Somewhere in the early childhood of every person there enters the terrible human concept called FEAR. Fear does more harm to this world than any other single thing. Fear's antidote is FAITH.

The Birmingham Eccentric

PART ONE

SEVENTIETH YEAR—NO. 41—14 Pages

BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1947

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THIS and THAT

By G. R. A.

Your New Year Is, After All, Up to You!

Although December 31 each year is the date when the current calendar one uses is supplanted by one whose dates start from January 1, there is little of deep significance to the occasion other than the fiction and fun connected with each year's close. Insofar as New Year's resolutions go, many years ago I became convinced that any day of one's life is a good time to make resolutions . . . so why, for example, retain any negative, or refrain from a new, good activity, until one can hang a brand new calendar on the wall!

Of course, it is fine to set aside a specific date for the review of one's condition in life; to appraise that condition in the light of one's current attitudes and activities. But, certainly, if one has a special negative habit that is retarding him from health and prosperity, one ought to know about that during any month—and right then and there resolve to change for the better.

However, I agree with all who use the year's end to exclaim to all: "A Happy and Prosperous New Year!"

I make the exclamation with sincere feeling—at the same time knowing that my making the exclamation isn't the necessary and vital thing at all; the essence of a happy and prosperous new year lies with and within each of us.

Each of us, with the help of a faith in Divine Goodness, shapes our own lives. Which reminds me of the inspiring words of the essayist, James Allen, when he wrote:

"As you think, you travel; as you love, you attract. You are today where your thoughts have taken you; you will be tomorrow where your thoughts take you. You cannot escape the result of your thoughts, but can endure and learn, accept and be glad. You will realize the vision (not the idle wish) of your heart, be it base or beautiful, or a mixture of both, for you will always gravitate towards that which you secretly, most love. In your hands will be placed the result of your thoughts; you will receive that which you earn, no more, no less. Whatever your present condition may be, you will fall, remain, or rise with your thoughts, your wisdom, your ideal. You will become as small as your controlling desire; as great as your dominant aspiration."

Bits of Birmingham

Mr. and Mrs. Everett W. Allen of 931 Ridgedale road have come upon a happy suggestion to make pleasure more pleasant. They are holding open house Sunday from 3 to 8 o'clock and have asked their guests, who will number about 150, to bring a package of food for this "Friendship Tea," as they are calling the affair. The Allens feel that the pleasant afternoon and evening, which they will spend in a cozy home and among close friends, can thus be shared with those of Europe who are not so fortunate. The food will be packed in cartons, and Harry Smart, local chairman of the "Friendship Food Caravan," has volunteered to see to the collection of it. Harry also advises any others who might be similarly inclined, that he will gladly arrange to have food donations collected from their homes if they kindly contact him at 484. This Wanderer believes this is truly an ideal opportunity to have a pleasant time, and to make it ever more pleasant by the thought that you have taken time out to remember the people in Western Europe who do not have parties any more.

—o—

According to several members of the local Lions Club, contributions for the purchase of microfilmed books to be used with the Public Library's new ceiling projector (which is used by invalids not able to read in the normal manner) would be very welcome. This Wanderer is told that the club now has 29 such "books" on hand, but when spread over the several fields of literature (children's books, mystery, novels, biographies, etc.) the invalid doesn't have too many such books that will particularly interest him or her. A total of 500 microfilms is available, it was pointed out.

—o—

A quartet composed of Charles Van Fletteren, Gordon Cole, Bob Erwin and Harry Wagner walked off with the $50 first prize in the recent Bloomfield Theater caroling contest. The second prize of $35 went to the "Berkley Carolers," while the $25 third prize was split between the tiene "Cleft Club" and Baptist Youth Group. This contest was the first in a series, Miss Dale Young, theater manager, announced.

—o—

A telephone—that modern convenience—can be an inconvenience, especially when only one of two persons with the same name has a telephone. This fact was revealed to this Wanderer this

(See BITS OF B'HAM, Page 2)

Citizens Must Participate in World Affairs

Pennington Points to Need for More World Cooperation

By Gordon R. Pennington

You are probably a good citizen of your local community. That community is the product of your self-interest and that of your neighbors. Your children are educated, your garbage is collected, your home receives police protection, not primarily because you are an altruistic community builder but because you realize that your own personal welfare and that of your family is vitally bound up with the welfare of your community. Consequently you keep informed on local issues and you are prompted to action when community interests, which are your interests, are threatened.

It is more difficult to be a good citizen of the nation. National issues are more complex. You are conscious of being a much smaller part of the national community.

