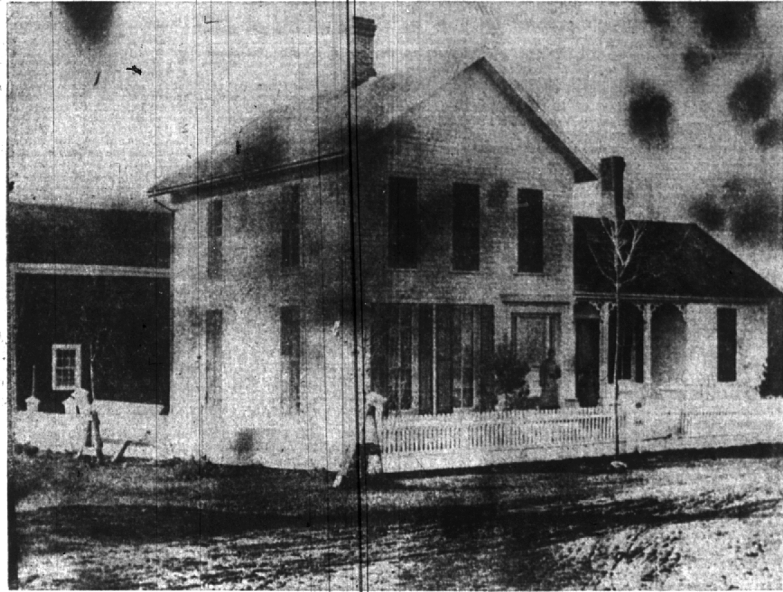


More than once I have found some quiet person, when the occasion was just right, because able to say something that just fitted the moment's need. Such people are blossoms upon the tree of life.

Birmingham Background

• Local History in Story and Picture •



RUFUS HUNTER'S HOME IN 1880; IT STILL STANDS ON ORIGINAL SITE, SOUTHWEST CORNER OF HENRIETTA AND MERRILL STREETS

Oldtime resident Robert D. Bird identifies the two women in the picture as Mrs. Nellie Linabury and Mrs. Walter North. (Spots on the picture are caused by time-faded original print)

Rufus Hunter's Home Still Stands

Rufus Hunter was a member of the Hunter family that accompanied John West Hunter in 1819 to the wilderness of Bloomfield and to what is now the city of Birmingham.

The entire family group as mentioned in early county records consisted of John Hunter, his wife and two young daughters; John's parents, Elisha and Huldah; his brothers, Daniel and Rufus and his brother-in-law, William Hall. Rufus was the youngest of the three Hunter brothers.

The family remained together for several years, working as a unit. Rufus stated in the later years of his life that he was 15 years old when he first came into the territory.

He recalled that soon after their arrival, he, his brother John and John Hamilton (another first settler) walked to Graham's at Paint Creek (Rochester) and brought back to the settlement three bushels of red potatoes for seed, each carrying a bushel upon his shoulder.

THE POTATOES were planted in the spring of 1819 and were the first seed planted by white men in Bloomfield.

In 1824, the Hunter family separated, and Elisha settled in Southfield township, buying 160 acres of government land in the southwest quarter of section three.

With him went his sons Daniel and Rufus and his son-in-law, William Hall.

The life of Rufus Hunter falls into obscurity with only a few glimpses here and there of his activities.

HIS WIDOW continued living in

the house in Birmingham along with her children by her first marriage—a daughter, Mrs. Joe Linabury and a son, Walter North.

One old time Birmingham resident, Robert D. Bird, 627 Purdy, 81 years old, clearly remembers Mrs. Rufus Hunter and her daughter Nellie and son Walter.

"Mrs. Linabury didn't get along too well with her husband Joe," recalls Mr. Bird. "There is a story about her becoming a widow."

"It seems that Joe Linabury, who worked for the railroad, went up to Wisconsin for a vacation, Mrs. Linabury and their son Frank, going along."

"Joe and his son Frank went fishing almost every day during their vacation but one day Joe refused to take Frank along even though Frank begged to go."

"JOE TOOK his fishing gear, tied his money belt around his waist (which contained all the money he had), put on his hat and went fishing alone."

"No one ever saw Joe Linabury after that. I wouldn't say what ever became of him," Mr. Bird remarked.

"They found his hat floating on top of the water, and the empty boat, but never Joe Linabury. Even though they dragged the lake, the body never was found."

