mr. T.) killed Bluebeard (Mr. S.), and the "corpse" was removed, some wag in the audience, whose mind seemingly runs to sporting matters, yelled, "Dead bird for Trowbridge!" The uproar was immense. Should the pieces continue to furnish as good entertainment as this for the low price of ten cents, we predict for them crowded houses. The ladies intend, in the course of two or three weeks, giving a drama, entitled "The Loan of a Lover," and will spare no pains to make it fully up to the standard of their former entertainments.

An article from "Ruskie" is unavoidably crowded out.

A series of resolutions from Birmingham Grange have been received too late for this issue. They will appear in our next.

Our patrons will, no doubt, be pleased to hear that we are fully prepared to give all the local which can be had, and our country friends will confer a favor by giving us any little item of interest which may occur in their vicinity. But if worst comes to worst, we will get out our old velocipede, start a base ball club, and advocate the free use of petroleum for kindling fires, and we trust that our locals will be numerous as long as the population lasts.

COMMERCE, April 29, 1878.
Whereas, Dr. H. S. Thomas, of Corvina, a self styled cancer doctor, has referred to my case as one in which he has been successful in curing cancers, I hereby certify that I consider him an arrogant impostor. First-class physicians affirm that I had no cancer—merely a small scrofulous sore, which the money-loving M. D. pronounced a cancer and treated accordingly, but not curing it at all, leaving my face disfigured, and but for the timely assistance of Dr. LeBaron, of Pontiac, would have been in a pitiable condition. I warn all persons suffering with cancerous humors to beware of him, as he is, in my estimation, a fraud and merely an itinerant swindler.
CATHARINE L. GOULD.

The Ypsilanti Marble Works!

(ESTABLISHED IN 1850)

BATCHELDER & CO.

MANUFACTURERS OF

Monuments & Tombstones!

Made of American and Italian Marble and Granite of all kinds. Also Sand Stone Monuments, Coping for cemetery lots, Iron Settees, Chairs, Vases and Urns for cemeteries and lawns. All work executed by first-class workmen, and delivered and erected in a good and substantial manner in any part of the State, and prices on favorable terms. Just received a fine assortment of MARBLIZED SLATE BRACKET SHELVES, representing the different varieties of Foreign Marble.

H. BATCHELDER,
G. W. LOUGHBIDGE,
J. H. WILCOX.

N. B.—Mr. Wilcox will continue his labors as solicitor, and will make it an object to parties in want of Marble and Granite work to deal with this firm. 1w13

Sons and Daughters of Adam's Brood!

LEND YOUR EARS!

Hundreds of people are saving money by purchasing goods of

CUTTING & ROBBINS

Troy Corners,

Dealers in all kinds of Dry Goods, Groceries, Boots and Shoes, Meats—Fresh, Salt, Dried and Smoked, Flour and Feed, Nails, Cutlery, Steel Shovels, Hoes, Scythes, etc., Coarse and Fine Salt, Men's Ready Made Pants and Overalls, Shirts and Stockings, Cigars, Tobacco and Garden Seeds. We are doing a strictly cash business, and sell for the lowest possible price. We don't sell you a 40 cent tea for 50 cents, and then give a ten cent chromo, a glass pitcher, or a Durham bull. We pay cash for butter, eggs, hides, pelts and paper rags. Yours truly,

CUTTING & ROBBINS.

FOUND—BY F. ROCHE, A SUM OF money. The finder can have the same by proving property and paying for this advertisement. 1

TUTT'S PILLS

For ten years Tutt's Pills have been the recognized Standard Family Medicine in the ATLANTIC STATES. Scarcely a family can be found from MAINE to MEXICO that does not use them. It is now proposed to make their virtues known in the WEST.

A Single Trial will Establish their Merits.

Do They Cure Every Thing?

NO.—They are for Diseases that result from MALARIAL POISON and a DERANGED LIVER, such as

Dyspepsia, Biliousness and Typhoid Fevers, Chills, Colic, Sick-Headache, Chronic Diarrhoea, Nervousness, Dizziness, Palpitation of the Heart, Neuralgia, Rheumatism, Kidney Disease, Chronic Constipation, Piles, &c.

NATURE WARNS YOU That Your LIVER IS DISORDERED

When you have a Dull pain in Shoulders; Coated Tongue; Costive Bowels; Weight in the Stomach after Eating; Sour Eructations; Aversion to Exertion of Body or Mind.

BE ADVISED, and AT ONCE

TAKE TUTT'S PILLS!!

The first dose produces an effect which often astonishes the sufferer, and in a short time follows an Appetite, good Digestion,

SOLID FLESH & HARD MUSCLE.

THE WEST SPEAKS.

"BEST PILL IN EXISTENCE."

DR. TUTT—I have used your Pills for Dyspepsia, Weak Stomach and Nervousness. I never had anything to do me so much good in the way of medicine. They are as good as you represent them. They are the best Pill in Existence, and I do all I can to recommend others with their good merits. J. W. TIBBETTS, Dakota, Minn.

Sold by Druggists, or sent by Mail on receipt of 25 cents. Office, 35 Murray St., New York.

Stockwell's Column!

DON'T READ THIS!

Or, if you do, HEED WHAT IT SAYS.

J. S. STOCKWELL'S GRAND

CLEARING OUT SALE OF DRY GOODS!

GROCERIES, HATS AND CAPS,
BOOTS AND SHOES,
CROCKERY AND GLASSWARE, WALL PAPER, ETC.,

Will begin with the first issue of THE ECCENTRIC, and continue an indefinite period of time. Don't buy your Wall Paper until you have examined his stock and prices, as he has the

Best Assortment in Town!

Remember this, we have the largest and best assortment of Crockery and Glassware ever brought to this place. In Boots and Shoes we have all the latest styles in the market. To those wanting a nice pair of FINE BOOTS, we have just what is needed.

TO THE LADIES.

We are selling a cloth shoe, 14 serge, for 70 cents, and can show you the best assortment of pebble goat and kid shoes ever brought to Birmingham. We pay the highest market price for butter and eggs, and sell you our goods for the lowest possible price, C. O. D., and will always pay you cash for your produce.

J. S. STOCKWELL

Birmingham, Mich., May 1, 1878.

BOY LOST!

In admiration at the low prices in groceries at

BIGELOW & WHITEHEAD'S.

\$500.00 REWARD!

To any reader of this issue of THE ECCENTRIC who cannot be satisfied with the prices of SCHOOL BOOKS at Bigelow & Whitehead's. CANNED FRUIT all fresh and warranted in every respect to be first-class goods or no sale, at the following low prices: STRAWBERRIES, 2 lb. cans, 15c per can; RASPBERRIES, 2 lb. cans, 17c per can; PEACHES (Yellow), 2 lb. cans, 15c per can; BLUEBERRIES, 2 lb. cans, 15c per can; TOMATOES, 3 lb. cans, 15c per can; and an endless variety of other canned fruit at prices that CAN'T BE BEAT.

"KUM & CUS!"

BIGELOW & WHITEHEAD.

RESUMPTION HAS COME! GOLD IS AT PAR!

And so are the prices at which we are selling our new and fine line of

BOOTS & SHOES

As they have all been bought since the late decline in goods. We are prepared to offer the same at TWENTY PER CENT. LESS than former prices. We are selling Ladies' Cheap Slips at 25c, 50c, 75c, 90c and \$1. Ladies' Serge Gaiters at 75c, better at \$1 and \$1.50. Ladies' Foxed Gaiters at \$1 and \$1.25. We have a full line of

LADIES' FINE KID, GOAT AND MOROCCO SHOES!

Which we have manufactured expressly for our trade. Every pair warranted. We have also in stock a fine assortment of

MEN'S SPRING AND SUMMER SHOES!

