

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Offers Own Explanation Of Rise of Christmas

To the Editor: Now that the Thanksgiving turkey and all the trimmings are just a memory, our thoughts turn to the madhouse of Christmas buying. Just who is this person responsible for all this—this Santa Claus, we hear so much about? Who is Santa Claus? We know of him by many names in many lands and in many nationalities. In parents suddenly realized that all France, for example, he is known as Pere Noel. He is also known as Kris Kringle, Father Christmas and Saint Nicholas, to name a few. Each nationality has a different name and custom attached to this person. Some would say that he is just a Spirit that never really existed but is merely symbolic of the desire for giving to others. Santa Claus, by whatever name you may call him, is nevertheless still a mystery.

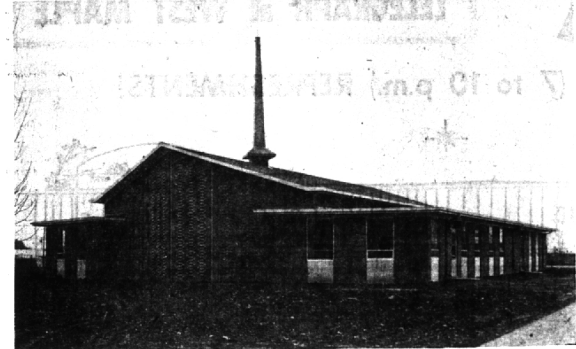
pioneer of psychoanalysis, would have a logical explanation for this spirit, or whatever you choose to label it. I think he would probably explain it something like this. Santa Claus was merely a manifestation of the guilt complex on the part of parents. As that time of year, as the beginning of the winter season rolled around, and parents suddenly realized that all children long they had neglected their children. As had weather forced them to spend more time in the home, parents realized that, due to business and social pressures, they had not spent as much time with their children as they would have liked. THEREFORE, they dreamed up a pseudo-spiritual legend which coincided with the Christian celebration of the birthday of the Christ Child of Bethlehem. Thus, they felt in some way

Justified for the negligence toward their children during the rest of the year. Their consciences were quieted. Once the trend of gift-giving was started, the joyous merchants were quick to take up the mistakenly dropped reins, lest the spirit quickly die, and keep the feeling fired up. So the custom has gotten out of hand—completely losing sight of the original purpose. We are now encouraged to purchase gifts for persons we hardly know or else haven't seen in too many years to even know if they still are living. YES, ALTHOUGH this started innocently enough, to quiet a noisy conscience on the part of parents, the true reason has become completely hidden over the years in the advertisements of some greedy merchants. Santa Claus, the fat jolly man we all know from our department store toy departments, best signifies the merchant who is getting fat on the money we are forced to spend by convention and social pressures. L. P. RICHARDS

Plan Board, Council Hold Joint Meeting

BEVERLY HILLS—Members of the planning board and the council sat on two sides of the conference table Thursday and discussed the future of various village programs. Planning Board Chairman Edward Dolan described the progress the board had made during the last year. Enforcement of the zoning ordinance in some specific instances was discussed by both groups with Village Attorney Thomas J. Dillon. Dolan asked if the council had any plans to incorporate recommendations made in the master

plan, presented to the council by the board a year-and-a-half ago. PROBLEMS arising out of the proposed widening of Southfield Road by 27 feet on both sides beyond the existing highway, from 13 Mile to Beverly road were discussed. A pedestrian walkway-overspass, rather than a traffic light at Beverly and Southfield roads, was proposed. The last item on the agenda was proposed improvement of Kirkshire Road. Inasmuch as the joint meeting was held for discussion purposes only, no action was taken. Dear Santa Claus, I am a good girl. I want a beauty parlor, a necklace and a bracelet, and a desk at home, a Chatty Cathy, a little doll, a hat, a little TV set that's my size. Love, Robin



THE BIRMINGHAM Church of Christ will dedicate their new building at 3737 W. Big Beaver in ceremonies at 3 p.m. Sunday. The building is the first unit of a three-unit structure planned on the nine acre plot. Willard Collins, of Nashville, Tenn., will be the featured speaker.

