HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

BY ALICE E. MORGAN

IT CAN BE MERRY

Every year about this time there are numerous appeals for us to play Santa Claus for the less fortunate. Organizations want money to buy toys for children. They want dresses for little girls, warm winter togs for little boys, gifts for those in homes.

They ask for Christmas boxes for the soldiers, for the aged and for those confined to state and county hospitals.

Birmingham, as with everything else which touches the heart, responds nobly to all these.

However, it seems to me that there are a few forgotten people right in our own midst.

Perhaps it is because, as one walks about town, one is used to seeing comfortable homes, plenty of automobiles, busy shops and every indication of prosperity and plenty. In most cases, thank God, this is true.

STILL, THERE ARE some among us for whom Christmas is going to be bleak. As adults, we all admit we get a thrill out of being remembered by family and friends at Christmas.

It's nice to open a gaily wrapped package and find within an item we have wanted but somehow never bought. It brightens the day, warms our hearts and gives us a deep feeling of being loved and cared for.

The youngsters have a slightly different feeling about the gifts they receive.

While they may be fully aware of the Santa Claus situation, they still have a corner in their minds which tells them there may be a chance of having him bring the gift daddy and mother cannot afford.

It's a pretty tragic thing to open the few packages under the tree and not find that long-dreamed of doll or football or skates or sled. It's apt to give a kid the feeling of sitting on pretty thin air, getting ready for the big crash when the law of gravity takes over.

AS IS ITS custom, The Eccentric this week starts publishing the letters which local youngsters "send" to Santa Claus. They come from the schools and from many children who just write their wishes to the old gentleman and drop them in the nearest postbox.

Reading them over there are often indications that some little girl or boy is not going to have the kind of Christmas every child should have. Some little boy or girl is not going to find that special gift waiting.

Daddy and mother have explained that there isn't much money this year so maybe Christmas presents will have to be limited to needed warm clothing or other items of necessity.

The kids try to reason this out in their own minds and accept it as a part of living, but it's pretty doggone hard.

THEY GO TO BED on Christmas Eve, torn between disappointment in knowing the doll or sled will not be there in the morning and the burning hope that there is a Santa Claus and that he will not let them down.

They've been thinking about this for quite a few days—ever since the family finances were explained to them. They can't quite give up.

They conjure up visions of the most beautiful doll in town. They see themselves taking it to school the very first morning after Christmas vacation.

Tommy can see himself on that flashing new sled, whipping down the hill, passing all the other kids and even going quite a bit farther than any of the rest.

In Birmingham there are several individuals and some groups who repair toys for distribution at Christmas.

LET'S BE SELFISH enough this Christmas to see to it that some of our little boys and girls, for whom Christmas is going to be slim, get at least a few of their hearts' desires.

Possibly what I'm advocating is not the true Christmas spirit, but I do hate to think that some of our own youngsters are going to feel pretty down-hearted Christmas morning because we have sent all our gifts to those who have given wide publicity to their needs.

After all, our Birmingham kids like Santa Claus, too!

The "Deacon's Seat" was a large seat close by the fireplace in a logging camp bunkhouse.

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Southfield Twp. Goodfellows Plan Christmas Benefit

A Christmas benefit performance will be sponsored by the Southfield Township Goodfellows at the Lathrup school auditorium, Southfield and Eleven Mile road, Saturday evening, Dec. 2 at 8.

All entertainers are donating their services and all proceeds will be used to see that there is "No child without a Christmas" in Southfield township, according to Lawrence A. Piferlik.

George Hunter, radio station WWJ announcer will be master of ceremonies. A broadcast of "Cinderella Week-end" will be presented, at which all ladies attending will have an opportunity to match wits with Quizmaster Dave Zimmerman for prizes.

RADIO ANNOUNCER Bob Maxwell will also be on hand. Presenting a half hour of magic tricks will be magician Herb German of Detroit. Dancers from the Theodore U. Smith school of dance will present a ballet program.

