MERRY CHRISTMAS

If only more of us could live thoroughly in the present! To make each hour of each day an enjoyable experience, whether it be to overcome a problem or to sit back and enjoy the results of previous accomplishments. The present is all we have . . . why not live it!

The Birmingham Eccentric

SECTION ONE

76TH YEAR—NO. 41 | BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1953 | 26 PAGES | SEVEN CENTS

THIS and THAT

By G.R.A.

"Flaming Word That's Infinite!"

The lights on earth, illumed by men, burn strong, then flicker out again.

The things of matter rust, decay. No earthly thing is here to stay.

Beyond the span of mortal breath . . . so brief they live before their death.

But man's immortal, true design was fashioned in a mould divine;

The Hand that stretched the Milky Way, the stars at night, the sun by day

Was Author of us all, you see—we are His heirs eternally.

Ah, friend, within each righteous heart are values found not in the mart;

No substance shines or burns so bright across the darkness of earth's night

As when, within, our heart is lit by flaming Word that's Infinite!

Yes, we are His; dare we abide within His laws, then Christmas-tide

Will have a meaning all year through, and life more joy for me and you.

—G.R.A.

To Decide Answer On 'Cutoff' Date

A decision whether to accept a city offer that would require a "cutoff date" for city services in the event an annexation election failed, is expected to be made by next Monday, H. H. Paterson, president of the W. E. Reid Development company, said this week.

Paterson has asked for city sewer and water services for the southeast corner of the so-called "Porritt property" on Adams road pending the area's annexation to the city which he believes will follow as the result of a vote on the matter at the April 5 city election.

Meanwhile Paterson has filed with the county board of supervisors a petition bearing 500 signatures and calling for the annexation. The issue will go on the regular city ballot, but will require a special election in Troy township.

* * *

CITY commissioners have said they will not anticipate the election results, and therefore wanted any agreement to provide that city services would be discontinued as of Dec. 1, 1954, should the annexation not take place.

They explain the city is in no position to indefinitely provide city services to this particular area if it remains part of Troy township.

The Reid company plans to erect over 100 duplex dwellings and some single family homes on the 40-acre site.

Thieves Working On Parked Cars

Cars parked in Birmingham are continuing to take a beating at the hands of thieves, according to reports from the police department.

A Detroit man notified police that a new suit was stolen from his car Friday night while he parked in the driveway of a friend on E. Maple.

In other thefts Friday night, batteries were taken from two automobiles in the Birmingham high school parking lot, while their owners were attending the school's basketball game.

Two bicycles also were stolen from the high school, one on Thursday night and the other on Friday night.

Postpone Action On Meter Study

Birmingham city commissioners Monday night agreed to delay any action on parking meter recommendations made by Police Chief Ralph Moxley until the city made some determination on the future of the off-street parking program.

The report was in answer to commissioners' questions on how to ease traffic congestion in the city's commercial district. Commissioners also agreed that whatever would help relieve congestion would help the city and stated that revenue from the meters should not be considered.

One recommendation that Moxley particularly favored, concerned the change of all hour meters adjacent to intersections, alleys and driveways to 30 minute meters, allowing more short time parking spaces at points that were easily accessible to motorists.

This, Moxley explained, would affect 56 meters.

All makes of inner spring mattresses repaired. ROYAL MATTRESS COMPANY. Dial "O" and ask for ENterprise 6319.

The Little Tree's Merry Christmas

By ALICE E. MORGAN

It was cold and still in the woods that night. The little balsam tree stood alone and shivered in his unaccustomed solitude.

He missed the soft noises of the hundreds of neighbors he had had only a few days before. All that remained to remind him were the ragged stumps and the deep tracks of the men and snow trucks.

The little balsam had watched the men go through the forest, putting little red tags on every tree. He had wept a little when one of them snatched the tag off his top and said something about that one being too little.

He listened as the men talked about Christmas in the city. He heard them saying that before long some of these beautiful trees would be white or pink or pale blue—oh a lot of colors.

The little balsam bowed his head as the cold wind swept across the open area around him. How he missed the protecting company of those big, sturdy fellows who had fallen beneath the axe and left the forest, piled high on the snow truck.

