

The Birmingham Eccentric
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NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events
which are newsworthy and which are written by persons not
connected with the editorial staff of the paper. All copy must
be submitted on Wednesday. The right is
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corrected upon being brought to the attention of the publisher.

The schools of the nation are closing their doors
once again and the advent of summer brings
many young men and
women to the threshold
of their lives.

For a number of years they have pursued the
paths of learning, picking up information and
experience through the years, and
now at last they receive their diploma and step
into the world of grown-ups.

They will find it vastly different from the en-
vironment in which they have been nurtured.
There will be no assignment of particular tasks,
with success surely crowning the efforts of those
who think and do well. In life, unlike in school,
meritorious performance is not always crowned
with success and laurels.

The high schools of Michigan are graduating a
fine crop of young men and women. Many of
them will continue their education at college but
some will not have that privilege. They will go
forth immediately to seek their economic for-
tunes in business endeavor, battling the various
forms of the struggle for profits.

Of those of our graduates who have the oppor-
tunity of attending college are fortunate only
if they make use of the additional education ad-
vantages that come to them. Certainly the train-
ing that college life affords is worth what it
costs, in time and money, but these benefits do
not flow automatically into the being of the stu-
dents of most colleges.

The graduates who have no chance to continue
their studies in colleges or special schools need
not accept any inferiority complex in regard to
their classmates who study longer. While it is
not to be denied that some advantage accrues to
college trained individuals, this is not conclu-
sive in the struggle that engages adults in the
fulfillment of their careers.

The Eccentric wishes to congratulate the stu-
dents of our high schools who complete their
courses this year and, at the same time, to ex-
tend felicitations to those of this county who
complete their college careers. May all of them
play the game of life fairly, earning just re-
wards and rejoicing in the similar success of
their fellowmen.

Importance of the art of printing to mankind
cannot be estimated. It has been called "the art
of preservation," because
it came into the world
in 1440 when Johann
Gutenberg, a German,
invented the first movable type; since that date
the use of printing to record and continue
thoughts and ideas of men and women has
worked tremendous changes in the whole realm
of human life.

It is significant, too, to recall that Gutenberg's
first use of printing confined itself to the repro-
duction of the Bible, thereby placing this im-
portant document into the hands of more peo-
ple.

So, in this year 1940, all over the United
States commemoration of the 500th anniversary
of the discovery and use of movable type is
being observed by the nation's printers and
allied crafts.

So far as the Western Hemisphere is concern-
ed, the first printing recorded was in old Mexico,
in 1540; three centuries ago, in 1640, printing
was made its debut in the United States when
Stephenson Davenport and his son Matthew set
up a press in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where
they printed the Bay Psalm Book.

This year also commemorates the 150th anni-
versary of the death of America's No. 1 Master
Printer, Benjamin Franklin.

Printing, together with its allied arts, consti-
tutes one of this nation's greatest businesses;
too; 335,000 wage earners, not including salaried
workers, in 22,000 establishments in the United
States earn in excess of \$52,000,000 annually,
while the yearly consumption of printed prod-
ucts is more than two and one-half billions of
dollars, not including \$750,000,000 for materials
used.

Truly, printing is a vital and valuable human
activity.

"WINGS OVER EUROPE" is the newest play recent-
ly released by that well known director of war
activities, Adolf Hitler. The playwright is quoted
as saying that "we expect the play to run a brief
course in the several theaters we have billed for
the showing." Admission, of course, is un-
limited billions in material wealth, untold millions
in human bloodshed. What a terrible price man-
kind pays, periodically, for the stupid drama
of war!

HAVE YOU GIVEN a contribution to the Red Cross
in its current campaign for funds? World Affairs
today suggest that one prove his Christianity by
making a direct financial contribution to this
"greatest of all Mothers."

Governor Dickinson recently told an audience
of 25,000 people in Chicago that "the United
States seems head-
Practice What You
Preach, Governor!
moral, and finan-
cial ruin and de-
struction right now."

State is a little," went on the Governor,
"yielding to outside influences, gambling, the
liquor traffic, waste, lavish spending, lowering
of industrial and social morale and indifference,
disrespect and defiance of God's laws are extract-
ing millions from fathers, mothers, boys and
girls that should be used to buy shoes, clothing,
food, fuel and other necessities, and thus mil-
lions are turning to the federal and state author-
ities to be fed, clothed, and warmed."

Pretty right words, Governor. You've diagnos-
ed the case pretty much as it appears to be.

Now, Sir, what do you, as Chief Executive for
Michigan, intend to do about it? What shall be
your own official record in remedying the
situation?

