

... and so another Christmas
son cometh and is about to go;
how fortunate to live in a land free
from war... let's hope the war
ends before next Christmas, too.

SIXTY-SECOND YEAR—NO. 38

The Birmingham Eccentric

BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1939

PART THREE

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Further Steps for City Recreation Council Deferred 'til 1940

Work Now Not Too Neglected, Is View of Mayor

To the Coordinating Council for community affairs, set up by the recent Community Institute, will go the job of deciding future plans for organized recreation in Birmingham.

That was decided last Thursday night when some 20 community leaders met at the City and County House, in a meeting called by the League of Women Voters and discussed the City's leisure time "problem."

Status Quo Surveyed

An interesting part of the meeting was a report submitted by Robert D. Lynd, YMCA secretary, in which it was shown just what is being done in the City at the present time, with an estimated total of 2,724 participants.

Speaking of the proposed city recreation council, Lynd said: "Some people think we're trying to throw cold water on the idea. That isn't so. We are for it." Later he told an Eccentric reporter: "As long as the YMCA does its work here, we have nothing to worry about."

The meeting was also marked by comment from Mayor John E. Martz, who cautioned the group to keep costs to the taxpayers in mind.

mind, and added, "We are extremely anxious not to raise the tax rate."

The mayor pointed out that recreation is "not too neglected," and said that it was coordination rather than new activities which is important.

"We've got to keep one eye on the check-book," he said, and added that the \$6,000 expenditure which had been sought would mean the equivalent of half a mill per hundred valuation for all the property in Birmingham.

Had Asked \$6,000

Two weeks ago a group of women, representing chiefly the League of Women Voters and the P.T. A.'s, had asked the Commission to appropriate \$6,000 a year for the work.

Lynd's report listed the following activities and attendance: Boy and Girl Scouts, 407; Girl Scouts, 260; Saturday night dance, 160; Saturday Club, 200; tap dancing, 10; ball, 10; ballroom, 120; Aerobatics Club, 15; YMCA, groups, 400; games room, 100; camp, 100; various church young people's groups, 150. TOTAL participating, persons of school age, 1,932.

Young people, 18 to 30 years—DeMolay, 120; Polytechnic Club, 50; Junior Chamber of Commerce, 50; church groups, 50; night school, 54; Triangle Club, 20; YMCA, basketball, 60; Leaders' Club, 10; Pierce School social, 30; five badminton groups, 65.—TOTAL, 504.

Adult Recreation

Adults, 21 years and up—camera class, 11; art class, 7; dramatics, 20; mothers' singing class, 20; Teachers' club, 10; Baptist church, badminton, five groups, 57; Cranbrook School, badminton, three groups, 40; men's volleyball, 20; women's volleyball, 30; YMCA men's volleyball, 30; Quadrille Club, 80; Birmingham Dancing Club, 150; Book Club, 25; Current Events, 25; International Relations, 20; Stamp Club, 30; Birmingham Glee Club, 20; Women's Chorus, 25; Red Cross group, 12.—TOTAL, 792.

Listed as miscellaneous were ice skating, various societies, Springdale Park, women's clubs, P.T. A.'s, lodges, church groups, and service clubs, and various recreational program, and commercial recreation, such as the theatre.

"I think we all ought to know just how much recreation work is now being done in Birmingham," Secretary Lynd told the group.

Mrs. Ormond Presides

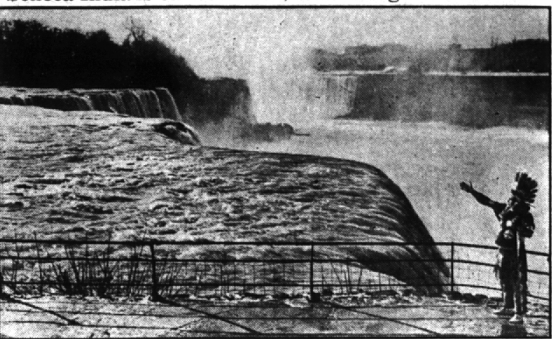
Mrs. John K. Ormond, representing the League of Women Voters, presided, and suggested that the group elect some other person to act as permanent chairman to carry on further. "The League's idea is only to get the project started," she explained.

