

FIFTY-FOURTH YEAR—NO. 36

BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1931

\$2.00 PER YEAR—SINGLE COPIES 5c

TRIAL FOR WOMAN DRIVER CONTINUED

The trial for Leola Ross, 27 years old, of 5833 Hoger street, Dearborn, on a charge of drunk driving, which was to have been held before Justice Arthur J. Tugwell here Saturday morning was

continued a week when Miss Ross's attorney announced he would be busy in another court. Miss Ross was arrested on Woodward avenue early on the morning of Dec. 6, after officers claimed they had already warned her against driving a car in her condition. She pleaded not guilty and demanded a jury trial.

CUTS IN GAS RATES SEEN

Committee Report Discloses Consumers Power Is Revising Schedule

That the Consumers Power Company is preparing a schedule of rate revisions, presumably on a reduced basis from the present schedule, which will "affect the majority of consumers," was revealed in a report approved by the Village Commission Monday night. The report was submitted by a committee composed of Village Manager James W. Perry, Commissioner Charles E. Lewis and Village Attorney Charles H. Ogden, which was appointed by Village President Harry Allen several weeks ago to investigate the possibility of securing reductions in the present rates.

Other Centers Interested The report, which recommends that "any aggressive effort on the matter of gas rates be held in abeyance until after the proposed schedule is submitted, follows: 1. Contact has been had with all the incorporated municipalities in the Pontiac district with the exception of Bloomfield Hills Village.

From these municipalities the following general information has been uncovered: "A. Gas rates are uniform throughout the Pontiac district. "B. There are no existing operating franchises. Those existing are one in Royal Oak and one in Ferndale. The Royal Oak franchise is owned by the City of Royal Oak, which has accepted such rates as the Utilities Commission may determine.

"2. Before the Utilities Commission will consent to act on a rate adjustment it must have special evidence that such investigation is indicated by such general considerations as may be convincing to it. In order to prepare a request for such investigation a preliminary study to determine whether rates are out of line with the apparent appraised values and operating expense would have to be made by municipalities interested, and the cost assumed by them. The City of Pontiac had some preliminary survey work done by a consultant, and in order to prepare a case, additional work at a cost of something over \$1,000 might have to be done.

"3. Consultation of the municipalities affected with the district manager of the Consumers Power Company has been held. This conference developed the fact that the Consumers Power Company is at the present time working on a rate revision which has not yet progressed far enough to give specific figures, but they assure us it will affect the majority of consumers. Such study has been somewhat delayed because of the electric rate negotiations of the City of Pontiac with the Consumers Power Company which are now satisfactorily adjusted, and announcement of proposed revised rates may be expected from the Consumers Power Company some time in January or early in 1932.

"In view of the above, it is recommended by the committee that any aggressive effort on the matter of gas rates be held in abeyance until after the proposed schedule is submitted.

It is never too late to pay for your tuberosus Christmas seals, but the earlier the better.

WON'T PAY FINES; IS JAILED—TWICE

Two jail sentences in as many weeks were preferred to small fines in each case by Edward Kessler, 434 West Alexander street, Detroit.

Kessler was first arrested by Bloomfield Hills police on Nov. 30 for driving through a red light. He vehemently protested his innocence, and when Judge Floyd S. Buck found him guilty and assessed a fine, he refused to pay and spent 10 days in the county jail.

On his release last week he returned to Bloomfield Hills where, according to Police Chief William Putnam, he claimed one of his stolen gas from his car and broken a door handle, used abusive language and made himself so generally objectionable that he was arrested again and brought before Judge Buck the second time.

This time fines and costs amount to \$8. Against Kessler refused to pay and was returned to jail for another five days.

W. W. RAYMOND HEADS BOARD

Re-Elected President Of Real Estate Group Reviews Events, Conditions

Whiting W. Raymond, secretary of the firm of Walsh, James and Wasey, was re-elected president of the Birmingham Real Estate Board at the annual organization meeting last Thursday noon.

David H. Ladd was re-elected vice-president, David Levinson was named secretary, and J. B.

Howarth was re-elected treasurer. James J. Martindale was elected to complete the board of directors. Mr. Raymond, commenting on the work of the board during the past year, and on general conditions in the real estate field, both here and elsewhere, said: "Notes Outside Interest

"The prominent business men of Detroit are looking to our locality as the best residential area in the Detroit district. In any other times than the present, the Grand Truck commuter service would have resulted in many more families coming to Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills.

"Also, the opening of Kingswood School Cranbrook for Girls, together with the enlarged facilities of Cranbrook School, is in itself a unique development that is making this an educational center.

"At the present time the work of the Real Estate Board is meaning more than ever to the community. Large numbers of our members. The work of the Property Owners Division, headed by Charles S. Hines, has been noteworthy. There are now 120 cities with Property Owners Divisions in the United States, having a total enrollment of 4,000 members.

"Tax Policy Studied "A year ago our national headquarters engaged Prof. Simon E. Leland, of the University of Chicago, to study the real estate tax situation, upon which to build a sound tax policy. This work is being further advanced by the University of Chicago by means of funds obtained from the Rockefeller Foundation.

Mr. Raymond also called attention to the work done by the National Association of Real Estate Boards in behalf of the proposed Federal Mortgage Discount Bank, and referred to the support given this project by Detroit bankers as outlined by Wilson W. Mills, chairman of our business section, at the Peoples Wayne County Bank, in an address delivered at the annual banquet of the Detroit Real Estate Board on Dec. 8.

"At this same meeting," Mr. Raymond said, "an address made by Harry S. Kissell, president of the National Association of Real Estate Boards, was not enthusiastically received in spite of the thumbs down attitude on real estate now common with many bankers and other real estate attention to the fact that real estate represents a large part of our national wealth.

