

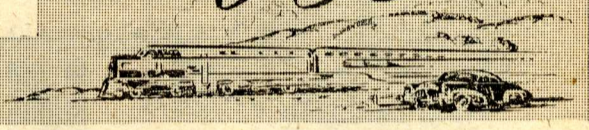
The Birmingham Eccentric

1878

Section
May 1953

F Social and Service Groups and Clubs,
Organizations serving the public
interest

1953



MAY 30, 1927, MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE WITH LEGION HONOR GUARD
Big downtown parade terminated in observances at Greenwood cemetery

21 Veterans Signed Charter Of Birmingham Legion Post

Charles Edwards was born in Birmingham in 1887. He enlisted in the United States Army in May, 1918, arriving in France in July of the same year. He died while fighting in the Argonne on October 27, 1918. Charles Edwards was buried with military honors in Roseland Cemetery November 16, 1920.

VETERANS RETURNING to Birmingham at the close of World War I applied for a post charter in the American Legion, department of Michigan.

Charter members included Jack C. Dougall, John H. Groves, Guy E. Miller, Roy Robinson, Ernest A. Burtraw, Lynn D. Allen, Gordon L. Bailey, Donald K. Hall, Leland J. Bunyan, William C. Desmond, Clyde H. Reid, S. C. Deppe, Alvin A. Beardslee, George P. Raynale and Charles B. Randall.

A temporary charter was granted on July 5, 1919, with the permanent charter issued September 23, 1920. This charter now rests in the Birmingham Community House.

Charles B. Randall was the first commander of the new group which numbered 21 veterans. Early meetings were held in Judge Virgil Lockrow's office in the old Ford Building at the northwest corner of Maple and Woodward, with initiation ceremonies taking place in the Hill School.

MEMBERSHIP GREW through the Twenties to 65. Activities centered on helping former servicemen fill out the necessary papers relative to their associations in the army, and welfare work in the community.

On April 8, 1924, the post held its first meeting in the old Township Hall which had been turned over to it several days earlier. Furniture was largely supplied by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Warren.

A bowling team was formed with captains Bob Carson, J. F. MacGregor, Wylie Pearsall and Leon Mix.

In 1928 the Charles Edwards post was awarded a gavel set as the

outstanding post in the Sixth district. The department year-book also carried the post as one of the outstanding ones in the state.

A constitution and by-laws was adopted by the post on February 1, 1928.

Commanding the post throughout the Twenties were L. V. Lockrow, R. C. Moulthrop, H. A. O'Dell, J. F. MacGregor, H. H. Corson, George Wimsett, Leon R. Mix, and Lloyd L. Stanley.

THE THIRTIES began with a membership of 71. Activities throughout the decade were curtailed due to the depression and unemployment problems constituted the large part of Legion work. Soldier grave-marking was begun, and annual memorial services continued.

The Charles Edwards post acquired its permanent home on South Woodward avenue. A drum and bugle corps was formed and a junior baseball team originated.

Commanders included Lloyd L. Stanley, David H. Thompson, Ernest A. Burtraw, David Levinson, Gordon Bailey, Leonard Cady, John Gill, C. P. Hamill, Wylie Pearsall and Richard Dewey.

1940 BEGAN with the post under the leadership of Commander Carl Eley. The post donated a flag pole to the school board, and a flag to the YMCA camp.

Other bequests throughout the forties included booklets on flag etiquette to local schools; funds for Boys State, a Legion-sponsored youth convention held annually in Lansing; gifts for wounded veterans; and funds for a softball team.

The war years saw Birmingham legionnaires playing host to nu-

merous servicemen stationed in the vicinity, assisting with veterans' problems, and sending gifts overseas.

Commanders included Russell Fisher, Warren A. Sterling, Al Mason, Leonard A. Cady, Walter Stolt, Chet Brown, Thomas Colbert, Bennett Brown, and Jack Emerson. John Littleton assumed the duties of commander in 1950, with Albert C. Voss and Hugh Paul McHugh named in succeeding years.

Activities of the post included procuring a television aerial at Percy Jones Hospital, sponsoring a blood bank in Oakland County, and assisting in the dedication of the Rotary club Peace Memorial at the new Birmingham High School.

IN ADDITION to their 34 years of service to the community, the Charles Edwards post has played its part in 'conventioning', dear to the hearts of Legionnaires.

The Seventeenth district held its annual meeting of 1953 at the local Masonic Temple, and the local post shared host duties at the National Convention of the American Legion held in Detroit in 1932.

One Buck A Copy

The "bird's eye view" of Birmingham in 1881 which appears on the back page of The Eccentric's 75th Anniversary edition special cover, originally sold for one dollar a copy. Orders were taken for this picture at Whitehead and Mitchell's store.

9.1 Persons Per Year?

The census enumerator of Southfield in 1880 gave out the information that the population of Southfield township was 1,636, an increase of 91 since the census of 1870. There were 255 farms in Southfield township in 1880.

Musicale Has Grown From 30 to 400

In October, 1926, the idea of a music club for Birmingham was uppermost in the minds of three civic-minded women, Mrs. Leslie Lamborn, Mrs. W. Whiting Raymond and Helen Shaw Stauch.

A meeting was called at the home of Mrs. Stauch with invitations going out to 30 musically interested local women.

At this meeting, the "Monday Musicale" was organized, and Mrs. Henry Riley Fuller elected as president. Early meetings were held one Monday morning a month at the Birmingham Masonic Temple.

Due to illness Mrs. Fuller resigned within a few months and was succeeded by vice-president, Mrs. Ward Gavitt. Mrs. Norman Lyle became the first full-time president, serving from June, 1927, to 1929.

Objectives of the newly formed club were to stimulate musical interest in the community, to give both public and private concerts, and to sponsor musical groups of young people.

THE GROUP'S first undertaking was the formation of a chorus, directed by Helen Neff de Bruyn, which presented its first program early in 1927.

Ever since, the choral group of the Musicale has represented a large proportion of the active membership. The Birmingham Musicale chorus, under the direction of Gertrude Heinze Greer, now presents two full programs each season. The 65 members have made professional appearances and performed throughout the state.

The Musicale's first annual meeting was held in May, 1927, at the old Chateau Tea Room on North Woodward avenue. Before the Birmingham Community House was built, the group held its monthly meetings in various places.

It soon was apparent that Monday morning was not the most favorable day of the week for young mothers and busy women, and name of the organization was changed to the "Thursday Musicale of Birmingham", meeting monthly in the Presbyterian Church parlors or the Baldwin Public Library, or in members' homes.

On completion of the Community House, the club scheduled its regular meetings there and, soon afterwards, changed the title to the Birmingham Musicale. The organization is affiliated with state and national federations of music clubs.

THROUGHOUT ITS 27 years of existence, the Musicale has brought to Birmingham many outstanding artists in public concerts, notably Richard Crooks, John Carter, Martha Lipton, Percy Grainger, Bartlett and Robertson, and Ossip Gabrilowitsch, as well as organizations from the nearby area, including the Orpheus Club of Detroit, the Ypsilanti Normal Choir, the U. of M. Little Symphony and others.

The Musicale sponsors four junior groups—the Musicale Junior League and Keynotes for high school students, the Moment Musicale for junior high students and the Merry Music Makers for fifth and sixth graders.

These groups have counselors from the Musicale and meet at the homes of members. The older group often performs on the programs of the senior organization.

A scholarship fund has provided a number of talented local students an opportunity to attend the National Music Camp at Interlochen, Mich., and the summer music school at Michigan State College.

IN 1951 THE Musicale marked its silver anniversary with a luncheon and reception for charter members, past presidents and all who

had served the organization throughout the years.

Membership now numbers four hundred, with all residents who enjoy music are welcome to join. Membership is by application or invitation with classifications including active, performing or associate.

Mrs. Donald T. Stanton, a member of the club since its inception, is serving her second term as president.

Women Painters Exhibit Work At Own Studio

A small group of women interested in painting, drawing and the study of art founded the Birmingham Society of Women Painters in May, 1944.

The group's primary aim was to operate and maintain a class room for the use of members, and to promote exhibitions of their work with the attendant social activities.

The late Alice Hagerman Thurber was elected president at the first meeting, May 4, 1944.

Mrs. R. D. Williams is the current president with Mrs. Clarence Patterson, vice-president; Mrs. Lloyd Gullen, recording secretary; Mrs. Herbert H. Gardner, Jr., corresponding secretary; and Mrs. Winthrop Conrad, treasurer.

CLASS SESSIONS and annual exhibitions are held at the group's West Maple road studio, a former schoolhouse which the society acquired October 12, 1949. Occasionally members' paintings are hung at the Community House.

Business meetings are held twice monthly at members' homes.

The society is represented each year at the Michigan Artists' Show at the Detroit Institute of Arts, and a number of the members also are affiliated with the Detroit Society of Women Painters and Sculptors.

The number of members in the Birmingham group is limited to accommodate the painting group in the studio.

Sorority Information Available From B'ham Panhellenic Council

The Birmingham Panhellenic Council was organized on January 6, 1949, to compile rushing information for colleges and universities, and to provide prospective college students with information about sororities. Representatives from twelve sororities attended the first organization meeting.

The Council now holds three meetings a year.

Helve Some?

Joseph Mead, whose headquarters was in the C. W. Jenks wood shop on Troy street in 1878, sold axes and helves (handles) of his own make which were warranted.

HAWTHORNE

ELECTRICAL COMPANY



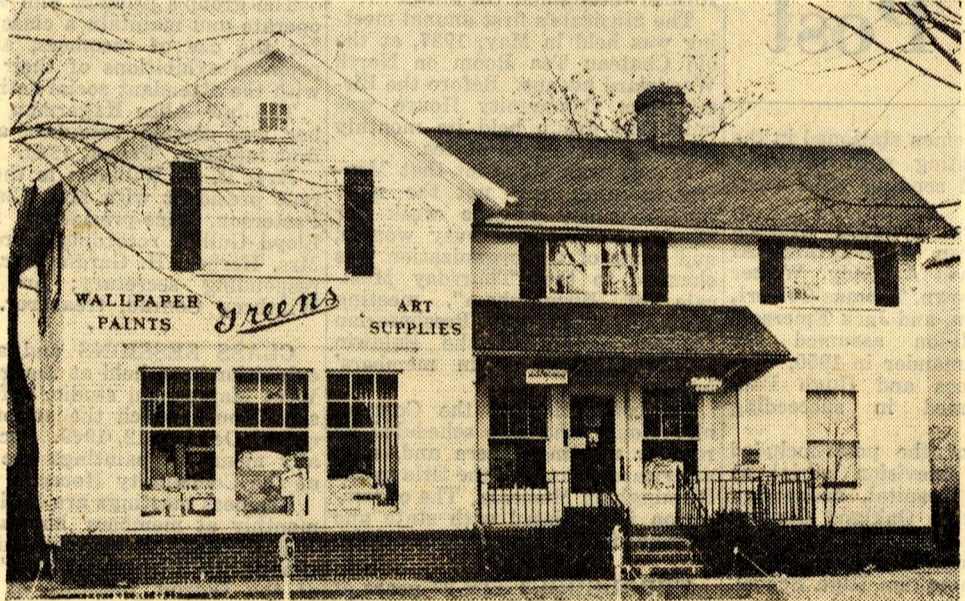
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1912
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Nat'l Convention Led To Formation Of B'ham League

The year 1953 is a very special one for the Birmingham League of Women Voters, because it marks the "coming of age" or twenty-first birthday of the organization.

The League of Women Voters of Birmingham was chartered by the national League in the spring of 1932, when a convention of the national League in Detroit, attended by Florence Harrison of Birmingham, spurred the organization and chartering of the local unit.

Miss Harrison, an organizer of the national League, and a personal friend of Dorothy Roosevelt who was also very active in League affairs, took a personal and active interest in getting the local group started.

Original purpose of the League was threefold: teaching women to vote, informing the electorate, and working for needed legislation. In general, its early interests were the welfare of children and world peace.

ALTHOUGH Mrs. Angus McLay and Mrs. Dorothy Roosevelt were prime movers in organizing the Birmingham League, neither felt able at first to accept the presidency, and this office was first held by Mrs. Frank W. Hawley.

Other LWV past presidents are Mrs. McLay, Mrs. Clyde Paton, Mrs. Forbes Hascall, Mrs. F. P. Smith, Mrs. Malcolm Welty, Mrs. John Ormond, Mrs. Eric Hyde, Mrs. Ralph Yonker, Mrs. Howard Liverance, Mrs. F. G. Garrison, Mrs. Graham Shinnick and Mrs. Brooks Marshall.

The present officers are headed by president, Mrs. Peter Loomis. Others on the slate are Mrs. Charles F. Guilford, first vice-president; Mrs. John Rumsey, second vice-president; Mrs. Dayton O. Slater, secretary; and Mrs. Frederic Robinson, treasurer.

Regular monthly meetings of the League are held in the Birmingham Community House. Thirty-two women joined the League in the beginning, and membership has fluctuated a great deal over the years. It now is 292.

ONE OF the frequent items mentioned in early treasurers' reports was a dollar for Wylie Bell

for chairs. Whether that indicated large meetings, or a dearth of chairs at the Community House, there is no way of telling now.

At the start, League members found themselves overwhelmed by the intricacies of government. They felt their first job was to familiarize themselves with the functioning of government, so they formed a civics study class, using a high school text.

Some of the early committees which formed study groups and indicate League interests at that time were: living costs, child welfare, education, women in industry, and efficiency in government.

