

A public official depends upon voters to get him into office, and to keep him there; that is why you witness the average public official "blowing down" to the demands various groups. If the so-called "good people" would stand with their officials, they would get more of it.

Birmingham Background

Local History in Story and Picture

As Compiled and Written by RUTH ANNE SILBEAR



VILLAGE BLACKSMITH LIVED IN THIS HOUSE FROM 1879-1905
On north side of Willets, just east of Chester street. (Eccentric Photo)

Anvil Rang Out on Troy Street

An indispensable man for any village in the era preceding the auto was the village blacksmith. Birmingham was blessed with several sons of Vulcan, one of whom, the popular John Baldwin, was to be found at the stone blacksmith shop on Troy Street (East Maple).

John Baldwin was born in England and came to America with his parents when a babe in arms. His father, Thomas Baldwin, settled near Birmingham.

In 1865 John built the stone blacksmith shop and worked as a smithy until his children were grown. He retired from business in 1887 and Mel Clement took his place.

IN 1879 BALDWIN moved to a house on Willets street (now house number 384). The Eccentric noted his moving and jokingly said, "We understand that Jack has had to give bonds to A. C. Wallace and C. M. Raynale for good behavior before they would let him move into their neighborhood." John Baldwin lived in this house until his death in 1905.

Fishing was one of his favorite pastimes. Once in the summer of 1887 while fishing at Pine Lake, he had a most unusual experience.

WHILE OUT on the lake, he heard a noise and thought it was a mowing machine on shore. On looking up, he saw a whirlwind on the lake that made a terrific noise. It caught the water, whirling it to a height of over 100 feet, he said, bounding along the surface of the lake until it disappeared. Baldwin put to shore immediately for fear the monster might return and transport him to the upper regions.

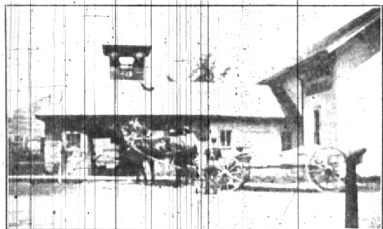
"And," said The Eccentric in re-

going, "tore out the side of the boat and escaped."

John Baldwin was a gardener. He had difficulty with the rabbit, throwing away on his garden greens, but a worse plague to him were rats.

IN THE winter of 1892, The Eccentric commiserated with Baldwin.

"Old enemies of Jack Baldwin and his own garden grown, hand-picked, family-shed, yellow-potato, are rats. But Jack hatched out a scheme to outsmart them and fastened with a rope from the ceiling his big bucket of popcorn, for future use. This was last fall, Sunday when he went to get some corn for popping, every last blasted rat, he said, had been carried away by rats."



OLD STONE BLACKSMITH SHOP
Stood on site which now is 111 East Maple

PLAY IT SAFE!

Right Fire Extinguisher Is Important

Selecting the right fire extinguisher for your home or place of business is a simple matter, but not so simple that "just any kind" will do.

What ever type you select, make sure it is approved by the Underwriters' Laboratories. Most home fires involve wooden construction or ordinary combustibles, such as wood, paper or cloth. These fires are best extinguished with water, obtained from a small hose, pump tanks, soda and acid or water filled extinguishers.

ALTHOUGH water and water-type extinguishers should never be used directly on oil, grease, paint, gasoline or electrical fires, they are highly effective for setting the surrounding combustibles so fire won't spread.

The common garden hose makes available an unlimited water supply. You can install pipe and faucet connections at several convenient locations. Keep a hose attached, neatly coiled and ready for quick use.

Light-weight plastic hose is easy to handle but should be long enough to reach all danger points.

FOR ELECTRICAL fires, keep water and water solution type fire extinguishers away from electrical appliances, etc., while they are still connected to live circuits; you may get a shock.

The better fire extinguisher to use is one that is a non-conductor of electricity, such as carbon dioxide, dry chemical powder or vaporizing liquids which produce inert gas.

"Play it Safe" Provide the proper extinguisher for the type hazard involved. Have it checked annually for efficiency and if in doubt, as to the type, size or location, call your fire department for advice.

MI 4-2121 Business Phone
MI 4-4416 Emergency Only.
Proposed as a public service by members of the BIRMINGHAM FIRE DEPT.

Korean Recreation

Mrs. Donald R. Larson, a member of the 25th Machine Records unit in Korea, recently spent a seven-day rest and recreation leave in Tokyo, Japan. Larson, an IBM executive with the unit, entered the army in October 1953 and arrived overseas last June. His father, August Larson, lives at 31275 Bingham road.

Enlists in Army

Stanley Adrian Heselman, 30165 Brentwood, enlisted in the army and will begin basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. A graduate of Birmingham high school, he was formerly employed as a salesman for Hensel and Gretel shoes.

To buy or sell a used automobile, read and use Eccentric Classified Ads.

