

Every day I see many people of whom and about whom I know absolutely nothing. I'd bet if I had sufficient time, and the necessary forbearance, that I could find in most of them the stuff of which real friendship is made.

The Birmingham Eccentric

PART TWO

SEVENTIETH YEAR—NO. 40

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Merry Christmas
TO YOU AND YOURS

HUGH C. WHITE AGENCY
INSURANCE

HUGH C. WHITE—M. LLOYD DEAN



Year after year we have been wishing our friends a Merry Christmas, each year hoping to make our message a little warmer, a little more personal.

It is with some such thought as this that we now add this "Merry Christmas" to the many that have gone before, with the hope that it will find you abundantly blessed with everything that the magic wand of Christmas can bestow.

BIRMINGHAM FEDERAL
SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION

MERRY CHRISTMAS FOLKS



A star in the sky

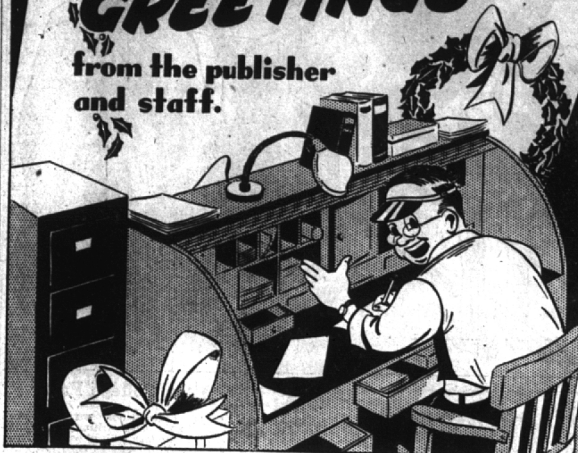
a light in the window, and hope in the heart! It's Christmas, again, good folks of this community... the season when even strangers nod at you and smile. So we are sending you these wishes for Christmas cheer and happiness in your home.

HOUSEMAN-SPITZLEY CORP.

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SEASON'S GREETINGS

from the publisher and staff.



Christmas Here Reflects Customs of Many Lands

By Alice E. Morgan

How do you spend Christmas at your home? If you answer, "In a typically American manner," do you know just what you are implying?

According to the Encyclopedia Britannica, Christmas is, in America, made of many customs. Nearly every country in the world is represented in the United States, and bits of their native customs have filtered into our national celebration of Christmas, until, today, it

might be called "typically American."

England's influence, the oldest, and probably strongest influence, comes to us from England. Their Christmas is celebrated with family reunions, gifts, carols, parties and a pantomime for the children, in a season of general good will. Although many of the very old and picturesque English ways have faded, they are still felt strongly in our annual observance.

Their touch creeps into our card designs, gift wrappings and seals, our menus, and into our church services. Our carols, especially, date back to Old England, as do the Christmas stories and ballads.

The Scandinavian countries show their influence in our menus, too, for these preparations of Christmas sweets begin weeks in advance in order that pantries might be fully stocked for the three weeks of hospitality and leisure they enjoy. The celebration itself begins on Christmas Eve with an elaborate supper, followed by a tree, family worship and singing, before the presentation of gifts. On Christmas morning the whole family attends an early church service because the shepherds, the first to worship the baby Jesus, came early in the morning and then returned to their work in the hills surrounding Bethlehem.

Santa's White Horse, the German Christmas, has, traditionally, been kept with much heartiness, including the home festivities and attendance at church. Their home observance centers around the tree, with its huge piles of gifts under and around it.

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Holiday Cheer



To all the good friends we have served in our 30 years in the Birmingham-Bloomfield Hills district.

May you enjoy a holiday of

COASTING ON THE BEAUTIFUL HILLS
IN OUR AREA

— or —

SKATING ON THE MANY LAKES AROUND US

— or —

SLEIGHING ON THE QUIET COUNTRY ROADS

— or —

JUST RESTING IN YOUR PLEASANT HOME.

WALSH, JAMES & WASEY CO.

431 So. Woodward Avenue Birmingham 4900

Epiphany Eve (Jan. 5) to meet the Three Kings on the highway.