Comprising all the late and durable styles. We also have on hand a full line of Cottonade Pants, Overalls, Shirts, Collars, Cuffs and Ties. Remember we have a SMALL PROFIT AND QUICK SALE system. Give us a call and see for yourself. Respectfully,

F. BLAKESLEE & CO.

"WE INSURE
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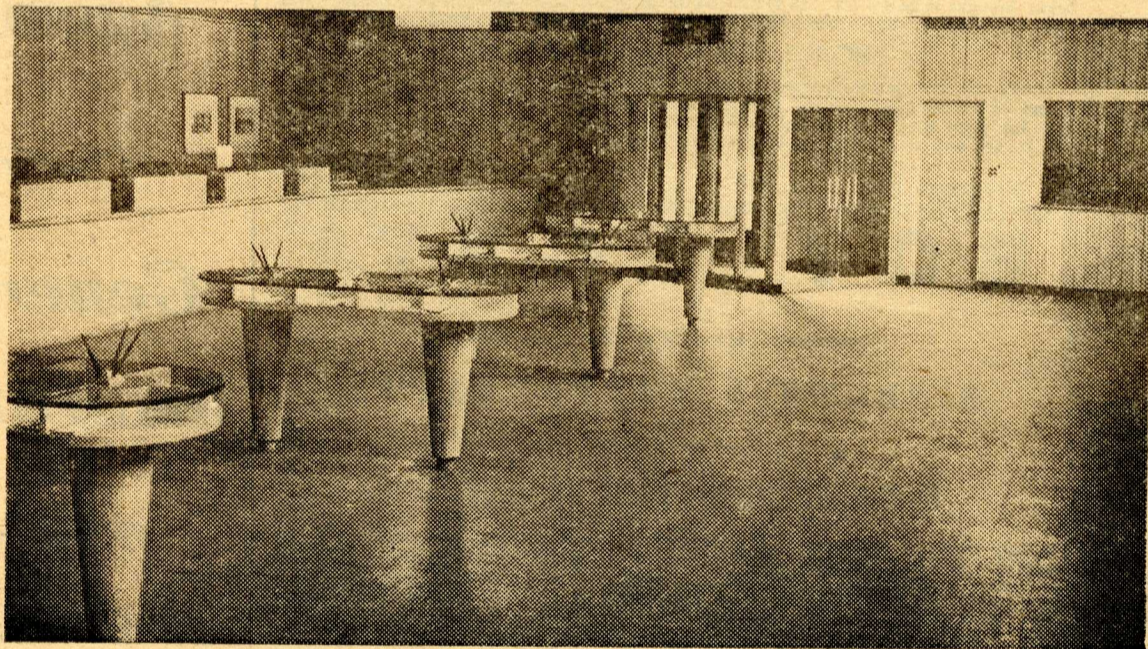
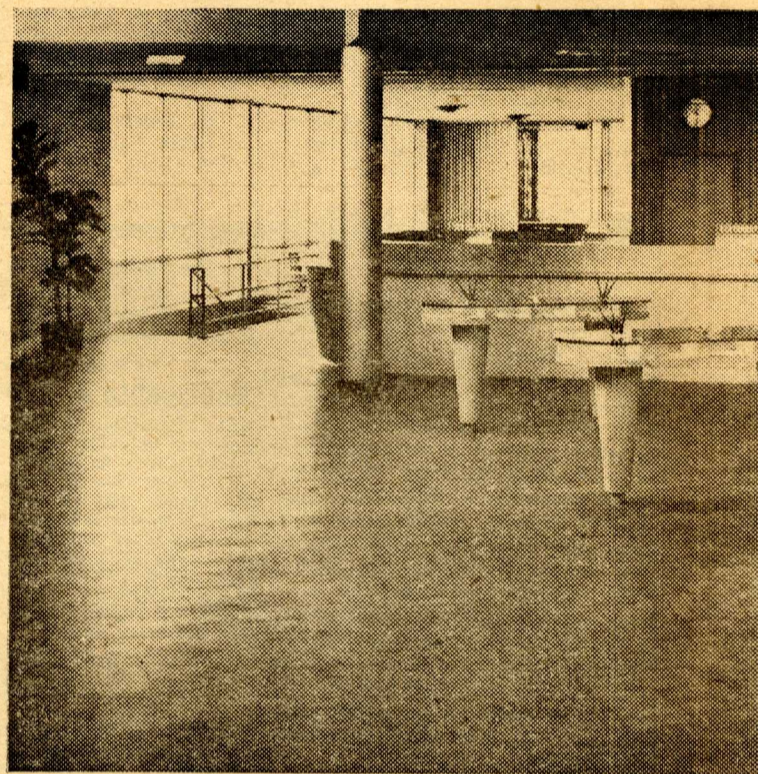
Otis C. Thompson

Louis Hascall

Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
Member Federal Reserve System

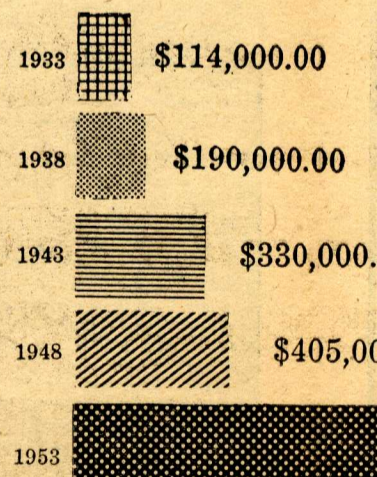
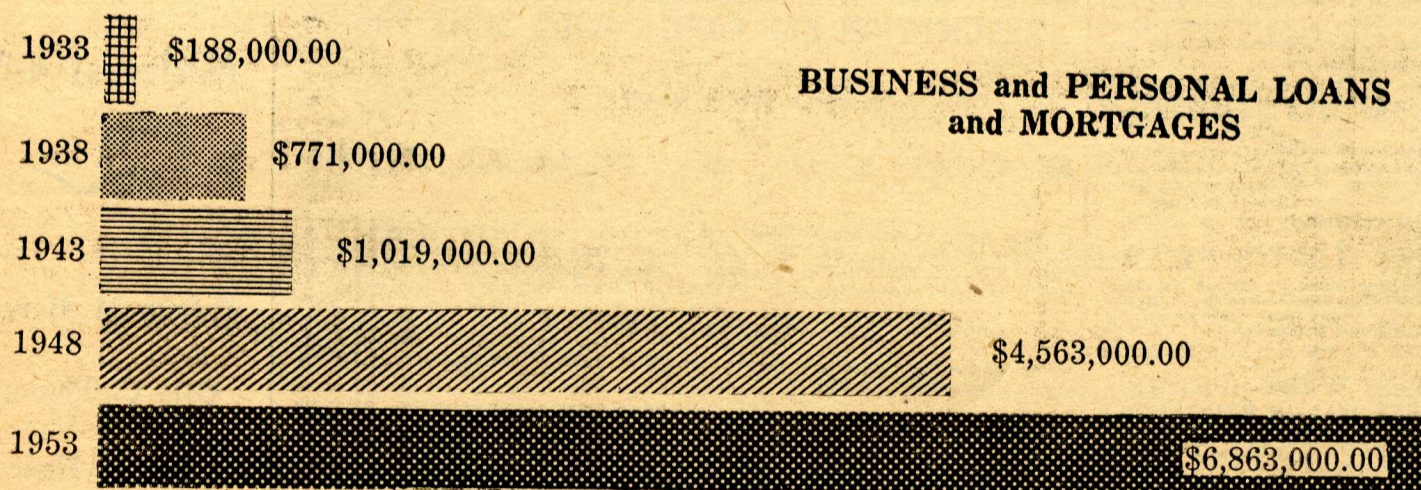
THE BIRMINGHAM

Woodward at Hamilton



The history of this area
have been related
We have grown with
through service to business
and your confidence

