

The Birmingham Eccentric
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Since Democratic orators have at once raised the issue of Wendell L. Willkie's business success, it appears likely that the presidential campaign will put to scrutiny Mr. Willkie's career and affairs. That is eminent fact, as long as the campaign is being waged with equal care the concurrent career and affairs of President Roosevelt.

This has been done in factual style by John T. Flynn, the eminent writer on politics and economics, in "The Country Squire in the White House" (Doubleday, Dorsey). A short sketch of the Roosevelt record as reported by Mr. Flynn may be in order.

Franklin D. Roosevelt is the son of moderately wealthy parents. Until present times, he never had a large income of his own, though his mother has made her means available to him. After he left Columbia Law School in 1905, he became a law clerk in Carter, Ledyard & Milburn, New York corporation law firm, where he put in progressively less and less time and never earned more than \$2,000 or \$3,000 a year.

He was in politics consecutively, as state senator and assistant secretary of the Navy, from 1913 to 1921. His only connection with high finance in the time was when, as operator of the Navy Department, he let hundreds of millions of contracts for the American Navy during the World War.

One instance of this connection involves a speech in 1918 in Brooklyn in which Assistant Secretary Roosevelt gleefully boasted that he had "unleashed a much red tape and law-sounding Navy contract-letting that he could have been put in jail for 999 years. Another instance was his record of having let in July, 1919, nine months after the war ended, contracts for 100 crisscrossing air routes, totaling \$181,000,000, on the war-time "cost plus" basis. The amount that the builders could continue on the haste-and-waste basis, and be guaranteed a profit, it no matter what the cost.

On retirement from politics in 1921, Mr. Roosevelt accepted a vice presidency in the New York office of the Fidelity & Casualty Co. of Maryland at \$25,000 a year. He became a partner at almost the same time in the law firm of Roosevelt & O'Connor.

He then spent a great deal of time either in the law office or the bonding company office. Since Mr. Roosevelt was neither an active law practitioner nor an authority on bonds or insurance, it was always plain that the use of his name and political influence was his contribution to both offices.

In 1924, Mr. Roosevelt became a director of the Consolidated Automatic Merchandising Corp., a holding company investing in stocks of several automatic vending machine concerns. The Consolidated's literature promised 400 per cent profit on its stock on the "cost plus" basis. The company was rapidly to replace clocks, vending machines were rapidly to replace clocks in stores. This company went into receivership with a loss of \$750,000. It had paid no dividends.

Mr. Roosevelt was one of the organizers and a director of the American Investigating Corp. and the General Air Service, which proposed dirigibles and planes between New York, Chicago and other points. It paid no dividends, and was liquidated with a small loss.

Mr. Roosevelt, in this same period, was a director of the International Germanic Co., organized to buy up German industrial stocks at a favorable rate of exchange. This concern went into receivership also without profits. A smaller company which similarly speculated in German stocks via the falling German mark, in which he was a director, operated for two years and made a profit, then quit.

In 1922, at a nominal salary, Mr. Roosevelt became president of the American Construction Council, which was formed by the New York City building trades after the scandals and trials of 1920, in order to clean the open house. This was largely the lending of his name to a plan to rehabilitate this industry, and it involved little more than several speeches and statements by Mr. Roosevelt, in one of which he declared that the average contractor was preferable to any governmental regulation.

Mr. Roosevelt gave up all these connections when he became governor in 1929. After his four years as governor, New York State's \$15,000,000 cash surplus was changed into a deficit of \$90,000,000 in a period, it must be said, in which many states were in the red. The New York budget did not balance in any year of Governor Roosevelt's administration.

NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events which have value and which are written by persons not connected with the office of each of the news. All copy must be presented before noon on Wednesday. The right is reserved, however, to make any editorial changes in the work submitted as necessary to the style of the paper and to the mechanical situation in the composing room. Headlines written in the office of the Eccentric will be set in the type. Age references in the copy should be given in full. All newspaper and advertising copy must be in the Eccentric office by Wednesday noon latest for insertion for that week.

If Birmingham's new dog ordinance, requiring immunization against rabies of all dogs before granting them a license, is to be granted then it will mean a loss of freedom for the dogs of this community, we wonder just what the ordinance is all about? Certainly there is no epidemic or rabies scare in this community; confinement of dogs was needed largely upon the fact that, with out immunization, canines may present a dangerous health problem. Added to this, of course, is the fact that dogs do damage lawns and shrubbery.

This latter problem never will be solved, though persons whose property is injured may be made to pay for the damage. Even children, allowed the freedom intended to be theirs, have been known to injure other people's property—and no public official would ever suggest that kids be tied up.

Let's Consider The Good Dogs
The question, in our opinion, comes down to this: are dogs worthwhile members of the human family? A vote on the subject would register an overwhelming decision in favor of the dogs. The question then is one that ought to be rationalized; we do not see why, then, if Birmingham's canines are to be treated against rabies before a license is granted, these same dogs are not allowed some freedom, this freedom always at the expense of the owners.

