I pray that I may so conduct my own life within the observation of my children that they, when they have grown up, will recall at least a few endearing memories of their dad. Children are entitled to fond memories.

The Birmingham Eccentric

16 PAGES, PART 1

FIFTY-FOURTH YEAR—NO. 37 | BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1931 | $2.00 PER YEAR—SINGLE COPIES 5c

THIS and THAT

By G. R. A.

Elton R. Eaton publisher of the Plymouth (Mich.) Mail, takes me to task in the following editorial which he used last week. It is captioned, "Something More To Worry About." Read what he says about the upholder of This and That:

"It just seems as though there is one blame thing right after another to worry about these days. We just get over worrying about one thing and sure enough along comes something else to worry about. Now Editor George Averill of Birmingham, has got us all worried over the question as to just who we are and what we are. The question has bothered Editor Averill so much that he tried to have Dr. Hawkins, one of the famous scientists employed by the General Electric company, answer the question.

"Quoting Mr. Averill direct: 'I asked Dr. Hawkins if science has yet been able to define the origin of electrical energy—and its relation to human consciousness. His reply was, "No, we haven't gone that far yet." I was disappointed for, from his reply, you and I still don't know who we are.'

"Now isn't that something to worry about in these days of depression and punk politicians, bum administrations, soup lines and congressional sessions. In fact the question has just about got everybody down.

"Here we have been worrying about Mel McPherson, the Navy League's propaganda for more money for ship builders, Willis Brewer, taxes, Wilber Brucker, liquor reformers and lots of other troublesome things—and now the sea-faring editor of the Birmingham Eccentric has got us worried over the question of just who we are. Are these days of troublesome questions ever going to end?"

Most folks in the middle west depend upon a heavy snowfall in order to get their sleigh rides. Chicago however, is more versatile in its perambulations; it has its clay rides in summer as well as winter.

Soon after he was appointed police commissioner in New York City Theodore Roosevelt was asked by two newspaper reporters: "Are you working for the Presidency?" The man who was destined to loom large in American politics jumped up from his table, clenched his fists, and bared his teeth in the face of his questioners. Lincoln Steffens and Jacob Riis. He yelled:

"Don't you dare ask me that. Don't you put such ideas into my head. No friend of mine would ever say a thing like that . . ."

And then the fiery Roosevelt revealed a fundamental soundness in his entire attitude toward public life; he spoke in a manner that ought to arrest the attention of all who seek high places in public service. For Mr. Roosevelt paid homage to the quality of real humility—he proved in his own life later on that "he who humbleth himself shall be exalted." Here is what he said:

"Never, never, you must never either of you ever remind a man at work on a political job that he may be President. It almost always kills him politically. He loses his nerve; he can't do his work; he gives up the very traits that are making him a possibility. I, for instance, I am going to do great things here, hard things that require the courage, ability, work that I am capable of, and I can do them if I think of them alone. But if I get to thinking of what it might lead to—"

He stopped, held us off, (writes Mr. Steffens in his recently published autobiography) and looked into our faces with his face screwed up into a knot, as with lowered voice he said slowly: "I must be wanting to be President. Every young man does. But I won't let myself think of it; I must not, because if I do I will begin to work for it, I'll be careful, calculating, cautious in word and act, and so—I'll beat myself. See?"

Roosevelt's philosophy rings with the clarity of real truth! His attitude toward the tasks at hand was sincere, as crusadingly lofty, that his humility toward his own importance in the scheme of public life left him free to accomplish results for the people who elected him to office. Upon such a platform Roosevelt was destined to reach the highest office within the gift of the American people. And that was right, too. Theodore Roosevelt, human as he was, and wrong in some things, of course, was a great man because he possessed a soul of simplicity; he offers to American public life an excellent example of the prophetic words of the Galilean: " . . . and whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant." (Matthew 20:27) Oh, for another such as Roosevelt!

