



## Our Front Page

### Christmas Confusion

... results when four "oversized elves" invade Beverly-Artesian. See page 1-E.

### 'Greetings Santa'

... youngsters continue to write. For more letters to Kris Kringle, see page 8-D.

### Church Art

... holds yule message. See close-up photographs of religious art work at Christ Church Cranbrook on page 1-D.

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## This and That

by George R. Averill

### Is Christmas Over?

"Thank goodness, Christmas is over," said a voice. It may be that many voices said it. But we know that Christmas is never over, any more than immortality is quenched when the Easter lilies fade.

To say, on the 26th of December, that "Christmas is over" is like a false note. If Christmas were a date on the calendar, yes; but Christmas is the promise and the potency of things to come. The proper post-Christmas word, after the gift-giving and feasting, is not "it is over" but "it is come."

There has only been one Christmas. The rest are anniversaries. And it is not over yet. One candle shed could house all the people who knew of the first Christmas, and now peoples of all creeds and tongues feel the compulsions of the time. Commerce is justified by it. Industry is regulated by it. Great forests bow to it. Banks, railroads, post offices, universities, prisons, armies are obedient to its sway. It does not pass, it grows.

A CATTLE MANGER was sufficient service that First Christmas. Now, it has grown into myriad works of mercy and enlightenment, ranging in ever-widening circles through the world; and from these have flowed the sciences and social insight and good will that steadily beat back the frontiers of ignorance, evil, and distress. Beginning like a silver hill, that First Christmas has flowed through lurid ages and dark ages, through centuries of Renaissance and generations of discovery, broadening as it ran, until now, its oceanic waters touch every shore and every intrest of mankind. Is that Christmas over? "Christmas is not a sentiment, but a power let loose and an authority. It is the regnancy of right in human life. But what right is, we are not always wise enough to know. Therefore, a little wicket-gate is open for us, so that we may enter the mighty realm of Right.

Why Christmas is only beginning! (From a radio address by the late W. J. Cameron.)

### Sunday Sweeping Of Downtown Streets OK'd in Birmingham

City Manager L. R. Gare was instructed by the Birmingham City Commission Monday night to institute Sunday sweeping of downtown streets again next summer.

Commissioners authorized such sweeping back in September, 1959, on a trial basis. Merchants cooperated by sweeping litter from sidewalks on Saturday night. A wet spring, lack of provision in the budget and other factors prevented a continuation this year. Gare said he believes the cost of the two to three hours of Sunday sweeping could be absorbed in the current Department of Public Works account for street sweeping.

**BUYING?  
SELLING?  
RENTING?**

Get Results  
From An Eccentric  
Classified

It's as easy  
as calling  
MI 4-T100

To make a first mistake hardly merits harsh criticism. Only when one forgets, is unmindful of the need to not repeat the same mistake is one deserving of, at least, a mild reminder. Perhaps nobody ever lived who was completely free from making mistakes... and to assume infallibility in this direction is to assume that personal perfection in doing things is possible... and, really, it isn't!

83rd YEAR—NO. 42

# Our Christmas Card To You

The news staff of this paper extends you—in rhyme—

A host of good wishes for holiday time. Some gay seasons greetings (in a behind-the-scenes peek)

From the people who write copy for The Eccentric each week.

Merry Christmas to you from news editor Ken Weaver.

He writes and he sorts and he assigns eager beavers

To cover the latest on sewers and assessments,

On mayors and meetings and weddings and vestments.

And greetings from Les Langlois, who covers the courts—

A beat that he's been on since he moved up from sports.

The same from Miss Adams who writes about shows,

Engagements and such—in society prose.

Pert Deni Scanlon sends good wishes your way,

She covers the townships and their news every day.

And then there's Marv Stasak who pictures for you

A most Merry Christmas and bright New Year, too.

And last on the list is this writer who sends A seasonal wish to each one of our friends.

Along with the Averills, Bill, George and Paul.

We hope that this Christmas is the merriest of all.

By IRMA DAVIS  
Staff Writer



## And The Babe Was Lying in a Manger

Six-year-old Douglas Foss, like many other Beverly School students, is fascinated by the unique Nativity scene in the school's lobby. The age-old scene of the Birth of Christ was fashioned by Mrs. Ralph Detwiler, 18901 Devonshire, Beverly Hills, mother vice president of the PTA. Formerly a professional display artist, Mrs. Detwiler

constructed the figures from chicken wire and paper mache. The 30-inch figures are garbed in robes of oil cloth and even have minute eye-lashes. Detwiler assisted his wife by building the stable setting. The couple has two children at Beverly School, Kathy, a fourth grader, and Kristine, a third grader.

## 'Most of All, I'm Glad That Jesus Was Born'

By MR. AND MRS. ALVIE J. SMITH  
Special Writers for  
The Birmingham Eccentric

Have you ever wondered what runs through the minds of children as they look forward to Christmas and the New Year?

We, as editors of the Torry School paper, decided to find out. We asked all Torry students to contribute their ideas about this season of the year in prose or poetry, with the best to be published in the December issue of the Torry Trumpet, the school paper. The spelling and grammar were left just as the children wrote them.

Here's how fourth grader Carey Ferchland, 1523 Bowers, composes New Year's resolutions: "New Year's resolutions are very fun to make. Although you try very hard, they always seem to break. Every New Year's Eve I think and think, and think. And when I make a resolution, I wink and wink and wink." Pamela Mitchell, Grade 4, who lives at 1752 Humphrey, views Christmas this way: "It is fun trying the tree and hanging the wreath on the door. It is also fun giving and

receiving presents. It is fun taking a ride to look at the lights on houses. But most of all I'm glad that Jesus was born."

