The Birmingham Eccentric

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN — THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1954 — 44 PAGES — SECTION ONE

SEVEN CENTS

Serving the Citizens of Michigan's Finest Suburban Residential Area

77TH YEAR—NO. 39

Trough the mass of mankind may enjoy its brief intervals of peace, between wars, here is nothing to prevent us as individuals from visioning the Good Life . . . and somehow struggling to attain a goodly measure of its security and happiness.

WHILE THIS IS NOT the suggested method of selecting a dress size, for the all-male populace doing their Christmas shopping on Men's Night Monday it may have helped a little. Here James McGraw (left) playfully sizes Robert Mounsey for this ballerina length gown of white net appliqued with floral designs at Jacobson's, 336 W. Maple. Saleswoman Mrs. John Lowery's smile seems a bit dubious, but, like most sales clerks, she went along with the spirit of the event. Most women's stores contacted reported an increase in sales and in the number of patrons over last year's figures and comments from store managers ranged from "happy about the whole affair", to "simply wonderful". Many stores already have started plans for next year's observance of the shopping night for men. Eccentric Photo)

This and That

By G. R. A.

There probably is no cruelty or inhumanity of man today that hasn't been committed at intervals throughout mankind's long history on this earth.

For example: Chinese Reds now send "frogmen" to spy on Chinese Nationalists. First the frogmen are required to swallow poison pills which will kill them unless a secret antidote also is swallowed within 24 hours. This is to prevent the frogmen from seeking asylum from the Nationalists, or from fleeing to other areas of hoped-for security.

Do you think a government of tyranny that has to resort to such methods is going to endure?

One characteristic about Harry S Truman offers substantial proof why he was able to acquire "cronies", whey he was loyal to the quality of friendship.

When he became President he invited Herbert Hoover to be a White House guest, and also appointed him to the chairmanship of the Hoover Commission to reorganize the federal government. That was mighty fine of HST—especially since his predecessor, FDR, wouldn't have anything at all to do with Hoover.

Say what you will about Mr. Truman, (and we have said plenty in the past) he certainly remained steadfast to his friends!

It is reported from England that Sir Winston Churchill, now 80, is almost as "restless, impish and unpredictable as ever." This human symbol of John Bull has done much for his country and the western world, to be sure.

But we hope he doesn't wield too much power should he arrange a meeting of free nations with Russia's Malenkov—for Winnie was naive enough at Teheran, Potsdam and Yalta to believe that Joe Stalin's word was worth accepting, and see what a mess followed!

Comparatively few people in the Detroit metropolitan area realize how much talent and labor go into the annual success of the Torch Drive.

Some of the larger corporations literally turn over scores of their employees to help in the manifold activities involved in so great a task. Indeed, we learn that a few of the larger businesses practically keep several employees on the project the year around.

Among the organizations that endeavor to raise funds with which to aid needy people at Christmastide is the Salvation Army. Every year a couple of its Yule kettles are displayed here in Birmingham, into which we are invited to drop money.

Wouldn't it be wonderful this time if the paper contributions exceeded the coins dropped into those kettles!

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Children Tell Santa Of Their Christmas Day Desires

First of the letters to Santa Claus, full of the deep desires of Birmingham's junior citizens, appear this week.

These letters all are from individuals, rather than school groups, launching a new approach to getting the boys' and girls' messages to their good friend Santa.

Other letters are scheduled to appear in next week's issue, some from schools, some from individuals.

Santa has asked us to remind the youngsters that Christmas is getting pretty close and if they really want him to have time to get their extra special gifts, those letters had better be mailed right away.

Dear Santa—Please bring me a dollbuggy, doll's highchair, stove, sink and a refrigerator. Merry Christmas. SUE BERRY 6 years old.

Christmas toy junior miss sewingkit melodebells bride doll doll-e-feebette all steel wrecker truck doll-e-nurser play glasses tea and baking set all metal xylophone kibb-e-nurse color an a craft be at the clock ANDY FLAJOLE.

