The Birmingham Eccentric

83rd YEAR—NO. 43 | 28 PAGES DECEMBER 29, 1960 | BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN | SECTION A | The Nation's Top Suburban Weekly | TEN CENTS

Serving the Citizens of Michigan's Finest Suburban Residential Area

Behind Our Front Page

Glance Back

. . . at past year's events in Birmingham area. See Section B.

Good Citizens

. . . named by DAR. Seaholm High School student, Patty Mason, picked for honor. See page 1-C.

South American

. . . visitors find Christmas season chilly. See homecoming story and photograph on page 1-D.

Amusements	6-C
Bits of Birmingham	2-A
Business Briefs	5-C
Campus News	5-D
Church	6-B
Down to Earth	5-D
Editorials	8-B
Nature Now	8-B
Obituaries	6-A
Real Estate	D
Round the Towns	D
Sports	8-D
Theaters	6-C
Woman's News	C
Want Ads	4, 5-A

This and That

by George R. Averill

"He That Shall Humble Himself Shall Be Exalted"

Annually, as the old calendar gives way to its successor, many of us "make resolutions for the New Year" — resolutions that include the shedding of unwanted habits, to be replaced by good ones.

In brief, we tend to use the changing of the calendar time as an opportunity to improve our lives. We tell ourselves that we want good health, reasonable security, more friends, greater abundance of happiness.

And, of course, this is all right —though I see no necessity of waiting for the year's end to try to shake off unwanted habits, undesired attitudes. Isn't any hour of ANY DAY a good time?

These thoughts bring me back to a day last week, Dec. 23, to be exact, when there was enacted in our plant a situation that was born of a life that does already include a variety of personal attributes that bring otherwise unpurchasable happiness to one's life.

IT WAS 2:30 P.M., and the more than 100 fellow-employees from the offices and the shop were gathered together for the traditional brief ceremony of an exchange of thoughts and gifts. My brother Paul and I, as owners of the business, always make comments on subjects related to our mutual vocational interests.

We express appreciation for the loyalty of our employees, emphasize our pattern of "family relationships", inject a bit of humor into the session, and also join in a few Christmas carols. (Note: Neither the Roger Shawn or Norman Luboff chorales should worry about our competition on this subject, though.)

But this time we added one most important subject to our Christmas program. It concerned one of our male employees of 18 years standing. He performed no top craft vocational acts, though what he did was mighty important to all of us.

I narrated a few of his wonderful attributes. He always was punctual on the job. He never shirked or slighted what he was doing. He was absolutely responsible and dependable. Ask him to do this or do that, and you could forget it. In due, proper time it was done . . . well done, too.

HE ALWAYS WAS good-natured. He was quiet, self-effacing, yet always and easily responded to your smile with a glowing one of his own.

These descriptions I made to the assembled group, with the "about-to-retire" employee standing next to me, obviously embarrassed.

Then I waved a signal and into the center of our group rolled one of those fork lift trucks, on whose platform were colorfully arrayed a number of gift-wrapped packages; at the truck's top was a large sign that read: "Happy years ahead, Henri" . . . . .

And then I glanced at Henri and already this Belgian - born man's vision was beginning to blur (as also was mine and some others) as he then listened to the almost deafening applause of his erstwhile fellow-employees.

WHEN THE APPLAUSE subsided, tears were falling from Henri's glistening eyes, his lips trembled as he looked toward me, and

(See THIS & THAT, 3-A)

FREE . . . FREE! When renewing your subscription to The Eccentric, or starting a subscription, remember to call at our office for a FREE COPY of our 75th Anniversary Edition. It contains a complete story of the early days of the founding of Birmingham, together with many features you'd find interesting to learn about. (tf)

Most of us, now and then, yearn to become better human beings by discarding negative thoughts and habits, replacing them with ones we really know to be better. It is no easy accomplishment to throw off attitudes that one's reason knows to be less than good . . . yet it can be done—a little today, a bit more tomorrow. The best way to vanquish evil is to allow good to crowd it out!

