You who read these brief paragraphs each week will, I am sure, be glad to know just why I so often refer to the Divine Providence Who is universally admitted to be the creator of all things. I do so, friends, because He has so abundantly blessed my own personal experience.

The Birmingham Eccentric

PART ONE

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THIS and THAT

By G. R. A.

Lansing Business On the Decline Since Election

Activities in the Governor's office in Lansing have decreased considerably during the past week. That is the normal tradition, where an administration is going out.

We do, of course, receive many contacts from various heads of government yet, but the telephone calls and letters from the citizens have declined greatly; this is because so many such letters are requested from individuals or groups, for something within the giving of an administration. Such requests range all the way from petty, inconsequential favors to consideration for new legislation; and, in the category of new legislation, that ranges all the way from the desires of selfish individuals or groups for special privileges, to unselfish individuals or groups who offer ideas for the improvement of government.

During my nearly two years as Gov. Sigler's executive secretary, never has an "off base" proposition been made to me; that fact, I believe, is a tribute both to Sigler and myself—a tribute to reputations for crusading in the interest of clean and honest government in Lansing. I hope and pray that all succeeding administrations are treated likewise.

* * *

In his recent successful election campaign, Democrat G. Mennen Williams declared that he would increase benefits to old age and dependent children beneficiaries, that he would eliminate the sales tax on food and clothing, that he would interest Michigan in a practical housing program. It will be interesting to learn just how he thinks he will achieve his desires. About the only added tax revenues available to Michigan are an increased sales and/or property tax, and an income tax. The new Governor will, I am quite sure, soon realize how helpless a State's Chief Executive is in delivering glittering and glowing campaign economic promises.

* * *

Three northern Michigan youths, 10, 12 and 13 years of age, shoot a 66-year-old neighbor woodcutter because the latter would not aid them in covering up their truancy from school. A sad commentary on the families of these youngsters; a revelation of the loneliness, (and it happens in large centers of population, too), of children whose upbringing lacks the necessary character-building processes of good citizenship.

* * *

A San Francisco bride, most of whose family and friends live in the east, wanted a large audience at her wedding. She advertised her wish for people to attend her nuptials, and a goodly crowd turned out. Happy bride, happy bride. Whether out of mere curiosity or a desire to be friendly to a lonesome girl, those who attended proved sympathetic in her hour of need. Hope the new bride never wants for friends on her matrimonial journey through life.

* * *

Russia a government whose populace is "kept free in slavery" to a barbaric system, is determined to rule the whole earth. The United States, and some other powers, want to remain free. This contest will go on until the comparatively few Communist leaders opposed to us are overthrown; the democracies don't want to go to war to remain free, now; they are depending upon the plan to strengthen anti-Soviet nations, at the same time endeavoring to enlighten the mass of Russian people via radio broadcasts, hoping Russian people will finally overthrow their masters. Let us hope that the United States strengthens her defenses against the terrible marching menace of Communism! Paying high taxes for our defense is the best and cheapest way, today, to remain free.

Becomes Permanent

In order to relieve traffic congestion and hazards, the city commission has approved permanent restrictions on parking along the west side of Ann street, between Brown and Daines, and on the west side of Woodward for a distance of 150 feet north of 14 Mile road.

Beginning this week, The Eccentric presents the first of four groups of

LETTERS TO SANTA CLAUS

written by Birmingham school children.

Today the first and second graders At Adams School write of their Christmas desires to

SANTA CLAUS

ON PAGE 6, PART 3.

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

New Home of Great Lakes Tractor & Equipment Co.

This is the Field Detroit Co. building and property purchased at a reported $125,000 by the Great Lakes Tractor & Equipment Co., which will move in shortly after the first of the year.

Maples Beat Acorns in Thrilling Upset

By Duke Layland

Displaying the spirit of champions, Birmingham shut out the Acorns of Royal Oak, winners of the Border Cities League Championship, 12-0 in the fifty-first annual game as the Maples showed the quality teamwork that has marked their play this season.

