

FIFTY-FIRST YEAR—NO. 36

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CHIEF WARNS AGAINST FIRES ON CHRISTMAS

Olsen Urges Care in Handling Trees in Village Homes

POINTS TO HAZARDS

Warning is given today by William G. Olsen, fire chief, to the residents of Birmingham in the prevention of fires starting from Christmas trees.

The keeping of dry Christmas trees in the house following Christmas Day offers a dangerous fire hazard, the chief said. Turpentine and oil, he says, are con-

WE HEARD IT SAID BY
Mrs. Charles J. Shain head of the Community House board. "It is my personal conviction that Birmingham is in need of a district nurse."

tained in the dry needles which are readily inflammable.

Particular caution is given in regard to the use of candles for illumination. Mr. Olsen advises all trees be lighted with electric bulbs. In case tapers are used, adults and not children should light them, he cautions. All fire should be kept away from the tree.

He advocates burning trees soon after Dec. 23. This should be done in a safe away from buildings to aid in prevention of holiday fires.

Safest measures in ornamenting the tree includes using of asbestos fiber to represent snow, and avoiding tissue paper, cotton, or celluloid in decoration, he explained.

ALL KIDDIES ARE 'GOOD' IN TALK WITH SANTA



"And have you been a good girl?"

"Yes, but . . . and then a young lady of five or six years, knowing the sagacity of the figure before her, hastens to confess some small misdeed. But she promises to be good, and hesitates only a moment, when she hears, "What do you want for Christmas?"

In a childish trill, "I want a doll, a new doll dress, a book, some dandy nuts, and . . ." probably the child standing in awe before Santa Claus finds self-possession enough to remember her entire list which is given a daily rehearsal and, now and then, a revision, until Christmas Day arrives.

Yes, it is Saint Nick, himself, who has been stationed at the Wabek building. Attired in red jacket and pants trimmed with white, black boots and a red cap. He beams amiably on the host of kiddies around him from behind abundant whiskers, paying careful attention to their wishes.

Santa Claus at the Wabek building daily from 4 to 6 p. m. On Saturdays he is present from noon until 6 p. m. Last Saturday over 200 children visited him.

The girls who visit him share an innate desire to have a gun. The girls are as much inclined to dolls.

A typical boy's demand might include a gun, a sailboat, a chain with a watch and knife, a steam engine, an electric train and, of course, plenty of candy.

First Yule From Home--In Prison

Youth Who Stole To See The City Is Sentenced

An 18 year old boy today is looking toward his first Christmas away from home and his family. It will be spent behind the bars of the Ionia State Reformatory where he will serve from six months to one year because he followed an impulse and stole.

Some months ago he left his home in Flint to seek work closer to Detroit. He could do little in Flint and he wanted to help support his mother, four sisters and a brother. Only he and his mother were able to work.

Found Work Here
He found employment at a

restaurant in Birmingham. Weeks passed and he grew weary of the constant toil. He had heard of Chicago. Friends in that city described it in such terms that the heart of this young man beat faster. He longed for it. But he could not go. He had no money and a violent anger there was the thought of the family.

His name is Peter Kasmerak. He is not bright in any sense of the word. Just an average uneducated boy who never cares very much for school nor to learn a trade. The kind of boy who would follow an impulse—and land in jail.

He was alone in the restaurant and saw some money in a cash box. He claims it was only \$40 but the warrant on which he was taken to court has the figure at \$255. He grabbed up the cash and some checks and left.

Starts To Chicago
Grown tired of the four walls, he set out to see the world, all the world he knew or cared about which happened to be Chicago. That night he set out.

The city at first bewildered him. He found a room and a place to eat. Then he started clumsily "seeing the town"—getting used to it. He swaggered.

The money was spent. He had no work. He was put out of his room. Then he began to think about his theft. He wanted to return to Birmingham and make a fresh start.

He applied at a Chicago police station for a night's lodging. He was cold and hungry. Coming from frost-bitten shadows the lights seemed bright and the station warm.

Surrenders To Police
In the morning he said to a desk sergeant, "I guess they want me back in Birmingham, Mich. You had better lock me up."

few questions from the sergeant brought out the boy's story.

His trial in circuit court, Pontiac, was brief.

In the main cell block at the Oakland County Jail where he awaits his turn to be taken to Ionia, he looks more stupid. Something comes into his eyes that is hard to explain. It is as if they say, "I don't know. I don't know why or where or anything about it."

"Well, does it pay?" he was asked.

"Stealing money, you mean?" he asked in turn.

"Yes. All this stuff. These men around you. Bamming off to paint up a big city. You and all the other boys in here did something like that. Does it pay?"

"A Merry Christmas."

He could not quite understand the questions.

"If you mean, would I do it all over again, the answer is 'no.' You don't think I am pleased with all this do you?"

When his interviewer left him, Kasmerak called out, "Well, Merry Christmas to you, anyway. Might as well someone have a good time."

The voices of a group of men in the same cell block rose. They were arguing over a card game. A heavy door closed and their voices were muffled.

Outside the jail, the first snow of the Christmas season was falling in greying streets.

NEW SCHOOL IS PROPOSED

Community House Board Discusses Plan For South Birmingham

A South Birmingham nursery school project is being considered today by the Community House board.

At a meeting Monday afternoon it was voted that the Community House should sponsor the project and recommend it to any organizations seeking an opportunity for charity work after Christmas.

It was also voted that any surplus left from Christmas work be given to the school.

Approximately \$300 will be needed to start such a school. Mrs. Charles J. Shain, president of the Community House board, estimated.

"Of course, in addition to this, a certain monthly income will be needed to cover the cost of operation. We plan to accommodate about 40 children. This will necessitate two attendants and a nurse," she said.

Mrs. Victor Ogden heads a committee which is investigating the nursery school project.

"A similar nursery school was conducted at the Community House six years ago. At that time the school nurse examined

WE HEARD IT SAID BY—
Rev. Henry S. Evans, pastor of the United Presbyterian church. "The United Presbyterians congratulate the Baptists on their fine new building. It is a credit to the village, just as the congregation is a decided asset."

A study of nursery schools in other localities is being made by Mrs. Ogden and her committee. "The mechanics of the project are to be handled by Mrs. Ogden," Mrs. Shain said, "but the Community House is ready to endorse the movement."

The 15 or 20 children in attendance.

HILLS VILLAGE ROUTS BANDIT

Lone Frowler Opens Window Of T. R. Donovan's Home; Tracked In Snow

Attempts were made Monday night to burglarize two Bloomfield Hills homes and the robber was routed when occupants called police.

A window on the first floor of the home of T. R. Donovan was discovered to be open.

(Concluded on Page 4, Part 4)

Home From School

Christmas time is an especially happy season for parents because the young folks are home from school. And when they go back—

keep them with you in a portrait by Arnold.

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