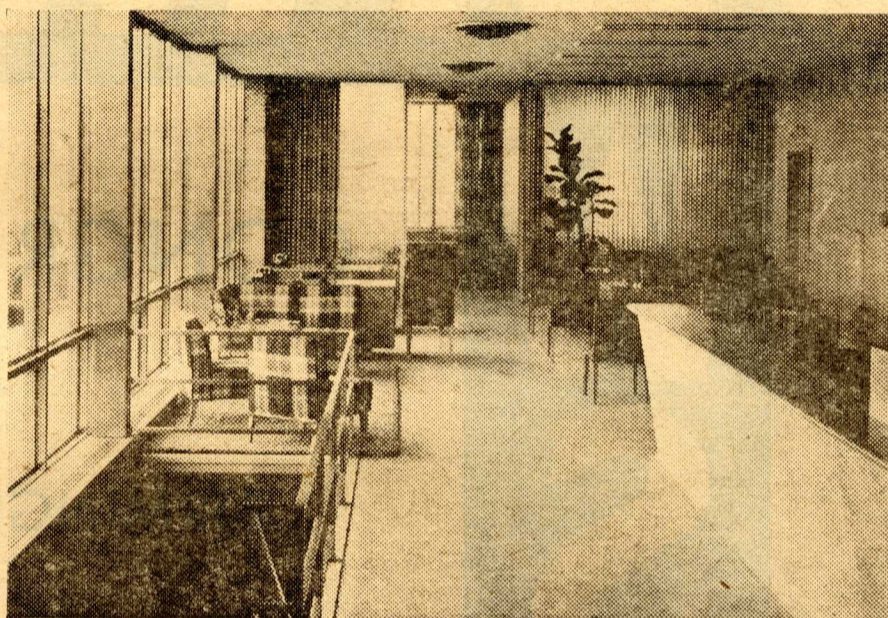
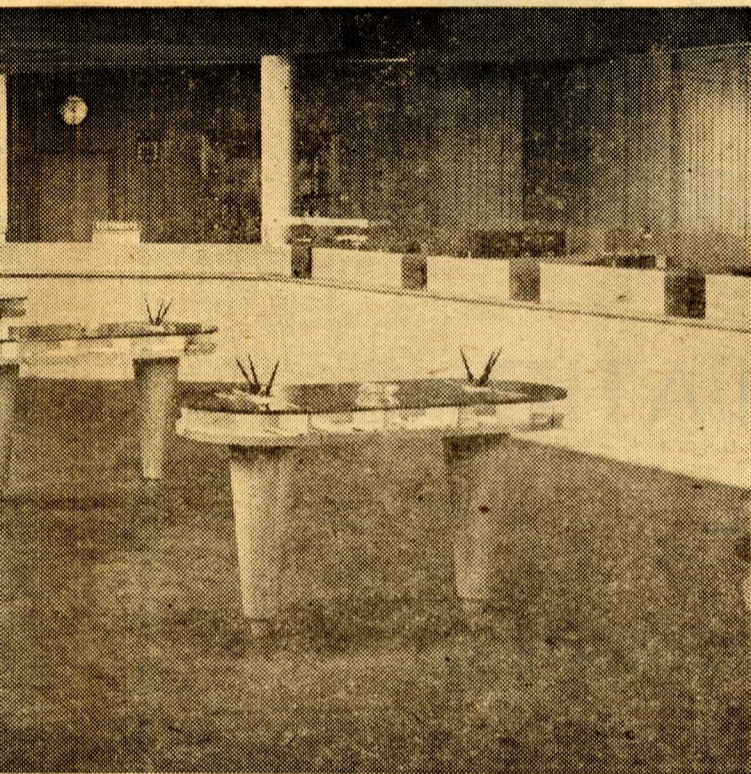
We have the RESOURCES
the FACILITIES . . . and the
banking needs. We have CREDIT
of this progressive community.



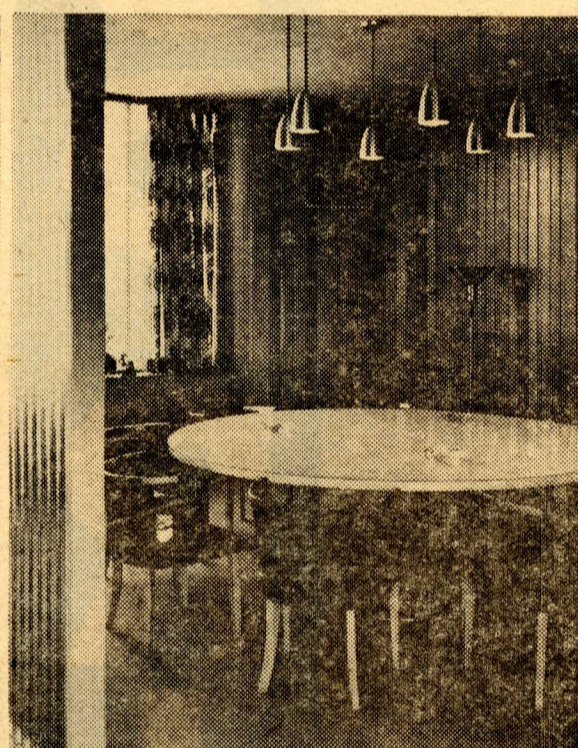
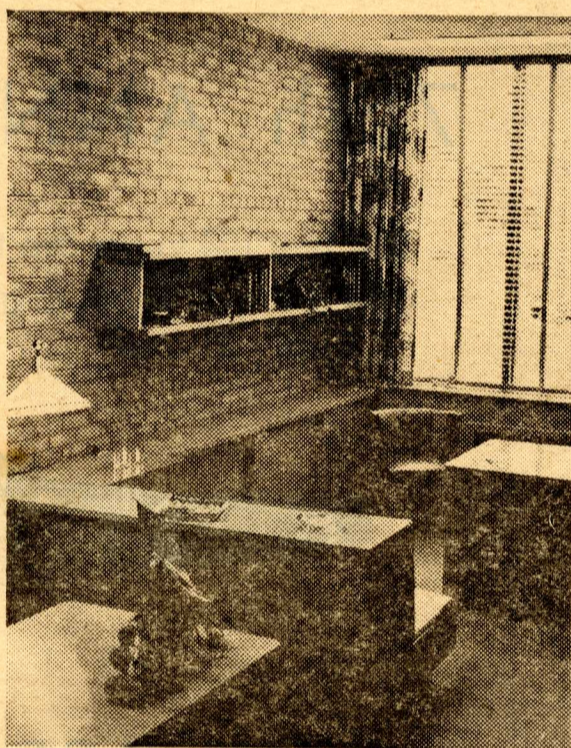
M NATIONAL BANK

Birmingham, Michigan

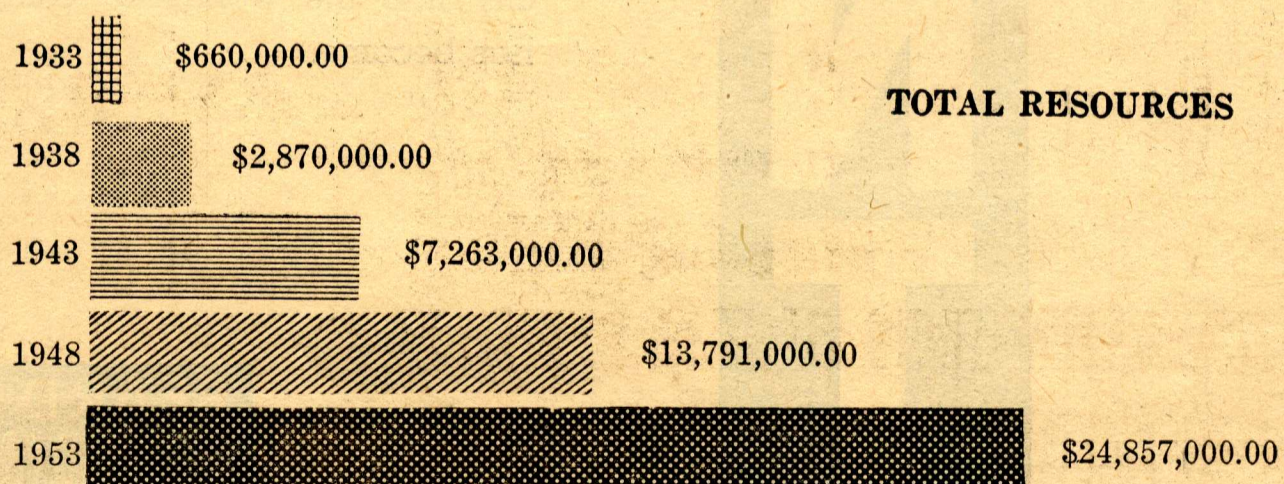
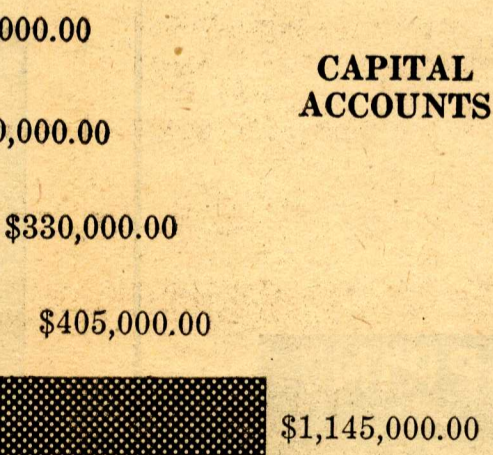
Our CONGRATULATIONS to
THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC
on its continuing growth.



his area and our Bank
related since 1933.
n with the community
businessmen and residents,
confidence in us.



