Perhaps you find, these days, that something occurs to upset you, whether in business affairs or in other relationships; for the moment, it may seem an overwhelming kind of upset—but, when calmly viewed, the situation is but a fragmentary portion of your whole day. Life is still good.

The Birmingham Eccentric

PART ONE

SIXTY-EIGHTH YEAR—NO. 40 | BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1945 | $2.00 PER YEAR (In Oakland County)—SINGLE COPIES, 5c

THIS and THAT

By G. R. A.

"Happy New Year, Good Friend!"

"Happy New Year, good friend!"
are the words that we speak
As the old year is closing; (each
old year seems bleak
In contrast with the new one that's
soon to appear,
As the echoes of Christmas still
sound in our ear.)
"Happy New Year!" is spoken, as
though by some magic
The new one will bring nothing
marred by things tragic;
Methinks, as I ponder the New
Year's arrival,
That I, by myself, must determine
survival;
Not wishing, not loafing, not guessing conditions . . .
Of New Year should not be made
by politicians;
Whatever the New Year will bring
to each human
Should not be expected from President Truman.
"Happy New Year, good friend!",
are the words that we speak
How we live 'em alone makes 'em
cheerful or bleak!

(GRA)

Good Work, Lions!

Recently the Birmingham Lions Club contributed $500 toward the purchase of a modest home for a blinded World War II veteran and his family; they also gave $100 from their Club treasury to the local Veterans Bureau, to help out needy veterans; the local Rotary Club came through with $50 for the same purpose. That's a start . . . and only a start. If you want to do something tangible for returning veterans, make out a check and send it to Jack Thomas, at the Birmingham Community House.

Congressional Salaries

Personally, I agree with those who argue for more financial compensation for members of our Congress. While some may declare that a number of current Congressman are overpaid, because they are not "statesmen," they are in the minority. You cannot expect a Congressman to do his best work if he faces personal financial problems, which many of them do. To expect our Congressmen all to be wealthy enough to assume such offices, is not democratic, as need men and women in Washington who come from the "grass roots," who know the value of struggle, and the worth of a dollar. Let Congress be forthright in its demand for more compensation; the vast majority of our people want them to live above the emergency need for money. By cutting down on bureaucratic expansion within the federal government, Congress could save many times what a decent increase in its own compensation would cost the taxpayers.

Mass Psychology

A few Sundays ago a record Birmingham audience turned out to pay deserved honor to Russell Barnes, local citizen who had been chief of the OWI psychological warfare division of the U.S.A. in the Mediterranean theatre. The Community House was packed, a noteworthy gesture of citizen appreciation to a man who had done his war job well. Do you think that, when a matter of purely local government came up for consideration, such an audience would turn out to discuss it? Of course not. Why did so large an audience attend the Barnes' meeting? Well, probably, because they thought Mr. Barnes would reveal some spectacular items about the war; which only goes to prove that an average audience wants the spectacular . . . they crave excitement, thrills, the unusual; if our City Commission and School Board would stage fights now and then, they, too, would attract larger audiences at their routine meetings.

Don't Forget Teachers

Gov. Harry F. Kelly wants Michigan to provide more money for its educational institutions. That is fine, Governor—but don't overlook the fact that mere buildings do not make for educated people. Enough money also should be available to obtain able and sympathetic faculties—the kind who will not only teach youth statistics, but also make them think—plus the inculcation of character. This latter quality is much needed . . . always has been.

Youth's Outlook

If you were a young man or woman, in your early twenties, of serious mind, would you be confused as you read about the troubles that were so apparent everywhere upon this earth? Would you become cynical? Would you seek to chart your life along high ethical lines, high ideals? Those are issues that do confront today's youth; older people who still believe in the Golden Rule have personal responsibilities to urge youth to pursue the high road—for it does, in the long run, pay!

INSURE NOW
SECURITY—The Nation's Watchword
TUGGEY'S, 411 E. Maple Avenue.
—Adv. tf

If selling your car, why not call your local Chrysler dealer. 475 So. Woodward. Phone 4021. Adv. tf

Splendid Spirit of Helpfulness Again Is In Evidence Among Birmingham Residents

Another evidence that Birmingham folks still possess some of the milk of human kindness is seen in a recent happening. The other day a Lt. Arthur Waters, U. S. Army, returning from overseas duty to visit an aunt in Windsor, called Birmingham to locate the parents of First Lt. Joseph B. Ayres killed in air battle over Germany.

