

Out there in the great, big world,
where the serious issues of business
and politics are unceasingly
played, the forces of good and of
evil are arrayed in combat.

The Birmingham Eccentric

PART TWO

FIFTY-FIFTH YEAR—NO. 31

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HARMONICA BAND TO PERFORM HERE

The Detroit Harmonica Band of 35 pieces, under the direction of Willis Wilson Jr., will give a program of classical and sacred music at the regular evening worship service next Sunday in the First Baptist Church.

The band, which appeared here in concert once last year, plays "The Story of the Three Tales of Hoffman," "A Song of India," "Old Rugged Cross," "Bell's Go-od Mary," "When the Saints Go Marching In," "The Spirit of Love," "Swing Low Sweet Chariot," and "Deep River."

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Goodfellows Collect 800 Playthings In 'Toy Week'

Headquarters of the Birmingham fire department in the Municipal Building have taken on all the appearances of St. Nicholas' Iceland toy shop as firemen and other members of the Goodfellow Club apply their aptitudes for mechanics and carpentry to the task of preparing for another Christmas the hundreds of playthings gathered by the club from Toy Way camping, which ended Saturday.

More than 800 used toys of every description—from sleds and dolls to miniature dining room sets and electric trains—were gathered in the drive, to be distributed by the club in baskets of food to the families of needy families at Christmas time.

Although a majority of the contributions were either brought directly to the fire hall, or were called for at the fire hall and firehouse, or otherwise collected at schools and churches and turned over to the club for distribution, Fire Chief Vernon Griffith, member of the committee in charge, reported.

Before they can be delivered however, they must be repaired, repainted and otherwise restored to their one time shiny and working condition—a new "wheel" for this automobile, a frame base for that chair, a new headrest for that mamma doll. And that's the job for which the Goodfellows have enlisted themselves now that the toys have been collected.

Planning of the campaign at this early date will give us plenty of time to do all the necessary re-pairing before Christmas, with the aid of some of the women's organizations, who will help with other details at which we might not be so skillful," Chief Griffith said.

Last year, he pointed out, the toy drive was received until near the holidays that there was hardly enough time for all the repair work that was necessary.

Although the bulk of the playthings were given in the early weeks of November, several more are expected to be received later, and will be welcomed up until a short time before Christmas, Chief Griffith said.

Gambling and traffic hazards were also cited as major problems by the commission, with police Commissioner Watkins pointing out that "it is not enough to make a law, it is also enough to make a plan." He said that the chief hazard probably prompted by the light of their experience, but we find it difficult to get convictions in these cases, reflected warrants by the police commission after a legal "buy" had been made.

"I am not criticizing the police officers. What I mean is that the

law is not enforced," he said.

"My stand on gambling is some-

what different than that on the liquor problem," he pointed out. "I think gambling is a vice, but it will have to be accepted as such. While I insist that the prohibition laws must be enforced legally, I believe that gambling will not be permitted, and police are instructed not to stop gambling on a large scale whether legally or otherwise, even if it becomes necessary to track down the heads to them to

crack them at time."

Few Places Left

Because of this policy, Commissioner Watkins stated, there are relatively few places where gambling is still carried on in Birmingham, but none of those in operation are the "big-time," "excessively furnished" gambling places of other days.

The automobile in the hands of a careless or inexperienced driver is as dangerous as a loaded gun. Commissioner Watkins declared.

"Traffic is your medium," he said. "You are driving the cars and you are the pedestrians. Every motorist is a potential killer. The greatest problem is the daredevil driver who thinks upon speed."

Commissioner Watkins declared his opposition to the proposed speed limit in Detroit of 40 miles an hour on Woodward avenue, on the grounds that the time gained by the motorist is inconsequential and the danger to pedestrians increased.

Urge Caution

In comparison with 240 people killed so far this year in traffic accidents, 120 will be killed by fistfights, assault, Commissioner Watkins pointed out, urging greater caution among motorists and pedestrians in traversing traffic.

In defense of the "third degree," Commissioner Watkins admitted its existence and use by his department:

"The methods by which we have been greatly exaggerated, it does exist, and by the third degree, I mean the actual physical abuse of a prisoner. Any action is justified in that it forces the suspect to say to make an arrest. A prisoner is in custody; it is cowardly to take advantage of him by beating, and others, though it may be true, that it is a man endeavoring to stay out."

Moral in Prison

The greatest problem from the community point of view is to keep politics out of the police department and to keep up the morale and interest of the force, Commissioner Watkins declared.

At the present time in Detroit, political activities are continuing on a five day schedule, and after reckoning furloughs and days off leave, has available only 4.5 days per month. It is necessary to assign a sufficient number to cover the city under present conditions, Commissioner Watkins said.

EDISON CO. OFFICIAL BECOMES EXCHANGITE

Ralph W. Bricker, district manager for the Detroit Edison Company, has recently joined the membership of the Birmingham Exchange Club, Tuesday noon. For a number of years Mr. Bricker represented the classification of Oak Park, Illinois. His transfer here was proclaimed by James W. Taylor, president of the Birmingham Club.

Standing last night at the Community Center, Mr. Bricker entered a bridge tournament, to continue bi-weekly for the next three months.

We may not be far back on foreign countries, but we're stuck on a lot of their names—Atlanta, Atlanta.

GOOD PRINTING can be ob-

DISREGARD FOR DRY LAW TOLD

Village Treasurer Asks Rest To Guard Health, To Fill Vacancy

Plumstead Given Leave Of Absence

Charter Member Of Steel Treating Research Society Succumbs At 44

Largely attended funeral services were held Saturday for Laurence Thomas, 44, a steel treatment engineer with the Birmingham Fire Department, Birmingham, Mich., for the past nine years, had suffered from a ruptured heart for 12 months and had been hospitalized for the past 12 months. He lived at 724 Madison avenue.

Mr. Thomas was born in Lodi, Ohio, and moved to Birmingham from Detroit. He was a graduate of the chemical engineering department of the University of Michigan and was a charter member of the Birmingham Fire Department's Research Society.

Surviving him are his wife, Mrs. Charles E. Plumstead, village treasurer, and their son, Harold, a resident of Birmingham, and a daughter, Mrs. Martin Groves, both of Birmingham, and three grandchildren.

The services will be held at 2 P. M. today for James Anderson, Sr., 83 years old, who died Monday afternoon at the home of his son, James Anderson, Jr., 36 Park street, member of the Birmingham police department and former chief of police.

Mr. Anderson suffered a stroke last Friday evening from which he never recovered.

He was born in Denmark and came to the country 70 years ago, settling in Oskaloosa, Iowa. He had farmed in Troy Township for 60 years, and had lived in Birmingham for 18 years.

Surviving besides the son, are his wife, who made his home, and a daughter, Mrs. Martin Groves, both of Birmingham, and three grandchildren.

The services will be held from the S. O. Wyllie Bell Building, Birmingham One Hundred

Stroke Is Fatal To James Anderson, Sr.

Services To Be Held Today For Aged Father Of Former Police Chief

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GAIL IS INITIATED BY DRAMA SOCIETY

Walled Gail of Birmingham was one of 16 students at Michigan Normal College, Ypsilanti, who were initiated recently into Michigan Dramatic Society, according to information received here yesterday.

At "Rental Headquarters"

A newly decorated four bedroom house at \$55. Three bedrooms—two baths—excellent condition—near Quartz School. \$65—Three bedrooms—three baths at \$65—another at \$30. Five bedrooms—three baths—large location—\$100. Others—larger and smaller—good neighborhoods—properly priced.

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