

Area Streets, Lakes, Carry Names of Early Pioneers

Woodward Ave. is Epitaph For First Territorial Judge

Many of the pioneers and early settlers of Birmingham and its vicinity are remembered to this day. Their names have been given to the streets of our town and to the lakes and roads in the county.

Woodward avenue, extending from Detroit was named after the Honorable Augustus B. Woodward, the first presiding judge in the Territory of Michigan which was organized in 1805. He was appointed by the President, Thomas Jefferson, who also appointed General William Hull, a veteran officer of the Revolution, as governor and Indian agent of the Territory.

WOODWARD arrived in Detroit in June, 1805 and was, in part, responsible for the Code of Laws adopted for the Territory which was similar to those of the original 13 states.

Hunter boulevard was named in honor of Birmingham's first settler, John W. Hunter.

Willetts street is named in honor of Elijah Willetts who came to this area in 1819, the same year as John W. Hunter and on whose tract of land is the street which now bears his name.

ANOTHER settler, John Hamilton, who came to what is now the city of Birmingham in the same year as Elijah Willetts and John W. Hunter, is remembered by our present Birmingham citizens by Hamilton street.

Colonel Benjamin H. Pierce, an army officer and a brother of Franklin Pierce, afterwards pres-

farm west of the Rouge river, in what is now Bloomfield Village.

BALDWIN street is named after Edwin Baldwin, a retired farmer in Birmingham in 1874 who owned land in the vicinity of the street now named for him. He was a son of a pioneer, Ezra Baldwin, who came to Bloomfield township from Vermont in 1819, and settled on a tract of land northeast of the present city limits.

In 1822, Rowell T. Merrill, for whom Merrill street is named, purchased the foundry which was built and put in operation by John W. Hunter in 1828.

ORRIN Poppleton who owned a large tract of land on the east side of Birmingham was a prominent man in the affairs of the village. He was the third merchant in the village and opened his store in August 1840.

Poppleton street runs north and south through what was once his property, Knox street, which is also on the east side of town and runs east and west through Poppleton's grandson, Knox.

Daines street was named after John Daines, the proprietor of the National Hall and Hotel, a hostelry which figured large in the social and commercial history of the village.

WING LAKE was named after Austin E. Wing, who accompanied General Lewis Cass on one of his explorations through Oklahoma and country. They camped on the banks of the lake that now bears his name and where in 1818 Wing located the land which he entered

under the 32 act. Wing afterward was elected a delegate from the territory to the 19th, 20th and 22nd Congress.

Gilbert Lake got its name from the pioneer settler, Joseph Gilbert, who purchased the tract of land around the lake in 1824. He kept a well-assessed extraordinary skill in the manufacture of ox sleds.

BINGHAM road was one of the boundary lines of the Real Estate Board and was instrumental in organizing the Birmingham Exchange club, serving as its first president.

He was elected to the Birmingham village commission in March 1923 and served until January 1926 when he was appointed to the village planning commission where he served one year.

BARNUM School named for Horace Barnum who owned 11 acres of land where the school is now situated. Horace Barnum served as a village commissioner in 1874. He was a Bloomfield township supervisor.

Stanley street got its name from Stanley, a farmer who was a member of an Oakland County pioneer family. In the 1870's, Stanley owned more than 18 acres of land, now encompassed within the city of Birmingham. For many years he served as a Bloomfield township supervisor.

AROUND 1865, a farmer, Hanna, a retired farmer originally from Southfield township, owned five acres of land around his house

which still stands on the southeast corner of Southfield and Hanna streets.

Hanna street at that time was a mere lane which led to Robert Hanna's barn. After the property was subdivided into lots and sold years later the lane to the Hanna barn became Hanna street. Two other Hannas—brothers to Robert—were also prominent citizens in the little village. One was John Hanna who served as postmaster in the village in 1860 and the other was Thomas Hanna who had a boot and shoe store on the northwest corner of Maple and Woodward.

ADAMS ROAD, the boundary line between Bloomfield and Troy townships was named after Seymour Adams, a pioneer settler whose land lay east of the present road, in Troy township. Seymour Adams settled on the southwest quarter of section 50, Troy township, land which he entered on June 4, 1822.

The lake, now known as Orchard Lake, embraces an island, which an early exploring party of 1818 found to be "an island of about 40 acres, on which there are a number of productive apple trees." It is supposed that the seeds for the apple trees came from Detroit, carried from there and planted on the island by the Indians.

ELIZABETH Lake was named in honor of Elizabeth Cass, wife of Governor Lewis Cass, who with a party of men explored Oakland county in the fall of 1819 on their way to Saginaw to make a treaty with the Indians.

WATTLETS Road was named after Silas B. Wattles, a farmer of Troy township whose farm was bounded on the south by the road

which now bears his name. For many years, Wattles was superintendent of the Birmingham Methodist Sunday school and in 1881 was presented with a teacher's Bible by the students and teachers in appreciation of his many years as Sunday School superintendent.

Quarton school was named for Fred V. Quarton, who owned the farm on which the school was situated. Quarton served many years as treasurer of the board of education.

BIRD street is named in honor of the Rev. Robert Bird, Sr., who came to Birmingham and was the minister of the Methodist church at the time of its erection in 1871.