RCES . . . the EXPERIENCE . . .
the STAFF to SERVICE your
ve CONFIDENCE in the future
community.



BEARD

NEWSPRINT

CONGRATULATIONS

— to The —

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

— on its —

75th ANNIVERSARY

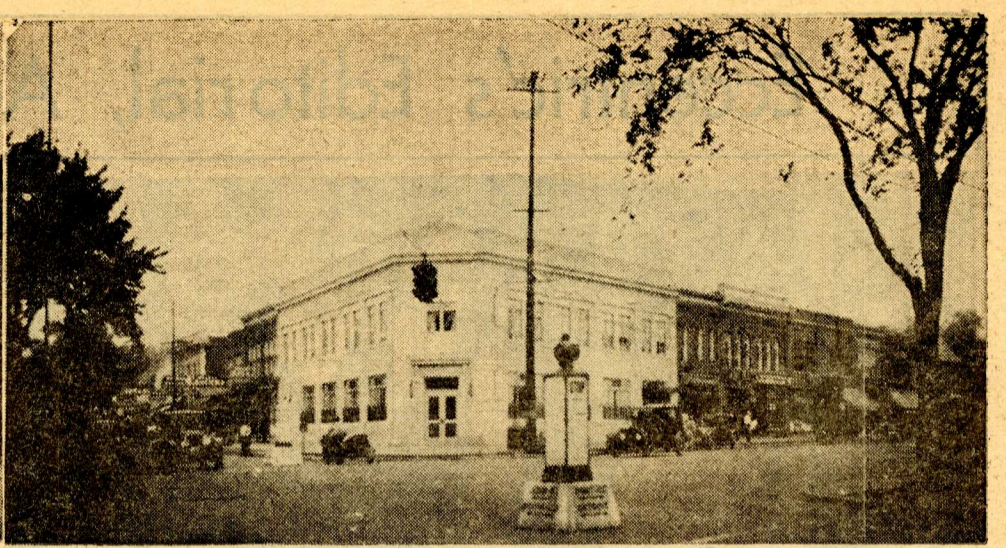
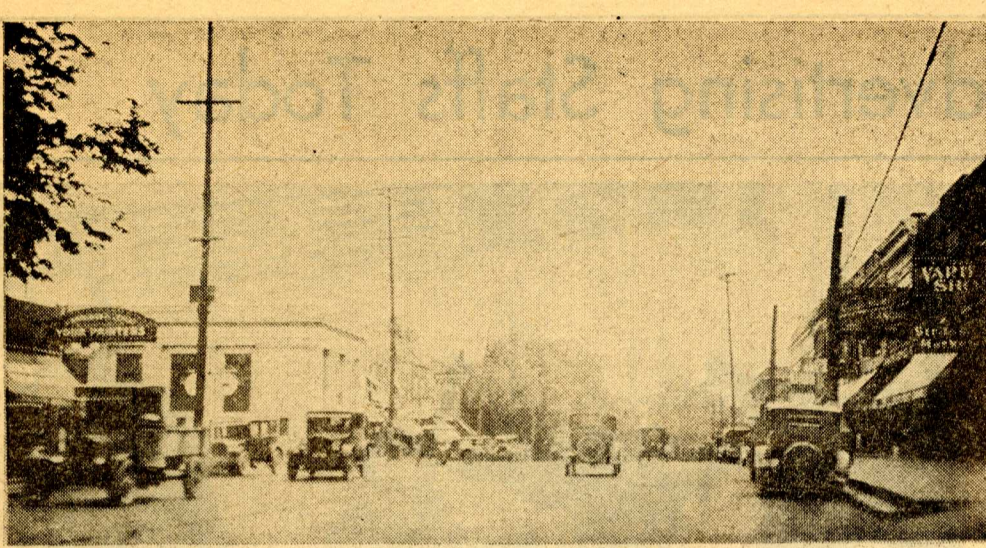
The first 100 years are the toughest — so you only have 25 years to go!



WE ARE PROUD

of the fact that we have supplied the newsprint used in printing The Eccentric for more than 12 years! We also wish to congratulate the people of Birmingham for developing this city into the wonderful community it truly has become.

BEARD NEWSPRINT
& WAREHOUSE CO., INC.
8761 FULTON ST. DETROIT 9, MICH.



BACK IN 1924, Woodward avenue in downtown Birmingham still was lined with many magnificent trees, particularly south from Maple avenue. The photo at left looks south toward the "four corners", and The Eccentric's office can be seen at the extreme left. The picture at right was taken in 1924 of the northwest corner of the Maple-Woodward intersection. The

white building on the corner was the First State Savings Bank, which failed early in the 30's, the location now is occupied by Wilson Drug Co. The Woodward trees, incidentally, were taken down in 1931 when Woodward was widened a few feet each side.

B'ham Post Didn't Last, But The Eccentric Has

When the Birmingham Eccentric first put in its appearance in May 1878, it had a rival—the Birmingham Post.

This fact has been discovered by searching through the first few issues of The Eccentric put out by its first editors George H. Mitchell and Almeron A. Whitehead.

Naturally proud of their first newspaper venture which was a four page issue of 8x10" size, the editors of The Eccentric sent complimentary copies to newspapers in the surrounding area.

What those papers said regarding the new Birmingham news-sheet were duly printed by The Eccentric and it is here that the first indication is given of its newspaper competitor.

Some of the opinions were kind-

ly, such as the one from the Holly Register: "That sparkling and newsy journal, The Birmingham Eccentric, for the first time came to light looking well and it knocked the spots off its brother, Post, last week."

EVEN ITS RIVAL, the Post, had a pleasant word for the little newspaper that was eventually to super-

se it: "The Eccentric, a neat little four-column paper, has put in an appearance in this village, published by Whitehead and Mitchell."

The Pontiac Bill Poster remarked: "The paper isn't as large as those of the 'patent' order but is brim full of home news and the eccentricities stick out all over."

However, the Rochester Sun had some bitter words—which the Eccentric printed anyway: "We have received an 8x10 sheet started by two lunatics at Birmingham and sailing under the 'you-funny-us' title of The Eccentric. Eccentric lunatics like others in this section, you have missed your calling! 'Go West' or rob some poor widow so

you may get into the work house and learn something even if it is nothing better than chair painting."

FOR 12 ISSUES The Eccentric continued with its 8x10" size—small for a newspaper. But in the July 18th issue, an editorial stated that editors Whitehead and Mitchell had purchased the Birmingham Post:

"Having purchased the Birmingham Post, we will next week issue The Eccentric in an enlarged and much improved form, after which date the subscription price will be \$1.00 per year, invariably in advance.

"However, to such of our old

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BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC
75th Anniversary Edition

subscribers as have not paid their subscriptions, we will send them the paper to the end of their time for the former price provided that they remit to us on or before the 1st of Sept., otherwise we will be under the necessity of exacting the full amount.

"The subscribers to the late Birmingham Post will receive the Eccentric to the full time for which they subscribed for the Post."

ON JULY 26, The Eccentric did appear in an enlarged and improved form. In comparing the appearance of the two different issues, the conclusion can be drawn that when The Eccentric bought out its rival, it acquired all the equipment used by the Post which was undoubtedly superior to that which editors Whitehead and Mitchell had owned in putting out The Eccentric.

After all, the editors of The Eccentric 75 years ago had started out in the newspaper business on the proverbial "shoestring."

IN THAT SAME July 26 edition, Editors Mitchell and Whitehead attempted to make clear the fact that the Post was dead, and The Eccentric was to be the little village's newspaper. They stated:

"During the past week we have answered questions in regard to the hurried departure of the Post till our vocabulary of adjectives has been utterly exhausted, the general opinion of the community being that we had purchased the entire outfit of the defunct Post and would now issue that paper ourselves; others entertained the wild idea that we had assumed the entire responsibility of that sheet, and would settle all debts, both public and private.

