Almost on the eve of the annual commemoration of "The Prince of Peace's" natal day, our own nation is plunged into this second World War—but that should not prevent each one of us from attending to the usual circumstances surrounding Christmas; the essential spirit of Christmas can help us strengthen our moral fiber. Plain.

The Birmingham Eccentric

PART THREE

SIXTY-FOURTH YEAR—NO. 38 BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1941 $1.50 PER YEAR (In Oakland County)—SINGLE COPIES, 5c

Henry Booth Head Of Camp Service Of Red Cross

Henry S. Booth, of Bloomfield Hills, has been selected chairman of the Camp and Hospital Council of Michigan, a new service organized by the American Red Cross. This service is designed to furnish special articles for men confined to hospitals at U. S. army camps.

Oakland County Chapter of the Red Cross will work with Fort Custer in this new project, it was revealed today. Already the local chapter office has secured donations of leather and tools to be sent to the camp for use in recreational therapy. Other articles also will be sent soon.

The local chapter is contributing funds for a Christmas party which is planned for the soldiers who must remain at the camp hospitals during the holidays.

Serving of the Oakland County camp and hospital committee with Mr. Booth is Mrs. Harold A. Fitzgerald of Pontiac and Dr. Delbert Hasner of Royal Oak.

A meeting of Army officials and various Red Cross chapters to coordinate work in this new service was held at Camp Custer Friday, Dec. 12. Attending from Oakland county were Mr. Booth, Mrs. Fred Hoeck and Mrs. John Gillette, of Bloomfield Hills, Mrs. Alice C. Sproul, of Birmingham, and Mrs. Fitzgerald, Byron Webb and Miss Ruth Kimball of Pontiac.

Increase First Aid Work

In response to increasing demand for civilian classes in first aid instruction, the Oakland County chapter of the American Red Cross is speeding the organization of such classes throughout the county.

A new group of lay instructors recently completed a training course. These qualified lay instructors will begin teaching civilian first aid classes shortly after Jan. 1, it was announced today.

Preparations are being made for these classes and the time and place of each will be announced as soon as facilities permit. The first aid course is free to the public and covers ten week period.

Civic Classes to Run City Government

Civic classes at Baldwin High will combine Jan. 12 to "take over" City government for a day. The students will elect a group of officers paralleling those of the City administration.

YEHUDI TO PLAY

Yehudi Menuhin, world famous violinist, will be presented as soloist with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra at the concert of Thursday night, Jan. 8, in Masonic Auditorium, it has been announced by Symphony Manager Murray G. Paterson.

To have what we want is riches, but to be able to do without is powrr.—George MacDonald.

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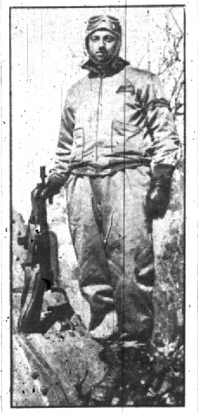

Latest type of winter combat uniform, which will soon be issued to Uncle Sam's panzermen, is worn by Lt. James W. Snee, of the 67th armored regiment, attached to the Second Armored Division, at Blythewood, S. C.

New Bomb Shelter Built by Police

Something different in bomb shelters is being planned by the Michigan State Police and the Michigan Department of Health for their crime detection laboratory at Lansing. Instead of being inside the shelters the people it is intended to protect will be outside. The bombs will be inside.

"Suspicious packages believed to be time bombs of saboteurs and other criminals can be put in the bomb shelter under a sort of quarantine," says Dr. H. Allen Moyer, State Health Commissioner. "And for examining packages before opening them, the shelter will be wired for x-ray equipment."

The bomb shelter will be half buried in the ground, and will have thick walls and a light roof, to give a quick release upward in case of an explosion.

Send U. S. Skis To Russian Army

MONTREAL—Almost on a par with the old saw about sending coals to Newcastle is the fact that American skis are now being shipped to Russia. When a Canadian National train arrived in Montreal from Chicago recently, an extra express car was attached carrying 4,000 pairs of Minnesota skis for transfer to an eastern Canadian port for transshipment to the Soviet.

The Trouble

Nothing ever works out just right. Probably by the time the laws to which you object are repealed you won't care anything about doing the things they prohibit.—Philadelphia Public Ledger.

Bits of Birmingham

We hope contributors will bear with us during this busy season when we are not always able to find room for everything. You see, The Eccentric is printed in three sections at three different times, and Part III goes to press on Tuesday. Thus, at the last minute, it is not possible to shift things around to eliminate less important material.

—o—

That tall steel derrick they've erected back of Moulthrup's looks like a radio tower. It will be used in the building of the City's new water tank.

—o—

Whatever That Is Department: The Patent Office has issued letters to James W. Wright, listed as a Birmingham man, for a "dead end connector."

—o—

Fred Mallender, 1444 Chesterfield, is one of our most loyal subscribers. Ever since the day almost 50 years ago when he and Mrs. Mallender moved to their farm (part of which is now embraced in Springdale Park) they have been readers of the paper. They are celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary and there's an article about it on another page.