But here again knowledge of the issues, plus your ability to identify yourself with them, is not only the basis of good community citizenship but also of good national citizenship. Therefore, it is to your own personal advantage to keep informed on national issues and through voting and membership in national organizations to make your influence felt.

(Editor's Note: This is the first of a series of four articles by Gordon R. Pennington on subjects dealing with individual responsibility in a troubled world, as an introduction to the January Community Council Institute on "Economic Aspects of World Trade."

(Formerly a resident of Switzerland, France and Germany, and for the past 14 years with the Chrysler Corporation, Pennington at present the chairman of their Engineering Improvement Committee) corresponds with engineers in many parts of the world. He is the recipient of thousands of letters each year, perhaps 500 of them in French, Spanish or German. He is cognizant of the hopes and yearnings stirring in many men's minds and out of his reflections has written his own thoughts about what the average citizen, Mr. and Mrs. America, can do to further world peace and security.

Pennington was chief of the Tractor and Vehicle Design for the Ordnance Department of the U. S. Army after the first world war. He was educated abroad and at the Case School of Applied Science, Cleveland, and was associated with Cleveland engineering firms before joining the Chrysler Corporation. He lives in Bloomfield Hills.

(His next article will be: "We Don't Owe Anybody Anymore".)

Patriotism Not Enough

We have learned that altruism and patriotism are not enough to insure the security of a nation. It is recognition of the fact that our personal and individual long-range interests are irrevocably identified with those of the nation which must be the driving force in a democracy.

World citizenship is even more difficult of attainment. To begin with, it is a relatively new concept. It is something far more than "internationalism." **World citizenship implies an individual participation in the world community rather than merely the political alliance of governments.**

For example, those of us in Birmingham who are members of any of the several branches of world organizations, such as Rotary and Red Cross, already are acting as world citizens, even though we may not realize the fact or its importance.

The practical-minded will point out deprecatingly that we have not yet achieved a world government of which we can be citizens. Perhaps that is because the United Nations is made up of individuals who still think in terms of internationalism rather than "worldism".

Learn From History

We had to learn from the failure of the confederacy that a government for the United States, to be effective and enduring, had to be more than a treaty of the several state governments. It had to be the composite achievement of all the individual citizens of our land. It had to be something with the concept of national citizenship, something apart from, and above, state citizenship.

So now, if we are to achieve enough world cooperation to forestall world-wide chaos, all mankind must make a beginning towards thinking of themselves as world citizens as well as subjects of a British monarchy, an Italian socialist state or an American democracy.

A world government, if and when it comes into being, will only incidentally be the product of the statesmen who devise its charter. To be effective and to endure, it must be the reflection of an already existing sense of common interest among a majority of the peoples on this earth.

A Growing Concept

This concept of a world community is growing. Tens of millions of individuals all over the world are beginning to recognize their common desires, needs and aims.

(See PENNINGTON, Page 2)

This newspaper could, as it has in the past, take this occasion to wish all its readers and subscribers a very happy New Year. Simply that, and no more.

But we feel that a few extra words of friendliness are very much in order, especially this year.

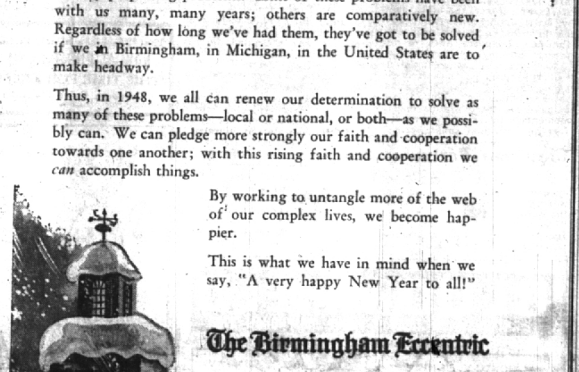
We not only want to *wish* you a happy New Year for 1948—we want to tell you also what we *mean* by a "happy" year.

Our community, our state, our nation is in the midst of a number of very perplexing problems. Some of these problems have been with us many, many years; others are comparatively new. Regardless of how long we've had them, they've got to be solved if we in Birmingham, in Michigan, in the United States are to make headway.

Thus, in 1948, we all can renew our determination to solve as many of these problems—local or national, or both—as we possibly can. We can pledge more strongly our faith and cooperation towards one another; with this rising faith and cooperation we *can* accomplish things.

By working to untangle more of the web of our complex lives, we become happier.

This is what we have in mind when we say, "A very happy New Year to all!"