Christmas toy suitcase doll kay stahlely dresser set junior miss sewing kit telephone-switchboard doll-e-nurser beat the clock kidd-e-nurser beaux art paint set slinky spping boy finger paints DIANA FLAJOLE

A toy airport saxophone tractor a rifle microscope with a set sight a mobel plant a 2 car construction set pan american clipper (No Signature)

Dear Santa—I want a bride doll. And a saucy walker doll. And a banner ten set. And a doll carriage. Yours truly MELINDA.

Dear Santa Claus—Mommy is writing for me because I'm only five years old and can't write yet. Please give me a train, 2 cars and a garage, a gas station, a flashlight, holster set with bullets. Thanks, Santa Claus, for all the toys. ARTHUR KALE

Howdy doody hat, doll, schuco bear fur muff.

Dear Santa—I would like to have . . . . DOUGLAS 1175 Washington . . . .

Dear Santa—Love. I am 4 years old. (No Signature)

Dear Santa Claus—please send me as many of these toys as you can thank you. This is my Christmas list: Bulldozer with a trailer on the back A toy whale for playing in the water with Corn cup and corks Electric train Typewriter 49A116M Doctor set Ring'N' Buzzer 49A5095 Send them to TOMMY WALKER, 195 Catalpa Drive, Birmingham, Mich.

Dear Santa—I want a bicycle and a gun and holster, Just a one gun holster I also want 5 puzzles. I want a new red lunchbox. I want a little three wheel bike for my baby brother. I want a box of marbles. I have been good boy all year. If you can't bring the other things please bring the bike. I want a blue & white & black bike and I want a basket on it and a horn. Please bring my mother a ring and a red ring for me. If you bring me a bike I'll take good care of it and I'll never mark it up. Bring Michael a red ring. It will be a good boy because I will make him good. If you have a baby bird with a mother to take care of it please bring it. I want a pet. I want a doll for Mike, a doll for a boy. If you don't have a doll this Christmas please bring him one next Christmas. I'll leave you oatmeal for your raindeers and beer for you in the kitchen. BRIAN GOWER

Dear Santa—This is what I want for Christmas these things a typewriter sword terry bear Indian set cowboy outfit and boots train toy pistol love you Santa Caules love KIM.

Dear Santa Claus—I am Janie. I am four years old. I am a good boy. I love Jimmy McMullen, Johnny, Dodie, Patty, Mummy, Daddy, Teddy, Mrs. Richards, Mrs. Doorman, Mike and Santa Claus. Here are some toys I like for Christmas. Vacuum cleaner, statue car, play things, calender set, boys dancing dress, silver gun like Wild Bill Hickok We have a magazine rack. I have a pen. I want a windmill for my bike. I"like you and everyone here. JAMIE.

Dear Santa Claus—My sister wants a set of dishes and a doll and I want a Tea cart and a folding table and chairs set. I love you very well. DIANA

Dear Santa—I would like to have the following list of gifts as presents toys car big truck steam shovel electric train play clothes. STEVE OLSON

Dear Santa Claus— would like a doll that walks Please? can I? I will be a good girl. And a watch. can I? Please? I live at 30550 Marimoor. LINDA

Dear Santa—I would like a pair of skates this year, white figure skates. SHIRLEY TRENT

Dear Santa Claus—I would like you to bring me a tiny tears doll. Martha Washington doll. nurse Kit. printing Press. coca-cola DISpenser. cowgirl Outfit, boots skates. block city check out counter and for LeslieKay a Happy Hoppa. MARGARET ANN BRADSHOW. Royal Oak

Dear Santa—could I please have a beat the clock game Electranic Walkie talkies Camera Pen and Pencil set Rich uncle game Magnetic Globe Space Game. STEVE COOK.