An exhibition of baton twirling is scheduled by Shirley Demchak, Denby high school majorette, who recently won first place honors on WXYZ-TV's "Starlit Stairway."

To give a classic touch, Michael Tarasuk, Detroit operatic baritone will sing several concert numbers. Dianne Berres, gifted 13-year-old pianist from Southfield, is slated to present her interpretation of "Deep Purple."

Music will be furnished by the Highland Park high school concert orchestra. A Christmas film, "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer," will be presented along with a program of unusual pictures.

Walter F. Skinner Named Vice-Pres. of Woodall Industries

Appointment of Walter F. Skinner, 838 Glengary circle, and director of Woodall Industries, Inc. is announced by H. J. Woodall, president.

Prior to his twenty-three years of service with Woodall, Skinner was associated with Chrysler Corp. and Budd Co. as buyer.

Skinner has been connected with automotive sales and for the past five years has been in charge of that division.

BLOOMFIELD VILLAGE SCHOOL NEWS

THIRD AND FOURTH GRADE: The Brownies, under the leadership of Mrs. Arthur Sawyer have elected officers. They are president, Suzy Sawyer; secretary, Jane Slater; treasurer, Linda Stevenson; hostess, Sara Bartholomew; reporter, Helen Cudini. The girls made nut cups to take home to decorate the Thanksgiving tables.

Jane Wilson spent the Thanksgiving afternoon at the home of her grandmother, Mrs. C. E. Wilson. Jackie Paulus spent the holiday weekend with her cousin in Detroit and Linda Stevenson, was at the home of her aunt in Grosse Ile.

Class officers for the week are Susan Plasko, president and Fredrica Harris, vice-president.

FIFTH AND SIXTH GRADE: The sixth grade honor roll for the first period includes Jeanne Hargreaves, Kathy Lafer, Linda Rakas, Richard Ward, Anne Wilson, Barbara Abbott, Judy Knudsen, Kempf Hogan, Jane Mohler, Bob Podelsak and Linda Marean. These students received no mark below B and S in citizenship.

The girl scouts met at the home of their leader, Mrs. Walter J. Simons. Miss Curtain, Birmingham school nurse, addressed the group on "First Aid and Health Habits."

Fifth and sixth graders memorized the poem, "The Landing of the Pilgrims." They also wrote poems for Thanksgiving and illustrated them.

Aero Club's 1950 Membership Drive Underway This Week

The 1950 membership drive of the Aero club of Michigan got underway this week. Heading the campaign is William H. Breech of Bingham Lane, Franklin.

The club, which is the largest and strongest aviation group in the nation, is enlisting new members to further advance the organization, whose purpose is to encourage the development of the aviation industry in Michigan.

Local club members represented on the membership team are J. Robert Swanson of Bloomfield Hills; and Harold K. Turner, Sterling Dockson and C. I. Jenkins, all of Birmingham.

Trailer Park Plan Rejected by Troy Board of Appeals

Application for a trailer park in Troy township was turned down last week by the township board of appeals.

Approximately 75 to 100 persons appeared at a public hearing to protest the granting of permission to Joseph Fons, 2250 Harned, Troy township, to erect a trailer camp at the abandoned Fons gravel pit on South boulevard between John R. and Dequindre.

FRANK COSTELLO, representing the Troy township board of education, stated that school facilities couldn't stand an immediate influx of students all in one area. Residents of a nearby subdivision objected that property values would be affected by the addition of a trailer park.

Norman Barnard, township clerk, said there are no trailer parks in the township and permission to start one can only be granted through the board of appeals.

Bonus Granted to 80 Troy Township School Employees

Troy township school employees will be given a $100 cost of living bonus, according to Superintendent of Schools Stuart Baker. Half the amount will be paid at Christmas time and the rest at the end of the school year in June.

Part-time employees will be paid on a pro-rated basis, he said. The township school board has approximately 80 employees and the cost of the bonus to the school district will be about $7,500.

Baker also said that the recent cold wave has slowed the progress on the new high school building. He stated however, that the roof should be completed and the windows installed in the next two weeks.

