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# The Birmingham Eccentric

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN,  
Thursday, December 20, 1962

## EDITORIAL SECTION B

### Counting Our Blessings

There is an old song that goes something like, "When I worry and I can't sleep, I count my blessings instead of sheep..."

Here in our community we are all empowered every day with the worries and troubles of the world, our family and our business.

Yet, we are blessed with a community with little want.

We are blessed with healthy children who are able to attend some of the finest schools in the nation.

We are blessed with a government "of the people, by the people and for the people" and possess the highest amount of individual freedom of any peoples in the world.

WE ARE BLESSED with the right to worship as we please on our Lord's birthday.

We are blessed with the opportunity of rising from the lowest economic and social position to the highest.

We are blessed with a community of people with whom it is a pleasure to live or work.

We are blessed with many beautiful and happy homes, occupied by happy families.

The song ends by saying, "Then I fall to sleep, counting my blessings." So it is when we try to elaborate on our blessings.

THIS HAS been a good year in our community, both in the area economy and cooperation. An example: Christmas decorations downtown are the finest ever, because several groups got together to do the job.

Various citizen groups have been formed to improve our community, both by improving what we have and attracting new businesses into town which would maintain our high quality.

This type of local action will only serve to strengthen our community, because it comes from the citizens.

FOR ALL THESE reasons we should be thankful, on this day of the year that practically all nations celebrate as Christmas.

To our readers and supporters, we at The Eccentric, would like to say thank you for your fine support and cooperation during the past year.

And in keeping with the season, let us say from our hearts Merry Christmas and extend the best wishes for a very joyous holiday.

### Real Danger Is in Extremism

U Thant, secretary general of the United Nations, has in effect voiced his conviction that the world struggle divides principally along economic rather than ideological lines. The contest, as he seems to see it, is between the haves and the have-nots, rather than between conservatives and liberals.

The accuracy of his point of view seems obvious. Yet, this does not alter the fact that the tendency of the haves is to align themselves with the conservatives while that of the have-nots is toward liberalism.

THE REAL menace to the world's future, meanwhile, lies not in either liberalism or conservatism but in extremism. And extremism is the monopoly of neither liberals nor conservatives.

Many great statesmen have indicated that the true hope of mankind is compromise and a spirit of tolerance. These constitute the essence of the unique philosophy of government conceived in America in 1776 and in France in 1792 and made valid

by that supremacy of logic which is the ancient basis of English law.

THESE IDEALS, therefore, are not new. Nor is it a new belief that the fate of humanity hangs not on the triumph of an extremist ideology but on the tolerance and spirit of compromise inherent in the American system.

President Kennedy once told an interviewer that in seeking a solution to any given problem he did not even consider whether that solution classified as liberal or conservative but only whether it was reasonable.

Reasonableness might be defined as conformity to common sense. Political common sense, by practical definition, is the common judgment of a free and untrammelled majority.

American majorities of the past have been proof against the blandishments of extremists. Hope for the future rests on continuance of this healthy attitude.

### From The Eccentric's Point of View...

Recommended as one of 1962's outstanding stories is contained in a recent newspaper article that reads: "END TRIAL, HOFFA ASKS—I'M AFRAID TO GO ON." This relates, of course, to that pellet-shooting episode down in Nashville, Tenn., where Jimmy is engaged in defending himself against an alleged million-dollar kick-back conspiracy case, brought against him by the U.S. attorney-general. While the trial was going on, a young fellow said: "I had a vision a month ago telling me to do it"—which is why Jimmy had to flatten his assailant right in the court room. Newspaper reports of that incident stated that the affair, at the moment, didn't ruffle Hoffa; he passed it off by calling his antagonist "a jerk." Jimmy, it is remembered, never did run away from a fight; his physical stamina, his personal courage were always admired by his friends... respected by his enemies. So, naturally, it is hard to understand why this tough teamsters' labor leader now is afraid to continue the trial in Tennessee.

repercussions—including words from Britain's Prime Minister MacMillan who said: "Mr. Acheson has fallen into an error which has been made by quite a lot of people in the course of the last 400 years, including Philip of Spain, Louis XIV, Napoleon, the Kaiser and Hitler." President Kennedy had to get into the act, to be sure; he let it be known that his administration doesn't agree with Acheson (at least not publicly). So, Reader, you see how even a world figure may stumble over words that result in international frictions.

Suppose, for the moment, that some organization to which you belong gets out a printed or mimeographed record of its proceedings. Suppose that the rules permit those who take part in the discussion to change around the published record of what they say in any way they please. The supposition is preposterous. No serious organization, one might argue, could tolerate that kind of nonsense. There is one serious organization that does. It is the Congress of the United States. Members are allowed to edit and amend and extend their remarks before they are printed in the Congressional Record. As a result, the printed version is often strikingly different from what actually was said on the House or Senate floor. A move is afoot, once again, to amend this foolishly permissive rule. It is high time for the change to be made. A twisted record is an affront to the public.

