New Year's Day is only the beginning of a printed new year—not the actual beginning of even the human conception of eternity. But it serves as a sort of mechanical reminder that we can start afresh to higher roads, more beautiful scenery, more enjoyable happiness, more enduring personal prosperity.

The Birmingham Eccentric

12 PAGES, PART 1

SIXTY-FIRST YEAR—NO. 39 | BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1938 | $2.00 PER YEAR—SINGLE COPIES, 5c

THIS and THAT

By G. R. A.

A New Year of Friends!

. . . and so, in a few more days, a New Year will have come upon us all. Old calendars that served us faithfully will be removed, and new ones will take their places. After a brief spell, we'll get used to writing 1939 instead of 1938. Winter will roll along its white way, emerging finally into the greenness of spring, and then the colorfulness of summer and fall.

Each of us will go about doing his or her job—fitting into happier, more secure places in human affairs, we all hope. Starting out January 1 with some firmer resolutions—most of them old, perhaps a few new. And then the days of 1939 will unravel from the skein of Time; parts will come through without a hitch; some may be a bit snarled up; but, as the New Year draws to its inevitable close, we'll all hope that something useful will have been made of the whole skein—something that will look nice and wear well.

Many platitudes have been, and always will be, spoken and written about every New Year.

I think that most of us don't need new resolutions at all; what we need is greater resolution to apply the old ones. Don't you agree with me, then, that our hopes (and that's what resolutions are based upon), for 1939 ought to be toward the fulfillment of a personal capacity to make, yes, some money, but more than anything else, some friends? Can you name anything in this whole world of greater value than true and honest friends?

For it has always seemed to me that when one makes friends, one makes many other desirable things as a necessary by-product; to paraphrase an old Biblical axiom: "Seek ye first the Kingdom of Friendship, and all these things shall be added unto thee."

. . . and so, a Happy New Year to ye—a New Year of Friends!

How To Get A Dog

Would you agree with me that, **next to a baby, one of the nicest bits of life than can come into a home is a little dog?**

For 12 years, as our children were growing up, we had a wonderful collie-shepard dog in our home. Two years ago Jack left us for his eternal Canine-land. Within a week the Missus had purchased a little pup, an English Setter. He remained with us for nearly two years; and we sold him last fall to a chap who hunts much—our family had agreed that, since I seldom hunt for birds, he ought to get into the hands of one who could give him more of the woods and fields.

Reluctantly, we parted with Duke. Though he dug up our back yard, ran away from home and was picked up by the police several times, yet he had dug a place into the family heart.

When we sold him the Missus said: "No more dogs—it's hard to duplicate old Jack, and there's no use in getting to like another dog and then finding that you should part with him."

We've never had a cat in our home—not until about five weeks ago when, one cold, dark night, a tiny bit of blackness slipped in through the side door and turned out to be a totally black kitten, some Persian in the breed. Well, pretty soon we all began to tolerate the cat; he was kinda cute with a cat-nip mouse, or in a paper bag. We decided we'd keep him, at least for the winter.

Then, Thursday afternoon of last week met John McKay downtown and he, knowing that we were without a dog, said: "Yuh oughta see what I got in the back of my car." I looked. Three Cocker Spaniels, eight weeks old; two of them dark brown, one black.

"Gosh, John, they look pretty cute," I exclaimed. Then, remembering the Missus' statement about parting with dogs, I said: "I can't promise a sale, John, but let's go over to the house and show 'em, anyway."

The Missus wasn't home when we arrived. John, apparently, knows how to sell cute little puppies. Said he: "Well, let's leave one and if the dog isn't wanted, I'll call back later and pick him up."

All this took place about two o'clock in the afternoon. I waited until four o'clock for a telephone call. No call. So I called up the

(Continued on Page 2, Part 1)

J. B. HOWARTH & SON
INSURANCE
Better to have it and not need it than to need it and not have it!
National Bank Building Tel. 321
—Adv. 22tf

NEWLY DEVELOPED HEARING-AIDS
$30 to $60. Phone 1282 (Investigate).
—Adv. 36tf

AUTO CRASHES MAR HOLIDAY JOY IN CITY

Twelve Accidents Occur Here Over Week-end; No Fatalities

Twelve automobile accidents marred the festivity of the Yuletide season in Birmingham over the week-end, according to police department reports. The first accident of the week-end occurred at 6:30 p. m. on Friday, Dec. 23 when a car driven by Louis Heritier, 676 Purdy street ran into an automobile belonging to Harry McLeod of Rochester, which was parked near the Post Office. Mrs. McCleod, who was on the curb taking Christmas gifts from the car, was knocked unconscious.

