If Heaven possesses an auditor who makes Sunday indentures in his cash book, as he checks the money churchgoers place in the collection box, and if he hands out harps in keeping with one's ability to pay . . . do you suppose some will get stringless harps?

The Birmingham Eccentric

SECTION 3

Thursday, August 26, 1954

People's Column

Fire Dept. Action Lauded by Reader

August 17, 1954

To The Editor:

For some time I have been reading about implied criticism of the Birmingham fire department regarding their arrival in cases of emergency. This is to advise you of their prompt, efficient action in answering an emergency call to our residence on Wednesday, August 11.

Our son, 16 months old, was stricken with a severe choking spell. I immediately called the fire department and their resuscitator squad arrived on the scene minutes after the call, and even before we could locate the family doctor. Immediately upon arrival, they took over and restored breath to the child.

Needless to say, their prompt response to our emergency call was most gratifying and satisfactory. It should be a great source of relief and satisfaction to Birmingham residents to have public services such as the Fire Department available and ready at a moment's notice for emergency services.

This letter is to advise you of the facts in this situation, and also to express the sincere appreciation of our family to the men involved in this incident and to the entire department for maintaining the high standard of performance that was evidenced in our case.

Sincerely yours,
Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Harwood
1932 Melton Road

Ed. Note—The resuscitator service is made possible by the purchase of the equipment by the Birmingham Lions club.

Alteration Changes Okayed, Bloomfield

Alteration changes in building contracts on Bloomfield Village school at a cost penalty of $765.59 were approved by the Birmingham board of education August 17 on the recommendation of School Supt. Dwight B. Ireland.

The changes include the relocation of a partition and changing the exit sign and switch.

City To Share Cost

Reconsideration of an assessment for a water main against property on the east of Southfield, between Lincoln and Southlawn, was approved by the city commission August 16. The original assessment was spread 100 per cent against the property at the suggestion of city assessor Elmer V. Haack, the new assessment will include 15 per cent of the cost as a city-at-large expense.

SPRAYING

Shade Trees, Shrubs, Fruit Trees and Orchards

Lawn spraying for weed control. Also spraying for mosquito control.

Michael J. Jasso

Route 1, Birmingham — Phone Mulberry 9-2700

Birmingham Background

• Local History in Story and Picture •

As Compiled and Written by RUTH ANNE SILBAR

FRANK BLAKESLEE

MRS. FRANK BLAKESLEE

Frank Blakeslee Mixed Civics With Business

Frank Blakeslee was one of Birmingham's civic leaders and early business men. He served with distinction on the school board and on the village board.

While such statistics only prove his qualities of leadership, the human interest accounts of him on the pages of The Eccentric of his day, reveal his true character.

Frank was industrious.

He started in business as a young man clerking in the general store on the northwest corner of what is now Woodward and Maple, then called Saginaw and Mill streets.

Lyman B. Peabody and George Blakeslee (Frank's father) were in business together then, but when Peabody went into business for himself about 1875 on the southwest corner of the intersection, Frank "paddled his own canoe" in the old location under the title of "F. Blakeslee & Co."

FRANK BLAKESLEE was a generous man.

He had saved up all his empty cigar boxes and finally had such an accumulation after several years that he made up his mind to give them away to the youngsters of the town.

Therefore, a small item appeared in The Eccentric that "all those school children who want a nice cigar box, can get one free".

Such was the pulling power of that small item that Frank Blakeslee's life was made miserable for weeks afterward.

School children mobbed the store for one of the free cigar boxes and wherever Frank Blakeslee went, there was the inevitable youngster with the plea "Mr. Blakslee, kin I have one of your free cigar boxes?"

FRANK BELIEVED in performing his civic duty.

While he was in business on the corner location, he was bothered by rats (the descendants of which still plague the city health inspector) and set up traps.

He retired from the rat catching profession after 24 hours, capturing 1537 of these rodents—or perhaps it was 24 rats in 1537 hours—The Eccentric of Nov. 1879 couldn't be sure.

Frank Blakeslee was an enterprising man.

In 1884 he bought the old Jim Hunt building on South Saginaw and with Volney Nixon operated a general store.

IT WAS DURING this period that he tried an experiment which he hoped would ultimately develop into a large business (but it didn't).

He purchased a new Lamb Knitting machine and after Nota Chatfield learned to operate it, mittens of fine shape and quality were made.

The enterprising firm declared that it could readily dispose of ten times the number of mittens it was turning out at a very fair profit and declared its intention of adding more machines and going into the business in dead earnest.

Another knitting machine was added to the firm of F. Blakeslee & Co. the following year and besides mittens, the firm daily turned out 10 dozen pair of good sox.

IN 1887 Blakeslee and Nixon dissolved partnership, Frank withdrawing and selling all his right, title and interest of stock and store to Nixon who continued business at the old stand.

(Triangle Furniture Colonial Shop now occupies the site of the old store.)

Frank Blakeslee opened business in a new store building on West Maple just east of his home, now the store of Erwin and Smith, specializing in dry goods and wall paper.

Frank Blakeslee was a good husband and family man.

FRANK, WHO WAS the grandson of one of the area's first settlers, married Maria Durkee, also from pioneering stock, in 1872. They lived a happy wedded life. They had five children, one of whom still lives in Birmingham, Mrs. Emma Blakeslee Quarton.

When Maria Blakeslee went to Watkins lake in the summer with the Blakeslee children for a vacation, Frank "bached" it. On her return, Mrs. Blakeslee found things at home pretty much in a mess and The Eccentric of August, 1887, duly reported her reaction.

"If anyone wants a good housekeeper, don't hire Frank Blakeslee. He will use every dish in the house and never wash one. I carried out 9 pails, 6 pitchers and 4 basins of sour milk and 7 platters of meat, all spoiled."