One of the first activities the League undertook and which it still sponsors, is candidates' meetings at which voters may learn something about those whose names appear on the ballot.

THEIR FIRST candidates' meeting in the fall of 1932 was successful beyond their wildest dreams. Although not all candidates' gatherings have been as successful as the first, the most recent, a torchlight parade and rally held in June 1952 was the most spectacular and successful ever held in Birmingham.

Throughout the years the LWV has added other public services in its attempt to inform the electorate. Information booths, manned by League workers several days before elections, have taught voters proper voting technique.

Printed answers to questionnaires sent out to candidates and distributed free to the public, together with an impartial analysis of issues to be voted upon, are used extensively by citizens of

Special Group Seeks To Benefit Library

Through the years, many groups of Birmingham citizens have worked in the interest of the public library, but it was not until 1949 that the Friends of the Baldwin Library was formed.

Jeanne Lloyd, librarian of Baldwin library, called a group of prominent men and women of the community together in the fall of 1949 and in November an invitation was sent out to Birmingham citizens to meet at the library and assist in the activation of the new organization.

The announced purpose of the meeting was to "bring into consolidation the men and women in the community who appreciate the social and cultural significance of books, who realize the importance of a library's service to the community and realize the necessity of making the public aware of its potentialities."

George R. Averill, publisher of The Birmingham Eccentric, was selected as chairman pro tem at the organizational meeting at which more than 40 local citizens attended.

THE LATE John W. Watling of Bloomfield Hills, a member of Friends of the Detroit public library and also a friend of the Clements Library, University of Michigan, had suggested the plan for consideration in Birmingham.

He was chosen to direct the organization of the Friends of Baldwin Library. Henry Whiting was elected chairman of the membership committee.

Articles of incorporation and by-laws of the organization were prepared by February 1950. First officers were George R. Averill, president; Lee A. White, first vice president; Henry Whiting, second vice president; Mrs. Lee A. White, secretary; Mrs. George F. Green, assistant secretary and Graham John Graham, treasurer.

DIRECTORS OF the organization that first year were James A. Beresford, Paul D. Carter, Mrs.

Lewis Dibble, Jeanne Lloyd, Mrs. Hugh D. McLeese, Rev. Lawrence W. Pearson and John W. Watling.

In October 1950, the first celebrity brought to Birmingham to speak before the Friends of Baldwin Library was Bennett Cerf, famous humorist, book critic and president of Random House publishers.

Other program speakers that year were Woodburn Ross, professor of literature, Wayne University; Mortimer Adler of the University of Chicago and Kurt Meyers, president of the Detroit Film Council.

At the first annual meeting in May 1951, a skit "Our Library" depicting the growth and development of Baldwin library, was presented. It was written by Mrs. Frances Patton and directed by Mrs. Ruth Lutz.

PAUL WILSON was elected president of the Friends for 1951-52 and membership in the organization at this time totaled 215.

Programs for the 1951-52 season included Norman Cousins, editor of the Saturday Review of Literature; Dr. Joe Lee Davis, professor of English at the University of Michigan and Mrs. Marcelline Sanford, play reviewer.

A movie of the J. Arthur Rank production "Great Expectations" was shown to members of the library friends as the final program of the season.

FOR THE YEAR 1952-53, James E. Tobin was elected president. Membership in the Friends of Baldwin Library now totals 388.

During its short years of existence, the Friends of Baldwin Library have contributed a total of \$1,450 to the library for the purchase of books.

Birmingham in making up their minds in voting.

The LWV itself is entirely non-partisan, although it urges each member to become active in the political party of her choice.

Another LWV method of informing the voters is the holding of public meetings and lectures, free to the public when League finances permit. Latest and largest of these public meetings was the town meeting on inflation.

A FIELD in which the Birmingham LWV has always been active and interested, is in the securing of adequate financing of local schools.

In 1933 when schools were in desperate straits financially, the League, with other interested organizations, formed part of a "Cavalcade of Cars" which went to Lansing to plead with the governor for immediate aid to schools.

When the local school board has felt additional millage was necessary to operate and build schools, the League has publicly supported and vigorously campaigned for increases, after careful study of the situation.

In 1939 the League helped stabilize school election proceedings and aided in getting voters in school elections registered. It also sent a resolution to the school board asking that its meetings be open to the public.

In 1943 the League backed up the board of education in its proposal for the reclassification of the school district which resulted in changing the school board from a five to seven member body, made mandatory the publication of school board minutes, and included the entire city in the new district.

HAVING STARTED in the depression years, financing of the LWV program was of some concern. At first members were assessed for unpaid bills which the dues failed to cover. For several years musical teas were given to raise funds, and prominent speakers were brought here for lectures.

However, as the League's public service program increased, it found people very generous in supporting this program through donations obtained in a yearly finance drive.

During its first year the League pressed for ratification of the child labor amendment by the Michigan legislature. Other legislative issues undertaken by the League are the civil service amendment, constitutional revision and reapportionment.

SOME OF the most active women of the Birmingham LWV who have gained recognition in other fields are Mrs. Lewis Sappington, member of the Birmingham school board; Mrs. F. G. Garrison who has run for the State legislature and who is a past president of the Community Council; Dorothy Roosevelt who has run for congress; Mrs. John Lambie and Mrs. Graham Shinnick, members of the board of the Baldwin Public Library; and Mrs. Peter Loomis former member of the school board and former chairman of the City Planning Commission.

More are Mrs. William H. Jackson chairman of the recreation commission; Mrs. Howard Liverance, president of the Community House association; Mrs. Stanley Cain, president of the state League; Mrs. John Ormond, at present in India with her husband, a medical missionary; and Mrs. Charles Shain whose class in international relations has been a feature of Birmingham for thirty-five years.

On March 5, 1953, the Birmingham group received national recognition for the time and effort it put into its 1952 Register and Vote Campaign. It was awarded first place for communities between 15,000 and 20,000 population in the competition sponsored by the American Heritage Foundation.

A Sly Appointment

The Secretary of State appointed Sarah E. Sly, of the Sly farms in Bloomfield township, an official delegate to the International Red Cross Conference in 1912. This was the first time the conference had been held in this country. U. S. President Taft, also president of the Red Cross, gave the address of welcome to the delegates. One of the social functions of the conference was a garden party at the White House.

Unofficial 1913 Census

According to newspaper reports, the population in Birmingham in 1913 was 1,600.

Birmingham Has Had Flood Problems, Too



THE NIGHT OF Feb. 12-13, 1938, was a wet one for B'ham. So wet that the Rouge Valley above the W. Maple bridge was flooded, as the above two photos show.



EAST SIDE TRUNKLINE sewers backed up, blocked the E. Maple viaduct with 11 feet of water. Firemen had to rescue several stranded motorists.



FOUR FEET OF WATER halted traffic on N. Woodward where the Rouge normally crosses under it. In this photo water has receded to the point where cars can proceed through it cautiously.

Scott-Shuptrine

Robsjohn-Gibbings New Contemporary Furniture Designs

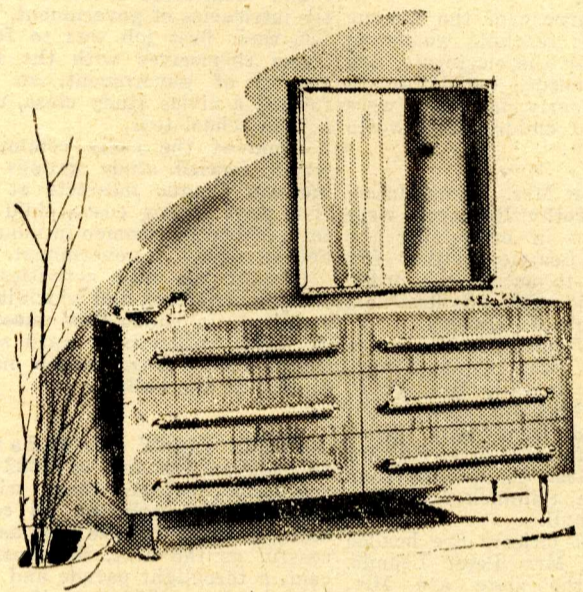
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MAY HOUSE BEAUTIFUL

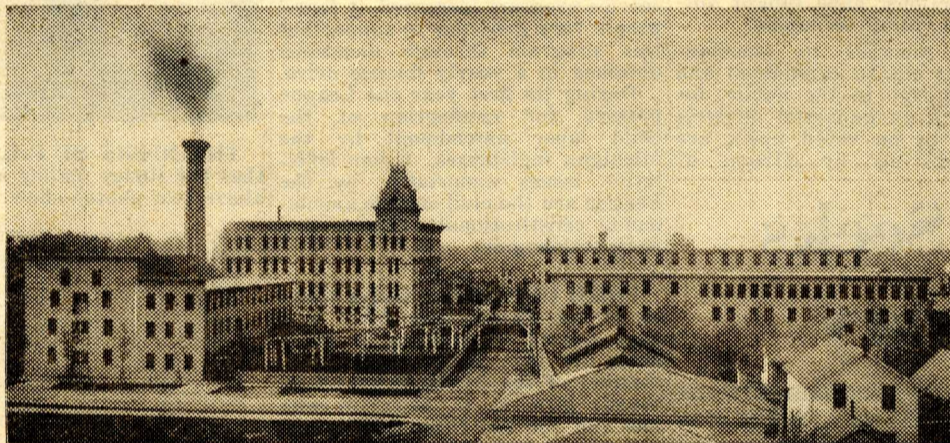
A little over a year ago, March 7, 1952 our first advertisement appeared in THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC. It was an announcement and an invitation to the people of Birmingham to be our guests at the opening of our new Birmingham branch furniture store.

Now, a year later and coincidental, is THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC'S 75th Anniversary and Grand Rapids Diamond Jubilee. As THE ECCENTRIC is Birmingham's oldest enterprise, so WIDDICOMB is the senior furniture manufacturer in the Grand Rapids area. Congratulations to both on a historical past filled with successful achievements.

In celebration of the Grand Rapids event, the WIDDICOMB FURNITURE COMPANY presents a new and far reaching collection of contemporary designs by T. H. ROBSJOHN-GIBBINGS. These new pieces will set the pattern for things to come, and will be accepted for their fine physical qualities and exterior attractions combined with broad adaptability.

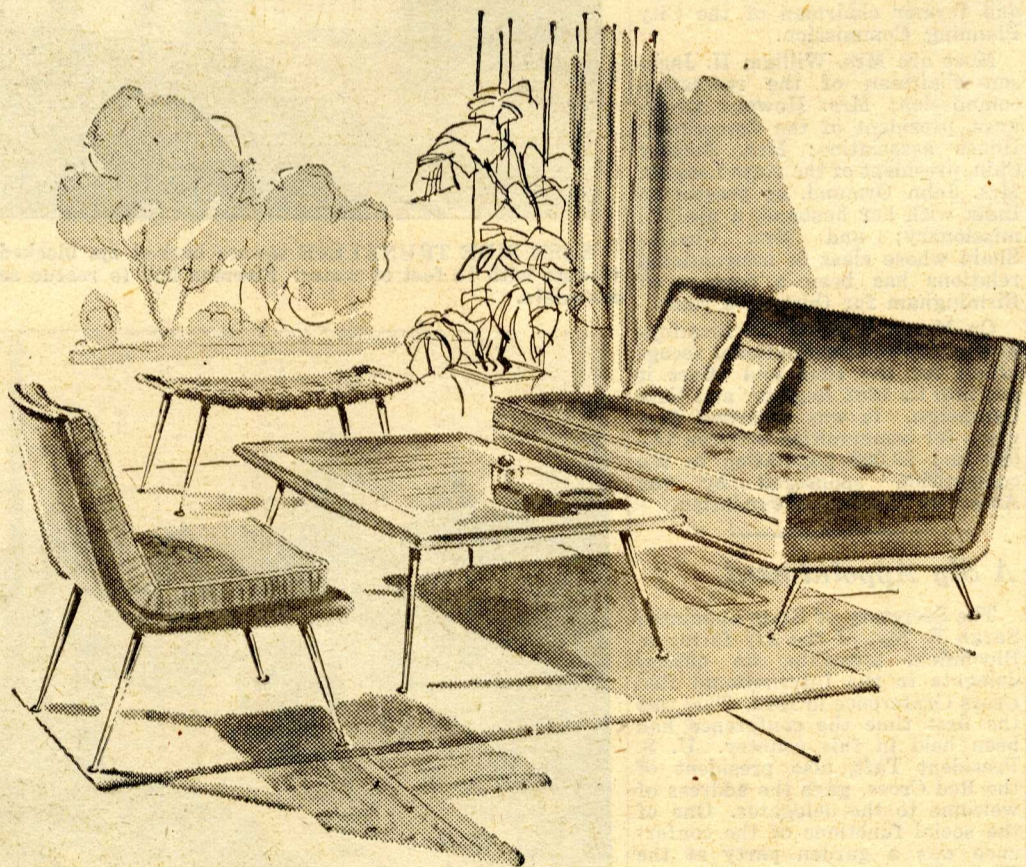


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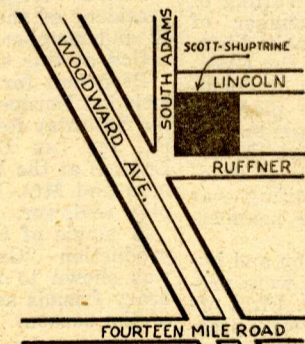


