



Just a day ago was Christmas, and only a few days to come is New Year's. Two large-leaping dates on every year's calendar, each of which encompasses valuable opportunities for personal growth. Both, of course, provide physical edifies (especially for the body, Christmas and the spirit), the first of a New Year for good resolutions.

BOTH YEAR—NO. 42

30 PAGES  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1957

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

SECTION A

THE NATION'S TOP  
SUBURBAN WEEKLY  
TEN CENTS

# The Birmingham Eccentric

Serving the Citizens of Michigan's Finest Suburban Residential Area

1958

January Thru June 1957:

## Local News Highlights In Review

Dodging the plutniks  
as neat as a pin

The eager New Year  
comes romping in;

And the Old Year moves on  
with relief and joy

Knowing that here's  
a remarkable boy.

—DOROTHY ROCKWELL McWOOD

### Yule Spiritling Includes Bulbs And Beverages

They're spiriting away outdoor Christmas tree bulbs again. Along with that, too much Christmas spirit is also adding to the work of Birmingham police these days. Common on the police records for the week are arrests of drunk drivers and persons charged with being drunk and disorderly. More watchful for the bulb snatchers this year, several retailers spied the culprits at work last week and called police. One ten-year-old Pierce school boy admitted to police that he and some of his friends had taken outdoor bulbs from five homes, then smashed them against rocks to hear their pop. He was reprimanded and turned over to the custody of his parents.

### Donald S. Bell, Ex-B'ham Mayor, Involved In Fatality

**BIRMINGHAM**, N. M.—Gordon H. Getzwiller, 23, of Benson, Ariz., died in a hospital Friday of injuries suffered 26 miles west of Roswell in a Highway 70-380 in a one-car accident. State police said a car driven by Donald S. Bell, 50, of the Lazy Cross Ranch, Benson, left the road and overturned. Bell and Getzwiller were thrown from the vehicle. Bell escaped with a broken right leg and lacerations.

Bell, a former Birmingham policeman and business man, was his way to pick up his son, Tom, a student at a military academy in Roswell. Young Getzwiller was a chum of the Bell boy. Bell and his family moved out to Arizon in 1951, where he purchased a ranch. He was involved in an auto accident near Benson, Ariz., Dec. 26, 1954, that claimed the lives of two persons. Bell faced a \$400,000 lawsuit as a result of the accident. It was later settled out of court for an undisclosed amount.

The intruder who ransacked three downtown Birmingham churches last month has been sentenced to two to five years in Jackson prison, Detroit police said this week. Dale McKenzie, 22, of Detroit, had pleaded guilty to charges of breaking and entering in the night time. McKenzie was apprehended as he looted a Lansing church.

INSIDE THE ECCENTRIC  
Amusements 6-B  
Bits of Birmingham 2-A  
Books and Reviews 6-A  
Local News 2-B  
Business Briefs 3-A  
Church 7-C  
Correspondents  
Bloomingfield Village 6-B  
Crackfield Derby 4-A  
North Adams 2-B  
All Other Areas Section D  
Down to Earth 4-A  
Editorials 8-C  
Lend an Ear 4-A  
Nature News 4-A  
Obituaries 8-C  
Parties Original 3-B  
Recreation Roundup 6-D  
Round the Towns 1-D  
School Sports 4-A  
Today's Youth 8-B  
Women's News Section B  
Want Ads 5-A

1957 was another big year for the Birmingham area. It was a year marked by the departure of high public officials, tornado scares, civic and school improvements, dissension over taxes, sewers and landfills and violence between people. Among the many big stories of 1957 was the wounding of Birmingham Police Sgt. Richard Brown by an intruder in a local home. Brown recovered but his assailant died of the bullets Brown pumped into him.

