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.

By doing this, we've found it true.

That our own paths are lighted, too.

So, using theme of Jesus' birth,

(Whose word has since spread o'er the earth)

We muse a-while, and then we write What head and heart strive to indite.

We've found, though, as the rhyming goes,

That words alone can ne'er disclose The fullness of the Plan he told-

A Plan more rich than jewels or gold!

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 Best are shown in what we do.

Bear witness to the good and true

A million million words are vain To use if we would well explain

The meaning of each Christmas time!

Its message, deep, we cannot rhyme

But we can prove its worth to all

If we would heed its holy call: "Be loving, gentle, humble, fair --"

This is true Christmas-Living Prayer!

GEORGE R. AVERILL

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 mine how to improve and maintain that area as an attractive shopping center. The planners are Herbert Herzberg, official Birmingham planner, and John J. Prote, a traffic and planning expert. Wilber R. Mason, Jr., manager of the local Jacobson's stories, is chairman of the Central Business District Development Committee

At its start, the business people raised nearly \$16,000 to carry on the project. Herzberg's portion is contributed by the City, together with office space.

Four general ideas have thus far been developed, though none have been accepted in whole as yet. The Committee members want to complete a plan that is practical, and within the financial ability of all concerned to pay for.

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

Another important phase of the project is to encourage existing properties to im-prove their inside and outside appearances, in keeping with the general good merchandising reputation of Birmingham.

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". This communistically inclined dictator has given every evidence that he is destined to go the way of all dictators—into disaster, defeat. Very rapidly he is plunging Cuba into economic disaster and when this eventuates in hunger for the masses Castro will meet his doom. It is reported from savently surper that he had been defeated. will meet his doom. It is reported from several sources that already Castro and a few pretty close to him have transported millions and millions of dollars to foreign countries, mostly in Europe, and perhaps even in Russia which they would use when they eventually flee from Cuba. First looting the public treasury and then making off with it to another country is the usual pattern of the modern dictator. It is to be hoped, however, when Castro and his gangstars no longer control Cuba, that Cuba's people will have become smart enough to prevent the rise of another Castro who, from all accounts, is a greater menace to the freedom and securities of Cuba's people than Senor Batista, who Cuba's people than Senor Batista who was overthrown by Castro, and has since fled to Europe

One of the occasional wholesome and refreshing news stories one may expect annually comes from livestock shows 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 Idea lass whose year-old Hereford steer recently won the grand prize in the big livestock show in Chicago. The girl will be paid enough thousands of dollars to pay off the mortgage on her parents' farm, pay for an operation for her mom, and have enough left to put her through college. What a splendid home environment for a young American girl! What a grand life-beginning for a dutiful and loving daughter! What a magnificent example for all young Americans!

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 . . . and then lost. We refer to multi-millionaire Alvin Bentley, of Owosso, whose term in Congress expires in January. Try again, Alvin, or back some-body who will run for you.

Let it be recorded here-for future generations—that Nov. 28 was the warmest day ever recorded for that date in Michi-gan: up to 63 degrees. But, B-r-r-r! The evening of the next day registered 20 degrees . . . and now, it seems, Ole Man Winter has come to stay!

The Birmingham Eccentric

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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

The trees were all trimmed, The shopping all done; They all were waiting For Santa to come.

I in my office. The staff at their desks, Had just settled back— The paper on the press.

When out on the street ere arose a loud shout! To see what was about.

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

'Merry Christmas to you-Happy New Year to boot!" Came their greeting to us Like a well-tuned lute.

We joshed back and forth, Gave each other some pats; Then hurried back inside To get into our wraps.

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

Waitin' at the Pass



NATURE NOW

By Lydia King Frehse

Christmas Tree Hints At History of Conifers

WHEN PRIMITIVE man was just beginning his first sowing and results of the property of the prop

as large round
But the first
coniferous for
mail by many
mail by may
mail by may
mail by may
mail by may
re a ra. Their
trees were among our early seedbearing plants and arose from the
cordiates or some similar, now extinct, plant group which flourished
ended some 265 millions of years
ago.

species of pine, it is redolent of the out-of-doors bringing beauty and good cheer to all who behold it. Believing that appreciation are all consists of need-inkel leaves and knowledge go hand in hand we herewith set down some fast about this great group of plants tree. Botanits call there are successful to the fers' because they bear their seeds in a cone.

WHEN PRIMITIVE man was just beginning his first sowing and its dependent of the common name 'evergreen'. The control of the provided his with weapons are all the common name 'evergreen'. The control of the provided his with weapons are and humidity. Their small conditions the seed of the common name 'evergreen'. The provided his with weapons are and humidity. Their small control in the great training of soil, climate and humidity. Their small conditions are all the seed in the seed of the provided his with weapons are and humidity. Their small conditions are all the seed of the seed of

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

Bits of News Useance rrom
50 YEARS AGO
Dec. 21, 1910
It is very evident from the way
the pumps at the water station
awful waste of water night and
day, by users leaving their faucets
open, more or less of the time
which is strictly forbidden. In case
of a fire, under the present condible to the condition of the condition of the
to the condition of the condition of the
practice. (Notice to Water takers from George E. Daines, president.)

dent.)
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. Peeler colts, bees, egg incubators, cutters, farming tools,
implements and household goods.
Everything goes.

30 YEARS AGO
Dec. 23, 1930
an EXTRA issued Tuesday,
23, The Birmingham Eccen-

. 23, The Birming and a sanounced: announced: under Glenn C. Gillespie in the granon received the petition of rman C. Orr, prosecuting attor, for a 23-man grand jury intigation of county governmendenartments . The petition

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

STRICTLY FRESH

Pessimist: The fellow who thinks all is lost because he's not the guy running it.



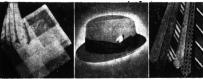


We hope your joys are many and your troubles few... A very Merry Christmas from all of us to you!

Our Annual Christmas Sale Starts Tuesday, December 27 Save Up To ½ Off



gift from *Dickinson's*



HANDKERCHIEFS Box of 3 \$1.50 to \$3.50

HATS By STETSON from \$11.95



SPORT SHIRTS

PAJAMAS \$5.00 to \$13.95



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