EXTRA **The Birmingham Eccentric** EXTRA

FIFTY-THIRD YEAR—NO. 37 | BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1930 | $2.00 PER YEAR—SINGLE COPIES 5c

COUNTY GRAND JURY PROBE REQUESTED

THIS and THAT

Merry Christmas, everybody!

And here are some of the conversation snatches heard in Birmingham stores and on the streets, Saturday night:

"Don't get her one of those, Irene. She wouldn't look good in it—and besides, I bought one like it for someone she knows."

". . . Daddy, don't stand there so long! We've got a lot of places to go to yet! We haven't even seen th' TOYS yet!

". . . and I'll get another necktie, I suppose. But I hope I don't get one as loud as that. Boy! That's what I call a noisy necktie! And if I DO get one like that you can bet all th' tea in China it'll be a pillow-cover or a . . ."

"Tee hee. Don't get her a book, sweetheart. She's got a book!"

". . . are not giving our children so many presents this year. We've decided they'll appreciate them all the more if we give them just a few. And with the money we would have spent on toys we're buying a little Christmas happiness for some of the poor families in town. And there . . ."

". . . gone! I didn't see her take it, but she was standing right there and when I turned around it was gone! Can you imagine? And from such a nice family. Yes, they ARE to be pitied, aren't they? What did you call them? Well, it's some kind of maniac, I know."

". . . and I'm awfully sorry. May id help you pick them up? You seem to have so many!"

"That's th' cleverest toy! What'll they think up next?"

"Look at th' Wabeek Building! Gee, that's the largest wreath I ever saw. Don't those lights look swell? Baby! Somebody's spendin' money!"

". . . an' tissue paper, an' seals, an' th' tree, an' red string, an' Juliet, an' aunt Sarah, an' . . ."

* * *

Michigan apples are considered by many judges to be the most delicious in the world. They have better form, color and flavor than most of the apples grown in other states. In Washington and Oregon, however, great care is made in the selection of apples for the market. They are graded with individual attention. And they are advertised. Unfortunately, Michigan apples from some orchards or sections of orchards, are not consistently good, due to soil variations and weather conditions. Therefore, Michigan apples are best appreciated only by those who can take time to select the excellent from the inferior. All of which is interesting information from Carl Strand, who knows his apples.

* * *

Many a child is disillusioned at this time of year by the appearance of innumerable kinds and varieties of Santa Claus. The fact has been recorded by almost every cartoonist who ever rubbed out the first line. How to solve the problem is something more for the University of Michigan researchers to determine.

* * *

And speaking of Big Shots:

A Wanderer was heard in conversation over the telephone, to remark, "the Big Shot, himself, eh!" And another Wanderer, listening in without much concentration on the subject matter—leaned forward suddenly and exclaimed, "Gregor shot himself, eh!" When the question was properly transposed Wanderer No. 2 philosophized: "Yes, that's the way false rumors circulate, I suppose."

* * *

We have been warned, upon occasion, to indicate in the social columns that so-and-so gave a "a *small* party," or "a party for a few guests." This, of course, is another way of saying, "and now Mrs. ——— will know I didn't deliberately forget her."

* * *

When the World War ended more than a dozen years ago many a statesman agreed that there could never be another war. The world realized its horrors and was eager to avoid such conflicts in the future, they said. While there have been no catastrophic battles since, children are still being given toys of war. Munitions are being manufactured. International conspiracies are noe uncommon. And yet, the great Prof. Einstein, speaking at the New History Society in New York, demands a constructive pacifism which actively resists training for war in peace times. Again we fear you will not be understood, professor.

* * *

Is there a Santa Claus?

Some deny because they are agnostics.

Some are silent because—well, money's scarce and children suffer so deeply when they are disappointed.

Then, too, there are unconverted Scrooges, even today.

But, read the Editorial, "Is There A Santa Claus?" written 22 years ago by an editor of the New York Sun in reply to this very question by a little girl who was puzzled. Her name, if you must know, is Virginia Hanlon. We do not know the name of the editorial writer—but his work is considered a masterpiece of newspaper writing. The editorial is reprinted from a scrap-book.

