

The Birmingham Eccentric

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1949

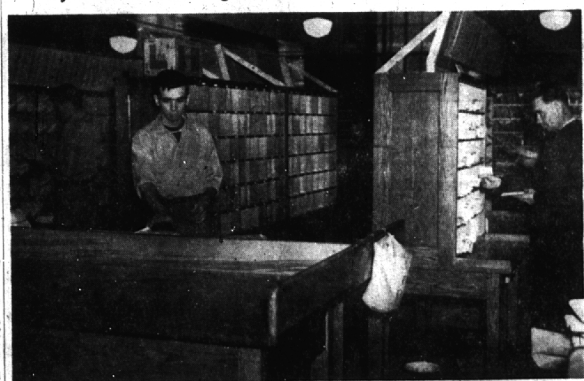
20 PAGES. FIVE CENTS

Mrs. Lee Carroll Is Presented With \$1,600 Check



Containing Lee Carroll Fund contributions received at The Eccentric office to date, a \$1,600 check was presented Saturday morning to Mrs. Lee Carroll, wife, and Sharon Lee, daughter, of Lee Carroll, Birmingham fireman who lost his life in the gas explosion Dec. 11. Making the presentation is George R. Averill (right), editor and publisher of The Birmingham Eccentric. Chief Vern W. Griffith is at the left of Sharon Lee. Other contributions are still coming in to The Eccentric, and will also be presented to Mrs. Carroll. In presenting the check to Mrs. Carroll, Averill said: "This slip of paper is not merely a sum of money to help

Systematic Handling Eliminates Christmas Mail Pile-Up



It's a "believe it or not" picture at the Birmingham postoffice on Saturday morning. The absence of huge piles of mail does not mean a "set" picture at all. It simply means that the terrific volume of mail handled here this year was done without a bottle-neck of any sort. Extra tricks and extra help with systematic handling had the seasonal bugaboo licked from the start. In the center foreground DeLows Russell sorts a small batch of in-coming mail. To the right, Ervin Kaufman finishes another job of routing. At the left, Joseph Dixon, carrier foreman, checks mail already routed and awaiting delivery. (Joe Wheeler Photo)

By Alice E. Morgan
Confusion did not reign supreme at the Birmingham postoffice this year. The volume of Christmas mail handled, both parcel post and first class, was record-breaking, but not nerve shattering as in the past. Six extra trucks augmented the regular fleet of three, with 42 extra persons keeping packages and letters moving in a constant stream into and out of the post-office. The sorting and routing was arranged to be handled with the least possible confusion and greatest

Bernard E. Fowler Is Hospital Patient; Mrs. Wilson Improves

Acting Postmaster Bernard E. Fowler was taken to St. Joseph Mercy hospital in Pontiac Monday suffering from double lobar pneumonia, latest reports available Wednesday morning said his condition was somewhat improved and that he was resting comfortably. Hospital officials also said that the condition of Mrs. Arthur Wilson was "fair." Mrs. Wilson was injured in the gas explosion and fire here on Dec. 11.

City Share in Cost of Clinton, Red Run Drains Is \$27,612

Birmingham's share in the construction of the proposed Red Run drain to prevent flooding in this area will be \$19,812. City Manager Donald C. Egbert has estimated for the city commission. In Egbert's opinion, this is a proper assessment against the city. He said the Red Run serves to drain most of the eastern portion of the city. The Clinton River spillway drain, into which the Red Run flows, Egbert said, estimates Birmingham's share as about \$8,800. Hearings on these two projects will take place Jan. 12 for the Red Run, Jan. 19 for the Clinton drain.

United Fund Chairman Lists 1950 Nominees

Nominations were announced last Thursday by Paul N. Averill, chairman of the United Fund for Oakland County's nominating committee. The entire slate covers every section of the county. Those in this immediate area are Herbert H. Gardner, Bloomfield Hills township; Mrs. Douglas Hadcock, West Bloomfield; and A. E. Stredwich, Troy. The committee also plans a meeting early in the spring to begin preparations for the 1950 United Fund drive.

Old N. Woodward Main Replacement Started

January Thru June, 1949:

Important Birmingham News Events of 1949 Are Briefly Reviewed

As the end of a busy and exciting year draws to a close for the residents of the City of Birmingham, there are a considerable number of local news events that impacted upon the lives of many. As its usual custom at this time of year, The Birmingham Eccentric has gone through its 1949 issues and has reviewed the more important of the past year's local happenings. Because of its length, the months of January through June, 1949, will be presented today, while those of July through December will appear next week.