"In the first place, the little Eccentric has proved a staunch boat, and while we publish a paper in Birmingham (which we have every reason to believe will be for many years to come) our patrons will always find the colors of The Eccentric at the mast head.

"IN THE SECOND place we did not assume Mr. McConnell's debts of any kind, and on the contrary we will paddle our own canoe in the same manner as formerly.

"The fact of Mr. McConnell's leaving as he did makes no particular difference to us. We would have enlarged just the same if he had stayed, and we do not care to have our readers confuse the matter in the least.

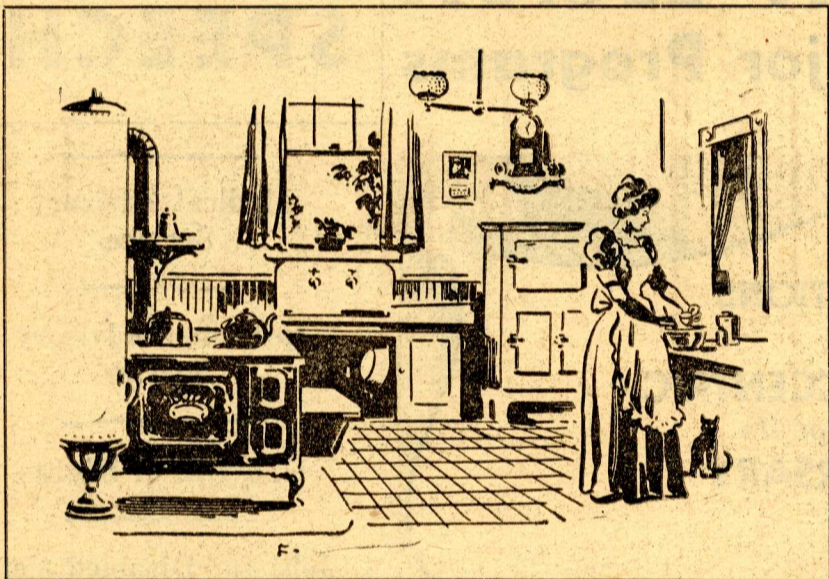
"While the Post was here we managed to run our little paper successfully, and are confident we can do so yet."

But McConnell apparently was not ready to quit being a newspaper publisher. For the Aug. 2, 1878, issue of The Eccentric contained this reprint of an item in the Midland (Mich.) Independent.

Midland is to have a Greenback paper now, sure, and that quickly. This time it is a good looking young gentleman—a practical printer from Birmingham, Mich., who is to establish the journal, and report says that his first number will be issued here next week.

"Tis to be a nine column folio, chuck full of sparkling Greenbackism and other good things (we suppose) and we know not what else. We believe the name of the author of this new journalistic enterprise is McConnell. He was of late publisher of the Birmingham Post."

The Difference Is ELECTRICITY

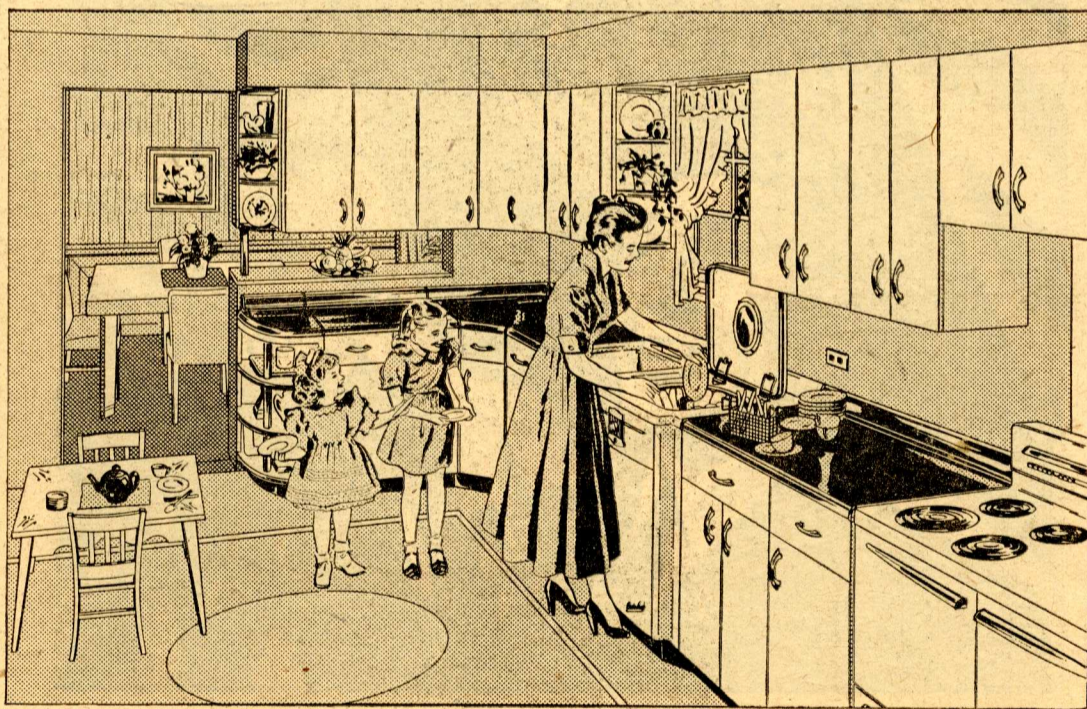


Mrs. Birmingham does today essentially what her grandmother did. Keep food fresh, prepare and cook it, then wash the dishes. The difference is efficiency, ease and more free time. Electricity has emancipated the kitchen slave. Electric stoves, mixers, washers, garbage disposals, refrigerators, etc., are now indispensable. And foremost in these time and energy saving means have been

GENERAL ELECTRIC
BENDIX
SUNBEAM
IRONRITE **AMANA**

FROM
1912
TO
1953

These dates testify to the 41 years we've served Birmingham and to the endorsement by Birmingham residents of our famous merchandise and service. We extend a friendly welcome to all new residents. And if your needs be electrical, may we suggest, that for the finest appliances and service, you visit us.



MI 4-3933

Leonard's

162-166 W. Maple

Eccentric's Editorial, Advertising Staffs Today



FIVE PERSONS COMPRISE the editorial staff of The Birmingham Eccentric in 1953. Left to right, they are Society Editor Kay Reed, Staff Photographer Norman Douglas, Managing Editor George Wm. Averill, Editor and Publisher George R. Averill, and Staff Reporter Alice E. Morgan.



In THE DISPLAY ADVERTISING DEPT. are these four people (left to right), Advertising Salesmen William Lamoreaux and John McKinney, Advertising Manager Hal P. Buerge, and departmental assistant Stella McIntosh.