B'ham Church of Christ Dedicates New Building

Formal Dedication Services of the new building of the Birmingham Church of Christ will be held on Sunday, at 3 p.m. Willard Collins, of Nashville, Tennessee, will be the featured speaker. The new building, located at 3737 W. Big Beaver Rd., is the culmination of months of planning by the Birmingham church, which met for eight years at 1152 Benauxville prior to occupying its new structure. Monthly and Gospel Press. He is also a member of a number of civic and educational organizations. The Birmingham Church of Christ is associated with about 80 other Churches of Christ in the Greater Detroit Area, with more than 15,000 members in this area. Nation-wide, the churches of Christ are one of the 10 largest religious groups, according to 1962 Yearbook of Churches in America. The new building being dedicated was begun in April, 1962, and was under the architectural supervision of Wyeth, Harman and Associates of Port Huron. The local contractors for the building

were Brencal Contractors, with the mechanical and electrical contracts held by Lyon Heating and Plumbing, Romeo, and Down River Electric, Trenton, respectively. The elders for the Birmingham church are Homer Case, Albert Eslinger, Wheeler Utley and Thomas Tolbert. Morris M. Womack serves in his second year as the minister of the congregation. The building committee consisted of Womack, chairman of the committee, Eslinger, Case and Richard Hahn, one of the deacons. The public is invited to visit the congregation on the day of the Dedication Services. Mr. Collins agreed as a weekly columnist for the Nashville Banner and is currently on the editorial staffs of Gospel Advocate, 20th Century Christian, Minister's Monthly and Gospel Press. He is also a member of a number of civic and educational organizations. The Birmingham Church of Christ is associated with about 80 other Churches of Christ in the Greater Detroit Area, with more than 15,000 members in this area. Nation-wide, the churches of Christ are one of the 10 largest religious groups, according to 1962 Yearbook of Churches in America. The new building being dedicated was begun in April, 1962, and was under the architectural supervision of Wyeth, Harman and Associates of Port Huron. The local contractors for the building



Christmas Toys for Little Children

Members of Seton Guild will give their fifteenth annual Christmas party and benefit tea Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m. for the children at the St. Vincent-Sarah Fisher Home in Woodcreek Farms. Among guiding lights behind this year's event are Mrs. Lawrence Heintz (from left), Mrs. John C. Malpeli, Jr. and Mrs. Jerry T. Flanigan.

Average Kids Are Scarce These Days

By RUTH VOCT Special Writer

One big difference exists today in this year of 1962 as our school population troops back to learning. Two decades ago? The big majority of each class fell into the "average group." Only a few were labeled real good and only a few were called slow learners. Something quite weird has occurred. Because of the invisible pressures on both parents and children, no one wishes for anyone to be just average. Outside of being delinquent, this seems to be the worst aim of all. Ask any mother up or down the block whether she

County Applies For Federal Road Moneys

The Oakland County Board of Road Commissioners has announced that it has made application for matching funds from the Housing and Home Financing Agency Community Facilities Administration, as part of the accelerated Public Works Agency.

The Federal grant requested is in the amount of \$245,000. It is proposed that this amount, together with County Road Funds in the amount of \$232,100, would be used to finance ten projects, the estimated cost of which amounts to the sum of \$477,100.

These ten projects consist of the replacement of ten outmoded and potentially dangerous one-way bridges located on local roads in various parts of the county. Due to the existing State law which requires matching on local road construction projects and the extreme limitation of funds for all local road purposes, these bridges represent projects which could not otherwise be financed from funds available.

Nearly 40 per cent of University of Michigan students are working toward graduate or advanced degrees.

MAKING Christmas DECORATIONS

WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF
MRS. FRANK (ANNA BELLE) WEBB'S
DEMONSTRATION-LECTURES
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8th
10:00 to 11:00 p.m.
2:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Bring your notebook your questions and your friends. We will provide the refreshments and atmosphere on the McClellan-Ball Patio.

MATERIALS YOU MAY NEED AND WHICH WE HAVE ON HAND

MECHANICAL Spray Paints Frosty Snow Glitter Glue Glitter Chenille Stems Flora-Tape Elmer's Glu-All Cling Metallic Foil	Styrofoam Sheets, Balls, Cones, Forms Crimped Rings Moss Filled Rings Box-Wreath Rings Dowell Sticks Sphagnum Balls Spagnum Tree Forms Styro Weld	Wire Stars Spool Wire Corsage Wire 3" Wired Picks 7" Wired Picks Philly Fern Pins Cone Cutting Shears Wire Snips Awls
DECORATIVE String Lights Pine Cones Fruit Sprays Single Fruits Metallic Fruit Silverbells Birds Angels Madonnas Stem Balls	Ribbon Magnolia Leaves Beaded Fruits Satin Apples Berries Glitter Fern Cloth Roses (!) Birds Angels Madonnas	Pine Branches Rattan Mats Fruit Garlands Gold Grapes Natural Grapes Gilded Cones Mistletoe Velvet Tubing Birds Angels Fresh Greens

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