

BITS OF BIRMINGHAM

Leave it to women to sew and then reveal a keen sense of real humor. A quite old lady, making out an application, came to the question of age in all truth and sincerity she had no hesitation in coming up with the correct answer: she merely wrote "atomic."

ONE OF THE MANY VICTIMS of the Christmas rush was this bushy kitty shown sound asleep on a window ledge in the Birmingham post office. Obviously interested in the post office operations, the unidentified prey cat took up an uninterrupted watch over postal employees at the parcel post window early Friday morning, Dec. 18, from a table in the lobby. Nothing, apparently, but feline curiosity kept kitty at her vantage point throughout most of the day. Exhaustion, however, ended the vigil later in the afternoon and the little lady her head to the snapping of flash bulbs.

BECAUSE OF Japanese law, William Garfield and his bride were "doubly" married last week. The two missionaries, serving the Evangelical Alliance Mission in Japan and Korea, were married Dec. 16 in a civil ceremony, and Dec. 17 in a church ceremony. In a note to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Garfield, 752 Pierce, the bridegroom said, "The civil ceremony takes one right up to the point of pronouncing a couple man and wife. Actually, on Wednesday we were married but were not married. Very confusing."

WHEN THEY RETURNED to their cars one day last week, several motorists found on their respective windshields a parking violation ticket—the \$4 variety. The reason: they had parked their vehicles in the Hills school parking lot, which is reserved for board of education employees. B'ham Supt. of Schools Dwight B. Ireland said: "Well, now I suppose I'll hear from the people who got those tickets. But that lot was built six years ago expressly so our school employees could get their cars off the streets, thus leaving more room for shoppers. But now they are crowding us out of our own lot, hence the parking tickets. Why, they have even parked on the lawn at the rear of our offices." Just Sunday Ireland stopped by his office to do a bit of work explained he was pretty firm before any woman—who had just pulled into Ireland's parking space would leave.

A REFINEMENT in the old Indian custom of carrying babies on one's back has evidently been developed in Birmingham. In the old days, it was the squaws who toted the offspring—but Friday morning a "pale face" was seen casually strolling down Hamilton with his 15-month-old cherub riding comfortably in a baby auto-seat that was securely hooked over daddy's shoulder and rested on his chest.

A BIRMINGHAM mother made the rounds one day last week looking for a place to park just long enough to pay her phone bill. Finally she gave up, and while she stood with the car, sent her three-year-old son in to pay the bill. "He was thrilled," she said, "but it's a fine state of affairs when you have to send a baby in to take care of the family's business!"

A COMMON COMPLAINT was voiced to this Wanderer the other day when a gift-shopping mother remarked: "Everything my daughter wants this year is expensive!"

FROM THIS Wanderer's observations, Birmingham folks sure are sending out a lot of Christmas cards this year. Friday morning we saw two instances of mail boxes being so full that prospective patrons were unable to put their cards in them. Both boxes were the small post-mounted type, located in the Woodward avenue business district.

BACKING THE BIRMINGHAM YMCA's plea for funds from the Metropolitan Detroit Building fund at last week's meeting of the YMCA building committee were Police Lt. Henry Timms, Birmingham National Bank President Herbert Gardner, Junior Chamber of Commerce President James Couzens, Merritt Hill and Dr. Arnold Runkel. These civic leaders expressed the need for an expanded youth program in this area. The Birmingham Board of Education also has supported the Y's plea and added that construction of an adequate YMCA building here would relieve the burden placed on the school district's schools by Y youth activities.

THIS WANDERER'S NOMINEE for the title of "the meanest man of the year" is the unknown person, or persons, who, according to a complaint received Friday by Birmingham police, stole a plastic snow man from the lawn of a local resident.

MOST EVERYONE HAS HAD the experience of receiving an unexpected Christmas card, but imagine the surprise of Patrolman Dick Chambers, of the Birmingham police department, when he got a card from a man whom he had arrested earlier in the year. Chambers was working in the detective bureau when it became his duty to put the cuffs on the man mentioned in connection with some stolen lumber. The man was a first offender and was subsequently placed on probation by Birmingham Justice John J. Garfill. Chambers found a note attached to the card that read, "Thank you for the fair and considerate manner in which you handled the case in which I was involved. Bring your family out sometime and meet mine."

AN INVITATION was issued this week by the Oakland County Council of veterans, to visit its new "home". Business now is being conducted from 305 Woodward in the new city hall building, 211 Williams street, in Royal Oak.

RUDOLPH THE RED NOSED REINDEER has taken an awful belting by local school children who, of recent weeks, have been composing parodies of the song about the poor beast—that are sheer defamation of character. Latest one this Wanderer has been obliged to listen to was heard being chirped by a group of youngsters on a street corner. This version concerned Rudolph the Black Nosed Reindeer, and all this Wanderer remembers of the lyrics were the lines that went, "Rudolph with your nose so black. Won't You guide my Cadillac."

COMING TO BIRMINGHAM from London, England, only a few months ago, Leslie Peto, 488 Park, automotive stylist with Chrysler, has been quite pleased to meet two former classmates from England. "It must be seventeen years or more since I've seen these chaps," Peto said. "I hadn't heard from them at all and was more than surprised to run into them in a city the size of Detroit."