Events of 1960 Become History

As the supersonic sixties got off to a soaring start, the Birmingham area kept pace.

It saw old friends leave and greeted new ones from varied places. It saw buildings ripped down and structures go up. It saw accidents and fires and births and weddings.

The year 1960 in Birmingham has been both good and bad, joyful and sad.

Here are the highlights of events that made news in the past 365 days.

Issue of Jan. 7

Birmingham was organized as the second official chapter of Citizens for Michigan. American Motors President and Bloomfield Hills resident George Romney spearheaded the group.

Phillip Steinhause was appointed new organist-choirmaster at Kirk in the Hills.

Members of Birmingham Chapter of the Christ Child Society gathered at Devon Gables for a mother-daughter luncheon.

Two new landmarks were completed in Franklin. The new Franklin volunteer fire department hall and the village post office both reached completion.

Some of the top names in the baseball world were present at the Babe Ruth League baseball clinic at Seaholm High School. Milt Pappas, Billy Pierce, Gail Harris, Eddie Kazanski, Hobie Landrith and Art Houtemann were instructors at the second annual affair.

Issue of Jan. 14

Christian F. Beukema, 441 N. Glenhurst, Birmingham, was appointed president of Oliver Iron Mining Division of United States Steel Corp., with headquarters in Duluth, Minn.

The library at the new Wylie E. Groves Junior-Senior High School, Evergreen and 13 Mile, went into service. The circular room with the thin cement shell roof acts as a hub, aesthetically and practically, of the various sections of the school. Twenty-five tons of cement went into the unusual umbrella-shaped roof over the library.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold F. Beaver of Adams Rd. were honored Jan.

(Continued on 1-D)

It's Only a Gadget, But What Havoc Is Being Wrought

All for the sake of a microswitch — as tiny as a fuse but just as devastating when it blows — Birmingham Post Office continues to be without the use of its stamp vending machine.

Postmaster Roland F. Reese expected the powerful little gadget to arrive from Chicago via air mail over the weekend (it's a speciality which can't be purchased in the local hardware), but it didn't come, so indignant stamp customers continue to complain.

POSTMASTER Reese collected some of the irate comments which had been scrawled on placards attached to the machine, added to them a story anent the problem from a Detroit paper plus one from The Eccentric and mailed the whole kit and kaboodle off to Chicago.

"With some sort of vague hope," he commented "that this'll put a bomb under the suppliers".

So popular is the machine, holidays not withstanding, that frequently it becomes the postmaster's job to go down Sunday and refill it with both pennies and stamps.

Oakland Medical Society to Honor Dr. John Ormond

A noted urologist and medical missionary, Dr. John K. Ormond, 31060 Marlin Court, Beverly Hills, will be honored Wednesday as the county's "Physician of the Year" by the Oakland County Medical Society (OCMS).

Dr. Ormond and his wife will be guests at the OCMS and Woman's Auxiliary annual dinner at the Birmingham Country Club.

Dr. Ormond will speak to the group on "Five Weeks in the Belgian Congo."

DR. ORMOND

He and his wife made a tour of service in 1956 to missionary hospitals in the Congo.

PRIOR to that time, the Ormonds spent two and a half years in India as medical missionaries supervising the establishment of urologic training programs in Indian medical schools while he served as chief of the department of urology at the Miraj Medical Center.

A graduate of Princeton and Johns Hopkins Universities, Dr. Ormond came to Detroit to join the surgical staff of Henry Ford Hospital in 1946.

Except for service as a captain in the medical corps of the Army from 1918 to 1919, he served continuously on that staff until he became surgeon-in-charge of the division of urology in 1925. He remained in that position until his retirement in 1952.

DR. ORMOND holds staff privileges at Pontiac General, St. Joseph Mercy and William Beaumont hospitals. He is a member of many honorary lay and professional societies.

