

Young or Old, Everyone Enjoys a Preview of Christmas

More Pumping Would Reduce Water Supply

Leak Repair Is Aid, But Egbert Sees Need for 3 More Wells

The Taxpayer's Psalm
The State is my shepherd; I shall not want. It maketh me to pay no taxes so in the year of my old age. It taketh my earnings; it reacheth unto my bank account for the solvency's sake. Yes, though I struggle with reports until the dead of night, I will not catch up; for they are with me always, their penalties discomfort me.

It has obliged me to conduct my business in the presence of its agents; it fills my files with forms; my funds runneth out. Surely its rules and regulations do not follow me all the days of my life; and I may dwell in the big house of my Uncle Sam.

(This "psalm" appeared in a small newspaper in the State of Washington and also was inserted into the Congressional Record.)

Quacks and Demagogues and Their Promises
Having been in the newspaper business for more than 30 years, I can say, in all truth, that I believe the people are getting tired of advertising—whether it be for goods and services, improvements in government, or for an aid in helping religion bring a bit more of Utopia to earth.

While the advertising is an education process. Like all techniques of information, it can be used for good or evil in any place or time, depending upon who is using it.

For example, I think one of the worst uses of advertising is when the cheap political quack seeks to win votes by promising every thing under the sun for the voters and, often, at promised lowered taxes. The American scene is full of such political demagogues. They are dishonest, insincere, and they want votes in order to get jobs, plus the power and prestige that goes with the jobs.

Not A Bit Different
Indeed, such quacks are not a bit different from the old show medicine man who, standing on a box, yells: "Ladies, in gentlemen's shoes over my linen, in my hand I hold a bottle of Dr. Machus' and precious ointment, good for coughs and colds, chilblains, bumps, fevers, head-aches and sore throats. Cures anything and everything, including greasin', the axle of your wagon, till ailments from your horses, chase out the corn borer. . . yes, folks, I'll even help to keep your taxes down. Corn overland get this five dollar for only fifty cents!" And, of course, he finds lots of buyers.

Even some of this hokum is used in the sale of advertised, verified goods, especially over the radio, though confined almost to the various medicinal supplies offered, dentures, soap, etc. In the radio advertising of such wares the manufacturer and the side-show Barker. . . how difficult it is, in many things, to find the Truth!

James C. Pedder Is Appointed to Plan Commission
Appointed to the city plan commission Monday night by the city commission was James C. Pedder, 408 Berryn. He replaces Harry C. Machus who resigned several weeks after starting the prosecution of his business would not permit him to devote the necessary time to his responsibility as a plan commissioner.

City Commissioners Ralph A. Main and John O'Gorman cast negative votes regarding Pedder's appointment.

Main explained Tuesday morning, "When the new city plan commission was appointed more than two years ago, it was our policy to have various classes and groups represented on the plan commission. Machus was the representative of the businessmen. I believe another businessman should be replaced as such. That is why I voted as I did, and believe O'Gorman reasoned the same as I."

Pedder is advertising manager for Dearborn Motors Corp.

Deny Appeal to Halt Edison's High Power Line

The city board of appeals Monday night denied an appeal by the city commission to halt the construction of Edison's high power line through the city.

The board of appeals held a hearing Monday night on the appeal, which was filed by the city commission on December 6. The appeal was filed by the city commission on December 6. The appeal was filed by the city commission on December 6.

The board of appeals held a hearing Monday night on the appeal, which was filed by the city commission on December 6. The appeal was filed by the city commission on December 6.

Thousands Visit Stores As Local Merchants Hold Their Christmas Preview
By Alice E. Morgan

The Christmas atmosphere reigned supreme in Birmingham Monday night as local merchants played host to an estimated 8,000 persons at the city's first "Christmas Preview."

Charles Mortensen, secretary of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, said he believed 8,000 was a conservative estimate as local residents and out-of-towners crowded streets and stores during the three-hour "open house."

