



### Christmas Greetings

To all our friends and patrons, we extend our warmest greetings for a joyous Holiday Season.

**BEER'S CHAIR RENTAL**  
Midwest 6-1339

## CHRISTMAS MONEY buys a SNOW SUIT

Reduced to Clear!

Our stock of room suits, toddler's Snow Suits in one and two-piece styles and 3 to 6X Snow Suits for Boys and Girls.

Make your selections early to insure a Snow Suit to meet your individual needs.

## LITTLE FOLKS SHOP

175 West Maple Birmingham



IT'S NOT TOO LATE!  
To Choose One, From Our FINE SELECTION of

- Hamilton • Gruen
- Elgin • Wadsworth
- WATCHES •

AND  
**JEWELRY**  
**GEORGE ROSS**  
JEWELERS  
244 E. Maple MI 4-8215  
Free Parking at Rear Open to 6 P.M. Wednesday

**Have a Gay Holiday**

We're popping up to wish you a joyous Christmas.

**1952**

**MILKS APPLIANCES**  
1435 S. Woodward BIRMINGHAM MI 4-1814

### DOWN TO EARTH

## Christmas Plants Can Be Saved—With Care

By Alice Wessels Burlingame  
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

There is a Santa Claus as every observing person knows. There is also a Christmas rose as many of us skeptics have seen. At the home of Mrs. R. R. Hutchison, 32415 Beaconsfield, there is a handsome specimen of the Christmas rose nestled down in a light mulch of straw, alone in a sunny flower bed.

The leaves are a healthy dark green and the wax flowers with buds of more to come, make you resolve to have this treasure in your yard, come 1953. The wax grey flowers about two inches in diameter are accompanied by little buds forming at the core of the plant. They reminded me of the African violet buds.

At Thanksgiving Mrs. Hutchison reported 18 flowers and buds on one plant and said that when they are cut for a centerpiece they will last about two days. And if you have a plant that would be on a sunny spot outside, Mrs. Burlingame window, just a straw wound around the base would be all of the much necessary. If you receive a Christmas cactus for the Holidays, water the plant moderately. If you are too generous with water the buds will drop. Too little water will have the same result. Avoid cold drafts near this plant. It is also sensitive to gas in the air.

PLACE YOUR Christmas cactus outdoors about May 20, leaving it in the pot, near a shrub which will afford it partial shade. You supply during the dry days in August, and twice during the summer it should have a fertilizer feeding. About the last week in August bring the plant inside after you have washed the outside of the pot and carefully remove the soil from the top of the pot, which has been leached of its goodness. Replace this soil, rather than use the plant, with good garden loam. Place the plant in an east or a south window. At this time keep on the dry side until buds begin to form, and then begin to fertilize it every three weeks and give it more water.

I hope all of you will sometime have the thrill of having cyclamen as a holiday plant. It is a favorite as it lasts so long. It takes the grower twelve months to grow this plant from seed to flower, and he has to be a master to control ventilation and heat, and insects to have this gem ready for "my lady."

It likes a room on the cool side and humidity should be introduced by containers with ornamental ferns in water. NEVER ALLOW the soil to be dry. If you receive a decorative hanging plant, growing plants, here are some tips. The plant material removed which might be beneath the surface of the water. Every six weeks use half a plant tab to supplement the water and include a piece of charcoal the size of a pea. Wash out the container every time you do this and wash the leaves. Merry Christmas, garden friends, and may your love of plants bring to your hearts a year of warmth, contentment and happiness, resulting in peace on earth—beginning with you.

**NATURE NOW**  
**Nature Gives Freely To Our Christmas Joy**  
By Lydia King Frehse  
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric  
Christmas is the high festival of the seasons. It comes close on the heels of the winter solstice to light the year's shortest days and longest nights. Although it is celebrated in the midst of cold and snow, it is yet a festival of nature. We bring to it such gifts as are reminiscent of earth and sky; the fragrance of evergreens, the healing ministry of food and fire, the comradeship of animals and men, the light of a star which shone first on the lonely hills of Judea.

