

### An Editorial

## Getting Our Nerves Back to Normal

Since the fateful evening of December 11, Birmingham consistently has been on the front pages of the big dailies in this area. It got to the point with many where you couldn't sit down to dinner without the feeling that your house, your street, your neighborhood might be blown up in a gas explosion at any time. Those blaring headlines made your nerves more jumpy than they have been for many a year.

Since the first of this week, however, Birmingham has been relegated to the inside pages and nerves have settled down considerably. We are certain, however, that the community's determination to avoid such disasters in the future is as strong today as it was that particular Sunday night, perhaps even stronger.

#### Problem Is Being Solved

Everyone who lives in Birmingham wants to live in a safe community. We want it, your elected and appointed city officials want it. To that end these city officials are working on this local gas problem.

Already they have met with Consumers Power officials and pointed out many local irregularities. These Coor. sumers officials are cooperating to make Birmingham safe—even if it means considerable expenditure of money.

We can assure you that Birmingham city officials are bending every effort to attain this safety goal. They have accomplished quite a bit in the past 10 days. They will accomplish much more.

#### The Eccentric Will Check on Progress

The Birmingham Eccentric will report this progress as it is made. And we will stand by to offer what assistance we can in making Birmingham as safe as can be from a gas system standpoint.

We will also be ready to prod whoever is necessary to keep the program moving rapidly as possible.

However, gas is and will continue to be dangerous if not properly treated. Maintain your vigilance concerning it, detect and immediately report suggested leaks. Don't take chances and assume the leaking gas is not of sufficient amount to cause immediate trouble. Play safe.

In the meantime, we see no reason for you to become unduly excited or alarmed over the local gas distribution system. It must, and will certainly improve from now on.

## Traditional Community Sing Will Be Saturday at 5:30

By Doris E. Kux

One of Birmingham's warm traditions is the annual Christmas Sing held at the Civic Park each Christmas Eve. All residents are invited to join in this community carolling Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Each year the event is heralded with the pealing of chimes from one of the local churches and the lighting of trees in the park. Community singing will be directed by William Smith, Miss Majell Breezee will present the Barnum Junior high school chorus from a western Michigan nursery. Was There No, Fire, The Christmas Lullabye and "Gloria In Excelsis Deo."

Originated 14 Years Ago

Under the leadership of Arnold

## Local Citrus Crop Ready for Harvest

It's lemon picking time in Birmingham at least at 407 Park where Harland Smith is about to harvest his winter lemon crop. Even though there is only one lemon on Smith's tree, he is proud of the lone fruit which measures 2 1/2 inches in circumference and makes an ordinary "store-bought" lemon look like a pygmy by comparison.

This is the second lemon which has ripened on Smith's dwarf tree, purchased several years ago from a western Michigan nursery. Last summer, the first provided enough lemonade to give the neighbors a chance to taste the flavor or locally grown fruit.

The present lemon will soon be picked and put to use in a lemon meringue pie, Smith said.

## 12 PEOPLE WANTED ONE lady's ping pong set.

Here's an Eccentric Classified that produced 12 calls for a ping pong set and 8 calls for a tobacco:

FOR SALE—MISCELLANEOUS 6 FT. TOLLE with pad. All in one piece, extra table and set. All in one piece, extra table and set. 5-2412. Phone Mrs. Mayfield

## Awaits Final Report

The city commission has accepted the recommendation of the committee studying revisions in the zoning code that present regulations prohibiting more than two frame multiple dwellings be continued until the study is completed.

## State Installs New Traffic Signals at 14 Mile and Woodward



A member of the State Highway Department crew works on the installation of the new Woodward-14 Mile traffic signals, one of which can be seen at the lower right. The signals went up and were operating Dec. 14.

Installation of the lights at this intersection marks the end of a three-year Birmingham Eccentric campaign to get a signal at this dangerous crossing. (Photo by Joe Wheelley)

## Lee Carroll Fund Contributions Still Being Accepted

Approximately one thousand dollars has been contributed by local residents and business concerns to the Lee C. Carroll Fund during the past week. The Eccentric will continue to accept contributions for this worthy cause—resulting, as you recall, when Mr. Carroll, a Birmingham fireman, lost his life in the gas explosion at the Mother & Son Antique Shop a week ago last Sunday.

## "Y" Request Among Circuit Court Rezonings To Be Considered

Petitions for the rezoning of several pieces of property will be considered Jan. 18, the city commission decided Monday night in setting that hearing date. One petition asks for the rezoning of corner lots at Lincoln and Southfield from single family to income bringing classification. The other, presented by the YMCA, asks for a rezoning to income, banalog for property bounded by Lincoln, Grant, Edgewood and St. James Park. Part of this area is zoned for business A, the other part for single family. The YMCA has indicated it desires to construct a local branch at this point.

## Fire at Comm. House Does Little Damage

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## Ban on Nurseries in Single Family Areas to Continue

The city commission has decided to continue to prohibit small nursery schools from being established in single residence areas. Monday night the city commission concurred with a city plan commission recommendation that the practice be continued.

## 2 Short Weeks Coming Up!

With both Christmas and New Year's Days falling on Sunday this year, the legal holidays will be observed the following Mondays. That means a short week in both instances for The Eccentric. Please get your news and advertising copy in our offices as soon as possible during the next two weeks.

## Agreement Sought on the Replacement of Gas Mains in City

Consumers Power Company officials are attempting to determine the manner in which the company and the City of Birmingham can decide what gas mains should be replaced to prevent breaks such as caused the Antique Shop explosion and fire Dec. 11.

The city commission Monday night rejected a Consumers proposal that would have required the city to certify that certain mains should be replaced because of ground shifting which exerts too much pressure on rigid cast iron mains. City officials have requested immediate replacement of the old cast iron main on Woodward from Oakland to Oak and from Brown to Lincoln.

## City Churches Plan Yuletide Observances

The city-wide observation of Christmas season will start at 5:30 Saturday evening at the city park. The annual carol-sing will be held around the lighted Christmas tree.

## Children's Programs and Special Music Highlight Activities

The vocal choir and a brass choir from Baldwin high school will take part in the city churches will take part. Townspeople are urged to attend this annual affair. The hour has been arranged so it will not conflict with family celebrations of Christmas Eve or those of the various churches.

## Two Precautions Taken in Birmingham Theater

In three lectures to City Manager Donald C. Egbert last week, Brown pointed out two precautions measures the company has already taken.

## Special Yuletide Music

The Rev. David J. Duncan will preach the sermon of the evening and will celebrate the Christmas carols by the University of Detroit chorus beginning a program of carols at 11:30. At midnight a special Yuletide music will be held.

## Services at the First Church of Christ, Scientist

Services at the First Church of Christ, Scientist, will be at the regular hours. The services will be taken from the Golden Rule text, "Glory to God in the highest, and peace, good will to men."

## Carlton Recital

Prof. Percival Price, of the University of Michigan, will give a recital from 10:15 to 10:45.

## Saturday's Services at Christ Episcopal Church

Saturday's services at Christ Episcopal Church will be at 4:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

## Police and Firemen Closed

Police and firemen closed stores in the vicinity and the streets were asked to close for a few hours until the conduit could be replaced.