

Maybe it would be a good thing if every house had a large blackboard, one column captioned: "Our Blessings," the other "Our Adversities." Filling in each column would, in most cases, prove that the good one has outweighed the opposite.

74TH YEAR—NO. 38

THIS and THAT

By G.R.A.

People who borrow trouble are worse than fools—cause trouble doesn't need to be borrowed; each can make his own brand.

The American dollar is getting so cheap that even the eagle "our Adversities" filling in each column would, in most cases, prove that the good one has outweighed the opposite.

Up in Green Bay, Wisconsin, last week a businessman put on a suit of Santa Claus garments and rode into town in a gaily decorated railroad caboose. Within five minutes from the time he emerged into the crowd of youngsters, the lost most of his whiskers and part of his clothing; he finally managed to get away in an automobile, remarking that "I'd rather be thrown into a lion's den than go through that again." Thus, Dear Grown-up, you see how well the Santa Claus idea is implanted in this nation.

A San Francisco woman, after being pronounced dead following a huge overdose of sleeping pills, has come back to life; she regrets her act, wishes to remain anonymous and is unable to finish writing her book. Her remarkable recovery attracted nationwide attention—the kindness of hundreds of strangers to her has given her a re-birth of purpose.

Argentina's dictator Peron, after confining that great newspaper, La Prensa, now gets it out under his own management. In it he wrote that both "capitalism and communism are working together to destroy Peronism." Peron merely repeats the traditional history of all tyrants—the majority finally array itself against them.

Why did the military brass in the Pentagon seek secret for weeks the fact that more than 8,000 American prisoners of Red China were victims of murderous atrocities? The reason is obvious. No ruling class, anywhere, ever wants to tell the public the evils of had news. The Pentagon's attitude in this respect is of course, only in keeping with Truman's own desires to muzzle public news sources from the American people.

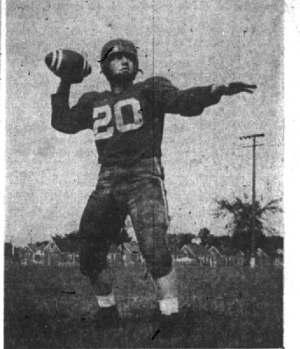
Santa Claus Is Coming To Birmingham Theater Saturday for '51 Party

Santa Claus will make his annual appearance as guest of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce Saturday morning. The event will be the annual children's party at the Birmingham theater, scheduled to start at 9:30 a.m. A one-hour show of cartoons and music will be presented for the young audience, after which it will be greeted by Santa himself, who will distribute Christmas gifts.

Attendance is limited to children in the first three grades who will receive tickets from their teachers this week. The Christmas party has been sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce for the past five years, and prior to that was one of the annual projects of the Birmingham Retail Merchants association.

November Building Off

The usual fall slump was revealed in the unofficial report on November building for Birmingham. The 22 permits issued totaled \$119,980, as compared with 27 permits for the corresponding month in 1950. The official report is being compiled by the city building department for release shortly.



Post-Season Acclaim Heaped on Local Star

Birmingham's terrific halfback, Tom Tracy, was a unanimous choice for The Detroit Free Press first team all-state squad announced Wednesday morning. A board of six Michigan high school coaches made the selections and followed recommendations of more than 400 other coaches.

By DICK EMERY

Firms Ask Change In Cab Fare Law; 3rd Permit Sought

Birmingham city commissioners Monday evening discussed the possibility of a third taxi company in the city and the adjustment of fares of the existing firms, Birmingham Cab and Veterans Cab, Monday evening.

Then both requests were referred to City Manager Donald Egbert for his report and recommendation.

Mike Janis, 1444 Hennaville, a cab driver here for seven years, pointed out that the number of licensed cabs was set five years ago with sharp demands for increased service during that time. He requests permission to form a new company of at least four cabs to remedy what he describes as a "deplorable situation."

The existing companies reported complaints from their passengers on the present fare system.

The present ruling in case of multiple fares, requires the first passenger to pay for the service from the starting point to his destination. Remaining fares assume charges from the point of that person's discharge to their own destination. His suggested modification is to have each passenger pay the regular fare from the point of origin to the point of destination.

Roll Call Plans

The 1952 Community House Roll Call will be the main discussion topic at the monthly board meeting Monday evening. Preliminary plans have already been formed and a discussion of block captains and collection methods will be featured at this session.

The Birmingham Eccentric

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1951

34 PAGES FIVE CENTS

Push Plans For Porritt Property

By GEORGE WM. AVERILL

Plans for the development of the so-called Porritt property, 45 acres of Troy township just east of Adams road and completely surrounded by the city of Birmingham, are progressing as fast as possible.

This information was revealed Tuesday by Wallace E. Reid, president of the Reid Development Co., and H. H. Paterson, new owners of the property.