Lieutenant Waters had lost a brother in the same battle and had made a 1,500 mile trip to visit the scene, view his brother's grave and see his burned fighter plane. While visiting so near Birmingham he wanted to tell the parents of Lieutenant Ayres about their son's death. Not knowing their names and only that their home was in Birmingham, he phoned out for information.

People Started Working

His call went to the Gould H. Ayres, 439 Townsend, only to learn this was the wrong family. But his inquiry had stirred up interest and phone calls were made thick and fast to every conceivable source of information. The police department, the public library, the Red Cross, and many homes, until finally James A. Beresford, member of the Selective Service Board, drove to the office in the Municipal building and located the names of the parents, from war service records there.

Mrs. A. D. McLay, of the home service department of the American Red Cross, volunteered to drive out to the C. Y. Ayres home on Wattles road. She and Mr. McLay made the trip and soon Mr. and Mrs. Ayres were enroute by car to meet Lieutenant Waters at his railroad station at Detroit.

Died Hero's Death

There they visited for some time. They learned how their son, as member of a fighter group had flown his Mustang fighter plane to aid a division of paratroopers landing behind German lines; how the group was being attacked by a superior group of German planes and all shot down in flames. One of the four Americans escaped death in the fight but was captured by the Germans. He was freed at the close of the war and his story of the fatal battle checked well with facts learned by Lieutenant Waters on his trip to the scene.

Mr. and Mrs. Ayres expressed their appreciation to Lieutenant Waters and to the numerous Birmingham folks who aided in finding them.

"That's Birmingham," declared one man who heard of the happening. "Where else but in Birmingham would one find such a splendid spirit?"

Panel Announced For Discussion of Adult Education

Plans for the January 16 public institute on adult education were completed this week with announcement of the members of the panel for discussion on the topic "Who Is an Educated Person?" The institute is to be held at the Community Housee at 8 o'clock the evening of Wednesday, Jan. 16.

Moderator will be Blair K. Swartz, 2512 Dorchester, personnel planning supervisor of the Detroit Edison Co.

Name Four Speakers

Dr. Frank D. Slutz, the Dayton, Ohio, authority on adult education and human relations whom the Institute has secured as lecturer and counselor, will handle the moral and socfal phase.

Dr. Dwight B. Ireland, Birmingham superintendent of schools, will talk about the scholastic side.

The Rev. Dr. Melvine W. Crump, pastor of the First Baptist church, will present the spiritual aspects.

Mrs. H. Philip Pretz, an active member of a number of groups, will present the individual's civic and political responsibility.

Each panel member, speaking as an individual, will make a brief statement regarding his personal idea of the characteristics of the educated person; the social and moral, the scholastic, the spiritual, and the civic and political.

Reserve Dinner Space

Reservations for the public dinner at 6:30 p. m. at the Community House, at which Dr. Slutz will deliver the principal address, "All the World's a School," must be made by calling the Community House by noon Saturday, January 12.

Persons unable to attend the dinner are invited to come at 7:15 p. m. to hear Dr. Slutz' talk and for the panel discussion at 8 p. m., both of which are open to the public without charge.

Members of the committee to select the panel are the Rev. A. F. Rinkel, chairman; Paul Carter and Raymond Peck.

Ice Carnival Will Be Held Saturday

The annual Ice Carnival sponsored at Baldwin High School is reported all arranged for Saturday, Dec. 29, at Quarton Lake.

William Saffell has been elected king and Mary K. Smith has been named queen. They will be crowned at ceremonies opening the program, Saturday. Robert Warner, president of the Student Congress, will be the coronation official.

Named as court of honor for the queen are Nancy Holmes, Janice Thomas, Joan Gove, Peggy Gould, Mary Vorberg and Mary Boch.

The program of the day will feature skating races for both boys and girls, of various age groups and figure skating exhibitions.

Janet Walser, Chairman

The general chairman of the event is Janet Walser. Grace Mack is chairman of the hot dog concession, assisted by Bill Bones, Knight Houghton and Lewis Booth. Jerry Hughes is chairman of the property committee and Jack Sproull is chairman of the prize ribbons committee.

