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**Torry Pavement Bid Is Approved**  
 The bid of the Oak Construction company for the paving of Torry north one half block from Holland has been approved by Birmingham city commissioners for \$1,557. The work will be done at the same time as the Haynes paving west from Columbia.  
 Construction on both streets is in conjunction with the development of Adams Village, the former Porritt property.  
 \* Smile a Minute . . .  
 "Mine wife is having another sinking spell and I'm staying away until it's finished."  
 "What! You're staying away and she's sinking?"  
 "Yes, she's sinking soprano."

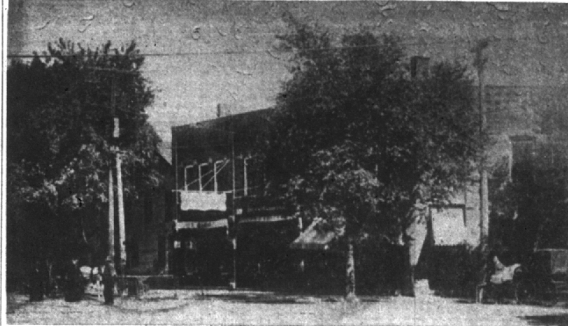
Most little children are honest and frank in their relations with adults. Eager to learn about the new world in which they find themselves, they ask questions; they observe their elders. What they hear and see patterns their adult lives.

# The Birmingham Eccentric

SECTION 3  
 Thursday, August 5, 1954

## BIRMINGHAM BACKGROUND

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



### Hitching Posts Instead of Parking Meters

When this picture of the northeast corner of Maple and Woodward avenue was taken in 1901, Tom and James Cobb, brothers, had just purchased the oldest established drug and grocery business in the village from Frank Hagerman.  
 The population of Birmingham then was 1170 residents. There were two telephone companies in town, one, the New State Telephone company whose headquarters were in the Cobbs' store and whose subscribers were cut over into the Michigan (Bell) Telephone board that year.  
 THAT WAS THE YEAR that Bloomfield Center, later called Circle city, officially was named Bloomfield Hills and

Town Line road became Adams road.  
 Horses still were pretty important creatures in Birmingham in 1901 for only a year previously had mention been made by The Eccentric of the first appearance of an automobile in the village.  
 The new-fangled whiz wagon belonged to a Detroit gentleman who stopped at Birmingham's National Hotel on his way to Pontiac.  
 Starting at the intersection and going north, the corner store was the meat market of Austin R. Parks; next came the two store fronts of Cobb and Cobb, Drugs and Groceries; and finally the National Hotel. (Photo from the Stanley Ford collection.)

## Alaskan Trip Is Post-Convention Event for Couple

By RUTH ANNE SILBAR

"Imagine a city of 55,000 people (80 per cent of whom are 35 years old or under), that has three airports and 2,000 private airplane pilots! That's Anchorage, Alaska."  
 Loyd L. Lake, local jeweler, who has recently returned from an Alaskan trip reports that Anchorage, the largest city in Alaska, has only two hours of total darkness this time of year—and throughout his visit, the weather was ideal with temperatures in the low 80's.

"Many people still think of Alaska as the land of perpetual ice and snow, a frigid north country inhabited by Eskimos," Lake said. "Actually, its climate compares favorably with Montana, Minnesota or Maine."  
 AS A delegate from Birmingham, Lake, accompanied by his wife, attended the Rotary International convention, held in Seattle, Wash., in June.  
 Following the convention, which was attended by 9,000 people from 53 different countries, Mr. and Mrs. Lake visited the land which one day will become the 49th or 50th state.  
 Leaving Seattle on the Steamship Baranof, the couple spent six days on the famed Inside Passage route to Ketchikan, Alaska, their first stop.  
 "Ketchikan is called Alaska's 'First City,'" Lake explained, "and is located along the shore of the Tongass Narrows, with strong snowclad mountains behind it."  
 "THE CHIEF industry of Ketchikan is based upon commercial fishing and it has three cold storage plants which handle over 25 million pounds of fresh salmon and halibut each year.  
 "The place is known as the salmon canning capital of the world, for more than half a million cases of salmon are packed each season at the canneries there."  
 "We visited one enormous cannery," Mrs. Lake said. "It was very clean and didn't smell at all like we thought it would."  
 The Lakes' next stop was at Juneau, which is 300 miles northwest of Seattle. Besides being the capital of Alaska, Juneau is the headquarters of most Federal agencies.  
 "ANOTHER STOP" along their way toward Anchorage was the little fishing town of Petersburg, on Mitkof island.  
 "While the place officially is named Petersburg," Lake said, "everybody calls it 'Little Norway,' for practically everyone there is Norwegian."  
 At the city of Seward, the Lakes left the steamship and took a train for Anchorage, 100 miles away, on the very modern Alaska railroad line. They got a close look at glaciers on the way through the large picture windows on the train.  
 "People in Alaska, and especially in Anchorage, are very bitter

visiting Americans that they are fighting men!"

"ANCHORAGE is a modern, up-to-date town," Mrs. Lake said. "There are two perfectly beautiful apartment buildings, 14 stories high, and a wonderful new high school."  
 From Anchorage, the Lakes flew back to Seattle in six hours, a distance of 1,500 air miles.  
 For them, the main vacation trip was over, but they enjoyed Banff, Lake Louise, Yellowstone National Park and the Black Hills on their way homeward.  
 Sometimes in the future when the Alcan highway is a little better, the Lakes say they are going to drive to Alaska—and go as far north as Nome.  
 From Nome, they plan to take a plane flight over the North pole.

Are you thinking of buying a new home? Then read the "Far Sale House" column on the Classified Ad page of this week's Eccentric.



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