

Goodbye—And Thanks For Helping Us Save Time

Aware of the national fact that every New Year's weekend brings its sad quota of extra motoring accidents and fatalities, we wondered just what we could suggest to aid in cutting down the usual statistics attendant upon this time of year.

JUST HOW, THEN, can a newspaper make a more vigorous impact upon the thoughts of the average motorist to prevent the occurrence of a New Year from bringing heartaches and troubles to human beings?

It then occurred to us that we might print a sort of advance "accident-obituary" report which would contain the essential elements that will figure in practically all of these forthcoming New Year's weekend tragedies.

Of course, we don't expect to get any of these blanks in... but here it is:

Satirizing Important People

Every year the newspaper correspondents in Washington, D.C., give a banquet to several hundred important politicians and private citizens who are important in national affairs.

Consistent Inconsistency

In a recent nationally televised and radio speech, Adlai Stevenson, who suffered defeat as the Democratic candidate in the last national election, denied the tendency of Republicans to find fault with the mistakes of the Roosevelt and Truman administrations.

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

Michigan's Attorney-General Millard for weeks has wanted to start a grand jury indictment into graft and corruption in Hamtramck. Yet when the city commission of Flint, Millard's home town, asks for a similar investigation, Mr. Millard is reluctant to get going.

A California wife, wealthy in her own name, has been ordered to pay her artist husband \$400 monthly alimony until they are divorced. Which merely proves that the California judge subscribes to equal rights for both sexes.

To an extent greater than the average person knows about, we believe that certain reporters, broadcasters, columnists, and so forth, are widening the breach between Ike and Senator Joe McCarthy. They contact both important men and, needing them with all manner of questions, bring

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injured (cross out one) (day it will happen)..... while driving on (name of street or highway).....

Also (street/injured) (cross out one) in the accident were: (list names, ages and addresses of other persons who you plan to have in the car with you).

Was driving too fast on icy roads.
Failed to see the traffic signal.
Was trying to see through fogged windshields.

Was "under the influence" before killed or injured.
Took a chance—and lost.
(Other reason is not listed above)

Persons in the other car killed/injured were: (List them here if you know who you are going to "take with you"; otherwise we will get the names from the hospital or funeral parlor).

..... (Your name)..... lived in for years, and was a member of the following organizations: (list organizations here).

Funeral services will be held: (put here the arrangements you really should make in advance, thereby sparing the surviving family members—if any—the trouble).

After filling in the above information, just drop the envelope in the mail—you don't even need to put a stamp on it—The Eccentric will pay the postage. And thanks for helping us save time. Goodbye—it was nice to have known you.

(P.S. All other American newspapers please copy.)

"ins" and "outs".
Everybody has a fine time . . . including those who are ribbed at great length. As a by-product of the affair, many a politico has obtained ideas on how to improve himself and his administration.

It also proves that Americans generally have a good sense of humor as part of their mental equipment.

Republicans in public office, without them digging into or bringing up so much of the past."

Then, five minutes after he said this, he included in another statement a reference to "The Hoover depression of the '30's. Just how inconsistent can a body get? . . . the answer is simple; as much as you want to, if you think it will win you votes.

forth replies that make headlines. The best way to heal the breach is for Ike to invite Joe for luncheon and "talk things over". . . Just as Ike has done with others who are not in complete agreement with his entire program.

David Ben-Gurion, since 1948 Premier of the new nation of Israel, has just resigned, and plans to spend an indefinite time in Israel's wilderness country, where he will rest and meditate. Like the prophets of old, Ben-Gurion will seek comfort and inspiration in the silences of his country and his conscience. Who knows but perhaps, in time, he will come forth with some wonderful thoughts to give his (and the world's) people for their better guidance!

So They Say . . .

Sidney Weinberg, New York Financier and Mobilization official during the two last war crises:
"If you're going to have adequate security, you've got to have high taxes."

Letter, House of Bishops, Protestant Episcopal Church:
"The greatest avowed enemy of Christianity is Communism, with its basic philosophy of materialism."