* * *

HE LOOKED AT THE sky overhead. A thin sliver of a moon rode low in the southwest. Above it shone a monstrous big star. It seemed to twinkle and sway just a little in the dark blue. It seemed so cold and far away. The little tree wondered about it—how it would be up there on the star, or even on the moon.

He looked the other way. That crimson belt across the sky he knew about. It came from the neon lights in the nearby city. He'd heard all about those lights from the men who came for the trees.

He knew they were all along the main street, lighting the store fronts and theaters. He knew this because the men set certain trees aside for these special customers.

He'd heard the men tell the farmer's little boy about the great big spruce that would be set up in front of the city hall. It would have thousands of lights on it, the men said. Every night choirs from all the churches, groups of school children and glee clubs would come to the tree and sing.

* * *

THEY TOLD THE BOY about some of the other trees. One, a big tall pine, was going to be put up on the theater marquee after it had been sprayed and made white. It would have a record player by it and all the Christmas music would seem to come from the big white tree, itself.

A sigh escaped the little tree. He wondered why everyone seemed to want the biggest trees. Wondering, he fell asleep and did not see the big owl circle the open area looking for his supper. The little tree did not know about the four or five small brown mice hiding under his branches.

Voices, children's voices, woke him with a start. Bright red caps circled faces nearly as red, as the little boy and girl fell over stump after stump in their haste to reach him. The man behind them was tall and thin, and moved more slowly. The little tree could see he was just as eager as the children, but being grown up, couldn't let on.

* * *

"IT WILL DO, won't it daddy? It will be just the right size, won't it?"

The children's voices were shrill with excitement. They danced around the little tree, fell over a stump and landed in the snow to jump to their feet again, giggling happily.

The man looked at the little tree and nodded. He pulled a sharp little hatchet from his belt and the little tree pulled himself up tight as he waited for the blow. One—two—three—four—five—he swayed and at the sixth, fell forward into the snow, the children's glad cries filling the air.

The little balsam felt himself being lifted in a big strong hand while little hands in wet mittens stroked his branches. He felt the thump of the man's strides through the snow, the jiggle of the car over the bumpy farm road and the smooth glide through the city streets.

* * *

HE TRIED TO LOOK at the streets, but the children kept hovering over him and he couldn't see a thing.

The next thing he knew he was in a house, a small house, but full of lovely smells, gay plants and a young woman who kissed the man and both children and then stood back to admire the little balsam.

He was so happy that he stiffened all over to keep from shivering. The woman bent over him and pinched a needle. Then she sniffed her fingers and murmured, "Wonderful!"

The lady put the little tree in a corner and save for when the children came to stroke the aromatic needles, he was all alone and very quiet.

After dark the activities started and the little tree found himself a glittering cone of bright tinsel, ornaments and strings of gaily colored lights. The children bubbled over with joy and gave him final pats of affection as they reluctantly left for bed.

When they had gone and the man and woman stood alone before the little tree, he heard her murmur, "It was lovely of Mr. Blank to let us have the tree, John. Not having one would have been such a disappointment for the children. We'll leave the lights on. If Johnny or Joan look out here during the night they can see them."

* * *

THEY WENT AWAY and the little tree was alone again. The house grew silent but the little tree stayed wide awake. He was too excited to sleep.

As he looked out at the night, off in the eastern sky he saw one Star. Big and bright it hung in the midnight blue canopy, its light seemingly brighter than anything else in sight. For a moment the little tree admired the big, shining star. Then he looked at himself in the mirror.

There, where he hadn't noticed it before, was a shiny star of tinsel and in its center a blob of the purest white.

He looked at himself and the Star outside, sighed deeply, and settled for sleep.

"How lovely the stars are," he said to himself, "Mine, and the Star out there."

TO OPERATE PARKING LOT WITHOUT CITY ASSISTANCE

Cites Lack of Winter Sport Areas

Facilities for winter recreation within the corporate limits of Birmingham are inadequate to meet the needs of the city's children, Recreation Director Frank Whitney said in an interview last week.

Whitney said there is need for more skating rinks, and for a place where children can use their sleds.