In former years, Lone Pine road was a descriptive name for the road which now bears this name. A lone, tall pine tree stood at the intersection of the road and Woodward avenue.

The old pine tree was still standing in 1923 although by this time the upper branches of the tree were dying out. The lone pine was, undoubtedly, cut out at the time of the Woodward avenue widening.

GEORGE street was named for George Blakelee who at one time owned, it has been said, about 200 acres of land around that vicinity.

"Ann street" was named for his wife, Ann Benedict Blakelee and Frank street was named for his son, Frank Blakelee, who was a son-in-law of a general store on West Maple street.

Watkins street has been named for Guy and Fenwick Watkins who owned property there. It has been said that the Watkins family imported the first shetland ponies to this country from the Shetland Islands and bred them at the Watkins farm out West Maple avenue.

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The Birmingham Eccentric

SECTION D

Thursday, July 18, 1957

One may have acquired a negative habit that he finally wants to be rid of. But the hindrance does not come too easily... especially if the habit has been a constant companion for many years. Instead of endeavoring to "kill away the habit", many have found that quiet, confident prayer has helped lose it.



LT. GEO. L. ALLEN

Lt. George L. Allen Finishes Internship

Army 1st Lt. George L. Allen, son of Mr. and Mrs. Newell Allen, 438 Park St., Birmingham, recently completed a one year medical internship at Fitzsimmons Army Hospital in Denver. Lt. Allen will now be assigned to the 10th Medical Battalion in Germany. He received a bachelor of science degree from the University of Michigan in 1952 and received his medical degree from the University of Michigan Medical School in 1956. The lieutenant is a member of Phi Gamma Delta and Nu Sigma Nu fraternities.

Community House To Continue Its Sunday Openings

Although there have been few requests for opening the Birmingham Community House will continue to function on Sunday when there is a demand for it. The House last fall began opening on Sundays by reservation only. Sunday events are screened to make sure they are proper affairs for the day. During the year the House opened for such things as the Lion's district lunch and meeting, a reception and a concert, in order to be worthy of the extra expense of hiring parttime help at time-and-a-half, the house is only opened for events with a minimum attendance of about 50.

DURING AUGUST the House will be closed for annual repairs. Mrs. Effie Schaffer, Community House executive director, said this is the third in a four year repair program. The main alterations the first year were the remodeling of the kitchen and the moving of the craft room. Last year the building was painted and landscaped and some ceilings repaired. This year's plans include the re-furnishing of a lounge, better drainage, increased power capacity and 400 new chairs, mostly for the auditorium. The Community House will reopen Sept. 3.

(HE'S LOST)

'A Pigeon's Pilgrimage' or 'Homer Never Did Get Home'

By DOROTHY ZATELL

Remember Homer, the non-homing pigeon? Homer's the bird who moved in on a Birmingham family about the first of April this year. For a while he had that family really concerned about his welfare. A gal reporter took his picture and published a story about the beautiful lost pigeon. Although his serial number was traced, no one ever came to take Homer home.

Homer is the bon vivant type. He's an old hand at proving "there's one born every minute." A nice looking bird, he gives a good first impression. His feathers are pure white, he's well built with bright yellow feet. The only thing that gives him away a bit are his close-set little red rimmed eyes.

HOMER COMES from a good loft. Not too far back one of his ancestors, on his father's side, won the 500 mile Belgian Concours National between Toulouse and Brussels.

Somebody missed the boat somewhere with Homer. Perhaps it was because his parents were too interested in racing to pay much attention to him. Then, it might have been that he was too young the first time he was given free loft, but once out, he never returned.

Homer is a smart bird. He has gained a lot of experience in his travels. He is a born confidence man. His routines are varied; he knows just when they will work.

FIRST HE has the hidden foot routine. Holding one foot off the ground curled up a little is a sure way to get sympathy from a woman. The broken wing act works

better with a man. The scope is broader. The poor-little-lost-bird act works best when he is especially hungry.

For ex-service men, editors and drama critics, Homer saves his "Lost Carrier Pigeon" act. You can almost hear the parade music when he lifts his head a little higher, assumes a military air and

stands at pigeon attention. There's a skillful mixture of General MacArthur, Barrymore and A. Message to Garcia.

Homer's an untidy fellow, and when his Birmingham benefactor grew wise to his tricks, he did it again, he just plain wore out his welcome.

Shaking the dust of Birmingham from his heels, Homer headed south again. He didn't try far, just flying over Lathrup he spotted a nice little feeder bar, and down he came.

HE WAS resented by the little wren and starlings who made the R. J. Gannon feeder bar their favorite spot. The wrens sat on the fence and gossiped about the rude manners of stranger who elbowed them out of the way.

At first the Gannons felt sorry for Homer. He gave Mrs. Gannon his post-little-lost-bird routine. She put out an extra ration of choice seed for him to help him gain his strength to get him home. Homer found the ledge just outside the Gannon living room very much to his liking. After evening all he could hold of the free handout, he settled down every evening on the ledge to watch television. He even had the nerve to tap on the window if he didn't like a program.

AFTER A while, however having a staring untidy boarder on your window sill made the Gannons feel oddish-howish, especially when the unblinking eyes watching them were small and red rimmed. Although it hurt her more than it did Homer, Mrs. Gannon decided

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