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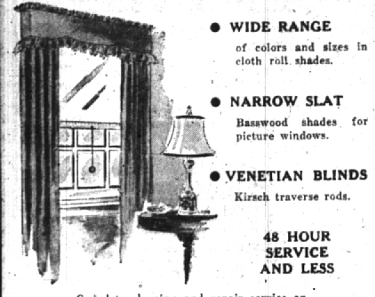
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HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE
BY ALICE E. MORGAN

PASSING THOUGHTS

Birmingham's a funny town. A couple of weeks ago the Red Cross was forced to cancel a blood bank unit engagement because of lack of interest. The few persons who responded to the appeal were simply not enough to warrant bringing the group into town.

Just a few days later local ARC officers received an urgent request for blood donors for the soldiers in Korea. The notice came to Mrs. Sheldon Noble who set the local wheels in motion. The Birmingham quota was 150 pints. Before the middle of the week more than 500 persons had volunteered to donate.

It's quite apparent that the residents here are far more concerned about the welfare of the troops on the battle lines than they are about having blood available for their own emergency treatments.

Anyone interested in the reactions of persons to things may have a field day during the time that the crèche is standing in Civic Park.

My fourth Christmas in Birmingham, it has not failed me. Each year some incident has taken place there which has been amusing, touching or just plain amazing, such as getting into a car which was just at dusk, each paying homage in his own way.

This year it was two little children who were just leaving the park as I arrived. Trying to get into the car to keep pace with Daddy's long strides, they were singing at the top of their voices the children's Christmas hymn, "Away in a Manger."

Talked to a young lady (age about nine) the other day who stated emphatically that she was going out to buy a Christmas present for her daddy that was "different." She said she always gave him cigars—so this year she was going to get him a tie.

She carefully figured out how much money she had and what she had to get. There would be a dollar for the tie and probably another for a scarf for mother. About 50 cents should get a ball for her little brother and another dollar for socks for her older sister.

A moment of deep thought and tongue chewing and her face lighted up. That left her with an even two dollars to buy something for the dog's Christmas.

Another Christmas comment was made by a gentleman who said he never had and never would shop early.

If I go into a store at the very beginning of the Christmas season," he said, "there are always so darned many things I can't make up my mind what to get my wife and daughter. I nearly go nuts and I'm a sucker for any fast-talking clerk. No matter what I get, I usually decide it's the wrong thing and spend the rest of the time stewing for fear my girls won't like it.

"But if I wait until a couple of days before, I don't have so much to confuse me and I don't have as long to worry about whether or not I've bought the right thing."

I'm going to beat our Birmingham lady who, each year, reminds us of the snow covered ground and lack of food for the birds. They, too, will appreciate a Christmas thought of scattered crumbs or bits of suet tied to bushes and fences.

Several persons have already reported the appearance of pheasants around their yards. Other birds, ordinarily strangers to our doorsteps, are also beginning to appear daily, thankful of your thoughtfulness.

This is the season of the annual battle between two schools of thought—those who say "Xmas" and those who insist on "Christmas."

While my personal choice is the latter, don't let them kid you when they say "Xmas" is taboo, because "X" represents an unknown quantity. 'Taint so—Webster says so.

"Christmas" comes from "Christ" and "mass" and is a church festival. However, "X" from the Greek "Chi" and is used as the symbol for "Christo."

So, no matter which you use or what your choice, let me stop now to extend my very best wishes to one and all for the merriest Christmas possible.

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Planning Commission Members Attend Plan Conference

Birmingham was represented at the local planning and zoning conference at the Fort Shelby hotel in Detroit Friday by members of the Birmingham planning commission, as well as several other residents.

Mrs. Peter Loomis, chairman of the Birmingham planning commission, said she was especially impressed by a remark made by J. Cruise, assistant director of the planning and traffic division of the state highway department.

He mentioned that Washnet county's plan a 1 1/2 per commission functioned particularly well. He pointed out that the state highway

commission just naturally goes around to projects where there have been good planning by a commission.

SHE ALSO CITED a remark mentioned by C. McKim Norton, vice-president of the Regional plan association, Inc. of New York. He stated that although the plan commission has no legal power, a substantial amount of the recommendations it has made over the past 20 years have been carried out.

Golf Mart Moves To New Location

The Golf Mart, for the past two years located at 612 East Maple, has moved to new quarters in the

McBride Building, 511 Pierce. The Mart now occupies the large section of the second floor formerly utilized by the MacGregor Golf Company.

Bob Howell, proprietor, stated that the business which he founded two years ago outgrew its old location.

Roy Theibert is the sales manager of the Golf Mart which is a wholesale firm supplying the golf trade with golf apparel and accessories.

Besides his connection with this business, Howell is tournament chairman for the Detroit District Golf Association and this year heads the scheduling committee for all golf associations in this area.

He is also a member of the board of directors of Plum Hollow Golf Club.

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Collar bars, cuff links, key chains, etc.
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Genuine leather, many types. All belt shades.
Priced from \$1.00 up

HOSIERY
Wools, spun nylon and mixtures.
From 75c up

SHIRTS
Many styles, colors and fabrics.
From \$2.95 up

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Handsome ties, solids, patterns, smart colors.
From \$1.50 up

SWEATERS
All wool slippers and cardigans.
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SPORT SHIRTS
Plaids and solids in wools and washables.
Priced from \$3.95 up

GLOVES
Lined and unlined leathers including capskin, pig skin, buck and suede. Wool gloves with leather palms, too.
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Ripon LOAFER SOX
Solid colors and embroidered patterns. Wool or nylon tops in all sizes.
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