Frames—Easel or swing, fine selection, 25% reduction. The Arnold Studio, Theatre Bldg. —Adv. 37

RELIEF EFFORT TO BRING YULE JOY TO NEEDY

150 Families To Receive Aid From Co-operating Agencies

CHILDREN TO GET TOYS

One of the most intensive relief programs ever sponsored in Birmingham is in final preparation today, built up around the objective of bringing Christmas aid and cheer to every needy man, woman and child in the village.

The Village Unemployment Relief Committee, the Community House and the Goodfellows Club, supported by scores of philanthropic individuals and organizations, both church and secular, have taken the lead in a concerted endeavor to furnish Birmingham's indigent with all the materials of food, clothing and toys which go traditionally with the making of a happy Yuletide season.

Slightly more than 150 families will be in need of assistance this year, it has been estimated, and the various welfare agencies are fully prepared to care for this number in co-operation with the county's poor relief program.

County Aids 75 Families

About 75 families will be given baskets of food by the county, and these baskets will be supplemented with further materials furnished by the Goodfellows Club.

The Goodfellows will also make up several dozen baskets entirely with their own supplies, to be distributed to families on the Community House list. The Community House, according to Mrs. Hope F. Halgren, executive director, is organizing the work of distributing Christmas baskets this year as in the past, since the Village Unemployment Relief Committee recently went on record as discouraging this phase of welfare relief in favor of greater stress on clothing and day-to-day food supplies.

The baskets will be distributed in the same manner in which the Thanksgiving baskets were handled this year, Mrs. Halgren said. The Community House has a list of the families which will be in need of food, and these names will be furnished to groups or individuals who desire to make up baskets.

Children's Movie Planned

Besides the families on this list which will be cared for by the Goodfellows, Mrs. Halgren said, several churches and other organizations have already applied for the names of families which they intend to furnish with Christmas baskets. Those families not cared for in this manner will be provided with Christmas food directly by the Community House.

Besides their work of distributing food baskets, the Goodfellows

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TAX COLLECTIONS SWELL TO $55,761

$15,434 Paid To Date In School Taxes Alone, Treasurer Says

Payments of more than $25,000 in 1931 state, county, township and school taxes received at the Bloomfield Township offices during the past few days have swelled the total collected since the tax bills became payable on Dec. 10 to $55,761.47, Mrs. R. Margaret Plumstead, township treasurer, said yesterday.

Of this amount, $15,434.54 represents Birmingham school district taxes, Mrs. Plumstead said, of which $10,000 has already been paid over. The township has agreed this year to make payments to the School Board each week. Of the school taxes received to date, $1,215.04 has been paid in scrip issued by the School Board, Mrs. Plumstead said.

Further encouragement at the response accorded by property owners to the "Committee of 100," an organization of service club representatives which is attempting to stimulate early tax payments as a special aid to the school system, was reported yesterday by Don Jordan, chairman of the committee.

"We are especially pleased with the co-operation we have received from Detroit people who own property in Birmingham, more than 50 per cent of whom have given us definite promises that they will pay at least the school portion of their taxes before the end of the month," Mr. Jordan said.

He said that members of the committee had personally interviewed approximately 1,500 taxpayers to date.

HAVE YOU MET?—

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Rowland and family who moved from Detroit to Birmingham three weeks ago and now reside at 380 Kimberley road. They have two sons, Thomas J., 10 years old, and Campbell, eight years old, both of whom attend the Quarton School. Mr. Rowland is a member of the advertising staff of the Detroit Free Press.

Rotary Club Fetes Crippled Children

Santa Claus 'n Everything Make Kiddies Happy

Birmingham Rotarians Monday noon staged a Christmas party for 30 crippled kiddies in this vicinity, with appropriate music, food and ice cream, a Christmas tree, a regular Santa Claus, an' a list of gifts for every one of the invited guests. Harry Cecil, Detroit candy manufacturer and amateur magician, entertained the kiddies and their hosts with many tricks, while Clifford Wiegand, Pontiac musician, played many selections on a piano-accordion.

It was the first crippled kiddies' Christmas party ever given by the Rotarians, and was done under the direction of Harry Bissett, chairman of the club's program committee for this year. The affair was held in the Community House.