"Probably every family in Birmingham with children has at least one sled", said Whitney, "but there is no place to use them."

He recommended that the city undertake to build a sled and toboggan slide in one of the city's parks. Such a slide could be erected in the form of a mound, he suggests. Broken concrete and rubble from street paving jobs could be used to form the mound that could be covered over with soil and planted to grass, said Whitney.

* * *

HE ADDED the mound could be inexpensively lighted so it could be used at night as well as in the daytime.

The city presently has six ice skating rinks but because most of them are small and because ice skating is so popular, more rinks are needed, according to Whitney.

The rinks are located in Poppleton, Harmon, St. James, Pembroke and Eton parks, and one at Torry school.

Use of these rinks has been divided between casual ice skaters and hockey players, Whitney said.

* * *

PRESENT PLANS call for casual skating during the daytime, when hockey playing will be barred from the ice. Hockey will be permitted after dark on all rinks, all of which will be lightted. Whitney emphasized that sleds will not be permitted on the ice.

Whitney announced there will be no skating at Quarton school this winter. He said expansion of the school has reduced play space to the extent that the principal has asked the recreation board not to take a chance on flooding an area for a skating pond.

"If we could be sure of having ice all winter, we could have a rink at Quarton, but as it is we can't risk losing the play space," whitney explained. He added that loss of the Quarton rink is serious because there are no public lands in the northwest section of the city on which another could be built.

* * *

IN ADDITION to out-of-door activities, the recreation board has planned indoor sports.

A schedule of swimming classes has been arranged for elementary school children at the Barnum pool and all school gymnasiums will be opened Saturday mornings to boys in the fifth and sixth grade age group for basketball.

Whitney said the recreation board will continue its policy of not planning any ice skating activities at Quarton Lake.

Hearing Called On Cab Licenses

City commissioners Monday night called a public hearing for Monday night, Dec. 28, to act on the possible revocation of five taxicab licenses of the Birmingham Cab company.

Quarterly inspections made by the police department revealed that seven of the company's cabs failed to pass tests and were regarded by the police as being in poor condition.

Police Chief Ralph Moxley reported to commissioners that after the defects in the cabs were pointed out to the firm's owner, Orson Atchinson, two cabs were replaced with new vehicles but five were given merely minor repairs and still failed to pass the inspection.

* * *

MIKE JANIS, manager of the cab company, told commissioners that the firm told Chief Moxley that it would replace the cabs as soon as possible.

"We now have two new cabs and two more on order. Three other cabs are to be repaired and after the first of the year we also plan to replace these cabs with new ones," Janis said.

Commissioner Dean G. Beier stated that he didn't care if the cab company had all new cabs in view of the report on their operations.

The commission agreed to hold the public hearing as scheduled.

Jaycees Begin Home Decoration Judging

Judging in Birmingham's 1953 home lighting contest got underway this week, Frank Mulholland, chairman, said today.

Homes entered in the Junior Chamber of Commerce contest should be left lighted during the early evening hours throughout the holiday season, he said. Prizes in five city areas will be awarded shortly after the first of the year.

Last Week
We Thought
There Wouldn't
Be Any More
Santa Letters—
But in the Past 10
Days a Few Others
Have Come in—
They Are Published
On Page 4, Section 4

Charges Fly At Lathrup Meeting

By NORMAN DOUGLAS

"The large economy size bottle of aspirin, please, and send it to the City of Lathrup Village."

The woes of setting up a brand new city were worsened by a split in the city council Monday night as the new government in Lathrup got off to a shaky start.

In a prepared statement which he read before the council and about 35 persons in the audience, Councilman John G. Campbell charged that the council, in effect, was under the control of one man whom he all but identified in his statements.

In his assault on fellow councilmen, Campbell told his listeners that he would put all his cards on the table and suffer the consequences.

The crux of his speech seemed to be in his statement, "Will you (residents) take the line of least resistance and let a small body of people run your city? If that is what you want, I will vacate my council seat."

* * *

PREFACING his talk, Campbell said he would refer to letters in the alphabet instead of actual names.

"We let Mr. X circulate all of our petitions for candidacy to the council with one exception. Should not then Mr. X expect us all to be in his backyard?" Campbell asked.