Lacking pass defense all year, Coach Vincent Secontine produced a miracle in the two weeks previous to the big game. The Birmingham secondary intercepted three and knocked down seven of the 16 passes the Acorns attempted.

Royal Oak never had a chance to challenge the Maples' two touchdowns as Birmingham's line time and again hurled the Acorns for substantial losses. Royal Oak moved into Maple territory only once under its own power during the game. Late in the third quarter the Acorns completed two successive passes to Birmingham's 44 yard line but could not gain further when the Maples held for downs.

Maples Halt Drive

The Acorns' only scoring threat materialized late in the second quarter when Birmingham was penalized 45 yards for various infractions of the rules. The Maples, however, halted the futile drive when Bob Littleson intercepted Captain Chuck Gibbs' pass on Birmingham's 13 yard line.

Birmingham played one of the best games of the 1948 season. Taking the opening kickoff, it marched 60 yards to the Royal Oak five only to lose the ball on downs.

An exchange of punts gave the Maples a first down on the Acorns' 35 yard line. Bud Carten moved the ball to the Royal Oak 28 to start Birmingham's first touchdown drive. After Co-captain Colin Campbell hulled his way to the 18, Littleson hit left end Rollie McGinnis in the end zone with a bullet pass and Birmingham led 6-0. Chuck Olin's try for conversion was blocked.

Two Scores Called Back

This was the first time a Maple 11 has crossed Royal Oak's goal line in five years. The touchdown also was the first scored on a pass by Birmingham this season.

The first half ended with the Maples on the Acorns' 40 yard line.

Birmingham's teamwork paid off when, with the third quarter not four minutes old, the Maples had crossed Royal Oak's goal line three times.

On the second play after the kickoff Littleson intercepted Terry Henderson's pass on the Acorns' 35 and raced over the goal line for what appeared to be a touchdown.

However, the referees detected a Maple clip and Birmingham was forced to start all over again on Royal Oak's 35. On the second play after the Maples' recovery of the ball, Littleson again raced 35 yards to score. This time the touchdown was good and Birmingham led, 12-0. The Maples attempted to run for the point after touchdown but could not reach pay dirt.

R O Forced to Punt

Royal Oak took Bill Downey's kickoff on its own 21 but was forced to punt as Captain Clayton Joyce and Gordon Crawford broke through the Acorns' defense to down Roy Leet for a 10 yard loss.

Two plays could not gain a yard through the impregnable Maple defense and Leet kicked to scatback Dick Murray, who took the punt on Royal Oak's 45 yard line and swivel-hipped his way to another hoped-for score. A penalty again cancelled his spectacular run and the Maples drove deep into Acorn territory in vain.

The game ended with no further scoring and Birmingham showing its superiority in team spirit and the will to win, holding the Acorns to three first downs in the last half. The Maples downed a great Royal Oak team in one of the best Turkey Day games in

(See UPSET, Page 2)

Ex-Lord Mayor Of Birmingham, Eng., to Address Kiwanis

Norman Tiptaft, former Lord Mayor of Birmingham, England, will speak at a public meeting at the Community House Tuesday evening, Dec. 7. He will be greeted at the Municipal Building at 4 o'clock by Mayor Milton F. Mallender and other city officials, and at 6:30 will be the dinner guest of the Kiwanians who are sponsoring his appearance here. The Hon. D. F. H. Brickell, British Consul in Detroit, will also be an honored guest, as will city officials.

Tiptaft served as Lord Mayor of Birmingham in 1941 and 1942. Prior to that he had been managing director for one of England's largest and most modern manufacturers of silverware and jewelry. In 1936 he retired from active business to devote all his time to public affairs. During the war he served as chairman of the Birmingham Civil Defense committee and later held a like office with the Civil Reconstruction committee.

Lectures to Troops

It was also during the war years that his government asked him to travel into countries where British troops were stationed, lecturing to them on conditions at home. Upon his return, he turned to writing and public speaking, and has had several books printed along with many articles in newspapers and magazines. He has made many radio appearances, and last spring conducted his first speaking tour in this country.

