

Speaking of salutations, one thing I have impressed upon my mind offering is this: when shaking hands, grasp and squeeze another's hand as though you mean it.

Birmingham Eccentric

PART THREE

SIXTY-THIRD YEAR—NO. 36

BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1940

\$1.50 PER YEAR (In Oakland County)—SINGLE COPIES, 5c

Eccentric Readers Pen Letters About Icy Roads, Gm Fees

Protests Methods Of Snow Removal

Editor, The Eccentric:
I have sent the following letter to the State Highway Department protesting snow removal methods on Woodward Avenue:

Murray D. VanWagoner
Highway Commissioner
Lansing, Michigan
Sir:

We do not know whether you allow funds for the maintenance of Woodward Avenue, between Six Mile and Pontiac, to the various communities involved, or not, but if you do, the money is not being properly used for the relief of the motor traffic, and it would appear that the only solution for the State to take over the maintenance of this section of the road, withholding the money that goes to the community for the purpose of maintenance. In this way the motorists could be assured that the snow would be cleared off from the streets before 9:00 o'clock the following morning, after a snow-fall and also the intersections would be properly sanded.

Last night (Nov. 29) we had our first snow fall and quite a major sized one, starting early in the morning and lasting until about 9:00 o'clock at night. We drove out Woodward Avenue about 9:15 from the six mile and there were no snow plows out between Detroit and Birmingham.

Only in Birmingham
At 9:15 this morning, the only stretch that had a snow-plow used at all, and they were just getting started, was in Birmingham, up to the Birmingham City limits. No other snow had been removed from the streets down to the Boulevard and Woodward in Detroit, with a plow. There were a few voters shoveling snow from the safety zones in Detroit.

We stopped in the City Engineer's office and was referred to the City Manager, whom we talked to, in Ferndale, and he said that the snow could not be removed with a plow. Whether it is a special kind of snow, or not, we do not know, but we shovelled quite a section of it and found it just about like the snow last winter.

We asked him why the intersections were not properly sanded and he said that it would take 30 trucks, and he did not intend to put that many on. As a matter of fact Eight Mile and Woodward was sanded in Ferndale for a distance of about 100 ft. back from the intersection. From that point on, clear up front the City Manager's office, and he has an office right in front with a commanding view of the situation.

cars were piled up. One lady in a new Buick was on top of one of the VanWagoner painted posts, which are placed in the street to make certain that real damage would be done to a car in case it did slide over the curb. Woodward Avenue was a solid glare of ice all the way in, because no effort was made to clean off the snow.

The City Manager in Ferndale tried to defend his position very strongly, stating that the snow couldn't be removed with plows and that they couldn't get out on Woodward Avenue at 9 o'clock in the morning with plows, because of the traffic, and they couldn't even put sand on because of the traffic. We asked him what time the men went to work to put sand on this morning, and he did not know, but all of the other mornings that we have discovered sand throwers, we find they go to work somewhere around 8:30 to 9:00 o'clock in the morning. They apparently do not have orders to put sand at intersections or start removing the snow when the danger arises, even though it be 11:00 or 12:00 o'clock at night. They just wait until the next morning and go to work as usual.

No Authority to Act
In Birmingham last year, we found the bees who put the trucks on had to get their orders from the City Manager, who kept the usual office hours, with the exception of 8:30 in the morning when people were trying to get their children to school, cars were piled up in the valley, on Woodward Avenue and McAdams. The Police Department had knowledge that the ice started to form at midnight, but had no authority to order out the trucks distributing sand.

It looks to us like the solution is not to permit a lot of City Managers and maintenance crews to look after Woodward Avenue, because in the first place they are not very much interested in doing a job at any time except working hours, and then they will spend all their time defending their position, regardless of how lousy it might be, as was the case in Ferndale this morning—the City Manager defending his position—the street a glare of ice—insufficient sand distributed—snow-plows out to remove this ice, with the front of ice right on Woodward Avenue, where the cars were piled up crosswise in the street, and headed in both directions.

Under these conditions you will understand why we advocate that the Highway Department look after the maintenance of Woodward Avenue and that your State Police who patrol this section, have authority to order out the snow-plows and the trucks distributing sand, at any time, day or night.

DALE O. MILLER
Waddington Road

Says School Board On Wrong Track

Editor, The Eccentric:
I have noticed in your columns information to the effect that Birmingham's young men's basketball league is going to try to operate this year even if they do have to pay \$10 a night for gym rental. I also noticed a report that charges made here are twice as high when compared to an average of 10 other schools in this section, some of which are no harder up than our own district.

