FELL, HERE we are again when we must usher in a new year, and no holiday in the year has been greeted with as many varieties of celebrations.

Down through the years, there have been all sorts of parades, whistin blowing, social events, home parties and bell ringings into the wee hours of the morning.

For years, with the coming of television, many folks just sat and waited to hear Guy Lombardo and his orchestra play all the favorities pleces until it was time to drop the ball from the top of a building in New York's Times Square, Unlike Christmas, where the main celebration comes with the arrival of Santa Claus, there is no single person who becomes the center of tooling of horns, the marching of university bands or the major neighborhood parties.

YET, WHEN he looks back through the years, the one celebration that The Stroller likes best— and always thinks of as midnight approaches

and always thinks or as middight approaches—
was the program in our little while church on the hill back home.
While there was always a plan to ring the church bell and we enjoyed going to the belfyr to help pull on the rope, it was the minutes before that stick in

the stroller W.W.

We always had what was called "Night Watch" services, and the main auditorium of the house of worship was filled while walting the big moment.

There was little preaching. Instead, the choir did more than double duty with appropriate anthems. But all the while, our eyes were on the clock. Ten-sion grew as moments slipped by.

WITH ABOUT two or three minutes to go, the paster arose and motioned to the gathering to stand as the time had arrived to bid good-bye to the old year and welcome in the new.

At the signal, we held hands in each pew, even in the side section of the church, and as the organist hit the keys, we sang "Blessed Be the Tie That Binds."

With a minute to go, the men and boys raced for the belfry to help pull on the rope to ring the church bell and let the community know that the New Year-had arrived. It was a touching time, one that has lived in memory.

WITH THE thought that the ringing of a bell was the proper way to usher in the new (welve-menth). The Stroller made certain there was a bell in his back yard when the little while house with the green shutters was bull; when he moved to what was then called "the country" outside Detrolt. It was an old farm bell that 'was brough back from a trip to the East and placed not too far from the back door. On New Year's Eve, the neighbors and friends were invited in to take their turn at the bell.

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U-M offers local classes

Many off-campus credit courses will be offered in Dearborn, Detroit and Royal Oak this winter by the University of Michigan. Classes begin the week of Jan. 7.

the University of Michigan. Classes begin the wew of Jan. 7.
Thirty-five courses are slated for the U-M-Dear-norn campus. These Include offerings from the School of Social Work, as well as courses in business administration, computer and information seience, industrial and systems engineering, education, mathematics, microcomputers for teachers, psychology, sociology, library science, a bilingual administration program and child development associate programs.

scilate programs.

In Detroit, a social work course in primary associations, families, groups and social roles will be taught at the Rackham Educational Memorial Building.

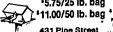
In Reyal Oak, an education course in applied group dynamics will be taught at the Springwood Center.

Center.

A complete listing of the courses and a registra-tion form are available from the U-M Extension Service, 200 Hill, Ann Arbor, 48109-3297, or by call-ing 784-5310 weekdays during business hours.

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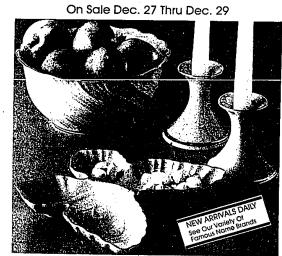
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