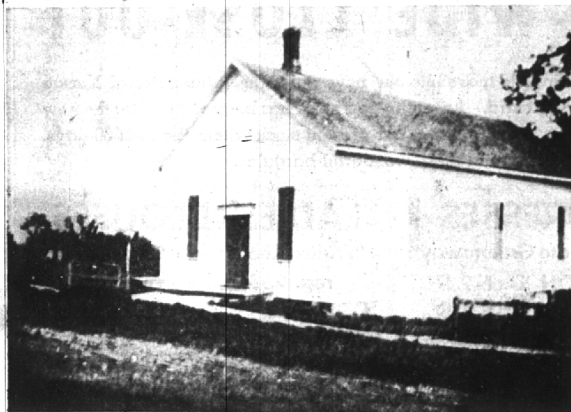


## BIRMINGHAM BACKGROUND

Local History in Story and Picture  
As Compiled and Written by RUTH ANNE SILBAR



FIRST BUILDING ERECTED IN 1873 BY BIRMINGHAM BAPTISTS  
On same site as today's church (Photos from J. Bert Peabody Collection)

## Baptist Rabbits Dispossessed

Willetts street in the 1880's was jokingly called "Council Bluffs" and at the corner of Willetts and North Bluffs, stood the small frame building of the Baptist church.

One distinctive feature of the church on Council Bluffs was the family of rabbits which lived cosily and protected underneath the church.

John Baldwin, a village blacksmith and a fisherman of fame, was a neighbor of the Baptist church, he living just one door westward.

The rabbits being in close proximity to Baldwin's blacksmith and a fisherman of fame, were continued to frisk about in the bright moonlight and the pretty little cottontails kicked up their heels in the face of the son of Valian.

When the church on Council Bluffs put in a basement, the rabbits indignantly were dispossessed, but the new basement, the pump and sink, the galvanized railing on the steps leading to the main entrance cost money and the members of the Baptist church worked hard to pay off the debt.

THOSE POOR little rabbits caused a great deal of trouble to the sportsman on Council Bluffs. One moonlight night, the sporting iron pounder took a shot at one inoffensive little rabbit and "tore up 37 feet of sidewalk, ruined two lengths of picket fence, and frightened the neighborhood into fits, according to The Eccentric of 1886.

But rabbits of 1886, just like

One memorable boy was Count Gerabad Krikor Boyajian, an Armenian, who gave a lecture and entertainment in 1903.

The Count had lived in America for eight years and was at the time a student in a Detroit theological school. He had occupied the pulpit of the local Baptist church the previous Sunday.

At his entertainment, the Count exhibited the costumes of ten Oriental nations, performed three Armenian wedding ceremonies, sang in four foreign languages, chanted in Russian, and prayed in Turkish.

ANOTHER entertainment which proved to be so popular that it was brought back for a second showing was Mrs. Jarley's wax figures.

Among the collection was a policeman of 1903, a politician, a genuine mermaid, Samantha and Josiah Allen, Signorina Screech, Babes in the Woods and 25 others. Admission to Mrs. Jarley's entertainment was 15c, children 10c.

## Set Alley Vacation Hearing For May 17

May 17 is the date set by Birmingham city commissioners for a hearing on the vacation of an alley east of Woodward and south of Sheffield. The Socony-Vacuum Oil company, owners of the corner parcel at Woodward and 14 Mile, have petitioned for the alley vacation so the property can be developed.

The commission tabled further discussion of the property's development for one week. Meanwhile, city officials will meet with representatives of the oil company to discuss city services to the property, most of which is in Troy township.

## 2 Land Owners Must Pay Repair Bill To Keep City Water

Two Bloomfield township property owners on North Woodward must pay the city of Birmingham for repairs to the water installation that services their properties or look elsewhere for water, the city commission decided at its Monday night meeting.

Commissioners learned that the properties have been served by city water since before 1930. In 1952, a leak developed in the iron pipe to the property and was repaired at a cost to the city of \$155.22.

The city desires this bill paid and wants the owners to stand the cost of replacing iron pipe installations with copper.

Furthermore, commissioners insist that no one else tie into the line. The properties involved are at 1180 and 1160 North Woodward.

## Conference Urges School Classes In Civil Defense

Recommendations that civil defense be made an integral part of school curriculum by next fall were made April 15 at a "home-school protection" planning meeting held in Lansing.

