



SEVEN CENTS

No man or woman is so well informed that he or she cannot learn something new every day. Acquiring new knowledge each day is like breathing in clean, fresh air. It keeps one's mind in a healthy condition, makes life more interesting.

77TH YEAR—NO. 41

On This Blessed Christmas Morn,

You and I will watch the small hearts bent over the presents and the busy hands at work on wrappings that went on with precision and effort, and are torn off with joyful concern only for what is inside.

Christmas is a time of giving. It is essentially a children's holiday, because most of the joy we adults feel on Christmas morning comes to us warmly reflected from the shining faces of our children.

This is the one holiday when joy must be shared with others before the full meaning of the day can be realized. The Magi came to the Bethlehem stable bearing their gifts of frankincense and myrrh in devotion to the child born to save the world. So we, within our families work and sacrifice so others can be happier on Christmas morning.

But with this generous spirit, there is another and a somewhat wistful meaning behind our enjoyment of giving.

Why is it, do you suppose, that many a six-year old boy will be grieved in Christmas with, say, a beauty of a railway system, so complex that he scarcely can understand it? Or an even younger little girl find under the tree a doll-house built and furnished beyond her wildest fancies?

Probably we seldom think of him, but he will be another child at our Christmas celebration.

He is the child all adults used to be, awakening again on this one day to look upon at the presents he had longed for, and unselfishly to enjoy their presence in the arms of a new generation.

When we are grown, most of us have put away the things of childhood. There is work to be done, plans to be made, and when there is time for recreation, it takes forms seldom enjoyed or understood by a child.

Still, on this single day, the boy or girl we once were again sits behind the eyes of childhood and fulfills the dreams we made when we were hoping desperately for a windup train or a bicycle, or a real live puppy.

Unconsciously, those dreams live again for us in the Christmas season. When we shopped for presents this year, those dreams were there. When we watch the youngsters unwrap their presents, those dreams are in a strange way fulfilled.

So don't feel guilty about playing with that toy train. The boy that years ago wanted one very probably was a nice little fellow, and we think it is delightful that his dream has come true so many years and so many Christmases later.

We sincerely hope he enjoys it, and that you have

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS

THIS and THAT

By G. R. A.

For the past 25 years it has been my annual Christmas assignment to write a verse for our family's seasonal greeting, and occasionally I have re-printed it in this column.

My usual procedure is to look over an assortment of colorful cards, select one that strikes my fancy of the moment, then compose something that works in the card's illustration.

This year I chose a card that presented the cheerful and smiling face of Santa Claus, so here are the words that I figured should go with it:

Christmastime is near at hand to cheer and comfort troubled earth. I like to think old Santa's face reflects God's gift of joy and mirth:

A gift to all His children, too, not only when the Yuletide's here, But every day of every week and every month of every year.

The message of the Christ, I think, when understood, applied to life, Brings proof of God's love having there is no interchange contemplated in the vicinity of Maple avenue and Telegraph.

It was reported to the Birmingham Eccentric last week that the route had been determined—up the west side of Telegraph to the viaduct, then go northeastward to cross US-10 (Woodward) somewhere near Square Lake road.

BAKER SAID he could neither confirm nor deny this would be the route. To one who knows right now, except that it could be any place within a two-mile swath which was aerial photographed last spring," he emphasized.

He said stakes which have been placed at several points in the general vicinity of Telegraph are "ground control stakes," which are used to orient the aerial photographs so ground contour maps can be drawn.

"From these contour maps, our turnpike consultants, about March, will recommend the best route of eight-way. This final engineering study will place the route within several hundred feet of where actual construction will be made.

MEANTIME, residents along the proposed route in Southfield and Bloomfield townships are concerned whether their properties will be in the path of or reasonably close to the eventual route.

Franklin Village's next council meeting, January 2, will be devoted largely to discussion of the proposed highway, and may cross the community's borders.

Village President Harold A. Rowley has instructed Clerk Kaye Hagk to post notices of the public airing on the road.

"We can't say until at least several months, although we, too, would like to know the route," he said. "We realize that as each day passes, it becomes more expensive to build roads because of increases in property values."

HE ADMITTED that the toll road would have grades of three per cent or less, obtained by putting it on the most level ground obtainable.

He said the design speed would be about 70 miles per hour. The highway will be four lanes, two in each direction and separated, if possible, by a 40-foot grassed area.

Grade separations will be constructed at all points where high roads or railroads cross the turnpike.

Interchange toll gates where motorists enter or leave the pilot are planned near Northwestern highway and immediately south of Pontiac.

BAKER SAID the turnpike must be constructed to take advantage of the nearby Telegraph road route, which the consulting engineers have said probably carries the highest percentage of commercial traffic of any highway in the county.

Bonds to finance construction of the toll road are expected to be sold in April, with construction expected to be completed by spring of 1958, Baker said.

YMCA Gains \$500 For Building Here

News that the Metropolitan Detroit Building Fund has earmarked \$100,000 out of proposed fund collections for use by the Birmingham branch of the YMCA has brought nearly \$500 in individual donations directly to the local Y, according to Edwin Kirbert, Y secretary here.

The Birmingham branch may accept any donations of this type to be used with the grant from the MBDF to begin construction of permanent quarters here.

While the \$100,000 is expected to give a good start on its building program, local Y committees estimate it will take \$250,000 more to complete facilities under ultimate plans for the Birmingham branch.

All makes of inner spring mattresses available for \$10.45. Call for FREE COMPANY, Dial "O" and ask for Enterprise 6219.

