

Praises Operation Of Sec. of State Office Here

Michigan's Secretary of State, Owen J. (Pat) Cleary, complimented the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce on its operation of the local secretary of state's office in his talk Monday noon to the Birmingham Rotary club.

"Under the able direction of C. C. Executive Secretary Charles Mortensen, the Birmingham office has done an unusually good job in issuance of license plates," Cleary commented.

HE SAID the record number of vehicles registered in Michigan which is just short of 3,100,000 for 1953—plus the increasing number of out-of-state tourists, have complicated Michigan's highway problems.

"I recognize something must be done, or we'll find it more serious than it now is," he emphasized.

Traffic deaths and injuries on state highways undoubtedly will be greater for 1953 than for 1952, he said.

"If we would make progress in reducing these totals, good roads are a partial answer," he continued. "Speed is another partial factor."

HE SAID at the forthcoming session of the state legislature, a bill would be introduced calling for a state speed limit, probably setting a top speed of 55 mph in the daytime, and 55 mph at night.

"A minimum speed limit also is being considered," Cleary added, "because slow speeds cause accidents too. By defining what the minimum speed is, enforcement is less up to the discretion of arresting officers."

He said recent legislative enactments, such as providing for a central state file for moving violation records and tighter driver licensing examinations, should make themselves felt in a lowering of the highway accident rate.

You will find many bargains in The Eccentric Classified Columns.

Somewhat, at Christmas-time, when engaged in the buying and giving of presents for my children and grandchildren, I go back in memory to my own childhood Christmas; for, after all, isn't the larger part of "giving" at Christmas-time for children?

The Birmingham Eccentric

SECTION 4

Thursday, January 7, 1954

BIRMINGHAM BACKGROUND

Local History in Story and Picture



DR. EBENEZER RAYNALE BUILT THIS HOME IN 1839 Has been moved onto Willetts street, a block from its original site



EBENEZER RAYNALE



CHARLES RAYNALE



GEORGE RAYNALE

(At Right)

This second home was constructed 34 years later after first residence was sold, moved. Then it, too, was relocated to make way for Wabeek building.



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100 NORTH WOODWARD AT MAPLE

3 Doctors Raynale Have Served Area's Medical Needs

Dr. George P. Raynale, for over 50 years a practicing physician, is the third Doctor Raynale to serve the medical needs of this city.

Adorning the west wall of his office is a large oil painting of his grandfather, Dr. Ebenezer Raynale, one of the early physicians in this area.

Dr. Ebenezer Raynale was born in Vermont but spent most of his life until 1828 in New York and Pennsylvania. He read medicine in Susquehanna County, Pa. and Niagara County, N. Y.

"Coming to the wilderness of Michigan, Dr. Ebenezer Raynale settled in Franklin where he lived with a relative, Dorcas Morton and his family, and established himself in his profession.

FIRST of many important posts which Dr. Ebenezer Raynale filled during his life time was his appointment as the first postmaster in the village of Franklin.

Dr. Ebenezer Raynale had an extensive practice in Oakland county in those early days, and settled in the village of Birmingham in 1839.

He built a small house which stood on what is now the northeast corner of Maple and Bates street (where the Wabeek building is now). So well was the house constructed and with such sturdy material, it has withstood the ravages of time. It is still standing at 359 Willetts, now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. George Hendrix.

Dr. Ebenezer Raynale was a prominent citizen of Oakland county. In 1835 he was elected one of the delegates to assist in forming the first constitution of Michigan,

was a member of the second constitutional convention and in the fall of 1836, was elected a member of the first State Senate.

WHILE in the active discharge of his duties, he became so violently ill that his brother senators provided a covered wagon and laid their supposedly dying friend upon the bed placed in it.

Under the care of his young wife, Dr. Ebenezer Raynale was conveyed home. The doctor, however, recovered and lived to see his brother senators all carried to their long homes, he being the last surviving member of the first State Senate.

Dr. Ebenezer was active in forming the first State Medical Society in Michigan. He is remembered in Birmingham in his later years as being one of the few residents of the village who took the responsibility of the care and upkeep of

the village cemetery (Greenwood).

IN 1873 Dr. Raynale retired from active practice and turned his business over to his son, Dr. Charles M. Raynale.