Slippery pavements were stated to be the cause of two of the five collisions occuring on Saturday, Dec. 24. Cars driven by George L. Wilson of 335 Frank street and John H. McCall, 608 Purdy street, collided at Woodward avenue and Frank street at 2:05 p. m. No one was injured. Cars driven by Joe Mack of 411 Hanna street and Mrs. Richard L. Campbell of 851 Shirley drive collided at 4:30 in

(Continued on Page 2, Part 1)

CITY PLANS FOR CELEBRATION OF NEW YEAR'S EVE

Birmingham will ring in the New Year on Saturday night with Watch Night services in two local churches and dances at nearby country clubs and the Community House, as well as with countless private parties and celebrations.

Watch Night services at the First Baptist Church will be held this year at 9:30 p. m., and at Christ Church Cranbrook at 10:30 p. m., following a carillon recital at 10 o'clock to be given by August Maekelberghe. A dinner-dance and an entertainment will usher in the New Year at Oakland Hills Country Club. There will be dancing at Bloomfield Hills Country Club and a dinner-dance at Forest Lake country club to welcome 1939. The general public may purchase tickets to the New Year's Eve dance which the Hassberger Chapter, Order of DeMolay, will hold at the Community House.

The Baptist Church program for New Year's Eve will include games for the whole church, music, a song fest and the Candle Light service. The congregation will maintain an attitude of prayer while awaiting the coming of the New Year. After midnight, refreshments will be served by the Philathea Bible Class.

"The Lessons of the Past Year's History," will be the subject of the Rev. Thomas L. Harris' address at Christ Church Cranbrook at the regular New Year's Eve service to be held at the Church.

Baldwin Public Library will close at 6 p. m. on Saturday as it has done in past years.

Monday, Jan 2, is a legal holiday so Birmingham residents will be able to have a long rest after welcoming 1939.

Winter Sports for our patrons. Tobogganing, Skiing and skating. Sleigh-ride parties arranged. Facilities reserved for those holding guest tickets issued by the management. Phone B'ham 1780 for reservations. **Devon Gables Tea Room. Long Lake Rd. at Telegraph.**

HEADS NEW FIRM

Mr. Rothman

Mr. Ressler

ROTHMAN STARTS NEW AUTO TRADE PUBLISHING FIRM

Edward E. Rothman of 508 Linden road, announces the formation of a new Detroit automotive trade publishing firm of which he is the president, to be known as Edward E. Rothman, Inc. A resident of Birmingham for the past eight years, Mr. Rothman is a member of the Bloomfield Open Hunt Club and the Recess Club of Detroit. For the past fifteen years he has held executive positions in the Detroit and New York advertising agency field.

Associated with Mr. Rothman as editorial director in the new enterprise will be Hal Ressler, former Philadelphia and Detroit newspaper man and more recently publicity director for leading companies in the automobile field.

First plans of the new firm, as announced by Mr. Rothman, call for early publication of a new monthly automotive dealer magazine devoted almost entirely to used cars and trucks. Contents will be designed to aid dealers in

(Continued on Page 2, Part 1)

MANY GIFTS AWAIT FIRST BABY OF YEAR

Merchants To Greet New Arrival In Traditional Manner

Birmingham is waiting for a new arrival, and is preparing to receive the newcomer with a store of gifts, as a token of welcome. The eagerly-waited one will be Birmingham's first baby of 1939, and the gifts to be showered upon him or her, (as the case may be), are the annual contributions of local merchants.

Each year, Birmingham merchants offer a variety of fine and valuable gifts for the first baby of the New Year and its parents. The requirements are only that the baby, boy or girl, arrive after the stroke of midnight on Saturday, Dec. 31. Entries close Thursday, Jan 5, the parents of the winning baby will be notified. They will have the privilege of calling at the stores of the merchants listed to collect the gifts and claim the awards.

A few simple rules for the contest prevail each year. First, the parents of the baby must be residents of Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills or Bloomfield Township. The announcement of the baby's birth must be given to The Eccentric, stating the exact time of arrival, and all reports must be verified by the attending physician or the hospital record.

The merchants contributing gifts include LaBelle's Shop of Gifts, Wilson Drug Co., Twin Shop, Wabeek Pharmacy, Frank J. Mulholland Co., Birmingham Hardware, Shain Drug Co., Williams Boot Shop, Little Folks Shop, Manley Bailey, Huston Hardware, John McKee, Village Gift House, Bodine's News Stand, The Birmingham Eccentric, Cheer Shop, McClelland Feed Co., and Beck Cleaners.