Billy and Wallace Gale, Birmingham school students entertained the assembly with a baritone horn and piano duet.

VILLAGE HOMES TO MARK YULE

Quiet, Uneventful Christmas Seen Here; Churches Plan Services

Family feasts and traditional home gatherings around the Christmas tree will mark what promises to be a quiet and uneventful observance of the birth of Christ in Birmingham Friday.

Although scores of villagers will spend the day with relatives in other parts of the state, and several families will entertain out-of-town guests and kinfolk, the majority of Birminghamites will pass their 1931 Christmas within their own intimate circles.

Employes of stores and banks, worn out from the effects of the pre-Christmas turmoil, will welcome the day as offering them an opportunity to rest in quiet and comfort. Weary mail carriers and other postal employes will also rest, as there will be no deliveries except of special delivery mail and perishables on Christmas Day, and the office will be closed.

Churches Plan Services

The only formal observance of Christmas will be held in Episcopal and Catholic churches, all of which will have Christmas Eve as well as Christmas Day services.

At St. James Episcopal Church a midnight service will begin at 11:30 P. M. on Christmas Eve with the singing of carols, followed by the celebration of holy communion at 12. Communion will also be celebrated at 11 A. M. on Christmas Day.

A Christmas Eve mass will be held at Holy Name Chapel at midnight, while masses will be observed on Christmas Day at 7:30, 9, 10 and 11 A. M.

An elaborate Christmas program at Christ Church Cranbrook will begin with a carillon recital at 10:50 P. M. Christmas Eve, followed by the marching of the vested choir from Guild Hall to a Christmas tree in front of the church where carols will be sung.

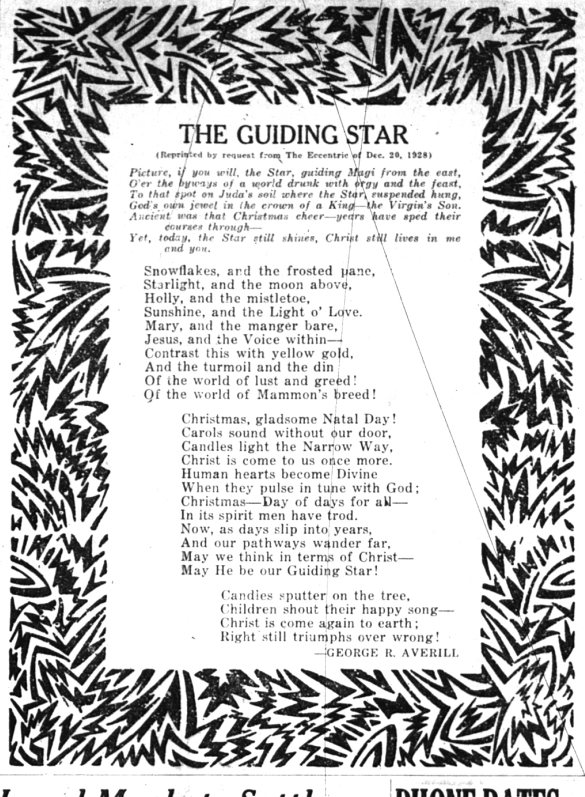
Schools Close Wednesday

Later the choir will file into the church, bearing lanterns to be placed in front of the choir stalls. Holy communion will be observed at 11:30 P. M., and again at 11 A. M. on Christmas Day, to be followed with a sermon by Dr. S. S. Marquis, the rector.

Birmingham schools, all of which are planning special Christmas programs, will close Wednesday afternoon to re-open on Jan. 4.

There will be no organized carolling on Christmas Eve this year other than that done by the Town Club and other individual organizations. The Community House, which has sponsored this activity among Birmingham children in past years, decided to abandon the practice this year because of the press of other activities, Mrs. Hope Halgren, executive secretary, said yesterday.

Anti-tuberculosis activities are carried on in every county in Michigan through the use of Christmas seal funds.