Out of the deep evergreen forests of the north came the Christmas greens to deck the great mansions of the past. From their depths was dragged the yule log whose burning outlasted the celebrations of Tule. Today the bringing in of greens still heralds the Christmas season. Of these, the Christmas holly is one of the most celebrated. We weave it into wreaths to decorate doorways and mantel. A sprig trimmed with "special" packages, it is carried in the plum pudding. It goes down the candle-lit aisle in the trembling hands of the Christmas bride. The familiar American holly (Ilex opaca) is native to the coastal states and the south. A shrub in its northern ranges, it reaches tree-like proportions in the south. It lent an air of formal elegance to the colonial gardens of Virginia. The master of Mount Vernon was devoted to it and now when I walk there in the lovely gardens, I seek out the south semicircle in the rear of the mansion where 13 of the hollies which he planted in 1786 still stand. In Christmas markets one can sometimes find the beautiful white-bordered variety which grows in the north-west. At this season we like to trim our entrance halls with a well-placed sprig of mistletoe. (Phoradendron flavescens) Quantities of it are shipped to us from the east, the south and the west where it forms evergreen clumps high up on the limbs of such trees as maple, tupelo, and sycamore. It is a destructive parasitic plant which attacks the bark of a tree, or sows the seed, and the pulp develops as a protection. When the germination occurs, the plant gets its water, supply by sending

down its specialized roots into the conductive tissues of the host tree. It then proceeds to make its own food as does any plant which is anchored to the ground. To contrast with the Christmas greens, we use the bright flowers called poinsettia plant which is cultivated in green houses, but grows wild in the tropics. It is named for Joel R. Poinsett, one-time minister to Mexico. Its peculiar bloom has a center made up of a tiny naked pistillate flower surrounded by other naked staminate flowers, the whole resting in a cup-shaped whorl of bright red leaves which are not edible at all, but which give a similar effect. But at the heart of the family celebration is the Christmas tree. A child's wondering eyes mirror its twinkling lights. Its base is flanked with packages holding such things as dreams are made of. Many families still make a ceremony of selecting it—remnants of days when a tree could be cut and dragged-in from the family wood-lot. In the markets you may choose from such varieties as pine, spruce or balsam fir. We go looking for a balsam because it is the most fragrant. Next we trim all the twigs which will cling longest to its branches and it has a tall spire-like top upon which to hang the Christmas star. The spruce is a "fuller" tree for its needles grow scattered around the stem in all directions, while the balsam "parts its hair" in the middle.

"THERE CAME wise men from the East. They saw the young child with Mary, his mother, and presented unto him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. You have heard the familiar words on every Christmas of your life-time: perhaps you know that frankincense and myrrh are resins taken from the sap of varieties of hark which were then brought to Palestine from the far East by slow camel caravan. When burned as incense, these resins

### PEOPLE'S COLUMN

## Home Is Special At Christmastide

To the Editor:  
Being among Birmingham's newer residents, I wonder if you can consider this original verse as a contribution to appear in your excellent paper? It goes without saying that to have it printed would please me very much.

**Christmas**  
How comforting a home becomes  
When loved ones, leaving mundane cares behind, unite; and quiet rooms become alive with love  
Which is the gift The Star bestowed upon mankind.

**Christmas**  
How comforting a home becomes  
When friends drop in for cheer beside the fire; and everywhere the splendor of the human heart becomes as vibrant as the chant the Angels' Choir.

**Christmas**  
How comforting a home becomes  
When the glow of lamps in winter the frosty night, arresting wistful ones who walk alone outside; yet with them—within—there walks the Nazarene.  
DOROTHY ROCKWELL McWOOD  
(Mrs. Arthur B. McWood)  
5960 Shallow Brook road.

## Taxpayer Says Schools Pampering Youngsters At Expense of Public

To the Editor:  
The discussion about school taxes is interesting to many folks, especially those in the fixed income brackets. Dividends have not been paid by good corporations due to so many fringe benefits to labor, inability to get material, high taxes, etc. I should be sorry to see people lose their homes through being forced to pay for services the crowds of people, with children, coming here demand—and should pay for themselves. I am interested to know, with Miss Benedict, if the school board has a right to allow people who pay no taxes to vote on huge school bond issues.