SANTA CLAUS AND HIS HELPERS passed out gifts, Saturday, to the children who packed the Birmingham Theater for the annual Chamber of Commerce Christmas party. A short distance away at the Bloomfield Theater another capacity crowd of youngsters were accepting gifts from Santa, as the Chamber of Commerce found it necessary to use both of Birmingham's theaters to accommodate the guests at this year's party. The children saw an hour and a half long cartoon program and heard a speech from Santa before moving to the lobby to get their presents. Above, Charles Mortensen, Chamber secretary, left, and James Kelly give Santa a hand. (Eccentric Staff Photo)

PEOPLE'S COLUMN Christmas Verse By Local Woman

To the Editor:
It has been gratifying to have had some of my efforts in verse printed in past issues of The Eccentric. I would be very much pleased if you could use the enclosed in the Dec. 24 issue.

THE CHRIST
No color, rank, no creed, no race
where shines the beauty of His face.
No leafless tree but bears new green
where imprints of His hand have been.
No sound too awesome to be stilled
by Hope which He alone can build.
To nothingness sink earth and sea
where walks the Christ of Galilee
making in His selfless way,
each tick of time a Christmas Day.

DOROTHY ROCKWELL McWOOD
5960 Shallow Brook drive
Bloomfield Hills

Deny Teacher's Petition for Rezoning

Rezoning of property at 595 S. Bates from single family to income bungalow was turned down by Birmingham city commissioners Monday night.

They agreed with a plan board recommendation that the petition of Miss Vada B. McGiffin be denied. Miss McGiffin said her request was based on a desire to obtain supplementary income following her retirement as a Birmingham high school teacher. This could be accomplished, she said, by permitting her to build and rent quarters to another family.

Commissioner Charles Renfrew explained, "I believe we sympathize with the petitioner, but I feel such action would amount to spot zoning."



May THE STAR shine Bright for You

PECK'S
MEN'S WEAR
108 S. Woodward

The Birmingham Eccentric

Policeman Quits; Name Replacement

Police Chief Ralph W. Mozley announced today that Robert Rowe of Lansing, Mich. will be the replacement for patrolman Lyle Serre who resigned Dec. 15. Mozley said Rowe is a veteran of military police work in World War II, and that he has just completed a two-year post-war enlistment with the Army as first lieutenant of military police. Rowe is married, has two children and at present is looking for a place to live in Birmingham. He will begin his duties on the force on Jan. 1.

SERRE RETIRED to accept employment in a small town in California, according to Mozley. Gerald Walker, a two-year veteran of the Birmingham force, who resigned last September to attend police officer school at Michigan State college, during his Christmas vacation from school, is filling temporarily the vacancy created by Serre's resignation.

Burglars Enter Quarion Market

For the fifth time in three years, burglars have broken into the Quarion Food Market, according to Birmingham police. The owner reported that nothing was taken after police found a window broken in the front door of the store Sunday morning. Except for several bottles of beer that were smashed when tipped over by the burglar as he attempted to open filing cabinets, nothing was damaged, according to detectives.

NO MATTER WHERE I SERVE MY GUESTS



IT SEEMS THEY LIKE MY KITCHEN BEST
Holiday time is almost here, your kitchen will be the busiest place in the house. See us for new floor coverings and counter tops.

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T. E. HOGAN CO.
2865 WOODWARD AVENUE
BERKLEY We Give 5&H Green Stamps LI 4-3300

Dystrophy Drive Nets \$2,437.04 In Birmingham

Efforts of letter-carriers of the Birmingham post offices have resulted in collection of contributions to the muscular dystrophy fund in the amount of \$2,437.04, according to Cliff Hunt, president of the local unit of the Letter Carriers Association. The drive had been stymied locally by failure of muscular dystrophy headquarters in New York to deliver special collection envelopes to the Birmingham post office on time for the nationwide drive during Thanksgiving. When the envelopes finally arrived about 10 days ago, mailmen carried out the drive along with their regular duties.

City Asked to Vacate Part of Edgewood St.


A petition for the vacation of Edgewood street, between Smith and Southlawn, has been referred to the city plan board for a recommendation. City Manager D. C. Ebert told city commissioners that the street never has been improved because the cost would be too great in proportion to the value of the properties it would serve. "Property owners do not seem much interested in the street's improvement," he explained.

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Call Midwest 4-1100 to place an Eccentric Classified Ad.

Season's Greetings



1953

May yours be filled with pleasant people all through the Holidays

LAWSON and SON
LUMBER AND SUPPLY COMPANY
653 S. Bton

LOCAL MERCHANTS

ASK YOUR CO-OPERATION

If it is necessary for you to exchange a Christmas Gift in any store, please do so by January 4th.

In some cases because givers did not have correct information as to size or some other detail, exchange may be necessary.

Please note that no exchanges of Christmas Gifts can be made after January 4th, 1954

Abuse of the exchange and return privilege can cause a great deal of unwarranted expense. Therefore, as a matter of assistance to the merchants of Birmingham who wish to continue to make this service available to you, we ask your co-operation.

Birmingham Chamber of Commerce