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Birmingham Eccentric

"For a Bigger and Better Birmingham"

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FORTY-EIGHTH YEAR—NO. 36.

FARMINGTON FIGHTS STATE'S ATTEMPT TO RE-LOCATE HIGHWAY

Township Board Refuses To Accept Plans Which Would Divert Traffic

SUIT IN PONTIAC COURT Birmingham May Face Similar Situation in Solution of Woodward Project

Whether or not the Farmington township board, backed by the many residents of Farmington village, will be compelled to accept a re-location of M-16, known as the Grand River road, depends upon the outcome of a suit started last week in the Pontiac Circuit Court against James Fred S. Lamb, of Cadillac, who was brought here to hear the case.

A good deal of interest in this case is shown in Birmingham, since this village, too, may have a similar situation. A "combat" should the State attempt to "use" the Grand Trunk road as a part of the local Woodward avenue project.

The Farmington case grew out of an attempt on the part of Lawrence W. Snell Jr., and the Grand River Homes Land Co. to have the township board accept two plans both of which call for a re-location of state trunk-line M-16, so that it will not pass through the village of Farmington.

Plans Refused Last July. Last July the board refused to approve plans of Farmington View and Grandville Woods, property belonging to the Grand River Homes Land Company which were presented by Lawrence W. Snell Jr., of Detroit and Pine Lake. Members of the board questioned the right of the state administration to re-locate the trunk line and refused the plan because no bond was given to improve the highway in the event the state did not do so.

Witnesses Heard. Lawrence W. Snell, Jr., was an important witness for the plaintiff (Continued to Page 5)

25 PCT. INCREASE IN MAIL OVER YEAR AGO

Birmingham Postoffice Is Good Example Of Growth Here

At this time of the year the Birmingham Post Office is one of the busiest places in the village. Since December 1 to date the Birmingham office has averaged over 125 sacks a day incoming parcel post and the outgoing parcel post averages over 60 sacks a day, besides the other numerous boxes, crates, baskets and miscellaneous articles that are handled in the sacks. Altogether, Mr. Cobb, the post master, expects an increase of 25% in business during the business of the same time a year ago.

Increases Itemized. The following increases are over the same time a year ago. First class incoming mail has increased 33%; outgoing first class mail, 25%; incoming parcel post, 40%; outgoing parcel post, 40%; C. O. D.'s, over 50%; money orders, 35%; insured mail, over 50%.

Many Telegrams. C. C. Osborne, Grand Trunk station agent, says that the increase in express at this season because what is sent in presents is often by a shakedown on the items and merchandise. There are a great many telegrams sent out and all on Christmas greeting blanks.

CONTROL SMOKE NUISANCE. Desiring to reduce the amount of soft coal smoke, particularly in the business sections of the village, manager Starr was asked Monday night by the commission to investigate the subject, and give recommendations as soon as possible.

See page Saturday night at Page 21, Hall, Smith 4-196 or 4-214

Community Tree, Singing Of Carols, Giving Of Baskets, Marks Yuletide

By Rosaline Knox. In a number of ways the holiday spirit at the Community Home finding expression this year. More than ever before has the interest and cooperation of the village been drawn to this center of the community life.

Ye Held Open House. Miss Mary Griffith, the resident hostess, will hold open house on Wednesday, Thursday and Christmas night. Hot chocolate and cakes will be served at these times. R. J. Corvelli and the Rotary club have presented the house with a very pretty Christmas tree for the year.

Ye Held Open House. Various business organizations are taking charge of the lighting and decorating of the tree. The Exchange Club, is furnishing all the Christmas greens, candles, and other decorations for the House. Gals, indeed, will the cozy robes be with the crackling fire, glossy holly, and sweet smelling bouquet of evergreen.

ECENTRIC OFFICE CLOSED

In order to give its employees a holiday, the Eccentric will be closed Christmas Day and will not open until the following Monday. This means that the office will close on Wednesday, December 23, so that it will reach subscribers before Christmas.

REPORTER WANTED

To some local or nearby girl who desires to learn the newspaper game, The Eccentric has a position open immediately as Reporter. Preferably one with a high school education. In applying for this position, please communicate by letter only, setting forth your qualifications. Address: Editor, Birmingham Eccentric.