FREEDOM
OF THE
PRESS

A TREASURED HERITAGE
The AMERICAN LEGION
Maintains 35 Major Programs

FREEDOM
OF
SPEECH

Americanism Program

Fighting Communism

Community Services

American Education
Week

School Medal Awards

Boy Scout Sponsorship

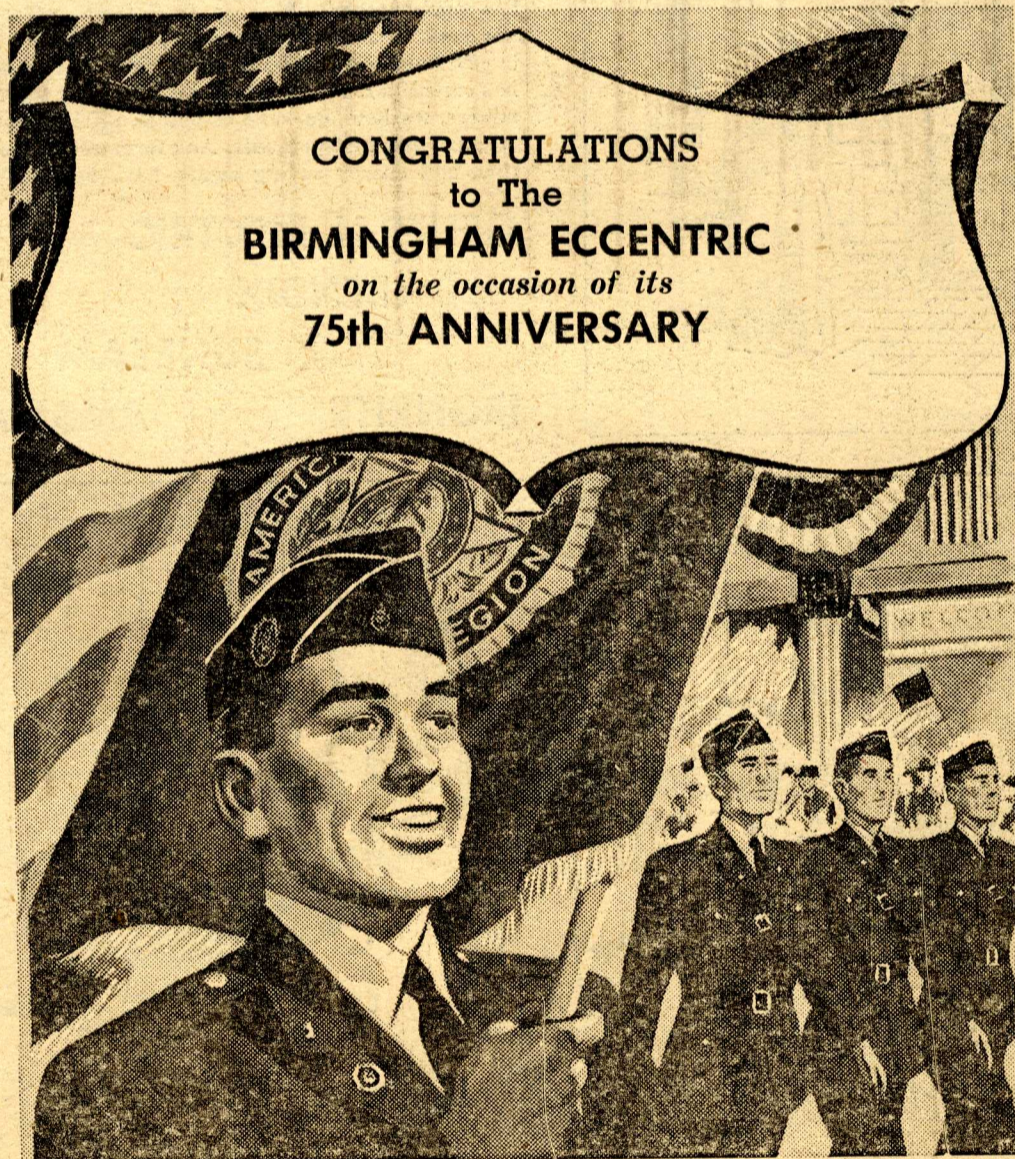
Junior Baseball

Boys' States

Boys' Nation

Oratorical Contest

Rehabilitation Service



Medical Advisory
Service

Insurance Advisory
Service

G. I. Bill of Rights

Jobs for Disabled Vets

Child Welfare

Back to God Programs

Foreign Relations

National Security

Universal Military
Training

Civil Defense

Memorial Poppy Day

CHARLES EDWARDS POST NO. 14
AND AUXILIARY
THE AMERICAN LEGION

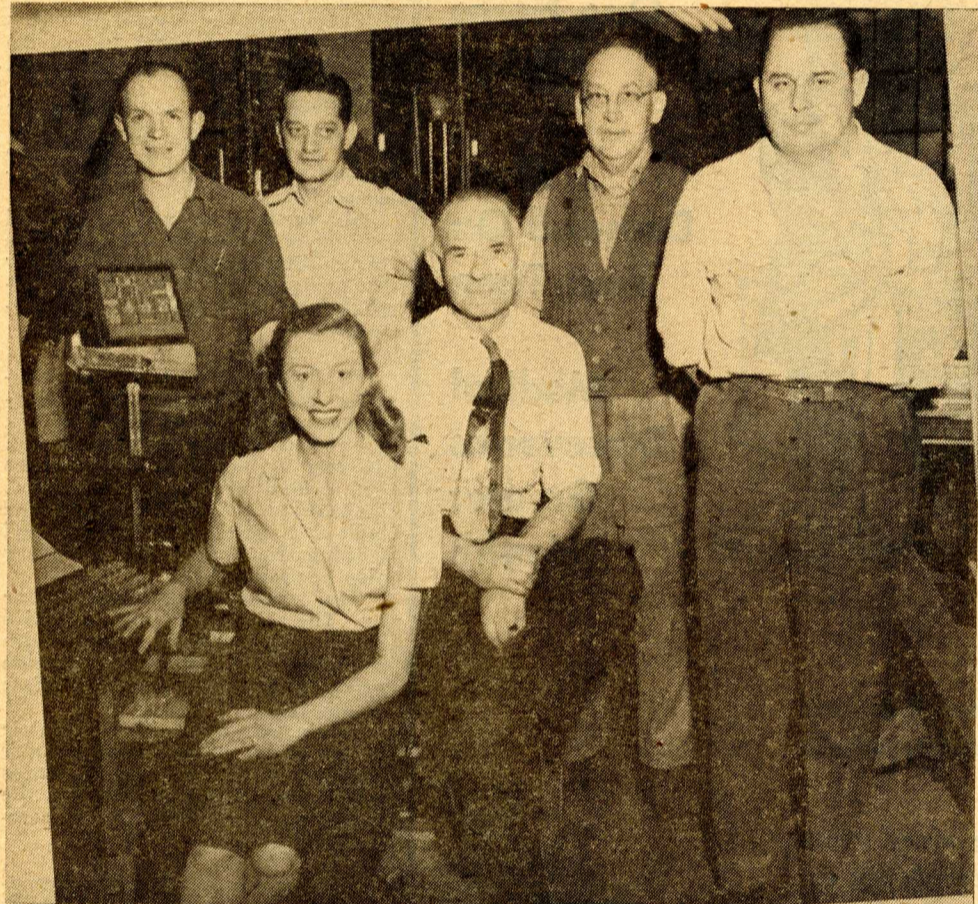
These Folks, Too, Play An Important Role



BUSINESS OFFICE PROCEDURE, including classified ads and subscriptions, is taken care of by this all-feminine staff of seven.



PRODUCTION MATTERS are handled by (from left) Plant Supt. Amos G. Battenfield, job printing salesman Walter C. Morgan, Russell T. Ingham, John M. Averill, Asst. Production Mgr. Harriette Pearson, and production department assistant, Gene Doolittle.



BASIC INGREDIENT of all newspapers is produced by this crew of six on that fascinating, extremely complicated machine, the Linotype, of which The Eccentric has five.



THIS GROUP of two women and 11 men—all journeymen-printers—produces the handset type and does the makeup for The Eccentric's newspaper and the large volume of commercial printing.



WITHOUT PRESSES, nothing can be printed—and that's why these 17 journeymen-pressmen are kept busy taking blank paper and producing words and pictures on it.



FINAL STAGE in the printing business is that process taken care of by the bindery—which gathers, stitches and folds the publications, and gets them ready for mailing or delivers them in The Eccentric's two trucks. The above picture shows the 13 employees who accomplish this bindery operation for The Eccentric.

Eccentric's Publisher Reviews Past 33 Years

Continued from page One of this Section

what is the northbound strip of the highway, between Royal Oak and two miles north of Birmingham. In other portions of this special 75th Anniversary Edition more of this story is told.

BUT IT WAS, like so many public improvements, no easy achievement. Property owners did not always co-operate. Many of the purchases of land for both the new Woodward right-of-way and the one for the Grand Trunk's removal eastward were settled in heated court trials.

And so Birmingham kept on getting bigger and bigger. Heroically its inhabitants, during all this growth, sought to have it carry out an early slogan of "A Bigger and Better Birmingham—The Village of Homes Where Children Thrive."

This slogan was a modernization of an earlier one that exclaimed proudly: "Birmingham—The Pride of Oakland County!"

ANOTHER LOCAL figure of considerable importance during my 33 years here was Warren Duane Clizbe, father of Mrs. Harry Allen, of 556 West Maple.

He was a tall man, and carried plenty of well-distributed poundage about him. He was a natural born leader . . . but not always did he win a majority following.

He was president of the village in the early Twenties. He had served as Michigan head of the Knights of Pythias Lodge, and always gave much of his time in speaking to other lodges around the State.

Mr. Clizbe, while not always

agreed with, was most respected. When he became village president in 1920, at a special election in September, Birmingham had gone through a summer of water shortage.