It seems to me that the School Board, being composed mostly of business men, has been carried away by the notion that there must be a profit—or at least, that there should be—be it displayed loss. The schools are not comparable to private business because they are not run to make a profit.

Community Good
While it is true that the children are the first consideration, it does not follow that it is good for the community for the schools to be locked up at 5 o'clock and the adults left out.

Because the district is short of money, the adults should pay for what they get, but they should pay ONLY THE DIRECT COST OF POCKET expense incurred, not some intangible surcharge for expenses of a very indefinite nature. The School Board really doesn't know how much the depreciation, or if it can only guess, in private business, they cover such things by adding 10 per cent for profit, or some other figure, but again, the schools are not run for profit.

Consider wear-and-tear on a gymnasium. The basketball league, if my memory is right, has about 50 players using the gym three hours weekly for 10 weeks. That adds up to 1,500 man-hours of use for the whole season. On the other hand, 900 students at Baldwin High are probably in the gymnasium, each pupil, at least two hours a week, for a total of 1,800 man-hours in a single WEEK. Thus, the wear-and-tear caused by adult basketball players is so small in a season as compared to that from normal use of the building as to be ridiculous. And the school board looks a little ridiculous for charging \$2.50 a night extra for it, or whatever the figure is.

Hits "Cost Accounting"
I have learned that the Business Manager has figured the average cost of running a gym for an evening at \$7.11 and I think even that is high, for it is apparent to me that the Business Manager is not very careful about his cost accounting. For example, he says it costs \$2.31 for janitor service—as if the janitor sat himself in a chair and dawdled the whole evening away in the gymnasium. As a matter of fact, the janitors keep fairly busy at other work, so that \$2.31 figure is obviously incorrect.

Coal costs are said to be about \$2.25 each, when as a matter of fact, little or no heat beyond that which comes from the usual banked fires is needed. Basketball players like it on the cool side. Lights are said to cost about \$3.50. Maybe the School Board pays a higher rate, but I can buy a lot of electricity for that money.

But, assuming that those figures were honest, it still doesn't add up to \$10. If some one connected with the schools can show how one pupil can receive a better education by the School Board's desire to discourage adult use of the buildings by overcharging them, I'd like to see it.

Other Schools' Policy
Out-of-pocket, tangible expenses—yes; but a guesswork estimate for depreciation and wear—not so much. As long as the schools are run for the benefit of the public, the policy of other school boards proves that the local board is wrong. Birmingham is not the only hard-pressed district. I am hoping not, but I fear the Board is doing to be wrong in answer to PEOPLES COLUMN, Page 3, Part 3.



BIRMINGHAM MERCHANTS

Christmas

GOOD WILL PROGRAM

2nd Big Week

Giant Children's Christmas Party

Saturday, December 14th

10 Prizes Totalling \$100 for Best Decorated Homes

Mis-Placed Article Contest Entry Blank

MERCHANTS COOPERATING

JOHN BALDWIN, INC., 190 W. Maple
BANY FLOWERS, 307 No. Woodward
BECK CLEANERS, 332 N. Woodward
BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC, 220 N. Woodward
BIRMINGHAM FRUIT CO., 124 N. Woodward
BODINE NEWS, 172 N. Woodward
CHEER SHOP, 191 So. Woodward
CUNNINGHAM DRUG CO., Woodward at Maple
DICKINSON'S, 272 W. Maple
HAWTHORNE ELECTRIC, 142 W. Maple
HAYMAN'S MARKET, 121 So. Woodward
D. J. HEALY SHOES, 256 W. Maple
HI-WAY FURNITURE MART, 1532 S. Woodward
HUSTON HARDWARE, N. Woodward
INDIAN CRAFT SHOP, 116 S. Woodward
KAY BAUM SHOP, Hanna Bldg.
KRESGE'S, No. Woodward
KROGER'S, North Woodward Store
KROGER'S, South Woodward Store
KROGER'S, West Maple Store
LA BELLE'S, West Maple
LEONARD ELECTRICAL CO., W. Maple
McBRIDE TEA ROOM, 124 W. Maple
McBRIDE HARDWARE, 128 S. Woodward
McKEE'S SERVICE, 264 N. Woodward
MATTHEWS CLEANERS & DYERS, 244 E. Maple
MILKS' AUTO SUPPLY, Woodward at Merrill
MILLER'S SHOES, Woodward at Maple
MORTIMER'S, 136 N. Woodward
MULHOLLAND'S, 233 N. Woodward
OLSEN'S MARKET, 120 S. Woodward
PARMENTER, FLORIST, 159 W. Maple
PECK'S, 108 S. Woodward
R. B. HOSE SHOP, 133 N. Woodward
SELLS ELECTRIC, 288 W. Maple
SFIRE BROS. MARKET, 180 W. Maple
SHAIN'S DRUG STORE, 105 W. Maple
STERNAL'S AUTO SUPPLY, 408 S. Woodward
STROUP'S MARKET, Wabek Bldg., W. Maple
TWIN SHOP, West Maple Ave.
VAUGHAN HATS, 153 W. Maple
WABEEK PHARMACY, 296 W. Maple
WALTON JEWELRY, West Maple Ave.
WILLIAM'S BOOT SHOP, W. Maple Ave.
WILSON DRUG CO., 101 N. Woodward
WOOLWORTH, 5 and 10, S. Woodward Near Maple