1953

WIDDICOMB FURNITURE CO., GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

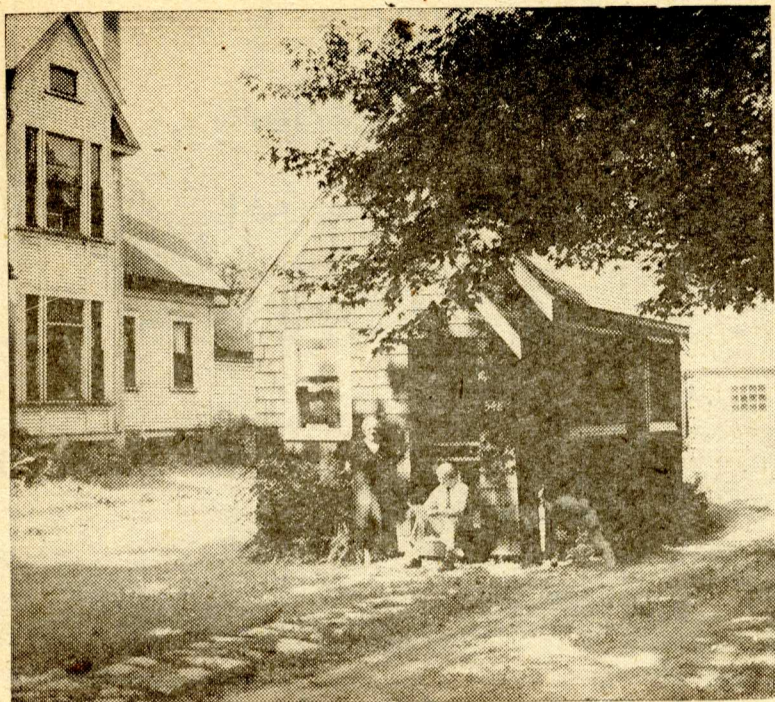


Boldly moulded wood contours and polished brass, produce an elegance formerly not found in contemporary furniture. MR. GIBBINGS has brought into being a warm richness that makes the use of metal welcome and highly acceptable in today's living. Again we invite the people of Birmingham to see America's finest Contemporary Furniture by WIDDICOMB.



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A COTTAGE SMALL without the waterfall was the home, in 1937, of Mrs. A. J. Bodine, and her late husband, shown sitting at the front of their tiny home at 548 Pierce. The 12 by 16 foot house had a living room, kitchen, bath and a tiny back porch. Built by Henry Stoll, it served as an office for a plumbing shop (shown at the rear) and later was made into a laundry. When the photo was taken the house, was owned by Edgar Parks of 356 Pierce. It has had a succession of tenants and now is owned and occupied by Warren Bray, nephew of Mr. Parks.

Bike Safety Program Big Kiwanis Project

Since its formation five years ago, the Birmingham Kiwanis club has been among the city's most civic-minded groups.

It has cooperated continuously with other organizations, city governmental bodies and youth groups in an effort to live up to the club code of "Emphasis on Better Living".

Formed on March 23, 1948, the group numbered 32 when the charter was granted the following May. The local club was sponsored by the College Park club of Detroit.

Under the direction of Ernest W. Miller, now a resident of Cincinnati, the Kiwanis established a program of weekly dinner meetings at the Birmingham Community House.

The group highlighted its first year by installing road signs at the four main entrances to the city; sponsoring a ladies' night on Nov. 16, and on Dec. 7, playing host to Norman Tiptaft, former Lord Mayor of Birmingham, England.

This meeting brought together Kiwanis members from most nearby communities along with representatives of other Birmingham service clubs and many from the general public.

PERHAPS ONE of the most noteworthy undertakings of the club was its decision to cooperate with the Birmingham police department in a bicycle safety program.

Each spring the club sponsors a campaign to urge youngsters to have their bicycles inspected, properly equipped and licensed, and observe rudimentary safety laws while riding on city streets.

Inspection stations are established throughout the city where club members give each bike a thorough check. Reflector tape is mounted on all bikes for increased protection of night-riders.

Through Kiwanis efforts, Birmingham has become known across the country because of its promotion of bicycle safety.

WORKING WITH youngsters seems to be a feature of the Birmingham Kiwanis club. They aid underprivileged children, give parties for them and even borrow them to meet family requirements at father-son banquets and programs.

They have supplied playground equipment at Torry school and at the Oakland County Orphans Home in Pontiac. They periodically give parties for the children in the Baptist home on Greenfield.

They work closely with the YMCA on recreational programs and sponsor boys at Boys' State and the Older Boys' Conference.

The group has sponsored Christmas tree and home lighting contests in the community in an effort to create a more striking appearance during the holiday season.

IT HAS taken part in inter-club affairs such as Washington birthday parties and annual golf tournaments. It has sponsored dancing parties and other affairs of a purely social nature, proving that the organization does have its hours of levity.

The club has contributed money,

material and labor for the Little League baseball program in Birmingham, working chiefly on the diamond at Redeemer Lutheran church field.

Contributions regularly go to the Baptist home, the Fournay Clement project at the University of Michigan hospital in Ann Arbor, education and recreational facilities for boys and girls, aid to crippled children and similar projects.

LAST FALL Kiwanis members aided the Birmingham League of Women Voters to instruct new voters in the use of machine ballots and entered a float in the Torchlight parade staged to spur interest in the national elections.

To pay for its activities, the club has sponsored numerous parties, has an annual Christmas tree sale, has held community auctions, sells traffic safety flares and currently has gum machines in many local stores and business places.

Among its annual projects is one inaugurated in 1949, when members began visiting the grave of Joe Prance, Kiwanis founder, who is buried in Acacia Park cemetery on Southfield at 13 Mile roads. Each year in a brief and simple ceremony a wreath is placed on Mr. Prance's grave by members of the local club and their guests.

ANOTHER PROJECT is the annual sale of National Kids Day buttons in Birmingham. Proceeds are used to benefit more than a million youngsters throughout the United States.

As service clubs go, the Kiwanis group is Birmingham's youngest. It has, however, established itself and is as much as part of the community as others which have been active for many years.

Conditions Certainly Were 'Prosperous' For City in 1883

According to the financial report of the village in 1883, Birmingham was out of debt and a small balance of \$44.51 was still in the treasury for the coming year.

This was evidence, it was reported, of the prosperous condition of affairs when it should be taken into consideration the fact that no taxes were levied upon the citizens during the previous year.

The expenses of the streets and sidewalks were paid by the liquor tax of \$297 from George E. Daines of the National Hotel. The total expenditure of the village in 1883 was \$515.84.

Opening of Michigan Union Spurs Alumnae to Organize

"What the Men of Michigan have done, the women can and will do."

The year was 1924. The 'men of Michigan', the U. of M. alumni, had just built the Michigan Union on the Ann Arbor campus, and had ruled that their club was to be so masculine in character that women might enter only by the side door.

Hardly had they made themselves at home in their strictly male domain when Michigan women announced their own ultimatum and undertook a drive to raise one million dollars for a women's building on the campus, to be known as the Michigan League.

Twenty-eight U. of M. alumnae in Birmingham had been meeting monthly for several years, with activity consisting largely of keeping in touch with the university and in contributing to the Student Loan Fund of Birmingham.

The building of the League offered the incentive needed to swing them into action and, with the wives of fifty 'M' men in the community, the group announced their intent of organizing as a full-fledged University of Michigan Alumnae Club.

ON SATURDAY, May 10, 1924, this band of local alumnae gathered at the Lone Pine Tea House for the kick-off dinner of their fund raising campaign. University president M. L. Burton made a radio address over a nationwide hook-up from Detroit, and the Birmingham group heard his speech through a radio installed for their benefit at the tea house.

Mrs. Zel Dowling of Birmingham was one of the radio speakers. Following the speech the local group were addressed by Mrs. William Manchester and her committee; Mrs. A. J. Halgren, Mrs. T. B. McCutcheon, Mrs. T. O. Doremus, Mrs. J. S. Cooper and Mrs. Lee A. White. The thirty-four dinner companions were told that their goal was to be six thousand dollars, an assessment of over two hundred dollars for each alumna.

In addition to the committee, those active in raising the fund were Mrs. Thomas Thurber, Mrs. Charles Shain, Mrs. Harold Corson, Mrs. Bernard Snyder, Mrs. Loren Robinson, Mrs. A. G. Ostermann, Mrs. F. F. McKinney, Mrs. Rolfe Spinning, Mrs. Loren Stauch, Mrs. F. W. DuBois, Mrs. Max Horton, Mrs. L. G. Welch, Miss Ruth Phelps, Mrs. J. S. Cooper, Mrs. Huxford, Mrs. Jenkins, Mrs. T. W. Widenman, Nancy Thomas, Mrs. I. C. Johnson, and Mrs. Cyril Lewis.

THE COMMUNITY blossomed with bake sales, 'chain' bridge parties, movies at the high school, a sales of long strings of beads, so dear to the hearts of the 'Roaring Twenties.' One member, Florence White, enrolled her daughter Elizabeth, still a child, as a life-member in the League which was, as yet, still a dream.

For three years the women worked to complete their pledge. When ground was broken in 1927, the Michigan women from Birmingham had raised more than five thousand dollars.

The League had scarcely opened its doors when local alumnae were busy thinking of what they could place in the building as a gift of the Birmingham branch. Eventually they decided on a Russian samovar, to be suitably engraved and placed in the room named for the wife of Senator Arthur Vandenburg, the Hazel Whittaker Lounge.

"We thought it was elegant," says Mrs. Lewis, "a brass Russian tea urn—the real thing! But if you were to look for it now you would probably find it hidden away in the League basement."

FOR SEVERAL years following that active period in reaching a definite goal, the Birmingham unit took time out from its labors. Many members had small children and found it hard to slip out for luncheon meetings. Often a group of six or ten would meet and these faithful ones kept the organization alive.

By 1935 the Birmingham branch was supporting a scholarship fund for local students, and was sending money to Alumnae House, a co-operative residence for girl students in Ann Arbor.

Earning money for scholarships has always been the organization's first concern. Interesting young people from the area in going to the university is another part of their program and has led to the group's giving a tea each year for high school juniors and seniors who were to enter Michigan.

IN 1943 Birmingham alumnae established the "Florence Baker White Student Loan Fund" in memory of Mrs. Lee A. White, a devoted member of the organization from its beginning. During the past ten years, many local students attending the university on the proverbial shoe-string have received a financial lift when needed from the fund.

In 1941 the Birmingham branch reorganized. The name was changed to the University of Michigan Alumnae Association of Birmingham, nine directors elected and four yearly meetings scheduled, instead of monthly gatherings. Due to the growth of membership, executive board meetings replaced the usual general meetings.

During the war years the alum-

nae worked on projects promoting the war effort under the direction of presidents Mrs. Robert Atkinson, Mrs. W. C. Randall and Mrs. Marcus Cunningham.

DURING Mrs. Max Tunnicliffe's term as president (1948-49), the association sponsored a benefit performance of the award-winning musical "Brigadoon" at the Cass Theater in Detroit. Among those on the committee which raised almost a thousand dollars were Mrs. Robert Kohr, Mrs. Frederick Adams, Mrs. Herbert Gardner, Jr., Mrs. Cornelius Harper, and Mrs. Richard Strickland.

In 1949-50, president Mrs. Hobart Andrae led the group in their joint venture with the Detroit alumnae in sponsoring a benefit "Fashion-scope". During Mrs. Edson Pool's term (1950-51) as president, the association made a gift to the Alice Crocker Lloyd Memorial fund of the Phoenix Project.

Mrs. F. Gordon Davis, the current president, has served two terms during which time the association has held annual benefit 'telephone bridge' parties. At present the Birmingham alumnae are paying the tuition of a local student at the university.

BIRMINGHAM ALUMNAE not only carry on their own program, but have been leaders in directing the activities of 'M' alumnae all over the country through the offices of the Alumnae Council which meets in Ann Arbor each year.

Mrs. Tunnicliffe is present chairman of the Council which includes Mrs. Russell Strickland and Mrs. Pool of the Birmingham association. Mrs. Robert Watt is a past chairman, and Mrs. L. B. Sappington and Mrs. Marcus Cunningham also have served as members. Mrs. Leroy Vandever is the present delegate from the Birmingham association.

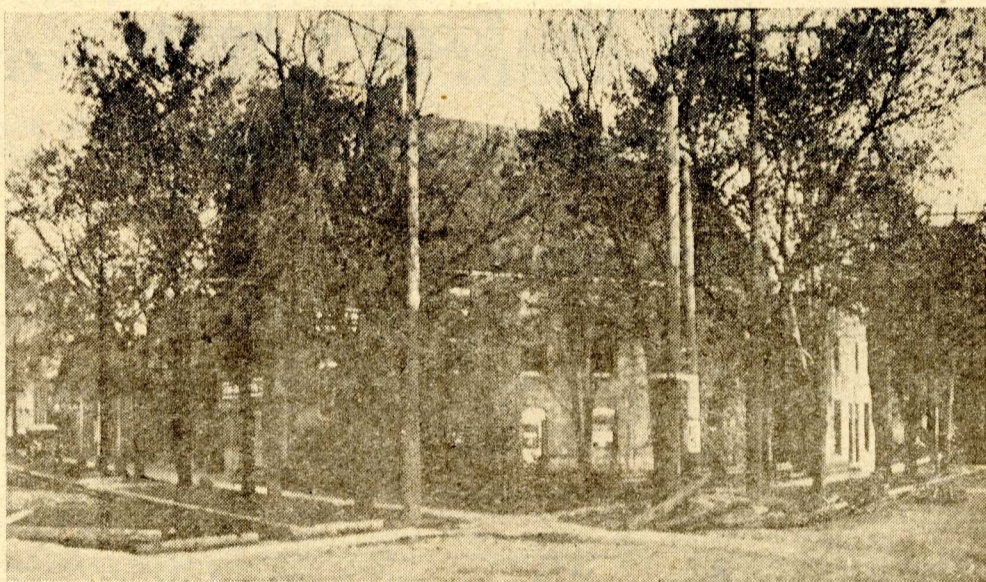
In 1953 the University of Michigan Alumnae Association of Birmingham observes thirty years of service to the community and the university.