The program of skating events will open at 1:30 p. m. with the presentation of the king and queen. Then will come the 100-yard dash, with skaters divided into five classes for boys and girls up through the eighth grade. Following this will come a 150-yard race for the ninth grade boys and girls; the 120 for high school boys, a similar race for girls, and the 440 for high school boys.

Following the races there will be a program of figure skating, with three groups of girls appearing; the grade school pupils, junior high school and high school.

In case the weather makes the event impossible for Saturday, it will be held on Saturday, Jan. 5, the committee announces.

NAVAL MEN HOME

On December 17, Tyrone Tabarcen, F 1/c, 2656 East Big Beaver road, and Wade Lobenstein, S 1/c, 2868 Lowry road, received their discharges at the U.S. Naval Personnel Center, Great Lakes, Ill.

Ranch Room Is All Ready For Opening Jan.2

Is Community House Gift to Young Folks Of City and Region

The grand opening of the Ranch Room in the Community House is scheduled for Wednesday evening, Jan. 2, from 8 to 12 o'clock. At this time all teensters of the Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills area, their parents and their friends are invited to visit the new Teen Canteen room to view and use its new facilities.

A short presentation program will take place at 10 o'clock. Holister Mabley, chairman of the Adult Youth Committee, will give the aims and ideas of the Teen Canteen. He will introduce Paul N. Averill, president of the Birmingham Community House Board of Directors, who will present the new room to the Teen Canteen.

Nancy Hanson, president of the Youth Council, will accept the room for the Teensters and present the officers and standing committees of the Youth Council. The evening will include the informal use of the new room, game facilities and dancing in the auditorium for the Teensters, their parents and guests.

Dude Ranch Theme

The theme of the new room is carried out to represent a dude ranch. The entrance is from Townsend street through the new patio in the form of a sunken garden. The inside entrance is through a swinging gate which takes one into the patio of the Ranch Room. The kitchen-snack bar is built to represent the ranch house and is completely equipped with soda fountain and grill. The tables and benches are in the patio. The murals on the wall and all the furnishings are in keeping with the theme of the room. The murals were painted by Fred Meyers of the Cranbrook Art Center.

"The activities and the healthy growth of our youth, individually and collectively, is of fundamental importance to every community," said Miss Faye Jamison, Community House executive director. The new room and the opportunities it will provide for youth is one of the most important projects on the Community House agenda. The many generous gifts given to this project helped to make the greater youth program a reality." The Birmingham Community House Board

(See OPENING, PAGE 2)

Just A Bit About The Men Who Won Planning Contest

"Say, who are these three Chicago City Planning Contest winners, about whom The Eccentric told last week?" asked a local businessman Monday. And thinking perhaps other readers would like the answer to this question the three were seen at their office in the Wabeek building and asked to give a bit of information about themselves.

"Who are you fellows, anyway?" the reporter asked. Dave Geer replied, "Well, I have been around here quite a few months, to go to the Rotary club and most of the men know I am just a hard-working city planner."

Dave, who grew up in Galion, Ohio, is a graduate of Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Before coming to Birmingham and the Saarinen & Swanson office, he was in charge of several city planning and regional planning jobs in New England, in Alabama and in the middle West.

From South Africa

Edward W. Waugh was born and educated through high school in Johannesburg, South Africa. After seven years study at the architectural school, he graduated from the Edenburgh College of Art in Scotland. On his return to South Africa, he opened up practice with his father and later was invited to join a large architectural firm in Johannesburg. The future looked promising but the war interrupted and he enlisted in the armed forces. After two years in the army, he came to this country in 1941 and underwent medical treatment. For two years he worked as an aircraft designer on Los Angeles. Later he joined Columbia Pictures Corporation and designed sets for several movies such as "Cover Girl," "Song to Remember," and "Tonight and Every Night." Tiring of the frivolous atmosphere of Hollywood, he decided to return to the more serious side of architecture. He enrolled at Cranbrook as a graduate student and gained much from the able guidance of Eliel Saarinen. He was awarded a fellowship at Cranbrook. After completion of this he joined the firm of Saarinen & Swanson as a city planner.

A Californian

George Matsumoto, third member of the winning trio, is a native Californian. Born in San Francisco he attended the University of California at Berkeley nearly four years and won the Comstock architectural scholarship for two years at Washington University, St. Louis, Mo., where he received his B.A. degree.