VILLAGERS AID POOR FAMILIES THIS YULETIDE

Arrange So None Will Be Without Christmas Cheer

COMMUNITY HOUSE AIDS

Through the charity of more than two dozen organizations and the generosity of many individuals, Birmingham's unfortunates this Christmas will not be forgotten. According to the estimate of Mrs. Hope P. Halgren, executive director of the Community House, through which most of the charity work in the village is accomplished, about 125 needy families will be supplied with Christmas baskets containing food and clothing and toys for the children.

The Birmingham Goodfellows, through the sale of newspapers Dec. 13, and donations from village merchants, obtained a fund in excess of $1,600 for their charity work during the year. The Metropolitan Club, an organization of firemen and policemen which conducted the annual charity drive in former years, was assisted this year by village merchants and leaders in the community's civic and social life. From its funds remaining over last year the Metropolitan Club is able this year to provide for almost 40 families, while the Goodfellows will deliver baskets to more than 50 families, it is expected.

Church Group Help

Church organizations, the Y. M. C. A., Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, service clubs, women's clubs and other groups have donated food and clothing and several village grocers and butchers as well as two bakeries, have donated towards the supplies for the village needy.

The baskets will be distributed Christmas Eve by the firemen, police, boy scouts and individuals. Many pairs of shoes have been donated and funds for the purchase of additional pairs have been given by the Rotary Anns and through the Community House charity funds.

Investigations of families reported to be in poor circumstances have been conducted by Mrs. Arlene Lynch, village social worker, and her assistants, in co-operation with Bloomfield Township authorities under the leadership of Supervisor R. J. Coryell for the past few months.

PLAN PROTEST ON WIDENING

Delegation To Oppose Stephenson Superhighway Project Tomorrow

Because the proposed widening of the Stephenson Superhighway will add a large sum to the county's bonded indebtedness, a delegation of Oakland County representatives will enter a protest against the widening when they meet with Grover C. Dillman, state highway commissioner Tuesday morning, it was decided Friday at the meeting of the board of Supervisors.

The delegation will be composed of bankers and representatives of southern Oakland County municipalities, a representative from the Oakland County Prosecutor's office, and three supervisors.

The widening, including the cost of condemnation, will cost approximately $2,270,000, of which Wayne County will pay 50 per cent, Oakland County 30 per cent, Royal Oak township 7 per cent and property in the assessment district, 13 per cent.

Calendar of Coming Events

Today—

Santa Claus makes personal appearance at the Community House, sponsored by the Lions Club, for the "open house" children's party. Carols by the Birmingham Choral Society.

Wednesday, Dec. 24—

"Open House" at the Community House.

Thursday, Dec. 25—

Christmas services at churches.

Saturday, Dec. 27—

A. A. U. W. dance at Community House.

Tea, 4 to 6 p. m., for young people; dancing.

Tuesday, Dec. 30—

3 to 5 p. m., primary dept. Christmas party at the M. E. Church.

Monday, Jan. 5—

Opening of Y. M. C. A. basketball league.

Friday, Jan. 9—

Baldwin-Royal Oak swim contest at Royal Oak.

Wednesday, Jan. 14—

8:30 Community House, A. A. U. W. lecture by Prof. Thos. Reed on "Undisciplined America."

Thursday, Jan. 15—

Rebekahs install officers.

PRINTING PROBLEMS

are ironed out to your satisfaction, Folks, when you bring them to The Eccentric's printing department. If you call us at 11, 12, or 13, we'll be glad to send a salesman to see you, too. —Adv. 27tf

Trunks sent to and from Detroit Railway station. Special Rates. SHAW BROS. GARAGE 136 Brownell —Adv. 24tf

FURNITURE STORAGE 744 Brownell Phone 7626-54 —Adv. 46tf

New Year Edition

The next edition of The Birmingham Eccentric will be issued on Wednesday morning, Dec. 31 because New Year's Day next year falls on Thursday, the regular publication date. Succeeding issues of The Eccentric will be published on Thursday mornings. All advertising and news copy for the issue of Dec. 31 must be in the offices of The Eccentric by Tuesday, noon, Dec. 30.