Birmingham businessman, Jack D. Robinson was shot to death by a woman employee who then took her own life. A young sniper terrorized much of the county before he was captured. A 36-year-old, nine-room home was selected, and Jim made the

### 1958's 1st Baby To Be 'Showered' By Merchants

So well does the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce like babies that its members are planning to welcome 1958's first area newborn with a shower of baby gifts. They're going to present the new baby's mother and father, too, Jack D. Robinson, vice-president and general manager of Beck Cleaners of North Woodward, was shot to death by a woman employee, Mrs. Marie Sayers of Royal Oak, who then took her own life. A young sniper terrorized much of the county before he was captured. A 36-year-old, nine-room home was selected, and Jim made the

### Broom Hockey, Anyone?

Anyone for broom hockey? A Birmingham businessmen, Jack D. Robinson, vice-president and general manager of Beck Cleaners of North Woodward, was shot to death by a woman employee, Mrs. Marie Sayers of Royal Oak, who then took her own life. A young sniper terrorized much of the county before he was captured. A 36-year-old, nine-room home was selected, and Jim made the

### Recklessness Costs

Carl Rader, 41, of Detroit, pleaded guilty to charges of reckless driving Monday in Birmingham municipal court. Judge John J. Gault fined him \$88 and costs. Rader was arrested by Birmingham police Dec. 5.

## Newlywed Polio Patients Get Help from Recovered Victim

**WEST BEVERLY**—Lying in a hospital bed in the same position day after day, completely paralyzed with polio, is an experience none of us want. But to Mrs. Peter Decker of Rosevare road the memories of such an existence still are vivid. And because of these memories, Mrs. Decker now is devoting her time and energy to seeing that two young people, Kay and Jim Ray, (who will never again lead a normal active lives because of polio) are granted their one wish—to have a home.

When Kay was 12 and Jim was 11, they were thrown from the vehicle. Bell escaped with a broken right leg and lacerations. Bell, a former Birmingham policeman and business man, was his way to pick up his son, Tom, a student at a military academy in Roswell. Young Getzwiller was a chum of the Bell boy. Bell and his family moved out to Arizon in 1951, where he purchased a ranch. He was involved in an auto accident near Benson, Ariz., Dec. 26, 1954, that claimed the lives of two persons. Bell faced a \$400,000 lawsuit as a result of the accident. It was later settled out of court for an undisclosed amount.

### City's First

For two weeks during the Christmas mailing rush, Martin street between Chester and Bates became Birmingham's first one-way street. Police posted the one-way signs to speed up post office traffic. They were taken down Tuesday. The intruder who ransacked three downtown Birmingham churches last month has been sentenced to two to five years in Jackson prison, Detroit police said this week. Dale McKenzie, 22, of Detroit, had pleaded guilty to charges of breaking and entering in the night time. McKenzie was apprehended as he looted a Lansing church.



JOY KING

### Battle Over Troy Dump Site Seems Heading to Courts

**TROY**—The battle between the Southeastern Oakland county garbage and rubbish authority and the City of Troy over a controversial landfill site apparently is going to court. Authority members, with one exception, have ordered their attorneys, John Marx and Carl W. Forsythe, to "take the legal action necessary" to establish the authority's rights and to find the legal procedures needed to let the authority use the landfill site.

The only authority member to vote against the order was Troy Mayor E. G. Adams. City officials say the order does not mean the authority will go to court, but they say the grounds for entering the county circuit court have not yet been determined.

However, the authority says, "the attorneys will have to determine whether Troy's refusal of landfill operations is legitimate grounds for the case. What we have done is express our intent."

Donald C. Egbert, authority engineer-manager, has been instructed to survey other possible landfill sites on which to bury South Oakland's rubbish.

The site the current controversy is over is at a gravel pit on Square Lake road between Rochester and John R. Egbert says if the present case does, it will curtail and "if we win, we will carry the law in Oakland county and establish our rights to operate."

Mrs. Decker met Kay in the summer of 1955 when she was hospitalized with spinal bulbar palsy in October of 1955. Eventually he arrived at Sister Kenny's and Jim fell in love with Kay. They were married and Jim was struck with polio the year before. Mrs. Decker left the hospital three months later, but she and her husband continued to visit Kay, who was totally paralyzed except for her lower left arm.