Well, no fair person should ask you to do any
more than you can, within the sphere of your
own influence. So, Sir, we suggest that you be-
gin right here in Michigan by weeding out of
State government any circumstance in the cost
of State government that is not fair charge
upon the taxpayers; we suggest that you do
something to prevent your own administration
from piling up a million-dollar deficit by the
end of this year.

In other words, Venerable Sir, why not prac-
tise what you preach, insofar as the practicing
lies within your own personal and official
power?

If you even start to do this, we'll rise up and
call you blessed!

A year ago when this newspaper sought to bring
together municipal and school officials of south-
western Michigan to fight for Michigan's
When Our Schools
Lost \$150,000
rightful share of
delinquent taxes
by amending the Scavenger Tax Sale Act, not a
single private citizen of Birmingham joined this
crusade. Indeed, only a few officials connected
with local city and school matters came to the
fray. Because the Act was not amended to
protect those who did pay their taxes, Birmingham
city lost an estimated \$250,000 in delinquent
tax assets; Birmingham schools lost more
than \$150,000. These facts are difficult to rec-
ommend to the current wish of a number of local
politicians to amend the Act, and much
higher levels of taxes to support our school teach-
ers. The \$150,000 thus lost would have gone far
toward providing needed assistance to our loyal
teaching staff. (The backward ways of a democ-
racy are hard to understand, in the light of this
citizen disinterest regarding the Scavenger Tax
Sale Act, don't you think?)

While pensions for World War veterans have
heretofore been confined theoretically to service-
connected disability cases, a bill now pending in Con-
gress would break down
this barrier by providing
pensions for needy widows and depend-
ent parents of veterans regardless of disability
as a result of war service.

This means that a man who served a few
months in a training camp will be placed in the
same class with the soldier who died in France
with a bullet through his body. Frankly, we see
no justification in this.

The widow of the veteran who died in France
is entitled to greater consideration from her
Government than the widow of a man who was
unharmful during service confined to a few
months training in this country.

It should also be pointed out that the effect
of this legislation is to place widows, children
and parents of unimpaired veterans in a class
entitled to superior benefits from the Govern-
ment as compared with widows, children and
parents whose husbands, fathers or sons did not
happen to be of fighting age.

As we have repeatedly pointed out that the Gov-
ernment cannot do much for veterans
wounded in the World War and for parents,
widows and children of combat dead and in-
jured. If the Government has additional funds
available for pensions, it should increase the
amount to be paid to these classes.

The bill now before Congress does not give
an additional aid to those who really suffered
the loss of loved ones during the struggle.

How much does it cost the taxpayers of Michi-
gan to send a young man or woman to the Uni-
versity of Michigan for one
year?
To Support U. of M.

According to the next year's budget just adopted by the Board
of Regents, the sum of \$6,821,356.80 is the
amount deemed necessary for the expenses of
the State's largest educational institution at Ann
Arbor. The approximate cost of this year's student en-
rollment of 13,019, for instance, this year's student en-
rollment means that each student costs for next year
\$524.00 per year; this sum, of course, does not
include personal and many other student ex-
penses—the \$524.00 means that every student
invests in the University's budget.

Five hundred and twenty-four dollars is a
lot of money, no doubt about that; but it is
cheap insurance for the preservation of a democ-
racy and high standard of living if it does
effective work among the students.

We wonder just how many Ann Arbor boys
and girls really appreciate what they cost the
people of Michigan, as well as what they cost
legions of one of the nation's greatest Univer-
sities. For a large part of this per capita \$524.00 is
paid for by the whole people of Michigan.

A dignified reminder by the Board of Regents
of the University of Michigan, relative to this \$524.00 per student
cost, might make many of these most apprecia-
tive of the American type of civilization. The
same reminder to students of other State-sup-
ported educational systems might also be in-
keeping with the problems that face our Ameri-
can way of life.

THE FIRST STEP
WATER DEFENSES
FIFTH COLUMN ACTIVITY
People's Column
Congressional Comment
I'll Leave It To You

Knocking on Wood
with JOHN H. HARWOOD
ON TOWARD WAR
Most significant fact of the week—or of nearly every week since September—is the ever-mounting pressure to put this nation into war.

People's Column
The Eccentric is pleased to receive communications from its readers, but contributors must be identified. Letters must be typed, double-spaced, and must be in the office by Tuesday noon for publication the following Thursday.

I'll Leave It To You
BY JOHN DENLER
It is a well-worn adage for Americans to be patriotic and to love their country with the deepest kind of love, and to insist that their government take the steps necessary to protect all those who are engaged in the struggle for freedom.

CONGRESSIONAL COMMENT
BY REPRESENTATIVE GEORGE A. DONDERO
Recently I was asked by a University of Michigan publication to express my views on the question of whether or not the national budget should be balanced.

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