Waterworks

(Continued from Page 1)

opposition was snowed under by a large majority. Voting was held at the National Hotel from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. with trustees Bodine, Peabody and Ford acting as inspectors of the election.

Of 178 votes cast, 150 voted "yes" for the waterworks and only 28 voted "no".

Said The Eccentric gleefully reporting the result: "Waterworks question carried! The report that our waterworks would squirt beer one hour each day between 9-10 a.m. is a canard and was used only for electioneering purposes."

J. HARVEY CARTER was employed by the board and sunk one well 40 feet deep on a location selected by trustees Ford, Peabody and Hagerman, which was near the bridge on West Maple avenue.

Trustees Bodine, Campbell, Peabody, Hagerman, Ford and Daines went out to inspect waterworks of sister villages Ovid, Owosso, St. Clair and Holly. Many other plants were visited and as much information as possible was gathered.

In March, 1890, contracts for the boiler for the waterworks was let and construction of the plant was begun. By careful buying and judicial investigation, considerable savings were realized when iron pipes for water mains were purchased.

THESE WERE soon distributed about the village by Fred Ford who took the job at 25c per ton. His dog "Jack" was the waterworks pipe's first victim.

"Fred Ford's dog, Jack, was under a 10-inch pipe when it struck the ground, and needless to say, Jack is no more," reported The Eccentric.

The works were under the supervision of the water board, composed of village trustees Ford, Daines and Hagerman with George Blakeslee as superintendent. This was a guarantee, said The Eccentric, that the work will be prosecuted with dispatch and thoroughness.

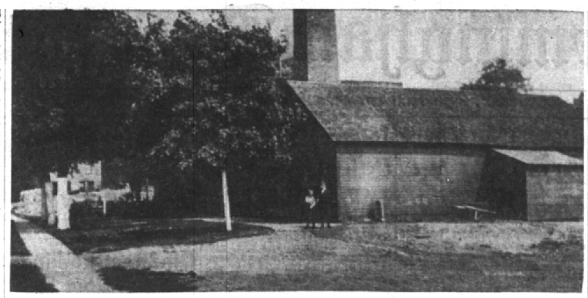
BY APRIL the long talked of waterworks had assumed creditable proportions. The tank or cistern was finished and water mains laid to the top of the hill.

It was planned that the water would be derived from a flowing well about 8 inches in diameter, opening into a cistern or tank built of brick, 20 feet across and 14 feet deep.

By May 1890, iron pipe, reducers and repairs, furnished the village by the Lake Shore foundry of Cleveland, Ohio, were all on hand. The bill amounted to $8,192.12.

Notices appeared in the paper warning people to be careful and look out for ditches throughout the village, made for the purpose of laying the mains.

COMPLAINTS were made regarding the careless manner in which the open ditches were left at night. (Birmingham had few street lights then.) It was suggested that those in authority should see that red lanterns were strung along the dangerous places.



BIRMINGHAM'S WATERWORKS, AS IT APPEARED IN ABOUT 1914
Engineer lived in rent-free house (left) adjoining water plant

Overseer Blakeslee kept 30 men at work putting in the mains and was assisted by about 40 no-pay lieutenants who kindly advised and assisted when they felt like it. Frank Ford and Frank Hagerman were two of the latter named.

So was John Baldwin, a village blacksmith, who by that time had retired from his stone blacksmith shop on East Maple.

"John Baldwin," reported The Eccentric, "is not a regular employee of the waterworks gang. When you see him shoveling sand in the street, it is with him purely a labor of love.

"The fire you saw running from his shovel into space was caused by the rapid movement of the implement through the gravel and sand, producing grea friction which in turn threw out that blaze."

SEVERAL ACCIDENTS occurred during the laying of the water mains. In front of Whitehead & Mitchell's store, George Wright was completely buried by a cave in. He was shoveled out instantly and aside from a severe squeeze about his breathing apparatus, he was as good as ever.

Henry Shuler also was buried, but the report that he took a nap while he was being dug out was denied. Henry later had a very serious accident when he struck the top of his foot with a pick axe, going through his boot and making a dangerous and painful wound.

His work on the water mains was finished, but the village board furnished the best of medical care and saw to it that Henry's bills were paid.

AROUND THE first of June 1890, water mains all were laid, hydrants set and a Waldo road maker, four horsepower, filled the trenches, doing the work of a hundred men.

