

Aids from riding are to make a living, education ought to enlarge the mental and spiritual horizons of people. The whole looks at a flower, a sunset, the stars, a landscape, a good person, can enjoy these scenes better when he truly is educated.

Annual Meetings Elect Members To Cranbrook Boards

Five new names appear on the roster of the operating boards of Brookside School Cranbrook, Cranbrook Academy of Art and Cranbrook Institute of Science, since the annual meetings of those institutions.

Robert Wardrop, of the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co., W. Lloyd Kemp, M.D. and Mrs. Maxwell E. Fead were elected to the board of directors of the elementary school, Brookside, succeeding Edward E. Wilson, Dr. Fritz Redl and Frederick G. Wood, under the institution's automatic retirement plan. Dr. Kemp and Mrs. Fead have previously served on the board and are now returning to it after a prescribed interval.

Raymond T. Ferring, president of the Detroit Bank, and Theodore O. Yntema, of the Ford Motor Co., are new members of the board of trustees of the art academy, which operates the museum of art at Cranbrook as well as the courses of instruction.

THE OFFICERS of the art academy, who were re-elected, are Henry S. Booth, architectural designer, chairman; Maje T. Patton, of Ford Sanders, confectioners, vice chairman; and Michael A. Gorman, editor of The First Journal, treasurer. Arthur B. Wittliff was reappointed secretary and assistant treasurer.

Robert H. Merrill, a trustee of Cranbrook Institute of Science since 1945, submitted his resignation at the meeting which re-elected its present board, consisting of Lee R. Dice, of the University of Michigan, vice chairman; Dr. Harvey M. Mesker, of the University of Co., secretary; and Fred L. Black, of American Motors, treasurer. Wittliff was appointed assistant secretary and assistant treasurer.

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Birmingham Background

Local History in Story and Picture

As Compiled and Written by RUTH ANNE SILBAR



HAMILTON AVENUE (FORMERLY MIDDLE ST.) LOOKING WEST TOWARD WOODWARD. It was lined with residences in 1918 when Stanley Ford took this picture.

Pioneer's Home Once Stood on Hamilton St.

On Middle street in Birmingham lived Mrs. Mortimer Smith, in the first brick house built in the village.

Her father, Daniel Hunter, who with his brother, John West Hunter, came in 1819 to what is now Birmingham.

While John Hunter and his family remained here, the rest of the Hunter family left the settlement and bought government land in Southfield township. There Cornelia Hunter Smith was born in 1823.

WHEN SHE was five years old her father, Daniel, who had secured a government position, moved his family with a team of horses and a wagon to Fort Dearborn (Chicago) where he was sent to deal with the Indians.

At that time Cornelia was the first white child in Fort Dearborn and her only playmates were Indian children. After eight years in Fort Dearborn, her father moved the family back to Birmingham and on Middle street built the brick house.

When Cornelia married Mortimer Smith in 1843, Daniel Hunter gave his daughter the house as a

wedding present and there she lived the remainder of her long life.

AT THE AGE of 63 when most women of her time were retiring to an easy chair by the side of the coal stove, Cornelia Smith opened a bakery in the old foundry building on Troy street.

The foundry formerly belonged to Mortimer Smith, who with his father Aaron, manufactured farm implements. It stood on what is now East Maple, east of the present Briggs building.

Mort Smith fixed up a big oven in the place and soon Mrs. Smith had the shop neat and tidy. New Year's eve lunches, featuring oysters and coffee, were served at the bakery to the benefit of the celebrating villagers.

reader and did a lot of knitting during the winter. She said she hoped to vote before she died.

By 1915, when she was close to 93 years old, Middle street had been re-named Hamilton avenue. That year George Daines took her and her friend, Mrs. George MeStay, 75 years old, to the pioneer picnic at Orchard lake in his auto.

"Mrs. Smith is unusually intelligent and active," reported The Eccentric, Sept. 1945, "and has a wonderful memory." She recently finished a white dress which she made all by hand for her granddaughter, Fay Jarvis, who lives with her. The dress has 32 yards of fine white lace sewed on by hand.

Cornelia Hunter Smith died in 1916 shortly after her 94th birthday. Her brick house on the north side of what used to be Middle street, has long since been torn down and cars are now parking on the site of the first brick house in Birmingham.

Illegal Parkers Irk School Board

Come next fall, persons who park behind the curbs in front of Birmingham high school may return to find the vehicles have been towed away, the board of education has indicated.

Supt. of Schools Dwight R. Ireland reported to the board that drivers are ruining the walks and grass in front of the school by pulling over the low curbs to park.

They will discuss the situation with Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley to find out what can be done in the way of streeting parking prohibition signs.

It was suggested that an attendant be hired next fall to check on illegal parkers and report them to police, if necessary.

The driver whose car is towed from an illegal parking spot must pay a \$5 fine, according to police.

Want ads cannot be accepted after 5 p.m. each Tuesday.

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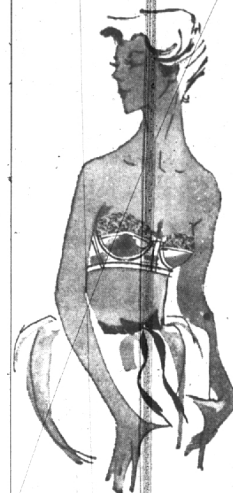
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Board Defers Decision on Buying Audit

The Birmingham recreation board is going to wait a while before deciding what to do about paying for an audit of their accounts.

It was decided last week by the board of directors of the Detroit firm of Hogan, Juengel and Harding.

Evidently something went awry when Board Member Coit Allee, under authorization of the board, asked the firm about estimated costs of an audit of the board's accounts dating back to its organization in 1947.

Instead of a cost estimate, the firm conducted an audit and sent its results along with a letter stating the cost of the operation had been \$965. The board received the letter at its Thursday night meeting.

Manner of payment was left up to the discretion of the board, the letter stated.

"I THINK THE firm sort of put us on the spot by going ahead and conducting the audit when all I asked for was an estimate," said Allee.

"But, I also think the audit is needed since there has never been a check on our accounts. A proper audit of our funds is part of our obligation to the public," he added.

Board members pointed out that the board's budget can't stand an expenditure of \$965 for an audit at the present time.

Allee said he felt the firm would be willing to accept whatever the board was able to pay and assume the remaining cost as a public service to the city of Birmingham.

whose accounts the firm has handled for many years.

He proposed a motion to accept the audit with the proviso that payment would be discussed at the end of the board's 1953-54 fiscal year, July 1. At that time the board will be able to determine if it has any surplus funds left over that could be used to pay for the audit.

Remainder of the board declined to support Allee's motion.

Dean Feyer then moved, and the board approved, that the matter be tabled until the close of the fiscal year. Allee voted no, stating he wanted to start making use of the audit immediately.

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