"Some of the stores had over 2,000 registered visitors, and there were many who did not sign cards or books," Mortensen said. "From all appearances this thing became an annual event the minute it started. One might also say it, right now, a Birmingham tradition."

"Whenever I have gone, and I visited about 40 of the local business places Tuesday morning, merchants were enthusiastic about it. They have nothing but praise for the idea and for the people who visited their stores."

From a commercial standpoint, several merchants reported persons who asked to have items reserved for them. More said that customers were in early Tuesday morning to buy items which they had noticed the night before.

"I feel the whole thing went far beyond our expectations. The only difficulty I have heard of was the number of persons who were unable to find parking space and went away disappointed."

Letters to Santa Claus

This week the letters are from the kindergarten classes and the first three grades of Pierce school.

For a complete listing of all the wants and wishes of these boys and girls, turn to

Police Issue Warning On Yule Rackets

Moxley Says Better Cooperation Needed to Suppress Them

Police this week issued a warning to local residents and merchants against "seasonal crimes."

"The season is here," Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley said, "for bad checks, shoplifters, door-to-door salesmen and just plain panhandlers. We have already had evidence in Birmingham of each one of these, and I want to warn everyone in the city to be on guard against them."

During the past week several reports have come to the attention of the police of panhandlers going from house to house begging. In one instance two men, practicing their way into a home, demanding food and money, Moxley said.

Salesmen have been reported as having forced their way into homes to demonstrate projects. Moxley advised all housewives to contact the police at once should this happen to them.

Must Have License
In the case of salesmen, he suggested that they demand to see the license issued by the city. In the business district these licenses are first approved by the Chamber of Commerce before being issued by the city clerk.

Moxley said merchants could do a great deal to stop the flood of bad checks which usually appear at this time of year by insisting on positive identification. He suggested they cash checks for whom they knew the person, or ask that the individual place an imprint of his right thumb on the back of the check.

He pointed out that the check is usually for an amount greater than that of the purchase. The passer-not only a valuable merchandise but also a sum of cash. Furthermore, this type is generally the hardest to apprehend, Moxley said.

The shoplifter, according to Moxley, poses a special problem. Hardly properly it can bring about the arrest of the person. If not done in the proper way the person can escape and the police are quite often stopped cold.

"In too many cases the merchant is reluctant to sign a complaint and is content to merely have his merchandise returned," Moxley said, "of course, if he has his hands. If the merchants would prosecute more often, it would cut down the number of potential shoplifters."

Proper Procedure
When a merchant, or his clerk, suspects an individual of shoplifting, do not apprehend him in the store. Follow him to the street. (See RACKETS, Page 2.)

Post Office Begins Special Rush Hours on Friday Evening

Local residents are again reminded of the special Christmas hours that are being maintained at the Birmingham post office.

Starting Friday, all windows will be open from 8 a. m. to 8 p. m., rather than the normal 10 a. m. to 6 p. m. Acting Postmaster Bernard H. Galt said that the windows will be closed at 6 o'clock on Saturday, Dec. 24.

"I would like to ask that everyone remember that postage on unsealed cards this year is two cents each, rather than one cent and a half of former years. He said that holiday stamps would be available for those who had not ordered a quantity of the others from last year.

"Staff will appreciate your help," he said, "if you will separate out those cards from those to be delivered in the city. While this will take a few moments longer this year, it will save us hours which we can spend improving other services to the public."

Pacific Mailing

Local residents are urged today by Acting Postmaster Bernard Galt, that parcel post packages should be mailed by Monday, Dec. 12. He added that air mail, special delivery and registered mail should be mailed by Friday, Dec. 12 for Christmas delivery on the west coast.

Troy Voters Reject Township Park Plan

Troy township voters Monday night rejected the proposal of the township's general fund to acquire and equip a township park. The vote of 177 to 79 against the issue, according to Clerk Norman H. Green.