"LOWLY MANGER'S SOURCE OF 'ULETIDE SPIRIT'"

Local M. E. Preacher Tells Rotarians Of Jesus' Mission On Earth

PLEADS FOR CHILDREN

"The World May Test Its Soul By Its Ability To Care For Children"

Robert Marenus Atkins, local Methodist preacher, Monday noon told fellow-members of the Birmingham Rotary club something about the "Spirit of Christmas." Rev. Atkins lifted the curtain of superficiality and disclosed the real mission of the man in Whose Name Christmas is founded.

"One can scarcely define the spirit of anything," said Rev. Atkins, "the spirit of '76, the spirit of America, the spirit of France," conveys ideas everywhere, but their spontaneity if an effort is made to enforce an interpretation of them between the broad lines of verbal definition. The spirit of Christmas is crushed if it is defined, but if it is permitted to run and be glorified, it creates an atmosphere which is breathed by its humble Birthplace.

The Spirit of Christmas finds its source and continuing inspiration in the manger of the stable of the inn at Bethlehem of Judea. Had God searched the annals of the universe for a more lovely place for the birth of His Son, He could have found no more appropriate than those in which Mary gave birth to Jesus.

The attitude of society, that permitted a young Jewish woman to give birth to a child in the stable of an inn, while men and women slept in the comparative comfort of its rooms, is incomprehensible to our Western minds and the situation that those in which Mary gave birth to Jesus.

BAPTISTS' SERVICE ON THURSDAY NIGHT

Local Church Will Observe Christmas With Song And Praise

TREAT FOR CHILDREN

Representatives of the various departments of the Baptist Sunday School will take part in a Christmas service to be given at the church this Thursday evening at 7:30 p. m. The service will be held in the Community hall, and will feature the singing of "Peace and Good Cheer," and was arranged by Henry G. Weston Smith.

It opens with a professional hymn, "O Come All Ye Faithful," followed by responsive reading. Next the hymn "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" is sung by the entire school and congregation. Then there is an interpretation called "The Voice of the Star," an exercise, "The Tree That Binds," and a dramatic presentation of a Chart Drill by four Junior boys and (Continued on Page 10.)

"BECOME AS LITTLE CHILDREN..."



It was last Sunday evening. Billy and John, aged five and a half and three and a half, respectively, were sitting on our lap, preparatory to getting undressed for bed.

We asked them the kind of question that all children are capable of answering at this time of year: "Who is coming to our house this week, boys?" And both chorused "Santa Claus!"

"And why should Santa Claus visit our house this week?" we again queried.

"Cause—'cause, well, 'cause we both been good boys 'an' sister Sus's been good, too," responded little John, as he put his arms about my neck and added, "I love you, Daddy."

"What's Santa Claus going to bring you, boys?" was our next question.

"Some toys—'an' maybe a neiectrick train," shouted Billy. And John then chirped—his face all aglow with a kind of sincerity and simplicity that adults seldom show in their countenances—"an' we won't break our toys, either, Daddy—will we, Budder?"

In a way, we think that Billy and John have a pretty fair understanding of Christmas. They believe that Santa Claus will visit them because they have earned good things by being good boys; they promise not to break their toys. They love their parents.

The Man in Whose memory Christmas is commemorated once said, "Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me; for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

We wonder if He didn't mean that little children, in their appreciation of simplicity, their tender affection for their parents, their entire lack of vanity and greed, lust and avarice, are the kind of people that adults OUGHT TO REMAIN.

For, folks, there never was an unkind act committed, a wrong thought given expression, that did not have behind it the desire for material things—the things that "moths consume and rust decays."

Christmas is here again—holly and mistletoe; gifts and smiles are exchanged, little children are made happy and the whole world takes on a rosyate hue of friendly gratitude.

All of us sort of become as little children. Could we do wrong on Christmas Day?—of course not!

May the spirit of Christmas abide with us every day in the year—may it re-create us with the spirit that abounds in that world that all of us once romped about in, that world of Beautiful Childhood; that world that made our tiny hands clutch into HUMAN HEARTS—and not into bags of Gold!

