

Human life ought to be linked up more understandingly with the Divine plan of the Universe. There are too many things here that ought to be sunshine. Too many people appear worried, instead of contented.

The Birmingham Post-Herald

PART ONE

WISHES and THAT

Wishing for You
In the Merry Realm of Wishland there are values to be sought far above the host of earth-things that upon the mart are bought. Oh, 'tis easy to suggest, Friends, that you get a brand new car; that you get a diamond bracelet or your favorite cigar. There are yachts to lure your money, there are trips to take that will thrill you to the core. There are clothes to wear... a comfy chair... a painting on the wall. There are castles grand to live in, there are cottages at lake. There are many, many other things that oft your fancy take. But, when Yuletide Season comes, with its holly on the door, I can think of gifts more precious than are found in any store. I can think of Love and Friendship—needed sorely 'pon this earth—And a host of Christly Attributes that prove the basic worth of a Life whose birthday bringeth to mankind enduring Light. Which, turned on, will turn to day-time mankind's dark and dreary night. So, my Friend, my wish for you, then, is to send a gift most dear. The Gift of Christmas blessing... HAPPY CHRISTMAS! HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Bits of Birmingham

Christmas, 1946, at the Donald Graves home, was a pretty swell affair. Because 11-year-old Mike and 6-year-old Darba had a black and white "cocker" pup—all their own. Like all youngsters and pups, an instant love affair burst into full bloom. Christmas, 1947, was all its glory, and Mike and Darba have lost a great deal of their faith in humanity. When they are 21 or 22, it's pretty tough when someone, apparently deliberately, runs over your dog. That's what happened to theirs. The little fellow was crossing the street near the Graves home Monday afternoon. A woman, driving a green Pontiac motor sedan, came along the street and made no effort to stop, no effort to avoid hitting the little dog. She did not even have the human decency to stop after she had done it. The dog was now with a shattered pelvis. This Wanderer wonders if the woman in the green Pontiac was the one who read this account.

Few of us deny that the cost of living is rising steadily, but it remains for those who shop for the family's daily fare to find out just how fast this rise is. A telephone call from a Birmingham housewife Saturday morning informed this Wanderer that prices seem to be going up between the counter and the cashier's station. She had just returned from her morning shopping, and reported that a pound of butter, marked 46c, was sold to her for 47c. Several other items, she said, had gone up a penny, crossed off and a higher one substituted. What the lady asked us, we could not answer, was, "How can a merchant buy an article at one price and then sell it at another, simply because there has been a price increase since he stocked it?" She feels that the profit over its purchase price is the merchant, not at the current price at the date of sale to the consumer.

Mrs. Mary Howard of Berkshire road (just below 14 Mile road) seems to have been the hostess for a very unwelcome visitor from the South during the past few weeks. An opossum, rarely found this far north, has been raiding her chicken coops and has killed a number of chickens. Two weeks ago one visited the coop and killed a chicken. Like all thieves, it apparently was not satisfied with one "haul" and made the fatal mistake of calling a second time last week. Mrs. Howard heard the noise in the coop and managed to kill the visitor. Bare as the animal is in this section, it is not Miss Howard's first experience with them, for two or three occasions before they have raided the coops, killing chickens and frightening the others so that they refused to leave their perches, even in broad daylight.

Being co-chairman of the statewide Junior Chamber of Commerce "Friendship Food Caravan" necessitates a great deal of contact with the scattered 78 Michigan branches. Jack Andrews of the Birmingham chapter has discovered, therefore, to enable him to be informed on the progress of the drive, he has had an advance (See BITS, Page 2)