He came to Cranbrook Academy of Art for graduate work for about 18 months on a graduate fellowship in town planning. He received his M.A. degree in 1946 at Cranbrook.

He has worked on town plans at Oak Park, Huntington Woods, Pleasant Ridge, Berkley and Ferndale and for some time did architectural work in the office of George F. Keck, Chicago, before coming to Saarinen & Swanson.

DEADLINE FOR CLASSIFIED ADS

The deadline for classified advertisement for the issue of The Eccentric for January 3 will be Monday afternoon, December 31, at 5 o'clock. This is made necessary because of New Year's Day falling on Tuesday, which makes it impossible to accept classified advertising copy any later. We must still go to press the usual time and make the mails Thursday morning.

John W. Crump Is Assigned to West As Naval Ensign

John W. Crump, son of the Rev. and Mrs. Melvine W. Crump of this city, has been commissioned an ensign in the Navy and is now

Ensign John W. Crump

located at Ship Training Group, Amphibious Craft, Coronado, California. There he will be prepared for sea duty. He spent five weeks leave with his parents here before assignment to the new training school.

Ensign Crump was graduated from the Norristown (Pa.) High School in June, 1942. After spending a year and a half in the premedical course at Ursinus College, he enlisted in the Navy in October, 1943. After taking the boot training at the Naval Training Station, Sampson, N. Y., he was sent to Chicago for special training.

While in Chicago he was selected for officer's training and sent to Navy V-12 Unit, Purdue University in February, 1944. At Purdue he specialized in mechanical engineering. With his college credits from Ursinus College and by taking 23 semester hours each term, he was able to complete his course in mechanical engineering in October, 1945, with honors.

All makes of inner spring mattresses repaired. ROYAL MATTRESS COMPANY, PHONE B'HAM 1-0788. —Adv., tf.

Victor and Bluebird Records. New releases weekly. Leonard Electric, 152 W. Maple. —Adv. tf.

Lot Of Christmas Mail Is Handled At Local Post Office

Christmas mail was well handled this year, according to merchants and people about the city, and today Postmaster Joseph Byrne reported mail received and dispatched during the Christmas season as being very heavy. All parcel post received up to noon Dec. 24, and all letter mail coming in the early part of the day was processed and delivered before closing time Christmas Eve.

There remained to be handled Wednesday morning only a few parcels and not much letter mail from the arriving trains. But there are about 5,000 poorly addressed letters needing directory service before delivery can be made to Birmingham residents, Mr. Byrne said. These will get individual attention and be delivered as rapidly as possible.

Here's the Count

From Dec. 10 to Dec. 24, inclusive, the letter cancelling machine at the post office showed a count of 407,987. There were 1,725 sacks of parcel post outbound from Dec. 15 to Dec. 24, inclusive, and 2,315 sacks of this mail received. In addition there were a large lot of larger packages handled, both in and out. Total first class mail, outbound, was 485 sacks, while the incoming totaled 680 sacks.

Mr. Byrne said he had five army trucks and two postal trucks for mail delivery work during the latter part of the season. Each truck was manned by two men. In addition there were sixteen persons assisting with letter delivery and handling mail.

The postmaster said the workers at the post office wished to thank those persons who remembered them with gifts of appreciation at Christmas time. "These were greatly appreciated," he said.

Fire Losses Thus Far This Year Are Only Third of Those for Year 1944

Birmingham's fire losses thus far this year have been remarkably light, according to figures gleaned from the annual report of the fire department. Figures disclosed a total loss of $8,744 up to Dec. 20. It was said this is less than one third of the total loss for 1944. There were fewer fire alarms turned in this year, the report showed. When asked for a statement as to this low figure, Fire Chief Vernon Griffith said, "I believe this can be attributed to the war restrictions and a more fire conscious and co-operative public. Also more fires were reported to us in their early stages and none of the damage caused was attributed to delayed alarms."

Summary of Report

Jan. 1 to Dec. 20

Number of Silent Alarms	183
Number of Investigations	33
Number of General Alarms	0
Number of False Alarms	2
Number of Miscellaneous	11
Number of First Aid Runs	7
Total Number of Runs	236
Estimated loss, buildings, $5,619; estimated loss, contents, $3,125; total estimated loss,	$8,744.
Estimated insurance paid on buildings, $5,552; estimated insurance on contents, $2,690; total estimated insurance paid,	$8,242.
Insurance on buildings endangered, $1,172,100; insurance on contents endangered,	$327,500; total insurance carried, $1,999,600.
Value of buildings endangered, $1,410,703; value of contents endangered, $918,415; total property endangered	$2,329,118.

