

The Birmingham Eccentric

PART TWO

At our house we have several bird feeding stations in the backyard; the other day, after filling each generously, this thought came to me: "The seeds that I have just given the birds probably could be used into food that would be welcomed joyously by some starving conquered European." America has much to be grateful for.

SIXTY-FIFTH YEAR—NO. 39

BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1942

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



... "In the hope that St. Nicholas soon would be there," ...

In that hope lies the principal difference in our philosophy and that of those who would destroy us. We must keep that hope alive—forever—so that there will always be ...

"A MERRY CHRISTMAS"

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AND
SINCERE GOOD WISHES
FOR CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR

We issue War Bonds immediately upon application (no waiting).

BIRMINGHAM FEDERAL SAVINGS & LOAN ASS'N



Bits of Birmingham

TIN CAN PICK UP
The last collection day of every month is the time to put cans for City collection. Trucks will start their can collection Saturday, and will continue all next week. Uncle Sam wants those cans!

The various and assorted Wanderers who pen the valued information all of you have been getting in this column wish you all a very merry Christmas! May your ice box bulge with thick steaks and lots of butter, and may your tanks grow with fuel all during the coming year! In other words, let us give thanks for fall tanks!

On second thought, however, we doubt whether many Birmingham folks would want that extra fuel, fuel and transportation if it means deprivation for the armed forces. All most people want is efficient administration of reasonable regulations.

The reason for the butter shortage is the fact that OPA reports from almost all the war-time house stocks, which probably will be reserved for military and lend-lease use. Then, too, many people who never before used much are now financially able to buy it. You probably noticed that Canada, without waiting around, ordered it rationed one-half pound to the customer, per week, which sounds like a party.

Hotels say be hard put, for they are prohibited by law from using margarine. Some householders have been reported mixing butter and oleo, half-and-half.

Birmingham had only three Christmas tree vendors this year, quite a drop from last year! We noticed many householders coming in from Detroit with the end of their tree protruding from the trunk.

Mrs. George E. Carter, 711 Smith street, reported to police last week the loss of her Samoyed dog. Never having owned a dog of this sort, this Wanderer assumed and found a Samoyed to be a white bushy-haired dog developed by a Siberian tribe of the same name.

Police Sgt. Grant Springstead says: "I hope all parents will caution their children about using their hands in the streets. We had no traffic fatality so far this year, and we hope we can end the year with a perfect record."

D. U. Bathrick, who lived in Birmingham until GM sent him to Washington, is now in complete charge of the corporation's Washington office, succeeding R. H. Grant, a GM vice-president, who is returning to Detroit. Bathrick formerly was sales manager for Pontiac, as most of you know.

The temperature in Detroit has averaged 23 degrees far this month, or about 7 degrees below normal.

A woman living on Ann street who is in the process of divorcing her husband called police Friday night and asked them to escort her husband out of the house. She has a Court injunction, she said, which restrains her husband from molesting her.

Gerald Uptegraff, of 1275 Bird street, reported to officers last Thursday that his car was stolen from in front of the Jockey Club on Southfield road. Later, Constable Vern Enell said he'd heard the machine was found in a 12-Mile road ditch.

Delayed ignition apparently was to blame for a furnace blast last week at the home of Eli Alexander, Barton road, Bloomfield Hills.

Constable Vera Snell last Thursday found \$80 in the snow belonging to Vern Colburn, taxi operator. He got \$10 reward, which, says our constable, will come in handy at this time.

In many households are sweaters which, with a little fixing, can be made to serve again. So, Mrs. Hal G. Trump, of East Avon, is issuing a call for these sweaters. They may be left at the Community House, she and a group already have been working on the project for several weeks, and are so enthusiastic that they want to expand.

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The taxicab business has increased greatly.

One City Commissioner believes future city budgets should contain money for plowing City sidewalks; an increase for recreation has also been suggested. In making additions of this sort, the natural comment is: "What can we eliminate from the budget to make room for these things?" This Wanderer suggests that some thought be given to the problem of rubbish removal. At the present time, trucks cover the whole City to once a week to pick up ashes and miscellaneous junk, plus salvage material. Would it not be feasible to pick up rubbish once a month, instead of once a week? That might eliminate some of the mileage that the ODT has ordered, and at the same time, save some cash.

The Community Church using the former United Presbyterian building at Woodward and Forest, will play recorded Christmas carols with handwaxers, City Manager Egbert said Monday night.

We miss the big display of colored lights on the City Center tree. Its absence is a disappointment to the war.

Well drillers are now prospecting on the 66-acre parcel near the sewage treatment plant. The man in charge thinks there's water over there; you might call it a hunch. If this test fails, the City will drill no more until next spring.

Don't forget, folks, that the Bloomfield Theatre has issued an invitation to all service men home on leave to be guests at the house from Dec. 26 to Dec. 31 inclusive! Two tickets will be given to each man. Address requests to The Eccentric or to the theatre.

Dear Old Santa Claus has been noted on our streets once more. According to Walter E. Raychel, who has been keeping in touch with the old gentleman, illness prevented him from paying his visit as early as usual.

Coffer is now seven cents a cup in several establishments.

