

FIFTY-THIRD YEAR—NO. 37

BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, MONDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1930

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## SIXTH DISTRICT MOST POPULOUS

Final Census Figures Also Show Oakland Ranked Most In Michigan

Final population figures for Michigan show that the sixth congressional district, which includes Oakland County and of course Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills, now ranks as the most populous Congressional District in the United States, with 1,398,401 inhabitants. Two Detroit districts, next in size, total 932,342 persons.

There are 3,242,325 persons in the whole of Michigan, a gain of 32 percent over 1920, according to figures made public by the United States Census Bureau Wednesday.

Wayne county, including Detroit, Highland Park, Hamtramck and other important communities, has a population of 1,888,946, or more than 40 percent of the entire population of the state.

Oakland county showed the largest gain among all the counties of the state, 126.4 percent. Wayne County also showed increases, but 40 of Michigan's 83 counties lost inhabitants.

Michigan has 38 cities and two villages with a population of 10,000 or more. Of the 476 incorporated communities, 31 became cities between 1920 and 1931. Lake Angelus, in Oakland county, is the newest as well as the smallest village.

## The Visitor

A Christmas Story

Editor's Note: The following Christmas story is pervaded with a certain spiritual charm that won recognition and favorable comment from Birmingham School officials. The author, Miss Ruth Harrington, is a senior student at the Baldwin High School.

By RUTH HARRINGTON

At ten o'clock young Brown turned in his story, put on his overcoat, and started down the creaking wooden stairs of the old newspaper office in the Rue du Louvre. American friends had invited him to join them in a gay Christmas Eve at Zelman's but tonight he felt that jazz and crowds would be intolerable. Memories of his mother and sister back home in Wilmington were revived by letters received that morning. He wanted to be alone.

He turned toward the humble restaurant where he dined most frequently. The night wind swept down the ancient street. He felt something eerie and alive in that unpeopled stillness. Driving snow flurries caused his face to tingle. His footsteps made hollow sound like someone following him. The gray, ancient church of St. Paul loomed dimly across the horizon. He drew his coat collar closer. The snow under his feet was soft as down, strange and prophetic silence pervaded the street. Not a person he met. Here and there a

## He Originated in Holland, But Santa Is Now Christmas Spirit of Many Lands

SANTA CLAUS is the most popular man in the world. Children watch for him from one Christmas Eve to the next, as the patron saint who can make their dreams come true.

Santa Claus himself, however, doesn't visit every country. He sends helpers to some of them. Sometimes the Santa Claus answers to a different name.

**Santa Originated in Holland**

He originated in Holland, hundreds of years ago, under the name of St. Nicholas. He didn't wait until Christmas Eve to come, but appeared on Dec. 5. Therefore, he is expected on that night every year, and the day is called St. Nicholas Day.

St. Nicholas rides a snow white horse down the narrow Dutch streets. Wherever he sees a wooden shoe outside the door of a house he stops. There he looks for a little boy or girl lives there. St. Nicholas scatters toys and candy from the sack on his shoulder, over the door, and then rides on to the next house.

In France the children await Le Pere Noel, an old man with a long white beard and a crown. He is called to come on Christmas Eve. Those who have misbehaved are frightened. For on the night of December 24, the Whipper, who has a long grey beard and a frown. Father Whipper follows. Le Pere Noel does not carry a whip and leaves a switch for each child who has disobeyed during the year.

**Santa's Brother Helps**

Santa Claus sends his twin brother, Sweden and Norway. Father Christmas, as the brother is called, looks very much like Santa. He carries a long staff with which the children have sung their Christmas carols for him.

Over in Denmark little gnomes bring the Christmas presents to the children. They wear small red hats which make them invisible in a house. The children leave bowls of rice in the stables, which the gnomes are expected to eat, if they are hungry.



This is how Santa Claus is pictured by American children. In other lands it is Santa's "brother" or "sister" who brings gifts to deserving children.

Santa's wife rides the stockings in Italy. An old legend explains why. Before a witchlike woman, comes instead of Santa Claus.

It seems that on the night the Three Wise Men started to search for the manger where the Christ Child lay, they passed the house where Befana lived.

"Come with us to seek the Christ Child," they said.

"Befana shook her head. 'I have to sweep my house,' she answered. And so, as a punishment, she must spend all her life sweeping, except the night before Christmas when she goes to the chimney to deliver gifts to Italian children.

**E. Kris Kringle in Germany**

In Germany Kris Kringle merely looks down the chimney, locates the wooden shoes that are waiting to

be filled, and lets the toys drop into them.

Lighted candles are placed in the windows in Ireland and the doors are left open, for children believe that perhaps the Christ Child, searching for shelter, may come to their homes. There is always food on the table for him. Santa Claus also comes to Ireland with gifts for stockings.

In Poland, it is believed that at the hour of Christ's birth all the animals are granted the power to talk as human beings. All presents for Polish children are left at their churches.

The Kolzada, a girl dressed in white, who has always driven her horse to home on Christmas Eve in Russia, is named her. The new government has decided that Santa Claus and Christmas trees, too, must stay out of the country.

**In Other Lands**

Christmas is called "Karascon" in Hungary and no matter who the doer, if a child has been good he finds sugar in his, but if he has been bad, he will find switches.

St. Mikulas, who travels through Bohemia, is accompanied by an angel and a devil, who know the naughty children and urge Saint Mikulas to give them switches for presents. The angel coaxers him to give them toys if they will promise to be better.