City Activities Are Reviewed As Old Year Bows To 1948

Issue of January 2

Three fires occurred over Christmas one of which caused quite a bit of damage to the roof of the home of Mr. and Mrs. Clay Johnson, 1171 Smith Street. The other two were the result of yuletide trimmings and hangings in the home of H. E. Reed 444 W. Frank and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur W. Farrell, 1854 Winthrop Lane, but were put out before any damage resulted.

A 12-man special gifts committee has been announced by Elmer L. Sylvester, executive vice-president of Flores, Inc., and special gifts chairman for the $2,500,000 Woodward General Hospital Building Fund Campaign.

In order that voters' registrations may be kept more satisfactorily and so they will not outgrow the present method of filing, the City Commission Monday night authorized the city manager to investigate the purchase of modern visible filing cabinets for the registrations.

Issue of January 9

Opening meetings in the $2,500,000 Woodward General Hospital Building Fund campaign will take place January 15, 16 and 17. Birmingham's group includes Beverly Hills, Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Franklin, Lathrup Townsite and Magnolia units.

Southfield Township residents last Friday voted 1,049 to 381 to organize into a single school district. A total of 1,470 votes were cast in the election.

H. R. Knickerbocker back in America again after covering the battlefronts of the world, will be at the Birmingham Community House at 8:30 Monday night to give his audience a "Report from Palestine and the Middle East."

Sydney R. Patterson, 19600 Riverside drive, reported to police last Saturday that two men in a green car were seen entering homes in Beverly Hills. One is reported as tall and blonde and wearing a leather jacket.

Issue of January 16

An army of 2,600 volunteer workers in 16 South Oakland County communities will take the field this week end in a public subscription campaign for $2,500,000 to build the new Woodward General Hospital.

Donald C. Egbert recommended to the City Commission Monday evening, that the City of Birmingham take immediate steps to adjust its insurance policies upward on public buildings, so the policies will include present day valuations in case of loss by fire. Figures were presented indicating the City has its buildings insured for only $280,000 out of the estimated $684,000 valuation in today's market.

Lawrence E. Nelson, president of the Birmingham Junior Chamber of Commerce, announced today that the eight days from Jan. 15th to the 22nd is being observed nationally as "Junior Chamber of Commerce Week."

State Senator Otto W. Bishop of Alpena, representing the 29th senatorial district in the Michigan Legislature, and chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance for 1947, will be the guest speaker at the dinner given by the Birmingham Retail Merchants Association at the Community House Wednesday, Jan. 22, at 7 p. m. His topic, "Taxation and Finance in Michigan."

Issue of January 23

Advance contributions totaling more than $120,000 were reported last night at the first of this week's series of the three area report meetings in the $2,500,000 Woodward General Hospital Building Fund campaign.

Mrs. Catherine Sewell, 752 Randall court, and her son David had Brussels sprouts for dinner the other night that seem to defy the rule of nature and grew in their back yard despite the present cold weather. They were good and there were enough for two hearty eaters.

A mobile X-ray unit from the Michigan Department of Health will be stationed in the foyer of the Municipal Building next Tuesday and Wednesday for the benefit of all Birmingham persons wishing to have chest X-rays taken free of charge.

Definitely included in the city's spring construction program is the repair of those downtown sidewalks which were partially damaged when the new gas pipe was recently put in, the city manager informed City Commissioners Monday night.

Issue of January 30

The $2,500,000 Woodward General Hospital Building Fund campaign today is well past the quarter million dollar mark, according to reports from campaign headquarters in Birmingham. More than $216,000 was reported at the first series of area reports and additional thousands of dollars announced at the second.

James Barrett Reston, noted young national correspondent of the New York Times, will be in Birmingham for a return visit on Thursday to speak at a lecture discussion of the Roth Shain International Relations Class at the Village Playhouse. The subject will be "The State of the Union."

Replacement of the 10-year old pump in the city's West Well was authorized by the City Commis-

(See REVIEW, Page 1, Part 2)

MSC Coach to Speak Here at Jan. Meeting

Coaches, Players of County Invited to Alumni Party

Harold H. Gasser of Birmingham, president of the Michigan State Alumni Association of Oakland County, has announced that the group is going to sponsor a football bust which is scheduled for the local Community House on the evening of January 14. Reservations are being limited to 275 guests and ticket sales are being handled by Earl Clark of Pontiac.

Clarence (Biggie) Munn will be the featured speaker at the program which will also introduce all the other members of the "State" coaching staff. Forest Evashevsky, Hugh Daugherty and Kip Taylor will all be here and will talk about football. Glen Stewart, director of alumni relations for MSC, will also be a guest of honor.

