

The person who, in giving, expects his gifts to come back in material form, including a "profit," is wholly without the true spirit of generosity. Heavy is the heart that is weighted down with thoughts of material gain alone.

Christmas Special!!



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Bits of Birmingham

The tragic Antique Shop explosion and fire evidently received considerable radio and newspaper attention over most of this nation, and even Canada. Hartwell Ladd, 72 E. Edgewood, who with his wife and young son were enjoying a few days vacation in Arizona on that fateful night of Dec. 21, told this Wanderer: "I heard over a Los Angeles radio this statement—... and here is more on that Birmingham, Michigan, disaster." That was the first I heard of it, and you can bet we three listened intently to learn what had happened. On the way back the next day, I bought a copy of a Fort Worth, Texas daily—there was a fairly long story on page two." Bill Dove, The Eccentric's composing room foreman, said relatives in London, Canada, heard of it Sunday night over the radio too.

This Wanderer very frankly overstepped the other noon on someone else's conversation one day last week. Returning from the crossing, he noticed a very attractive young lady seated on the bench before him. He called her "Fenny Blunt." Penny, we are very sorry this happened, but you know, we adults slip a little now and then and make mistakes. Don't worry about this one, though, because we hurried right around with our correct name went on to Santa's list—so you're all set. Happy Christmas to you from the Wanderer!

Little Penny Blunt has written to tell this Wanderer that when her letter was printed in The Eccentric, her last name was incorrect. We called her "Fenny Blunt." Penny, we are very sorry this happened, but you know, we adults slip a little now and then and make mistakes. Don't worry about this one, though, because we hurried right around with our correct name went on to Santa's list—so you're all set. Happy Christmas to you from the Wanderer!

Several residents from the Southfield road area have called to express to this Wanderer their appreciation for the signal light installed at 14 Mile and Woodward last week. One lady said "My husband and two children crossed that intersection every day, and it means a great deal to me to know the light is there; it seems wonderful to turn onto 14 Mile from Greenfield and see traffic controlled for the first time."

Mrs. Walter Powers, local chairman for the American Cancer Society, reports that Birmingham cub scouts collected around 800 pounds of white cloth during their recent drive. "The material was badly needed," she said, "and the boys certainly did a wonderful job. They deserve the sincerest thanks of the society and congratulations on their splendid, voluntary work. It was really wonderful of them to give so much of their free time to this cause."

Sidelights on Human Nature: Last Friday an elderly gentleman, who lives in the southern part of the city, walked into The Eccentric office. "Is this where I leave my contribution for the Lee Carroll Fund?" he asked. He was assured that it was. "That's fine. This is my birthday and I can think of nothing finer to do on it than to contribute to the Lee Carroll Fund," he declared. Thank you, sir.

Last week wasn't the first time that Ray Cook, 686 Kennesaw, made a special effort to make up a Rotary club meeting, thus violating his doctor's orders to stay in the house. After almost a week in the hospital, Ray prevailed upon John McKee to take him to Plymouth to make up the Dec. 12 meeting. Ray had a particular reason for his action—he has a perfect weekly Rotary attendance since he joined the Birmingham club in July, 1936.

This is a "have you met" which is worthy of particular notice. This Wanderer received a call on the arrival of a possum family at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Mark Harris of Aspen road. Mrs. Harris, who harbors quite a variety of animals on her grounds, feeds "Shookums" and his family raisin bread and peanut butter. They're quite fond of the lime-light too, and pose calmly over their dinner in the glare of the Harris' flood lights.

Santa is taking off his hat right now to four young men who share an apartment at the Greenfield Terraces. Last Saturday afternoon Judson Decker, Dick McKenzie, Art Zarby and Joseph Corbett entertained 20 delighted youngsters at a Christmas party in their "home." The hosts presented the kids with gifts and stuffed them with refreshments. And what the guest heart-warming point in the whole matter is that the small fry are orphans from Detroit.

The 214-page report by Superintendent of Schools Dwight B. Ireland, covering the local district's activities during the year 1948-49, was released this week. A comprehensive coverage of school administration and curriculum, Ireland's report is sought after by better school administrators in a number of other states, as well as Michigan.

Persons driving past the A. C. Utter home, 712 Southfield, have remarked many times on the beauty of the poinsettia plants which are on their windows. This Wanderer has learned that the plants are owned by Mrs. Agnes Crane, who makes her home there. "Some people think I go downtown and buy them," Mrs. Crane said, "but that is not the case. I keep them from year to year and some of these plants are four years old. This year have six blooms on them." The plants are appearing again this year, drawing many, many comments of their size and beauty.

A touch of Christmas has been added to The Eccentric office, with a spray of white branches, each twig tipped with a brightly colored gum drop. The decoration is the gift of a local woman to the Wanderer, who says "Thank you and a Merry Christmas to you, too."

According to news from Los Angeles, Pat Compton, a former resident and daughter of Mrs. Beecher W. Compton, is quite a flyer. Pat tied for top place with two other women flyers in a recent Pacific coast intercollegiate meet. Representing the Flying club of UCLA, she took first place in the navigation event and

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 two following Mondays.

That means a short week, both 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.

fact that very few people could figure out what in the world they were talking about. This Wanderer even heard that in the southeast section of town some poor soul thought it was a general warning about the gas situation!

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Caution Can Prevent Tragedy in Your Home at Christmas

Fire Chief V. W. Griffith again reminds local residents that a few precautionary measures around the home can avert an immeasurably in having a happy holiday season. "Everyone knows," he said, "that the drier a Christmas tree gets the faster and more furiously it burns. Reduce this risk by keeping the tree moist, or fire-proofing it."

Moisture can be provided by filling the standard with water or wet sawd. Fire-proofing can be done by putting the base of the tree in a solution made of calcium chloride or ammonium sulphate. Enough chemical to equal one-fourth the weight of the tree should be dissolved in 1 1/2 pints of water per pound weight of the tree.

Chief Griffith also warned against bare electric wires, overloading of circuits, and leaving hot bulbs too close to easily flammable materials. This is especially true of plastics and cellophane materials. "No warning should be necessary about candles," he said, "but persons do put them dangerously close to curtains, the tree and gift wrappings. Be extra cautious in all you do, and keep your home safe and happy through the gayest season of the year."

News copy submitted early necessarily is given preference over late items. The "early bird" usually gets the space.

When the General Petroleum company trophy Pat Compton placed in 6 out of the 12 scheduled events. In addition to this, Pat has won recognition of the president of the Bruin Riding Club, and is serving as secretary-treasurer of UGA. She is a junior at UCLA.

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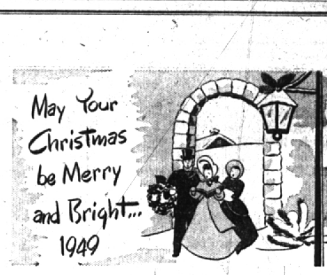
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Christmas Greeting

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Our Clients — And
Our Friends

From each and every one of us:

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