Mis-Placed Article

"BIGGER PRIZES" In This Week's

"Mis-Placed Article"

CONTEST

\$4.50 IN TRADE
THIS WEEK!

For Finding the most "Mis-Placed Articles" in
BIRMINGHAM STORE WINDOWS

SECOND WEEK	\$20.00—First Prize
	\$10.00—Second Prize
	\$ 8.00—Third Prize
CONTEST ENDS	\$ 4.00—Fourth Prize
SATURDAY NIGHT	
DECEMBER 21st	\$ 3.00—Fifth Prize

Birmingham Merchants Will Give Prizes to Have
You Inspect Their Windows During the Holiday
Season!

HERE ARE THE CONTEST RULES:

1. Any person other than cooperating merchants and their employees may enter contest—no age limit.
2. Contestants must "see" all windows of stores cooperating in the contest. List not more than one "mis-placed article" in the space opposite the name of each store printed in the contest entry blank. (There will be just ONE "mis-placed article" in each store window.)
3. A "mis-placed article" is any article of merchandise in the window which is obviously not sold by a store displaying it. For instance, a shoe in a Jeweler's window, a man's tie in a Ladies' Ready to Wear store, a bottle of ketchup in a 5 and 10c store. If you find no such article, mark in the space "none." Merchants have the right to simulate the sale of the article to further mislead contestants. State "exact names" of articles.
4. "Mis-Placed Articles" will be displayed in these store windows each week from Thursday morning, November 28th, to Saturday night, December 21st, and will be changed every Wednesday.
5. All answers must be PRINTED in the space in the entry blank.
6. All contest entry blanks must be brought or mailed to the Birmingham Eccentric office not later than Tuesday, 5 P. M. Entry blanks post marked after that time of each week, or brought in, will not be considered. However, get your entry blank in as early as possible for, in case of ties, the First entry blank with the least number of errors submitted to the Eccentric wins First prize.
7. The name and address of each contestant must be PRINTED on each entry blank in the space provided at the bottom.
8. The decision of the judges will be final. Winners will be announced in The Eccentric each week. Winners must call for prizes within two weeks after being notified or prizes are void.
9. There are 5 prizes; they will be awarded to those contestants whose entry blanks record the most "mis-placed articles" of merchandise correctly. There are no duplicate prizes—in case of ties the first entry blank submitted with the error wins First Prize. The entry blank with the next least number of errors wins Second Prize, etc. LET'S GO!

PRINT NAME AND ADDRESS HERE

NAME _____ AGE _____
ADDRESS _____

Bring or Mail to Eccentric Office Before 5 P. M. Tuesday

Holiday Homecoming

for Gift Shoppers

NORTHLAND & LUND

Skis

\$1.35 and up

We carry all types of Ski Binding & Wax. Lacquer and Skis.

Hockey and Figure Skates

For Men, Women and Children

Complete Skate and Shoe Outfits

\$3.35 up

Northland

ICE HOCKEY STICKS

Hockey Sticks

Priced from **39c** up

Sunbeam

MIXMASTER

"America's Favorite Food Mixer"

COMPLETE WITH JUICER **\$23.75**

HARDWARE GIFT CENTER

Headquarters for **LIONEL TRAINS AND ACCESSORIES**

HUSTON HARDWARE CO.

"Over 30 Years of Service"

205 NO. WOODWARD

PHONE 110