While here he addressed chambers of commerce, universities, and service clubs of both men and women. His reception before these varied groups prompted him to schedule his second appearance this fall. He has been in the United States since October, speaking mainly in the east. Before his return to England he mapped speeches in the south and west, including his appearance here.

He will talk on many questions which Americans are asking about England, conditions there, and how she is facing the future after the war years.

Police Investigate Three Robberies Here

Local police are investigating three robberies reported to them last week.

Tuesday they received a report from Mrs. Marjorie Higbie, 388 Baldwin, that someone had stolen a black calf-skin purse from her car during the night. The second report was from Clemmens Bourdeau of Ferndale, who said that a black sable coat had been taken from the American Legion Home here.

Mrs. Robert Annan, an employee of the Birmingham Credit Bureau, whose office is in the Wabeek Building, told police that she missed $17 from her purse. She said that she had left the office for a few moments, and discovered her loss upon her return

City Rejects Bids, Will Do Sewer Job With DPW Crews

DPW crews will install the 480 feet of relief sewer on the west end of Humphrey street, the city commission decided Monday night.

Commissioners, agreeing with City Manager Donald C. Egbert that two submitted bids were too high, rejected them, one for $5,384.75, the other for $6,258.50. They accepted the DPW's bid for $4,600.

"We hesitate to have the DPW do this job, but the fact that these bids were too high, plus the urgency of the installation that should go in right now, would handicap the matter if the city were to readvertise in an attempt to secure more reasonable bids," Commissioner Garland Tait stated.

New High School Topic for PTA Council Panel

It was decided at the Nov. 22 meeting of the Birmingham PTA Council that the annual open house meeting to be held February 21, 1949, will be a panel discussion on the proposed new high school.

Members of the school board and Superintendent Dr. Dwight B. Ireland will present potential plans for the building of the school and discuss them with the audience.

"It is a matter of vital importance to Birmingham citizens financially and otherwise," Ireland said, "and I believe we can anticipate a huge turnout." The board will offer a thorough picture showing what the project will mean to the people of our city."

Committee Reports

James L. Cox, treasurer, gave a report on the Council's finances and presented the 1948-49 budget.

A detailed report of the Hallowe'en party was read by Mrs. Edward S. McCombe, chairman of the recreation committee. Reports were also given and progress shown in the work of the safety committee, the movies and radio committees.

Mrs. Berrien C. Ketchum read excerpts from the Community Council bulletin on standardizing county procedure for service to children, mental hygiene, public living, and new ways in democratic living.

New Secretary

Mrs. Irwin T. White, president of Franklin PTA, Mrs. Richard Brown, delegate from Quarton, Mrs. Thomas Kavanagh, vice-president of Holy Name, and W. E. Kendall, president of Walnut Lake PTA gave reports on activities of their respective schools.

Two Injured As Stand Collapses

Two Royal Oak persons were injured at the Royal Oak-Birmingham game when a section of the temporary wooden bleachers on the Royal Oak side of the field collapsed shortly before game time.

In Oak Center hospital, Royal Oak, is Miss Irene Gildner, 18, with a fractured ankle, while Morris Richards, 48, is in Grace hospital, Detroit, with a fractured leg.

"Mail Early!" Again Heard from Postoffice

Fowler Expects 1948 Volume to Set New Record

Acting Postmaster Bernard E. Fowler appeals to local residents to mail their Christmas greeting cards and gift packages as early in December as possible. "Last year," he said the local office cancelled 777,518 pieces of Christmas mail, and it appears that that record will be broken this year.

"If you postpone your mailing," he warned, "you risk disappointing your friends. Your holiday messages and gifts may be caught in the rush and perhaps not delivered until after Christmas."

Extremely Vital

In order to assure delivery before Christmas day, packages should be mailed not later than Dec. 12. Cards going out of state should be mailed at this time, too, and those for local delivery should be in the postoffice at least a week before Christmas.