Students Give 4,000 Cans in Food Drive

Three-Day Drive Results in 2 Tons of Food for France

"A can of food in every hand" was the slogan passed along Baldwin High School corridors last week as high school students collected food for the Michigan "Friendship Food Motor Caravan." And climaxed the three-day Baldwin campaign, a little more than 500 students turned in at the Christmas Assembly last Friday afternoon more than 4,000 cans of foodstuffs, or an average of 6.5 per student. Incomplete Friday tabulations showed the sophomore class out in front with a donation of 1,580 cans, seniors 1,157 and juniors 1,028. Individual recognition honors went to Room 201 with 367 cans, Room 100 with 357, and Room 105 with 323. Housewives Take Cue It was evidenced Monday morning that housewives had taken the cue from the students and began donating in greater quantities to the "Friendship Food" containers located in each local grocery store. Local members of the Junior Chamber of Commerce sponsored drive beginning Saturday morning at town area Monday in a sound car to remind shoppers that they are being afforded the opportunity of sharing their food with the hungry peoples of France. It was reported that several hosts and hostesses at Yuletide open houses are asking their guests to arrive with at least one can of food to be donated to the drive. Several local merchants—other than grocers—have joined the "Caravan" by purchasing several cases of food and displaying them in their store windows.

Special Kiddies' Movie Howard Holah, manager of the Birmingham Theater, announced this week that the admission to a special children's cartoon show on Saturday, Jan. 3, at 10 a.m., would be one or more food items. This is a special show designed for the youngsters can help donate food, good share of which will go to the boys and girls of France. Holah explained. According to Harry Smart, Birmingham Jaycee "Caravan" chairman, special emphasis is being placed on having Birmingham residents contribute overwhelmingly to the campaign.

Planning Special Events At least one Birmingham business firm is conducting a program to have every employee bring to work at least two cans of food which will be given to the "Caravan," he said. High school students who assisted in the Baldwin drive were Dick Adams, Jim Millender, George Allen, Dale Pearson, Jim Patterson, Chuck Baker, Ward Abbott, Mary Ann, Phyllis, Phil, Allen, Nancy, Guest, Dick Jeffers and Gerry Hughes.

Investigation of the possibility of making Springdale Park facilities available only to Birmingham residents, with the elimination of outsiders, will be made by City Manager Donald C. Egbert and City Attorney Forbes S. Hascall. In asking for this report, city commissioners Monday evening pointed out that most Birmingham residents do not enjoy the park because it is always crowded by persons who come from the area surrounding Birmingham.

Admission by Card "In the Grosse Pointe area, several of those communities limit attendance to residents of the area," Commissioner Milton F. Mallerer pointed out. "You've got to have a card to gain admission, and you can't get a card if you don't live in the city." Commissioners turned down a request made by members of the Bloomfield Estates Improvement Association to place the entrance of the park on Quarton road, rather than where it presently is on Stincham road. Egbert explained that in order to accomplish this, practically the entire road would have to be revamped since a driveway north from Quarton would go through the golf course.

Ways of Limiting Park Attendance Are Being Sought

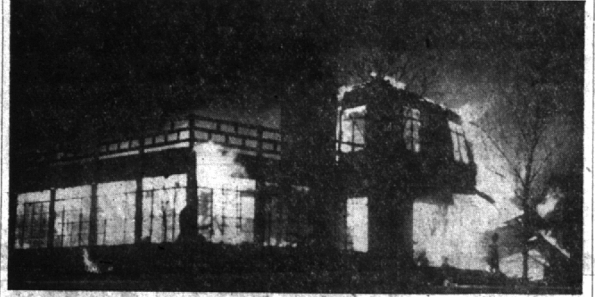
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Baldwin Students Donate Food to "Friendship Caravan"



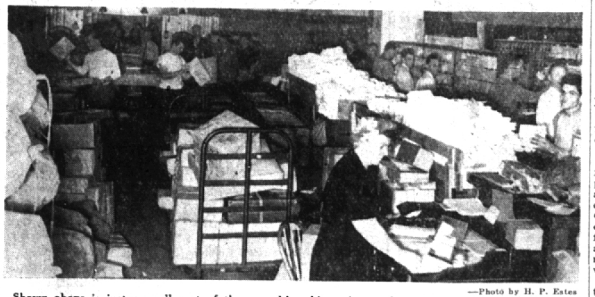
Pictured with a small fraction of the 4,000 cans of food donated by Baldwin students for the "Friendship Motor Caravan" are (l to r) Jerry Hughes, Mrs. Carol Darling, girls' counselor, Mrs. Vida McGiffin, English instructor, and Dick Adams. (See story on Page One.)