Schools Studying '55 Use of State Values

Says Toll Route Still Indefinite

By GEORGE WM. AVERILL

It will be March before the Michigan Turnpike Authority knows the exact route its toll road will take between Monroe and Saginaw, the authority's chief engineer emphasized Friday afternoon.

He is E. T. Baker, who in his Ann Arbor office also declared there is no interchange contemplated in the vicinity of Maple avenue and Telegraph.

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21% Boost Possible In County

By NORMAN DOUGLAS

What will affect the recent Michigan Supreme Court ruling will have on school taxes in this area will now be determined by the boards of education in Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Southfield and Troy.

Latest deliberations of the high court's ruling concerning the basis of county, school and township taxation reveal that the judgment involves Oakland county as well as the other counties in the state in which school districts transcend county borders.

The ruling has ruled that the state's equalization factor should be used in determining tax dollars earmarked for school operations.

The state figure is higher than the county equalization factor in each of the 87 counties affected. In Oakland the percentage increase is 21%.

SOUTHFIELD school boards held to prevent millage requests, the state figure then would raise more than 20 percent in additional tax dollars for school operations and could raise the bonding capacity of each district.

Prior to the recent decision, school districts gained their share of the county's school tax on a county equalized figure based on the millage over every school district in the county when 1955 budgets had been studied.

The state equalization further adjusts property values throughout the state.

The option rendered after a test case of an earlier interpretation of Michigan General Frank M. Mearns, the late to affect 1954 taxes. But the question will be made over by every school district in the county when 1955 budgets had been studied.

BIRMINGHAM'S Superintendent Dwight H. Ireland seemed to echo the sentiments of every area school administrator when he stated that the good the additional money could realize for educational needs would have to be weighed against the burden the taxpaying parent would bear.

Before the agreement with other administrators that one prime need in operating budgets is a salary schedule raise for teachers.

"What we will attempt to do, what I think is best for both the children and our personnel, we must remember that the tax burden will carry the weight of any increase in operational expenditures," Ireland added.

SOUTHFIELD Superintendent Glenn Schemm reiterated Ireland's stand on school salaries.

"It is difficult for us to compensate for teachers with our own funds. We must remember that the tax burden will carry the weight of any increase in operational expenditures," Schemm added.

IT WILL cost the city \$50,000 each for the 220 parking meters which will be installed on the Pierce lot.

Eibert discovered that 1954 meters had been disposed about \$19 million worth of meters, when the city purchased its first group of meters.

Concluding Group Of Santa Letters

DEAR SANTA: This is the last group of 1954 Birmingham children's letters that are being routed through our office.

We know, of course, that you also have had many letters which have not come to us. We can read the "squiggles" which we received but were unable to translate—After all, reading letters from children is part of your business. We here cannot hope to do nearly as good a job as you do.

In passing, the members of the Eccentric's news staff would like to say a great big thank you to you for the letters that we received. It is in this week's column.

YOU WILL notice that Sandra stops to thank of us who work at getting out the news. She asks that newspapermen be given an article to put in the newspaper.

Santa, we're all grown up and supposed to ask you for Christmas presents, but this year it seems like a good idea.

Do give us that article, please, and a very special one. Give us an article of peace and joy for the holiday season. Give us an article which comes to us only if you pass on another gift—a gift to everyone—the gift of caution in homes and on highways. That way the article we get from you can be one of real Christmas joy, rather than a recording of tragedy (See LETTERS, Page 8, Sec. 1)



AIDED BY AMBITIOUS elves this year, Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus were able to get away from their Northern home a little early to visit friends in Birmingham. Perhaps they were checking on the gifts offered by local stores when they were caught window-shopping along Woodward avenue Tuesday afternoon. While on a one-day visit to the city, they were guests of Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Talbot, 1826 Derby. (Eccentric Photo)

Siegel Store Eyes Parking Lot Site

Three major developments affecting Birmingham's off-street parking program occurred this week.

City commissioners approved an ordinance providing for a \$200,000 bond issue for a 220-car parking lot.

City Manager D. C. Eibert reports owners of one of the 11 parcels involved in the parking lot have agreed on sale of this property to the city.

Site of a proposed year municipal lot at Bates and Martin alleys is under option to a Detroit women's store for a branch here.

As commissioners launched in to a discussion on how to finance the Bates-Martin lot, Bernard Walker, representing the B. Siegel Co., identified himself and advised that his firm was considering construction of a store on that location.

HE SAID Siegel's holds option on four of the six lots which would be involved in an agreement for a proposed alley and parking lot. Somewhat surprised at this article of events, commissioners reviewed the instructed Eibert to proceed with plans and estimates for the lot.

He indicated Eibert could have the lot before the commission to allow 1954's cost when the city purchased its first group of meters.

STRICTLY FRESH

For just had during the west coast's recent attack of smog that pollution and sea gulls would pick flying. Only bird brains were the motorists, who packed up more than 2,000 accidents.

Residents of Playaded Rev. Cal. have changed the name of Muscovy to Sandpiper street, "for obvious reasons." An invasion of sandpipers, maybe?

Given to "Heaven" has been closed for the holidays in Germany. Officials shut down the pool game at Himmel, which is German for Heaven, to prevent committalization of the name.

New high in skepticism was displayed by safecrackers in Los Angeles, Calif., who blew open a safe despite a note containing the combination.

Follow in Omaha, Neb., proposed to a policeman in an unsuccessful effort to avoid being stopped for petty larceny. Why didn't he just ask for a life sentence?

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