"I has hoped that all petty differences expressed at election time would be forgotten after the vote but I found that I was wrong," Campbell continued. "Mr. Y was master of ceremonies at a pre-inauguration meeting that I had called and I was not allowed to speak at this meeting."

* * *

MR. Y he later identified as the present city mayor, who is William H. Harvie.

"These incidents and others have placed the control of government in one man's hands," he continued. "Many legal problems must be met and a city attorney, planning commission and city administrator must be named."

Campbell asked that the administrator be called Mr. Z.

"Then you have the team of X, Y and Z to handle your city without bothering you residents for your wishes."

Counter charges and spontaneous applause threatened to turn the meeting into a real Brannigan as council members took exception to Campbell's statements.

* * *

COUNCILMAN David R. Redwood explained, "This was a sincere statement but I don't think he (Campbell) has stopped to analyze the contents of his paper. He has indicted the entire council

(See MEETING, Page 6)

Oak St. Family Planning A Very Merry Christmas

By ALICE E. MORGAN

It started off as just a last minute telephone call—or so this reporter thought when the little bell rang. It took only a second to change our mind, for the speaker was very excited.

"It's going to be one of the nicest Christmases I've ever had," exclaimed the lady who asked that her name be withheld.

"My daughter is going to the Rose Bowl game in California. It would be the first time the family was not together at Christmas I felt so blue I almost was tempted to join her in California, but that would have left my husband alone.

"Listening to the radio this (Tuesday) morning I heard the "Welcome Traveler" show and my whole Christmas changed. We aren't going out to dinner after all!"

* * *

THE LADY had heard of a Flint family, Mr. and Mrs. William Schreve of 3214 Burgess. Theirs was one of the many homes wrecked during the June tornado. Unlike some of the others, the Schreve home is not yet ready to occupy.

Mrs. Schreve has just returned from the hospital, with a new baby. Christmas didn't look too bright for the Schreves and their four children, either.

Both parents were injured in the storm and the family had been apart since that time.

The Birmingham lady went into action immediately, calling Chicago to get the name and address and finally contacting the Schreves to make arrangements.

Now, the home on Oak street is a beehive of activity. This Christmas dinner is going to be "the works". Everything that has been customary with the family and, we suspect, a few extras, are being prepared.

The housewife is interspersing her work with prayers that the weather will not hinder the trip from Flint.

Classes Reconvene Jan. 4 For 16,000 Area Students

Approximately 16,000 school children in the Birmingham area will be free from classes until Jan. 4, a check of the area's schools shows.

Birmingham, Troy, Bloomfield Hills, Southfield, and Hickory Grove schools dismissed classes for Christmas vacation yesterday, Dec. 23. All will resume classes on Monday, Jan. 4.

Students at Holy Name school got out one day earlier, but also will get back to class on Jan. 4.

Ordinance Changes Planned

Birmingham's off-street parking program, for the time being at least, will get under way without active municipal participation, either in the operation or acquisition of off-street parking facilities.

On the other hand, the merchants group in the northwest business quadrant—led primarily by Wabeek Corp., and Jacobson's, Inc.—are ready to go ahead on their own and begin operating a parking lot north of Willets and west of Woodward avenues.

Although Wabeek-Jacobson's during the past several months cleared two structures from the Willets-Woodward property they have acquired and thus provided parking for more than 100 cars, further clearing of sites and grading of the property will await a revision in the city's zoning ordinance.

* * *

THIS WAS revealed Tuesday morning by C. J. Huddleston, representing the Wabeek-Jacobson's group.

The decision that the city would withhold participation in any off-street parking program—and the subsequent agreement that Wabeek-Jacobson's would operate its own lot north of Willets—came at the end of a two-hour special city commission meeting last week Wednesday night.

The meeting had been called so city officials could discuss with Huddleston the sponsoring group's most recent offer, made in a Dec. 9 letter to the city commission.

* * *

THE LETTER asked the city to place meters on, police and maintain a proposed 60-car lot on Bates, north of the First Baptist church, while the sponsoring group would operate a 200-car facility between Bates and Woodward.

City commissioners inquired of Huddleston why his group also couldn't take care of the 60-car lot.