Horses Wrecked Monument Fence

The iron fence around the soldier's monument (while at its original site at the Woodward-Maple intersection) was broken down by a runaway team in 1880. For almost a year it remained broken until it was repaired and fixed up as good as new by a distinguished individual from Detroit whose identity was kept secret. The monument now is in Greenwood cemetery.

Want One?

Mustache cups for sale at J. R. Corson's store—in 1878.



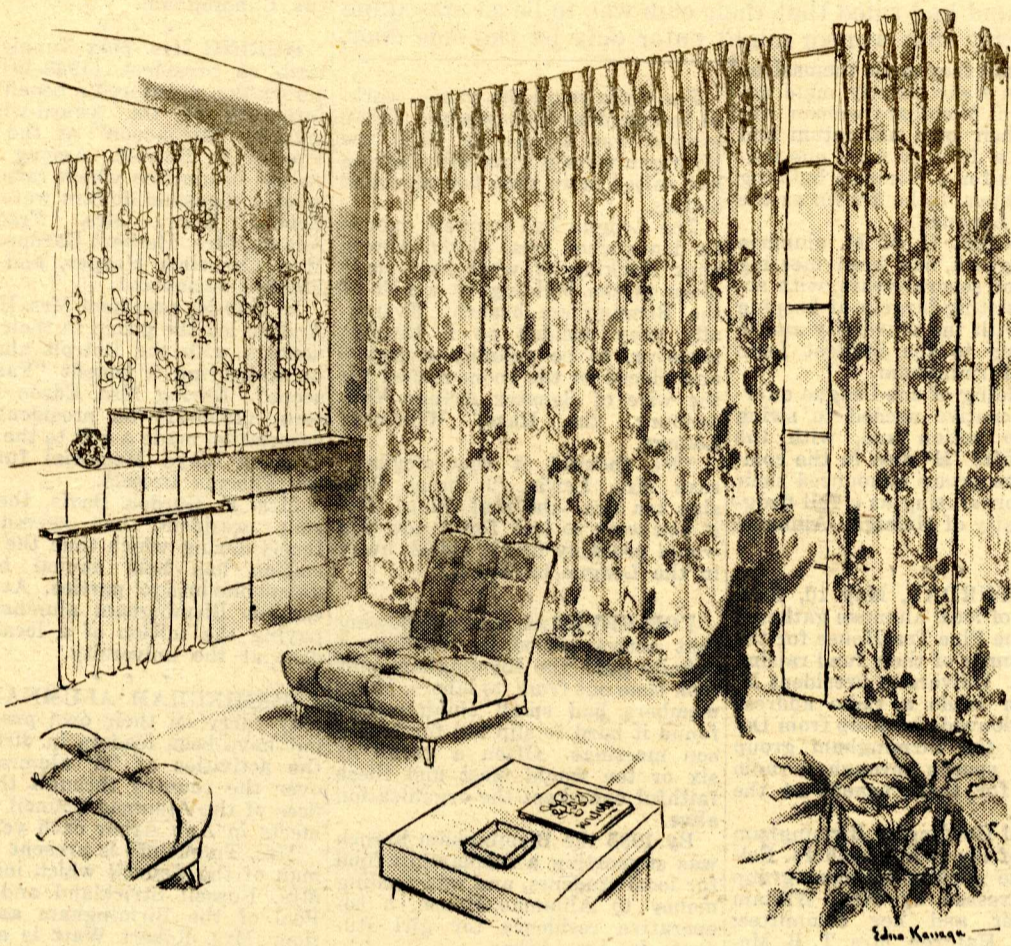
THE HEART OF BIRMINGHAM'S municipal and cultural activity was this building at the southeast corner of Maple and Woodward. It was erected by the Ladies Library Society from public and private contributions, and was the village's public library. Its doors were opened for the first time on Dec. 1, 1895. It cost \$6,000.

In 1907 the ladies turned the building over to the village on the condition that library facilities be maintained by a 1/2-mill tax. Village offices were on the ground level, entered by a door at the Woodward side of the building. Entrance to the second-floor library was on Maple. Soon the fire department, the police department were moved in.

In 1927 the building was torn down when Woodward was widened, the municipal offices and library moved into their present separate buildings, and the property sold to the Briggs Development Co. which erected a two-story commercial building on the site. This picture was taken in about 1917.

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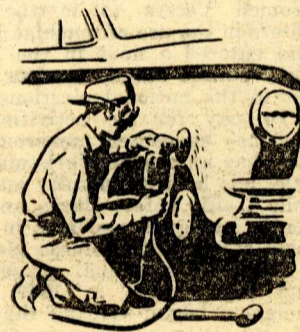
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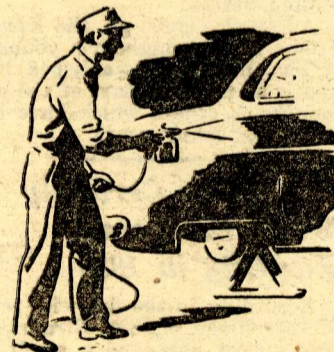


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B'ham Rotary Club Received Charter in 1927

It was 27 years ago this month, May, that the charter for the Birmingham Rotary club was formally presented at a ceremony held in the Odd Fellows hall on Pierce street.

In March, 1924, several Rotarians from Wayne met with a small group of business and professional men in Birmingham to discuss the formation of a local organization of Rotary

International.

Directors elected at that initial session were Clarence Vliet, Joseph Stroup, Walter Connelly, George R. Averill, Thomas H. Cobb, J. B. Howarth and Glenn Begole.

When the 20-member club start-

ed, it was headed by Averill as president, with Stroup, vice-president; Charles B. Randall, secretary and Cobb as treasurer. Louis Hascall was selected to handle the musical endeavors of the club.

The fledgling club immediately

May, 1953 Page 7
BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC
75th Anniversary Edition

plunged into civic affairs and worked tirelessly with the Wider Woodward organization.

DURING ITS first year it made its first cash contribution to the Oakland County Society for Crippled Children, an organization which still is one of the club's main "hobbies".

That same year the members also boasted a bit about their 17 consecutive meetings with perfect attendance.

Members of the club entertained their wives at the first of their annual Ladies' Night programs that year and take credit for thus investigating the first Rotary Ann organization for the 23rd Rotary district.

While the plight of crippled children has perhaps remained closest to the hearts of Birmingham Rotarians, it has by no means been their only "philanthropy".

THEY HAVE POURED thousands of dollars into other fields of endeavor in their constant efforts of improving the lot of others.

Boy and Girl Scout organizations have known the help of these men. Athletic projects in the local schools have received funds from them as have war victims in foreign lands.

In 1946, they contributed \$3,000 and worked closely with city planners in the development of the park on Cummings street, later to be known as the J. B. Howarth Park, in memory of one of the club's charter members.

They have supported the Birmingham YMCA, the Community House, the Paul Harris Memorial fund. In November, 1952, they witnessed the dedication of the Peace Memorial on the new high school grounds, a memorial paid for and contributed to the city by the Rotary club.

Recently, too, a plaque was erected in what has been known for years, as Civic Park, renaming that parksite and dedicating it to the memory of Charles J. Shain, businessman, Rotarian, and city commissioner.

As the Rotary club and Birmingham have grown together, the organization has found itself in numerous meeting places.

After receiving its charter in the Odd Fellows hall, it shifted back to the Birwood Inn on South Woodward. This hall, present home of the American Legion, later became known as Taft Hall.

IN JANUARY, 1926, it shifted again, this time scheduling its Monday noon meetings at the Lone Pine Inn. A year later it moved again, meeting in the Chateau Tea room (where the Pontiac-Cadillac showroom now is located . . . on the southwest corner of Willets and Woodward).

By 1930 the club membership had outgrown these quarters and transferred to the Community House where its meetings still are held each Monday noon.

Through the years the Rotary club has had its moments of fun and frolic. The members have met together for games and dances and picnics; they have faced other service clubs in golf tournaments.

Mostly, however, they have used their efforts for betterment of themselves, their community and their fellowmen. Many noted speakers have visited Birmingham under their sponsorship, bringing views and reports from groups and countries in far away corners of the world.

IN THE FIRST 27 years of the club's existence, Birmingham Rotarians can look upon their creed, "He profits most who serves best", and feel themselves to be rich men, indeed.

Just What Was Needed!

In the opinion of some people, John Stanley, in 1879, brought to this town just what it had needed for so long—a first class foundry and machine shop. The foundry was located on Troy street, (now East Maple) on the south side of the street.

Falling Hair, Too?

Celebrated liver pads, belts and bands were advertised for sale in 1878, for one dollar each. They cured, claimed their manufacturer, diseases of the liver, kidneys, fever and ague, chills and fever, intermittent and remittant fevers, gastric derangements, billiousness and sore throat.

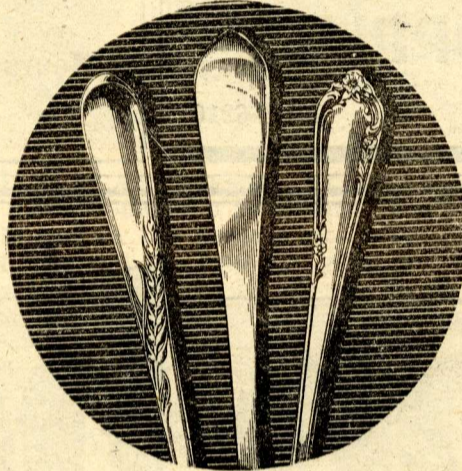
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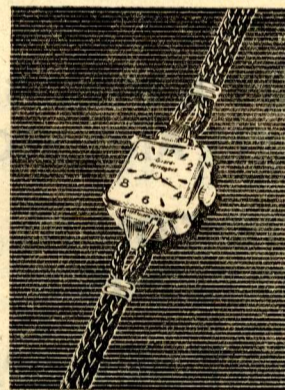
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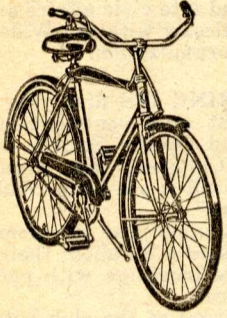
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Business Women First to Form Service Club

The Birmingham Business Women's Club, chartered in 1923, was the first service club to be started in Birmingham.

Founded to bring together the "business girls" of the city, the organization's original title was The Business Girls' Club, which later was changed to its present name.

Mary Walker was the first president of the group which met at the original Birmingham Community House on the southwest corner of Maple and Bates streets. Mary Martin, the first hostess of the Community House, was among the club's founders.

Early luncheon meetings were prepared and served by the members and it was considered quite a step when someone was hired to come each week to prepare the food and wash the dishes afterwards.

During the early Thirties, the depression brought the club to the verge of disbanding. Members attribute the emergence of the group from that period and its continued growth to the leadership of then-president Bertha Davidson, now an honorary member living in California.

CIVIC BETTERMENT is the prime objective of the Business Women's Club, with the main effort in recent years directed toward the Girl Scouts. Several years ago when the Scout cabin at Springdale Park was built, the club furnished a screen for the fireplace.

Another project has been the sending of a girl to a summer camp. The Christmas project helps a needy family or children selected by the city nurse.

The Mary Griffith Loan Fund, named for Mary Griffith who was the Community House's second hostess (1925-31) and a member of the club, was originally loaned to girls for a business education.

When the need for such a fund seemed to be no longer necessary, it was changed so that funds could be loaned to club members on a short-term basis.

Annual events include the October birthday party, the Christmas party, and the mother-daughter banquet in May.

THERE HAS NEVER been a building program conducted by the club, but when the present Community House was built the Business Women donated \$500 and the small room on the northeast corner of the second floor was designated as their club quarters. Due to the increase in membership meetings are now held in the Mary Griffith lounge.

Membership has grown from fifteen to the limit of seventy-five, with a full waiting list of applicants.

Special Club Aid to New City Residents

Helping new residents find their place in the community and to introduce them to new friends and neighbors is the special province of the Birmingham Newcomers' Club.

Sponsored by the Community House, the Newcomers' Club was formed September 25, 1947, with 67 members. Mrs. Richard T. Hatch was the group's first president.

With the tremendous upsurge of population in the past five years, the Newcomers' Club has aided in acquainting numbers of new residents and helping them find similar interest groups, whether it be sports, bridge, social or educational.

THE CLUB HOLDS a luncheon and program once each month at the Community House for all new women in Birmingham. The Newcomers' Bridge group meets one afternoon of each month.

Mixed parties have been held one evening each month during the past year in an effort to include the men in the activities. These informal gatherings feature dancing and card playing.

The women's fall calendar is highlighted by a fashion show presented annually by the Birmingham merchants.

The yearly evening reception for newcomers at the Community House is held in November.

ALTHOUGH THE Newcomers' Club is not a money-making organization, several times during the past five years special projects have been undertaken.