THE FOLLOWING summer another item appeared in the village newspaper, "Wanted: housekeeper for Frank Blakeslee, for his wife is going to the lake soon."

Frank forgot his 16th wedding anniversary and never remembered it until Maria came into the store and claimed a pair of his best china vases for her anniversary gift.

Frank was a courageous man.

Once in 1887, burglars visited the village—and the Blakeslee, Hagerman and Bigelow homes in particular.

Sometime during the night, Frank heard his unmentionables slide from the bed to the floor but thinking they had only accidentally slid off, he groped around for them in the dark.

NOT FINDING them, he lit a light and found the doors all open, a window screen out and his pants gone. The unterrified Frank lit a lantern and pounding two kitchen kettles to arouse the neighborhood, went out to find the thieves.

He didn't, but did find his pants rolled up on the stoop of Frank Hagerman's house.

Frank Blakeslee was a modest man.

He ordered a suit from the tailor but sent it back.

"Fashion is all right," he said, "and I don't mind the decollette dresses on the women folks, but I draw the line at a pair of pants that are so all fired big in the legs that a modest man is afraid to go upstairs before a lady."

FRANK WAS an indulgent man—up to a point.

He had to shut down on the village boys in 1889 for using his store as a back stop in pitching curves. After the ball had passed through his store wall twice, Frank concluded he'd had enough.

Frank was a practical joker.

One spring when Frank had a plant sale, Jim Camp came in and looked the supply over very carefully. One particular plant took his eye, but because it was bereft of blossoms, Jim didn't want to part with his dollar.

For several days thereafter, Camp made a daily visit to the store, just to check up on that particular plant. Finally Frank Blakeslee, with a great deal of skill and ingenuity, fastened a paper flower onto that particular plant's stem and when Jim came in for his daily investigation and saw the plant blooming, he promptly bought it.

Frank was a fisherman.

WHEN HE WENT fishing, Maria always packed a model lunch for her husband. One summer day, Frank bragged all the way to the lake about his good lunch.

At lunch time, however, he concluded that raw potatoes weren't as good as cooked ones and eggs were a little better after a judicious amount of boiling than in the state of nature, but the cold coffee was altogether too hot for Frank, the pepper in it taking skin off his throat and sending him home with blood in his eye and a fish pole in each hand.

It was a lunch he never forgot.

Frank Blakeslee was a gardener.

HE PRIDED himself on his garden and his astuteness regarding this healthful vocation.

In the spring of 1889, he noticed coming up in his painfully neat and clean garden, some fine Hubbard squash vines, as he supposed.

Well, Frank nursed, watched and sat up nights with those vines and after a great deal of coaxing, was persuaded to give a few each to Sam Masters and Tom Ward, who in turn sat up nights watching over those garden greens.

Those carefully tended vines turned out to be wild cucumber.

Frank Blakeslee retired from business in 1914 and died the following year at the age of 66.

10 New Teachers

Birmingham board of education August 17 approved the appointment of 10 new teachers in the city's public schools beginning September 1, as recommended by School Supt. Dwight B. Ireland.

FANS — FANS

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FANS — FANS

GRASS

GRASS: Any of various plants that cover fields, lawns and pastures, and are eaten by horses, cows and sheep.

This definition should be very encouraging to those of us who find in our lawns such delicacies as Black Medic, Pennywort, Mousear, Chickweed, Gill-over-the-Ground, Nosebleed Weed, etc.

In 1930 the Dept. of Agriculture wrote this about certain lawn pests: "One must learn to live with, rather than entertain hope of its extermination.".

And we thought COEXISTENCE was a fairly NEW concept of life.

Well, let's quit fooling and get down to brass tacks.

You should be well underway with your fall program when you read this. If not you should:

Spray weeds with 2-4D

Kill crabgrass with POTASSIUM CYANITE

Fertilize with GRO-SOD or TRIPLE X

Rake out dead weeds

Scratch up thin sparse areas

Sow good LAWN SEED

Rake seed in lightly

Roll with EMPTY ROLLER

Cover with THIN layer of PEATMOSS

Water—water—water

Now, if you are starting a new lawn, try and get the seed on early in September.

The ground should be brought to finished grade immediately.

Spray broad-leaved weeds with 2-4D. If crabgrass is present, spray it with POTASSIUM CYANITE.

Fertilize, seed, rake, roll and water—water—water!

A good lawn seed is one with a balanced mixture of quick-growing temporary (nurse) grass such as RED TOP or PERENNIAL RYE and permanent grass such as KENTUCKY BLUE or FESCUE. (When using MERION BLUE GRASS it is better NOT to add competitive grasses such as Kentucky Blue or Fescue. On new lawns it is okay to add some RED TOP because it can germinate in a week and is very easy for the Merion to crowd it out.)

A good fertilizer is the type we sell—we mean—it is a 10-6-4 with part of the "10" (Nitrogen) in organic form.

No charge for consulting with us at the store.

Do you realize that in two or three weeks that LAMBERT SWEEPER which we now call a piece of JETSAM will be removed from the sale and the price upped to normal. (It ain't a broken piece of junk.)

LET'S GO!

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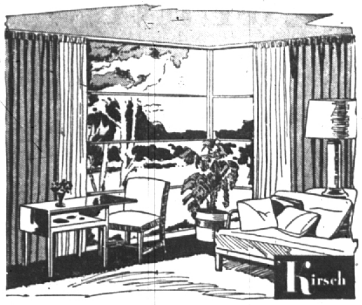

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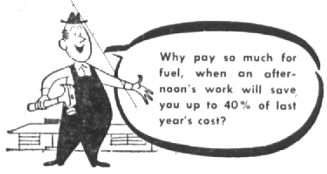

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