Dear Santa—I would like a Madame Alexander doll with love SARA PENN P.S. Laura would like a dog

Dear Santa—Dear Santa, how are you? I am just fine. Is the weather real cold up at the north pole? We don't have any snow here. Santa please bring me 4 guns and 4 holsters and 2 belt, and 2 cowboy hats, and a tiny wagon to keep my toys in. Also please bring me some candy. Santa we are going to have a Chrastmas tree (a big one) with pretty lights. Santa when we go to bed we will leave some milk and Christmas cookies on the table by the Christmas tree. You must eat these cookies. If your reindeer get Hungry let them eat straw ring. If they are thirsty drink out of Prince dish. MARK

Dear Santa—I help mother with the baby and help her sometimes with the dishes. I would like a space suit for my brother Billyand a space dress for me. I will try to be a real good girl and not quarrel with my brothers and sister. I will try to eat better and not be naughty and cry. MARILYN FROHBERG

Dear Santa—it is close to Christmas. I had fun in School this year. I can you guess what I want for Christmas? ? you will have a big surprise. I want anything. RUTH ANN LOTERO My mother helped me with parts of my letter.

Dear Santa—My name is Susan Reilly and I am four years old. I have tried to be a very good girl, Santa all I would like is a nice dolly with blonde hair and a pretty pink and blue dress. Please make the dress so she can stand up and sit. Or a Good Night Story book with lots of stories in it. SUSAN REILLY.

Dear Santa—I Want A View Master And Some 3-D Reels.. They Look Like This (two small drawings.) I Want Robin Hood for my Mom Corbet And The Cleo Kid. And Hopalong Cassidy. And I Want New Parts for My Train And A Road Grader. And A Gun and Holster. BILLY.

Dear Santa claus—I want a baby doll and I wand a baby carriage and I want a dress for my madame alexander doll and I want

(See LETTERS, Page 6, Sec. 1)

First Atom Bomb Shelter Going in B'ham Backyard

JOHN MASON BROWN

Drama Critic Here for Town Hall Lecture

Author, lecturer and critic, John Mason Brown, will appear on Birmingham's Town Hall program Friday, Dec. 10, at 11 a.m. in the Birmingham Theater.

He will be introduced by Miss Seated at the speakers' table Public Library.

Third in the Town Hall series, the lecture will be followed by a celebrity luncheon at the Birmingham Country club where an informal question and answer period will be held.

Jeanne Lloyd, head of Baldwin will be Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Schneider of Ann Arbor, personal friends of Mr. Brown; Miss Lloyd; the Rev. Harold E. Towne and Mrs. Charles B. Kase and Mrs. Edward Hoenicke of the Birmingham Town Hall board.

Brown, whose specialty is literature and the theater, is a former drama critic for the New York Evening Post and World Telegram.

HE IS a contributing editor of the Saturday Review for which he writes a weekly column of criticism called "Seeing Things." This also is the title of his lecture.

Brown was born in Louisville, Ky., in 1900. At nine, he saw his first play, **"King Lear" with Robert Mantell—and became permanently stage-struck.**

After graduation from preparatory school, Brown headed for Harvard "where", he said, "everyone went those days who was interested in making the theater his career."

After Harvard, he became drama critic of the Theater Arts Monthly, then The Evening Post—one of the youngest men to hold that position on a New York daily newspaper. He went to the World Telegram as a drama editor until he entered the Navy late in 1942.

BROWN, participated in both the Sicily and Normandy invasions on the staff of Rear Admiral Alan G. Kirk. After two years' service, Brown, returned to civilian life and began his column for the Saturday Review.

A popular lecturer with a conversational type of wit, Brown is said to create for his listening audience a cozy atmosphere of the living room.

Options Obtained On 5 Lots Needed For Parking Here

With the acceptance this week of options on two more parcels, the city has reached tentative agreement on purchase of five of the 11 properties required for the proposed 223-car parking lot on Pierce, between Merrill and Brown.

Monday night city commissioners accepted an option offered by the Detroit Edison Co. on two lots.

"Negotiations also appear to be proceeding in a satisfactory manner with the Wabeek Corp." reported City Manager D. C. Egbert. Wabeek owns several lots which would be within the parking facility.

Egbert said it may be necessary to condemn a parcel owned by Mrs. Florence Bradway, and another belonging to William J. Spicer.

IN THE EVENT condemnation is necessary, the city already has filed this action in circuit court where it's anticipated a jury may be drawn one day next week.