One well was down, a second started and the powerhouse completed. There was only one hitch in the timetable. The pumps arrived but were not the kind contracted for, so the time taken to correct the mistake delayed the supply of water.

By July everything was ready and at a price perfectly satisfactory to all. The labor had been performed at less than estimated cost.

The final article on the establishment of the waterworks system in next week's issue will describe the reaction of the townspeople toward their new municipal enterprise.

Forty Boys Vie In Jr. Golf Play

Forty boys between the ages of eight and 15 will begin play today in Springdale Golf course's junior golf tournament.

Four flights with eight players in each flight will compete without handicap today, next Monday, and next Thursday.

Springdale Professional Robert Fauteck stated that the playoffs of the four flight winners are expected to be held Sunday, August 29, with boys battling for eight prizes with the tourney's winner's name to be ingraved on a permanent trophy at the course.

Flight winners will go for 18 holes with handicaps in the playoffs.

Board of Inquiry Ending Sessions

The Board of Inquiry, looking into the circumstances surrounding the June 14 Couper flash fire, which claimed three lives, interviewed five people Tuesday night. They were members of the local fire and police departments.

It is expected that the Board will turn over to the city commission its final report about the end of August.

You will find many bargains in The Eccentric Classified Columns.

The Birmingham Eccentric

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Door Troubles At High School

The Birmingham board of education Tuesday night was faced with a problem of doors that won't close and others that won't open at the high school. The trouble seems to be with the hinges that are falling off.

As an emergency measure rather than experiment on all of the doors, the board decided to call in people from the hardware factory to experiment with one pair of doors by installing extension arms and bumper door stops.

Call MIdwest 4-1100 to place an Eccentric Classified Ad. Deadline, 5 P.M. Tuesday.

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Kiwanis Sponsored Polo Game to Aid Program for Kids

Birmingham's Kiwanis club is sponsoring a "Polo Night" program Wednesday, Aug. 25, at the inner ring of the Ivory Polo Field, 8 Mile and Lasher. Play will get under way at 8 p.m.

Playing with the Ivory team will be the club's own Rich "Hoot" Gibson. The program will consist of two top-notch games, according to Clifford M. Wright, club president.

Wright added that the entire proceeds will be used for Kiwanis charitable work, including such events as the inter-club party tomorrow night for children.

A DIRECT mail campaign has been held by the Kiwanis for the sale of tickets, with checks to be mailed to Gilbert Schrock, 1748 Webster. Additional tickets are available from Schrock.

Berkley Man Held In Forgery, Theft

A 23-year-old Berkley unemployed truck driver, arrested Tuesday night on charges of theft and forgery, waived examination before Associate Justice John H. Emery, Jr., in municipal court Wednesday. Bond set at $2000 was not furnished.

He is Robert Eagles, 23, of 4081 Oakshire, Berkley, who is charged with stealing seven checks, a diamond wedding band, a tire, and a wheel and other miscellaneous articles from the home of Mrs. Bette Jean Brady, 1539 Humphrey, where he boarded three weeks.

He is accused of forging four of the seven checks, using Mrs. Bardy's name.

Eagles was arrested by Lincoln Park police Tuesday night on information furnished by Birmingham Detective Lt. Merlin Holmquist and Acting Detect. Lamar Gilchrist.

Eagles was committed to Oakland county jail.

School Property Is Purchased

Payment of check in the amount of $86,252.20 to Birmingham Development company for a 22 acre tract of property for a new junior high school was authorized Tuesday night by the Birmingham board of education.

The price was in accordance to the jury verdict last month on a condemnation suit in Oakland county court.

The area is bounded by Derby, Adams and Buckingham streets and the Grand Trunk Western railroad.

Miller Promoted

C. L. Miller, 993 Pilgrim, has been named vice-president of Standard Accident Insurance company and Planet Insurance company according to R. H. Platts, president of the combined firms. Miller, who has been resident vice-president in Michigan and Ohio, has been with the firm for 25 years.

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	4.75	4.00
	5.25	4.50
BOAT CUSHIONS	4.49	3.59
LAWN CHAIRS	8.95	6.95
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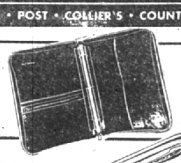
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