And the gifts! Everything to assure comfort for the new baby will be provided through the thoughtfulness of local merchants. Among them will be baby blankets, baby shoes, baby powder and soap, a bath thermometer, a reed hamper for clothes, bonnet, jacket and bootees, a diary to keep a record of the baby's first experiences, a water bottle for chilly nights, an album for baby's first photographs, a baby fork and spoon, $5 in merchandise and infants' wear.

Gifts that will be appreciated particularly by the baby's parents will be a ride home in a local ambulance from the hospital, birth announcements, ten gallons of gasoline for Dad's car, 100 correspondence cards and envelopes, a bed jacket for Mother, for the first breakfast at home ten pounds of pancake flour, and the privilege of having Mother's or Dad's clothes cleaned by a local company.

All things considered, the outlook is bright for Birmingham's first "Thirty-Niner."

Have You Met?—

Mr. and Mrs. Lyman N. White of 264 West Brown street. They have a small son, Kirby.

Mr. White is connected with the Ferry-Morse Seed Company in Detroit, where the couple made their home until their recent move to Birmingham.

Lionel Trains—The Flying Yankee and The City of Denver models. Built-in whistle . . . 42" long . . . Track forms an oval 30" x 50". Regular $16.50. . . . Sale **Price—$10.95. Huston Hardware—205 N. Woodward.**

SCENES FROM SANTA'S COURT OF HONOR

LIONS HEAR TALK BY REV. HARRIS ON PARENTAL DUTIES

"Am I my boy's or my girl's keeper?" was the subject of a New Year message given to Birmingham Lions and their wives at the Community House Wednesday noon by Rev. W. Glen Harris, pastor of the local First Presbyterian church. It was the occasion of the Club's annual luncheon for their wives.

Pointing out that one's best method of attaining terrestrial immortality is by bringing into the lives of posterity things that are rich and good in character and spiritual qualities, Rev. Harris asked: "Can we, as parents, so impress our children with example and precept that they, when grown up, will recall their childhood days in the home as days that made real and lasting contributions to their ability to get along and be happy in an adult world?"

Leisure Problems

The speaker related various social and economic problems that confront youth today, and declared himself in favor of adults doing something practical and enduring

(Continued on Page 2, Part 1)

Above: A portion of the crowd of Birmingham children attending the Court of Honor program presented Saturday morning in Baldwin High School auditorium, by the Retail Merchants' Association. Below: Santa Claus and the winners of the Court of Honor contest. Henry Price, winner of the boys' first prize on the left, Dolores Meeker, youngest contestant and Barbara Terry, third prize winner, both seated on Santa's lap; to the right, Alice Grant-Watters, winner of first prize for the girls.

BYRNE REPORTS CHRISTMAS MAIL HEAVY FOR CITY

Incoming and outgoing mail at the Birmingham Post Office was heavier at Christmas time this season than it has been for many previous years, stated Postmaster Joseph A. Byrne today.

"The parcel post arriving and leaving Birmingham was heavier than any other part of the mail," said Postmaster Byrne. The automatic counting machine at the Post Office recorded that 249,400 pieces of letter mail had left Birmingham between Dec. 16 and Dec. 24 of this year. During the same period 1,622 sacks of parcel post were mailed by the people of Birmingham. Postmaster Byrne estimated that the sacks contained approximately 6,488 parcels.

Incoming letter mail between Dec. 16 and Christmas Eve amounted to 170 bags and incoming parcel post sacks counted up to 2,370. The sacks of parcel post contained approximately 9,480 separate packages, estimated the postmaster.

Young Folk Rejoice In 'Lots Of Snow' As Storm Chills Rest Of Population

Snow which fell as thickly as the proverbial feathers from Mother Carey's chickens, gladdened the hearts of young Birmingham. "Lots of snow for Christmas" was among the most popular requests to Santa Claus, and that wish, if none other, was granted with a lot left over. Adults said that Birmingham blanketed in snow was very pretty and wondered, nervously, how much longer the blizzard would last. It kept right on snowing, in spite of comments.

And then Birmingham realized that winter had really come. Besides the blizzard, the pronounced cold wave froze the hard-packed snow, until the city's streets became a glare of ice, dangerous to motorists and pedestrians alike.

City maintenance workers kept busy almost continuously from Monday through Wednesday, with snow plows and sanders. About 25 cubic yards of sand were used in the three-day period according to M. H. Merry, director of public works.

A high wind made it necessary to work constantly on some of the more exposed streets. Sanders, which were called out at 8:30 p. m. on Monday, travelled West Maple avenue four times, as snow covered each application so swiftly that the pavement presented a mirror-like appearance. Drifting snow lessened the effects of the plows, also.