Movies of Hawaii Trip

A special invitation to the dinner and program has been extended to the coaches of Oakland County high schools and to about sixty of the county's outstanding prep athletes.

When the Spartans went to Hawaii this past season to play the University of Hawaii, a moving picture record was kept. It is in technicolor and includes every highlight of the journey including the game itself. These pictures will be shown during the program.

Tickets for the bust which includes dinner as well as the entertainment can be obtained in Birmingham from Gasser who may be reached by telephone at 768 Suffield.

Yule Decoration Contest Winners Are Announced

Judges of the 1947 home decorating contest, sponsored by the Retail Merchants Association, this week named the following winners in the three classes:

Lawn decorations: Dr. and Mrs. Stanley F. Jesson, 454 Hawthorne road; William L. Martin, 959 Oakland avenue and Paul Wilson, 952 Puritan road.

Window decorations: Charles L. Harris, 363 Catalpa drive; Dominic Cavalier, 955 Hazel street and Peter Spehar, 962 Hazel street.

House entrance: D. R. Sprigley, 661 Fairfax drive; L. E. Shallberg, 950 Chestnut street, and J. R. Ackerman, 315 Pilgrim road.

Santa Silhouette

The Jesson decoration consisted of a huge silhouette of Santa and his reindeer at the left of the door, and two large trees at the right. All were against a white background, and were beautifully lighted. The Martin home was a clever arrangement of a trimmed tree, decorated with colored lights, with the packages and toys grouped about its base. The whole was thrown into bold relief by nearby floodlights.

The windows of the Harris home were beautifully decorated, and not one was missed. In the larger panes, a center arrangement of tree ornaments, Christmas greens and lights held the glance. The Cavalier home was gay with "frosted windows against a background of greens and Christmas candles.

The entrance of the Sprigley home featured an almost life-size Santa, with a huge bag of toys at his feet, standing against a background of a large tree, with some of the gifts already placed around it. Greens, lights, and motifs of holiday cheer marked the Shallberg home entrance.

Opinion of Judges

The judges for the affair were Mrs. Donald Howard, Mrs. Holah and Mayor Ralph A. Main. In commenting on this year's contest, they all expressed the same opinion—that all prizes were worth working for, and that all winners were worthy of the prizes.

All expressed regrets, however, that there were not more entries. They said that in driving around the city to look at the entries, they saw many others which would have stepped up the competition had they been entered in the judging.

Fractures Leg in Toboggan Accident

Tobogganing claimed another local "victim" this week.

George Catlin, Jr., 15, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Catlin, Sr., of Franklin road, was injured near his home about 9 o'clock Monday night when the toboggan on which he was riding struck a stump.

The boy was taken to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Pontiac, where it was learned he had fractured his leg.

Director Resigns

A. Shanley Rosso, director of the Birmingham Men's Chorus since 1935 and of the Birmingham Ladies' Chorus since its organization last September, this week announced his resignation from the two groups because of increasing business responsibilities.

Road Oil Program Will Get Attention of City Manager

City Manager Donald C. Egbert will begin immediately to prepare next summer's road oiling program in order to effectively use city equipment during the several summer months, it was indicated at Monday night's city commission meeting.

In authorizing Egbert to obtain bids for 100,000 gallons of road oil, commissioners endorsed the manager's recommendation that a program be worked out with the least possible delay so that the various city departments would be able to swing into action just as soon as favorable weather arrived.

In his recommendation, Egbert emphasized the need for road oil on (1) streets with curb, gutter and gravel and which are awaiting asphaltic concrete surfacing and (2) unimproved streets which nevertheless carry large volumes of traffic (Pierce, Harmon, etc.).

Some Streets Preferred

Nine streets in the first classification will require an estimated 60,000 gallons of oil to be applied as a dust preventative as well as to hold together the surface gravel, Egbert explained.

"The remaining 40,000 gallons which we expect to get will be available for other city streets," he said.

However, main traffic arteries should be given preferential oil treatment in Egbert's opinion.

Commissioner William Martin questioned the manager on the possibility of contracting road oiling work should enough of the citizens, in next April's city election, approve the charter amendment to provide assessment procedure for such oiling.

Cites Possibility

"I can see the possibility that should the amendment pass, we might receive an overwhelming amount of requests for road oiling," Martin declared.

Egbert pointed out that should this avalanche of requests take place, the more densely populated streets should be given preference.

