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Christmas Cheer

THIS is the time of the year when cares of the day fade away and the joys of the season come to live in our homes. We pray that this season live in your home for a long, long time, bringing joy to all.

OLSEN'S MARKET

W. Brown at Chester MI 4-1916



THE SUPERINTENDENT LOOKS AT MAIL FILE
Kenneth Hill estimates 110,000 letters here

Regulars Call In Reserves to Help

Masses of mail that are pouring through Birmingham's post office is being handled by a greatly augmented staff consisting of temporary employees guided by the permanent staff.

Even the basement bustles with activity. Cashiered mail sorting aisles have been crowded there and all outgoing mail is sorted by a nine-man-doubled staff.

Upstairs, the 25 clerks on each of two shifts sorting incoming mail have only seven "regulars" among them, but simplified sorting keeps the handling fast and efficient.

ONLY A few hours' lag behind mail arrivals is the worst that Postmaster Roland Reese expects during this peak mail week. Saturday was first day that the mail sorters got behind on the parcel post and letter.

College students on vacation, many wearing their campus-worn caps, are the mainstay in the temporary force.

On the carriers' side of the post office, temporary carriers sort up to the mailbags, while regulars and temporarys make extra trips about the city. There are 65 added men to the 45 regular carriers.

Although records are difficult to keep in the mail flood, Postmaster Reese estimates that there is a larger amount of parcel post being shipped from here than in other years. Sales of stamps are definitely up, he says.



MARGARET IRELAND
NANCY WONNBERGER
ANNE DILLA
Three of 96 temporary mail clerks (Eccentric Photos)

MICHIGAN OUTDOORS

WITH MORT HEFF

Fishermen looking forward to the opening of the 1955 fishing season may anticipate a few major changes in the regulations.

First, a wave of feeling in favor of setting aside many more miles of exclusive fly fishing waters may result in legislation along this line, particularly on the main stream of the Au Sable.

THE SUCCESS of the regulation along the South Branch and the North Branch near Levels may result in widespread restrictions in favor of fly fishing only.

More controversial, perhaps, is the potential change in opening day of the trout season next spring. Fisheries experts are advocating an opening two weeks later, and a closing on the Labor Day week end, cutting the over-all season some three weeks.

THE LATER opening is pretty sure to result in better fishing conditions. Water levels will be down from the usual opening floods often experienced, and of course, warmer temperatures will make the sport far more pleasant to the angler.

TROUT will be fatter and two weeks at this time of year may result in surprising growth, especially to the younger fish. With higher air temperatures, stream temperatures will also rise slightly, whetting the trout appetite, and stimulating their fighting action somewhat, too. In short, the later opening could make for much better sport.

TOURIST interests may argue that it is better to get more money, but this is doubtful when the total expected traffic of the season will not be appreciably curtailed.

Certainly the loss of the week after Labor Day will not disturb many trout fishermen. Few are ever found on the streams or rivers during this period now, and fishing is usually quite poor at this time.

In 1954 approximately 15,000,000 visitors enjoyed the facilities of our State Parks. While an overnight camping charge is common in many parks there has been no general admission charge at any time.

IT IS NOW proposed that a State Park visitor buy a \$2.00 stamp for a windshield sticker, entitling him to enter any of some 58 State Parks in 1955, at any time during the year.

Surely this is a reasonable charge considering the cost of operating the parks, and no great opposition to such a suggestion should be forthcoming.

As a result we can expect still

PLAY IT SAFE Don't Mar Christmas With Fire

One of the worst fire hazards comes at the best time of the year—the tree at Christmas. You can, however, reduce the hazard with a few simple precautions.

Don't bring the tree indoors until needed. Select a corner away from a radiator, stove, fireplace or other source of heat to display it.

After cutting off the bottom, an inch above the original cut and at an angle, stand the tree in plain water. This will keep it fresher longer and less likely to catch fire.

The electric lights should be carefully checked for worn spots, exposing bare wires, cracked insulation and faulty sockets before hanging on tree.

When purchasing new electric light cords be sure they have been approved by Underwriters Laboratories.

IN CONNECTION with light cords, never place more than a 15 amp fuse in the household circuit. If such a fuse burns out, it is a signal that the circuit is overloaded. If this happens you should reduce the number of appliances on this circuit but never install a heavier fuse.