WANT PROOF? . . . one hot afternoon a fire broke out in a house on Pierce street, near Townsend. The single chemical truck was driven there by the volunteers, who discharged the available filled tank.

But they needed more chemicals to pour upon the fire . . . and no water came out of the nearest hydrant. A neighbor woman had been doing the family washing that day, and still had two washtubs full of water in her basement. She made this known to the firemen and that's how they got enough extra water to put out the fire.

Yes, Sir! new president Clizbe determined to do something about it. He proposed a small bond issue, the proceeds to be used for the village's first elevated water storage tank. The taxpayers voted it down. That didn't daunt Mr. Clizbe, who forthright obligated the town to payment for the tank that soon went up on West Maple.

THE TANK, while it was in use, served a good purpose, and the criticism of those who opposed the debt vanished in good time.

In the Twenties, and for the most part prior to them, Birmingham's sewer and water mains were installed "by guess and by gosh".

By that I mean few records were kept in the village offices, so that if a leak occurred, or new connections had to be made, workmen would start somewhere in the vicinity of the underground utilities.

More than once Mr. Clizbe, observing workmen trying to locate a sewer or water main, would say: "It isn't where you are now digging—start over there", and he would point to a new location. More often than not, he was right. What a memory!

RIGHT UP until the middle Twenties one of the community's high entertainment affairs would be the arrival of the Redpath Chautauqua organization. They would erect a big tent, generally west of old Hill school, and remain here for a week or two.

Local businesses would underwrite any deficit. Lectures, for the most part, filled the program time.

But with the development of silent movies here, that ancient form of summer entertainment finally disappeared.

One could go on to much greater length in reminiscing about the days of a generation ago in Birmingham, of course. Here I have recorded but a few of the highlights during the first few years of my newspaper experience in this area.

IN OTHER PARTS of this special 75th Anniversary Edition you will read stories of related interest.

In final summary, perhaps it will suffice to say that Birmingham and environs were built on the same general universal American pattern of human yearning for personal freedom . . . freedom to marry and raise a family, to select one's personal choice of vocation, to worship where one desired, to speak and write what is on the conscience, to elect one's own choice of governing bodies . . . and to do whatever else free men and women are convinced they want to do in any era.

Job Printing

Continued from page 1

because, with due modesty, it feels disqualified by its area-accepted status as a well established commercial printing organization.

A few additional details of its operation may be interesting on the occasion of this 75th Anniversary commemorative edition.

APPROXIMATELY 20,000 square feet of total floor space is used by both the newspaper and printing departments.

Press room and composing rooms operate day and night to provide fast processing of typesetting and press service.

Delivery service covers a radius of approximately one hundred miles and Detroit deliveries are made twice daily on regular schedules.

Six trunk lines are maintained and include two direct Detroit lines to the Birmingham switchboard for convenience and economical accessibility to metropolitan area customers.

BINDERY SERVICES are complete and provide immediate processing and delivery of each job. In the case of large press runs, partial delivery is possible to customers before final press run is completed. Maintenance of address lists and bulk and individual wrapping and mailing for post office delivery also is provided.

Trade composition also is done by The Eccentric and includes chunk and complete makeup with commercial standard reproduction proofing for letterpress or offset processing.

Again this year, The Eccentric is one of 12 printing plants under contract with the United States Air Force (Wright Field) for the supplying of typesetting and composition service.

(During the last war The Eccentric was the typesetting supplier for The British Army Staff stationed in this country and one of the suppliers for the United States Army Ordnance Dept.)

Much of the growth of The Eccentric was the direct result of overcoming the original objection and resistance from buyers against its suburban location. To overcome such feeling, The Eccentric compensated by above-average service, dependability, personal interest and creative approach.

Though original objections and prejudice to location have been overcome, the compensating characteristics have been retained and account for much of the increasing growth and acceptance which The Eccentric continues to enjoy among metropolitan area printing buyers.

ANOTHER ORIGINAL feature of training salesmen to estimate and price jobs "on the spot" has been retained and provided a sales-engineer relationship between The Eccentric and its customers.

In a field that is noted for its intensive competitive quality, it is with great pride that The Eccentric can review its printing department growth and success and, among the hundreds of establishments in the graphic arts field, lay claim to becoming one of the ten largest printing firms in the entire metropolitan area.

And it is with warranted pride that it pays tribute to its loyal and outstanding employees and craftsmen who have helped make this achievement possible.

The Eccentric salutes you, its employees, and thanks its loyal customers, both Birmingham and others, who have, too, made such growth possible!

Clothes Change

New Buildings Replace Old

The Pace Is Faster

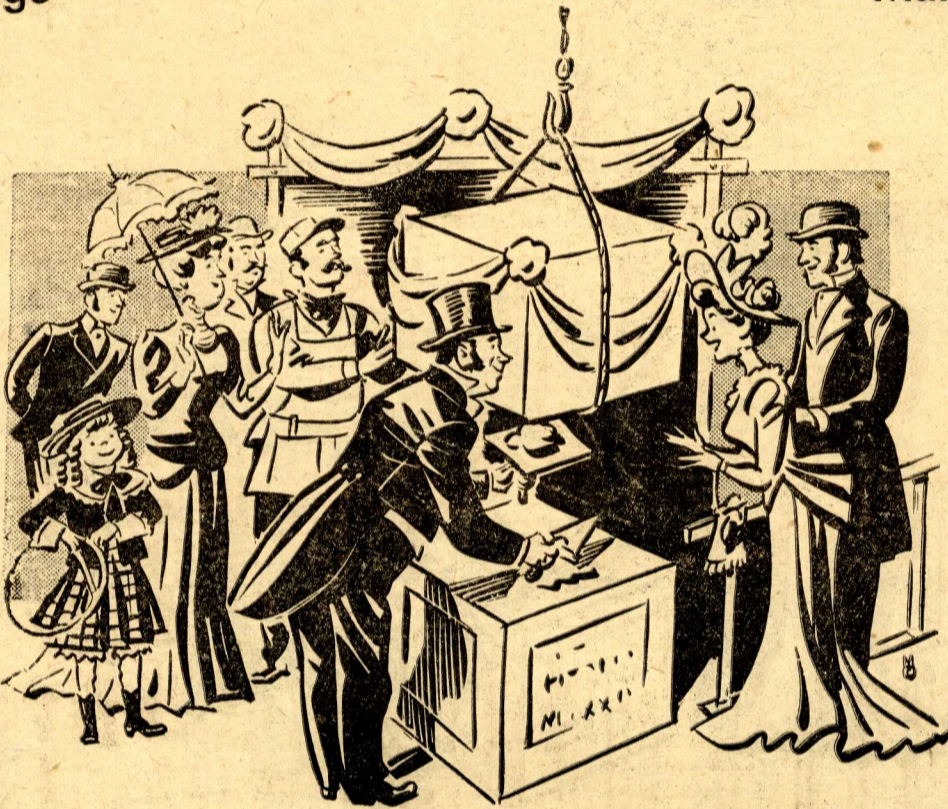
The Dollar? Well . . .

Manners Change

Cars Rather Than One Horse Shays

More Demand On Your Time

Medical Discoveries Greater Health



Some things never change. The demand for prompt service, the most up-to-date medicines, a pleasant atmosphere to enjoy good refreshments.

It has been our endeavor, through the many years we've served Birmingham, to be quick and completely accurate in filling your prescriptions. We have ever stocked the latest approved drugs. Your better health is our aim. Insofar as purchases are concerned, your dollar receives its fullest value with us.

EVER POPULAR!