3 CARS CRASH; DRIVER HELD

Royal Oak Man To Appear Arrested After Woman Is Injured

Loyd M. Jackson, 727 Center street, Royal Oak, will appear tomorrow in the court of Justice Floyd S. Buck to stand trial on a charge of reckless driving as a result of an automobile accident on Wednesday when Mrs. Edith Hargis, wife of Judge Raymond Hargis, 4731 Trumbull avenue, was injured.

Mrs. Hargis was thrown through the windshield of her husband's automobile on Woodward avenue opposite the postoffice in a collision with Jackson's car. According to the police report, Jackson was turning around in the street when his machine struck that in which Mrs. Hargis was riding, forcing her across the street into a third machine driven by Mrs. Ora L. Richards, 984 Clark street.

Mrs. Hargis suffered cuts about the face and all three cars were damaged. Upon arraignment, Jackson pleaded not guilty to the charge and was released to appear for trial tomorrow.

EAST BIRMINGHAM DRAIN IS OPPOSED

Suit Started By Property Owners To Halt Project

While bids were expected to be opened today on the proposed East Birmingham Drain, which will serve the east side of Birmingham, suit was started in the Oakland Circuit Court by Robert S. Porritt and a number of property owners in the assessed area, designed to halt the construction.

A review of the proceedings before the drain commissioner is asked in the petition. The hearing is set for Jan. 5.

JUDGES TO NAME TROPHY WINNER

Choose Most Attractive Store Window Display On Christmas Eve

Judges in the contest for the most attractive store window display in Birmingham will make their decision Christmas Eve, and will award a silver loving cup, donated by The Birmingham Eccentric, on Dec. 31.

Originality, cleanliness of display, illumination, artistry and sales appeal will be the principal points upon which the judges will decide the winner. The trophy will become the permanent possession of the merchant winning it three times.

The judges are James W. Parry, village manager; W. A. P. John, advertising counsel; Mrs. Cora Farrar, Helen R. Kidder, art instructor at Baldwin high school, and James L. Oliver, secretary of George G. Booth.

SPECIAL DELIVERY

Christmas packages delivered in Birmingham and vicinity. Special rates. Phone 1882. Ferguson's Delivery. Adv. 37

Is There A Santa Claus?

(Editor's note: The following editorial, reprinted from the New York Sun of 25 years ago, was written in answer to the question of Virginia Hanlon, then eight years old, who was suffering the qualms of childish doubt.)

"Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think nothing can be which is not comprehensive by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole truth and knowledge.

"Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginia. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

"Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus. The most real thing in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders that are unseen and unseeable in the world.

"You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view the picture the supernatural beauty and glory beyond. Is it real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

"No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay 10 times 10,000 years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood."—New York Sun.

Bill Poster Found In An Attic Tells Story Of Bygone Days

"Second Grand Annual Railroad and Steamboat Excursion of The Birmingham Eccentric from Birmingham to Port Huron on the Darius Cole and Return on Wednesday, Aug. 29—$1—for one dollar—$1."

And so reads the announcement of a bill-poster uncovered the other day by Emerson Gravlin, 283 Merrill street, who found it among the treasures hidden away in the attic of his aunt, Miss Phena Bigelow, of Franklin.

"I was just digging around among the fascinating objects stowed away up there," said young Gravlin, "when I found these old posters. One of them is in an excellent state of preservation and the other is only slightly worn, considering its age. The date of the excursion on one of the posters is 1884. There are innumerable other old papers and magazines, furniture, pictures, and objects of interest in my aunt's attic and I'm going to enjoy looking through a lot of them.

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Baldwin Honor Students

Esther Rainey, at left, valedictorian, and Virginia Hugg, salutatorian, for the mid-year graduating class at Baldwin High School. Miss Rainey, with the remarkable scholastic average of 96.18 follows in the footsteps of her sisters who also were honor pupils at Baldwin. Miss Hugg, with an average of 95.94, enjoys the distinction of being one of the most brilliant students to be graduated from the school. Two sisters of Miss Rainey, also Baldwin graduates, received high honors. Miss Eleanor Rainey, class of '23, now Mrs. Milton Mallender, was secretary of her class and following graduation was an instructor in domestic science at the Adams School. Miss Margaret L. Rainey, another sister, class of '25, was salutatorian. Commencement exercises will be held Jan. 30.