"Early mailing is extremely vital," Fowler said, "because handling Christmas mail is divided into three phases. First the mail for out-of-town must be collected and dispatched by rail and air. Then the delivery of Yuletide greetings, exchanged locally, becomes the big job. And finally comes that last minute flood of mail from out of town for local delivery. This is true, not only in the Birmingham postoffice, but in every one in the country.

"Whenever these three operations overlap there's a jam in the postoffice, with the result that deliveries are delayed.

Training Extra Clerks

"We are already battling the annual flood. Extra mail clerks are being trained, as well as carriers. We're oiling up the machines and will even have an extra stamp window open after December 11. In addition to that we have engaged extra trucks for hauling, and can still use several more. Why, we've even put new nibs in the famous postoffice pens!"

Fowler also pointed out a few

(See POSTOFFICE, Page 2)

—Great Lakes Camera Photo

Rollie McGinnis, Birmingham left end, catches a 15-yard pass from Bob Littleson in the second quarter to give the Maples their first of two scores as they trounced Royal Oak 12-0. Acorn players Dave Beamer (9) and Roy Leet (15) were unsuccessful in knocking down the pass.

Michigan Distributor of Farm Implements Buys Warehouse Here

By George Wm. Averill

Great Lakes Tractor & Equipment Co., Michigan distributor of Ford tractors and Dearborn farm equipment, today revealed the purchase of the land and facilities of the Field Detroit Co., on East Maple Avenue.

Sales price was reportedly in excess of $125,000.

According to William H. Breech, of 32883 Bingham road, Franklin, president of Great Lakes Tractor, the company plans limited operations beginning Jan. 1, 1949, with full operations commencing next March.

Distributes to 95 Retail Dealers

Young Breech, 26-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest R. Breech of Manor road, said ground will be broken this month for an office building and work will also begin shortly on a rail siding into the warehouse and truck shipping docks.

Established July 1, 1947, the company is presently located on Ford road, Dearborn. Its functions will be moved to Birmingham just as soon as facilities are made available; Breech said. It is the wholesale distributor for the Detroit-made Ford tractor and farm machinery nationally distributed by the Dearborn Motors Corp. of Detroit, serving 95 retail dealers throughout the lower peninsula of the state.

More Space Available

Great Lakes will begin operation with 41,000 square feet of warehouse space plus 6,000 square feet of modern offices supplied by the new office building. An additional 10,000 square feet is readily available for warehouse expansion, and will be developed as the need is presented.

About 50 persons will be employed at the company, 35 of them in the front office. The office will handle the details involved in the receipt, storage and shipment of the more than 70 farm implements which the company will handle. The warehouse will receive tractors, combines, corn-pickers, plows, etc., from the various manufacturers and house them until they are shipped to the various Michigan retail dealers. An area of approximately 9,000 square feet will be set aside for storage of farm implement parts.

A spokesman for the company said that a gross business of around $8,000,000 is expected during the company's first year of operation in Birmingham.

Maintain Service Staff

Breech explained that a service staff would be maintained here as a dealer service.

"Farm equipment, must be maintained and serviced by the distributor and dealers," he stated. "We will employ a service staff to train dealers in the proper methods of servicing this equipment. This staff will go into the field periodically to visit dealers and we expect to establish a sort of school at the new warehouse for special dealer courses."

He indicated the company probably would have a farm near Birmingham where teaching and selling demonstrations could be made, as well as providing actual working conditions for constant testing of various pieces of equipment.

Two Others Known Here

A skeleton crew will be working at the warehouse prior to Jan. 1 to set up parts bins and do other preliminary work necessary before any major move can be made to Birmingham from Dearborn, Breech stated.

In addition to Breech, two other company executives are familiar to local citizens. M. B. Whitlesey, Jr., Brookdale road, Bloomfield Hills, is product control manager. Warner L. Forsyth, Jr., who has just moved to a new residence at 12 Mile and Orchard Lake roads, is advertising and sales promotion manager. He is the son of Rev. W. L. Forsyth, former St. James Church rector here.