"The circumstances were a little peculiar. Another fisherman on the lake reported seeing Joe Linabury standing up in his boat, reel

Car Thefts Mount In Birmingham; Reach 8 in Oct.

Amateur auto thieves have been hard at work in Birmingham during the month of October, according to Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley.

The chief reported that eight such thefts occurred during the last month, compared to 15 auto thefts for all preceding months in 1953.

The month's total amounts to two-thirds of the total of 12 auto thefts in 1952.

"If people would lock their car doors in addition to removing their keys from the ignition switch, many of these thefts could have been avoided," the chief said.

HE ADDED that absence of the keys from the ignition switch does not deter someone from stealing a car who knows how to manipulate ignition wires.

Most of these thefts are apparently committed by persons who are merely seeking a car for a joy ride, the chief said, since, in all cases except one the cars have been recovered. Generally they have been abandoned.

By locking their cars, owners can make the job of stealing their cars difficult enough that most of these amateurs will leave them alone, said Chief Moxley.

ANOTHER FACTOR contributing to the high number of thefts last month was the fact that certain streets in the city are being paved, thus causing drivers to leave their cars at the end of the street.

These groups of cars have been a favorite target of the thieves according to the chief.

He added that juveniles have been responsible for some of the thefts. Two juveniles whose names are withheld by The Eccentric because of their age, were arrested last week by Bloomfield Hills police in a car stolen from a Birmingham auto dealer's lot. They are being held for juvenile authorities.

"WHILE THE juveniles may not have actual theft in their minds when they take a car, they are engaging in a very dangerous and criminal act," said Chief Moxley.

"When police pursue a stolen car they do not know whether it is occupied by juveniles or by professional thieves. In a chase, the juveniles may be injured by losing control of the car, and they endanger the lives of others on the road."

News copy submitted early is necessarily given preference, so the "early bird" usually gets the space.

Holland's Top Prints In BHCC Exhibition

An exhibit of prize-winning prints from the Holland Bulb and Grower's Contest will be held by the Bloomfield Hills Camera Club

Dunnigan who will discuss "The Beauty of 3D Pictures." Greg Afdack, chairman of the meeting, announced that the exhibition is open to the public.

The way tweed's looking these days, you're more likely to think of smart city restaurants than gorse and heather! Here, in a shapely suit dressed up with separate satin neckline fill-in, jeweled buttons... a suit that could go anywhere. Brown; misses' sizes, \$110

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Kingswood Seeks Aid Contributions

Aiming at a goal of 25 partial scholarships per year at Kingswood School, Granbrook, the school's third annual solicitation for contributions has been formally opened.

In the 24-year history of the school, 328 scholarship grants have

YMCA Basketball Teams Are Formed

Representatives from Detroit Edison, Birmingham Merchants, Emmanuel Baptist church and a fourth team seeking a sponsor met last Friday to form the Birmingham YMCA Intramural Basketball League.

Play will be either on Tuesday or Thursday nights. Because of limited playing facilities, three rounds will be scheduled if four teams enter and only two rounds if six teams enter the league.

Players and teams are urged to contact the "Y" as practice sessions start Thursday, Nov. 5 with the former Caltrider five taking the Barnum Junior High floor at 7 p. m. to be followed by Detroit Edison and Emmanuel Baptist at 8 p. m.

Birmingham YMCA Varsity will practice at 9 p. m. on the same floor. Candidates for this organization are invited to attend. Please bring playing equipment and shoes.

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Long Lk. Widening Nears Completion

Finishing touches are being applied to the resurfacing and widening of Long Lake road from Lahar to Woodward, according to Elmer Kephart, Bloomfield Hills city manager.

The project, conducted by the Oakland county road commission, widened the road to 30 feet from its original width of 16 feet. Then the entire area was black-topped.

The A&A Asphalt Paving company did the work for \$26,871.50, according to James B. Baynes, assistant chief engineer for the road commission.

PARKING AREA FOR YOUR SHOPPING CONVENIENCE

NOW is the time to order your GIFT MONOGRAMMING

Right now our monogramming orders are completed very promptly, but as the holidays draw closer increased gift buying may make a longer processing period necessary. We suggest that you select your items to be monogrammed as soon as possible so that we can deliver them in ample time for gift-giving. Almost every lettering style is available for towels, bathmats, shower curtains, linens, sheets, table covers, bedspreads and blanket covers. Also household gifts such as ash trays, cigarette boxes, lighters, and other useful articles.

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