WE MUST HAVE something pretty special now to be written up so widely in magazines. In the old days, "out-of-towners" paid tuition, drove their own horses to town, rented a barn for them and drove home. Some even walked. They brought their own grain which was much prized.

AND NOW MY best Christmas wishes to all who have shared the week with me, the seasons' slow turning. My thanks to those who have made vocal their approval as well as to the silent reader who is ever in my thoughts. Finally, when the last candle is spent, say you—  
"Sleep as they sleep  
Who have their heart's desire."

to our friends a very merry christmas  
McClellan-ball company  
Closed Friday, December 26

**price sale!**  
REG. \$500 SIZE only \$250

Now is the time to find out why Plus 30 works wonders for women past thirty... giving them both hormones and RICH LANOLIN in medically correct quantities to restore the firm, smooth glow of youth to skin no longer properly maintained by nature. You'll love Plus 30's quick results... the way just like a little dose of lot!

WONDER WORKING  
**BONNE BELL**

Don't let your face tell time!  
**WESLEY DRUGS**  
Open Daily 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Phone 100 W. 14 Mile Rd. (Cor. of Pierce) MI 4-7563  
QUICK DELIVERY ON ALL PRESCRIPTIONS

lunches and if they did not like them only the home folks heard about it.  
This was the pioneer spirit, and lacking today. Luxury, bribes and pampering do not build character and stamina in youngsters.  
A TAXPAYER.

## Ageless Christmas Recalled in Verse

To the Editor:  
Since, at Christmas, it is nice to remember old friends as we observe this special day, I have taken the liberty of submitting to you the enclosed poem. I shall be very pleased if you can use it.

**ALWAYS AT CHRISTMAS**  
Above the silent darkened plains of earth  
The angels sang of peace, good will to men,  
Proclaiming tidings of the Christ Child's birth.  
Tonight they sing their ageless songs again,  
While Christmas stars reflect a lambent glow  
Across the lustre of the tinsel'd snow.

The wreaths are hung, the candles lighted, and Gifts piled beneath each shining Christmas tree



A bountiful, merry Christmas to one and all.  
1952  
**T. E. HOGAN Co.**  
2865 Woodward Ave. 3 blocks South of 12 Mile LI 4-3300

In houses everywhere across the land.  
It is the night of the Nativity, And Christmas stars reflect a lambent glow  
Across the lustre of the tinsel'd snow.  
BEATRICE McDONALD

## Lions Club to Entertain Children at Dec. 31 Meet

Birmingham's Lions Club has scheduled Wednesday, Dec. 31, for

the annual Christmas party of members and their children. The affair will be held at noon in the Community House with a special luncheon prepared for the guests.  
Through the efforts of Victor Koch, a Walt Disney film, "Beaver Valley" has been secured as the program feature.  
A meeting of the board has been scheduled for Jan. 6, to be held at the home of Emerson Brown, 6590 Brookdale, at 8 p.m.

**Your Old Like New Again**

Longer, wider, narrower... softer, firmer... just the way YOU want it! Call FE 2-7695 in the morning, we'll return your mattress that SAME day—like new! You'll be amazed at the low price.

• Pillows Renovated • New Custom-Built Mattresses

**OXFORD MATTRESS CO.**  
37 Years in Oakland County  
Phone—Dial O ask for Enterprise 6310 FOR ESTIMATES 40 E. PIKE ST. PONTIAC FE 2-7695

Greetings!

1952

To our old friends, our new friends and our friends to be we extend our best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Phone MI 4-3930

**Dimas Furs**  
227 S. WOODWARD AVE. BIRMINGHAM, MICH.

**Christmas Joy**

The gift we cherish most is the priceless one of your friendship.

1952

**MASKILL HARDWARE**  
4400 N. Woodward Lincoln 2-4700  
Just a Few Blocks South of 14 Mile Rd.