

THE ECCENTRIC

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1922

THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

One instant shines through all the centuries when all else fades and crumbles into dust—a toasty manger birth! Compared with this man's proudest moments are ridiculous! What conqueror, in all his majesty, has left behind so great a heritage to humankind as did this infant babe? Not one! His Love is ours eternally!

Oh, Christmas! Who would dare destroy the day and fill the hearts of men with selfishness, with greed, with envy, malice, hatred, death? A year's five thousand wakeful hours of sin will fade before its five hours of Love! One flame will light the void! Unselfishness, forgiveness, gladness, smiles, the joy of giving, sweet hope, the laugh of childish innocence—all these belong to Christmas! Mist! that rises and condenses of human spite; whose foul miasm breathes slender and spits tongues of livid hate—all these disperse and flee before the Sun!

Let orthodox vanish, dogmas, creeds, and stones of temples fall if Time so wills; the Light remains! And by its radiance dim earth becomes a stark white gleaming; that dispels the terror of the clouds above! For Love and God are indispensible!

On Christmas Day let voices rise in song, in joyous mirth! Let willing hands perform in charity! Let eyes flash messages of cheer and sympathy, and tongues speak words of faith and hope! For these are golden hours! A Merry Christmas, friends; God keep you all!

DICKENS' VERSION

"There are many things from which I might have derived good, by which I am not profited, I dare say: Christmas among the rest. But I am sure I have always thought of Christmas time, when it has come around—apart from the veneration due to its sacred name and origin, if anything belonging to it can be apart from that—as a good time; a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time: the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women by one consent, open their shut-up hearts freely, and to think of people below them, as if they really were fellow-passengers to the grave, and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys. And therefore, though it has never put a scrap of gold or silver in my pocket, I believe that it HAS done me good, and WILL do me good; and I say, God bless it!"

The foregoing quotation is that of Scrooge's nephew, taken from the justly famous "Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens. We suggest that you take it once more from your bookshelves and read it. Its entire contents breathe the spirit of Christmas from the visit of the first ghost down to Tiny Tim's "God bless us, every one."

ECCENTRICITIES

We heard it said that one Birmingham man is so suspicious he won't hang up his sock on Christmas Eve, because he's afraid Santa Claus will steal it.

"Laugh and grow fat" is an old adage. But nowadays folks are interested in how to get thin and yet be agreeable.

Money counts for lots of things and lots of men have been counted out for lack of it.

"Cousins kicks up heels early" says a headline in a recent newspaper. Let's hope he kicks up something besides his heels when he gets started—even a mule can do that.

The horrors of this season's grid-iron battles are not over yet. Some are still picking all-state and all-every thing else teams.

A headline reads: "35,000 to be denied auto licenses." We hope there are 35,000 "road boys" on the list.

As yet no "heart stories" about the ice situation as it will be next summer have been heard by us.

An Orchard Lake man forgot he had a fire extinguisher until after his garage was burning down. Sort of saving it for a rainy day, perhaps.

If kissing is dangerous to good health, it's to be wondered why so many of our young folks are not invalids.

Smile once in a while, so that when you have to smile, your face will be used to the exercise.

Life is just one thing right after another—but the fact that you don't know what is coming next makes it truly interesting.

When the temperature goes down, so does father. He goes down in the cellar to feed the hungry furnace—not to tap the remaining supply of—

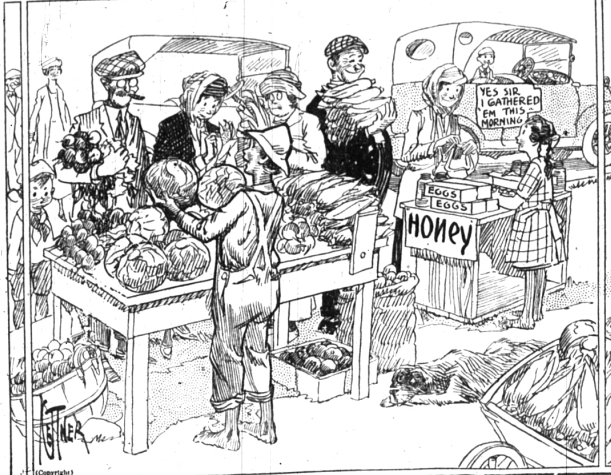
"Davis Urges End of Strikers' Beliefs for a Nearby Newspaper." So did Babe Ruth last summer.

Health Hints: When a footpad sticks a gun against the part of you that houses your stomach, enable you for your watch, it's bad for the indigestion to tell the gentleman to go where it's a bit warmer.

Two can't live as cheaply as one—and one.

"Basketball has the place of football, but the substitutes for it, says Hall, it hasn't the right kick," says

From Producer to Consumer



a newspaper paragraph. He's right, a kick hasn't any place in the game—but it takes punch to play it.

The kissable girl is one who pretends she doesn't want to be kissed.—Chicago Daily News.

Take another look at the Christmas list—you may have missed someone.

FROM THE ECCENTRIC COLUMNS

Forty-four Years Ago
Johnnie Alger returned from Colorado for Xmas. It was a surprise to his many friends in town.

Mrs. Sherman is slowly recovering from her typhoid fever attack.