The Porritt piece was purchased many months ago, so we have only three weeks ago, so we have barely been able to start plans for the development of the area," emphasized Reid.

Reid said the firm already has met with city officials to discuss development possibilities of the area.

Both men admitted they would like to proceed with the development as rapidly as possible, but pointed out that many details must be worked out before they would take care of the Acacia Park.

Will plans include annexation to the city of Birmingham? they were asked.

"That is a possibility, but both the city and our company must decide that such action is to the best interests of all concerned," Reid said.

HOW SOON will the development get under way?

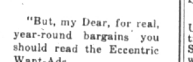
"That question also is not for us alone to determine," Paterson explained. "Financial arrangements, the building supply situation, engineering designs and costs of sewers and water mains, Birmingham plan board approval—these and many other matters can complicate the situation at any time."

"We can't give a definite answer to that question. But we will proceed as rapidly as possible under the circumstances."

It is expected that the ultimate development of this Porritt piece will lead to the elimination of the city of Birmingham.

Hours Not Decided

Plans for special hours for the handling of Christmas mail still are incomplete. Postmaster General Fowler said Wednesday. His office is waiting for departmental approval on their application for overtime work, he added.



"But, my Dear, for real, year-round bargains, you should read the Eccentric Want-Ads."

PHONE MI 4-1100 Ask for the Want Ad desk

IN SEC QTR
VISITORS
HOME
DOWN 10 YARDS TO GO

CHARLES EDWARDS POST, American Legion, is conducting a drive among Birmingham business and professional men to raise approximately \$2,000 for the purchase of this electric scoreboard for the new high school football field. R. E. Weber, drive chairman, said a plaque would be mounted on the board stating that it was a gift to the school, a tribute to the youth of Birmingham. Weber added that donations would be limited to not more than \$25 each, and any funds in excess of the purchase price would be used to benefit veterans in area hospitals.

Plan Board Endorses Extension of Oak St.

Petition Requests Disposal Plant For Beverly Hills

The State Water Resources Commission this week sent a petition to County Drain Commissioner Ralph A. Main asking that he start plans for a sewage treatment plant or some other method to take care of the Acacia Park drain which serves the Beverly Hills area.

Boundary for this drainage area is between 13 and 14 Mile roads and Greenfield and the Rouge river. Septic tanks now serve this district.

Main stated, "This is the beginning of some big problems in this area."

Maple Cagers to Play Troy Friday

Birmingham and Troy high schools will open their basketball seasons as they meet in the new Troy gymnasium, Livernols, north of Big Beaver road, Friday, Dec. 7 at 8 p.m.

C of C Names Speaker For Annual Dinner Meet

Wayne University President, Dr. David T. Henry, will be the speaker at the annual Chamber of Commerce dinner Wednesday evening, Dec. 19. The affair will be held in the Birmingham Community House.

Chapin Traffic Signal Installed

Newest traffic signal in the US-10 inter-connected traffic control system was erected by the State Highway department last week at Chapin and Woodward and is now in operation.

Two new signals are located at 14 Mile, Chapin, Lincoln, Hazel, and Oakland.

All made at our printing plant. ROYAL MATHEWS COMPANY. PHONE ENTERTAINING 6319.

IN SEC QTR
VISITORS
HOME
DOWN 10 YARDS TO GO

Further attempts to eliminate one of the city's worst traffic hazards were made last week when the city plan board passed a resolution requesting the city commission to take what steps are necessary to bring attention to the proposed Oak street extension to the "proper authorities."

This action was taken after City Manager Donald C. Egbert wrote a letter requesting the board to consider the problem. City officials have been concerned with the proposed Oak street extension to US-10 for the past several years.

The city manager also attended the meeting along with Police Chief Ralph Moxley.

Egbert told plan board members, "The street system of the city doesn't provide for a free flow of traffic east and west. Any vehicle desiring to go east or west in the north portion of the city must follow a very circuitous route. There is no ready access to US-10 from the northwest section of the city."

The present Woodward-US-10 intersection has been the scene of a number of accidents. In the two year period from July 1948 to July of 1950 there was one fatal accident there with three persons killed and two injured. In addition, the corner had four personal injury accidents with 13 injuries.

In this period, there were nine property damage accidents at the intersection. Egbert also added that there have been many serious accidents there since this record was compiled.

Moxley told the planners that vehicle crossing the intersection is exposed for a total of 125 feet.

WITH THE EXCEPTION of a small part on the west end, the proposed extension would be outside the Birmingham corporate limits.

The problem involves the city of Birmingham, Bloomfield township, Oakland County road commission and the Michigan State highway department.

Several plans have been presented to the state highway department concerning the cross-over, but as yet a definite decision has not been made.

Egbert stated, "A representative of the Michigan State Highway department recently submitted a tentative plan with several alternatives which provided for correcting the situation in regard to the traffic hazards. Two of the plans combined the modification of intersection with the extension of Oak street."