Second Quarton PTA Square Dance Dec. 1

It is again "swing your partners" as the second in a series of four square dances is held in the Quarton gymnasium Friday evening, Dec. 1. Under the sponsorship of the PTA, the dance will be held from 8:30 to 11:30. Season or single tickets are available to residents of the Birmingham school district.

The first half-hour of the dance will be an introductory period to those not familiar with square dancing.

Mrs. R. E. Paulette, PTA president, and Mrs. F. K. Ratcliff, dance chairman, may be contacted for further information.

News copy submitted early necessarily is given preference over late items. So the "Early Bird" usually gets the space.

Pre-Christmas Sale, Exhibit at Cranbrook

Sixth annual pre-Christmas Cranbrook Academy of Art student exhibition and sale will be held Dec. 2-10 at the museum from two to five in the afternoon and between eight and ten in the evenings.

Paintings, sculpture, weaving, ceramics, jewelry, metalwork and graphic arts will be included. Each department will be represented by works which have been approved by the members of the faculty.

The design department, aided by the students and supervised by design instructor, Theodore Luderowski, will arrange the exhibition in the lower gallery.

During the last war, the Navy procured over 11½ million dollars worth of clothing per week each year.

Chaffee Added To Craig's Appliance As Eureka Agent

Ralph W. Chaffee, 1900 Fairview, has been added to the staff of the Craig Appliance Co., 132 South Woodward, to specialize in Eureka vacuum cleaners.

The Craig store will now be the exclusive agency in the city for Eureka sales and service.

Chaffee has had 10 years experience in vacuum cleaners in Cleveland, Indianapolis and Detroit. For the past four years, he has been the Detroit manager for a national vacuum cleaner outlet.

Beginners Swimming Scheduled Saturday

The Birmingham recreation board will start its winter swimming season with an "open house" in the Barnum pool Saturday from 9 to 11 a.m., according to Frank Whitney, recreation director.

All beginning swimmers of elementary school age are invited to attend, he stated.

From where I sit ... by Joe Marsh

I Have A "Close Squeak"!

Spent last Saturday morning wandering all over the house. Wherever I went—upstairs or down—I kept hearing a "squeak." Couldn't find out where it was coming from until noon-time when the missus came home from her weekly shopping.

"Listen," I says to her, "hoar that squeak?" I started walking real quiet-like across the kitchen and there it went again! "Joe Marsh," she laughs, "that is nothing but your suspender clips rubbing back and forth when you walk!" And darned if it wasn't!

From where I sit, I'd been letting a little thing become a serious problem. Like some little difference of opinion or taste will start off a great big argument. I may prefer a temperate glass of beer with my dinner—while the missus likes tea—but we figure that no two people have exactly the same likes and dislikes. So, why get all "het up" about it?

The moral is, check your suspenders—and check your temper when it comes to little things.

Joe Marsh

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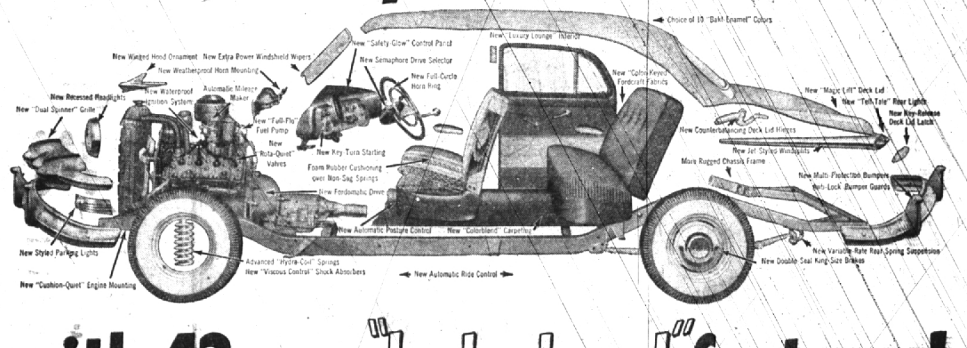

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