

## Rochester NROTC Platoon Leader

ROCHESTER, N. Y.—George U. Weinhold of Birmingham has been appointed a platoon commander in the University of Rochester's Naval Reserve Officers' Training Corps.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Weinhold of 461 Pilgrim road, he is a senior at the men's college.

Weinhold, who holds a scholarship in the Naval unit, was tapped last spring for membership in Kappa Sigma, senior men's honor society. He was a member last year of Mediciants, junior men's honor group, and served as busi-

ness manager of the Interpreter, the yearbook.

He has been very active on the staff of the Campus men's weekly newspaper. He holds the post of managing editor this year and previously had been copy editor and assistant editor.

**★ Smile a Minute . . .**

We hear them say, the woman pays.

Which seems so very funny. They never remember to explain. It's done with Hubby's money.

*Just as what you eat tastes best when properly seasoned, the good things you do for others are best appreciated when leavened with the spirit of genuine giving. The intrinsic value of gifts weighs less in your thought than the spirit in which it is given!*

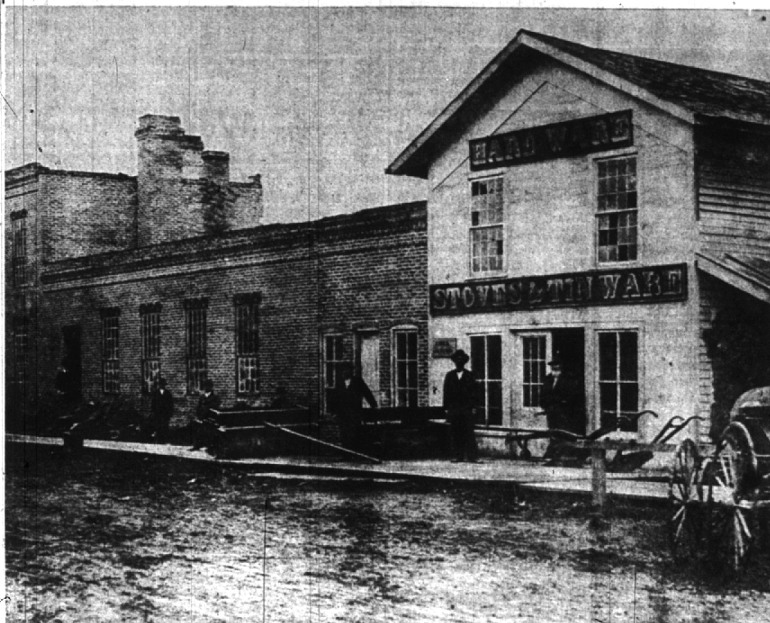
# The Birmingham Eccentric

SECTION 3

Thursday, October 22, 1953

## Birmingham Background

• Local History in Story and Picture •



THE "OLD FOUNDRY" operated by John Stanley and Walter North in 1883 which was situated on East Maple, east of the present Briggs building. Field rollers, principal product of the foundry, are shown in front of the building along with other agricultural implements made there. The child shown in back of the center roller was Frank Linabury, then to the right Walter North, John Stanley and Cornelius Brayman.

## 'Novelty Works' Made Farm Equipment

When Birmingham was considered a thriving industrial village in the 1840's, Aaron Smith owned and operated a foundry on Troy street (now East Maple) which he named "The Novelty Works."

In this foundry, located east of the present Briggs building, Smith and his sons manufactured large numbers of various kinds of agricultural implements, among which was a sub-soil plow which Smith himself had invented.

After Aaron Smith's death in 1857, the business was continued by his sons.

As the years passed, the Novelty Works ceased to be a novelty and the property was known by the townspeople as "the old foundry."

In 1879, John Stanley purchas-

ed the foundry which by this time had been idle for many years. He bought it from Mort Smith, a Birmingham resident and a son of the original owner.

It was declared by The Birmingham Eccentric of 1879 that John Stanley was going to put into operation "just what the town needed for so long—a first class foundry and machine shop."

Walter North went into the business with Stanley and the company was engaged principally in the manufacturing of field rollers. The owners promoted their field rollers to the best of their ability and made huge preparations for a fine exhibition of their product at the State Fair, held in 1881 at Jackson, Mich.

HOWEVER, THIS venture was not successful, for Stanley and North and the field rollers were out of business by 1887 and Mrs. M. Smith had a nice bakery fitted out in one part of the building and a planing mill was located at the eastern part of the property.

In 1888, the old foundry became The Birmingham Tack Company, when the Edminston Brothers re-

opened the foundry planing mill and went into business making carpet, licks and other products.

Thousands of curtain poles, curtain rings and base ball bats were turned out by the Birmingham Tack factory. When the well went dry on the property, the tack company was forced to move and was relocated down by the River Rouge where there was a plentiful supply of water.

Walter Nichols came to Birmingham in 1895, purchased the old foundry property, and operated a woodworking shop for the next 20 years.

According to his widow, Mrs. Walter Nichols of 715 Chester street, Nichols sold the property to Seelye Peck in 1915 for \$1,500. Peck in turn sold it to S. O. Wylie Bell, who sold the property a few years later for \$1,000 a foot.

## Editorial, Poster Judges Selected

Judges for the editorial and poster contest have been chosen to make the final decision in these respective contests which are in progress at the present time in the schools of the Birmingham-Bloomfield-Franklin area.

The judges for the editorial contest will be: Alice Morgan, member of the editorial staff of The Birmingham Eccentric; John L. McQuigg, executive vice president of Lennan & Newell, and Kenneth G. Manuel, vice president of D. P. Brother.

Editorials will be judged in each school by those directing the writing and then will be given to the committee for a final judging. The winning editorials from each school will appear in The Eccentric during the drive. High school students will compete.

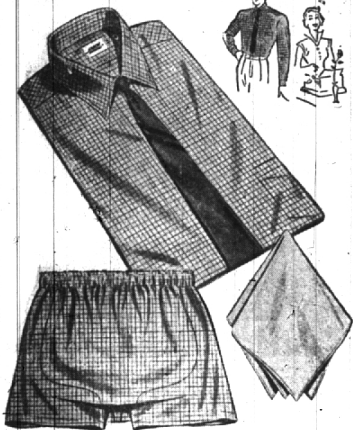
JUDGES FOR the Poster contest, which is open to students from the 6 to 12 grades will be: Mrs. Robert F. Swanson, Marshall Fredericks, and Arthur T. Lougee. Posters will be judged in each school, then presented to the judges for final selection. They will be returned to the students for the signature and later exhibited in the store windows of the business area.

**★ Smile a Minute . . .**

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