Attending the meeting were Roland Reese, deputy director of civil defense in Birmingham, and Larned Goodrich, assistant principal of Birmingham high school.

The meeting was called to discuss possibilities of having a Home-School Protection week. The opinion of the conference was that it is too late at the present time to work out details of such a week in time to hold it during this school year. Suggestions were made to call a later meeting.

It was agreed schools could aid civil defense by furnishing information to students and parents and by preparing individuals for emergencies through classes in first aid, home nursing and other activities.

Federal and state civil defense leaders along with state school officials were in attendance. Governor G. Mennen Williams addressed the group.

Want ads cannot be accepted after 5 p.m. each Tuesday.

Have you seen the NEW Village Store?

LAMP NEED FIXING?  
Prompt Expert Service at  
**HAWTHORNE**  
162 N. Woodward MI 4-2200

## Survey Planned To Find Source Of City Traffic

A traffic survey to determine the origin and destination of motorists going through Birmingham from the west to the east and south will be undertaken later this month or during the first part of May, according to City Plan Technician Robert Boatman.

Boatman said the survey will be conducted in one day at the corner

of Maple and Cranbrook. Drivers passing that point into and out of the city will be asked where they came from and where they are going.

Purpose of the survey is to get information to back the city's contention that, if 14-Mile were extended to Telegraph, a great load of traffic through the city would be diverted to 14 Mile.

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

**SHIRTS LAUNDERED**  
**1 DAY SERVICE**  
**BIRMINGHAM CLEANERS**  
Woodward at Adams Rd. We Give S&H Green Stamps



**NOTICE**  
to all  
**FISHERMEN**  
**BEWARE**  
of  
**APRIL 24**

## IF . . . Your Wife Is Going To Stay Home!

For, if you're one of those champing-at-the-bit, opening-day enthusiasts you may have trouble on your hands. Such trouble results from glowing reports about a weekend on the Au Sable, or where have you. Forgetting the truth, you may have subjected her to tales wherein the tug of a seven inch was the battle of a prehistoric monster. The effect, much to your dismay, may have been a secret resentment against your having such a wonderful time.

So, to put you in your place and have a grand time herself, she may come to Birmingham on a shopping spree. She might even come to Lake Jewelers and choose some sterling from 125 patterns by any of these famous silver-houses.

- HEIRLOOM • INTERNATIONAL • WALLACE
- TOWLE • GORHAM • LUNT • REED & BARTON

Since women never let resentment interfere with astute shopping, you have one consolation. Whatever sterling she gets at Lake Jewelers will be the very finest.

And who knows, maybe she will want to make you feel small on leaving her for such a glorious weekend. (She doesn't consider the possibilities of cold, rainy weather, tangled lines, poor luck.) And . . . will get back at you, in the devious ways of her sex, by buying you a new watch from one of our superb lines.

- HAMILTON • MOVADO • OMEGA • GIRARD PERREGAUX

Which leads us to this suggestion. Steal some of her thunder, outfox her (if you dare) by suggesting that she go shopping and visit Lake Jewelers. Fellow fisherman—will THAT get her.

But then, maybe that's just what she planned on.

Oh well! May all of you catch your limit.

**LAKE JEWELERS**  
"The Sterling Store of Birmingham"  
Hours Daily 9:00 to 5:30  
69 W. Maple MI 4-5315  
Help The MOMS Help The VETERANS

**TELEVISION SERVICE**  
Open Evenings 7:30-9  
**MI 4-8705**  
Trained technicians assure you of satisfactory service . . . uninterrupted TV viewing.

**ELECTRONIC SERVICE**  
We Give S & H Green Stamps  
580 S. Woodward Open 8 a.m. to 6, 7:30-9 p.m.

**INTERIOR DECORATORS AT BUDGET PRICES**  
SEE OUR NEW LINE IN YOUR HOME

New Spring fabrics  
**Quimms**  
for **WRAPERIES** and SLIPCOVERS  
Combined With Excellent Workmanship and Prompt Service  
**TO BEAUTIFY YOUR HOME**  
Chromespun — Sheers  
Metallics — Nylon — Bamboo  
Fiberglass — 3-D Woven Textures  
Prints — Traditional, Scenics, Moderns

LINCOLN 6-3311 LINCOLN 3-4656  
**Quimms inc.**  
OPEN THURSDAY, FRIDAY EVENINGS  
2875 N. WOODWARD — 3 Blocks South of 12-Mile