Millions of Americans wonder if the contents of those crates that are supposed to contain Soviet airplanes being removed from Cuba really consist those military planes. Unless U.S. military men actually board those ships and minutely inspect what's in those crates, how can we be sure? Actually, the Russians in Cuba have had enough time, since President Kennedy demanded their removal, to fabricate the form and outline of various military equipment—thus really leaving all or most of that "offensive" apparatus still in Cuba. Why did Soviet's Mikoyan stay with Castro 24 days? For time to make "dummies" of missiles and airplanes... and to use the dummies "to fool" Uncle Sam? Unless we obtain "on the spot inspection" how can we be certain that the United States is not in danger of being fired upon by Russia from Cuba?

There was a time when there would have been considerable rejoicing at the news that the last U.S. bomber had just come off the production line. There was a time when this would have meant that the chances of war had dwindled to almost nothing. That time is not now. All the news about the last manned bomber means now is that henceforth the nation will depend on missiles instead. The last bombers built, B-52s and B-58s, were both long-range aircraft capable of delivering nuclear bombs at high speed thousands of miles from their home bases. The missiles—the medium range, the intermediate range, the intercontinental missiles—can do the same thing more efficiently. War, already a business of men and machines, is leaning more and more toward the machines.

Here is a former United States secretary of state, Dean Acheson, making a speech at West Point; included in his remarks was something about "... Britain has played out its role as a major Power." Naturally, such comment from ex-President Truman's secretary of state had would

in November as compared with 70 for the same month last year. Of these, 64 involved property damage and 19 resulted in personal injury to 30 people, police said.

### 'George, Just Look at All The Lovely Decorations!'



### PEOPLE'S COLUMN

#### Proposal to Vacate Lincoln Rd. Opposed

To the Editor:  
As a resident of Westchester Village, I would like to comment upon the petition for vacating Lincoln between Windham Lane and E. Breckinridge as reported in your publication of Dec. 6.

There appear to be certain "select groups in our 'village' who feel that only the residents of Middlebury Lane, Berkshire and Westbourne should bear the brunt of traffic to or from Lahser or Maple.

If all roads were open in the subdivision, traffic would be distributed, as it should be.

WE RESIDENTS of Middlebury Lane, Berkshire and Westbourne are also terribly concerned for the safety of our children.

We are also more aware of the frequent excessive speed

#### Yesteryear Happenings

From the Files of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO  
Dec. 20, 1912  
Our attention has been called to signs placed on the Hendrix Farm calling attention to the fact that persons mutilating trees on the property will be prosecuted. About this time of the season for several years past the ornamental trees on this farm have been stolen or mutilated by boys living in that vicinity, which has caused considerable damage to the property.

A meeting of the Citrine League was held last Monday night in the Johnston - Shaw Hall at which By-laws were adopted and the Board of Directors completed by the election of seven members, five of whom are to serve for a term of two years and two for a term of one year. The name of "Citizens League of Birmingham" was adopted as the name of the new organization.

The Birmingham Choral Society will give a concert on Friday evening January 10th in the Methodist church. This society was formed in October of this year and has made very rapid progress considering the short time that rehearsals have been going on. The chorus consists of about sixty voices and the four parts are exceptionally well balanced.

30 YEARS AGO  
Dec. 22, 1932  
One man was killed instantly, another was critically injured, and three women received minor injuries in an automobile collision at the corner of Fourteen Mile and John E. roads at 9:30 p.m. last night. The dead man is William Bleakley, 36 years old, a farmer who lives at the corner of Thirteen Mile and John E. roads. He is the son of Mrs. J. W. Bleakley, 480 Oakland avenue, Birmingham, and the brother of Robert Bleakley, guard at the First National Bank of Birmingham.

Oakland County deputies today were without trace of the well-mannered bandit who held up Mrs. Gnaus, 505 Bryn Mawr road, early Saturday night, and robbed her of a bar pin containing three diamonds, a costly green coat with fur collar, a hat, and a pocketbook containing a \$1 bill. The articles were valued at between \$400 and \$500.

Judging from the low prices in Birmingham markets, this is just the year for a family reunion. A family of five can dine quite luxuriously with turkey and all the trimmings, topped off with fruit, for approximately \$4 to \$4.75. Local merchants estimate. Not in recent years have food prices been so low.

15 YEARS AGO  
Dec. 18, 1947  
Why the city engineering department permitted 242 feet of existing 36-inch storm sewer to dig up and then replaced with new 36-inch pipe, instead of halting operations until the matter (See HAPPENINGS, 8-B)

### Questions Coverage Of Sports at Groves

To the Editors:  
For the past four years The Birmingham Eccentric has displayed headlines such as these "Maples Outshoot Falcons, 82-33, in 1962 Cage Opener" and "Seaholm Tankers Capture Falcons" on their sports pages.