—o—

A visitor this week was Guy G. Lyman, of Dearborn, a resident of Birmingham from 1910 to 1920. Old timers will remember him as an ice skater; in fact, he once was a challenger for the national title. While resident here, he staged six ice carnivals on Quarton and Wing lakes. His two sons are in the armed forces; Charles W. Lyman, 25 years old, is with the Army in Texas, while Horace C. Lyman, 21, is in the Marines, and is a bugler aboard the cruiser Indianapolis, last heard of at Pearl Harbor. Both boys were born here.

—o—

The truth comes out. That malus floribunda tree planted last spring at the southern intersection of Hunter boulevard and Woodward was not a floribunda at all, but a cousin; it was procured, you remember, as a gift from a nearby estate. This Wanderer understands that the ladies were a little embarrassed about it, but why so? Such things make life interesting.

—o—

A reader from Bloomfield Hills calls to suggest that we start a crusade for Americanization of military terms. "Why should our Army issue a 'communique'?" she asked. "Why should we use the word 'commandant'?" There are perfectly good English words which we ought to use, she opined.

—o—

H. C. L. Jackson's new book, "The Paper Bag," includes a story "In Union" contributed by Lillian Diederich.

—o—

Mrs. Matthew Cammareri has received word that her brother, Arthur Conaway Harruf, formerly of Birmingham, an officer aboard the U.S.S. Helena, is in Honolulu.

—o—

One of the letters to Santa Claus in this issue is from a little girl who asked Santa to ask her teacher to change "Sylvia's seat with Phillip's". Whether Phillip is popular or unpopular with the tiny lass is not revealed.

—o—

War makes a deeper impression on some of the children than one would believe. One lad of eight who is masterful at assembling model airplanes from kits, wrote on the plane: "This is a P-40. It goes 400 miles an hour. It shoot have been at Pearl Harbor."

This Wanderer has heard children who have become so hysterical about air raids and the war that their mothers have kept the radios turned off.

—o—

Some people are stocking up on sugar, flour, tea, etc., but what's the use? People rushed to buy silk stockings, too, but no one paid much attention to that any more. Besides, is it patriotic to hoard?

—o—

Mayor John E. Martz was recently honored by the local chapter of the DeMolay when he was awarded a Medal of Appreciation. Only 94 such medals have been given in the whole country; Mayor Matthew Camntareri is Birmingham's other recipient.

—o—

An Oakland avenue man heard gunshots at 4:45 a.m. Sunday and he called police. Officers could find no trace of the firearms.

—o—

Children started cheating on Quarton Lake last week. While Police Lieut. DeIylo Service went to chase them off, he found the ice weak and springy underfoot.

—o—

Edward W. Brehm, 320 Hathorne, has developed a new dowel cut milling machine (whatever that is) according to a picture and article in the Free Press, Monday.

—o—

Another of our industrialists George N. Sieger, of Bloomfield Hills, talked last week at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on the subject "Resistance Welding." He addressed the Boston section of the American Welding Society.

—o—

A. W. Gillespie, 1084 Pierce, wonders who the heck got into the building next to the Buick garage where the Boy Scouts are keeping their collection of waste paper. The vandal proceeded to toss everything all over the place.

—o—

Pvt. First Class Robert Fredman, U. S. Marine Corps, sends us a Christmas card. Thanks! He's leaving next week for active duty and from the looks of things, will really be active. The Marines have a great tradition.

—o—

A. C. Utter, 872 Southfield, has been with the New England Mutual Life Insurance Company 51 years, continuously, and his office ranks fourth in size among the company's 75 general agencies. Since 1904 he has sold policies totalling more than $100,000,000 and that ain't hay! The fiftieth anniversary was celebrated with the opening of new and larger quarters in the Penobscot Building, Detroit.

—o—

An unusual contribution written in memory of Homer Leonard, merchant who died suddenly last week, arrived at our office last week, its writer is unknown:

"Dear Homer:

"We will all think of many things that could have been said and done while you were here with us.

"In your shop and on the street we talked of many things worldly but not of the good you did, of the folks you helped nor of what makes a man's soul.

"I could have spoken of your help in the village and of the happiness in your home. But I waited.

"Am sorry, Homer, I didn't send the flowers when you could see them, but we mortals are like that.

"Now if you will stay close to the gate you can will be helping some of us who will be a little strange up there.

"I'll be seeing you."

—o—

Cadets at Culver Military Academy, Culver, Ind., on Friday began a 25-day Christmas furlough from their academic and R.O.T.C. duties. Birmingham boys who are spending the vacation with their parents are:

Kingsley M. Brown, Jr., 1015 Waddington road; Philip F. Carlson, 780 Westwood drive; Jack E. Jeffries, 3184 Morning View terrace; William W. Manning, 8 Puritan road; Robert J. Preed, 640 Henley drive; Hubert L. Quinn, Jr., 32075 Bingham road; and Richard L. Wibel, 38 Oakland.

—o—

Donald L. Smith, of 3039 Crastreet, Detroit, has enlisted at Fort Custer for the Air Corps. Smith's father, Eldred Smith, resides at 1028 Chapin, Birmingham. Smith has been assigned to Jefferson Barracks, Missouri.

World Adventure Series

"Here Is Ireland," the completest natural color film ever to come out of Ireland, with sound narration and a musical score of lilting Irish tunes, will be presented by the World Adventure Series at 3:30 and again at 8:30 next Sunday afternoon and evening, Dec. 21, at the Detroit Institute of Arts.

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