

# A Season Of Serenity

Have you moved through the seasonal serenity of our Birmingham streets and felt the exultation in the air? Have you let children's laughter quicken your hearts, and have you sung the age-old carols? Have you

visited your friends and let their gaily colored trees instill in you a vivid Christmas magic?

We have done those things. We will do them again and again, for there is no age, no staleness in this kind of truth nor in the words we use to express it each year. Thus, as the Christmas bells voice their own glorious message, we humbly think it time to offer ours.

Our message is a quiet one—in the fine and direct simplicity of the old way, The Birmingham Eccentric wishes everyone

# A Very Merry and Joyous Christmas

In each of us are hidden, undeveloped abilities and talents which, if brought to consciousness, hold possibilities for fuller and richer lives. They may be nurtured into vocational or recreational activities but most of us are too busy to dig for them.

75TH YEAR—NO. 41

## THIS and THAT

By G. R. A.  
Though dark and grim and troubled days oppress  
And conflict hedges Utopia from view,  
We know that better days are in the future.  
When thoughts of Him are sought by me and you.  
Ah, Christmas Day, with all its With all its promises of Peace on Earth,  
We keep it in our thoughts, and pray our  
He tuned in keeping with that day of birth!  
Then may we warm ourselves at "Yule-log" glowing embers  
And sing the carols from hearts filled with love—  
This is the gift of all God's yearning children,  
This is God's benediction from above.

## Grand Trunk RR Seeking Answer To Fence Problem

An official of the Grand Trunk Western railroad this week promised that by the middle of January here would make a survey of the Birmingham right-of-way between Derby road and the community street in an effort to determine what additional steps the railroad would take to prevent trespassing on its property.

O. C. Marquess, superintendent of investigation for the GTWRK, said that the general idea would be to make the survey, and that he would forward any recommendations to his superiors.

"The Grand Trunk is aware of the hazard that exists there, and we want to take every reasonable means to prevent a possible tragedy," Marquess explained.

THE HAZARD Marquess referred to was the one The Eccentric has pointed out in its two past issues—holes and breaks in the fencing along the railroad right-of-way, caused by short-circuiting computers and school students.

These fence breaks would permit small pre-school children, attracted by the fascination of speeding trains yet unaware of the dangers of getting too close to them, to become possible victims of horrible injury or even death.

Marquess said he was not certain of what his recommendations might be, if any, and that an on-the-spot study must be made first to gather available facts.

HE SAID it would be premature to estimate what the railroad could possibly do to keep people from taking shortcuts across the tracks, but he hinted that one of the possibilities he would investigate would be a stronger, higher fence.

An indication that any recommendations Marquess may make would be favorably considered by the company could be read into the statements made in a letter The Eccentric received this week from V. C. Palmer, superintendent of the Detroit division of the GTWRK. Palmer's letter, dated Dec. 13, stated in part:

"The very able editorial and pictures that appeared in your issue on Thursday, Dec. 11, was read with interest and I was very pleased to receive the article as this fencing of our right-of-way is a matter of great concern to us."

"THE DATE of your article coincides with the date of the

PHOTOGRAPHY  
Merry Christmas  
Don't forget this! Santa makes his rounds but once a year. The Eccentric, however, its Want Ad page remains with red hot items, makes the tear of Birmingham homes every week of the year.

Phone MI 4-1100  
Ask for the Want-Ad Desk

## News Highlights of 1952 Shown In Retrospect

Another passing year has left its lasting imprint on Birmingham and its residents.  
It has seen old headaches come back with new characteristics. It has seen several projects completed and others started. As it passed, it has brought sadness to some and deep joy to others.  
The first six months of the year saw the day come for the young people who made the move from the old Baldwin high school to the new Birmingham high school. During this "first half" of the year, the new building was opened for public inspection, dedicated and graduated its first class.

NEW PROJECTS in the city included breaking ground for two new churches—the First Presbyterian, West Main and the Our Lady Queen of Martyrs on Pierce.  
West Maple was widened east as west of the new bridge which has since been opened to traffic.  
The year 1952 saw Birmingham make history when early in the year the League of Women Voters spearheaded a voters' registration drive. Their activities continued to snowball throughout the election year, chalking up the largest voting percentages ever recorded here.

Officially, Birmingham welcomed its newest baby—radar, which took over its job to help curb speed and make streets safer with a great deal of vim and vigor.  
Officially, Birmingham also held its aching head as the nearly timeless problem of what to do with parking took new lease on life.

Facing terrific demands on its water supply through so many new families, the city waged open warfare with the city fathers to get down in the dark of the night and find where millions of gallons of water were going with a great deal of vim and vigor.

As usual, citations and honors, from business houses, organizations and federal sources came to several of our citizens.  
Tragedy struck nearby in the explosion at Royal Oak, claiming the life of one Birmingham resident.

All in all, those first six months were pretty busy in our small city, but perhaps the thing Father Birmingham will remember the longest is the brief but exciting visit in May of General and Mrs. Douglas MacArthur. That really was a day!