However, there were no steps taken to form a permanent recreation committee from the group present. Mrs. George T. Hendrie suggested that in order to avoid a multiplicity of committees, the Coordinating Council of the Community Institute be charged with continuing the project. (The council of which she spoke is composed of representatives from some 40 Birmingham organizations. It has never formally organized, never had a meeting.)

It could not be learned this week when the next meeting would be held, but it was believed it would take place some time in January or February.

Another contribution at the meeting was that of Mrs. Blanchette WPA recreation supervisor for the County. She pointed out that WPA workers are being used extensively in supervising recreation. One man is now working in Birmingham and others will be employed when the skating rinks are put in operation.

Seneca Indians on War Path, Want Niagara Falls Back



Invasion by Indians threatens America's honeymoon paradise as the redmen ask that they be given back another chunk of the country. Members of the Seneca tribe have petitioned the government to cancel the Niagara Falls power company's license to build a dam and to protect Indians' claims. Chief Big Kettle of the Seneca, wearing the 700-year-old Six Nations Wampum belt, points out sections of the falls, river and land to which his tribe lays claim.

Christmas Books Are to Be Had at Baldwin Library

BY LINDO MOORE

If you are five years old—or seven or nine and it is Christmas Eve, the time when father reads the Christmas story aloud is one of the newest moments of the long, long day before Christmas.

When Father was the same tender age, perhaps someone read to him "Twas the Night Before Christmas," the classic poem by Clement Moore. As he shimmered with horrified delight over the blasphemies against Christmas enunciated by Old Scrooge in Dickens' *Christmas Carol*, Mother remembers these, too, but more particularly the difficulties of the irrepressible Bagger family of Kate Douglas Wiggin's *The Bird's Christmas Carol*. Sometimes she may even be pensive about the line about the hats: "It was such a pleasant evening in such a short time, that the thoughtless twain forgot their hats."

More recent Christmas books are quite as deserving of the honor of being read aloud as the older ones. There is *The Christ Child*, with unusually beautiful illustrations by Maud and Mike Petersham. The story is told in the words of the Bible.

How other children spend the great day of the year, proves in interesting reading and the library shelves are crowded with Christmas tales from many lands. One of these is *The Christmas Nightingale*, a collection of Polish stories of the Christmas Eve. A *Star for Hansi* is the tale of a little German boy's Christmas.

The Christmas festival has a long and honorable history. The greens with which the house is decked, the holly and mistletoe, the Christmas tree—all the things that are part of the holiday season are customs hoary with age. 1001 *Christmas Facts and Fancies*, is a collection by A. C. Hotter of these customs and beliefs. He describes each and gives an explanation of its origin and significance among others. He discusses the customs of giving gifts, of the lighted Yule candle, of the Christmas tree and the origin of the Christmas card.

Yule-tide in Many Lands, edited by Pringle and Urann, presents a composite picture of Christmas in other times and places. Here is the lusty English Christmas of the Middle Ages, with its carols and banquets, complete with boar's head and wassail bowl. There is a great Christmas bonfire in pre-revolutionary Russia. The German Christmas tree on Christmas eve is a scene of fun and excitement, while in Italy the children draw their gifts from the "urn of fate" in great suspense.

Other books for children in clude:

A Christmas Story, by Virginia Pritchard. Based on the ancient legend that dumb animals are given the privilege of speech on one night of the year—Christmas Eve, this little story is charmingly told and illustrated.

Shadow and the Stocking, by James Tippet. The hilarious tale of a puppy's Christmas. For very little people.

A Pint of Judgement, by Elizabeth Morrow. An appealing little story of a little girl's valiant efforts to give her Mother just exactly what she wanted for Christmas.