Financing of the parking lot, particularly where it concerns assessments against benefitted business property for half the anticipated $260,000 costs, will be up for further consideration at a public hearing sometime after the first of the year. The city assessor now is working on the assessment roll.

A zoning ordinance amendment to require new and expanded business involved in 1,000 or more square feet of floor area.

On Jan. 10, a public hearing will be resumed on a zoning ordinance amendment which would require parking from new and expanded businesses. Those which add less than 1,000 or more square feet to the business section would be exempted from the ordinance provisions.

School Board Bond Issue Subscribed

Northern Trust Co. of Chicago Tuesday night was the successful bidder for the purchase of $1,750,000 in Birmingham district school bonds.

The trust company offered a premium of $2,960, resulting in an effective net interest rate of 1.9786 per cent. Second bidder was the First of Michigan Corp., who offered $8839.77. Three other syndicates also bid.

The funds will be used for the new junior high school on Derby road, and additions to the high school. The issue is the final half of a $3,500,000 issue authorized by voters in 1953.

Sun Blinds Woman; Accident Follows

A Birmingham mother and her three children were injured in an automobile accident Sunday on their way to church services.

Treated for contusions at St. Joseph Mercy hospital in Pontiac were Mrs. Margaret Draper, 38, of 111 Abbey; her daughter, Susan, 11, and two sons, Thomas, 6 and Peter, 5.

Police said Mrs. Draper's car crashed into the rear of a milk truck on Hunter near Wimbleton.

She said later that the bright sunlight had temporarily blinded her.

STRICTLY FRESH

Thieves in Lucedale, Miss., got a lesson in sticking to the job. A 400-pound railroad ticket office safe yielded one gallon of glue.

Pilot landing near Los Angeles in a dense fog mistook a highway for a landing strip; smacked a

motorist. Unfortunately, it wasn't the cop who's always asking: "What ya doing? Flying too low?"

Deer hunter near Antlers, Okla., got lost. Searchers went after him. Got lost. Deer hunter turned up safe. Went after searchers—perpetual motion at last?

Fellow in San Francisco got a divorce because wife took her two dogs to bed with them, and the pooches always nipped at his legs. Most wives just freeze hubby with their dogs.

All makes of inner spring mattresses repaired. One-day service. ROYAL MATTRESS COMPANY, Dial "O" and ask for ENterprise 6318.

What's He Falling For? See Page 3, Section 5

Victim Says One Robbery Enough

BLOOMFIELD TWP.—A 28-year-old former gasoline station attendant this week is looking for a new job. Being robbed, he told his employer, he didn't mind so much. Being taped to a chair in the station, wasn't too bad either.

But when the three armed gunmen told him they would be back every week to repeat the performance, that was enough, and Wayne Taylor quit. He is a Pontiac resident.

Taylor was alone at the Reeves Standard Service station, Telegraph and Maple, Friday at 5 a.m. when the three armed youths entered. Forcing Taylor to a chair, they bound him with lengths of friction tape.

THE THIEVES then forced open three locked drawers in a cash register, then went to a rear room where they also forced open a small safe. Their total was $713, according to Taylor.

Before leaving, the intruders poured cans of lubricating oil over the cash register to obliterate fingerprints, and taunted their bound victim with threats to return each following week.

Taylor succeeded in freeing himself from the tape enough to dial the operator, who summoned police.

Taylor described the trio as all in their late teens. He said they drove off in a 1956 maroon Plymouth.

Athletes Victims Of Lockerroom Thief

Seven boys returned to the locker room at Barnum school Monday night after a basketball game to find their wallets missing.

Members of church league teams, the youths reported to police that one billfold contained $32.50. A watch also was missing.

A door to the school had been left unlocked to permit the players to enter.

(See SHELTERS, Page 6, Sec. 1)

Designer Is Area Resident

First installation of a prefabricated, low-cost bomb shelter in the state is scheduled to be made in Birmingham by the end of this month, according to its designer and builder, Philip F. Sheridon.

The shelter, which is built of cast, reinforced concrete, is planned to be fitted into the rear yard of the home of Edwin C. Mork, 1800 Pine, according to a permit issued by the city building department.

