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People's Column Asks Schools Be Named After Historic Persons

To the Editor:
Pioneers in Birmingham have been honored with street names such as Merrill, Hunter, Hamilton, Willetts, Crooks, etc., and were commemorated last year in your anniversary edition.

But there is a tendency to forget them and to give commonplace names to new schools.
In this connection, I have sent this attached letter to Ernest W. Seaholm, president of the board of education.

Ernest W. Seaholm, President Board of Education Birmingham, Mich.
Dear Mr. Seaholm:
This may seem a picaresque objection, but I have been long concerned with the adoption of the name "Pembroke" for the elementary school under construction in the northeast section, north of Derby road. My son will attend it, as I did the Hill and Adams schools.

FOR CONVENIENCE, no doubt, the name was adopted during the planning stage, because a real estate developer had used that name for a street several blocks away. But there is a Pembroke in every subdivision in the Middle West, and it has no significance in Birmingham.

As a matter of fact, there is even disagreement on the spelling, and the property owners' association in the adjoining subdivision spells it "Pembroke".
Destructive criticism should be followed by constructive suggestion. Therefore, as an amateur student of Birmingham-area history and as an oldtime resident, permit me to suggest to the board a name of historic significance to match those of the oldtime Barnum, Adams, Pierce and Quarton schools.

ACCORDING to history published in the anniversary edition of the Birmingham Eccentric, the first schoolmaster in the Birmingham area was Hervey Parke. He conducted the township's first school at Swan's Plains, about a mile north of Birmingham and within or near the bounds of the present school district.

He and a brother, Ezra, were the real founders of the local school system in about 1820, according to the published history.
Parke might be a suitable name for the new school. Undoubtedly members of your board have equally suitable suggestions.

But, before the cornerstone is laid, I submit that a historic community should not use commonplace and unhistoric names for its landmarks.

With every respect for your honorable body's views on this subject, I am,
Sincerely yours,
STODARD WHITE
2046 Yorkshire

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

Rite-Way Competes In League Finals

Rite-Way Softeners, Birmingham entry in the Pontiac Softball League, will compete in the league's playoff games this week.

By compiling a record of 13 wins against five defeats, Rite-Way ended season play in the league's first division and qualified for district playoff.

An important victory over Shaw's Jewelry at the close of regular play helped Rite-Way gain the finals.

Team members are Roger Reynolds, Willard Walker, Cal Atwood, pitchers; Red Kothe, catcher; Walt Allison, Harry Sugden, Charlie Reynolds, Donnie Moorhead and Charles Nichols, infielders; Pete Landino, Jerry Wedge, Tommy Stewart, Keith Ege and Chester Hayes, outfielders; Bobby Vincent, baby and Gary Phillips, mascot.

OK Fall Planting Plan at Eton Park

The proposal to spend from \$1,700 to \$2,000 for fall plantings in Eton Park has been approved by Birmingham city commissioners.

Construction of a park building to house sanitary facilities and store equipment, along with a lighted ball diamond and the construction of a second diamond, as proposed by the recreation board, still is under consideration.

Motor Vehicle Fund Returns Reported

The City of Birmingham will receive \$18,883.74 as its share of the second quarter motor vehicle highway fund, the state highway department disclosed this week.
Blomfield Hills' share will be \$3,440.08 and Lathrup Village will receive \$3,579.49 from the state returns which are raised through gas and weight taxes.
Oakland county will gain \$505,086.91.

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Umpire

(Continued from Page 1, Sec. 4)

gusto the pitcher winds up and lets fly, right over the outside corner, you call "Strike three, batter out".

THE CATCHER is calm, you can almost hear him think, "nice call ump". However the batter protests vigorously with a toss of his bat and a violent fling of his helmet. You can almost, but not quite read his lips saying, "That guy is blind, the ball was outside and too high."

The next two batters walk, accompanied by mild protests from the catcher. Next batter goes out and here with two men on base and the prospects for runs good, with a hit, comes the fifth batter. The count goes to two and two and the next pitch is close, but a little outside, "ball three".

The catcher groans and you look out to the pitcher. The first glance and you think, "What in the world is wrong with that boy?" He must have an attack of appendicitis or a similar painful affliction. But no, he is merely conveying that you just messed up his pet pitch.

He is backed by the infielders and you wonder maybe it isn't too bad a suggestion that you do consult an oculist. The batter strikes out and everything is under control again.

THE BLUES come to bat and the same procedure is repeated. The game goes on like this until the fourth inning. Until now it is a typical game with a few close calls on base and at the plate with the usual duties of clearing bickering kids in back of the backstop, clearing the side lines from time to time, asking the coaches to stay in their boxes, keeping your eye on foul balls hit out of the area to see that they are returned to the game, and several other situations demanding attention from the umpire.

Now the Reds are to bat, first man grounds a ball to second baseman, out at first. Next batter walks, next batter hits along first base line, runner and baseman collide messing up the play, batter reaches first but other runner is out at second.

BASE UMP rules interference on encroachment by fielder, ruling

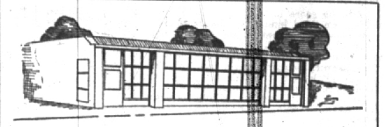
runner safe at second. Comments from parents and friends of the Blues in the stands comes over the air to the ears of the ump, of course you are supposed not to hear this and pay no attention if you do, but mostly I believe you could rob the National Bank and would not be made to feel as much of a robber. The next batter hits to the short-stop who starts to throw to second forcing the runner, but no one covering the base, a dandy, the runner crosses the plate and the Blues have won a close thrilling game.

"TAKE OFF" (the hot dirty equipment and rush home. "Gee I'm hungry, dirty, tired" — so after a snack and a shower you sit down and say to yourself, "all umpires talk to themselves"). "That's a fine program and I am glad that I can be a part of it, with the managers

and coaches who put so much time and energy into instruction and strategy. With the fathers and mothers and friends who loyally support their favorite sons and their teams."
"To the fans we know you enjoyed it and we like you all regardless of your comments."
Signed
Little League Umpire

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