Another Auto Mishap At Blvd. Intersection

Another crash occurred Sunday evening at the North Woodward and Hunter boulevard intersection. Joseph Robbins of 2320 West Grand boulevard, Detroit, driving south on Hunter, collided with a car driven by Charles Jackson, 212 Branch, Pontiac, who was going northeast, off Woodward. No one was hurt.

Telephone Almanac For 1940 Is Ready For Distribution

A sure sign of the New Year's approach came today with announcement by W. B. Fauser, manager in this area for the Michigan Bell Telephone Company, that the 1940 Telephone Almanac is ready for distribution.

The new almanac, one of the first for 1940 to make its appearance, is the 13th issued by the company. It covers a period marking the 64th year of the telephone in the world and the 62nd year of the telephone in Michigan.

As a reminder of the past, the almanac is printed, illustrated, and phrased in much the same style and language as the real old-time almanacs. It contains the usual monthly calendars with historical references for each day of the year. There also are the 12 astronomical monthly calendars for 1940, together with sun and moon calculations.

"Yes, I have rescued myself and now I am going to rescue my wife."

Annual Christmas Concert of Choir Draws Applause

By FENTON R. MATHEWS

Monday evening at Baldwin High School the A Cappella choir at the direction of capable Victor Ulrich gave its annual Christmas concert before a typical Birmingham audience, large and enthusiastic.

This annual affair gives much enjoyment to the audience as well as the singers who deserve unlimited praise for the time that is well spent in producing such a performance.

Impressive was the well known Negro spiritual, *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot*, with arrangement of Noble Cain. The different voice sections were depicted advantageously by this number and when blended together did great credit to these youthful singers.

The antiphonal singing of *Silent Night*, *Holy Night* was especially pleasing to the audience and brought forth that which is always desired, a thrill.

Carol of the Russian Children was a delectable bit of music of the people who appear to understand choral singing better than any other nationality.

The Joyous Christmas Song, an adaptation from the old French ballad, *Chanson Jovieuse de Noel* was given in a charming manner and lustrous applause from the audience greeted this familiar chorus. Today there is ringing by P. F. Maull, Christian and, I. O. What a Branch of Beauty, by Michael Praetorius concluded the program and showed, perhaps, as much finish as any of the other numbers.

The soloists, Gloria Gruber, Herbert Flemington, Betty Jensen, and Jeanne Atkinson did their parts in a creditable manner and the accompaniment, Leah Davidson, left nothing to be desired in her assistance.

As one of the god-fathers of more and better music for Birmingham, this writer would like to see the entire school and the band turn out to advertise these affairs as is done for athletic contests.

"Jumping in again"

"Yes, I have rescued myself and now I am going to rescue my wife."

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CHRISTMAS

Redeemer Ev. Lutheran Church

CHRISTMAS EVE 7:30

Children's Service

CHRISTMAS DAY 7 A. M.

Candlelight-Carol Service

Come and Adore Him

Christmas Trees
Drive in and make your selection
Rear of Masonic Temple
Woodward at Forest



We wish you a Merry Christmas and extend to you our best wishes for a Happy and Prosperous new year.

Young's Shoe Store
167 NORTH WOODWARD

Here's Wishing You a Happy Holiday

To each of you who have contributed to our success and to those of you who have given us your fine friendship we extend a hearty and genuine Merry Christmas

May Peace, Happiness and Prosperity be yours for many, many years.

STROUP'S MARKET
J. E. Stroup and Employees

NOTICE!

ALL GOOD WILL COUPONS

MUST BE DEPOSITED

Before 12 P. M. Tonight--Thursday

\$500 GRAND PRIZE AWARDS

IN TRADE CERTIFICATES
WILL BE MADE

Tomorrow--Friday December 22nd

AT 2 P. M.

HAMILTON AVE. CORNER OF WOODWARD

Next to Birmingham Bank

DEPOSIT YOUR COUPONS NOW!

In the event that unfavorable weather will not permit us to hold this out of doors--awards will be made at the former Cadillac-Pontiac Sales-rooms--next door to The Eccentric.