"When our group first considered this parking lot plan early this year, we realized two things: first, we had to have some city assistance; secondly, there would have to be a receptive attitude expressed," Huddleston explained.

"We realized that we'd make money for ourselves if we operated it—but then we'd be the center for the public's barbs that we were only thinking of ourselves, not the city in general."

* * *

WHEN SEVERAL commissioners expressed the thought that the city should not get into the parking business if it were not necessary, Huddleston agreed that Wabeek-Jacobson would have to—and was agreeable to—operating the lot without city assistance.

Both the commission and

(See PARKING, Page 6)

STRICTLY FRESH

The Wall Street Journal reports that "private eye" business has reached a record peak. Peak for peek, eh?

* * *

It isn't the lack of "pull" that will keep a guy from getting any place, it's the lack of "push."

* * *

Whenever a holiday comes around, some people are just loaded with good spirit; others are just plain loaded.

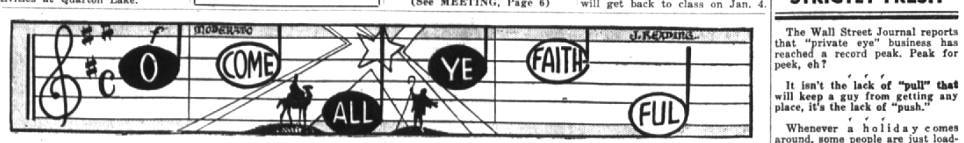
* * *

From Darwin, Australia, comes a report that police are searching for an English migrant whose last

known remark was, "Where can I find some crocodiles?" Maybe he found them.

* * *

There are a lot of people looking for a top level, Big Four meeting to sift the world's many feuds. As if relations aren't strained enough already!



Special Christmas Services in Churches

". . . and, lo, the star which they saw in the east, went before them till it came and stood over where the young child was." (Matthew 3:9).

Hundreds of residents of the Birmingham area will "follow the star" this Christmas Eve as they attend special services in their churches.

Catholic churches will hold special masses for the observance of Christmas.

Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, which celebrated its first mass on Christmas Eve, 1952, will have a solemn high mass at midnight followed by two low masses.

The Rev. Lucian A. Hebert, pastor, said the Christmas Day schedule would include masses at 7, 8:30 and 10 a.m., and at noon. The 10 o'clock service will be a high mass.

Confessions, Dec. 24, will be heard from 2:30 to 5 p.m., and 7:30 to 9 p.m.

The Rev. Thomas Kenny, pastor of the newly formed St. Columba parish, said masses for his group will be held in the Little Flower high school auditorium at midnight on Christmas Eve and at 6, 7, 8:30 and 10 a.m. on Christmas Day.

* * *

AT S. HUGO in the Hills, the Rev. Francis Stack, said the newly formed men's choir would join the boys' choir for the solemn high mass at midnight. Two low masses will follow.

On Christmas day masses will be at 8, 9:30, 11:30 a.m., and 12:45 p.m.

Holy Name church, according to the Rev. Eugene Paddock, will have duplicate masses at midnight.

The girls' choir will sing at the service to be held in the church with the boys' choir featured when mass is held in the school auditorium. Both choirs will present programs of carols from 11:45 until the masses start.

* * *

MASSES ON Christmas Day are scheduled for 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11:30 a.m., and 12,30 p.m. The high mass will be at 10 o'clock. Confessions are being heard by the clergy throughout the week.

A Christmas Eve candlelight service will be held at the First Baptist church from 8 to 9 o'clock. The sanctuary choir, under the direction of Charles Holtz, will sing. Their program will include familiar Christmas carols, plus several special numbers, with Cecil King singing "O Holy Night" as a solo.

Another special holiday feature scheduled by the Rev. Emil Kontz will be the dedication of infants and parents during the morning service. At 7:30 p.m., the Ordinance of Biblical Baptism, with

(See SERVICES, Page 6)

Order your LA-Z-BOY CHAIR and LUXURY ROCKER now for Christmas from the Royal Mattress and Upholstering factory, 22320 Woodward, Ferndale. Dial "O" and ask for ENterprise 6319.
—Adv. (41)