"That's right," stated Commissioner Milton F. Mallender. "There's no need of oiling a block which only has two or three houses when a built-up block is in need of oiling."

The manager indicated that while he did not know immediately of any firm which contracted for road oiling, it might be possible to find one.

Harry Henderson Named to State Liquor Commission

Harry Henderson of Franklin last week was named as the third member of the Liquor Control Commission for the State of Michigan by Gov. Kim Sigler. This completes and fulfills Sigler's pledge campaign that he would name a new commission.

Henderson replaces Felix H. H. Flynn, named to the commission in 1942 by ex-Gov. Harry F. Kelly. An "outsider" to the Sigler administration, Owen J. Cleary of Ypsilanti, commission chairman, and G. Mennen Williams of Grosse Pointe, a Democrat appointed by Sigler to reorganize the commission, have failed to work closely with Flynn, which was given as the main reason for not reappointing him to the office.

Henderson, retired business man and staunch Sigler supporter during his campaign, was at one time president of the Wayne County Republican Precinct Organization.

Well Qualified

"Henderson is well qualified by his experience as a successful business man, his integrity and ability to fill this very important position," Sigler said. "He has been active for many years in organizations fighting machine control and bossism in Wayne County politics."

Henderson is the founder of the Henderson Tire Co., president of the George King Co., and the Henderson Tool Co. He was born in the Shetland Islands north of Scotland 58 years ago.

In 1944, and again in 1946, he was an unsuccessful Republican nominee for Congress in the 15th Congressional District. Henderson states that when he became interested in politics he shaped his business interests so he could "practically retire".

He is a member of the Masonic Lodge and of the Detroit Yacht Club, and is an ardent horseman.

Baseball Memorial Planned in Honor of Larry Mintling

To honor Larry Mintling, a group of interested Baldwin high school alumni have proposed a memorial plaque to be awarded to the most valuable varsity baseball player at the close of each season.

Mintling, a member of the 1943 graduating class, was killed in the Okinawa fighting while serving in the Marine Corps. Larry was one of the outstanding pitchers in Baldwin diamond history. While in service he pitched a Marine nine to a league championship.

Funds for the purchase of this memorial will be raised through donations of Baldwin alumni. The group has set a goal of $100 and any surplus will be used for the annual engraving costs. Jay J. Myers, a Baldwin faculty member, will act as treasurer of the group and all donations should be mailed to him at the high school.

500 Carolers

It was estimated that between 400 and 500 persons attended the annual community "Christmas Eve Sing" held last Wednesday afternoon at the city's municipal park.

BULLETIN

Jean Belaird, executive assistant to French Ambassador Hen Bonnet, arrived in Birmingham Monday night from Washington, D. C., to discuss details of the shipping and distribution details with the State Executive Committee of the Michigan Junior Chamber of Commerce "Friendship Food Caravan."

Longacre Office Starts Operating Next Monday

The Michigan Bell Telephone Company will inaugurate a new dial-operated exchange in the West Bloomfield area on Monday, Walter B. Fauser, manager, has announced.

Costing approximately a half million dollars, the exchange is named Longacre-5, and is an entirely new one created from portions of the Birmingham, Pontiac and Farmington exchanges. It is one of the first since the war to be established on a complete dial basis.

The exchange consists of a specially designed, one-story brick building, 1,100 telephones, and a small dial switching unit.

The building is located a half mile south of West Maple road on Middlebelt. The dial equipment which it houses will interconnect all calls between subscribers in West Bloomfield. Interzone and long distance calls will be handled by toll operators at Royal Oak.

Completely Automatic

"Unification of the West Bloomfield area into a single exchange recognizes the growing community of interest there and it is perhaps significant that the Longacre-5 business office will be established at Birmingham," Fauser said.

Completely automatic, the Longacre-5 community dial office will require attention only when telephones are connected or disconnected and for regular maintenance.

All Longacre-5 subscribers will receive a new telephone number consisting of four digits, for example, 2345. On calls originating from any other exchange it will be necessary to give both the central office name and all five digits, for example, "Longacre 5-2345."

Fauser said the cutover would

(See OFFICE, Page 2)

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SECURITY — The Nation's Watchword.
—Adv., tf.

Back to Regular Deadlines

With next week's issue, The Eccentric resumes its usual deadline schedule for news and advertising matter.

This schedule is:

CLUB NOTES: Monday at 12 noon.

CHURCH NEWS: Monday at 12 noon.

SOCIETY AND ALL OTHER TYPES OF NEWS: Tuesday at 5 p.m.

DISPLAY AND CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING: Tuesday at 5 p.m.