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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1940

NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events which have local and state-wide interest. The right to be published is granted to all persons who submit material to the office. The Eccentric is not responsible for the return of material not published.

Regardless of whether or not you agree with her social and political philosophies, you probably will acquiesce in the statement that Eleanor Roosevelt, the President's wife, is anything but a mere social butterfly.

"How Can We Do It?", Mrs. Roosevelt

Roosevelt, the President's wife, is anything but a mere social butterfly. Perhaps no First Lady of this land ever gave so much of her personal time and attention to the public as the present Mistress of the White House, part of whose activities are on the public lecture platform.

Mrs. Roosevelt was in this area the other evening speaking at Cranbrook, in adjacent Bloomfield Hills. "Problems of Youth" was the title of her lecture, and she revealed quite an intimate knowledge of the contemporary problems of youth, even though she failed to prescribe a working solution for today's youth.

"We of the older generation must strive to make democracy a living symbol to youth," Mrs. Roosevelt said. "Too long have we regarded democracy as something which came to us easily. To enjoy its blessings of freedom, entails many hardships. Parents must teach and practice democracy. Youth must know democracy to live democracy."

In her own words, in a letter published in last week's Eccentric, Mrs. Lyle said: "I referred to the 'Problems of Youth' in her talk Tuesday night. I was the problem of the world to solve in the 'Problems of Youth' I went with her and she was extremely open-minded to hear our First Lady lecture on the 'Problems of Youth' I came away with a feeling of hope and confidence. I know what the problems are all right; but she does not know the answers nor did she even make a small suggestion which might be of a practical help to the many students that made up a large section of her audience."

In speaking of limited school opportunities in rural sections of our country, of the United States being the land of equal opportunity, she pointed out that in the country they were "no better than any other boy" in the country. "I don't suppose that that would suit out of the country," she said. "I don't suppose that that is not the point. It is a land of equal opportunity. Abraham Lincoln went from a log cabin to the White House, and from an obscure boy to the head of the largest industrial concern in the world today."

She failed to recognize is the fact that given the same opportunity, the capacity of boys and girls, men and women, for concentrated effort and accomplishment is very different. There are ambitious people and lazy people. She deplored the fact that a child in a C.C. camp did not take advantage of the varied "opportunities" presented to him there to improve his thinking. Shortly after, when questioned in all sincerity by a lady in the audience as to what answer she would give to the boy who had worked his way through college, she himself admitted to obtain employment. She replied that the Government should employ him to provide jobs for one of our eight young men in every town. These are the "opportunities" of C.C. camps and W.P.V. projects, etc. I presume she considers these as "opportunities."

She has no idea how many college men aspire to a future in a C.C. camp as a life vocation, or would the reserve that sphere of activity for the United States be not enough interested in education to go beyond the fourth grade? Is the answer bigger and better C.C. Camps? And more shelves for the books that are not read? These are the democracy cannot function without men who labor with their hands. Why did she not dignify the petitions circulating among your own friends? (Come into The Eccentric office for one or more petitions—and thus will you perform a practical service in efforts to lower your present high taxes.

A SMALL TEXAS TOWN some years ago named one of its streets after Col. Charles A. Lindbergh. Because this town did not like the fier's public utterances last summer on the subject of America's foreign policy, it has changed the street's name to "Corrigan," after the "wrong-way" flier. All of which reveals community fickleness. Lindbergh's aerial contribution to humanity easily overshadows other personal activities, even though the Texas town doesn't like some of them. However, this is an interesting proof of the superficiality of the world in which we live.

REPORTS COME FROM GERMANY that, beginning January 1, 1941, the flesh of healthy dogs will be an item of diet for the stomachs of residents of that country. This suggests that Hitler's subjects are unable to maintain normal food sources. It also suggests that Germany's conquered enemy countries are probably worse off than the folks within the Reich—which is pretty awful. Saddest of all, in this most brutal of modern wars, food sent to France, Belgium, Holland, Poland, and other defeated areas by the United States is being hoarded by the Germans. The Hitler followers—which raises the sadder question: "Why send any food at all to Europe, if this be the case?"

A THOUGHT FOR THANKSGIVING

Are you weary of paying higher and higher taxes to the State of Michigan? Do you really want to lower your State Taxes? Legislature, which convenes early in January, with the fact that it should begin an era of less spending?

If your answer is a hearty "Yes," then lend your eyes to reading these lines, as we publish facts relative to the movement being carried by the Chamber of Commerce of Michigan to "Use the Axe—Cut the Tax."

Legislators generally wish to economize; "pressure groups" chiefly are responsible for higher taxes; when the citizens themselves, however, become a large "pressure group," they can influence their representatives at Lansing—and that is your best way to lower your taxes.