Health officials, and this is true of Birmingham, Dr. W. Lloyd Kent, admit that the dog problem is the stray dog, not the one owned and given average attention by a family. These strays present the danger of rabies, and also of damage to shrubbery and flowers. Perhaps a stricter watch of stray dogs, with incarceration in county jails, and the loss of the so-called strays, would do much to solve the problem.

Otherwise, by immunization of dogs without their supervised freedom seems to us to bear the impress of some kind of a racket—even an underhanded racket by the average veterinary who otherwise stands to cash in on the rabies scare.

Teaching Germans To Hate
Polish prisoners are being used extensively in Germany for farm work and the Nazi government takes unusual steps to prevent the development of friendships between the prisoners and those for whom they work.

Two copies of a book, "Death in Poland," are being sent to every community in the district. Regardless where the money comes from, it is friendly with the prisoners. The book is filled in detail alleged horrors that Germans suffered in Poland and a reading of the book is expected to incite hate against the Polish prisoners.

The Schwarz Korps, organ of the Elite Clandestine declares that persons in the area are beginning to treat the Poles as equals, even shaking hands with them. It says that any one who reads the book will "take the right attitude toward all Poles, which is that Poles will always be our enemies."

MUCH AS WE LOVE THE Upper Peninsula, we cannot agree that construction of a bridge to connect the two peninsulas will "ever pay off." Regardless where the money comes from, to build the bridge, eventually it must be paid for in taxes and in tolls. We doubt very much whether legitimate tolls will ever pay for the cost and upkeep of such a structure. Again we suggest that prison labor, now so much unemphatically used to build long causeways, instead of minimizing the length of the span, or spans, this plan will improve the morale of unemployed prisoners, and also do the job of connecting the two peninsulas the cheapest possible way.

GRABBING OFF SLICES of so many countries in the present European fracas ought to be convincing proof to the peoples of the United States that history is merely repeating itself, for the world is as it has been, and again; the world has little in common with the old World, except upon lines of academic humanitarianism. This is sad, but nevertheless true.

A MODERATE CONSCRIPTION for the youth of the United States, under the present world conditions, is okay, in our opinion. We do not see why, for, of trying out an one-year volunteer program for our army and navy; this might be enough to turn the current trick.

ONE OUT OF EVERY 28
—FIRST DRAFT OF 400,000 WILL AFFECT ONE MAN OUT OF 28 BETWEEN THE AGES OF 21 AND 31
Illustration of a man in a military uniform.

Knocking on Wood
with JOHN H. HARWOOD
[Editor's Note: In the absence of Mr. Harwood, who is on vacation, we have allowed 175-year-old Zackie Dunn, Baldwin high school senior, to write this column this week. We suggest it reveals what is going on in the mind of a typical American youth. Jack is a loyal youngster, steeped in the traditions of Scouting, too. His trend of thinking represents the attitude of countless thousands of boys in our country today. Of course, Jack's ideas are not in accordance with those of this newspaper so far as sending destroyers to Britain.]

Michigan Mirror
NON-PARTISAN STATE NEWS LETTER

LANSING—There's gold in a snappy sizzling heat wave. And no one knows it better than this individual is fortune. He has a collective fortune invested in properties, equipment and land. And while his payroll is big business it self.

People's Column

The Eccentric is pleased to receive "People's Column" articles. All communications must be signed. But if you wish to remain anonymous, please so indicate in the office by Tuesday noon for publication the following Thursday.

Random Remarks

Manuel Quezon, president, Philippine Commonwealth. "We Filipinos have to do our own thinking and learn from the lessons of contemporary history or bust."

Fifth Column

BISMARCK was famed as German chancellor. "The Communists are now Hitler is fighting to hold his title of 'Munich' chancellor."

Congressional Comment

Subversive Activities in this Country
Last fall, in a period of 35 days, I spoke on 29 different occasions. Just recently I appeared before the House Judiciary Committee in support of a resolution introduced by Senator McClellan for the removal of the Communist Party from the American ballot and thereby curbing Communist political activity in this country.

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For several seasons this column has proclaimed enthusiastically the many merits of the Upper Peninsula, "roof garden de luxe" of the Middle West. North Michigan resort hotels, instead of being envious or resentful, have welcomed our words of praise. The reason is unique, and it is largely geographical. Michigan is not one peninsula; it is two. The tourist must travel through the lower peninsula before he gets to the upper peninsula; this is a good word for one-time tourist benefits both.

George Bernard Shaw, 94-year-old British playwright. "All that America can do is stay out, come in or go to Hitler and Adopt Fascism."

Henry Bernstein, French dramatist, a refugee in the United States. "France is doomed to stay for the time being, but by paying the price of long demoralization and betrayal."

So Ship Locks
Wander No. 1 is the great ship locks in Downtown Sault Ste. Marie.

James G. Harbord, former Chief-of-staff of the American Army in France. "The volunteer system is unreliable even for the regular army and the national guard in time of peace. In a democracy there is the universal obligation to serve."

It is the meek, we are told, that shall inherit the earth. But after the belligents get through with it, will want it?