Fire Completely Destroys Lawson Home



A \$40,000 fire late last Wednesday completely destroyed the home of Mrs. Katherine F. Lawson, 3275 Bingham road, Franklin. Southfield Township firemen battled several hours in an unsuccessful attempt to control the blaze. No one was at home at the time the fire started.

Incoming, Outgoing Mail Sets New Record



Shown above is just a small part of the record-breaking pieces of mail being handled by the Birmingham post office during the 1947 Yuletide season. Postmaster Joseph A. Byrne reports that this season's volume of mail has broken all previous records. (See story on Page One.)

Local Office Begins Sale of Auto Tags



Buying license plates from Mrs. J. L. McGuire at the newly opened branch office of the Secretary of State at 772 South Woodward is Richard Patterson, president of the Birmingham Veterans' Organization, acting on his own plan to "buy them early." The office is sponsored by the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce. (See story on Page Two.)

Yule Services Revealed by City Churches

Observances Begin Tonight With City's Community Sing

The Community Sing, scheduled for 5:30 p. m. Christmas Eve, will open the many special Yuletide observances which are being held throughout the city. In most of the churches traditional special services will be held to commemorate the birth of Christ. At the First Baptist church, a Christmas Eve candlelight service will be held from 8 to 9 o'clock. The impressive candle lighting ceremony will be performed by a group of young women of the church, which will be followed by a period of carol singing. Special numbers will be sung by the members of the Junior Choir, under the leadership of Mrs. Walter E. Turner. Mrs. Ruth Davison will sing "Dear Little Stranger Born in a Manger." The pastor, Rev. Emil Kontz, will conduct a brief meditation service on the subject, "The Mir-

Community Sing

Don't forget tonight is Christmas Eve—the night of the Community Sing, when all the old favorites of Baldwin street, and a group of schoolmates from Quarton School had gone to the lake to skate. Carol apparently became unable to stop and went onto thin ice which gave way beneath her. Lester Colbert, 14, and his brother, Nickie, 9, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Colbert of Parlane road, along with Paul Trichel, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gerava Trichel, also of Parlane road, formed a human chain from the shore to where the girl had gone through a distance of about ten feet. Lester, who was nearest to Carol grabbed her hand, while his brother clung to his skates. Paul suggested Nance jump in, and she pulled all to safety. Mrs. Howlett reported late Monday afternoon that aside from a bad fright and thorough drenching, Carol seemed to have suffered no ill effects from her plunge.

Local Post Office Handling Record Volume of Mail

With three days still to be accounted for, the volume of mail going out of and being received by the Birmingham post office has reached unprecedented proportions. Postmaster Joseph A. Byrne revealed Monday morning. The Birmingham office has handled 18,000 pieces of first class mail and 75,460 Christmas packages, and managed to ship in an existing mail train. "Shipped into our office for local distribution were 794,000 pieces of first class mail and 91,452 packages." The sales receipts, consisting primarily of stamp revenues, are already \$13,500 more than last year's record, Byrne added.

Condemnation Case in Alley Widening Is Won by City

A special Pontiac circuit court jury last Thursday granted the City of Birmingham's request for condemnation of two parcels of land to permit the Maple-Willets alley to be widened. The Nixon estate was awarded damages of \$345 for 247 sq. ft. and the S. O. Wylie Bell estate \$2,000 damages for 1,068 sq. ft., which the city pointed out was needed for enlargement of the alley.

Each Fined \$20

Fines of \$20 on charges of reckless driving were paid by each of two men in Bloomfield Hills justice court last Friday. They were A. J. J. DeLoe and W. E. Rose of Lake Orion.

Deadlines for New Year's Issues Advanced One Day

The Eccentric will go to press a day earlier with its New Year's issue, as it did with the Christmas edition this week. This will permit us to get copies to the post office for delivery on Wednesday morning. The same news and advertising deadlines in effect last week will also apply this coming week. These deadlines are: CLUB NOTES: Saturday at 12 noon. CHURCH NEWS: Saturday at 12 noon. SOCIETY AND ALL OTHER TYPES OF NEWS: Monday at 5 p. m. DISPLAY ADVERTISING: Monday at 5 p. m. CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING: Monday at 5 p. m. News and advertising which is not submitted in accordance with the above schedule will not be included in that week's issue.