On April 22, 1948, the club joined with other organizations of Bir-



THESE MEMBERS OF THE ECCENTRIC CLUB of Birmingham had no objections when two of their members, Whitehead and Mitchell, founded a newspaper in this community 75 years ago and took the club's name to put on the paper's masthead. Shown here are, front row, left to right, Frank Randall, Stewart E. Opdyke, Almeron Whitehead, John F. Alger, McAllister Randall; top row: William C. Jenks, George H. Mitchell, Eben L. Parker and Walter North, who had named their club after an organization mentioned in a Jules Verne novel.

Rotary Ann Idea Originated Here

The Rotary Ann Club of Birmingham was the direct result of the inspiration of Mrs. George R. Averill of Rivenoak drive.

In 1924 Mrs. Averill heard the late Sen. Arthur Vandenberg address an international meeting of Rotarians, stressing ways by which Rotary Clubs might promote world peace.

Mrs. Averill, convinced that women, if organized in a similar manner, could promote the spirit of international friendliness and good will, called a meeting at her home in the spring of 1925, and presented her ideas to wives of Rotarians living in Birmingham.

Formal organization of the club took place at the June meeting of that year. Guiding the new group were Mrs. Averill, president; Mrs. Louis H. Hascall, vice-president; Maude Hilty Stroup, secretary; and George Steelman, treasurer.

Thus, as far as it has been able to ascertain, the first Rotary Ann club in the world was established.

FOR THE FIRST few years, the group continued to meet monthly at local tea rooms, with its aims and activities purely social.

'stuff' seals in envelopes and, after the drive, process the returns under the leadership of Mrs. Oscar Peterson.

SINCE THE founding of the organization, Mrs. Averill has extended the aim of making Rotary Ann international in character. Encouraging news came from the Birmingham, England, club a few years ago, telling of the successful activities of the group. In the local field of expansion the Birmingham club has sponsored units in Garden City, Clarkston, Plymouth and Van Dyke.

Charter members still belonging to the Birmingham Rotary Anns are Mrs. Averill, Mrs. George Steelman, Mrs. Robert Lynd, Mrs. Clarence Vliet, Mrs. Louis Hascall, Mrs. Charles Shain, Mrs. Wylie Bell, Mrs. Elmer Houston and Mrs. George Boutwell.

TODAY THE organization has 63 members, with Mrs. Samuel Lang of Pleasant Ridge as the 1952-53 president.

Other officers are Mrs. William

In 1927 a constitution was adopted which included definite aims: development of acquaintanceship as an opportunity for service, stimulation of a greater interest in the life of the community, and advancement of the aims of Rotary.

The Anns' activities during the early years covered many fields. They assisted the Birmingham student loan fund, the Community House, Red Cross, the Girl Scout Council summer program, and crippled children for whose benefit funds were raised at bridge parties.

THEY ENTERED into welfare service, distributing baskets of food and clothing among needy families at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Some of the first programs of the group included speakers of local and state prominence, and selections by soloists belonging to the Tuesday Musicales.

Once a year the Anns hosted an evening meeting for the local Rotary Club. Monthly meetings were held in members' homes after 1929.

First national recognition accorded the "Ladies of Rotary" was given at the Rotary International Convention of 1933 in Boston when Paul Harris, founder of Rotary, addressed a group of representatives of Rotary Ann organizations, brought together by Mrs. Fred G. Wescott; then head of the Birmingham chapter.

DURING THE 1935-36 club year, the Birmingham Anns became interested in the work being done by the Michigan League for Crippled Children at Grace Bentley camp on Lake Huron.

Work for the crippled children became a main project, with Mrs. Victor Peck, first chairman, assisted by Mrs. Barclay Berdan, Mrs. Ross E. Riddell and Maude Hilty Stroup. Scrap books and materials for the camp hobby shop were collected and delivered.

Starting in 1936 by sending two children to camp, the Rotary Anns have been able to increase the number, and in the past two years 15 Oakland County crippled children went to Grace Bentley camp for a two-week period.

For many years each Rotary Ann has brought to the annual Christmas meeting a wrapped gift for an individual crippled child. Last Christmas 63 such gifts were distributed through the county society.

Easter Seal time affords another opportunity for service. Some of the members go to Pontiac to

Eccentric Ad Led To Organizing of Girl Scout Group

The history of Girl Scouting in Birmingham begins in 1927 with an ad in The Birmingham Eccentric. Mrs. Lee White was looking for local women interested in starting a Girl Scout troop in the area.

Apparently her plea for help was well received, for shortly thereafter the first Girl Scout Council in Birmingham was organized. Some of those serving on this first council still living in Birmingham are Mrs. Burt Stewart, Mrs. Richard Fowler, Mrs. Frank Packard, Mrs. Craig Richey, Mrs. J. J. Roura and Mrs. Roy McCutcheon.

Troop B-1 was formed at Adams school, and troop B-2 was organized a few weeks later at Baldwin.

THE GIRL SCOUT movement grew, and the Pontiac council sent women to train local leaders to keep up with the expansion. Council meetings were held in various homes, and later at the Birmingham Community House where they are held at present.

The Lions Club sponsored the first girl scout cabin on Manor road, located on city property just outside Springdale Park. In 1938 the Lions donated most of the material and built the present cabin which still is very much in use at Springdale Park.

Up until 1952, the Birmingham Girl Scout Council was operated entirely by volunteers. Funds were raised by sales of calendars and cookies, and by the annual Penny Drive.

DUE TO THE large increase in scout registration, after much deliberation the council voted to join with the Southern Oakland County Girl Scouts, a Red Feather service supported by the Torch Drive.

Since the consolidation, Birmingham scouts and their leaders may utilize the services of professional girl scout personnel and avail themselves of extended camping and training opportunities.

Present registration of girls in scouting in the Birmingham area numbers 1,130; adults registered are 425. There are 85 active troops in the area.

Mrs. John St. Clair is the present chairman of the Birmingham council, with Mrs. J. H. Savage, Jr., vice-chairman; and Mrs. Lee Hanson, secretary.

Rowland and Mrs. Chester B. McCormick, vice-presidents; Mrs. Charles Miller, treasurer; and Mrs. A. K. Toepfer, secretary.

Mrs. Averill is honorary president of the club, and a life member.

Junior Leaguers Get Own Charter in 1952

In January of 1952 Mrs. Jamison Williams, chairman of the Birmingham unit of Detroit Junior League, received a wire notifying the group of its acceptance as a full-fledged separate League, the 177th in America.

The organization's first meeting in its new status was held at Oakland Hills Country Club the following month.

LEAGUE WORK in Birmingham began in 1938 with a group of 30 women working as part of the Detroit Junior League. Early meetings were held monthly at the homes of members with the annual meeting held at a local club.

Membership has increased until it now numbers 153 active, 48 sustaining, and 22 provisional members, which necessitates holding all meetings at clubs or at the Community House.

In the near future the League is planning smaller group meetings, all participating in the same agenda with discussions being led by board members.

Board meetings, which include reports on various projects and services, are held monthly at the Community House.

THE IDEAL of the Junior League is "to foster interest among its members in social, economic, educational, cultural and civic conditions of the community and make efficient their volunteer service."

In past years, the League has been interested in and contributed volunteers to the Thrift Shop at the Community House, Red Cross,

USO, Family Service Center in Pontiac, Pioneer House, Cancer Detection Clinic at St. Joseph's Hospital, League for the Handicapped, and Scout programs.

League members are active in the Torch Drive, Community House, and Hospital Drive.

The League now operates four projects: the Hospital Cart at St. Joseph's, a patient service; the Senior Workshop, sponsored since 1950 by the League and the Community House for the older women in the area; the vision screening program for pre-school children; and the Bargain Box, resale shop formerly located on East Maple and now at 465 South Woodward.

The Junior League office, staffed by a volunteer secretary, is located at the South Woodward address.

THE LEAGUE also maintains a children's theater group which has produced five plays since 1947. An original play, "Ricky Tick the Invisible Clown," written by Jarvis McMechan, is in production this spring. Plays are presented to schools and children's homes with cast, direction, props, and costumes all supplied by members.

Last fall the Birmingham League began a self-supporting newspaper, the "Blackboard," published seven times yearly with a circulation of 350.



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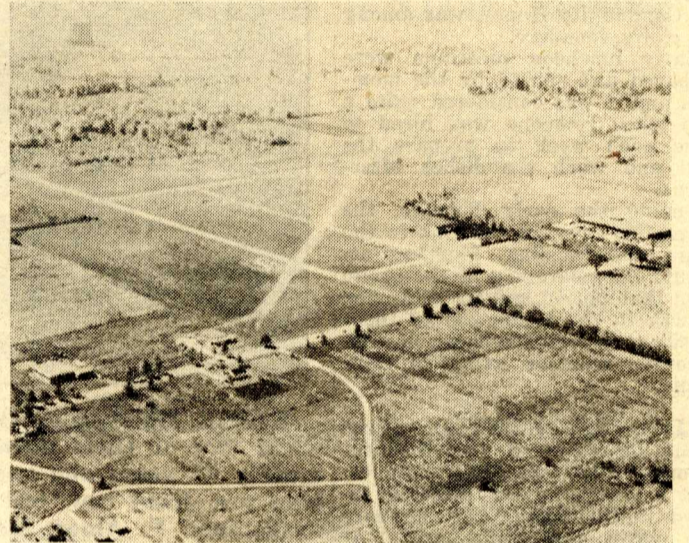
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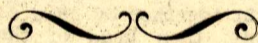
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Young Men Serve Their Community Thru Jr. C of C

Seven years ago a group of Birmingham's younger businessmen felt the need of organization for the betterment of their commercial life and to give better service to the community in which they lived and worked. The result was the formation of the Birmingham Junior Chamber of Commerce on April 10, 1946.

The group had five charter members and elected Larry Nelson the first president. Since then the office has been held by Mike Quinn, Dr. Ed Poole, Jim McCoy, Harry Smart and Jim Couzens.

Charter members were Nelson, Jack Andrews, Ed Steele, Wayne Mortimer and George Marin. Currently the organization has 30 members between the ages of 21 and 35.

Early meetings were held at the Kingsley, then the Fox and Hounds and finally the Community House. Two years ago, when the new Y building was completed, the group started holding their monthly get-togethers there.

ALTHOUGH one of the city's youngest organizations, the Jaycees have been heard from frequently and have taken over some large and important tasks.

One of the first was their local sponsorship of the "Friendship Food Caravan" in 1947. The idea not only was successful in Birmingham but became a project of Jaycees in the rest of the state.

In Birmingham more than 24,000 pounds of foodstuffs was collected to be sent to European war victims, particularly in France. Among the five Jaycee members from Michigan who accompanied the supplies to Europe was Walter Braund of the local club.

ANOTHER large project which had the support of the Jaycees was the construction of the new Y building. They worked on the project, helping to get supplies, material and labor for the construction and also in the final stages, helped furnish the building.

Since their organization they have been willing workers at the annual Halloween party, helping haul supplies, serve food and police lines.

Community House parties for newcomers to the community have had Jaycee support. The young men have been active in the program of decorating Birmingham's streets during the Christmas holiday season and this past yuletide sponsored a home lighting contest.

The group this year is headed by Couzens with Robert Guy as secretary and John Bostford, treasurer. These, with Al Keogh, Jim Edwards and Harry Smart, make up the board of directors.

Walnut Lake Men's Club Membership Has Been Doubled

The Walnut Lake Men's club was organized in October, 1938, to create good fellowship among the men of the community, to uphold the rights of the property owners, and to aid in securing concerted action on any matter beneficial to the community.

First meeting was held at the home of Amos Bertram. Joseph McCormick was elected president by the 15 members.

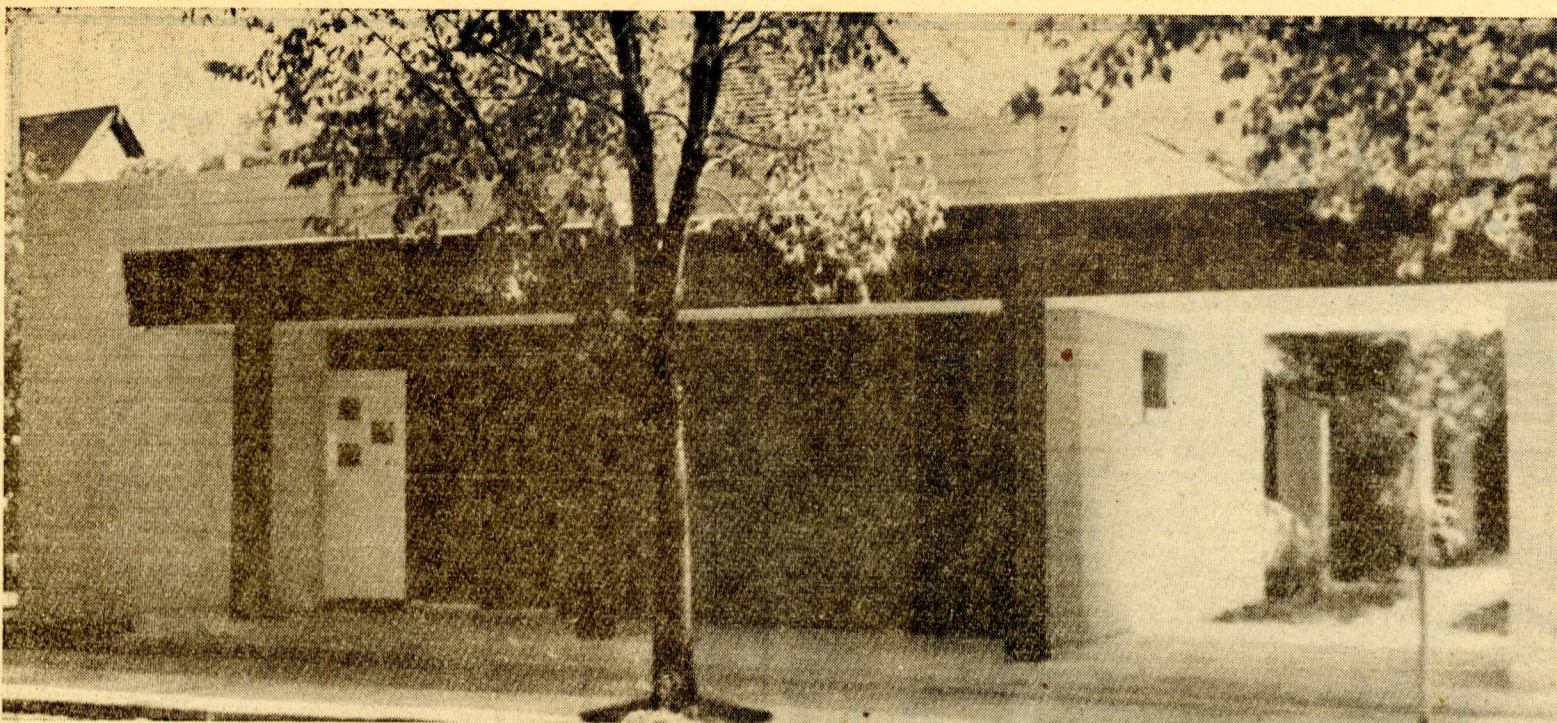
The organization continued to meet in the homes of the members until 1946, when the club leased the first floor of the Walnut Lake garage. Many improvements have since been made on these quarters, which still are the club's home.