On the market today there is a wide variety of non-inflammable decorating materials. Never use cotton batters under the tree for snow effect. In its place use mineral wool or spun glass.

Never operate electric trains or other heat and spark producing toys under the Christmas tree. This is asking for a fire.

GIFT WRAPPINGS, cotton batting, packing materials, etc., should not be allowed to accumulate. Remove this material as soon as possible and burn outside. Do not burn in the fireplace as most chimneys are not designed to take the large amount of combustion that is given off. As a result fire will extend outside of the fireplace into the room.

Never operate electric trains or other heat and spark producing toys under the Christmas tree. This is asking for a fire.

All Christmas tree lights, used for other decorative purposes and electrical appliances should be

People's Column Believes More Fire Than Smoke In Soapy's Claim

To the Editor:

The recent slaughter on one of our main state highways, M-24 at Oxford, again brings our State Highway department at Lansing into the spotlight but not the limelight.

It is the result of poor engineering. When they encounter an anti-hill in the middle of the road they have right over it. It never occurs to them to specify some degree of flatness when they are building a highway. They pave the hills as well as the valleys. We mean the little fellows just big enough to cut out the driver's vision of an oncoming car.

Adams road is full of them, especially on north of Rochester, road. It was only after we wrote the second letter to the Highway department that they put a yellow line on Adams road, and then not until after two cars crashed head-on last winter.

IT ALL gets back to Lansing. There is more to Governor Williams' criticism of Mr. Ziegler than meets the eye. Too much time and money are being spent on bids and contract-letting to a few contractors to have any time left for minor details such as good highway engineering.

Mr. Ziegler has another two years to mend his ways and give us some good highways for our money, or he is going to go "down the river" the next election like his pals did the last election.

Legislation is coming up to require the Building department and the Highway department at Lansing to advertise for bids and let them in the "lowest responsible bidder," capable of supplying a performance bond.

YOU SHOULD write your representative from your district and insist that this legislation pass. We know of one contract on one building for one item alone that was placed with the same company that has been getting the business for many years at \$30,000 above the next bidder.

With proper pressure from the citizens, we could have two things at Lansing: much more for our money and lower taxes.

DALE O. MILLER
144 Waddington
Bloomfield Village

Building Permit Values Increase Over 1953 Totals

Building permits for 20 new single family dwellings were issued by the Birmingham city building inspector's office during November, it was revealed this week.

Total value of the new homes will be \$375,900, Building Inspector T. C. Brien announced. Two new business buildings, of a combined valuation of \$193,450, also were registered.

Alterations on three business structures, costing \$43,000 also were registered, while alterations on eight homes amounted to \$18,600. A permit to make alterations on a parking lot to the amount of \$1,000 also was issued.

NO BUILDING permits were issued the week ending Dec. 4, while the only ones last week were for alterations of four homes, with a total cost listed of \$7,550.

Permits so far this year total \$6,467,945 compared with \$5,788,755 for this date in 1953, Brien reported.

Honored Guest

E. H. Laird, of the firm of Wilcox and Laird, Birmingham landscape architects, was an honored guest at the annual meeting, Michigan Chapter, American Society of Landscape Architects held in Lansing, Laird recently was elected to the National Society to Fellowship of the Society.

Rubbish Dumpers Still a Problem

While city and township officials have noted a marked decrease in the promiscuous dumping of garbage and rubbish along roadsides, there still is considerable progress which can be made, Birmingham City Manager D. C. Egbert said this week.

"The police department is making every effort to apprehend these violators of city and state regulations," Egbert emphasized.

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CARRY-OUT SERVICE

Rotary Club Lists Two New Members

Two new members have been presented by Foster Tooth-welco into the Birmingham Yacht Club, while Richard Forbes, 248 Fernside, was presented by Walter Rotary club. Wayne Combs, 1951 Graefield, Forbes.

Eat in the new—

American-Italian

Martinelli's Restaurant

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3 a.m.

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Midwest 4-1100

Season's Greetings!

We shall be closed from 9 p.m. Christmas Eve till 9 a.m. December 26th.

Ted's

A Scenic 10 Minute Drive From Birmingham

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