Most popular solution is to extend Oak street through to Hunter, providing a right-angle crossing and reducing the hazard of the present "angled" intersection.

THE CITY MANAGER, also SEE OAK STREET, Page 2

Southfield Twp. School Bond Issue Approved

Way was cleared for construction of a new gymnasium at Southfield high school and elementary grade classrooms as school district voters approved a \$950,000 bond issue Tuesday.

Although a four-mill increase was equalized valuation for a maximum of 20 years to pay off the bond issue was approved, voters turned down a hike of five mills for a five-year period for a building and site sinking fund.

Vote for the bond issue was 922 in favor and 814 against. The four-mill increase was approved, \$33 to \$46; and the five-mill hike for a building and site sinking fund was defeated, 890 to 852.

A FOURTH PROPOSITION to increase the limitations on total amount of taxes to provide for the five-mill increase was defeated, 865 to 868.

The tax increase won't be effective until the 1952-53 school year.

Superintendent Glenn Schoenfalls said work on selling the bond issue will proceed as soon as possible.

The bond issue will provide for a gymnasium-auditorium and a 10-room addition in the high school. The remaining funds will be left for additional elementary grade rooms.

Schoenfalls stated, "The people have expressed themselves as they saw fit. We are fortunate that we can carry on our immediate needs."

The school board will hold its monthly meeting Monday evening, Dec. 10. Schoenfalls said the group will discuss new construction matters with the architects.

Offers to Spark City Pool Drive

Possibility that the Community Council might spearhead a drive for a municipal swimming pool if public interest demands it, was expressed at a meeting of the Council Nov. 29 as a result of a report by City Commissioner Frank Rising.

No conflict between plans for a municipal pool and completion of a pool at the new Birmingham High School exists, Rising said.

"If a swimming pool at the new high school is completed, it will not have any bearing on a municipal pool," declared Rising. "These are separate things. A municipal pool is an outdoor pool where children have fun. It is primarily for little tots, and there are a great many in Birmingham. It would be a place where they could be in the sunshine and splash around in the water having a good time, rather than learning to swim."

Annual Institute Set for February

The Community Council will hold its annual institute some time in February, it was announced.

Chairman will be Allan Lutz and the topic will be announced at a later date. There will be no meeting of a Community Council in December.

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AN INDOOR POOL, he said, has a formal feeling and such a pool at the new high school would be run and regulated by the Board of Education.

"If there is sentiment in favor of a municipal pool, it can only grow by spreading the idea, Rising stated. "I don't believe the town has any such opinion yet—now in the winter time at least—have come some hot summer days and some one will bring it up again."

The city commission, he said, is now in a position to find out whether or not the citizens of Birmingham want a municipal pool and would like to acquire some kind of sentiment or consensus of opinion.

There is no particular hurry, he added, since restrictions at the present time bar the building of a municipal pool at this time. The restrictions, he believes, do not apply to a completion of the pool at the new high school.

"GET PEOPLE talking and thinking about a municipal pool and try to erase the idea that the municipal pool and high school pool will damage each other. This is not true and not based on any fact that I know of," concluded Rising.

Mrs. F. G. Garrison, Community Council president, said the council will continue to explore the possibilities of the swimming pools.

"It is up to you representatives on the council to go back to your respective organizations and find out what your membership thinks about this and report back to us. The Community Council is willing to spearhead a project like this if the citizens in Birmingham really want it," she stated.

Copies of the report on swimming pools prepared for the city commission by Rising and his committee, were distributed to members of the Community Council.

Anyone Interested?

Various architects are being contacted to see if they are interested in designing the proposed site at Adams and Bowers, Mayor Dean G. Beyer revealed this week.

From the Outside or Inside 7,000 View Christmas Displays

An estimated 7,000 persons attended the third annual Christmas Prevue sponsored by Birmingham merchants Monday evening, despite an almost continuous downpour.

Between shows, families sauntered around the streets, pausing to look at brightly lighted window displays, made gay by seasonal decorations.

Thousands of others went into stores and shops for a closer look at "Santa Claus" merchandise and to make mental shopping lists for family and friends. Children tarried long at toy displays and voiced their fondest dreams of Christmas morning.

STORES PROVIDED GIFTS for visitors, with many serving snacks to the constantly shifting crowds. In some shops, models strolled through the crowds.

Merchants all said they felt it was the most successful event held yet.

Charles Mortensen, Chamber of Commerce secretary, said he visited most of the stores and found everyone pleased with the evening's program.

"We thought the rain would reduce the crowd," he said, "but I believe it was higher than in the past. Store owners and managers all said they had more people in their stores. Nearly all felt that the primary purpose of the prevue was felt to a greater degree, too. The people who came out were interested in what stock is available, and to plan their shopping accordingly." (Joe Wheeler Photos)

