

Little children look at you squarely in the eyes. Lucky in the adult whose gaze has looked at the unsophistication, the frankness, and the curiosity of a little child.

The Birmingham Eccentric

PART THREE

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ENGINEERING OFFICE STARTS SECOND YEAR

Corson Tells Of Activities in New Department During 1928

EARNINGS ARE GIVEN

The engineering department of Birmingham starts its second year of organized activity today under the supervision of Harold H. Corson, village engineer.

The department was established as a unit distinguished from the other departments of village government a year ago last Thursday.

The total earnings on contracts by this division in the past year is more than \$338,368.81, statistics furnished by Mr. Corson show.

System Told

Through a system where each of the salaries of the eight members of the engineering staff are paid for on the time spent on each of approximately 35 completed projects, and other assignments, the records show that sewers and connective structures furnish the larger portion of the expenditures. The cost of this section is \$123,822.48.

Following this are earnings of \$54,094.25 for water-mains and appurtenances; \$39,843.01 for curbing; \$77,643.71 for pavement; and \$41,205.56 for miscellaneous including gravel surface, excavation, side walks, trees and sodding.

The personnel of the department has been increased and eight men are now on the payroll. They are, besides Mr. Corson, R. L. Kenning, F. M. Hutchins, A. W. Gillespie, E. E. Harris, W. C. Dozier, William Petty-piece and S. M. Howling.

Year's Work Summed Up

Work done by the village in 1928 with which the engineering department has been connected includes the following: construction of sewers and leads totaling 59,165 feet or 11.2 miles; water mains, 32,738 or 6.4 miles; curbing, 50,033 or 9.5 miles; pavement surfacing, 33,337 square yards or 2.9 miles of 20-foot concrete.

Mr. Corson sets the approxi-

Glimpses

at and about BIRMINGHAM

By RAYMOND GIRARDIN

DEAR RAY: MY YOUNGsters thought your Christmas story gloriously profane. They like it better than the one St. Luke wrote and it has then Christmas Carol of Dickens backed off the map. Yours for more profanity and less thumb nose. Bert Atkins.

I knew the story was good when I wrote it. It was the child of one of those sudden flashes of genius that accompany all great achievements in the realms of art and science. I am writing in a drab world, yet when streaks of profundity of this nature come upon me I am something apart from as if I were sitting on the rim of a star, bathing in the mist of passing clouds. But even at that. Be. I don't think it was as good as you say. I failed to describe the color of the child's hair.

THE UBIQUITY OF SANTA Claus, which caused me great wonderment in those dim and crazy days, must be an ever so great mystery to the children of today. Made my annual last minute downtown trip in Detroit Monday for a few last minute necessities, and I beheld John Claus at every turn. Here he would be standing tall and gaunt looking, ringing a bell and waiting for someone to drop coins down a chimney. There he would be again, short and stocky, with pencil and paper, taking orders. Not only was he—or were they—on

every square of the sidewalk, but the stores and windows of stores had him, or them, in the same assortment of shapes and sizes.

IN THE CROWDS ON THE sidewalk, a "traffic policeman blows a whistle and regulates that a laugh—traffic. Keeps talking to the mob. Keep to the right and we won't have an accident this year. Then they all walk to the left. A merchant comes to the sidewalk. Where someone is my Santa Claus, he asks. I know he is not in my pocket—that is I trust. Only I am hanging on to the watch. Man in crowd shows friend how they push in the basement of one of the stores. Elbows working, he rushes through the mob. A large woman with bundles starts a left hook but the bundles get in the way. She says things instead. And I want my smelling salts. The doorman at a large store is getting a crowd of women in large limousines. A youngster tells his father if he had gotten out of bed the first time he called, they would have avoided the crowds. My motorist driver insists the only way to get through the traffic jam is to go back—only he thinks my destination is something entirely different. Let him think so if it gives the fellow pleasure the day before Christmas. I shan't break his blooming nose. Mr. Girardin don't make a practice of kicking illusions out the windows of motorists. Nav.

LAY BENCHMARKS ABOUT VILLAGE

Engineering Department Working At System Of Markings For Drainage

The engineering department of the village today is completing a system of bench markings in this district to show the sea level so natural surface drainage may be explained.

In explaining the work, Harold H. Corson, village engineer said. "An invaluable piece of work is being done by the engineering department in completing a series of benchmarks in this district marking the sea level at the points where they are placed.

Knowledge of this sort is absolutely necessary in determining the natural drainage of the surface. Without this, sewers and drains could not be placed so they worked to the best advantage. During 1928 there were 15 benchmarks placed on calculations made in this department. In our office we have record of each mark, its location and the sea level at that point.

"When this project is completed an area including Birmingham, bounded on the south by the Clawson road, on the north by the Quanton road, on the west by the Cranbrook road and on the east by the Monnier road will have such marks placed at half mile intervals from which surveyors can lay their levels on drainage-planes."

The bench marks are made of reinforced concrete, one foot in height and taper to the top. They have larger bases to prevent upheaval from frost. These posts are buried in the ground with only a metal disc discernible. It reads, "Birmingham, Mich. benchmark. Penalty for disturbance \$100."