Department Activities

Total number of inspections made during the year	2,881.
Total number of inspections found satisfactory,	2,490.
Total number of inspections where action by the F. P. B. was necessary,	368.
Total number of hours spent on F. P. B. inspections, etc.,	316:25.
Number of hours spent on well inspections,	247:43.
Number of hours spent on work,	389:10.
Number of hours spent on hydrant inspections,	219:28.
Average pounds of water pressure for the year,	43.8.
Minimum pounds of water pressure (recorded at fire department),	39.
Miles traveled enroute to fires by department trucks,	428.3.
Gallons of water pumped by booster pumps on department trucks,	4,212.
Total time booster pumps on trucks worked at fires,	19:28.
Number of feet of ladder raised,	225.
Number of feet of 2½-inch hose laid,	450.
Number of feet of 1½-inch hose laid,	900.
Number of square feet of salvage cover used,	288.
Number of hours spent on drill by Company No. 1 during the year,	160:30.
Number of hours spent on drills by Company No. 2 and 3,	54:30.

(See LOSSES, Page 2)

Donald C. Egbert to Return to His Post With City on Jan. 1st

Donald Egbert, city manager, who recently returned to Birmingham, following his war duties with the Navy at Guam, will resume his work as city manager of Birmingham on Jan. 1.

When Mr. Egbert was given leave of absence for military duty, the position was filled by Harold H. Corson, as acting city manager. Mr. Corson retained the post of city engineer.

Mr. Corson at the time held the positions of city engineer and city treasurer. Russell T. Berger, on the city treasurer's staff, was made acting city treasurer.

Upon his return to duty Mr. Egbert will organize the various departments under his jurisdiction.

Robert C. Peck To Take New Position

Announcement has been made of the appointment of Robert C. Peck, of this city, to be assistant cashier in the Wayne State bank, at Wayne, Michigan, starting Jan. 1, 1946.

For the past 13 years Mr. Peck has been assistant manager of the Wabeek State bank on East Maple avenue. Before that he was with the old First State Savings Bank of Birmingham. He has been connected with banking for the past 28 years.

The family will continue to reside here, at least for the present, or until a residence can be found in Wayne, Mr. Peck states.

Coming here to fill the vacancy on the bank staff will be Andrew Crater, of Walnut Lake, who for some time has been in the main bank office in the Fisher building in Detroit. He will serve as a teller.

Victory Clothing Collection Opens Here On Jan. 7th

Birmingham's plans for the big Victory Clothing Collection from Jan. 7 to 31 are rapidly being rounded into shape, according to Mrs. Cleveland Walcutt, general chairman. Mrs. Walcutt reported Wednesday that churches were compiling a list of workers, while other groups were having their part in the campaign mapped and ready.

It is expected all churches of the city will be open to receive bundles of clothing donated to the needy of war torn countries. These will be staffed by volunteer groups, probably mostly women and young folks.

Mrs. Walcutt said today that Birmingham had enjoyed a very merry Christmas and that a real happy New Year's was in prospect. "Why not share some of this joy with the less fortunate people across the sea?" she asked. "Why not share some of our warm clothing and bedding that others may be just a bit more comfortable than otherwise would be the case?"

Station at Post Office

The Birmingham post office has been added to the list of receiving stations for the campaign, Postmaster Joseph Byrne reports having instructions from Postmaster General Robert E. Hannegan, in Washington, D. C., to provide a corner of the building or a large box where during regular office hours people may bring in their contributions. He said today that with the Post office cleared of the last of the Christmas packages this week he would start arrangements for the post office's part in the clothing collection. "We will then begin to receive clothing gifts from Birmingham people to the suffering people in bombed-out lands," he said.

It has been announced that 9,607 communities throughout America are organized to conduct clothing drives under the local chairmanship of 4,313 men and women, many of whom will direct county-wide drives.

One community, South Hero, Vt., has completed its clothing collection. The 606 residents of this village on an island in Lake Champlain began their drive a month in advance of the national campaign. Mrs. Henry Buermann, local chairman, explained that three pre-Christmas sewing bees were held to salvage garments that were worn and ripped.

