

Accident Toll Up From '54

Birmingham's February accident toll showed a substantial increase over the January toll as well as that of February 1954, according to reports released this week by Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley.

Moxley explained that the total accidents would naturally be greater than last year because of a change in policy which requires reporting of all accidents, no matter how minor.

"The serious accidents in which persons are injured have been on the increase. Birmingham also experienced its first fatal accident of the year when a pedestrian stepped into the path of an approaching vehicle on S. Woodward," Moxley said.

PROPERTY damage for Feb., 1955, was estimated at \$162,353.50, compared to \$137,735 a year ago. In all, there were 59 traffic accidents, as compared to 57 in January, but injuries (31) remained the same.

Eight-of-way violations and improper passing were responsible for almost one-half of all accidents last month. Leaving the Proper list of violations was the right-of-way, which was second in January.

Improper passing climbed from fifth place in January to second in February when 12 motorists were found to have committed this violation, causing accidents.

ALL OFFICERS being advised to be especially alert for all of the violations which caused accidents, will be strictly enforced. These regulations in an effort to discourage these violations and thereby reduce the number of accidents being caused by careless or thoughtless drivers, Moxley concluded.

YMCA Schedules Bermuda Tour

A notable trip to Bermuda, sponsored by the Travel Club of the Detroit YMCA and open to interested men and women of Birmingham, has been scheduled for April 9 to 17 inclusive.

The trip is planned to provide adults with a high-quality tour of this "Little Island in the Middle of the Sea." The dates include Easter Sunday and the week following Easter. On Easter Sunday the travelers can attend services in the oldest Anglican Church in the Western Hemisphere.

THE GROUP will stay at the St. George Hotel in the Community of St. George. This is one of the finest hotels on the island and is located atop Rose Hill looking out over the island-dotted harbor. At the foot of the hill lies the quaint old town from which the hotel takes its name.

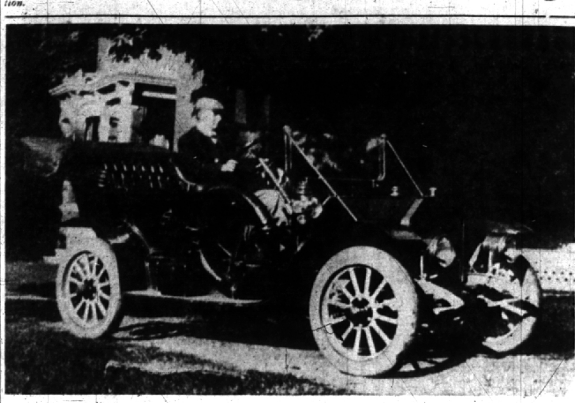
There is a large covered swimming pool, a private ocean beach, golf course, fishing, shopping in the quaint little town of St. George, entertainment each night in the hotel and sightseeing around the island.

This tour will be round-trip by Pan American World Airways, Northwest and American Airlines, leaving Willow Run early Saturday morning, April 9, and returning Sunday evening, April 17. All arrangements are made in advance so that folks who go on the trip have nothing to be concerned about.

TOTAL RESERVATIONS are limited to fifty. Final date for signing up is March 28, although the quota may be filled before that date. Inquire at your nearest YMCA branch or phone W. E. Newell, Woodward 2-1590, Detroit YMCA, for further information.

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It is good that each of us becomes lovingly rooted in the environment of where we live. Some of the familiar stories about one's home and neighborhood, and one's job, are found here to call one back from a vacation.



THE LATE J. BERT PEABODY AND HIS FIRST BUICK AUTO
Photo from the J. Bert Peabody collection

Whizz-Wagon in Birmingham Made Its Debut in 1900

A strange new contraption was first reported by The Birmingham Eccentric in the spring of 1900. It was an automobile.

No mention was made of the name of "the queer-looking outfit" but Eccentric Editor George Mitchell noted that the vehicle weighed 1,600 pounds and carried two gentlemen who were making a trip from Detroit to Pontiac.

The men took dinner at the National Hotel and while they were there engaged, the center of attraction was thoroughly inspected, examined and admired by a great many of the townspeople including the editor.

IN MAY, 1901, Frank Peasall became the happiest man in town. He was the first in all the village to own an "up-to-date automobile" and it took \$1,000 "in cold cash." The vehicle weighs 1,100 pounds and on almost any bright day, Frank may be seen giving his friends a ride with the steel that never gets tired.

One fortunate inhabitant to get a ride in the steel steed was John G. Wilson, also known as "Paddy". Wilson was 90 years old at the time of his ride and was much too over-awed with the auto to say anything more than he "certainly enjoyed his ride out."