By Wednesday, the streets of Birmingham were free from deep drifts and passable in spite of lingering ice.

The children loved it! They tried out the Christmas ice skates until snow covered the ponds too thickly, and then out came the skis and sleds. Bright snow suits were seen everywhere, as the young enthusiasts defied the storm to have a winter carnival.

Adults were not so pleased. Many of the out-of-town visitors to Birmingham, who had stayed until the last possible moment of their holiday week-end, were forced to remain here, rather than risk such bad motoring conditions. Commuters found their cars stiff and cold, inside the garages. Snow shovels and coal shovels sprang into prominence, as the snow fell.

HONOR COURT CONTESTANTS WIN PRIZES

Retail Merchants Give Fame And Awards To Children

Fame, honor and prizes were bestowed upon a happy group of Birmingham children Saturday morning in Baldwin High School auditorium, when the Retail Merchants Association awarded the prizes and named the winners in the Court of Honor contest, sponsored by the Association. The awards were made before an audience of about 900 children, many of whom had also taken part in the contest.

As the name of each winner was called, he took his place on the platform in the particular seat in Santa Claus' Court of Honor assigned to him. The boys who succeeded in securing the most votes during the contest, were seated on one side of the Court, and the girls who worked equally hard and who were equally rewarded, were seated upon the other.

Winners of the first prize of $50, among the boys was Henry Price, and Alice Grant-Watters won the same prize over the girls competing in the contest. Henry and Alice not only received "tops" in the prizes, but had the honor and glory of occupying the first seats in Santa's Court of Honor, right next to Santa himself. Next in the Court of Honor line-up were Tony Baldwin and Joan Birthrong, winners of $25 each, given as the second prize to the boy and girl next high.

Third prizes of $15 for each one, were won by Clayton Gordon and Barbara J. Terry, who also were called to take their places in Santa's Court. Fourth prize winners were Milton Berz and Eleanor Wendell, who each received $10 and a place in the Court of Honor.

Ten boys and girls won prizes ranging from $1 through $10, and although they did not sit on either side of Santa as the winners of the first prizes did, they received places at Court. Jack O'Donnell received $10, Dollie Moore received $9 and Carolyn D. Emmett was awarded $8. Lois Brown, who was absent from the party, received a prize of $7. Fred Mallender was awarded $6, Dolores Meeker won $5, Edith Capling received $4, Kathleen Higby was awarded $3, Charles Coley won $2 and Conrad Burkman won the tenth prize in this group of $1.

Santa, his Court of Honor, and the large audience of children who

(Continued on Page 2, Part 1)

FAMILIES IN NEED RECEIVE YULE BASKETS

One hundred twenty Birmingham families, unable to provide their own merry Christmas this year, were supplied with food and toys by local organizations and individuals working through the Community House. Every effort was exerted to see that provision was made for families needing assistance at Christmas time. The Birmingham Goodfellows worked with the Community House as they have done in previous years, filling a part of the baskets. Eleven other organizations in the city were among those contributing baskets.

As a result of the annual campaign to raise money for Christmas giving, Birmingham Goodfellows benefitted from the generosity of local residents to the extent of more than $1,200, which is the total amount to date received by the organization from their annual street sale and from individual contributions, announces James W. Taylor, captain of the 1938 Goodfellows' Drive. More than $275 has been contributed to the organization since the street sale on Saturday, Dec. 17. The largest individual contribution received was $100.

Sixty-five Christmas baskets were filled by the Goodfellows in conjunction with the Birmingham Community House. Four dozen dolls were purchased by the organization to gladden children on Christmas morning.

Christmas does not come just one day in the year for the Goodfellows, however. Realizing that the families whom they provided with food for the holiday often need help during the entire winter, a

(Continued on Page 2, Part 1)

Harry E. Bissett Co.
Delco Oil Heating Equipment and Stokers. Frigidaire Electric Refrigerators, Sales and Service. Authorized Dealer. Phone 1271. —Adv. 31tf

Beauty Rest Mattresses Repaired. Royal Mattress. Birmingham 1-0788.
—Adv. 29

Passing Review of 1938 Reveals Year as Generally Better Than 1937

"The year is dying, let it die—"

Not such a bad year was 1938, but not such a good one either. It was one of those in-between years in which the ups and downs seemed pretty well balanced. Now that it is ebbing out through Father Time's hour glass, one can look back upon it as history, and review its events in the calm light of retrospection.

> Editor's Note: The following resume of the news of 1938 has been compiled from the files of The Eccentric as it was published during the year, and may be used by those to whom it would prove a convenience as a matter of local reference.