Sheridon, a former building contractor, head of the Detroit Bomb Shelter company. He said the shelter, according to government tests made in Nevada on similar units, will accord protection to its family from atomic blasts outside a 1400-foot radius.

THE SHELTER IS precast at the point of assembly and trucked to the site, where a waiting hole has been dug to size. It is six feet high, four feet wide, and eight feet long, providing emergency shelter for as many as 10 persons.

A hand-powered air pump provides for necessary atmospheric changes within the shelter, with filters screening out radiation from the blasts. There is space for food storage, and chemical sanitary facilities.

Sheridon points out that civil defense authorities believe the Detroit area probably will have a two-hour warning period before an attack, which should provide more than ample time for children to return from school to their homes for protection.

IN A RECENT conference, Brig. Gen. Clyde E. Dougherty, OCD Detroit head, told city officials:

"Anyone we are told, who sits without in a five-mile circle can survive an atomic attack if he runs to shelter."

However, the Sheridon shelter will provide immunity at a much shorter distance, according to its designer. At his home, 24451 Tamarack Circle, Southfield township, he has built a pilot model to demonstrate the functions of the shelter.

Entrance is through a steel covered hatch two feet square. The hatch cover is counterweighted for easy opening, and has a sponge rubber gasket to prevent air contamination. The shelter itself is covered with about a foot of earth.

INSIDE THE HATCH are removable stairs to the base. An aluminum bench runs the length of the shelter, and can be used for sleeping purposes. Light is provided by battery units, or by a hand-operated flashlight-generator.

The unit sells for less than $1,000 installed, and is eligible for

INSPECTING BACKYARD BOMBSHELTER IN SOUTHFIELD
Susan Sheridon, 13, and her brother Jon, 8, try it for size.

Will We Be Accident-Free?

Can the Birmingham area go for just a single day without a serious accident?

City, township and county officials, as well as civic groups are cooperating to that end in observance of S-Day, proclaimed by the President as next Wednesday.

Communities across the nation will join in the observance, hoping for a dramatic example of the toll taken by automobile accidents throughout the year by reducing or eliminating them for one 24-hour period.

IN BIRMINGHAM, Chief of Police Ralph W. Moxley pledged that his department would provide stringent enforcement methods to help cut the accident total.

"Now that days are shorter and streets hazardous, all of us must work together to prevent accidents," he said. "On this one day, we can demonstrate what safe and courteous driving can accomplish to save lives."

Judge John J. Gabill stressed that offenders in his court can count on little leniency when convicted of traffic law infractions which could result in accidents.

He pointed out that even though no accident results, there always is the possibility that a repeated offense could bring death to someone in the future.

DOUGLAS BROWN, AAA official who is heading the program in the area, called on all motorists to be careful in their driving at all times, but on Dec. 15 to make a particular effort to save lives.

"Few of us realize," he said, "how easy it really would be to cut down the tremendous toll taken annually. Just a few miles less on the highway to bring the car down to the legal speed limit, and thus keep the car under control. Only a few seconds more at the stop sign, or until the light changes, and intersection crashes would diminish.

"COURTESY and common sense . . . those are two ingredients needed to combat accidents."

The Franklin school PTA, as well as other school groups, also is cooperating in observance of S-Day.

Mrs. Wendell Smith, president, pointed out that the community is fortunate in never having had a fatal accident involving a school child, and hopes to continue the record.

Young Trio Finds Burglary Loot

Birmingham police are seeking the owner of nearly $550 worth of items believed taken during a burglary, and found Dec. 1 by three teenagers.

James Elliott, John Carter and Mike McCarthy turned over to authorities a sheaf of silver, a man's pocket watch, a lady's gold wrist watch and a telescope, after finding them wrapped in a gray zipper jacket.

The cache was discovered by the trio near the Grand Trunk Western railroad viaduct on Adams road.

Detective Lt. Merlin Holmquist believes the items are loot from a housebreaking. Because the jacket still was dry, he concudes it was there for only a short time before being discovered.