But fifth grader Jack Keaton, 1654 Bowers, has a different idea: "Around Christmas time most things are so beautiful like stores, houses, toy stores. There are big crowds. There are a lot of Christmas spirit going around. Lots of parties, parades, Christmas music. And for kids, hard to get to sleep with all the racket going on in the front room."

Dan O'Connor, 1590 Chapin, Grade 6, has another feeling about Christmas Eve: "I like the gifts, the cards, the food, the candy, the tree, and most of all snacks. And on Christmas Eve we stay up until twelve o'clock when we open all the gifts. Then we read the ice box."

The children also expressed feelings of benevolence and charity. Denise Gonyea, 1732 Bradford, Grade 3, said: "I shouldn't have everything in the world. I should think more about the people who need it." (See JESUS, 3-A)

## Santa Tells Carol She Has an 'Elf'

Dear Carol:

I received your letter asking me for a real elf for Christmas. I brought you one your very first Christmas but perhaps you have forgotten where to look for him. You WERE pretty little then.

You can't see your little elf for he hides in all the good things you say and do. Some people call him the "Spirit of Christmas."

You SEE, we share some very special Christmas magic—you and I—the magic that makes you know something is true even when you can't see it with your eyes. But you can see it with your heart. I do it all the time. I see the good in all boys and girls even when other grown-ups have a hard time finding it. I see that little children get what they really want even when they make mistakes and ask for something else. I've never had a complaint. SO I'M GOING to tell you all about this little elf that you can't really see—just as I did on your last Christmas. (See CAROL, 3-A)

# Christmas Sing Set for Saturday

Residents of the Birmingham-Bloomfield area will again join in the annual Community Christmas Carol sing in downtown Birmingham Saturday.

Carolers will gather around the Christmas tree in Shain Park at 5:30 p.m. They will be led by William Spence, a Royal Oak resident employed by Detroit Edison and who has long been a devotee of music and associated with the community sing.

IN CHARGE OF instrumental accompaniment will be Arnold W. Berndt, head of the Birmingham Public Schools music department. Furnishing this accompaniment will be a brass horn sextet from Seaholm High School.

Mimographed copies of the words of the carols will be available for persons wishing them.

Mrs. D. L. Tate of the Birmingham

Musicale and the three Young Music clubs are serving as co-chairmen of the community sing.

MEMBERS OF the brass ensemble are Tom Spierling, trombone; Tom Stone, tuba; Gordon Robb, baritone; Dennis Baltztersen and Gail Grant, cornets; and Joan Osborn, French horn.

A traditional event, the sing is now in its 25th year.

"Old and new neighbors are urged to join in this tradition," said Mrs. Tate, "which has become a beautiful and important part of Christmas to the Birmingham community."

THE SING originally was a function of the Birmingham Community House. After the first few years, the Birmingham Musicale was asked to assist and later accepted full sponsorship.



Snokey, once the pet of these three children and now a Leader Dog for the Blind, and Marsha Miller, Dick Dodd of the Rochester school watches the happy greeting. Snokey, once the pet of these three children and now a Leader Dog for the Blind, renews an old friendship with Peter, Jon

## Even a Dog Can Lead To Path of Good Will

By DENI SCANLON  
Township Editor

There was a heart-warming reunion Friday in the offices of The Birmingham Eccentric.

Three youngsters met the lively black Labrador retriever that was once their beloved pet.

Marcha, Jon and Pete Miller, children of Dr. and Mrs. Sydney Miller, 709 Tottenham Road, Birmingham, hugged and loved their Snokey, but weren't the least bit unhappy when they departed without him. The dog now has an important job to do—leading a blind man.

The whole story, one that is appropos at Christmas time, began last Dec. 25.

SNOKEY, THEN only three and a half weeks old, first saw the Miller children from beneath the cozy coat of a newboy, who was trying to find a home for a litter of pups that would have otherwise been destroyed.

It took pleading and convincing, but the three managed to do it. Snokey made his home with the Millers.

THAT WAS last Christmas. But as time passed, the curious combination of Weimereiner and Labrador Retriever grew to a size that was a little too large for a city dog. The decision to part with him came last fall. Then followed a search for a good home.

By November, the children were sure that Snokey's next home would be at the Leader Dogs for the Blind at Rochester. He fit the qualifications, they were positive. Snokey was friendly, healthy, willing to lead. He was accustomed to people and good looking and had a sound nervous system. He was just the right age and the proper height, too.

Officials at the Leader Dog school examined him and agreed, so Snokey was sent to a new home with a vital purpose.

THE REUNION last week found Snokey garbed in a lead harness and extremely obedient, but his friendly nature was still most obvious.

Now under the training of Dick Dodd of the Rochester school, Snokey did a double take when the children walked in. He rushed happily to them, his thinking being, "I had a tattoo against a half-filled waste basket."

It only lasted a minute, however, for Snokey returned quickly to the side of his trainer to get a signal that his absence was permitted.

When the excitement had subsided, Dodd and the children sat down for a chat.

asked 13-year-old Jon. "When will his training be over?" Pete, 16, wanted to know. Dodd smiled at the flood of queries and in his patient manner told the children about the present life of their dog.

He told them that Snokey's day begins at 7 a.m. when he is let out for exercise. At 8 a.m., Dodd and Snokey head for Pontiac where they work until noon.

"Snokey is presently working revolving doors and elevators," Dodd commented. "He's a bit frustrated by the doors, but he loves getting up in the world." Dodd laughed.

The pair return to the school for lunch at noon. Snokey's off until three, then more exercise and his day is over.

"Then he just relaxes in his home."

(See DOG, 3-A)

**Our Offices  
Will Be Closed  
Monday, Dec. 26;  
Please Get Your  
Ad, News Copy in  
Early Friday**