An added feature in the 1949 chronology is the inclusion of several of the news pictures which appeared in The Eccentric in the past 12 months.

Frankish January Thunderstorm
January introduced a new year with the tragic traffic death of Robert Gravlin, killed when his car crashed into a tree on Adams road. The month also recorded the destruction by fire of the Donald Medley home on North Woodward, one of the city's landmarks. A freakish thunderstorm, also in January, was accompanied by high winds which, fortunately, did little damage within the city but

Recreation Board Plans Many Events for Winter Program

The Birmingham recreation board will resume all phases of its annual winter program Saturday morning, Jan. 7, at 8:45 a.m. An extensive range of activities will be offered to children of elementary grade ages every Saturday for the next two months. Frank Whitney, recreation director, said a special swimming and water training class will be held in the Barrons school pool from 8:45 to 9:45 each morning for the specific purpose of teaching beginning to advanced water safety fundamentals, strokes, techniques and water safety measures. "Participants should be tall enough to stand flatfooted on the bottom of the pool and be able to keep their heads above the surface," Whitney said. All girls desiring to learn to swim should report with caps, swimsuit and towel. The same pool program will be offered for boys from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. It is not necessary for boys to have caps but they should bring their own required articles.

Parents Can Watch Progress
"A small fee will be charged all those participating in the water program to help pay pool expenses," said Whitney. Parents are welcome to accompany the youngsters and watch their progress. Children will be under the supervision of expert adult instructors. "No one will be admitted to the pool who has a cold, skin abrasion or who is not in good health," Whitney said. In addition to the swimming program an extensive sports program will be held at the gymnasium of Baldwin, Bartram, Pierce, Adams and Barton schools. These activities will feature (See PROGRAM, Page 2)

Record Water Production
In the Southfield area a sticky situation involved most of the small fry in the community when they came across some 250,000 sticks of bubble gum which a DeLorean wholesaler disposed of in Fens dump. City commissioners listened to the usual number of spring complaints from homeowners who keep hoping for improve streets in their areas. The surprise came their way when an objection to improved streets was heard. It was felt they would spoil the prevailing "atmosphere."

Memorized Traffic Rules
David L. Brown, divisional manager for Consumers Power company announced some 181 additional gas heating units would be allotted to homes in this area. City allocation is to be made on a lottery basis. Robert St. John, news commentator and author of the weekly Landis spoke here, St. John addressed a Cranbrook public while Landis was in the audience at the annual Family Life institute.

Newly Formed Group to Elect Officers at Meeting Jan. 17

The Friends of the Baldwin public library, a group now in the process of organization, since its meeting on Tuesday evening, Jan. 17 instead of Jan. 3, as previously announced. Progress will be reported on by chairman, George E. Averill, John Witting, Henry Whiting and John Martz. Main speaker of the evening will be Ralph Durling, director of the Detroit public library and president of the American Library association.

Replacement of the old cast iron gas distribution mains on Woodward avenue, between Oakland and Oak streets, was begun yesterday morning by a private contractor hired by Consumers Power Co. to do the work. First to be replaced will be the 4-inch cast iron pipe on the east side of the street north to slightly beyond the Rouge bridge. The new pipe will be 2-inch wrapped steel, and will not extend further than the bridge at the present time because there are no gas services beyond this point. The old pipe beyond the bridge will be cut and abandoned, company officials said.

S. Woodward Mains Next
The contractor then will swing over to the west side of the street, and replace a present 4-inch cast iron main with 6-inch wrapped steel between Willits and Oak streets. The city's dual Woodward gas distribution system, when this S. Woodward work is completed, will be of wrapped steel between Brown street and the company's regulator station at Quaton road. D. E. Karns, vice-president and chief engineer of the company, told Birmingham city commissioners at a special meeting last Thursday. "When these mains are replaced, new ones will be laid along S. Woodward," he said. "The new mains, joining those installed in the downtown section which the past few years, will then extend to our regular stations on the North and south city limits."

Ground Shifting Blamed
Company officials in Pontiac, however, said this does not mean the contractor will immediately shift operations to S. Woodward. City is said to be peculiar ground shifting conditions in certain sections of Birmingham. Ground shifts are believed to be exerting too much pressure on the cast iron pipe, which admittedly will not withstand too much ground shifting. Steel pipe is more flexible and able to withstand more stress from ground shifts, it has been pointed out.