HEARING AIDS

and BATTERIES

ALL MAKES

Make Inquiry at Our Store and Get All of the Details

SHAIN'S DRUG STORE

MI 4-2121

105 W. Maple

Cadet Promoted

Ralph Crawford, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Crawford of Birmingham, Mich., has been promoted to Cadet sergeant first class in the Air Force ROTC at Michigan College of Mining and Technology. This announcement was made by the commanding officer at Tech where Crawford is a sophomore.

Art Students Sell Christmas Cards

CANBROOK Christmas cards of original design, hand-printed from silk screens and wood blocks, by Cranbrook Academy of Art students are now being sold daily, except Mondays, from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Academy museum. Buying from modern stylings through traditional Yale themes, the cards are an advance preview of the Annual Student Exhibition and Sale scheduled to open December 3.

WUNDA WEVE

CARPETS available at

Wieland's

UPHOLSTERY DRAPERIES

523 N. Woodward Ave., Phone MI 4-2530

"CIVILIZE" YOUR HARD WATER

with ever-soft

The Cadillac OF THE SOFT-WATER INDUSTRY

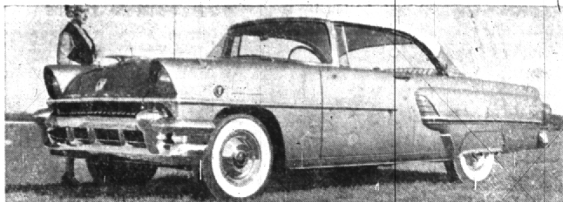
This gleaming Stainless Steel Water Softener installed in your home means oceans of soft water for a lifetime. That's right... Ever-Soft with its rust-proof, non-corrosive stainless steel is the most durable softener on the market. Contains Dowex, amazing water-softening mineral. Regenerated by the turn of a valve—the finest precision-built control in the industry.

Ever-Soft actually saves you more than the monthly payments to buy it... saves on soap, cleaners, washables, plumbing, heaters, fuel.

Free Booklet—SOFT WATER SAVES YOU \$166 A YEAR!

NATIONAL PUMP & SOFTENER CO.

12911 ARBIAAN • DETROIT 23, MICH. • BR 3-6149



BEAUTY AND PERFORMANCE are combined in the completely new Mercury for 1955 through the utilization of new styling, new power plants and other mechanical improvements. A choice of two engines—one developing 188 horsepower and the other 198 horsepower—is offered. New body styling, including canted headlights, long-scope windshield and a different rear appearance, has been combined with new interior trims and fabrics. Shown here is the 1955 Monterey hardtop coupe, one of the models that will be on display at Bob Frost, Inc., 850 S. Woodward, December 2.

Clerk in Infantry

Cpl. Wilbert Calhoun, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert J. Calhoun, 5235 Long Meadow, is serving in Korea with the 2nd Infantry division. Cpl. Calhoun, who is the chief clerk in the 40th Field Artillery Battalion headquarters battery, entered the Army in March 1951 and served in Korea that October. His wife, Dolores, lives in Feneston.

Society deadline is 3 p.m. each Tuesday.

MI 4-9313
BIRMINGHAM ELECTRIC
PAUL SAUD
Complete Electrical Service
609 W. Ruffner, Birmingham

"his" CHRISTMAS from McCoy Tailors

148 Pierce St.

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

Midwest 4-7602

Formerly in the Book Tower — Detroit —

One of Detroit's
Oldest Custom Tailors

We Suggest The
Following For "His"
CHRISTMAS.....

Hand Made, Custom Tailored

- Suits and Outer Coats \$115.00 to \$145.00
- Custom Tailored Sport Coats \$ 79.50 to \$ 95.00
- Custom Tailored Slacks \$ 33.50 to \$ 45.00

READY-TO-WEAR CLOTHING

In addition to our Custom-Tailored Suits and Coats we have added Topcoats, Slacks, and Formals—ready-to-wear and fitted expertly by our own tailors.

TOP COATS

- Ready-To-Wear
- GABARDINES
- TWEEDS (imported)
- \$69.50 & \$79.50

"Imported" Cashmere

COATS

One of the finest gifts that we know of.

- brown • gray • blue • natural

\$135.00

There are many grades of CASHMERE. Select "his" at McCoy's and he will know it is a good one.

SLACKS

Ready-To-Wear

\$19.50 - \$25.00

Hand Tailored By

HELLER

\$29.50 to \$39.50

TUXEDOS

The New Light Weights \$85.00 to \$110.00

A McCoy merchandise order for the amount you wish to spend is in good taste—garments to be made for him at any time.

Open Thursday and Friday Evenings Until 8:30 Till Christmas

If it is inconvenient for you to visit our shop in the day time or on Thursday or Friday evenings, we will welcome evening appointments until Christmas. You can shop as privately as in your own living room.

McCoy Tailors

IF "HIS" GIFT IS FROM MCCOY'S HE WILL KNOW IT IS THE BEST!