G. R. A.

R. I. Corvelli, Aviation Ace In World War, Supports Col. Mitchell's Idea For Separate U. S. Airplane Unit

(In these strenuous days of controversy over the airplane question in the defense of a country, a plain, sensible measure, the subject of which is given enlightening to the laudable. For that reason, the Eccentric has asked Ralph I. Corvelli, Aviation Ace in World War, to write the following article. Mr. Corvelli was a First Lieutenant in the 50th Flying Squadron of the United States Army during the World War. He has the distinguished record of attaining the highest number of observation-bombing flights over the German lines, having made 83 trips, some of them as Landing Observer. Mr. Corvelli's operations were confined in the Toul and Metz regions, and also in the Argonne. He is 27 years old and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph J. Corvelli, of West Maple avenue.)

By Ralph I. Corvelli. In these days when sentimentality fills the air and opinions and counter-opinions are being offered on every side it is interesting to look back and note the gradual change of opinion on the general public regarding aviation.

Immediately after the war it seemed to him the opinion of everyone that he "would like to fly well enough but at the same time keep and spot on the ground."

At the time the idea seems prevalent that machines are now being developed which will largely eliminate the hazards of flying.

Most people who have had any experience in aviation date everything back to the War as if it were the period that aviation felt its greatest impulse. During that period it was found necessary to build immediately a large number of planes without the necessary background of experience for such a tremendous task. It was confidently predicted that America would win out, that Yankee brains would win the battle.

The usual result of a large scale production without adequate experimentation is a product which changes were found necessary to adapt the Liberty-DeLavalian planes to actual conditions, all of which were the French for the use of the American squadrons on the battle front and only in the last two months of the war.

Many Changes Made. Numerous changes were made against the Liberty-DeLavalian plane, many of which could be set down to the fact that the aircraft authorities at that time had no practical plan which could be used to practice all phases of aerial warfare. In this connection it may be interesting to some to recall the different phases of work covered by the Birmingham Department. There were public mind, at least, comes the pursuit plane, which has been built and occupied by the War. First, it is small, fast, compact, strongly built and thus capable of great maneuverability. Not the way of the fastest plane the best pursuit plane; (Continued on Page 3)

Local Boys Receive Gifts From Leaders; Membership Is Growing

130 AWARDS ARE MADE

On Tuesday evening of last week, the Junior Y. M. C. A. Groups were given membership cards and pins by the leaders.

The cards indicate that every boy who holds one is associated with other boys found the world in an effort to be manly in muscle, mind and morals.

The pins are graded with regard to the number of years a boy has been a member. The first year boy receives a bronze, the second year a silver, and the third year, a gold pin. These pins are of square design with a white cross in the center. The white cross is a symbol that Christ is the ideal man for whom every boy is measuring his life.

Pierce Group Growing. The Pierce School Group has shown the largest growth. On October sixth, the leader, Edw. E. Bissell, reported 100 members. Tuesday evening, the following thirty-six boys were presented with bronze pins and membership cards.

Robert Connell, Lester Grimshaw, Ward Barber, Bud Laughlin, Charles Bradley, Irving Baker, Harry Sikorski, Ralph Hough, Norman Pierson, James McLeod, Art Galle, Eugene Brown, Alton Haack, Don Bennett, Jack Timmer, James Dinesen, Walter Bohloff, Virgil Owens, George Delle, Carl Holtner, Charles Rose, Grayd Wedge, Joseph Martin, Otto Leopold, Don Oliver, Cohen Henry, Ronald Jones, Jack Hogan, Billy Hiller, Leo Ward, Lyle Whittaker, Steve.

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L. Davidson Succeeds M. Levinson As Owner Of Department Store

Louis E. Davidson, 39 years old, for the past 20 years connected with the merchandising of mercantile lines, this week announced the purchase of the Birmingham Department Store. He will succeed Morris Levinson, who is retiring from active business after 28 years as a merchant in Birmingham.

"I propose to carry standard merchandise at the lowest possible price, lower than any other legitimate store," (Continued on Page 10.)