Syngman Rhee, President, South Korean Republic:
"If we stand firm, the Communists will come to terms."

Dr. Ancel Keys, director, Laboratory of Psychological Hygiene, School of Public Health, University of Minnesota:
"Overweight of itself, except in extreme degree, is not a primary cause of coronary disease."



Happenings of Long Ago

Bits Of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric—The Items That Made Up The Historical Background Of The Birmingham Of Today.

50 YEARS AGO
DECEMBER 25, 1903
Nothing succeeds like success. At a meeting held at the office of A. W. Campbell, December 16, an Oil Company was formed under the name of Fortune Oil Company of Birmingham, Mich. with a capital of \$75,000.

A new storm house protects the front of F. Hagerman's store—just what this passing merchant wanted to help keep warm.

Mr. Guy Watkins of Watkins pny farm will soon be right in plenty of business fixing up all the pony carriages, carts, victorias, broughams, cabriolets, coupes, etc. for the coming season at Belle Isle and Bois Blanc.

The Michigan Agricultural college offers six special courses this winter to the young men of the state whether on the farms or not.

30 YEARS AGO
DECEMBER 21, 1923
Miss Marjorie Allen, Village librarian, has just completed an estimation of the value of the books in the library. At the state there are approximately 4800 books, valued at about \$6,000, based on their present condition, not their replacement value.

The three day drive of the Salvation Army in Birmingham and Oakland county to raise funds for the Christmas campaign, was according to captain Youngman, all that had been wished for.

For the first time in the history of Birmingham, it is believed there exists in the office of the Village Manager as near complete a survey of the present water, works system of pipes and mains as can be obtained.

HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

BY ALICE E. MORGAN

If it weren't that we are a bit leery of charges of plagiarism, there's a dandy column we could about people in nightcaps, the kids having nightmares and a horrible rant out on the roof.

However, someone else seems to have written that a number of years ago and since they have probably cashed their check before now, we can't use it.

However—it is Christmas Eve in Birmingham and a lot of other places, of course—and it's terribly hard to think of anything but the holidays.

Tonight there's a special feeling in the atmosphere. It's somehow one of those mystic combinations of the most exciting suspense and the most peaceful calm in the world.

THE YOUNGSTERS have been little angels—or have they?—but this job of waiting a whole night through has taxed their patience to the limit.

Hopefully they helped trim the tree but somehow by the time it was done daddy and mother wanted to have another cup of coffee and then it was time for the kids to go to bed. Not a single, solitary package appeared from whatever mysterious place it had been hidden.

Rex Humphrey, of the Leinbach-Humphrey Company, made a very substantial Christmas gift to the residents of Eco City in the form of a permanent Christmas tree.

Miss Margaret Bera, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Bera, Pierce street, who attends the University of Michigan, won the University Freshman Girls Tennis championship in Ann Arbor on November 28.

50 YEARS AGO
DECEMBER 22, 1908
More than \$900 (\$927.90 to be more exact) was the harvest gleaned Saturday by the 64 Birmingham Goodfellows who turned out to make the drive a success for the sake of the children of many local families, who might otherwise be without toys and gifts on Christmas day.

In the first pedestrian holdup to be recorded, Mrs. Margaret Kelly of 76 Henrietta street, was robbed of her purse Monday evening about 6 p.m., when a young man pressed a gun to her back.

Birmingham Board of Education Tuesday night approved superintendent Howard D. Crull's suggestion that an investigation be made of the cost of setting up a special classroom to provide instructions for 12 local students whose vision is impaired.

In Birmingham's second fatal accident within a month, Mitchell Edward Tyson, 12 years old, was instantly killed Saturday night about 8:15 p.m. on Ruffner street when, with three other boys, he was hitching a ride on his sled behind an automobile.

Purchase of the Levinson building, the white front two-story structure located at 122 South Woodward, was announced this week by the McBride Hardware Company. The price paid for the 40 feet was \$34,000 and marks the first sale of Birmingham business frontage in a number of months.