Dr. Chauncey G. Burke, a resident of Bloomfield Village who recently elected president of the OCMS, will preside at the dinner.

Dr. Richard B. Galpin of Birmingham is program chairman. Several hundred persons are expected to attend.

High Twelve to Meet

The Birmingham High Twelve Club will hold its next meeting Jan. 9 at 6:30 at the Community House.

Have a Rootin', Tootin' New Year

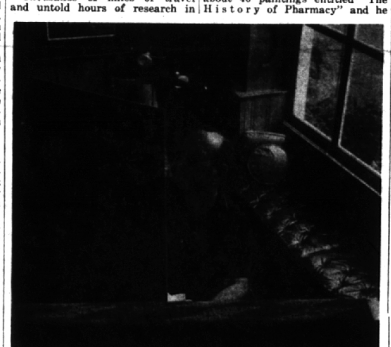
. . . "old-timer" Allison Gibb (all of two) bellows through the horn at her sister, Melissa, who just marked her seven-week birthday. Heralding the arrival of a new year, the girls, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. David Gibb, 352 Baldwin, Birmingham, portray a wish for 1961: Happy New Year from The Birmingham Eccentric. May it be faced with an attitude that is "young at heart."

Artist Travels to Europe to Seek Prescription for Medical Paintings

By IRMA DAVIS
Staff Writer

What's behind a painting? Thousands of miles of travel and untold hours of research in the case of two series of paintings executed by artist Robert Thom of Foxcroft.

Since 1949 he has completed about 40 paintings entitled "The History of Pharmacy" and he anticipates another two years work to complete about 45 paintings in "The History of Medicine." Both series were commissioned by Parke Davis Co.



. . . the artist, artistically portrayed . . .
(photo by Bob Osborn)

Thom and his wife returned Dec. 9 from a three-month trip to Europe where he researched seven subjects for the medical series. He is currently at work on a painting of Dr. Ehrlich and his Japanese laboratory assistant, Hata.

HIS BUSINESS travels ranged from London to Barcelona with a delightful two-week's holiday that included three-days' sparkling research in the Burgundy area of France.

His oils are reproduced in drug stores across the country and throughout the world and the originals were displayed in the Harlan building, Birmingham, during last summer's Birmingham Arts Festival. The oils themselves are on tour most of the time, each series traveling separately.

Artist Thom must research not only costumes and furnishings, contemporary with the subject of each individual work, but he must delve into the apparatus, equipment and separate quirks of each. Historical data, documents, letters, diagrams and masses of facts are sorted, weighed and conveyed to canvas.

HE WAS GUIDED by the late Dr. George Urbanq, of the University of Wisconsin, on the pharmacy series.

He confers with the medical series' mentor, Dr. Irwin Ackerknecht, professor at the University of Switerland who is considered the top man now in the history of medicine.

Dr. Ackerknecht, who once

(See ARTIST, 3-A)

Cranbrook Gets $300,000 From Donner Foundation

Cranbrook School on Lone Pine Road in Bloomfield Hills received a $300,000 grant this week from the Donner Foundation. Cranbrook is one of 15 independent secondary schools to share in the $4,500,000 teaching endowments.

Income from the $300,000 grant to Cranbrook will provide an estimated $12,000 yearly salary to a person selected to fill a teachman endowment, according to Robert A. Maes, president of the foundation.

"OUR SCHOOL wishes to express its gratitude to the directors of the foundation and to congratulate them on the excellent job they are doing to advance teaching standards in the secondary schools," Harry D. Hoey, headmaster of Cranbrook stated.

"We hope that the Donner teaching endowments will become an example and goal of all other schools," Maes said.

"In the opinion of the trustees of the foundation, these top salaries established in these 15 schools will encourage raising of salaries in most other secondary schools. We feel that new standards are being set which should be felt throughout all secondary education."

"THE APPOINTEE," Maes explained, "shall be a full time faculty member, spending a major portion of his time teaching as opposed to administrative or other duties."