Mexican "Posadas"
In Mexico, perhaps one of the most elaborate celebrations takes place. Here the manger is prepared, ready for the "Posadas" or resting place, commemorating the journey of Mary and Joseph from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

South of the equator—in Brazil—Christmas is a summer festival, celebrated with fireworks, picnics, fiestas and boating excursions. A rather incongruous sight, amid blinding flowers and shrubs,

and under a hot sun, is "Papa Noel" dressed in the red suit, heavy boots, flowing white beard, and complete with sleigh and reindeer, as we know Santa Claus.

So, Christmas comes to many lands, and comes to the United States from many lands.

"Charity suffereth long and is kind," but wisdom must govern charity, else love's labor is lost and striving is unkind.—Mary Baker Eddy.

Christmas Greetings

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS TO OUR MANY FRIENDS AND CLIENTS

MAX BROOCK INC.
REALTORS
ESTABLISHED 1905

300 S. Woodward

Birmingham 1212



Always the distribution is preceded by carols, including "O Tannenbaum" and "Stille Nacht," which is generally a favorite in our own celebration.

In the Netherlands, Santa Claus rides a white horse instead of driving the reindeer we know, and leaps from roof top to roof top. The children place their wooden shoes, filled with hay for the horse, outside doors and windows. As in Belgium, the children have already had their festive day, which is celebrated on Dec. 6 as Christmas Day is reserved for reverence and worship.

In France the religious aspect is strong, especially the creche in the homes and churches. A mass is traditionally held at midnight, which is followed by family suppers in the homes, and reunions on Christmas Day.

In Normandy the children follow a very old custom and go out on



Our wish for you at Christmaside

The Quiet Joys of Home and Fireside

AND A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM ANONYMOUS*

Nov. 21, 1947

To the Editor: How long it since you who are fortunate enough to live in Birmingham, took time out to look at your city through the eyes of a stranger?

As someone remarked, "There's a lot more to Birmingham than meets the eye, because when you drive through or come here to shop, you see only the business district, and that's not very imposing." Compared to Detroit, it is not imposing, but it meets the needs of the community adequately. Birmingham, from a business point of view, has all of the conveniences and few of the inconveniences of a big city.

What city have you ever visited which has had anything which could compare favorably to your Community House? Becoming familiar with a thing sometimes dulls its true meaning, its significance. Look at the Community House and stop to think just how it might seem to a stranger, entering it for the first time.

Look over its accommodations, its spaciousness, its graciousness. Go through it room by room, and then, stop and look into the fireplaces and settle yourself in one of the comfortable chairs and let the feeling of utter peace go through you.

Look at its simple beauty and its dignity as though you were seeing it all for the first time, and just see if you don't feel a surge of peace which has not been yours for some time, simply because this is your town, a part of you, that is providing all this.

Go to your library, your churches, your schools and look at them. Forget they are yours, if you have to, and pretend they are in some small city you are visiting

for the first time. You'll gain a new perspective on them—and on life. Walk your quiet, shaded streets, look at the simple, comfortable homes on either side of you, or the big palatial ones. Look at the well-kept lawns, the spreading trees, the shrubs. Everything seems to have about it a quiet dignity.

Take a couple of hours some evening and walk around your town. How many homes do you see with tightly drawn curtains, as though those who lived within tried to shut themselves in and the world out?

You look on either side of you, towards windows, bright with light, upon families sitting together with mutual enjoyments, books and music, or games and conversation. Walk past your Community House and hear the music pouring out into the night air. Walk past your library and see the lights shining on polished floors, books and happy faces. Walk past your churches and listen to the deep swell of the organs and catch the vari-colored gleam of their windows.

Walk back to where we started from, the business district, and look at your stores—aglim with lights, the streets free from the litter of torn papers and discarded scraps typical of the city.

Yes, we humbly suggest that, some week end, you who live in Birmingham devote one day and evening to wandering around your town, pretending you never saw it before. You'll probably feel like starting right out to buy a house, until you recall you're lucky—you already own one here!

(Signed)
An Enformaté "Big City" Resident

*Reprinted from The Birmingham Eccentric Public Letter Box 11/28/47. It made us so proud of our community, we thought it should be highlighted as an especially appropriate Christmas Season message.

SNYDER KINNEY & BENNETT
INC.