The validity of the articles to follow such headlines as these is not disputable. This is not the purpose of this letter. It is to determine the validity of the sports coverage of Seaholm's athletic events as to the sports coverage of Groves athletic events.

CHUCK SHEPHERD  
Class of '63

### Sees Error In Story on Twp. Zoning

To the Editor:  
I read the Dec. 6 Eccentric report on the Dec. 3 public hearing at the Bloomfield Township Town Hall that they might build a tavern, motel, restaurant and bar; and that area residents, in particular, were opposing the change.

The account contains a regrettable error. The Eccentric reporter gave a definite impression that the thousand persons (and more) who had signed their names to petitions protesting the change were gleaned "from super-markets."

Purpose or not, the clear implication was that the signers were chosen at random, having little (See ZONING, 8-B)

### Traffic Injuries Rise in B'ham, Survey Shows

Traffic injuries in Birmingham during the month of November showed a 20 per cent increase over the same period last year, according to Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley.

Police injuries contributed to this figure with an 80 per cent increase while the number of accidents resulting in personal injury remained the same, he reported.

Vehicle accidents were the leading cause of injuries during November, the chief said, adding that "it is to yield right-of-way and 'following too closely' were responsible for six out of every 10 accidents during the month.

In all, there were 83 accidents

### Eccentricities

By HANK HOGAN

'TIS THE SEASON TO BE JOLLY

As I wandered about our community the last couple of days, I wondered to myself what holiday we really were celebrating.

I saw the multi-colored lights and the various colored Christmas trees, and many pictures of Santa with a big sack on his back, but no crèche, scenes or other religious displays.

On the occasion of preparation for the birthday of Christ, I noticed people fighting for parking spaces, others hurrying around with their feet feeling other than panic because their Christmas shopping hadn't been completed.

I looked out of my office window and saw a woman trying to get out of a parking space but she was blocked by two men trying to get into the space after it was vacated. After yelling and horn honking, the lady finally hopped out of her car and said to the two male drivers, "Stop your arguing and please let me out of the space."

A MAN delivering Christmas trees was offered a cup of coffee on one of our colder days; he commented while drinking it that the people who usually offer delivery men coffee are not the residents, but the help.

I observed a police officer madly writing out tickets for cars improperly parking in front of a church during a service. Granted that these cars were violating the law, still it is Christmas time.

A person to feel a little depressed until I walked into a store and was offered an apple while I shopped.

THEN I wandered out into the street and heard Christmas carols being played over the loudspeakers. It had just started to snow and the community was no longer dirty, but covered with a clean white blanket.

It was home and saw a pile of Christmas cards and upon opening them I noticed that more and more religious cards are being sent.

It was then I felt that things weren't so bad after all, so I lit the fire in the fireplace, sat down on the couch with my spouse and my children and sang Christmas carols.

AFTER ALL, if I wasn't doing anything to make Christmas a joyous religious holiday, and up to that point I wasn't, who was I to criticize others.

With the snow falling outside and the wind whistling around the windows, but our family warm and happy before the fire, I could think only of saying, Happy Birthday, Jesus, and Merry Christmas to all my fellow men.

### City Beat By KEN WEAVER

They say you shouldn't tell your children there is a Santa Claus.

It's too much of a traumatic experience for them, say the psychoanalysts, when they discover that Mom and Dad are really the giver of gifts.

Could be. But I don't recall any great disappointment at this discovery. My Christmas disappointment came at a later age.

One of my older brothers was the culprit who spilled the beans about Santa not being Santa. At first, I didn't believe him; he was just trying to bluff me.

But, as I thought the whole situation out for myself, it made sense that it was actually Mom and Dad who came down the chimney on Christmas Eve and not some guy dressed in a fancy red suit that never got dirty.

THE JOY of receiving was there, just the same. Christmas Eve was as much of a sleepless night as it had been before the revelation; and Christmas morning still held the excitement of opening presents.

It was tradition in our family that adults drew names and then met at our house for the gift exchange on Christmas Eve. The children always opened their gifts on Christmas morning.

I looked forward to the time I would be considered an adult and could participate in the name drawing.

FINALLY, THE year came when I was included. And there came the disappointment.

Oh, Christmas Eve was a blast. I opened gifts, stuffed myself with Christmas goodies and stayed up late.

But Christmas morning was a dud. There were no gifts to open; there were no exciting surprises awaiting me. The glory was over, for another whole year.

This, then, is the disappointment I remember—the realization that the pleasures of childhood were behind me; NOT the revelation of Santa's true identity.

So, let there always be a Santa Claus.

And may everyone have a Merry Christmas!

### Early Deadlines In Effect for Dec. 27 Issue

So that our employes may enjoy the Christmas holiday, The Birmingham Eccentric offices will close at 3 p.m. Monday and will be closed all day Tuesday.

All deadlines for our Dec. 27 issue have been advanced. Advertisers and news contributors are urged to submit their copy as early as possible.

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