The site suggested is a 28-acre plot owned by Mr. and Mrs. George Forsyth. It is located between 15 and 19 Mile roads and John R. and Dequindre roads.

Troy Voters Reject Township Park Plan

Troy township voters Monday night rejected the proposal of the township's general fund to acquire and equip a township park. The vote of 177 to 79 against the issue, according to Clerk Norman H. Green.

The site suggested is a 28-acre plot owned by Mr. and Mrs. George Forsyth. It is located between 15 and 19 Mile roads and John R. and Dequindre roads.

Letters to Santa Claus

This week the letters are from the kindergarten classes and the first three grades of Pierce school.

For a complete listing of all the wants and wishes of these boys and girls, turn to

Dies Suddenly

Heart Attack Fatal to Rice A. Howell, Insurance Broker

Rice A. Howell, Birmingham insurance broker, died suddenly of a heart attack at his home at 608 Southfield last Thursday morning. He was born Dec. 31, 1886 in Isoso county, and received his education there and in Howell.

On Oct. 7, 1916, he married Lucille Leggett in Detroit. The couple moved to Birmingham from Highland Park in 1919, and shortly after that he opened his insurance office here.

Prior to coming to Birmingham, Mr. Howell had been in the same business in Detroit. He entered into business with a Detroit firm, and opened his own office three years later.

During his earlier years Mr. Howell included real estate in his business, but later confined himself to types of insurance.

Liked to Garden
He had become well known in Birmingham as a gardener of note, and was a great deal of pleasure and pride from his hobby. For many years he had shown a competitive interest in growing various types of flowers, especially the vegetable of flowers, the carnations.

Mr. Howell was also an enthusiastic golfer, and played regularly on nearby courses.

He was a member of the First Presbyterian church, Birmingham Lodge, No. 44, Post No. 2, and the High Twelve club and the Exchange club. He was also secretary of the Birmingham Goodwill fund and had taken an active part in its affairs for some years.

He is survived by his widow and three children, Mrs. Harlan D. Shelly of Chelsea, Mich., and Mrs. Robert V. Pollock and Elliot Howell, both of Birmingham.

The following brothers and sisters also survived: William G. Howell of Fowlerville, Leo Howell and Mrs. Henry Hibner, both of Howell, and three granddaughters.

Services were held Saturday afternoon from the Beth funeral home, funeral was in Sabbath cemetery.

Oakland Hospital Moves Closer to Becoming Reality

The already existing South Oakland hospital authority will be disbanded and will turn over all assets to the proposed Oakland Oakland hospital. The SOA site at 1200 South Oakland is the site of the new hospital.

This decision was reached last Thursday evening at a SOA board meeting and continued an offer made earlier by the board chairman, H. Lloyd Clawson, to the Oakland hospital.

Several board members of the SOA board probably would make arrangements to give the Oakland hospital the SOA site at Coolidge and 13 Mile, and possibly a half-million dollar gift, if the fiscal arrangements could be worked out.

Legal Steps Must Be Taken
The legal committee of the Oakland Hospital has made progress toward the acceptance of the SOA site and perhaps will have some of the authority's legal framework can be modified.

John E. Moxley, Birmingham, a member of the legal committee, said the committee believed the donors would have to be advised to insure the transfer's legality.

The board of directors for the Oakland hospital is expected to accept several million dollars from the Greater-Detroit Hospital for the construction of the Oakland hospital.

Site Tentatively Accepted
The Oakland hospital board has tentatively accepted the 19 to 9 vote, the SOA site if the legal problems can be worked out.

SOA board members have agreed that if the site is finally transferred, they will approach the donors for their own construction fund with the recommendation that the gift be endorsed to the Oakland hospital.

They further indicated that the SOA authority, which possesses limited taxing powers, probably would be disbanded then.

Dick Patterson New President Of C of C

Richard Patterson, 1622 Bates, will head the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce for 1950. He succeeds Dr. Robert J. Mason.