Looking through the files of The Eccentric during the year that is passing, one finds general indications that economically, it was a better year on the whole than its predecessor, 1937. It had a fairly auspicious start in January, slowing down somewhat through February, March and April. There was a gradual rise in business trends beginning in May and continuing through June, July and August, reaching a peak in September, and dropping again in October. Business improved locally in November, authoritative sources reveal, and continued to do so through December due partly to the Christmas shopping season.

As a municipality, Birmingham made definite progress. Early in the year, the City purchased a 66-acre site for the proposed sewage disposal plant, which received the approval of citizens in a series of hearings before the City Commission. At the April election, voters approved a $140,000 general obligation bond issue for the extension and addition of the sewage system.

Birmingham was concerned in the contest between the State and the Grand Trunk Railroad which culminated in January, when the State received its first payment on the railroad debt. The initial installment on the new right of way through Birmingham amounted to $770,436.92 and closed a seven-year argument between the two.

Changes in the city's educational system in January of the year involved the resignation of Hamilton Easton, teacher of social studies at Baldwin High School. Howard Sumera of Saginaw was engaged by the Board to teach social studies at Barnum, and Wilson Jenkin was transferred to Baldwin. Baldwin High Scholl presents diplomas to a class of 35 seniors. Early in the year the School Board approves a tentative plan for teaching education in local schools, which was later put into practice.

On the adverse side of the year's events was the flood, the worst in recent years, which the City experienced in February. Portions of the city were submerged, traffic was tied up for more than 24 hours, and occupants of marooned motor cars were rescued by police and firemen.

For greater safety, the City made an intensive study of and later adopted a new traffic ordinance, patterned after a model one and providing penalties for every type of traffic condition. Early in the year also, the City passed a special ordinance combining water and sewer departments, and setting the rate of payment toward the services of both as another step toward the realization of the sewage treatment plan then under construction.

A vacancy in the ranks of the Board of Education was caused by the death of John S. Black, whose place was filled by the appointment of William A. DaLee.

After months of delay the site was announced for Birmingham's new Post Office on the eastern half of the property occupied by St. James' Episcopal Church and its grounds.

Noteworthy among the progressive events of the year was the announcement by Murray D. Van Wagoner, State Highway Commissioner, that Birmingham would receive an allocation of $135,000 to defer costs of paving two 44-foot lanes of highway through the city over the former Grand Trunk right-of-way, connecting Woodward avenue to the north and south of the city.

At the city election in April, 429 votes carried the $140,000 general obligation bond issue, against 100 unfavorable votes. The proposition to annex land in the northern area of the City was defeated by the seven residents in the affected territory who voted against it, although they signed petitions earlier in the year to have it placed upon the ballot.

Mayor John E. Martz and Commissioner Frank S. Packard were unopposed for re-election to the Commission on three-year terms. Mrs. Lee A White and Howard D. Crull were re-elected to three-year terms on the Baldwin Public Library Board.

For the first time in several years, a Birmingham woman, Mrs Loren T. Robinson, announced her candidacy for membership on the Board of Education, on the platform that Birmingham women should be allowed a voice in the administration of school affairs. Recommendations for salary increases for principals, teachers and members of the clerical staff were approved by the Board.

In May the Birminghan Eccentric observed the 60th anniversary of its founding.

Mayor John E. Martz turns the first shovel of soil on the site for the new disposal plant.

As a result of the School Board election, Charles S. Kinnison and John H. Rosso were re-elected members of the Board of Education, and William A. DaLee was elected to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Black.

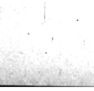
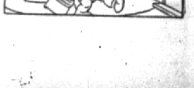
As an evidence of Birmingham's fair state of prosperity in the late summer, taxpapers paid $121,353 of the 1938 levy. Their promptness in making returns results in 46.3 percent of the year's total. In September, the City shared in the dividend of Bloomfield Township to the extent of $3,561.60. The sum represented 42.96 percent of the dividend declared previously.

Political fervor ran high in September, when more than 4,000 Birmingham residents registered to vote in the primary election, which was the first to be conducted here under the new secret ballot. The result was an overwhelmingly Republican vote favoring Frank D. Fitzgerald. City Clerk Irene Hanley described polling as heaviest on record for a primary in a non-presidential year.

In the November election, the City broke previous records for heavy balloting, confirming its stand taken in the primary election supporting Mr. Fitzgerald and the Republican party.

A new public official was added to the municipal staff in December to be known as the Director of Public Works. The City Commission authorized City Manager Donald C. Egbert to discontinue

(Continued on Page 3, Part 2)



HAPPY NEW YEAR