BERGER SALES CO. WAS ROBBED SUNDAY NIGHT

Sometime between Sunday night and 7:00 a. m. Monday morning the office of the Berger Sales Co. on North Woodford avenue was entered and the Birmingham Department Store. A rear window was broken to gain access and the thief left by the back door. The entire door of the safe was not locked so it was a comparatively easy matter to break open the heavy safe door. Three finger-prints were detected by a fingerprint expert from the Birmingham Police are working on these clues.

BUSINESS GIRLS' CLUB POLICE ARREST TWO

The Business Girls' club will have their weekly luncheon at the Community Club Wednesday instead of Thursday this week. There will be no speaker but each member will bring a gift, which will be hung on a small tree to be drawn.

Fitting Exercises Marked Formal Presentation Of New Pierce School

In the presence of 500 people, Thursday night, the new Pierce street grade school was formally presented to the Board of Education. The building was thrown open for public inspection before the dedication program. The exercises began with an invocation by Rev. David H. Curry, pastor of the Central Avenue Congregational Church.

H. B. Clement, president of the Board of Education, is accepting the building, thanked the people of the community for their support in building the board to carry out their build-

NEW RATE FOR FIRE PROTECTION IN BLOOMFIELD

At the meeting of the village commission Monday night it was decided to make the fire protection rate for Bloomfield township the same as that given to Troy township. The contract with the village which expires December 31 calls for a flat rate of \$1,500 a year and upon expiration the new agreement will be put into effect. Bloomfield township agrees to pay \$25 for a call within the one mile circle, \$35 for a call within the two mile circle, \$45 within the three mile circle, \$55 within the four mile circle, \$65 within the five mile circle, and \$100 outside of the five mile circle. The township further agrees to pay the village of Bloomfield the fees paid to the firemen, plus the extra, and also \$2 per charge for all chemicals used.

At I am giving up the shoe chain and hat blocking business at 118 E. New Avenue on January 1st, all persons having bills here please call for them. Bob. Bisher.

BLOOMFIELD PLUMBING & ENGINEERING CO. OPEN

Unless something unforeseen happens to retard the finishing touches to their salesroom, the Bloomfield Plumbing & Engineering Co. on Saturday will submit to Birmingham and vicinity what is said to be the finest showroom of household appliances and bathroom fixtures in this section of the state. The salesroom, which is located in the Field Bldg., on West Maple avenue, is completed except for the installation of a small amount of the decorations.

Brookside Drive, Birmingham, is president of the Bloomfield Plumbing & Engineering Co. L. L. Ulrich, at present a resident of Highland Park, is secretary and treasurer. Mr. Farr has lived in Birmingham for the past two years, and was formerly director of purchases for the Detroit Shipbuilding Co. Mr. Ulrich, who is a graduate mechanical and electrical engineer, was formerly connected with the Crane Co., and the

(Continued on page 10)

Christmas Seal Sale Proving Successful

According to Mrs. Virginia Hewitt of Ferndale avenue, who has charge of the annual sale of tuberculosis seals here, the letter campaign has far exceeded expectations. Last year there was an average return of fifty three cents from each letter sent out. This year seventy four cents, and on Friday eight percent of the stamps have been the average return.

Rural schools have made splendid contributions. Each school took 500 stamps and many of them have returned. Booths were opened in the two Birmingham banks during bank hours on Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday and there will be five-cent boxes in the two places of the two remaining days of the campaign. Next week the Eccentric expects to publish a complete report of the drive.

Apply and cover, order for sale at mill in rear of 113 Broadway St. Stanley Parker, adv. 2717

CHRISTMAS SERVICE AT ST. JAMES' CHURCH

Midnight Eucharist Thursday Night; Holy Communion On Friday

JUNIOR SCHOOL PARTY

St. James' Episcopal Church will celebrate one of its great festival days on Friday night with a Christmas Eve service of the solemn midnight Eucharist beginning at 11:30 p. m. The church will be very beautifully decorated with fragrant greens. Down the central aisle will be a series of arches entwined with ivy, green, each one topped by a softly burning taper.

On Christmas Day there will be only one celebration of Holy Communion at 10:00 a. m. After this celebration will be a service for the sick and elderly people unable to attend the public services. The following services there will be Holy Communion at 8:00 a. m., a special (Continued on page 10)