"Defends Property Investments "It has been called a frozen asset, but in the stress of these times, it has stood up very well as compared with other investments. According to Standard Statistics, showing an average for 90 major stocks, the depreciation has been 72.3 percent. Other representative groups run from 70 to 74 percent off. Such depreciation is surely a terrible price for liquidity.

"On the same basis, a \$10,000 home would only bring from \$2,000 to \$3,000. We all know that real estate has not suffered to any such extreme.

"Mr. Kissell is also a banker and recognizes that we must look to the banker as an important part of our business. Mr. Raymond concluded, "but he simply wants those who are 'thumbs down' on real estate to realize the facts as they are."

Tuberculosis should kill no one, for it is both preventable and curable. It is your Christmas seal money helps prevent deaths from the disease.

Pontiac Boy Seeks Refuge Here From Strife-Torn Home

The Eccentric has been asked by Harold T. Ellerby, former village president, and Robert D. Lynd, Y. M. C. A. secretary, to plead the case of a young Pontiac boy who shall be known here as John.

John is 16 years old, and has lived in Pontiac with his family for about a year. Previous to that time the family lived in Birmingham. Recent domestic troubles have made his present home such an unsuitable environment for his years that he is forced to find another immediately.

He wants to come to Birmingham and re-enter the Birmingham schools, where he would be in the 10th grade. He is willing to work at anything which he is capable in return for his board and room and an opportunity to continue his education.

John is a clean-cut lad of good manners and appearance, and promises to work loyally for anyone who will give him the chance he seeks. Communications in regard to John's case should be addressed in care of The Eccentric.

Baptist Choir To Sing Xmas Cantata

A pastoral cantata, "The first Christmas," by Joseph Barnby, will be sung Sunday evening at 7:30 by the Birmingham Baptist Choir under the direction of Frederick A. Protheroe in the First Baptist Church. Henry James, baritone, will sing "The Birthday of the King," and Mrs. Melva Giddings, soprano, will sing "O Lovely Voices from the Sky" as the soloists.

Rev. David Leon Woodward, pastor will give a special Christmas meditation on the seventh of the great texts of the Bible, "God So Loved The World That He Gave His Only Begotten Son." At the Sunday morning worship service at 10:30 the choir will sing the Christmas choruses, "O Thou That Tearest Good Tidings" from the "Messiah" by Handel. Mrs. Olive Jeannette Protheroe will sing the solo preceding the choruses.

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PUNCH BOARDS BANNED HERE

Police Warn 7 Business Proprietors On Complaints Of Parents

Proprietors of seven business places in Birmingham were warned by police last Thursday that "punch boards" by which merchandise is sold for a number punched out on a paper pellet is a lucky one, must be removed from their places immediately.

"Punch boards are out, to stay, as far as Birmingham is concerned," declared Chief Inspector H. Kett. A state statute declares punch boards to be a form of gambling and their use is illegal. Complaints of mothers who said their children were spending money to no profit on the boards constituted the chief reason for the ultimatum against them, Chief Hays explained.

If business proprietors fail to comply with the removal order, they will be arrested and will follow, he asserted.

TAX REFUNDS OF \$9,000 APPROVED

Village Passes Write-Downs In Four Special Assessment Districts

Write-downs totaling \$9,041.25 in four special assessment districts were approved in resolutions adopted by the Village Commission Monday night. The write-downs were possible because of the fact that the actual cost of the improvement in each case was less than the original estimate, Village Manager James W. Parry explained.

The improvements constituting the special assessment districts, the original estimate of the cost, and the amount of the write-down in each case, are as follows: Hamilton avenue widening—original estimate, \$35,192; write-down, \$3,198.19.

Northlawn Heights gravel improvement—original estimate, \$1,848.64; write-down, \$1,960.22. Alley 13 in block bounded by Ann, George, Landon and Lincoln streets—original estimate, \$5,000; write-down, \$681.89.

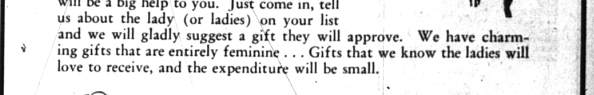
Alley 14 in block bounded by Woodward, Ann, Landon and Lincoln streets—original estimate, \$3,534.25; write-down, \$3,200.95. The cost of this last improvement, Mr. Parry said, was estimated to include the remodeling of the sanitary sewer pump house, which will not have to be done unless it is required before the district special resolution was adopted in this case to assure that such cost can be included if necessary, however.

The Eccentric maintains three telephone numbers, 12 and 13. A courteous switchboard operator will answer your call, whether in the placing of a new item, or an advertisement, or information on your printing needs.

WE HEARD IT SAID BY—Charles Viles, superintendent of public schools: "In the panic of 1893, people in general did not suffer as they are suffering today. Those days the standard of living was less than today; people used to get by on less. They could easily obtain wood for fuel; they did not have the upward on the hamper either in taxes or physical phases. Their wants were fewer. Scarcity was not necessary for a township supervisor to set up anything like the modern welfare or relief department. The depression of 1930-31 is the worst in the history of the United States, I believe."

His Shopping Worries are Over! Mr. Man, You'll Be Smiling too if You Let the Twins Help You in Your Selections

You don't know exactly what you're going to give friend wife and Aunt Jane and Cousin Adele? Well, don't worry, for we will be a big help to you. Just come in, tell us about the lady (or ladies) on your list and we will gladly suggest a gift they will approve. We have charming gifts that are entirely feminine... Gifts that we know the ladies will love to receive, and the expenditure will be small.



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