Governor Crosswell has appointed R. E. Trowbridge, a member of the Commission to locate and establish a school for the blind. If the position demands a man who is composed of gentleness and candor and sterling honesty, the Governor couldn't have made a better selection.

Pupils in the primary department who were neither absent nor tardy during the fall term are: Willie Crosby, Rose Brockway, George Robinson, Daisy Sibley, Bertie Jenkins and Minnie Crosby.

Mrs. J. F. Rundell, while driving on Monday last, was run away with. Instead of jumping out and fainting as the average woman does, she bravely kept her seat and succeeded in keeping the horse in line until the driver's toll gate was reached, and the toll gate being closed, the horse stopped. Fortunately no damage was done, but we noticed that Julie invested in a quart of liniment, we suppose for the horse's sake.

Mrs. Lydia Goodwin died last Sunday from injuries received from a fall.

Twenty-five Years Ago
Mrs. Mary Webster returned from Alma College Wednesday of this week.

James Pardee and wife, of Pontiac, visited his sister, Mrs. James Shain, the first of the week.

Woodbridge N. Ferris, of Big Rapids, the lecturer of last Friday evening, was entertained at the residence of David Hanna.

James M. Camp, through his attorney, sues the Citizens Railway Co., of Detroit, for \$25,000, for the loss of his left leg, caused by the Log Cabin Park collision last summer.

The following students, all graduates of the Birmingham High school, are spending a merry holiday vacation at their homes in Birmingham and vicinity: Zilla Campbell, Iva Bruce and Will Miller, all of the U. of M.; Carolyn Poppieton, of Vassar College; Grace Houghton and Bert Blakeslee of Ypsilanti Normal.

Mrs. J. M. Orvell Smith, of this village, are the proud parents of the sweetest baby girl that has desired to locate permanently here for a long time.

Two weeks ago a very pleasant appearing man, giving his name as Henry Davis, came to Marion White's place in Southfield, and wanted to hire out as a farm hand, claiming to

be a horse-trainer. On Monday evening he left, taking Mr. White's road cart, which he drew to Kirk White's, where he stole a horse and a harness. At half-past-nine he was seen at Sand Hill. The Franklin and Southfield telephone wires were cut, and it is believed the miscreant did it.

Mrs. James McBride, of Clawson, is slowly recovering from a long illness.

Mrs. Shug gave a surprise party to her husband on his 57th birthday with "wedded" him. May he live long and enjoy his rocker, is the wish of all.

FIREMEN'S RABBIT BANQUET

Members of the Birmingham fire department, their families and Village officials enjoyed a very tasty rabbit supper at the Maccabee Hall Monday night of last week. After supper progressive pedro was played, and "wedded" him. May he live long and enjoy his rocker, is the wish of all.

On Wednesday and Thursday of week before last the firemen divided into two teams for a rabbit hunt, with David Anderson and J. H. Sheridan as respective captains. The team getting the fewest rabbits was to prepare the supper. Everybody therefore voted Sheridan's team as good cooks—though poor hunters.

Error in Education.
In trying to teach children a great deal in a short time, they are treated not as though the race they were to run was for life, but simply a three-mile heat.—Horace Mann.

PEOPLE OF OUR TOWN



He's where we leave a Brick at the Cheap Guy who is Always Trying to get Free Puffs in the Paper. We like to be a Good Fellow and try to Boost Everybody in these Columns, but the Cheap Guy is Too Tight to Do Anything in Return and all the Favorable Mention he gets here will be Burn Little.

A cantata of song and recitation will be presented by 100 children and young folks at the Evangelical church in Ferndale December 21.

PRESS PICKINGS

There will be a Community Christmas tree in the park at Holly on Xmas Eve, immediately following the church services. Songs, led by the school children, will be sung.

The Senior class of the Orion high school presented at the school last Friday evening a "carnival" through which they hope to raise funds for their trip to Washington, D. C., at graduation time next June. The affair consisted of many novel features.

Royal Oak now has the largest Chamber of Commerce of any city its size in the United States, it is claimed.

Approximately \$275,000 is to be expended for improvements at the Michigan State Fair grounds in Detroit during the 1923 season, according to George W. Dickison, secretary-manager of the State Fair Association.

The Lapeer Pythians will hold a New Year's dancing party Monday evening, January 1, when Fischer's famous World's Fair orchestra, of Kalamazoo, comes to that city for their annual dancing stunt. The affair will be held at Arcadia Hall.

The Oberlin Glee Club will give a concert at the congregational church in Oxford on December 26.

Table with train schedules including Southbound Limited, Northbound Local, and Flint Division.

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NOTICE!

TAXPAYERS OF TROY TOWNSHIP

Beginning December 26, 1922, until January 20, 1923, I will be at the following places to collect taxes for the Township of Troy:—

At the First State Savings Bank, Birmingham, Thursdays, December 28th and January 4th, 11th, 18th.

Big Beaver, Tuesdays, December 26th, January 2nd, 9th and 16th.

Troy Corners, Wednesdays, December 27th and January 3rd, 10th and 17th.

Clawson, Fridays, December 29th and January 5th, 12th and 19th.

Town Hall, on January 20th only.

All taxes paid to January 20th will be charged the regular one per cent for collection. After this date the four per cent penalty will be charged. Mail all checks to—

LEWIS J. STUMPF

Troy Township Treasurer,
R. F. D. 5, Royal Oak, Mich.