Issue of January 3  
The DPW hopes for an early spring. With the water only well under way, Norman Knapp, superintendent, finds snow removal funds down to a seasonal low of \$4,400. Knapp said so far this winter, more than 2,000 man hours have gone into snow removal, plus the cost of ice and the operation and maintenance of machinery.

One of Oakland county's oldest residents, Mrs. Clara E. Camp, 101, of 123 Merrill, died at her home Dec. 30, 1951. Mrs. Camp came to Birmingham as a baby and spent her entire life in this community.

A heavy fog ushered in one of the most quiet New Year's that Birmingham has ever seen. No one stirred from their own firesides if they could help it. Celebrities were at a minimum and were extremely quiet. It wasn't until the New Year was several hours old that police received their first 1952 call—a barking dog.

Troy township officials announced they are considering engaging the services of a consultant to recom-

mend changes in the township zoning ordinance. Inadequacy of present definitions of property classifications is given as the reason.  
A group of 75 German students, guests of Rotary International, were visitors in Birmingham last week. The young people were taken to services at Christ Church (Cranbrook) and honored at parties in the Community House while guests in Birmingham homes.

Issue of January 10  
The prospect of lacking 112,000 one-cent stamps faces workers at the Birmingham postoffice as postal rate hikes go into effect. Postmaster Bernard Fowler said that was the stamp inventory for the "lowest price" stamps as of Jan. 1.

Under the guidance of Mrs. How, and Riegan and Mrs. Wallace R. Campbell, a one-night drive to raise funds to fight polio is planned for Birmingham. The drive will be conducted by block workers who by handling small areas, will be able to contact every resident in town.

John W. Knecht, local real estate agent, announced that he has had a successful career in the industrial field.

PRIOR TO joining General Motors in 1948, Kyes held high offices in several firms. While with the Ferguson-Sherman Manufacturing Corp., he served as vice-president and general manager and later as president of the firm from 1943 to his resignation in 1947.

When first joining General Motors he was director of its central office procurement and scheduling staff. In 1949 he was appointed assistant general manager of the GMC Truck and Coach Division.

# The Birmingham Eccentric

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1952

24 PAGES SEVEN CENTS

## Three Christmas Services Hold First Christmas Services

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At Our Lady Queen of Martyrs the midnight mass on Christmas Eve will be the first service held there. Congregations of Embury Methodist and the First Methodist churches will observe their Christmas services, at first Christmas services, although both have been holding Sunday services for some time in their new buildings.

The Rev. Lucian Hebert will celebrate a solemn high mass, assisted by Revs. Albert Allen and John J. Reardon, deacon and sub-deacon.  
This parish was established in October 1951 by Edward Cardinal Mooney. Ground was broken for the new building in June, with cornerstone ceremonies held the following month.

A few minor installations still are lacking in the building, the Rev. Hebert said. Plans for a school, convent and rectory. Furnishings of the new church, including the Stations of the Cross, sacred vessels, pews and the organ, are gifts of parishioners.

IN ADDITION to the Christmas Eve services, masses will be at 7, 8:30 and 10 a.m., and at noon on Christmas Day. This schedule will make up the regular Sunday order with daily masses at 7 and 8 a.m.  
Vestments, altar cloths and the like to be used at this and all other church services have been made by the ladies of the Altar Society's Blessed Sacrament guild.

With this Christmas service the parish will discontinue their use of the school chapel at the Shrine of the Little Flower.  
At Embury Methodist, no Christmas Eve services are scheduled. A special Christmas service on Dec. 25 will include a solo by Choirmaster Victor Ulrich, "Sweet Little Jesus Boy," and an anthem, "On Christmas Night," sung by the choir.

THE WOMEN'S Society of the church will hold a Christmas party at 8 p.m. on Dec. 29.  
At the First Methodist church the Rev. Dr. Arnold S. Runkel will preside at the annual Christmas Eve communion service at 8 p.m. on Christmas Eve. Choral music will be sung.  
"Student Recognition Day" will be held on Dec. 29.

STRICTLY FRESH  
A London lady argued for the right to carry Queen Elizabeth's towel during coronation ceremonies. To accompany Knights of the Bath.

Paris police searched the city for a missing city-owned newspaper, finally found the culprits were night duty gardennes who took it for replacement. Guess it takes a cop to catch a cop.

A master magician reported two men made exactly \$180 disappear with a wave of a loaded pistol. They left big band, guess theirs was better.

A Brazilian bigamist was caught by wife number two when he wore

Two prisoners disappeared without a trace from a New Jersey reformatory. Officers found no holes, openings, missing bars or broken locks. Phantom fugitives eh!

All makes of inner spring mattresses made. MATTRESS REPAIR SERVICE. PHONE Enterprise 6310.

Clawson Assured Drain Protection By Commissioners

City commissioners Monday night assured that the City of Clawson's approval to Birmingham's membership in the Southeastern Oakland County Sewage Disposal District.

Clawson is the only member of the eleven municipalities in the district that has not passed on the city's entry to the SOCSID.  
Birmingham officials want every member of the district and the county governing body to approve the city's participation before the proposal is brought before Birmingham voters in the April election.