Assisting Patterson next year in supervising chamber activities will be Ralph A. Wilson, 19370 Riverside, as vice-president; Warren Sumner, secretary; and Merrill C. Adams, treasurer.

The election took place last Thursday evening immediately after the second annual Chamber of Commerce dinner meeting at the Community House.

Mason, acting as toastmaster, announced that Chamber Dr. Richard W. Deer, 1791 Pine, and John W. Knecht, 239 Filigim, had been elected to the board of directors for three-year terms. These three replace John E. Marx, 724 Lakeview Dr., Dr. W. D. Knecht, 715 Pierce, and Foster Toothaker, 716 W. Lincoln.

'Important Little City'
Toothaker was last year's C of C vice-president, and Marvin Seidman, secretary, was vice-president of the chamber during 1948, the first year it was formed. Harry Klingler, 715 Pierce, president and general manager of the Pontiac Motor division, was the evening's dinner speaker.

"When I first came to live out here, Birmingham was a small town, little village. But I know it has grown into a little city. Whether you know it or not, Birmingham is an important little city in Michigan. I have learned that in conversations with people in other parts of the state."

"It is a nice little community. A great many people have lived here which they did. And most of the people who come here stay here."

"There isn't anyone who can measure what Birmingham's future will be. But I know you have lots of creative talent here."

Good Automobile Year
Regarding 1950 automotive production, Klingler reiterated the statement he made several weeks ago in conversations with people in other parts of the state.

"I think next year will be a good year for automobile production," he said. "But I wonder if we will have another 5,000,000."

Klingler said many people ask him if GM is going to come out with a new car designed by GM.

(See PATTERSON, Page 2.)

Mrs. W.A.P. John's Madonna Collection to Be Exhibited

Forty Madonnas from the well-known collection of Mrs. W. A. P. John will be on display at an exhibition beginning December 10 in Birmingham's Baldwin Public Library. The collection is sponsored by the recently organized Friends of the Library group.

The exhibition materials and from many nations will make up the display which will continue through the end of the year.

The collection includes paintings and recently done in wood, ceramics, lead, plaster and bronze the traditional Madonna characters of the country of their origin.

On display will be Madonnas from Italy, Spain, Mexico, Austria, Switzerland, Sweden, Czechoslovakia, and many other countries (pre-war), Ireland, Japan, England and France.

This is the first public showing of the John collection which has been called one of the finest and most complete in existence.

Children to Enjoy Annual Yule Party as C of C Guests

Approximately 1,400 Birmingham children have been invited to attend the annual Chamber of Commerce Yule Party at the Birmingham theater.

Charles Mortensen, C of C manager, said tickets were distributed through the schools yesterday for the special 2-hour character program of favorite movie cartoons.

The program, which will begin at 8:30, will be topped with a bag of candy which will be handed each youngster as he leaves the theater.

Henry Sellers, local Krege manager, is chairman of the committee making the arrangements.

Wordward-Brown Traffic Signals Go Up Next Week

Two new overhead traffic signals will be erected at the Wordward-Brown intersection by the middle of next week, Police Chief Ralph Moxley said yesterday.

"We have received them, and they have been painted. But it will be a few days before we can get them installed," he explained.

IS THAT AND THAT By G.R.A.

The Taxpayer's Psalm

Quacks and Demagogues and Their Promises

Deny Appeal to Halt Edison's High Power Line

Thousands Visit Stores As Local Merchants Hold Their Christmas Preview

Letters to Santa Claus

Police Issue Warning On Yule Rackets

Dies Suddenly

Dick Patterson New President Of C of C

Oakland Hospital Moves Closer to Becoming Reality

Children to Enjoy Annual Yule Party as C of C Guests

Wordward-Brown Traffic Signals Go Up Next Week

PHONE 11 AND CLASSIFIED AD

FOR SALE—HOUSEHOLD GOODS

LETTERS TO SANTA CLAUSE

PHONE 11 AND CLASSIFIED AD

PHONE 11 AND CLASSIFIED AD