House-to-House Check
A Consumers office informed The Eccentric Tuesday that company records show that work on the west side of Woodward through the city, and steel also on the east side. It was felt they would spoil the prevailing "atmosphere." All-night water record was broken on June 11, when a recorded 4,027,600 gallons of water were pumped as residents tried desperately to find some relief from the long-lasting and excessive standstill.

Commissioners listened to the proposed \$825,000 ad-streeped program and accepted the three proposed sights for further study and consideration. City Commissioner Bruce G. Booth asked Division Manager David L. Brown of what this "emergency service" consisted. "Emergency Service Trucks Here" "It means," declared Brown, "two gas servicemen live in the city, Birmingham and are equipped with service trucks for emergency service. One of these trucks are equipped with two-way radio communication. Furthermore, we now have available at all times a quadric street maintenance man with a fully equipped maintenance truck (See NEW MAIN, Page 2)

EARLY COPY NEXT WEEK, TOO!

Just as every one "lost" a working day Monday, we also will "lose" next Monday when everyone relaxes from seeing in the New Year. Therefore, early news and advertising copy for next week's Eccentric, please, get it in by tomorrow afternoon, if at all possible. (Continued on Page 1, Part 3)

Let us face the New Year with a minimum of enthusiasm, hope and confidence that it will bring us a greater understanding and appreciation of the value of friendship... true friends are earth's priceless treasures.

72ND YEAR—NO. 41

THIS and THAT

By G. R. A.

Father Time is about to write Finis to the Chapter titled "1949". The old gentleman, who has been dabbling with the quill over history, must smile in his own inimitable way as he recalls, from other chapters, how he has recorded the story of mankind.

Nearly one half of this Twentieth Century has passed... a century which, at its beginning, was heralded as perhaps the greatest and most important ever to come to this human habitation. It was to be a century in which man, through his ability to produce on the farm and in the factory as much of this world's goods as he needed, was to gain greater security... the type of personal security that comes through a free and competitive society.

Under the Constitution of the United States of America, Americans were to reach something close to Utopia. Indeed, we really were to acquire the rights to "... life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Well, as I look back over the past half-century, at least over five-fifths of which I can remember quite well, I don't agree that this half of the Twentieth Century has been a bed of roses for mankind. During it, of course, great technological improvements were made. Industry learned the assembly-line method and turned out tremendous quantities of goods.

The farmer, taught how to use new seeds, fertilizers and farm machinery, actually did get Mother Nature to grow increased crops per acre. Yes, there was a grand piece of progress made in creating things for human use. Equally true, mankind also turned his skills into providing the reasons for two of the worst wars in history. He accompanied his inability to turn evil into good by creating weapons that literally killed and maimed people on assembly-line techniques.

Man, learning how to drive the horse by buying and outfitting automobiles. Soon he took to the airways, and then he went to space, literally killing and maimed people on assembly-line techniques. He developed motion pictures and wrote sexy literature. He invented the radio, magic marvel of communication, and now television. Sound and image now flash through the air on matter's invisible transportation system... and so the death, the life, some point in between, augments the printed word and picture, to impact for good or evil upon mankind. He also created the atomic bomb!

Governments have risen and fallen as these 50 years of the Twentieth Century sped their devious and merry ways. In one spot of the earth, shains have been fastened to the bodies and minds of men and women and children by the totalitarian State, in other spots only lighter shackles have been applied in the elusive search for security... but, when wholly considered, man is not freer today than in the year 1900.

Which of Two Roads? Oh, you may say: "But, in spite of mankind's current plight, he is on the road, on the march, to future complete freedom!" And on this question I will not argue. I will only ask: "When will he achieve this whole freedom?" There is no answer to that... not from any human tongue. The question echoes only: "When?" Viewed in the perspective of 50 years, mankind has made little, if any, advancement in progress. Indeed, there are many who believe mankind has retrogressed.

From material things mankind has progressed magnificently. These 50 years have produced, not many, but a few, who have advanced the progress of mankind. (See THIS & THAT, Page 2)

This New Year's Resolution is easy to keep: Resolved: To clean the house of all unwanted "stiff stuffers". HERE'S HOW—List all your unwanted items in the Eccentric Classified—They get results. Phone 11 ask for the classified desk. Deadline—Tues., 5 p. m.