Maes said that the contribution to education is the largest made by the Donner Foundation. A year ago similar grants were made to six schools. Indications of the success of the plan caused the trustees to increase the effort.

Cranbrook is one of three in the mid-west to receive the grant. Western Reserve Academy in Ohio and the Hills School in Pennsylvania are the other two. The other schools receiving shares are located in the eastern states.

The foundation, created in 1945 by William H. Donner, a steel magnate, gives grants to secondary education institutions and medical groups.

Harry D. Hoey, headmaster of Cranbrook (right) accepts a check for the $300,000 endowment from Robert A. Maes, president of the Donner Foundation.

Our Offices Will Be Closed Monday, Jan. 2; Please Get Your Ad, News Copy in Early Friday

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Island View Lot Hearings to Resume At Jan. 3 Meeting

Two public hearings, adjourned from the Nov. 7 Birmingham City Commission meeting, will be resumed Jan. 3.

The hearings will be on the vacation of Park St., Island View Drive and a driveway and on confirmation of the special assessment roll for the lot to be constructed behind the Reid building at the north end of Woodward.

The proposal is for a municipal lot with 141 parking spaces, with the City to furnish parking meters.

Some property owners once in favor of the lot have since opposed it, believing that the City should pay a larger share.

4 Per Cent Sales Tax Will Begin Monday

The Birmingham Chamber of Commerce announces the new four per cent sales tax will go into effect Jan. 1. Here's how the increased tax will affect Birmingham purchasers:

$ 0- 12	nothing	$1.13-1.37	5c
.13-.37	1c	1.38-1.62	6c
.38-.62	2c	1.63-1.87	7c
.63-.87	3c	1.88-2.12	8c
.88-1.12	4c	and so on up.	

The Chamber also announces Jan. 4 as the deadline for exchange of Christmas gifts. This date is the same as that set by the Detroit Retail Merchants Association.

All makes of inner spring mattresses repaired. One-day service. ROYAL MATTRESS COMPANY, Dial "O" and ask for ENterprise 6310.

Commission Eyes Planners' Concept For City's Future

Discuss Intersection At Woodward, Willits

Agreement and disagreement—both were reactions of Birmingham City Commissioners Tuesday night when, for the first time, they had an opportunity to discuss City Planners' ideas for the future of the city's central business district.

City Planner Herbert Herzberg presented a progress report, outlining the four-stage concept that is an initial possibility of what Birmingham's business district may look like.

"I just want to give you some of our ideas and get your criticisms," Herzberg told the commissioners.

THE SERIES OF ideas includes formation of a civic and shopping core with a major traffic route embracing it. Parking would skirt the shopping area.

The first three stages would deal with existing facilities, Herzberg explained. Only the final concept, he pointed out, would call for major face lifting.

After viewing the four-stages, prepared by Herzberg and John Prote, commissioners peppered the air with questions and comments.

"MY REACTION is that this concept is premature," Charles Renfrew stated. "I feel that parking developments must come first."

Both Renfrew and William Roberts stated that they feel stimulation of commerce and adequate parking are musts in any future planning.

The majority of the commissioners seemed to favor unity of the civic core.

"There are a lot of 'ifs' in this thing," Herzberg commented. "We're not saying what the size of the business district will be or that this concept won't change in five years. We want your reaction to our ideas. We can't operate in a vacuum."

THE ELIMINATION OF the jog at the intersection of Oakland-Woodward-Willits, a suggestion indicated in the first stage, was opposed later by City Manager L. E. Gare.

"Because of the large amount of left turns from eastbound Willits going north on Woodward and left turns from Oakland going south on Woodward, the present set-up does provide a large amount of storage space for cars waiting for the signal change," Gare said.

He advocated several alternatives with the commission favoring taking of 13 feet off the lot at the southeast corner and widening the street to Ferndale. Commissioners also discussed the possibility of widening Oakland on the south side from Ferndale to Park.