Dr. Charles Raynale was a popular and busy doctor in the adolescent years of Birmingham. Many old residents of the city today can recall him and his consuming interest in horses.

The Birmingham Eccentric of those days contain many references to the skill of Dr. C. M. Raynale and also to the many and various horses owned, raced, bred and sold by the good doctor.

BIRMINGHAM, as well as many small villages in Oakland County, were more or less of a "horse" town and trotting lore was talked by nearly all male citizens long before they could vote.

Dr. C. M. Raynale, a member of

the Horse Club, of which George E. Daines of the National Hotel was president, kept some of his horse stock in the National Hotel stables according to an article from The Michigan Farmer of 1886.

One of the doctor's most well known and talked of horses was "Gazetteer" who won many races. Gazetteer, his noted trotting stallion was sold in 1881 to a Detroit party for the magnificent sum of \$1,600.

IN APRIL 1887, Dr. C. M. Raynale, who still was living in the little house built by his father, started plans for a Victorian mansion on the same site, (the Wabeek corner).

He hired ten men to tear down the little old house, but it was saved from such a fate when George H. Mitchell, one of The Eccentric's publishers, purchased

it. He had it moved to its present location at 359 Willetts.

Mitchell set the house upon a stone foundation, put a cellar under it with a cistern attached and fixed the house up in good living shape. There his father, R. J. Mitchell, and his step-mother lived until their death.

Dr. George P. Raynale can now look out of his office window in the Wabeek building and see the house that his grandfather built, the house where he and his father were born.

HE ALSO can see from his window the Victorian mansion built by his father in 1887, costing \$3,000 and which was moved to N. Bates street to make way for the Wabeek building.

It stands in all its cramped Victorian glory at 247 N. Bates and until recently served as the Baptist church parsonage.

Child Labor Conviction Brings Fine of \$25

Found guilty of a violation of Michigan State Child Labor laws, James Peabody of Peabody's Market was fined \$25 and ordered to pay \$10 court costs Thursday by Justice John J. Gaffill.

A representative of the state la-

bor Board said that Peabody had employed a 17-year-old high school youth for too many hours per week.

Working time for 17-year-old students is restricted to a maximum combination of 48 school and work hours.

Rec Board Plan For Cage Program Begins Saturday

Starting Saturday, Jan. 9, the Board of Education will make all city school gymnasiums available for the Recreation Board's 10 week basketball program.

Fundamentals and team play will be featured for boys of the fifth and sixth grades at the Adams, Pierce, and Baldwin schools. Barnum will provide opportunities for boys of the junior high school level, and the high school will offer intramural activities for teenagers.

The adult instructors provided to supervise the program are well qualified in this field and will attempt to promote the sport among boys who participate regardless of their individual ability.

Programs begin at 9 a.m. every Saturday are open to all youngsters who live in the school district and are given free of charge. The recreation program will be available for the Quanton area as soon as the new school addition frees the gymnasium from classroom use.

Simpson Is Named Detroit Trust VP

James F. Simpson, 737 N. Eton, has been named assistant vice-president of the Detroit Trust company, according to company president Selden B. Deane.

Simpson, who has been associated with Detroit Trust during the past eight months working on special corporate situations, formerly was a vice-president of the Dresser Equipment company of Dallas, Texas and Cleveland, Ohio.

Prior to this he worked in Michigan for 15 years serving the General Motors Corporation and American Blower Corporation and worked with Detroit Trust for nine years.

'Ladies' Night' Date Set

Annual "Ladies' Night" for the Birmingham Rotary club will be held at Oakland Hills Country club the evening of Feb. 24, Club President Ed Pool said this week.

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

Commendation Ribbon Given Correspondent

40TH DIV. KOREA—Army Sgt. Edward N. Schneider, 27, son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis J. Schneider, 273 Euclid, was recently awarded the Commendation Ribbon for meritorious service with the 40th Infantry Division in Korea.

Sergeant Schneider distinguished

himself as a combat correspondent for the 24th Regiment from March 18, 1953 to July 27. In order to obtain news items of interest to families of soldiers with the regiment, Schneider made daily trips to the most forward points of the front lines, exposing himself to enemy

observation and fire. He is a 1949 graduate of the University of California at Los Angeles.

Are you thinking of buying a new home? Then read the "For Sale—Houses" columns on the Classified Ad page of this week's Eccentric.

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