

Santa's Sad About Earth's Doings

"Well mother," said Santa Claus when he got home late the afternoon of December 26, following his world-wide visit to the homes of human beings, "the true spirit of Christmas doesn't seem to have caught on any more during the past year. All over the earth, I discover plenty of domestic troubles within each nation; and, as though that were not enough, there is a growing fear that an international war some day may break out.

If it does, it will be of short duration, since the two most powerful nations on earth, Russia and the United States may let loose hydrogen bombs and wipe out millions and millions of people in a comparatively few minutes.

"OH YES, I SAW lots of Christmas trees, lots of colored lights decorating homes, and my pack was overflowing with all manner of material objects for boys and girls and men and women; but, alas, the real meaning of Christmas is not found in colorful Christmas packages."

Having relieved himself of these thoughts, old Santa Claus took off his colorful clothing and climbed into bed for a long, long sleep; and when he wakes up, he will try to restore the twinkle in his eyes, the laughter on his lips and a great hope in his heart that mankind will be able better to manifest the true spirit of Him whose birthday is commemorated at Christmas time.

Want to Protect Your Income?

Do you know that the dollar you receive today is worth only 48c in value in relation to the dollar you received back in 1939? Do you realize that the inflation which has overtaken the American dollar since 1939 is responsible for its depreciated value?

If you are aware of these two facts, have you a pretty clear idea of just what took place in the American economy to cut down the buying power of your dollar?

Several things, of course, are responsible for this depreciated dollar. The ever-increasing cost of labor, together with the ever-increasing size of state and federal budgets is responsible almost entirely for this inflationary movement.

AS AN ORDINARY citizen you may think you can do little to stop the wage

spiral, but certainly, as a good citizen, you can make known your influence in Lansing and in Washington D. C., if you have the will to do it. A letter to your state representative or State Senator or United States representative in Congress and to both our Michigan U. S. Senators, letting each know that you want government to cut down its extravagant program; that you want your congressman, in every way possible, to economize; to vote against every type of unnecessary expenditure; that you intend to watch how he votes on various appropriations and that if he does not prove to be economically minded you will vote against him in the next election. That, dear reader, is your best method of lowering the taxes you are required to pay into the bottomless coffers of governmental treasuries.

Unable to learn what was taking place from day to day in their own community, as well as throughout the nation and the world, and depending chiefly upon the less informative radio and T.V. news casts, New York's citizens became critical of the small handful of newspaper delivery truck employees who were out on strike. The absence of newspapers also created a hardship among the stores and their patrons, who, because of the Christmas season, were more dependent upon newspapers for advertising information than at any other period of the year. Truly a city without its newspapers is a city without a voice.

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

Usually, beginning three or four days before Christmas, one very often is saluted by a friend with "Merry Christmas!" A number of our local friends, in discussing this custom, admitted that very seldom were they thus greeted and, incidentally, admitted that they, themselves, had failed to give voice to this Yuletide custom.

During the recent long newspaper strike in New York City, this great metropolis' citizens lived in a kind of a news vacuum.

The Birmingham Eccentric

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

As a person goes into a new year, it is the American custom to resolve to do better, be better than he has been during the previous 365 days.

Perhaps it is more than coincidence, then, that we received in the mail in the past 10 days a couple of anonymous notes containing a non-resident's and an ex-nervous resident's reactions to this community.

Practically all anonymous notes go into an editor's wastebasket pronto. A very few are used, in spite of their anonymity, because of what they do contain.

THAT'S WHY I'VE DECIDED to use the two I received the past few days. I've heard the letter writers' sentiments expressed orally from time to time. But I cannot recall having received WRITTEN comments before. When someone writes a letter—and mails it—the feeling must be genuine.

And that's what these two letter writers have expressed—their feelings. They have reacted to us—as human beings, as individuals, as a community.

AS THE NEW YEAR is entered, you might like to recall whether you have or have not added to the alleged community problem.

Suburban Sentiment

FOOTBALL COACH

He's a little tin god to the players; The School showers him with acclaim; He's everyone's pet and a hero yet—As long as he wins the game.

—Dorothy Rockwell McWood

Shangri-La Overshadowed



NATURE NOW Fire Played Role In Epochs of Man

The discovery of fire by primitive man stands as one of time's most significant landmarks. No one knows of a certainty just when or where this important impetus toward civilization took place. It is altogether possible that the earliest of men were as terrified of fire as are today's animals.