No definite action was taken but Gare was instructed to investigate the costs of the proposals.

Fred Knorr, Hills Resident, Dies of Burns

Bloomfield Hills resident Fred A. Knorr, radio executive and part owner of the Detroit Tigers, died Monday night in a Fort Lauderdale, Fla., hospital.

Mr. Knorr, 47, suffered burns of hands and feet Dec. 9 when he slipped, struck his head and fell into a bathtub of scalding water while at a Fort Lauderdale hotel.

Mr. Knorr and his wife, Nellie, were in Florida on a combined business and pleasure trip when the accident occurred. Their home is at 730 Vaughan Road.

OWNER OF RADIO station WKMH in Dearborn, Mr. Knorr was a member of an 11-man syndicate that bought the Tigers in October of 1956.

In addition to his business activities, Mr. Knorr was active in community affairs. He served as president of Oakwood Hospital in 1958, was general chairman of the Cancer Crusade in 1957 and was a past director of the Dearborn Chamber of Commerce.

He is survived by his wife; two daugaters, Nancy Lou, 17, and Mary Katherine, 10; a son, Fred A. Knorr III, 9 and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Knorr.

Funeral services will be at 2:30 p.m. Friday at the William R. Hamilton Co. funeral home, 3975 Cass, Detroit. The family requests that memorial tributes be made to the donor's charity in Mr. Knorr's name.

CARL H. KINDL

Carl Kindl Retires As Vice President At General Motors

Retirement of Carl H. Kindl, vice president and director of General Motors and group executive in charge of overseas and Canadian operations, was announced last week.

Kindl, 65, lives at 1340 Pembroke, Bloomfield Hills.

Divisions under his supervision since he was named to his present position in 1949 included General

(See KINDL, 3-A)

Commission Okays Adams-Derby Light, Parking Restrictions

A traffic signal at Adams and Derby was approved Tuesday night by Birmingham City Commissioners.

The light will operate from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. to facilitate safe crossing for school children and to assist in the rush-hour traffic control.

IN OTHER ACTION, the commission approved the prohibition of parking on portions of eight streets. No parking will be allowed on areas of Ann, Brookside, Frank, Mansfield and S. Worth.

Other restricted streets include Hunter Blvd. on the east side from Oakland to Windsor, E. Lincoln on the north side from Woodward west 137 feet and Maple on the north side from Adams west 164 feet.

Baldwin Library Ramp 'Suburbia Today' Topic

Baldwin Public Library's ramp, installed for people confined to wheel chairs, is the subject matter of an article in the news column of the January Suburbia Today.

The next issue of Suburbia will be included in the Jan. 5 Birmingham Eccentric.

An impressive list of other articles is also forthcoming.

VANCE PACKARD, author of "The Status Seekers", "The Hidden Persuaders" and "The Waste Makers" tells about the Christmas Eve his own house caught fire —and passes on what he learned the hard way.

On the lighter side there is a selection of clever, dry-cleaned limericks from Bennett Cerf's new collection, illustrated by famous cartoonist Charles Saxon.

Then, Muriel Lederer, the mother of a grade-school youngster, investigates both the pros and cons of Educational Television, a seven-year-old wonder that may soon be part of the school-life of every American child.

IN "IS ICE-BOATING DANGEROUS?" some of the questions involving the relative safety of the exciting, popular sport are aired, as well as some of the measures that should be taken to insure maximum enjoyment with minimum hazard while zooming 100 miles an hour over ice.

Theodore Bettendorf's story is the acme of do-it-yourself. Starting 29 years ago, Bettendorf built a castle with his own two hands, complete with moat, drawbridge and turrets.

IN THE FOOD PAGES, editor Melanie De Proft provides five distinctive entrees — Glazed Ham Roast, Pork Chops Gourmet, Special Noodle Casserole, Stuffed Calf's Liver De Luxe and Mushrooms Magnifique — kitchen-tested dishes that will make any meal a triumph.