Commissioners agreed that any extension of the Lawton Drain that runs from an open drain of Birmingham into Clawson and on to Royal Oak would materially add to storm flooding of the two cities.

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## Santa Won't Tell How He Gets Down All Those Chimneys

Well, well, well! Santa Claus tells us there are some pretty inquisitive boys and girls that some of them were so busy asking him questions that they actually forgot to tell him what they wanted for Christmas.

It seems to be a big mystery to them how the old gentleman gets around the world so fast.

Well, Santa says he has a magic sleigh and some pretty wonderful reindeer. They have all been working together for a long, long time, and there's no need to stop and figure out what to do next.

He said that his sleigh stretches across the world and then lands the last one, and finally — it stops stretching.

THE SAME THING happens, only the other way around, makes his deliveries. Each time he makes out a package the sleigh gets a little smaller. That makes it easier on the reindeer and of course, gives Santa a smaller, warmer sleigh for the ride home.

The next question Santa refused to answer. He said it was a professional secret the way he gets down chimneys.

With a deep chuckle he added that if he told how he does it, mothers all over the world would be furious at him because, sure as sunrise, some youngster would try it the first chance he got.

Mrs. Claus spoke up when Santa mentioned how many children wanted to know how he kept his clothes clean and didn't get all covered with soot and ash.

"HE DOESN'T," she snorted. "He comes home looking like a chimney sweep—and not a very good one, at that."

"His suit is a mess. His boots and mittens are full of cinders and he's as cross as an old bear. He's always with his trousers and jacket, too."

"His whiskers, hair and eyebrows are gone. He's balding and he generally has some behind his ears. I always have to make him scrub from top to toe before he goes to bed."

"The children think he manages to do it all by himself. They never see him all sick and spank. Well, that's simply because I make his clothes good and he doesn't suit every time he goes out in public. Just like every mother does with her little boy and girl."

SANTA ASKED us to assure all the boys and girls that he and Mrs. Claus, all the helpers and elves and all the reindeer were feeling pretty good. They have been having a wonderful year, and are all ready to go.

He added that it would not be possible to name all the help because there are so many of them.

"I have some in every village and city in every country in the world. They're good. They'll help you suit every time he goes out in public. Just like every mother does with her little boy and girl."

FREE PARKING facilities will be provided behind the store.

Present plans show that the new store will be 90 feet wide by 138 feet deep, permitting about 1300 lineal feet of counter space devoted to such departments as ready-to-wear, dinnerware, household goods as well as notions.

Wrecking crews that began razing the old Methodist church in mid-October are expected to be finished this week.



ROGER M. KYES Follows Wilson To Washington

Roger M. Kyes, of Cranbrook Road, Bloomfield Hills, has been selected as deputy secretary of defense by President-Elect Dwight Eisenhower.

The General Motors Corporation vice-president will continue to work for his GM boss and neighbor Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson of Bloomfield township.

Kyes is general manager of the GMC Truck and Coach Division in Pontiac.

A native of Ohio and 1928 graduate of Harvard University, Kyes has had a successful career in the industrial field.

PRIOR TO joining General Motors in 1948, Kyes held high offices in several firms. While with the Ferguson-Sherman Manufacturing Corp., he served as vice-president and general manager and later as president of the firm from 1943 to his resignation in 1947.

When first joining General Motors he was director of its central office procurement and scheduling staff. In 1949 he was appointed assistant general manager of the GMC Truck and Coach Division.

He became general manager of the division in 1950 and was named vice-president of the corporation.

Northland Center Opening Date Set For March 1, 1954

Grand opening date for J. L. Hudson's Northland Center, now under construction at Greenfield and 8 Mile roads, has been set for March 1, 1954, Northland's vice president and general manager, Horace Carpenter, Jr., disclosed in a talk before the Birmingham Rotary club Monday noon.

The \$22½ million shopping center will contain about 471,000 sq. ft. of floor space for Hudson's store, with about an equal number of square feet leased to 75-80 competing stores, he said.

Accidents Few Despite Fog, Weekend Traffic

Blinding fog and extra heavy traffic got along splendidly in Birmingham last weekend.

Police reported only two minor property damage accidents in spite of extremely unfavorable traffic conditions.

Chief Ralph W. Moxley said the fine record here was due entirely to the extra care of both motorists and pedestrians.

## Music Will Highlight Programs

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KRESGE STORE  
ARCHITECT'S DRAWING OF THE NEW KRESGE STORE TO BE CONSTRUCTED ON W. MAPLE  
The building front will be of white brick and natural stone with a permanent canopy.

Kresge to Build At Winter's End  
Construction of the new S. S. Kresge store at the corner of West Maple and Henrietta will not be started until the closing months of this winter, according to T. B. Murphy, construction department manager for the firm.  
Preliminary designs by Kresge's staff architect, Emil G. Jehle, indicate the store will be one of the finest of the 628 Kresge stores in the United States.  
Featuring air conditioning, a luncheon fountain and a women's public lounge, the store will also contain a number of multiter self-serving counters.  
FREE PARKING facilities will be provided behind the store.  
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