E. H. Wyman, company controller, and W. G. Davidson, general sales manager, will have moved their families to Birmingham by the time full company operations begin here.

New Contract For Garbage Collections

By awarding the new garbage collection contract to a Rochester company composed of young ex-GI's, the city commission Monday evening assured Birmingham householders that their garbage collections would cost no more per month for at least the next two years.

In fact, the new contract will result in a one-cent decrease every quarter.

Stay Here During Day

The Veterans' Disposal Service of Rochester, headed by John H. Basch, Jr., successfully bid a price of $1.74 per quarter. A. W. Holtkamp of Hazel Park, who has held the contract for the past 8 years with a price of $1.75 per quarter, in his 1949 bid had upped his price to $2.25.

According to Basch, his company will operate one truck on collections, which will be equipped with the latest garbage packing truck body. This will permit the truck to arrive in the city each morning and continue collections until late afternoon when the truck will be emptied, he said.

Previously, the former contractor operated two trucks here a day, but the refuse was not compacted and necessitated the trucks being emptied several times a day.

Has Hills Contract, Too

Basch's organization also has the garbage and rubbish collection contracts for the City of Bloomfield Hills. He will begin collections in Birmingham January 1 on the presently existing collection schedule.

The city will still retain 10 per cent of the fee for acting as collection agent for the contractor.

City Manager Donald C. Egbert said the contract would include a clause permitting adjustment of charges — upward or downward—depending on the cost of living index for this area.

Three Motorists Pay Fines in Bloomfield Hills Traffic Court

Three more motorists have cause to remember Bloomfield Hills when tempted to break traffic laws. Delmar E. Gasser, arrested Thursday morning when police said, he was driving at 80 miles an hour, spent the day in jail because no city offices were open Thanksgiving day. When he appeared before Judge Alva Richards Friday, the Port Huron man paid a fine of $45 after pleading guilty to a charge of reckless driving.

Another Thursday arrest cost James R. Bean of Royal Oak a $40 fine and $5 costs. He, too, was charged with driving at 80 miles an hour on Woodward avenue.

Kenneth E. McLeod, Detroit, surrendered his operator's license to police and paid a fine of $75. He was charged with driving while under the influence of liquor.

You Can Reach Us On 4 Numbers Now—11, 12, 13 and 14

A new line has been added!

No, it is not the latest thing the boys are telling the girls.

It is a new telephone line which has been added to the switchboard at the Birmingham Eccentric.

Since 1932 The Eccentric has had three local trunk lines to this office—11, 12 and 13.

And Monday morning Telephone No. 14 was placed in operation, making the fourth line into this office.

It's merely a case of The Eccentric's getting bigger and bigger every week—MORE advertising, MORE news meant we couldn't handle the volume on just three lines. So, with the cooperation of the phone company, we added a fourth.

And it's for your convenience in calling us—so you'll hear the operator say less often "Sorry, all busy."

So now call 11, 12, 13 or 14 when you want to get us by phone.

P.S. We also have two lines direct to Detroit—JOrdan 4-6644 and 4-6645.

Michael MacManus Suffers Gun Wound

Michael MacManus, son of Mr. and Mrs. John MacManus of Bloomfield Hills, was admitted to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Pontiac Sunday, suffering from a gunshot wound in the thigh.

According to the police, the lad had been target shooting and was putting the revolver into a waist holster when it accidentally discharged, inflicting the wound.

Petitions City to Vacate Alley

P. K. Riasheim of Royal Oak, owner of 165 feet of the 270 feet fronting in Southfield, between Canterbury and Northlawn, has petitioned the city commission to close the alley at the rear of that property.

His request was sent to City Manager Donald C. Egbert for report and recommendation.

This Week Is Your

LAST CHANCE

to fill out the civic questionnaire on community and neighborhood problems, if you haven't already done so. Of course, if you feel you have no neighborhood problems, then there's no reason for you to send in a reply.

THE QUESTIONNAIRE IS ON PAGE 1, PART 2, OF THIS ISSUE.