An Army officer at a nearby base has contacted St. Eusebius, who is secretary of the Retail Merchants' Association, asking him to invite local merchants to submit bids for providing service along certain lines such as shoe repair, hardware, dry cleaning, dairy products, baked goods, and even funeral service. Several of the merchants are doing so.

This Wanderer has heard reports of several husbands who used relatine and cream to double a pound of butter. Doesn't taste bad, they say.

Better get those tires inspected now. Avoid the last minute rush!

The Fire Department had a few minor calls during the past week. At 4:18 Sunday morning, Mrs. Elizabeth Hassberger and her housekeeper were awakened by

smoke. It was nothing more serious than a burned out motor. Dr. Jack, as you know, will serve aboard a brand-new battleship.

Another call of the same sort came from E. E. Morgan, 536 Vinewood, where an automatic garage, out of control, resulted in a checkup by firemen. There was no damage. Sunday evening, the department went to the home of Mrs. Katherine Mudge, 2211 Daines, where some rags in the vent of a gas stove had caught fire. Last Friday, a chimney soot burned out at the F. W. Du Bois home, 303 Baldwin, and the heat ignited a small exterior cup board. Damage was slight.

Victor Ulrich's high school singers performed for the Rotary Club Monday.

This group, and the band directed by Arnold W. Berndt, gave a splendid concert at the high school auditorium last Friday night.

Baldwin Library frequenters are complimenting Miss Ruth Poucher, children's librarian, on the Christmas decorations in the juvenile section. After one Saturday morning story hour, the young listeners were invited to help cut out paper snowmen, pine trees, angels. (One had to be good, we understand, to be promoted to the angel-cutting squad.) Smallest hands clipped stars enthusiastically. If 44 cuts were pasted on dark blue paper and put up on the walls to make a gala holiday showing.

"Don't forget the pheasants," admonished Ted Sheridan in a phone call yesterday. "All this snow and sleet makes it just about impossible for them to get food, so scatter some grain here and there in the country areas," he concluded.

Mrs. A. K. Toppfer, 839 Knox, would have a change her dog's dog found the other day. "It's a perfectly good boat, size 6, and the shortage of everything, I thought I would ask your aid in seeking the owner. I called all around but no one in this neighborhood seems to own it."

In our Goodfellows Edition we had a special page of pictures for readers to identify. James Martin, 155 South Woodward, was the winner, and he gets four tickets to either of the two theatres. George Kunch, 716 Forest, was the runner-up.

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to cooperate with Uncle Sam and still give YOU service!

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484 Forest Phone 111
FUEL and BUILDERS' SUPPLIES

Book Richard Crooks For Detroit Concert On Friday, Jan. 8

Comparatively few of the great names on the contemporary concert stage belong to native Americans. However, there is an exception in the person of Richard Crooks, tenor of the Metropolitan Opera Company, radio, and the concert stage. Mr. Crooks comes to Detroit in concert with William Primrose, violinist, for an appearance at Masonic Auditorium on Friday evening, Jan. 8.

Typically American is Mr. Crooks. Born of hard working parents in Trenton, N. J., he made a characteristically American struggle to achieve success in his chosen goal—opera. At an early age he was singing professionally in churches as a boy soprano soloist. In his teens he did odd jobs, loaded ice for 20 cents an hour, and painted reservoirs for the gas company for 50 cents an hour. At 17 he went to New York where he shared a room with four other boys, sleeping in relays and often going without a meal to pay admission to hear his idol, Caruso, sing.

In typically American fashion, he took time out to enlist, at 17, in the 62nd Aero Squadron during World War I. Hard work brought first success and he made his opera debut in 1933.

No Gain, No Loss
Motorist—Hey, it's pretty fortunate if you this happened in front of a doctor's house.
Victim—Yeah—but I'm the doctor!

FOR WORKING FOLKS
Bite-o-B
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Bell Discourages Christmas Calls

If you're the type who always long distances "Aunt Nellie" on Christmas, take it from the Telephone Company... don't do it this year. She might think it's un-patriotic.

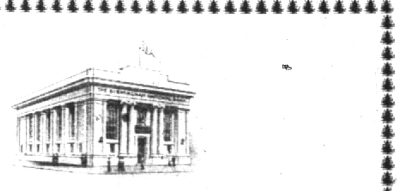
The Michigan Bell Telephone Company, in urging the public to restrain its long distance greeting impulses this Christmas, pointed that a similar plea is being made throughout the nation-wide Bell System. It's all because war calls must go through promptly on Christmas, just as on any other day.

"By now," said Walter R. Fauser, manager for the company, "the necessity for keeping telephone lines adequately clear for war calls is pretty well known all over the country. For that reason, the long distance Christmas greeting may not meet with the appreciative response in these war times that always greets the ringing of the telephone bell during peacetime."



A Joyous CHRISTMAS A Prosperous NEW YEAR

SNYDER BUCK & BENNETT INC.
Theatre Building Birmingham 1400



To all of our friends both far and near, A Merry Christmas and a Bright New Year

Whether you are sending this Christmas here at home, in Iceland, Africa or perhaps Guadalcanal, we send you our sincerest Season's greetings.

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