MEETINGS are held each Friday night, with a business meeting the first Friday of the month. Membership is open to all men of the Walnut Lake area.

For several years, this club sponsored and completely financed the Christmas party for children of the Walnut Lake school area. It was the original sponsor of the Walnut Lake Boy Scout troop, and has done some emergency welfare work.

The volunteer fire department was proposed by this group of men, who also laid the ground work for the paving of Inkster and Walnut Lake roads.

Present officers are A. J. Kane, president; Richard McKay, vice president; Norman Facer, secretary; Don Harrison, treasurer and Ernest Jacobson, assistant treasurer. There are now approximately 30 active members.



ABOVE: PLAYERS' REMODELLED ENTRANCE
Right: This was building's original appearance

Make-Shift Stage For First Drama

On Chestnut street, just east of Hunter boulevard, is a building that looks like the "house that Jack built". This rambling building is the home of the Village Players, now entering the thirty-first year of its life in Birmingham.

This group of theatrical amateurs has, for over three decades, been a social and cultural force in the area. It grew from an idea of John W. (Jack) Gafill, still a resident of the community. Back in the fall of 1922, Jack, then a high school student, conceived the idea of organizing an amateur theatrical group.

At that time the Birmingham Community House occupied a small, frame building at the southwest corner of Maple and Bates. Jack put his idea to two women, Mrs. Charles Shain and Mary Clark Griffith, who were directors of the Community House. The result was a meeting of several interested residents was held early in February, 1923.

JOHN J. GAFILL, Jack's father, drew up the articles of association and 16 men and women became charter members of the Village Players.

The original group immediately added a number of other interested people to the roster, and Loren T. Robinson, now an honorary life member, was elected first president.

The first production came late in the spring with a performance in the Community House, and "The Maker of Dreams", a one-act fantasy by Oliphant Downs, was selected for the premiere.

Rolfe C. Spinning, still a Birmingham resident, and Caroline Reilly portrayed the leading roles.

The small hall which served as the main room of the Community House was the Players' first "arena". Furniture ranged down to kindergarten-sized chairs, used by the St. James Sunday school.

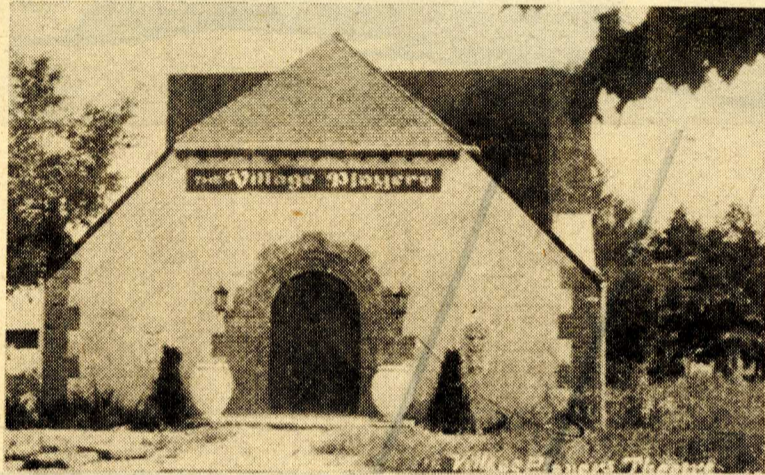
The fledgling thespians created a stage by running a wire across the room and hanging hand-drawn curtains across it. The first set of scenery was made in the Robinson basement. Lighting equipment also was homemade with dishpans being converted into flood-lamps.

The pool table was moved to a corner and used as a make-up center. Costumes were hand-created by the club's distaff side. The audience, composed of members and a select number of guests, ranged themselves on the kindergarten chairs. They proclaimed "The Maker of Dreams" a success, and the Village Players was on its way.

ORIGINALLY as today, membership was divided into two classes, active and associate. The small group prospered and added members. In 1924 and 1925, public performances were held in the Community House which still sponsored its activities.

By 1926 the club, now a definite factor in Birmingham community life and membership still growing, branched out on its own with a public performance in the Baldwin high school auditorium.

The two-night presentation, under the energetic management of Mrs. Charles Shain, was a sell-out, and the Players needed enough money to purchase the Chestnut street lot on which their building now stands.



lage Players' new home. Shortly after that, Fred Farrar decorated the walls with a series of murals depicting the various activities of the theater.

The annual public performance was instituted and, several times in the history of the club, original musical shows with book, lyrics and music all the work of club members have been produced.

The Village Players' has been called 'the cradle of amateur theatricals for the Birmingham-Bloomfield area.' From its membership have come both St. Dunstan's Guild and the Ridgedale Players, with a cross membership in both.

THE PLAYERS, with other community organizations, went "into the doldrums" during the depression, but didn't close its doors.

Present membership is over three hundred, with some sixty life members on the rolls, many of them with more than a quarter of a century spent in active support of the club.

Among them are Dr. and Mrs. George Raynale, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Shaffner, Mr. and Mrs. George M. Dwelley, Mr. and Mrs. Farrington Holt, Mr. and Mrs. A. P. John, Joseph Little, Mrs.

Harry Mack, Mrs. Harry Muehlman, Margaret Stringham, Mrs. Charles Shain, Mr. and Mrs. Rolfe Spinning, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Tillotson, Mr. and Mrs. Lane Bishop and Mrs. Donald T. Stanton.

NEARING THE twenty-five year mark are Mr. and Mrs. Warren Pease and Dr. J. B. Hassberger.

A few years ago an addition was built to the stage, and a kitchen and dressing room added. Last fall a new front to the playhouse was opened, providing a larger lobby, coat rooms and a box office. The auditorium was ramped for better visibility to the stage.

The additions however were constructed without disturbing the traditional masks of 'comedy and tragedy' that have greeted playgoers during the many years.

AFTER THIRTY years in Birmingham, the Players look forward to continued expansion. The organization owns all the property between its clubhouse and Hunter boulevard, most of which at present is leased as a parking lot.

William Kegel is current president; Mrs. Thorndike Dwelley, vice-president; Berrien Ketchum, treasurer; Mrs. Richard Brown, secretary; and Mrs. Dean Smith, librarian.

THROUGH A system of pledges payable over a five year period and guaranteed by the personal signatures of local businessmen, a loan was negotiated from the Birmingham National Bank to build a playhouse.

Wallace Frost was the architect, with the back-stage design left largely in the hands of Loren Robinson whose hobby was the technical end of the theater.

All the material for the playhouse was furnished at cost by Howard Simpson, then an active member. Actual building was done by Bob Tillotson at no profit to his contracting organization.

Mr. and Mrs. Loren Stauch contributed the auditorium's maple dance floor, and Mrs. Graham John Graham gave the front curtain which is still in use. Mr. and Mrs. Loren Robinson donated the curtain mechanisms, while Mr. and Mrs. Zelner Dowling gave the rope, rigging and overhead machines. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Shain contributed the fireplace and its fittings.

IN NOVEMBER, 1926, the first performance was staged in the Vil-

Many Charities Get Assistance From Needlework Guild Members

The Birmingham-Bloomfield Hills branch of the Needlework Guild of America is 22 years old. Under the leadership of first president Mrs. Carleton C. Patterson, the local branch has grown from a small group of women to a membership of over 1300 workers.

Six presidents have guided the policies of the organization which calls itself "the charity that helps all charities", each having a distinct hand in the continuous growth of the guild.

Mrs. Patterson was followed by Mrs. Ferd Broock, Mrs. Lawrence C. Howe, Mrs. Paul B. Hoffman, Mrs. E. A. Schirmer, Mrs. Benjamin Brewster and recently elected Mrs. Glen R. Miller.

The Birmingham-Bloomfield Hills branch is one of over five hundred branches scattered throughout the country. All five hundred guilds have a common purpose of collecting two new garments from each member once a year.

This day of collection, usually held in the fall, is called "Ingathering". Garments are collected, sorted, tabulated and distributed throughout the United States and Canada.

EACH GUILD is governed by a board of directors with the usual officers, and has the privilege of choosing local well-organized agencies as beneficiaries of garments. These agencies change as do the welfare conditions of the times.

For the past four years, the local guild has contributed garments and household linens to the Oakland County Family Service Center, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Clinic, Juvenile Home of Oakland County, Southern Oakland County Welfare Commission, Birmingham City Nurse, Oakland County Sister Keny Polio Center, and the American Red Cross, of which the Needlework Guild of America is the only official affiliate.

THE NATIONAL guild is one of the few great garment agencies in existence, and receives and distributes only new garments, believing that new articles have a tremendous morale-building effect. The organization functions with a minimum of "red tape" and social meetings, with all action for the rank and file membership concerted in the fall.

Two years ago it became nec-

essary to change the Birmingham-Bloomfield Hills branch from the "town" type organization to the "city" structure, dividing the thirteen hundred members into groups governed by section presidents.

At present there are 14 sections in the area, headed by the Mesdames Marvin G. Kirn, J. Thomas Smith, Alfred LaBelle, Lloyd Diehl, Jr., William Garrison, Dwight Allen, William F. Graham, David W. Lee, Benjamin Brewster, W. Coit Allee, C. C. Patterson, George W. Davis, John W. Sanders and Parbury Schmidt.

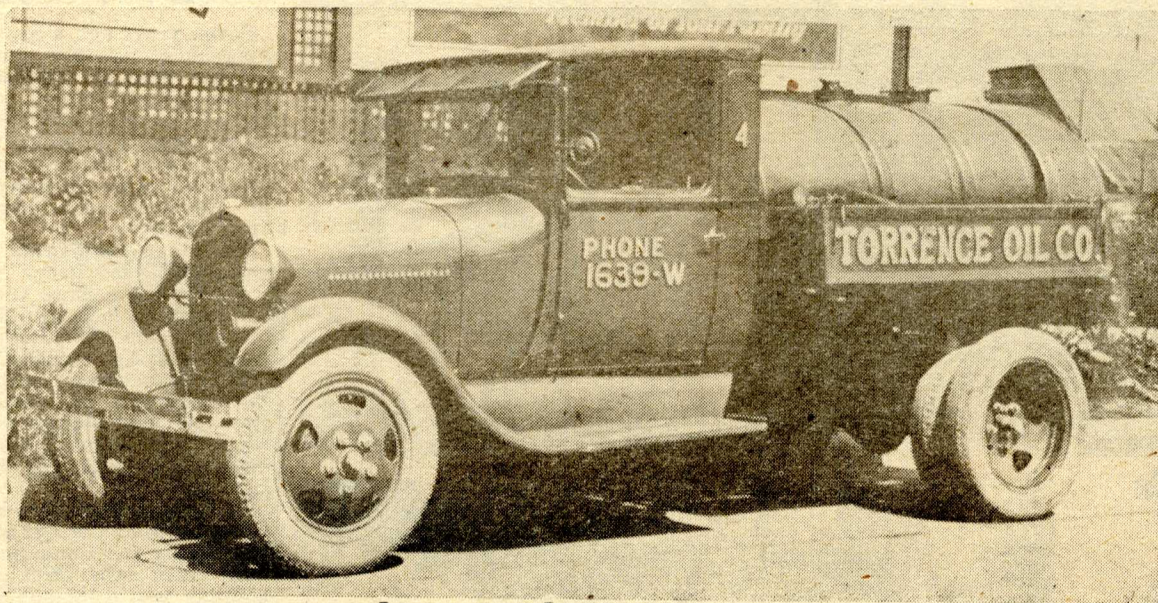
It is by no means uncommon for interest in the work to span several generations, with daughters and granddaughters to be active in their mother's "section".

THE BIRMINGHAM-Bloomfield Hills branch to a very large degree manages its own affairs but is bound over to the national organization with regards to directives on over-all policy.