There, in the black velvet sky it hangs, a wonderful, glorious, bright beacon. Somehow it seems brighter tonight than any other night in the year. Its radiance dims the other stars—even makes the bright moon look pale.

UP AND DOWN the street home lights gleam across the snowy lawns. Trees send out their multi-color glow, some steady, some blinking on and off.

From a neighboring house calls of "Merry Christmas!" send departing guests on their way. A dog barks once, sharply, and a broad beam of light fares out as a door is opened for him.

A car passes, a car bearing a string of sleigh bells for this is Christmas.

Somewhere down the street, dimly outlined in the lights of Christmas Eve, she sees a man hasten to the car and return to the house with several large, oddly shaped bundles. Bundles of eye-popping joy for some youngsters.

In the hall a clock sounds twelve soft, bell-like tones. Mother switches off the tree lights and returns to the door. All along the street doors open and neighbor calls to neighbor:

"Merry Christmas, everyone!"
Drunk Driving Trial Ends With Hung Jury
A new trial has been ordered for Thomas P. Daniels, 22, of 31806 Telegraph, on charges of driving while under the influence of liquor, after a jury failed to reach a verdict at a first trial Wednesday, Dec. 16.

Judge John J. Gaffl discharged the jury of four women and two men when the foreman announced that deliberations for 90 minutes had resulted in no decision.
The new trial for Daniels had been set for Jan. 20. He was arrested Nov. 30 by Patrolman Norman Probst and Sgt. Robert Emmett, and refused to take an intoxicometer test.

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill.

It is heartening to see that the FBI is keeping constant surveillance on the many Communist groups, as evidenced by the six undercover agents who have testified in the current trial of six top Michigan Communists.

I only hope that for each FBI contact who so reveals himself, another goes underground as a replacement.

The local grapevine has it that Eton road residents are thinking seriously of purchasing homes on Lincoln avenue, between Southfield and Cranbrook. The Eton roaders have been trying to get the Birmingham city commission to slip up a couple more stop signs to slow traffic and protect school children. So far they have obtained only one. On the other hand, the commission has come through with three on Lincoln. Both streets are semi-arterial, primarily residential.

One of the points the "14 Mile Committee" makes in opposing the opening of that road between Southfield and Cranbrook is that such action would greatly increase through traffic and thus place a major hazard "next door to an elementary school."

If that fact alone would prevent the development of arterial streets, then there would be nothing more than local streets between 8 Mile road and the 18 Mile road.

Baldwin elementary school itself is on 15 Mile road, perhaps the heaviest traveled of the Mile roads.

Given the opportunity, most people will try to prove their vacation was better than the other fellow's.

The average wife's method of saving

money is to put only one or two pennies in the parking meter and wind up with a one dollar parking violation; or spend more money on gas driving to a sale than she saves on the reduced price of the item.

Has anyone ever solved a problem by swearing at it?

The longer I live in the north suburban area, the less I go into the heart of Detroit. There are two reasons for this, I think. One is the lack of a moderately fast route downtown, comparatively free of those confounding, time-consuming intersecting streets and their ever-present traffic signals.

The second, where am I going to be able to park (at a reasonable fee) that doesn't require what amounts to a forced march to my ultimate destination?

Detroit now is spending many millions of dollars for expressways, which may remove my first antagonism. But I still will not use any fast, intersection-less and signal-less thoroughway if I can't find a place to park when I get at the end of the superstreet.

There's no use riding the DSR unless I have a half-day to do it in. Too, it takes much longer to get me where I'm going, is much noisier, and more tiring physically than my own automobile.

But just let me have the chance to ride on a well engineered and constructed rapid transit system and I'd use it every time.

And there must be several hundred thousand other suburbanites who feel the same as I do.

On the day before the observance of the one thousand, nine hundred fifty-third anniversary of the birth of Jesus, the Messiah, I want to wish you "A Merry Christmas".

Our friendliness and our Holiday spirit can be expressed in no better way than to say that we wish for all of you a good old-fashioned MERRY CHRISTMAS



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