THE GUIDING STAR

(Reprinted by request from The Eccentric of Dec. 20, 1928)

Picture, if you will, the Star, guiding Magi from the east, Over the byways of a world drunk with orgy and the feast, To that spot on Juda's soil where the Star, suspended hung, God's own jewel in the crown of a King—the Virgin's Son. Ancient was that Christmas cheer—years have sped their courses through—
Yet, today, the Star still shines, Christ still lives in me and you.

Snowflakes, and the frosted pane,
Starlight, and the moon above,
Holly, and the mistletoe,
Sunshine, and the Light o' Love.
Mary, and the manger bare,
Jesus, and the Voice within—
Contrast this with yellow gold,
And the turmoil and the din
Of the world of lust and greed!
Of the world of Mammon's breed!

Christmas, gladsome Natal Day!
Carols sound without our door,
Candles light the Narrow Way,
Christ is come to us once more.
Human hearts become Divine
When they pulse in tune with God;
Christmas—Day of days for all—
In its spirit men have trod.
Now, as days slip into years,
And our pathways wander far,
May we think in terms of Christ—
May He be our Guiding Star!

Candies sputter on the tree,
Children shout their happy song—
Christ is come again to earth;
Right still triumphs over wrong!

—GEORGE R. AVERILL

Local Markets Settle Xmas Dinner Problems

By MARJORIE E. PORTER

After the presents have been tied and tagged, the problem of planning and marketing for Christmas dinner looms before the housewife.

But planning the dinner means more than just deciding upon various courses. It includes flowers and table decorations, with after-dinner candies and sweetmeats.

But once the menu is arranged, a load is lifted from domestic shoulders. As far as availability of foods in both staple and fancy lines is concerned, Birmingham merchants are freshly and completely stocked.

Thanksgiving Prices Prevail

Take fowl, for instance. Turkeys, ducks, chickens and geese of the best grain-fed quality may be found in local markets, at prices estimated to be about the same as at Thanksgiving of this year.

Comparing the prices with former years, everything in the way of fowl will be cheaper, merchants report. This also applies to virtually everything else in the grocery line.

If you like mushrooms as an entree, for instance, the price this year will offer no obstacle. Mushrooms are plentiful on the market and can be purchased at about half what they sold for in former years.

Calavo Salad Popular

Such things as potatoes and sweet potatoes, celery, and the traditional cranberry sauce, may also be readily obtained. One may now buy his cranberry sauce in the can or he may buy the berries and prepare his own.

For the housewife who is doubtful about her Christmas salad why not try the calavo? You have heard about the aristocratic alligator pear for the exclusive salad. Well, the calavo is merely a new selection of the alligator pear, also known as avocado or ahuacate.

When one considers prices in former years with the present price quoted in Birmingham markets, the calavo may be classed with the economical salad.

The favorite way to serve it is on the "half-shell"—on lettuce leaves with lemon juice or a thin sharp dressing, as the fruit itself is rich in oil and has the flavor of rich butter mixed with nuts.

Plum Pudding Revived

As a salad, it can be combined with oranges, or it may be served with celery and dressing as a cocktail. For other salads one may find fresh tomatoes, lettuce, and an "advance showing" of some of the vegetables of early spring, to say nothing of the many fruit combinations available.

Few families make plum pudding nowadays. When one recalls the expense and ceremony attached to making the Christmas pudding in bygone years, it is small wonder that housewives prefer to buy it today.

It can be purchased at some of the bakery shops or at all the grocery stores in cans prepared by the leading food companies. And it sells this year at such a reduction! One may buy his pudding for about half this year of what it cost a year ago. The same applies to mincemeat and fruit cake.

Then when the pudding is cleared away, the nuts and fruits are

(Turn to Page 2, No. 4)

FURNITURE STORAGE
159 Brownell Phone 7824-F4
—Adv. 21tf

Santa Is Almost Ready To Begin His Great Trip

Santa Claus Palace
Iceberg Square
North Pole

Dear Boys and Girls:

Just think—only 76 hours from the time I am writing this I will already be well on my way in my flying journey around the world.

I can hardly realize that such a short time remains, but I suppose these last three days will seem longer to you than all the rest of the year put together.