National headquarters are in Philadelphia, Pa., where the movement originated in 1885.

With no discrimination as to race, color, or creed, the local branch together with its sister units, attempts to alleviate suffering through the precept that great good can come by "Many Giving a Little".

1928



We Extend our Congratulations to The
BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC
On Its 75th BIRTHDAY

We believe in Birmingham's future because of the growth we have seen in our twenty-five years in business here. We pledge our cooperation to the maintenance of the present character of our fine city.

TORRENCE OIL CO.
J. W. Torrence

1953



State's Third MOMS Club Was Birmingham Unit

In May, 1942, forty women with sons serving in the armed forces met at the Community House and organized unit 3 of the Moms of America, Inc. The title, often shortened to MOMS, stands for 'mothers of men in service'.

Previous units had been formed in Dearborn and Pontiac, and Birmingham was the third Michigan community to join the national organization.

First meetings of the group were held twice monthly at the Community House. Mrs. Robert Watt, serving a two-year term, was the unit's first president.

The object of the MOMS was united effort toward permanent world peace; the placing of a woman, preferably a mother, at the peace table; and to do all possible for their sons and daughters in service.

DURING THE WAR years membership increased to over two hundred. Contacts with trainees and overseas men were established via birthday cards, and gift and food parcels at Christmas.

Two rooms were completely furnished at the Detroit Fair Grounds and a group of women went weekly to attend to the sewing and mending needed by troops stationed there.

Red Cross sewing was done regularly, surgical dressings prepared, and lunches provided by 'send-off' committees which also provided cigarettes, Testaments, candy and postcards to men entraining for camp.

Groups served regularly at the Detroit USO, and bulletin board was installed at the Wilson Drug store listing the names of all servicemen and women who were home on leave.

The memorial clock in the foyer of the Community House, a gift of the MOMS, was the first memorial dedicated to the local servicemen of World War II.

The general supervision of the dedication of the honor book in the Baldwin Library was assumed by the MOMS who maintained up-to-date listings.

AT THE CLOSE of World War II, the active membership grew smaller and today a group of about thirty women carry on the work with hospitalized veterans and their families.

With beginning of the Korean conflict the MOMS resumed their work of sending overseas boxes and maintaining a file of local servicemen. At the 1952 Christmas party over a dozen boxes were collected for shipment to Korea.

Hospital work is carried on by specially designated committee which makes weekly visits to the Dearborn Veterans' Hospital and bi-monthly trips to the Marine Hospital.

Mrs. Edwin Snyder, who headed the hospital committee for the past seven years, was recently succeeded by Mrs. Norman Porter, a past president of the organization.

The Birmingham MOMS now devote two days a month to service at the Detroit USO, and last Thanksgiving sponsored a special dinner for the servicemen.

Each year the city commission has granted the MOMS the privilege of soliciting funds for their work at an annual Tag Day.

THE CLUB celebrated its tenth anniversary in May, 1952, with a dinner at the Community House. Mrs. Ralf A. Crookston is the current president of the unit.

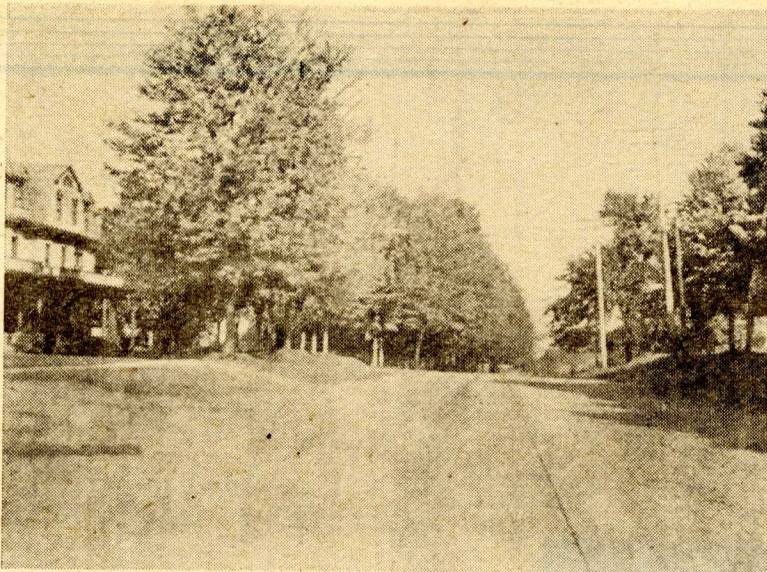
All mothers of men in service are welcomed to the meetings and are invited to join in the activity of the unit. Meetings are now held in members' homes.

All He Needed to Know Was 'Who' & 'How Long'

When Hancock and Garfield were running for the presidency of the United States in 1880, political feeling ran high.

Any one in the village of Birmingham who wanted streamers for any candidate could get them from Wes Faint, local painter and decorator. Faint would paint them in any length from "one foot to a mile."

Portraits of any candidate were painted on the banners, if the customers so wished, and they were guaranteed to be natural and life-like.



NORTH SAGINAW STREET (now Woodward avenue) as it was around the turn of the century. Nice, stately shade trees, a wide right-of-way but no pavement. Looking north, the large home at the left was built by a wealthy local woman, Mrs. Addie Stearns, and for many years was the "showplace" in the county. Later, it became the Chateau Tearoom. It was torn down during 1939 to make way for the local Cadillac dealership's new sales and service facilities. Willets street enters Woodward just beyond the house, Oakland avenue comes in just beyond the farthest telephone pole at right.

Internat'l President Helps Form Hi-12 Club

"Birmingham's newest club, the High Twelve, will receive its charter at a special dinner meeting to be held Friday night at the Community House. E. C. Wolcott of St. Louis, Mo., who founded this Masonic service club twenty years ago, will make the principal address, coming here especially for the event."

This paragraph, part of a story which ran in the Nov. 5, 1942, issue of The Birmingham Eccentric, announced to Masons in the Birmingham area that formative plans had been completed for a social club made up entirely of Masons.

Walter A. Anderson, International High Twelve president, then living at 1140 Lake Park, met with S. Merton Adams, Norman W. Berry, Robert W. Chissus and Herbert G. Wood to discuss the possibilities of a club in Birmingham.

The following week these men, with some specially invited guests, met at the Community House and decided to go ahead with plans.

MEMBERS AT this meeting were asked to invite other Masons and the High Twelve club of Highland Park was invited to attend in a body. This second group meeting, held a week later, was described as "very successful."

Temporary officers were elected Oct. 19, 1942 and on Nov. 6, with 48 members enrolled, the Birmingham High Twelve club received its charter.

Anderson, who had spearheaded the local organization, made the presentation at a dinner sponsored by the Highland Park club. E. C. Wolcott, founder of International High Twelve, addressed the group of more than 300 persons.

The High Twelve organization is planned to unite masonry in social and civic activities for the benefit of its members and the community.

SINCE ITS inception, the Birmingham group has carried this in mind. It has announced numerous

social events for its members and their families and has been active in projects of benefit to the community.

Regular contributions have been made to Boys State, the Red Cross, Boy Scouts, Community House, the YMCA, DeMolay (junior Masonic organization), Birmingham Community Council and many other similar groups and organizations.

They have given toward the High Twelve international educational fund and in 1948 provided funds for a boy to attend the Shady Trail camp for corrective speech.

THREE TIMES the Birmingham club has sponsored the founding of other High Twelve units. In 1945 it sponsored a club at Plymouth, and presented the charter to that organization. Its second sponsorship was when a club was organized at Flint. The third club formed with Birmingham aid is in Pontiac.

Currently listing a membership of 150, the club has two honorary members, its founder Walter A. Anderson, and its first president, Norman Berry.

Non-resident memberships are held by men in Roscommon, Fremont, Maple City, Alpena, Dearborn, Miami, Fla., Seattle, Wash., LaJolla, Calif., and Mt. Pleasant, Ill.

Currently the club is headed by Wilson M. Wagner under whose guidance it is continuing its program of community work, social and recreational plans for its members and projects of public benefit and interest.

Dads' Club Solving Recreational Needs Of Twp. Children

"To create better sports, health and character for our children," is both the motto and objective of the Troy Dads' Club. The club, organized in November 1949, has made numerous, valuable contributions to the Troy township children.

Originator and first president of the Troy Dads' Club is James Gamble.

When Gamble moved from Highland Park to Troy township, he saw there a great need for a planned activities program for community children. He went before the school board and asked if it would financially back such a program. The school board responded negatively.

However, Gamble's enthusiasm continued. He reappeared before the board for permission to start a children's activity program on his own.

Permission was granted. Gamble went to the people of Troy and solicited their aid. Some 20 people responded and were included in the original charter.

FIRST MEETING of the Troy Dads' Club, held in Log Cabin School, saw Gamble named president. Other officers were Elsworth Ogg, vice-president, and Walter Taylor, treasurer. Meetings were held weekly in the local schools. By the end of the first year, the club had 68 members.

Club membership now is approximately 50. Meetings are held the second and fourth Thursdays each month at the new Troy high school.

Present officers are Walter Taylor, president; Paul Gregory, secretary; and Bill Becker, treasurer.

Original activities of the Troy Dads' Club were intended primarily for boys of high school age. Now, however, the club sponsors events for boys and girls of all ages.

TO ASSIST the high school pay for a lighted football field was the first project. To date, it has contributed approximately \$2,000 to a fund for this purpose.

As the members saw a need for activities for younger children also, it was decided that the club would divide its one major project into several smaller ones.

In the spring of 1950, Gamble organized a baseball school for eight weeks. This school was followed by a 12-team baseball league. Dads' Club members backed the league financially, instructed the classes and umpired games.

Although the baseball league now has only eight teams, both the baseball school and league have continued and have many entries each year.

FATHERS OF girls in the community began to ask for similar programs for their daughters. A four-team baseball league for girls was organized. A dancing school also was begun. Some 600 children, both boys and girls, enrolled. Today there are around 200 children in the dancing school.

To finance club activities, members must go out and earn the

money. No outside contributions are made to the club. A square dance is given once a month for nine months of the year to raise funds.

TROY DADS' Club also donated playground equipment to various schools in the community. Members made and bought stands for the high school choir and gave money with which the high school band purchased uniforms.

An auxiliary of the Troy Dads' Club for the women of the community was organized by Mrs. James Gamble. The auxiliary raises funds by sponsoring bake and candy sales, bazaars, sells Christmas cards, etc.

It contributed to the purchase of the high school band uniforms and now is buying 30 robes for the high school choir.

GAMBLE FELT that a program also should be planned for high school graduates. Boys, up to the age of 21, are now backed by the Dads' Club in an athletic group. Seven hundred dollars has been invested in a basketball team for these boys.

Each year a high school junior or senior is sent to Wolverine Boys' State, held at Michigan State College.

Twp. Republican Women Organize To Help Party

First meeting of the Southfield Township Republican Women's Club was held in 1948, at the Dorset road home of Mrs. K. E. Geiger. The twelve charter members, under the direction of Mrs. William Kennedy, president of the Oakland County Federation of Republican Women, adopted a constitution and by-laws.

Underlying the constitution was the primary aim of cooperation with official Republican party committees. The newly-formed club would collect, analyze, report and disseminate information among the women of Southfield township, and assist in registering all eligible voters.

Mrs. Herman Luhrs of Lathrup, one of the vice-presidents of the state federation, served two years as president. She was succeeded by Mrs. William Donner of Washington Heights. The newly-elected president is Mrs. Harry Henderson of West Thirteen Mile road.

Monthly luncheon meetings are held at the Birmingham Community House, with approximately 40 members attending.

CLUB ACTIVITIES center around participation in rallies during political campaigns, at which times the organization schedules luncheons and dinners which are addressed by speakers.

Social aspects include an annual Christmas party and a summer garden party, and the unit has entertained the Oakland County Federation of Republican Women at a number of its functions.

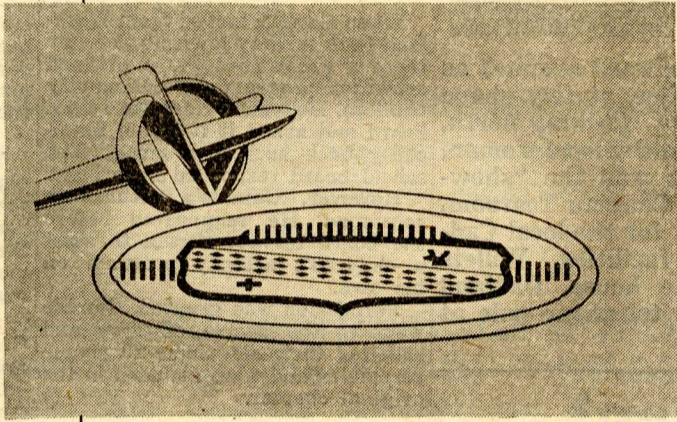
Members also have made and delivered a number of lap robes to the veterans of the Tuberculosis Hospital at Battle Creek.

Stay Away, Daughter!

Brakemen and baggage men all said in 1878 that Birmingham was the worst station on the line for young girls to hang around the depot. The editors of The Eccentric admonished parents that hanging around the depot was a practice "which mothers and fathers who are desirous of keeping their daughters just what they should be, should put a stop to it at once."



WHERE'S THE TRAFFIC? Well, there wasn't very much of it when compared to the 1953 problem, back in Birmingham in the mid 1920's, when compared to the city's 1953 problem. This photo shows the Woodward-Maple intersection and its southwest corner. Note the drinking fountain at the extreme right (still there today), the DUR streetcar, the lone street light suspended over the intersection, and the many large trees.