"These kids need my help," said Mrs. Decker. "Regardless of how large or small the contribution, every little bit will bring the time closer when Kay and Jim will have the home they have been dreaming about."

Mrs. Decker met Kay in the summer of 1955 when she was hospitalized with spinal bulbar palsy in October of 1955. Eventually he arrived at Sister Kenny's and Jim fell in love with Kay. They were married and Jim was struck with polio the year before. Mrs. Decker left the hospital three months later, but she and her husband continued to visit Kay, who was totally paralyzed except for her lower left arm.

For Next Week's Issue We Also Need Early News and Advertising Copy Because of the New Year's Holiday ... Anything You Can Do to Get Your Advertising And News Copy In Early Will Be Greatly Appreciated

## Oncoming Car in Day Girl, 6, After School Leaves School Bus

**BLOOMFIELD**—The death of 6-year-old Joy King under the wheels of a car, Dec. 18 made her the second township child to lose her life because she dashed from behind a school bus into the path of an oncoming auto. Joy, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul King, 2460 Ogden, West Bloomfield township, was struck down by a car driven by William McCall of Pontiac as she ran across Middlebelt road towards the car in which her mother, Mrs. Elizabeth King, was waiting across the heavily-traveled street.

Five-year-old Nancy Waggoner of Bloomfield township was killed in 1956 in a similar accident, and 10-year-old Bruce Wright lost his right leg last year as he crossed the road after leaving a school bus.

J. O. Y. A first-grade student at Vaughn school, apparently eager to get home to the newly-decorated Christmas tree, struck down before the eyes of her brother, William, 8, and about 12 other children who had just left the bus. Her mother did not see the accident but heard the thud as Joy was hit. William said that he and the other children were standing in the line waiting to cross the street "when I saw Joy running. I didn't have time to call to her. The car hit her, and that's all I saw."

The KING family moved to the Ogden address about three months ago from Royal Oak, and Mrs. King said she had driven from the new home to pick up the children because of the downpour.

"Usually I let them go home alone," she said. "I felt Joy was safe with Billy and the other children. But it was raining so hard that I decided to drive down to get the kids."

"Maybe she saw me," the mother said. "Maybe she was just eager to get home to play around the Christmas tree. We'll never know why she ran into the road. We warned her not to, many times."

McCall, a father of two, was released after making a statement to the Oakland county prosecutor. The prosecutor says that under state law a driver who is coming in the opposite direction from a stopped school bus does not have to stop. Only drivers going in the same direction as the bus must stop.

Funeral services for Joy were held Saturday at Bell Chapel of the William R. Hamilton Co. in

Birmingham, with burial in White Chapel cemetery. Surviving besides her parents and brother are her paternal grandmother, Mrs. Thomas E. King, of Steger, Ill., and her maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. William Stieling of Gobeels, Mich.

THE WAGGONER girl was killed after she stepped across the road before the eyes of her mother as the school bus had passed, then started across the road toward home. The driver of a car approaching the bus from the opposite direction didn't see the boy in time, and Bruce lost his right leg a day later.

## Law Hampers Best Placement of Stops, School Supt. Claims

It seems that present state laws are forcing school districts to make their school buses pickup and discharge children on hazardous main roads instead of safer residential streets, Bloomfield Hills School Supt. Eugene L. Johnson commented following the death last week of one of his students.

Bloomfield Hills school administrators reviewed the school bus situation last week at a special meeting with eight representatives of Brookfield Highlands subdivision following the death of Joy King, 6, a first grader at Vaughn school, last Wednesday.

Joy was injured fatally after getting off the bus on Middlebelt road near Fielding road, a school bus stop just south of Old Lake road. Joy's mother was waiting for her in a car on the other side of Middlebelt and the child ran across to William A. McCall, 2711 St. Joseph, West Bloomfield.