My trusty reindeer are in perfect condition for the hard, fast trip that lies before them, my sleigh has been painted and repaired, Mrs. Claus has already laid out my heaviest woolen

Santa

(Turn to Page 2, No. 3)

Letters of a Political Reporter To His Editor

Dear Boss:

Well, boss, it looks like a sappy Christmas for the politicians. Those that still believe in Santa Claus are bashful about asking him for anything more, and those that don't are putting all their faith in the Easter bunny which comes around next April, just about election time.

Not that they all wouldn't like some presents. They've all got lists of wants as long as your arm, as a matter of fact, but their wanting has nothing to do with Christmas.

Some of them want jobs, some of them want glory, and all of them want votes, but if they hang up their sock and put their trust in St. Nick they're likely to wake up the next morning to find they've only put their foot in it.

Things have been pretty quiet the last few days. I see they haven't got time to re-open the Anton Best case until after the first of the year but I don't think that will make the New Year any more comfortable for some people. Keep your eye on that case. I understand it's likely to have some interesting developments.

What do you think of Tuggey's petitions? Just between you and me, I don't believe he'll get nearly as far as he'd like to with them, but of course it's pretty early to tell about that yet. At least he will keep them out long enough to get a fair indication of how the people really do feel about Parry. Jim and the Commission want to know that themselves, and there's no better way of finding out than this.

Say, boss, I heard a good joke on the Governor the other day. You'll enjoy it. But I haven't got time to tell it to you this week. I'll save it for a later letter.

Yours till everybody has a merry Christmas.

MOTIVUS.

PHONE RATES CAN'T BE CUT

Immediate Adjustments Here Impossible, Bell Officials Declare

Any immediate reduction in the telephone toll rates between Birmingham and Detroit and Birmingham and Pontiac will be impossible, it was indicated at a conference last Thursday between representatives of the Michigan Bell Telephone Company and a committee of local business men appointed to investigate the matter by the Birmingham Real Estate Board at the instigation of the Village Commission.

E. M. Gladden, general commercial manager of the phone company, told the committee that all toll rates are now under a mileage basis and are uniform throughout the state with the exception of one or two places immediately adjacent to the Detroit city limits.

Adjustment in rates therefore, in one locality, he declared, would involve adjustments in all others. The rates are now on a mileage basis at the rate of 10 cents for the first 12 miles and 5 cents for each additional six miles, he said.

It was brought out at the meeting, however, that the Michigan Bell Telephone Company is now involved in suits in the Federal Courts and with the Public Utilities Commission over the question of readjustment of the rate schedule which may result in the grouping of communities like Birmingham into a zoning system with a resultant equalization of toll rates.

The company sees the zoning system as the logical answer to the problem, Mr. Gladden declared, but pointed out that as long as the company is prevented from increasing rates in any particular instance it will be unable to reduce rates and maintain the minimum earnings required.

Earnings of the company have declined and dividends this year will be possible only by drawing upon company surplus which is limited by law, Mr. Gladden asserted. He maintained that the company has invested heavily in equipment for the Birmingham office in anticipation of considerable growth which has not yet been attained.

Others representing the Bell system at the conference were W. E. Shane, district commercial superintendent, and C. M. Ritchie, manager of the Birmingham area.

BARGAIN RENTALS
FURNISHED HOMES. One with 8 rooms, 2 baths, oil burner, large lot, fine location, $100 month. Another, 4 rooms, fire place, centrally located, $40. Both with garages.
UNFURNISHED. 8-room house on corner, 3-car garage, $60. Half of double house, $25. House in terrace, $25.
J. B. HOWARTH & SON, TEL. 321
Real Estate General Insurance
—Adv. 36tf

Ouster Petition Count Promised

Tuggey To Check Signers Today

Response of the public to the petitions circulated last week asking the Village Commission to request the resignation of James W. Parry as village manager remained an unknown quantity yesterday, peding the initial tabulation of signatures which Justice of the Peace Arthur J. Tuggey, sponsor of the petitions, indicated would be made today.