However, nature kindles fires in various ways and there came a day when a hungry savage may have found his hunting ground ravaged by flames. Feeling their comforting warmth he may have stood shivering beside a burning stump. Or he may have assuaged his hunger by picking up a hard piece of animal flesh to find it tasted good, much better than the raw meat to which he was accustomed. Gradually man overcame his fear of this magical, life-giving force of warmth and light. His first step was to find a way to keep this gift of the gods always burning. Day and night his vigilance tended was for the precious flame which spelled for him and his kind a new source of light and comfort, as well as a new security against animal and human enemies. If sleep overcame the freer, his misfortune was truly great.

WE CAN ONLY GUESS how long was the time until man's dawning intelligence discovered that he could kindle fire at will, calling forth the mysterious spark by the friction of hard stones or sticks. When man learned to roast his food he encouraged the life of young and old alike who could not chew raw flesh. No doubt the clay of his beads became hardened by fire, thus suggesting his first fireproof vessels for carrying and storing food and water. These primitive utensils also enabled him to cook and make more palatable such foods as grains and tubers. In time man expressed his developing creative powers by decorating his handiwork with art and artifacts with designs which he scratched in the soft clay. Or by painting them with colored earth

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Medical Mirror
WHAT DOCTORS SAY ABOUT
• Electrocardiographs
• Ladies Shoes
Q. Now that doctors have words of testing the heart with electrical gadgets, isn't it pretty easy to tell when a person has a bad heart?
A. The electrocardiograph is a marvelous device and a great help in diagnosing heart conditions, but it doesn't work like a slot machine. The strip of paper that comes out of the machine doesn't have the diagnosis written on it in English. There is simply a series of wavy lines that give clues to trouble. A perfectly good heart will sometimes send out signals that look bad on the strip of paper or a bad heart may broadcast good signals. It is always necessary for the doctor to consider what the machine records and what he knows about the patient. To "read" an electrocardiogram requires a great deal of training and experience.
Answers do not necessarily reflect the opinion of all doctors. The diagnosis and treatment of disease is the function of the patient's personal physician. Questions directed to Science Editors, P.O. Box 396, A. It is not their place to comment on what the ladies are wearing this season. We can, however, make an interesting observation.
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Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO
January 8, 1909

"Miss Mae Mitchell, of Pine Lake, lost a valuable rug muffed the New Year dance at the J.S. hall. She left it on the car going home—Zip! She'll never see it. Too bad, as it was the first time out in society."

"Miss Lillian Monroe was happily surprised Saturday afternoon by ten little friends, the occasion being her tenth birthday. The afternoon was spent in games and music, after which a dainty supper was served."

"There will be a food sale at the drug store of Charles J. Shan, Saturday, Jan. 10, for the benefit of the rest room at Pontiac. All who are interested in the rest room are requested to give us their patronage. Mary F. Cooper, chairman of the rest room committee."

30 YEARS AGO
January 4, 1929

"The failure of cars to negotiate the icy hills at Long Lake road, near the New Year's Eve Day was the only thing to mar the serenity of Bloomfield Hills village, where the Police William Putnam reports. The traffic signal at the intersection was not used because cars headed down grade could not halt and cars traveling uphill could not get under motion. Sand was placed on the hill by county road employees yesterday to insure safety."

15 YEARS AGO
January 6, 1944

"Youths on their way to Barum school have been causing Charles S. Kidden of E. Brown, some worry by using his lot for a cross walk. He recently asked the police if they could find some way to eliminate the difficulty."

"This Wanderer finally got around to buying one of those new fangled bow neckties, made popular by the new singing sensation, Frank Sinatra. Personally, the Wanderer has always admired his bow tie more than his singing."



Do We Say "Grace" Before Eating?

Before the days of barbarism, the custom of saying "Grace" was not in the spirit of gratitude, but a prayer rather, against any ill effects from the food. Savage tribesmen were sure animals had souls which might be lurking in the carcasses they were eating. So they called on their gods to ward off any ill that soul might work on them in revenge. Our custom of offering thanks for our food originated with the Israelites. Egyptians, always a religious people, also adopted the rite from them. 1956 John Emery Ent., Inc.