FOUR COUNTY HEADS REFUSE SALARY CUTS

Sheriff, Register Of Deeds, Clerk And Treasurer Upset Board Plans

AWAIT STATE RULING

Plans of the Oakland County Board of Supervisors to reduce the salaries of four county officials were upset Friday when the officials, Sheriff Frank Schram, County Clerk Burton L. Dougherty, County Treasurer A. W. Wilson, and Miss Mabel Brondige, register of deeds, declined to agree in all details with the plan submitted by the Board.

It was the plan of the Board to cut all salaries 10 per cent. It was later discovered that when Oakland County reached a population of 180,000 the State law providing salaries for these officers no longer was in effect but that they would return to the fee system. Under this system, the board learned, the county would be forced to pay about $150,000 more per year than under the salary system.

Schram, Willson and Miss Brondige all asked the same salaries and in some cases for increases in the salaries for their assistants. Daugherty said he would withold his proposition until he found whether the county had a legal right to place his office on salary. The supervisors voted 24 to 4 to accept their positions and the board of auditors was authorized to enter into contracts with the four officers unless an opinion from the office of the attorney-general, expected soon, holds that the county has no right to place the officials on salaries.

Santa Eager To Be On Way, He Declares

Dear Children:

Soon, very soon, I'll be on my way again, riding in the Christmas sky with the speed of the wind. And I'll be happy. Happier than you are! Each year I look forward to this long trip. Each year I grow more anxious to leave with my bundle of toys. Each year I find more joy in sliding down chimneys, filling stockings, piling gifts under trees and on trees.

My plans are almost all complete. I have my lists. I know what little boys and girls want. I have received hundreds of letters, thousands of letters, millions of letters. From my warehouse the Brownies have been busy for weeks, taking toys and candy and things that are new and nice and loading them on the sleigh. My reindeer have been eating so much zzipp lately they'll speed through the sky so fast—I can hardly stand it.

Can you imagine what it will be like on the night I leave?

There will be a great scurrying about. The Brownies will be rushing here and there with last-minute orders, cramming them into whatever spaces they can find on the sleigh. The reindeer will be brought out and scores of little Brownies will be there, too, while the reindeer will be hitched to the sleigh. There will be a faint tinkle of bells and the sound of reindeer hoofs in the air, white on the ground.

I will look out the window and think of that glorious night—when angels sang the first Christmas carols. I'll hear them sing.

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News of Your Neighbors

Dr. and Mrs. Carleton Fox of Riverside and Kensington drives with their son, James, will spend Christmas in Jackson with Mrs. Fox's brother-in-law, Floyd Avis, and his three children.

Dr. and Mrs. Cyrenius Adelbert Newcomb III, have become residents of Birmingham, closing their Seyburn avenue home in Detroit.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Standart of Bloomfield Court are leaving on Saturday for Evanston, Ill., to spend the holiday season with their daughter, Mrs. Donald B. Ferguson and family.

Nell Welch and Malcolm Ewer will attend the convention of directors and vice-directors of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew of Michigan, to be held in Detroit, Jan. 2, 3, and 4. There are 10 local members of the organization which is national in scope. The organization is in its forty-seventh year. Rev. I. C. Johnson, a deacon of St. James Episcopal Church here, is in charge of the convention in Detroit.

Mr. and Mrs. M. D. Kitchen motored to Upland, Ind., last weekend, to take Mr. Kitchen's sister, Mrs. Jesse Churchill of Crousseville, Me., who has been visiting in Birmingham, for a visit with her daughter in Upland. Mrs. Churchill will return here later.

(Continued on Society Page)

Copy Of Petition Requesting Grand Jury Probe

State of Michigan, in the Circuit Court, for the County of Oakland, to the Honorable Glenn C. Gillespie:

Attached herewith is a petition for a grand jury which has been presented to me by Seymour D. Adams, Robert Y. Moore and Stuart D. Patterson. The aforementioned comprise the Oakland County Board of Auditors. I adopt the petition as my own and most respectfully request it be given your consideration.