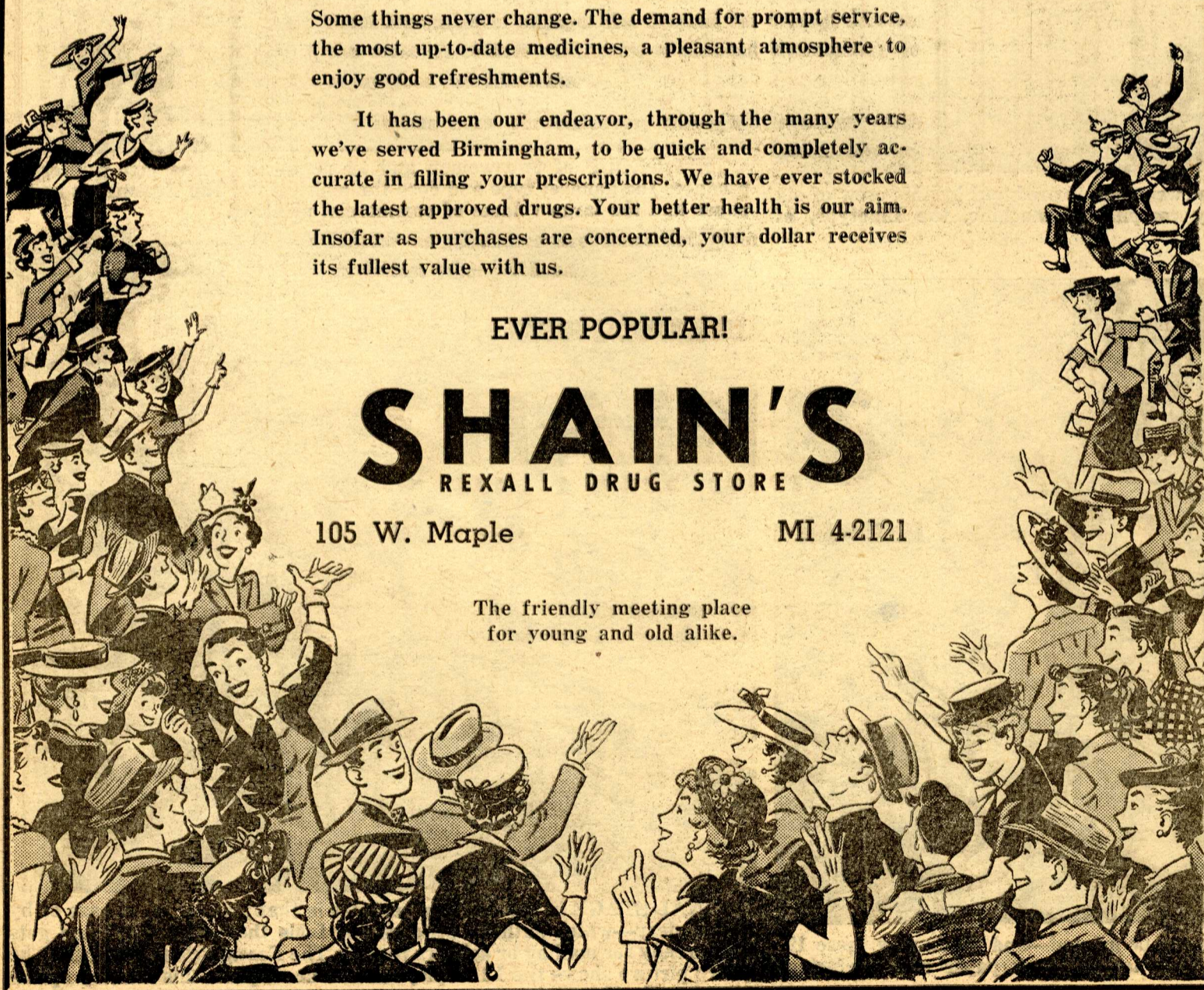
SHAIN'S

REXALL DRUG STORE

105 W. Maple

MI 4-2121

The friendly meeting place for young and old alike.



Gov. Williams, Sen. Ferguson Note Eccentric's Anniversary



STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING

G. MENNEN WILLIAMS
GOVERNOR

George R. Averill, Publisher
The Birmingham Eccentric
Birmingham, Michigan

Dear Mr. Averill:

On behalf of the State Government, let me offer to you and your associates sincere congratulations on the 75th anniversary of The Birmingham Eccentric.

The growth of The Eccentric has paralleled the growth of Birmingham and the tremendous development of Michigan as the workshop of the world and the arsenal of democracy. The Eccentric has observed and recorded this historic development week after week.

The influence of a free press keeping the people informed of public affairs has contributed greatly to the advances we have made. Indeed, the present liberty and prosperity of Michigan and the United States would have been impossible without freedom of press and speech.

Today more than ever, as we face the new problems of a greater Michigan, a free press able and willing to give all sides of public questions is necessary to our future progress.

In its next 75 years of life, I know The Birmingham Eccentric will do its best to measure up to this responsibility.

Sincerely,

Governor

KENNETH MCKELLAR, TENN., CHAIRMAN
CARL HAYDEN, ARIZ.
RICHARD B. RUSSELL, GA.
PAT MCCARRAN, NEV.
JOSEPH C. O'MAHONEY, WYO.
DENNIS CHAVEZ, N. MEX.
BURNET R. MATHEWS, S. C.
ALLEN J. ELLENDER, LA.
LISTER HILL, ALA.
HARLEY M. KILGORE, W. VA.
JOHN L. MCCLELLAN, ARK.
A. WILLIS ROBERTSON, VA.

EVERARD H. SMITH, CLERK
THOMAS J. SCOTT, ASST. CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

February 19, 1953.

Mr. George R. Averill,
Publisher,
The Birmingham Eccentric,
North Woodward Avenue,
Birmingham, Michigan.

Dear George:

It is a real pleasure to extend my congratulations to you and to the Birmingham Eccentric on the occasion of its 75th anniversary as the community weekly newspaper of Birmingham and its environs.

Community newspapers like the Birmingham Eccentric and its counterparts throughout the nation have exercised a tremendous influence for good in the building of America. The growth of community spirit and the development of civic accomplishments in each "Hometown, USA" is often due to the leadership and example of the community newspaper. And only in an atmosphere of a free press could these developments take place.

We are accustomed, perhaps to think of freedom of the press in terms of great metropolitan daily newspapers but that freedom is no less important in the operation of the smallest weekly papers in the land. Let the free voice of a single weekly be stifled by oppression and the consequences could silence the strongest newspapers.

The Birmingham Eccentric has completed 75 years of uninterrupted publication. It has always been a voice in protecting our American heritage and I am certain its free voice will continue in the future.

With best wishes and kind personal regards,

Sincerely,

HF/F

The Birmingham YMCA

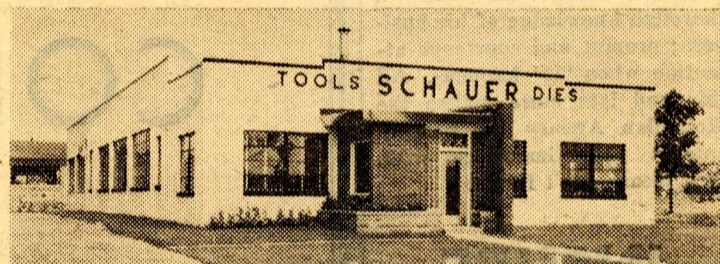
CONGRATULATES

The
Birmingham Eccentric

ON ITS

75th Anniversary

Space for this Advertisement
Contributed By a Friend of
the YMCA



75th ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS

to the

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

from a Birmingham institution

the

SCHAUER
TOOL & DIE
COMPANY

2099 Cole St.

Birmingham, Mich.

Builders of **CUSTOM TOOLS**

FIXTURES & GAGES

12 Years of Service
to Industry

MI 4-7450

JO 4-6770

**"BETTER
LATE
THAN
NEVER"**

Pardon Our
Slang, But

There Ain't
No Such
Critter In
Insurance

After your house has burned, after your neighbor has tripped on Junior's bicycle, after the thief has obtained his loot, after you've suffered an accident, in fact after any eventuality is too late. Closing the gate after the horse is out is a story familiar to all of us. Take heed to the importance of protecting your loved ones, yourself and possessions and stop trusting to luck that "it" won't happen. Insurance does this as nothing else can. What you are entitled to in insurance is well established reliability, low rates; that your insurance salesman has a thorough knowledge of his business; prompt and courteous attention when "it" happens. All this and lots more makes the McClellan Agency the firm to entrust your insurance with. But, please don't forget

**INSURE
TODAY!**

*Tomorrow
May Be
Too Late*



THE
**McCLELLAN
AGENCY**

D. H. Lamb

Room 245-247
BRIGGS BLDG.
MI 4-2860



Financial Security
Is Second
Only To Health



CONGRATULATIONS

TO THE

**BIRMINGHAM
ECCENTRIC**

ON THE OCCASION OF YOUR

75th ANNIVERSARY

from the

Fine Paper Merchants of Detroit