"I have given out about 30 petitions to different persons to be circulated in the various neighborhoods of the community," Mr. Tuggey said yesterday, "but I have not asked for a report from any of them and have no idea of the number of signers that have been obtained. However, I expect to make a preliminary check-up Tuesday."

No mention was made of the petitions at last night's meeting of the Commission. Mr. Tuggey was not present at the meeting, although there were several other members of the general public in attendance, including Lee A White former Commissioner and defender of the present administration, who did not, however, address the meeting.

CLUB HOST TO 280 CHILDREN

Lions Entertain With Gala Program At 2nd Christmas Party

Members of the Birmingham Lions Club were hosts to 280 poor children of the village last night in the Community House at their second annual Christmas party.

Gifts, candy, Santa Claus and a merry entertainment program served to give the youthful guests, who ranged in age from three to 11 years, at least one happy remembrance of the 1931 Christmas season.

The program opened with a group of carols played by the Barnum School Harmonica Band, followed by the telling of the story of the first Christmas by Rev. W. Clarence Wright, pastor of the Birmingham Presbyterian Church.

The Baldwin High School Male Quartet sang several selections, and Dr. J. B. Hassberger gave a recitation in which the children all joined in. Miss Mary Ross devoted a period to story telling, and Karel Rickerson delighted his youthful audience with a demonstration of ventriloquism.

Piano-accordion solos by one of a group of blind children from Detroit, who were special guests at the party, preceded the evening's climax—the arrival of Santa through the window, carrying a gift, a box of candy and an apple for every boy and girl.

C. G. PARKS RE-NAMED CREDIT BUREAU HEAD

Charles G. Parks, local coal dealer, was re-elected president of the Birmingham Credit Bureau at a special executive committee meeting held last Friday night. Dr. Fred L. Tucker was chosen vice-president, and Ralph C. Moulthrop, secretary-treasurer. C. J. Braamse is the active manager.

DEATH FEARED NEAR FOR BOY STRUCK BY CAR

Hopes For Recovery Of Adams Student Placed In Blood Transfusion

DRIVER IS NOT HELD

Doctors at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Pontiac at a late hour last night were considering arrangements for a blood transfusion in an attempt to save the life of William Foss, nine-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. N. C. Foss of Charing Cross road, who was gravely injured when struck by an automobile while crossing Woodward avenue at Maple avenue late Saturday afternoon in the view of scores of hurrying Christmas shoppers.

The boy's condition had not improved up to last night from the time of his admittance, attaches at the hospital said, and little hope was held out for his recovery.

The car which struck the youth was driven by Carol Collins, 16 years old, 248 Puritan road, who was driving north on Woodward avenue. Police said the boy dashed directly in front of the machine after dodging a second car travelling in the same direction. Miss Collins was not held.

William, who is a student in the fourth grade at Adams School, received a fractured skull, numerous cuts about the face, and serious internal injuries.

SCOUTS TO HEAR KIPKE, MORRISON

U. of M. Coach, All-American Center To Attend Banquet Here

Coach Harry G. Kipke of the University of Michigan football team and his star center, Maynard "Doc" Morrison, of Royal Oak, who was named recently by Grantland Rice for All-American honors, will be among the speakers and guests of honor at the Boy Scout Court of Honor banquet to be held in the Community House on Jan. 29, it was announced Monday by committeemen in charge.

Coach Kipke, whose team this year tied for the Big Ten championship, and Morrison were placed on the banquet program in conformity with the committee's attempt to make the affair of special interest to the Boy Scouts themselves, as well as to their

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VILLAGE SUIT GOES TO JURY TUESDAY

The $10,000 law suit against the Village of Birmingham, brought by William F. Ward of Detroit, who charges a contract he had with the Commission in 1929 to drill a water well was unfairly broken, was expected to go to the jury today in Oakland County Circuit Court.

The case opened Friday, and the village began introduction of defense testimony yesterday. The case is being tried by Judge Glenn C. Gillespie.

Because an ounce of prevention is worth pounds of cure, tuberculosis Christmas seals are spent chiefly for preventive tuberculosis work.

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