Hagios Vasilios, also known as Saint Basil, corresponds to Santa Claus in Greece, and delivers toys. The Spanish children place tufts of straw and lay near their shoes when they start to church Christmas morning. While they are gone Santa Claus stops long enough to leave his toys and let the reindeer eat the food.

In England Father Christmas comes down the chimney with a sack of toys.

Santa Claus has many names and titles, but no matter who comes on the gift-bringing mission the same joyful spirit is back of it all.

## JULIAN CASE'S "PINK LOCOMOTIVES" BRINGS DOWN THE PLAYHOUSE

"Pink Locomotives," drawn on merry train of thought, arriving at schedule at the Village Playhouse Saturday night, and out of the caboose stepped their creator and most distinguished passenger—Player Julian M. Case. Unrestrained applause and cries of "author" from the reception committee was acknowledged with gracious modesty by Mr. Case whose accomplishments in the company were noted the best of the season.

With Mrs. H. J. Stringley at the throttle, the direction and speed of "Pink Locomotives" also won the plaudits of the reception committee, while the following passengers were the recipients of enthusiastic approval: W. S. Humphrey, as the "born" salesman; Mrs. D. C. Murray, as the old maid stenographer; Gordon Lafefevre, as the dumbed-out railroad president; Mrs. F. D. Richards, as his daughter; A. Fletcher Plant and A. J. Brandt as railroad executives.

The program for the evening, the third of the season, included two other one-act plays and an entre-acte which were excellently performed, capably directed and enthusiastically received.

"King Arthur's Socks," a light comedy of modern manners, was the opening play. It was well staged

## STOLPA SHOOTING CASE ADJOURNED

Proseutur's Request For Delay Granted in Big Beaver Assault Hearing

Upon the request of Norman C. Orr, Oakland County Prosecuting Attorney, Justice William S. Walker of Big Beaver, last Thursday granted a delay in the hearing of the examination of Mrs. Kate Stolpa, 42 years old, who is held on a charge of shooting her husband, Frank Stolpa in their Big Beaver home, Dec. 7. The examination will be held Friday, Dec. 26.

Mrs. Stolpa was arrested by Deputy George Forsyth following the shooting and is being held in \$10,000 bail in the Oakland County Jail. The shooting followed a lengthy quarrel, police authorities report. Stolpa was taken to the Ochsmeier Hospital in Royal Oak where he was treated for gun shot wounds in the head and right arm.

## VILLAGE AUDIT BEGUN

The regular audit of the village books is being conducted by the firm of Prich, Waterhouse, of Detroit and their report is expected to be made by the second week in January. James W. Parry, village manager, announces.

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We wish to express to you, our old customers, our appreciation of your loyalty. To our new customers, our appreciation of your confidence. To you who are not our customers, the hope that we may be of service to you, and to wish you all not only a Merry Christmas but a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

### WILL DISCUSS DRAIN PROJECT

Following the regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners on Tuesday night a special session at which the proposed drain project for the eastern part of Oakland County will be discussed, has been scheduled. James W. Parry, village manager, will preside.

Harold H. Corson, village engineer; Mr. Parry, and other village engineers will confer with the commission and the cost of the proposed project is expected to be discussed at length.

### Detroit Drove Recklessly, Charge

Allen C. Gruschow, 20 years old, who gave his address as 6580 Second boulevard, Detroit, was to appear today before Judge Floyd S. Buck to answer a charge of reckless driving.

Gruschow was arrested Friday at 9:25 p. m. after a chase from Lincoln avenue south of Woodward avenue to the Owl barbecue. Patrolman Robert Appert and Robert Emmett, who use the latter report that Gruschow was speeding 50 miles an hour over the icy street and his action endangered other motorists.

### Motorists Obtain '31 License Plates

More than 80 Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills motorists have so far taken advantage of the opportunity to obtain their 1931 automobile license plates at the local police department. Mrs. Alta Van Wagon, in charge of the bureau, announced Saturday afternoon. Village taxicab companies were among the first to apply for the new plates, it was noted. The sale of the new plates will be continued until the end of the year, remaining open each day from 8 a. m. until 5 p. m.

### Taxpayers To Get \$3,438 In Rebates

President Harry Allen and Commissioner Robert R. Allen last Monday night announced that the village's Christmas gifts to taxpayers. More than 150 checks for rebates on special assessment taxes amounting to \$3,438.57 were sent out. Charles Plumstead, village treasurer, announced that approximately \$18,000 in rebates for special assessment projects will be made before the first of the new year.

### 2 NEW EXCHANGINGS

Dr. Lloyd Kemp, of Oakland Street, and Ralph Fulton, of Elm Street, were accepted into membership by the Birmingham Exchange Club Tuesday noon, at the Community House. Dr. Kemp recently took over the duties of village health officer, and Mr. Fulton is connected with the Ches B. Wernuth & Co., building contractors for the Cranbrook Foundation projects in Bloomfield Hills.

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At this Season most all of us are inclined to forget somewhat the urge and surge of business, and to think more seriously of the beauties of life and the things that make it worth living. One of the best things, as we see it, is the Spirit of Friendship which underlies our relations with each other. With an understanding born of true friendships, business dealings tend to become warm and cordial. So at this time we want to tell you that we appreciate your friendship as well as all of the business with which you have favored us. We wish to extend to you, and to those near and dear to you, our sincere good wishes. May this Christmas be your Merriest and the Year 1931 your Most Prosperous.

1930 1931

J. E. Starnell

### Firestone