GET NEWS IN EARLY

Because of the long New Year's week and it will be necessary for all news copy for the issue of The Eccentric on January 3 to be in by Monday afternoon, Dec. 31, at 5 o'clock.

Please send in all your notices, parties, club news, guests and other such news just as early as possible. And get those church notices in not later than Saturday, if possible.

Your co-operation will be very much appreciated.

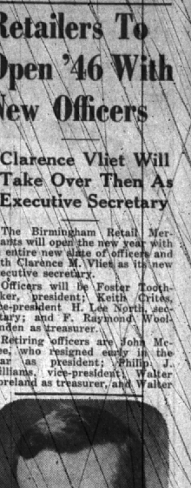
Retailers To Open '46 With New Officers

Clarence Vliet Will Take Over Then As Executive Secretary

The Birmingham Retail Merchants will open the new year with an entire new slate of officers and with Clarence M. Vliet as its new executive secretary.

Officers will be Foster Toothaker, president; Keith Crites, vice-president; H. Lee North, secretary; and F. Raymond Woolfenden as treasurer.

Retiring officers are John McKee, who resigned early in the year as president; Philip J. Williams, vice-president; Walter Moreland as treasurer, and Walter



Clarence Vliet

R. Raychel, as executive secretary. Mr. Raychel offered his resignation at the November meeting, stating he desired to devote his time to his position in industry and to the Birmingham Credit Bureau.

Former School Head

The new executive secretary, besides at 416 Brown street for 17 years served as superintendent of the Birmingham public schools; for 15 years a member of the board of Baldwin Library; two years on the city commission and two years on the board of supervisors representing Birmingham; served on the Community House board.

He came to Birmingham in 1915 from Leslie, Michigan, and became head of the local schools. During his years as school superintendent practically the entire Birmingham public education plant was erected. Old Hill school and a part of Barnum school were in operation. During the 17 years Mr. Vliet was school head the school plant increased at a cost of about $2,000,000. Baldwin high school, Pierce, Quarton and Adams schools were erected and the main part of Barnum was added.

Plan Early Meeting

The new secretary and the board of directors will hold a meeting early in the new year to lay plans for the year's activities. Mr. Vliet plans quite an extensive study of the city and its business places in order to familiarize himself with the business institutions and to meet the merchants.

"I want to make myself of as much value as possible to the merchants in meeting their many problems. I want to get acquainted, personally, with the people who operate the retail establishments, the professional people, realtors and other business leaders of the community. I plan to spend some time in the office each forenoon, probably from 9:30 to 11 o'clock and I hope businessmen will call on me whenever they feel I can be of help to them."

Bloomfield Hills Seeks New Charter

The new year may bring to Bloomfield Hills a new city charter. Study is being started at once on the old charter by a special committee which will recommend to the city commission whether to draft a new charter or to attempt to revise the old one.

Mayor George C. Booth has named on this committee James A. Beresford, Chairman; S. V. Norton, Bernard F. Powell and Elliott S. Nichols.

The question of charter changes or a new charter has been studied by the city commission for several months and some weeks ago the commission authorized Mayor Booth to name such a group. The mayor took several weeks in which to study the field and finally picked the four residents of the Hills for the task.

GLAD TO BE HOME

Cpl. Alton J. Harris, who served for what seemed to him a real long period out in the Southwest Pacific war area, is back home and glad to be there. He is a guest of his sister, Miss Evaline Harris of Birmingham, and his mother, Mrs. Carrie M. Harris, Rochester.

Servicemen's Question Box

A question and answer column, especially for Birmingham servicemen, both discharged and still in the service, and their families, will be conducted through the Men in the Service department of The Eccentric by Jack Thomas, veterans' counselor for Birmingham.

All inquiries and questions from servicemen and their families should be addressed to "Servicemen's Question Box," care of Jack Thomas, Veterans' Counselor, Community House, Birmingham, Michigan, or may be left in the editorial room of The Eccentric.

This department will be started on January 2, with the first answers to appear in The Eccentric on Thursday, January 10th.

All communications to Mr. Thomas should be signed, with the proper address of the person making the inquiry. These names will not be published in the column, but are needed to make the inquiry authentic.