Further, that if a grand jury be called, that it not be a one-man grand jury, but a full jury of citizens of representative types, impanelled to conduct this investigation.

Respectfully submitted,
NORMAN C. ORR,
Oakland County, Michigan,
Dec. 23, 1930.

To Norman C. Orr, Prosecuting Attorney in and for the County of Oakland: Your petitioners, being duly sworn, depose and say that they comprise the Board of Auditors for the County of Oakland, and that for some time past they have been making a thorough and rigid examination into the condition of county affairs and institutions.

Your petitioners further say upon information and belief, that as a result of these investigations there have been committed acts amounting to felonies by various employees of the County of Oakland,

That at various times monies collected and belonging to the said County of Oakland have been withheld, that checks, drafts, and orders for payment of money made payable to the County of Oakland have been cashed by employees of the County and have been withheld;

That upon completing audits at various county institutions there are discrepancies unable to be accounted for amounting to substantial sums of money;

That in the purchase of county supplies and goods commissions have been indiscriminately and promiscuously paid to persons having no connection with the county whatever, and your petitioners have reason to believe that through the above stated methods this county has lost large amounts of money that should have and could have been avoided;

Further, that your petitioners

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Prosecutor Orr, Board of Auditors Ask Investigation

Decide Tomorrow Whether To Call 23-Man Jury; Inquiry Into Several County Offices Is Not Denied

Judge Glenn C. Gillespie in the Oakland Circuit Court late this afternoon received the petition of Norman C. Orr, prosecuting attorney, for a 23-man grand jury investigation of county governmental departments.

Upon receiving the petition, Judge Gillespie declared that he would confer tomorrow with Circuit Court Judge Frank L. Doty and Frank L. Covert before making his decision.

The request for the investigation has been expected for several months but the actual presentation of the petition sent a current of excitement through county political circles.

The petition for the investigation was made by Mr. Orr at the instance of the county board of auditors, Seymour D. Adams, Robert Y. Moore and Stewart Patterson.

"Discrepancies unable to be accounted for amounting to substantial sums of money," have been discovered by a recent thorough and rigid examination into county affairs and institutions," the board declares in its petition to Mr. Orr.

Persons having no connection with the county whatever have been paid commissions and the county has lost large amounts of money through such transactions the board declares.

That many county offices, including the county road commission and the county drain commission would be subject to questioning in the investigation was not denied by Mr. Orr.

Long-expected in county political circles because of rumors of alleged irregularities in county departments as a result of the conviction of Otto Sachse, Pontiac millionaire, whose sentence to Jackson Prison for stealing school board funds was confirmed recently, the grand jury investigation is believed to have been delayed because of the county's present deplorable financial condition.

With the county more than $16,000,000 "in the red," some county officials who favored the investigation expressed the belief that it would be better to delay a petition for it until a definite, financial independence had been gained by vote of the board of supervisors. This was accomplished on Friday, when the board passed a resolution authorizing the board of auditors to borrow up to 50 per cent of the money expected to be collected in delinquent taxes.

Who will conduct the investigation as prosecutor has not been definitely decided. With the first of the year, Clarence Smith, Pontiac attorney elected to succeed Orr, takes office. Whether he will conduct the investigation or whether Orr will be retained by vote of the board of supervisors to act as special prosecutor, is still uncertain.

VILLAGE MAKES ELABORATE PLANS

Will Celebrate Christmas In Royal Old-Fashioned Style

Elaborate preparations are being made in Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills today for the celebration of the great Christian feast—Christmas, on Thursday. Churches and homes, the village streets, the stores, meeting places and the hearts of men and women are filled with the spirit of rejoicing.

Traditional red and green decorate the homes and stores and many of the churches have their miniature mangers decorated for the festival. The village streets, too, are decorated with evergreen boughs and spruce. Wreaths hang from the windows and a mantle of white snow which covered the countryside early Sunday adds to the appropriate setting.

To Kiddies—It's Santa

While the interpretations of Christmas by older folks are largely the same, there are many varia-

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