Responsibility for \$2006 Sewer Error Assumed by Corson

An error reported by the chief of an engineering department field survey crew was blamed for the needless expenditure of \$2006 by the city in digging up and relaying 236 feet of 36-inch sewer pipe on Abbey road, east of Warwick.

This statement was made by City Engineer Harold H. Corson in a complete written report to City Manager Donald C. Egbert last Thursday. He also gave his explanation for the mistake to city commissioners who convened a special meeting at the Municipal Building Saturday morning.

In his report, Corson declared, "The responsibility for this unfortunate mistake rests on my shoulders primarily. As I am responsible for the work of my men, the chief-of-party in charge of the survey which in turn would hold responsibility for the work of his party left the city's employ over a month ago to accept another position. The two other men on the survey crew who worked with him have each been severely taken to task for such part as they may have had in the error."

Boys Save Girl As Ice Breaks At Quarton Lake

Quick thinking on the part of three boys saved ten-year-old Carol Howlett after an icy bath at Quarton Lake Monday afternoon. Carol, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Howlett of Baldwin street, and a group of schoolmates from Quarton School had gone to the lake to skate. Carol apparently became unable to stop and went onto thin ice which gave way beneath her. Lester Colbert, 14, and his brother, Nickie, 9, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Colbert of Parlane road, along with Paul Trichel, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gerava Trichel, also of Parlane road, formed a human chain from the shore to where the girl had gone through a distance of about ten feet. Lester, who was nearest to Carol grabbed her hand, while his brother clung to his skates. Paul suggested Nance jump in, and she pulled all to safety. Mrs. Howlett reported late Monday afternoon that aside from a bad fright and thorough drenching, Carol seemed to have suffered no ill effects from her plunge.

Prime Inspector's responsibility was assumed by Corson since the survey was conducted in accordance with his plans and specifications. Corson emphasized that he is responsible for catching errors in the plans would make his position impossible to carry out. He has considered it a matter of warranting commendation rather than the normal discharge of duty.

During the initial re-checking of the project, Corson said it was discovered an 18-foot sewer was covered on Abbey extends from 5 to 6 feet of this within 4 feet. "By putting in this short run, we can eliminate 33,842 from the district's share in the project," he pointed out.

Ask Study of Departments Corson also recommended that the commission not check the total \$2,006 error to the district. After Corson had given his report, commissioners undertook a short discussion of the possibility of having an outside company study the various city departments and defining their responsibilities. "If we got to pay more for competent help in any particular department, we'll have to do it if the city is to avoid similar mistakes," said Milton F. Mallerer stated. "If our present pay grades are too low to attract department employees of above-average caliber, perhaps we should raise these wages." Corson's complete written report to Egbert follows:

"As you are aware, a mistake was made by the survey crew in the field survey for the Birmingham Forest Hills Sewer (A. D. # 272) in that the diameter of the existing grade shown in Warwick east to the first manhole was reported as 33-inch in place of the actual 36-inch diameter. This was reported. Incidentally this 33-inch checked the 41 m e t e r shown on the design prepared in August 1925 by the engineers for the subdividers although this fact should in no way be considered as an excuse for the error.

"The capacity of the 33-inch at the existing grade shown is 23 cfs while the required capacity in this sewer run is 28.3 cfs, giving an overload of 35%. This indicated overload, the designer showed replacement as being required and specified a 36-inch diameter of the necessary grade (0.18%). Had the survey showed the 36-inch capacity at the existing grade would have been 26.5 cfs giving an overload of only 7% and our design would not have indicated replacement.

Diameter Actually Varies "This mistake was not discovered until 184 ft. of this run had actually been replaced and some more lengths than were removed. After it was discovered the remaining approximately 40 ft. of the run was not replaced and replaced. The old pipe, nominally 36-inch in diameter, actually varied in diameter from 34 1/2 inches to 36 inches, making a (See ERROR, Page 8, Part 1.)