Joy's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Paul King, live on Ogden drive in the new Brookfield Highlands subdivision. About eight youngsters from the area get off at the Middlebelt stop, according to Johnson.

After the meeting last week, Johnson said it appeared possible in view of the fact that roads in the subdivision recently had been blacktopped to have the school bus enter the subdivision and make one stop inside.

The stopping place selected, he admitted, is not the most convenient one for the youngsters but comes closest to conforming with state visibility laws.

"Legal stops perhaps are worse than those inside the suburbs," commented Johnson in reference to the school bus law that the driver must have 500 feet visibility in both directions before making a stop.

Both Johnson and West Bloomfield police pointed out that the entire area surrounding Middlebelt road from Maple road north to Orchard lake road was filled with rolling hills and curving roads.

Johnson suggested that parents might exert pressure on lawmakers to have such suburban roads excluded from the present law. Then he said, it would be possible to have stops in subdivisions where subdivisions had provided parking areas for buses. He pointed out that in some developments lack of turn space also prohibits bus stops.

At the subdivision meeting, he was pointed out that the district's school buses leased from Greyhound lines are not painted the customary yellow and that the company is not equipping the buses with flasher lights.

The accident is under investigation by West Bloomfield police who expect to have witness make statements to the prosecutor's office after the holidays. The speed limit on Middlebelt in the area of the accident is the maximum 65 miles in the daytime and 55 at night. Township police have not determined whether McCall was a speeding driver.

Traffic conditions on the day of the accident were poor as the day had been foggy and misty.

## Will Accept This 'Peculiar' Label

Birmingham may be the first community to use the "peculiar situation" clause in contracts with the Sewer, garbage and rubbish authorities.

This was discovered at Monday night's city commission meeting as commissioners started into an agenda which also included several other miscellaneous items mentioned below.

The "peculiar situation" is Birmingham city commission's refusal to what it feels would be delegation of Birmingham powers to the authority.

Commissioners twice have turned down a proffered contract that would let the authority determine the "method of collecting" Birmingham's garbage and rubbish.

Egbert's authorized board of trustees has asked Birmingham to change its mind.

A THIRD authority attempt was made Monday night when the authority's engineer - manager and former Birmingham city manager Donald C. Egbert, tried personally to explain to commissioners why the three-word phrase is in the proposed new contract. He said it is designed to keep the moisture content of rubbish collections to the minimum, thus

providing more economical operation of the authority's incinerator in Madison Heights.

Egbert's explanation in the affirmative when asked if the contract could be written in specific terms controlling moisture content.

"Yes, it could, but we would have to have two-thirds of the authority's board approve it as a 'peculiar situation,'" Egbert explained.

He was asked to alter Birmingham's contract accordingly and see if the trustees would approve it.

IN OTHER ACTION, Birmingham commissioner: Referred to City Manager L. E. Gare a request for sewer construction on Valley View lane. He wants to check possible assessment district limits.

Sent to the city plan board for review a request for change to multiple dwelling of lots on Davis between Wood and McCall. A new single family, there is a problem in proper utilization of the property for single families because of original platting. (See LABEL, Page 4-A)

### STRICTLY FRESH

An old-timer is the fellow who remembers when popcorn chains were the ultimate in Christmas tree decorations.

Some folks like their homes during the holidays, and others just get lit. This Christmas there'll be a lot of kissing under the mistle's glow.

Good thing to remember at the office: you've got to work with those people throughout the year to come. This is no joke, we wish you the happiest Christmas it's possible to have. All makers of lesser quality mattresses and pillows. TRESS COMPANY, Dial "O" and ask for TRESS COMPANY.

## Gets Badge of Gold

As Birmingham police honored Lt. Henry Timm at a banquet last Thursday at a local restaurant, Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley pins a gold badge on the retiring veteran of the force, Mr. Timm (right) was the only woman guest at the dinner attended by every man on the regular force and retired officers. Auxiliary police filed in for the regulars. Besides the gold badge engraved with the dates of his 29 years of service here, Timm was presented with a clock radio.