**SUMNER MOTOR SALES,
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Fiftieth Anniversary,**

Salutes

**the Birmingham Eccentric
on its Seventy-Fifth Birthday.**

SUMNER MOTOR SALES, INC.

808 South Woodward Ave.

Birmingham, Michigan

Rebekahs Paid 25c Rental for Piano

On October 12, 1911, Pride of Oakland Rebekah lodge 445 of the Independent Order of Oddfellows was instituted by the president and several officers of the Rebekah Assembly of Michigan.

There were six charter members who had previously been affiliated with the Welcome lodge in Pontiac. They were Hattie Bailey, Nellie Wood, Mr. and Mrs. Ed McQuater and Mr. and Mrs. D. B. Wilkinson.

Lillian McQuater was elected the first Noble Grand and D. B. Wilkinson the first secretary. Early meetings were held in a room of the building then known as 'Frank Ford's' on West Maple avenue, just west of what is now Wilson Drug Store.

Later meetings convened in the Johnson-Shaw Hall located at the southwest corner of Maple and Woodward. In 1912 the group rented the Maccabees Hall, located on

the second floor of the building on the northeast corner of Maple and Woodward avenues.

EARLY RECORDS show that rent came to 25 dollars yearly, and janitor service totaled thirty cents per meeting. Rental of a piano for each meeting cost the lodge twenty-five cents.

The lodge met bi-monthly and, after increasing its membership, decided in 1921 to build its own hall at the northwest corner of Merrill and Pierce streets. The cornerstone was laid March 31, 1921, and the Oddfellows and Rebekahs moved into their new quarters early in 1922.

Activities included the fund raising projects of dances, suppers, card parties, plays, bake sales, and bazaars. The ladies sponsored a sewing circle and aided with contributions toward equipment and the building fund.

The Rebekahs formed a Past Noble Grand Club on April 17, 1922. Lodge membership grew to a total of nearly 400, but in the Thirties the enrollment declined due to the depression years and the loss of young married members who moved away.

THE BUILDING was sold and many of the men members affiliated with the Council Lodge of Clawson after giving up their charter.

The Rebekahs struggled along and held meetings in the Birmingham Theater building and above the old Kresge store on North Woodward until the opening of the Birmingham Community House where they now hold their sessions.

Purpose of the Rebekah lodge is to aid the needy in every way possible, help the sick, and to promote benevolence and charity. Their symbols are friendship, love and truth.

The united lodges in the state maintain the Oddfellow-Rebekah Home for the Old at Jackson. The local lodge has eighty-five members and meets twice a month. They maintain two hospital beds, two wheelchairs, and a bed table which they loan free of charge to anyone needing them.

NEW OFFICERS were installed at a joint public installation at Clawson in January, 1953, with Mae McKee as Noble Grand.

Others on the slate are Edna Luth, Elvah Lowell, Grace Skelton, Emma Wedge, Opal Shira, Alta Loeding, Agatha Rathke, Mae Bailey, Betty Jean Clark, Ethel Clark, Florence Brown, Ina Nixon, Winnie Gravlin, Pearl Estes, Mildred Smith and Nellie Tewilliager.

Not Hungry, Thank You

Proceeds of the Oyster supper and school festival put on by the teachers and pupils of the Union school house (Hill school) in 1879 were used to fix up one of the vacant rooms in the school house for the accommodation of visitors at the school examinations.

Admission at the door was 10c. Oysters per dish, 10c. Tea or coffee, 5c. Supper without oysters, 15c. A total of \$30 was made on the project.

Besides the supper and social, a short program of music and readings entertained the visitors. A. M. Webster was superintendent of the Union school house in Birmingham in 1879.

Poor Fish!

Nine thousand baby white fish were received for distribution from the State Fish Commission in 1879. These were entrusted to the care of Frank Durkee who deposited them in equal portions in Wing Lake, Walnut Lake and Gilbert Lake.

They were lively little fellows about an inch long and chuck full of vigor and of the species commonly known as Saginaw Trout.



MRS. WALTER NICHOLS

Charter Member Of WCTU Still Active In Group

The Women's Christian Temperance Union of Birmingham was organized before the turn of the century. Concerned with "educating public sentiment to the standard of total abstinence, training the young, saving the inebriate, and securing legal prohibition and complete banishment of the liquor traffic," a meeting of interested citizens took place February 6, 1896, at the First M. E. Church.

The thirteen charter members included Mrs. Nettie Waldo, wife of the principal and superintendent of the Birmingham schools; Mrs. Eliza Waldo, Mrs. Moses Taber, Mrs. Walter Nichols, Mrs. W. E. McClellan, Mrs. I. C. Williams, Mrs. C. G. Jackson, Mrs. Sarah Carter, Mrs. S. R. Allen, Miss Mary Ninde, Mrs. William Hutton, and Mrs. George Shain.

Mrs. Nichols, 715 Chester street, still is an active member of the group.

THE REV. ORR, pastor of the United Presbyterian Church, was present at the charter meeting, and lent his support by joining the organization as an honorary member.

Mrs. Eliza Waldo was elected the group's first president, with Mrs. Nettie Waldo, recording secretary; Mrs. Jackson, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Taber, treasurer; and Mrs. McClellan, Mrs. Shain and Miss Ninde, vice-presidents.

The group's second meeting was held February 11, 1896, at the Waldo home on the corner of Martin and Chester streets, and the WCTU national constitution with its by-laws were presented and accepted.

Early meetings were held bi-weekly in members' homes. Later they were invited to use a room in the First Methodist church, where they continued to meet until the building was razed in the fall of 1952.

AT PRESENT the First Baptist Church has welcomed the WCTU meetings in its club rooms.

Membership grew rapidly as the union studied the needs and conditions of the community and used its influence "for the betterment of society and for a clean village". During the years following the first World War membership numbered over one hundred; now it stands a little less than fifty.

Present officers include Mrs. J. A. Bowes, president; Mrs. Earle Cunningham, vice-president, Miss Ella Cross, recording and corresponding secretary; and Mrs. E. M. Elsey, treasurer.

Lions Club Always Ready to Give Aid

Since its "birthday" on April 11, 1928, the Birmingham Lions club has been one of the most active service groups in town, primarily from the standpoint of helping others.

A glance at its records shows few meetings in which the membership has not acted on some plan that meant extending a helping hand. These same records show that the local organization has spent more than \$15,000 on worthy causes.

The Lions club is the outgrowth of a group of young men who met for weekly luncheons. Calling themselves the Young Men's Service club, they found they had no particular objective, no charter, and strictly speaking, were not a "service" club.

After discussion, they decided to seek affiliation with some international organization and selected Lions International because they believed it to be "one of the greatest service clubs in the world".

Of the 37 members listed at their original charter party, 10 still are active in the club. These include Paul N. Averill, Mark Bearss, Russell Berger, Vern Griffith, James Kelly, Russell McBride, Dr. Paul McConkie, Claude Morrow, Walter Moreland and Ray Peck.

FIRST PRESIDENT of the Birmingham Lions club, B. J. Meirow, was a special guest when the group celebrated its 25th anniversary in April, 1953, with dinner and an evening of entertainment at the Birmingham country club.

Among the largest of Lions projects has been the work with the blind or those suffering from defective vision.

Working with the Birmingham schools, the club has provided a vision kit used in making tests of all school children. Where glasses are needed and parents are unable to stand the expense of examinations and fittings, the Lions club steps in and pays the bill.

STILL WORKING with the blind, the organization gives freely toward the support of the Leader Dog Foundation near Rochester. A part of the money is obtained through an annual White Cane drive.

Not all this work is done through schools or organizations. In recent years the club has donated the down payment on a new home for a blind veteran and saved another blind man and his family from eviction.

The work through the schools did not halt, however, with the establishment of the Lions vision program.

On rainy days Birmingham's patrol boys may work their shifts dry and snug in the poncho-type rain capes which Lions have supplied.

THEY HAVE underwritten the cost and supervised the activities of the Barnum junior high school swimming pool for several summers. A number of lockers and athletic equipment for the Pierce school field house also was the gift of the Lions club.

Other activities among the boys and girls of the community have included sending needy boys to camp each year.

For 20 years the club has sponsored Troop B-4, Boy Scouts of America, and more recently has taken over the sponsorship of a Sea Scout Troop.

Construction of the Girl Scout cabin at Springdale Park also was made possible with Lions club funds.

OF DIRECT AID to the community as a whole was the gift of a resuscitator, used by the Birmingham fire department, and to which several area residents owe their lives.

The public address system that has done much to improve the many Birmingham Community House programs is another Lions club gift.

Through the facilities of the Baldwin Public library, the Lions club has made a ceiling projector available to any in the community who are ill and unable to hold books and magazines for reading. The projector and the several films the club has provided are readily borrowed from the library.

NATURALLY, with all its civic interest, the club has in times of war pitched in to do its share.

During World War II, while some of its members were with the armed forces, Lions at home sold more than \$240,000 worth of War Bonds in one month. Because of this, an Air Force bomber became known as "The City of Birmingham".

The Lions have contributed to the Red Cross, to help the latter's general programs as well as hospitalized veterans. Lions have given to the Woodward General hospital and supported every Community House drive.

The club has done all these things, but it is quick to point out that a great deal of the credit for its accomplishments go to the people of Birmingham.

FROM THEM has come the support and patronage of the many fund raising projects, from parties, plays, miniature cane sales, and more recently their establishment of "Ice Cream Week."

"Our name has been on all these things, but without the wonderful people in our town, we really couldn't have done much." one of the members said.

Not Many Around Now!

In 1879 James Peabody of Gilbert Lake and Ed Adams of Birmingham deposited 40,000 young white fish in Gilbert Lake. J. Allen Bigelow and James O. Beattie put 40,000 of the same species in Wing Lake and 60,000 in Walnut Lake. These fish were from the Michigan State Fish Commission.

No Books Were Lost

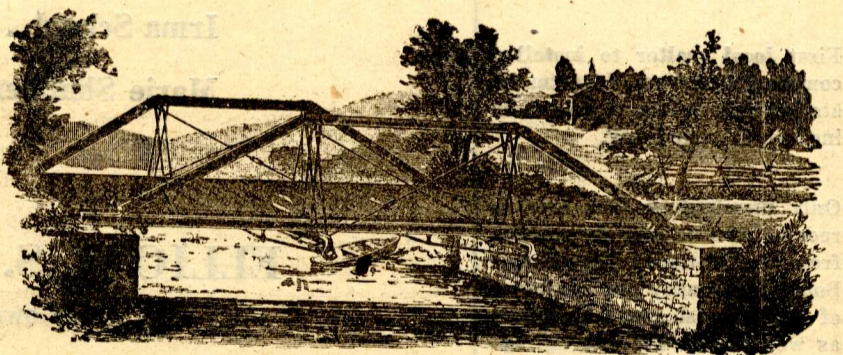
At the annual meeting of the Ladies Library Society in 1879, records showed that there were 724 books in the library. Since the society had started in 1869, nearly \$2,000 had passed through the hands of the treasurer of the society and it was reported that no book from their library had ever been lost up to that date.

Sticky Situation?

The two boats of the Wing Lake and Birmingham Fishing Club were christened "Maid of the Mud" and "Ah Goo" and were deposited in the club's boat house on Wing Lake with imposing ceremonies, in 1879.

First Maple Bridge?

This line drawing is believed to be the first bridge ever constructed over the River Rouge where it crosses West Maple. It had a wooden plank floor. Some years later this bridge was replaced by a 2-lane concrete one, which in turn has been replaced by a 4-lane, less dangerous one opened in 1952.



Once Again!

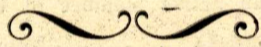


SO THAT YOU CAN KNOW US

Established over 21 years ago, the growth of our organization is something of which we are justly proud. These years have brought an ever-continuing increase in the scope of our activities, sales volume, and recognition of a job well done from our esteemed clientele.

Privileged to conduct your real estate matters, all of us here hope you have found your personal contacts with us pleasant, adequate, considerate of your needs and primarily conscious of the integrity you—our clientele—so truly deserve.

Thank you for your confidence

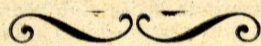


Sales Staff:

Clarence Bales	Carol Lehr	Irene Tjaarda
Loren Culler	Sue Stall	Dorothy Webster
Owen Hall	Henry Standart	Lou Whirl
Doris Kay		Marvin Young

— O —

Harold Hagan—Insurance Department Manager



Operating Staff:

Mae Girvin	<i>Treasurer</i>
Marie Stauffer	<i>Secretary</i>
Irma Scheid	<i>Comptroller</i>
Marie Shallberg	<i>Insurance</i>

ELLIOTT S. KINNEY—President

(Sole owner since January 1949)



21 Years of ANECDOTES and NOTABLE FIRSTS:

Organized as Snyder & Buck, Inc. in 1932. Soon, in 1934, the firm became Snyder, Buck & Bennett, Inc.

1947. Name changed to Snyder, Kinney & Bennett, Inc. reflecting Mr. Kinney's long-time interest in the firm.

First local realtors to regularly employ local newspaper pictorial display advertising.

In Birmingham, first local realtors to offer new homes for sale since the depression.

First local realtor staff to include Sales Women.

First local realtor to install a complete insurance department, staffed by a specialist, to handle insurance exclusively.

Only Birmingham firm ever to receive awards and recognition from the National Real Estate Board for quality and character of its advertising and brochures as well as for the internal appearance of its office. (In 4 of the last 5 years, we received these national awards.)