An Error

"Do you mean to tell me you couldn't see me coming on a straight piece of road like this?" said the owner of the small car after the collision.

"Sorry, guv'nor," said the lorry driver; "I thought it were a fly on me windshield."

FIRE DESTROYS BREAD TRUCK

Loss Estimated At \$500 When Auto Catches Fire In Street

A \$500 loss occurred Thursday at 5:35 a. m. when a Kroger Baking and Grocery company truck caught fire from a leak in the gas line. The truck was loaded with bread.

The fire started in the truck driven by Emil Zaborsky, 6115 Toledo avenue, Detroit, while it was traveling north on Woodward between Lincoln and Landon avenues. The driver called the police department who notified the fire department. The blaze was extinguished with chemicals.

The cab of the truck was practically destroyed and part of the body was damaged.

COUNTY-TORIALS

THE HOME TOWN MERCHANT who does not advertise is out with his annual complaint that a lot of our folks are their holiday shopping in the cities. His competitors are big contributors to that "cash on hand" item in the home bank statements due soon.

WITH ITS BIG INDUSTRIAL PLANTS, skyscrapers, new pavements, etc., Pontiac has become a city of which all Oakland county is proud. And Pontiac has equal reason to be proud of the rest of the county.

NO MATTER HOW MUCH you already know about Oakland county's progress, you'll be amazed at its growth if you find out more about it.

OUR IDEA OF AN OPTIMIST is a fellow who drives to Pontiac expecting to find a place to park.

AND SPEAKING OF PARKING in Pontiac—well, that's a large item in considering a new location for the proposed County Site. Unless Pontiac is willing to extend itself financially for plenty of land for its new municipal site, it ought to forget the combination proposal to go in with the county.

BY FAR THE GREATEST number of Oakland County citizens live in an area south of Huron street in Pontiac. With very few years Royal Oak Township will contain the majority of all Oakland County citizens, it seems—which means that the county's voting strength will be in Royal Oak, with Bloomfield Township and Birmingham apparently holding the vote to be cast in a "tie contest."

LEGION DRIVE IS STARTED

Campaign In Village Designed To Increase Membership Under Way

Members of the Charles Edwards Post of the American Legion here are working today in a campaign to increase the membership and strengthen the organization.

"The American Legion in this village has taken a great step forward this year in getting an early start on membership and organization work," Lloyd L. Stanley, Legion commander announces.

"The major objective on the Legion program is to increase the service to the disabled. Thousands of war veterans, many of them in our own community, should be receiving help that the government has decreed they should justly receive," Mr. Stanley declares. "In many cases too much time elapses before veterans are given aid. This is due chiefly to the difficulty of connecting a man's illness with his war service. As time increases this will become more difficult. The Legion has a tremendous task to face."

Mr. Stanley said that plans are being formulated to help provide for needy children of veterans. The Children's Bill at Otter Lake is provided for this purpose, he said.

"Benefit is given the veteran who is jobless or sick by the subscriptions made annually by the members of the Legion," Mr. Stanley explains. "The objective is to increase the membership roll beyond that of 1928 so as to provide more funds for the benefit work."

The next meeting of the Legion is at the Community House Jan. 15.

Troubles of the Poor

"If your 'using knocks you about like that who don't yer put the police enter 'in'?"

"I would, only I can't afford to pay 'is fine."—Life.

For as little as 25 cents you may be able to sell household goods, get or rent a room, house, or apartment through The Eccentric.

BEST WISHES for all the JOYS OF THE COMING YEAR

RAY E. PALMER

REAL ESTATE
East Maple Avenue

Tell Your Merchant You Saw His Advertisement in THE ECCENTRIC



Here's To Your **Happy New Year!**

To our friends of the old year and to those we look forward to meeting with the coming of the new, we extend the most sincere of wishes for the New Year. May it be of greatest Joy!

William's Boot Shop

121 West Maple

Tell Your Merchant You Saw His Advertisement in THE ECCENTRIC

1929

Arthur J. Tuggey & Son

REALTORS INSURORS

WABEEK BUILDING

We Hope for Growth... Prosperity... Peace... Happiness and Good Fortune for Birmingham and Her People.

Arthur J. Tuggey & Son

REALTORS INSURORS

WABEEK BUILDING

Smooth Sailing

To all our fellow citizens of this community we wish a harmonious, prosperous 1929

Birmingham Savings Bank

Woodward Avenue, Just South of Maple Avenue

CAPITAL \$200,000.00	OFFICERS	SURPLUS \$50,000.00
DIRECTORS	JUDSON BRADWAY - President LAWRENCE W. MARTINDALE - Cashier HOW C. LAWSON - Vice-President CHARLES J. SEASH - Vice-President WALTER L. MORELAND - Asst. Cashier	DIRECTORS
SEYMOUR D. ADAMS HARVEY ALLEN LESTER D. ALLEN JAMES BRADWAY ROBERT W. COMBES ROLA J. CORBELL JOHN C. LAWSON		LAWRENCE W. MARTINDALE FRANK W. QUINN CHARLES J. SEASH JAMES VANDOR, JR. JAMES W. TAYLOR HARVEY D. WAGNER ALBERT W. WAST