

Christmas—Living Prayer

Each year, Dear Friend, at Christmas time, We set ourself to do a rhyme, A verse that might, in some right way, Illume your night, make bright your day.

Ah, Friend, all rhymes are poorly made To tell the whole of that Crusade! Wonder, grandeur, and the glory Of God's Word in Bible story

Business District Plans Progress

For more than a year Birmingham's central business district has been under the scrutiny of two municipal planning specialists, their objective being to determine how to improve and maintain that area as an attractive shopping center.

and within the financial ability of all concerned to pay for.

ESSENTIALLY, THE objectives are to create conditions where both traffic movement and off-street parking facilities are sufficient conveniences to invite the maximum number of shoppers to the area.

Fortunately, the business interests are strongly supported by City officials, too. They recognize the tax support possible from an expanding and successful business district, thus relieving part of the tax load otherwise levied on homes.

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

Some day we hope to attend a dramatic play that will portray with plenty of comedy worked in the career of one Fidel Castro, Cuba's "bearded screwball".

where young boys and girls often win prizes for the care and affection bestowed upon various farm quadrupeds. Like, for example, the 15-year-old Iowa lass whose year-old Hereford steer recently won the grand prize in the big livestock show in Chicago.

Speaking of winning an election... let's speak of the Michigan chap who is said to have spent (plus contributions) about \$400,000 to win a seat in the U.S. Senate...

Let it be recorded here—for future generations—that Nov. 28 was the warmest day ever recorded for that date in Michigan: up to 63 degrees. But, B-r-r-r! The evening of the next day registered 20 degrees...

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER

BY GEORGE WM. AVERILL

'Twas three days before Christmas And all through the town Most people were ready; There was hardly a frown.

'Twere the townspeople Who had gathered out there And were singing and yelling In the cold winter air.

Waitin' at the Pass



NATURE NOW

By Lydia King Freese

Christmas Tree Hints At History of Conifers

Out of the deep coniferous forests of Northern Germany came the custom of bringing an evergreen tree into the home at Christmas time.

great forests. Douglas fir, yellow pine, redwood, cedar, hemlock, white pine and spruce; these conifers here set down in the order of their abundance, yet represent the major forest wealth of the United States.

WHEN PRIMITIVE man was just beginning his first sowing and reaping, tremendous stands of great conifers covered much of our northern hemisphere.

THE FOLIAGE of conifers generally consists of needle-like leaves attached in clusters, as in our white pine. Sometimes they are flat scale-like structures as with the cedars.

Advertisement for Kay Baum Birmingham, featuring a large illustration of a Christmas scene and the text 'HAPPY HOLIDAYS' and 'We hope your joys are many and your troubles few...'

Advertisement for Dickinson's gift guide, featuring illustrations of various clothing items and their prices, such as 'HANDKERCHIEFS Box of 3 \$1.50 to \$3.50' and 'SPORT SHIRTS \$5.00 to \$18.95'.

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO Dec. 21, 1910 It is very evident from the way the pumps at the water station are being taxed that there is an awful waste of water night and day, by users leaving their faucets open...

stantial sums of money" have been discovered by a recent thorough and rigid examination into county affairs and institutions, the board declared.

Judges in the contest for the most attractive store window display in Birmingham will make their decision Christmas Eve, and will award a silver loving cup, do-

STRICTLY FRESH

Some women never use one word when a sentence will do. Pessimist: The fellow who thinks all is lost because he's not the guy running it.



Speaking of old-fashioned American enterprise: Did you hear about the fellow who was told by a salesman that he could cut his work in half with a certain gadget? The customer ordered two gadgets.

Alimony: The high cost of leaving...

We're pulling ahead of Russia in the education department. One small midwestern college had decreed that no athlete will be awarded an athletic letter unless he can identify the letter at a glance.

GEORGE R. AVERILL Editor and Publisher PAUL NEAL AVERILL Business Manager GEORGE WM. AVERILL Managing Editor DAVID F. GIBB Advertising Manager

D. G. Fisher on the William Allen farm, two miles west and one mile north of Birmingham, on Dec. 27 at 1 p.m., will have an auction sale and M. H. Blunt will do the selling.

A mantel and grate with a beautiful Christmas tree handsomely lighted and a big display window full of suitable gifts is Charles J. Shain's holiday offering.

Erastus H. Wooster of Sterling, Ill. is having a holiday visit with Landlord Jim of the Birmingham Inn.

In an EXTRA issued Tuesday, Dec. 23, The Birmingham Eccentric announced: Judge Glenn C. Gillespie in the Oakland Circuit Court late this afternoon received the petition of Norman C. Orr, prosecuting attorney, for a 23-man grand jury investigation of county governmental departments.

But we called to our friends 'Ere they faded from view; 'Merry Christmas to all— And Happy New Year, too!"