BY 1902, SO MANY whizz wags were whizzing through Birmingham, endangering the life and limb of every inhabitant, that the village fathers passed an ordinance which read:

"No person shall drive or cause to be driven any coach, carriage, buggy, cart, wagon, sleigh, cutter, sled, automobile, bicycle or any other vehicle in the public streets of Birmingham at a greater speed than six miles an hour. It is provided that this ordinance shall not apply to cars or engines operated on steam or electric railroads. Fines to be imposed not exceeding \$100 or 90 days or both together with the costs of prosecution."

Editor Mitchell accepted the fact that automobiles were here to stay when he reported in Sept. 1904, "Take some pains to get your horse accustomed to automobiles, especially animals the ladies drive. You are liable to meet one any-

where nowadays and the only thing to do is get the horses used to them."

BY 1909, AUTOS were going at a terrific rate of speed on improved roads. Homer Leonard made the run from this village to Pine Lake via Pontiac in his new \$500 Lambert, covering the distance, some 32 miles in 37 minutes. Ben Schlaek who had let Leonard one dollar that the trip could not be made in 19 minutes, paid off without a murmur.

Dr. Charlie M. Raynale, father of Birmingham's Dr. George Raynale, was the first doctor in the village to buy an automobile for his professional visits.

"When you see a red blaze scotching across the country at a mile a minute," said The Eccentric in March 1910, "that's Dr. Raynale and the Flanders 20."

A FEW months later the newspaper reported that "horses are too slow for our doctors" because Dr. N. T. Shaw, following Dr. Raynale's example also bought an auto—an Oakland.

The automobile by 1910 had ceased to be a novelty and a rich man's toy. It was a convenient adjunct to man's living.

Tree Near New Station Gets Axe

Birmingham city manager, Donald C. Egbert, recently approved a request by the Ohio Oil Company for removal of a 30-inch diameter tree near their proposed filling station at the southeast corner of Maple and Hunter Blvd.

L. R. Gare, city engineer who recommended approval, pointed out that plans will soon be prepared with a recommendation that Maple would be widened at this point, eliminating the tree which company contends will block motorists' view when leaving their new station, now under construction.

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Stock Market Facts To Be Class Topics

Sponsored by the adult education division, Corporate Enterprises, Inc., a series of six two-hour classes in the fundamentals of the

stock market will start at the Community House on March 31. R. E. Lantz, founder of the company, stressed that husbands and wives will be classed as a single enrollment. All classes are scheduled for 7:30 p.m. The first session at no charge, and text material furnished without cost.

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A Past President of the Oakland County Funeral Directors Association.

BAILEY BELIEVES—

- That adequate water supply and sewage disposal facilities are needed and should be studied now.
- That an equitable solution to the downtown parking problem should be rushed.
- That it is mandatory to cooperate with the committees now working on problems of youth.
- That it is time to hold the line on taxes and that the taxpayer should get the most for his money.
- That the city should be alert in the organizing of a Civilian Defense Program and that facilities for the Police and Fire Depts. be kept adequate.
- That a survey should be made of the various city departments with the aim of providing more efficient service at a lower cost.

Birmingham will benefit if you VOTE FOR BAILEY!
This Advertisement Donated and Paid For by Friends



G. GORDON WALKER

Brook Appoints New Sales Head

Max Brook, Inc., Birmingham Realtors, announced this week that G. Gordon Walker will join the Brook organization on April 1 as their executive officer in charge of sales.

Walker is resigning his present position as assistant vice president of the First Federal Savings & Loan Association of Detroit to accept his new assignment.

A native of Farmington and a graduate of Farmington High School, the Detroit Institute of Technology and the University of Michigan, from which he received his degree in Real Estate, Walker is highly regarded in Michigan real estate and banking organizations as an expert appraiser, lecturer and young banking executive.

He is a lecturer and instructor for the University of Michigan in their Extension courses in Real Estate and Appraising throughout the state.

As President of the Detroit Chapter of the Society of Residential Appraisers, Walker heads the largest chapter of this professional group in the nation.

He is also a member of the American Institute of Real Estate Appraisers and is one of only 256 in the United States qualified as a Member of the Appraisal Institute (M.A.I.), as well as Senior Member of the Society of Residential Appraisers (S.R.A.).

Walker also is a member of the Detroit Real Estate Board, the Economic Club of Detroit, Corinthian Lodge F.A.M., an associate member of the Builders Association of Metropolitan Detroit and of the United North-western Realty Association.

Mr. and Mrs. Walker have three children: Karen, Michael and Deborah. They expect to make their home in Birmingham soon.

News copy submitted early is necessarily given preference. The "Daily Eve" usually gets the space.

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