By DICK ZEMMIN
Staff Writer

Birmingham's YMCA, established in 1912 and an integral part of the city, provided the basis for the Oakland County organization. Four Birmingham residents got together in 1912 and subscribed funds with which to hire a secretary for a Young Men's Christian Association to be formed "among the boys of the schools."

Under the guidance of George Brady, Charles Perk, Rev. F. M. Kraft and John Hanna, the local YMCA was born. First secretary was Martin Verbot, who served for five years. He was followed by Walter Turpening and George Kinball, Dr. John K. Smith as president, and by Sid Thomas as executive secretary.

The YMCA was incorporated as a corporation with Charles Shain as president and Bob Lynd as executive secretary.

Five years later, due to increased memberships, an industrial secretary was set up in Pontiac and, in 1917, the Janesville Oak and Bloomfield townships were divided with Lynd in charge.

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