Petitions are now being circulated in Birmingham and Oakland County, (you may sign one at The Eccentric office), to have the taxpayers themselves show our Legislators that they want less spending by the State Government; these petitions will be turned over to our public officials, to give them moral support when "pressure" groups accuse them of Lansing "for bigger and better appropriations."

Says A. K. Moore, Executive Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce of Michigan: "We want to have a stack of these petitions to show our lawmakers cannot see over the top of their noses."

"In view of the huge Federal expenditures caused by the preparedness program, expenditures by our Michigan Legislature are not only most wasteful, but Michigan taxpayers are to survive the shock."

The Chamber of Commerce of Michigan is co-operating with the Michigan Public Expenditures Survey, which organization has gathered a wealth of information about our State Government—information which will be of great value in this campaign, the first ever-attempted for economy.

Signers of the petitions pledge themselves as follows:

- "We, the undersigned citizens and taxpayers of the State of Michigan, believe that the present revenues of Michigan's cities and towns, and of the State, are more than sufficient to care adequately for all the needs of the State. Further, we believe that these revenues are efficiently collected and that all expenditures are scrupulously examined for value received."

"We, therefore, earnestly recommend that you, as members of the guiding financial committees of the State Legislature, as well as all other government officials, give the fullest possible support to the enactment of a program that will reduce the State Government to a sound fiscal basis, such a program should contain the following salient features:

- 1. Total State budget for 1941-42 and 1942-43 at not more than the total for 1940-41, or less, than that of the last biennium.
2. Enactment of budget control statute for the State Legislature, a system of checks and balances that must be reckoned with on election day.
3. Centralization of the State's tax collection system, in order to assure the highest possible revenues from existing sources of taxation.
4. If these steps are carried out and prudent allocations of revenues is made the cardinal rule of government will be ample funds to operate the Government without the borrowing of any kind being in any way necessary to the State. Further, the existing deficit of \$27,000,000 could be wiped out in a few years' time by these methods. We assure you that the State of Michigan is not in a position to pay National Defeat bills, will not tolerate a continuing spending for spending's sake, the levying of additional State taxes, or the levying of costly bonds to meet the deficit."

The figures below showing how the state pay roll has increased, will be of interest to Michigan taxpayers. While some of the department heads have succeeded in reducing their payrolls, the majority of the departments show an increase each year. Certainly the total shows a consistent increase.

Table with columns for Department and years 1930-31, 1931-32, 1932-33, 1933-34, 1934-35, 1935-36, 1936-37, 1937-38, 1938-39, 1939-40. Rows include Administrative Bd., Agriculture, Justice, Attorney-General, Civil Service, Conservation, Education, Highway, Labor Assistance, Public Instruction, Public Service Com., State, Treasurer, Unemployment, and National Guard.

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STEPHEN COLLINS FOSTER, beloved American composer of Negro and other sentimental ballads, last week was elected to America's "Hall of Fame." Foster died in poverty, overcome in part by John Barleycorn, when only 35 years old. But his name is forever in our nation, as well as throughout the world. Good music speaks a universal language of the human heart, doesn't it?

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Knocking on Wood

with JOHN H. HARWOOD

THE CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR MOST of us have little patience with persons who object to military service and refuse to have anything to do with the nation's present military situation. We feel that in times like these, the nation's safety is the obligation of all.

However, the conscientious objector does perform a useful role. He is the opinion of Arthur E. Morgan, former president of Antioch, former writing in the current issues of Antioch Notes. Dr. Morgan's conclusions apply just as well to the non-conformists who have been found in every period of society's development. His article follows.

When a bridge is rebuilt under traffic, the inconvenience and danger of removing the old bridge and rebuilding the new are tolerated because the new bridge is more needed. International relations depend on force, but must also depend on good will, or civilization may be destroyed. The world is not ready for the present situation, never will be unless its building is commenced, and progresses to a point where the world is ready to take first steps to trying to live in peace and tolerance.

However individualists one may be, he must live and work with others. Modern society can exist only by the orderly cooperation of its members, and every government has ways to enforce such cooperation. Citizens must pay taxes regardless of whether they individually approve all public expenditures. Children must attend school. Since men differ endlessly in interests and beliefs, often they differ in opinion or civilized society could not continue.

Men crave individual freedom of action, and it is a perpetual problem of society to adjust freedom of action to the need for order. Present social conditions do not represent ultimate values. Society is in a process of evolution, and a better society will be a different society. Sometimes in bringing about such a change, the difference in opinion for a time may face social disapproval. A wise society will be tolerant of sincere-minded men, even when they differ in ways that seem inconvenient, or even dangerous. Such tolerance helps social evolution.

In normal times a wide range of self-direction is advisable. In emergency personal freedom may be restricted to provide necessary unity, as when, during epidemics, people must submit to quarantine, and perhaps to inoculation. For such times refuge unity of action at such times brings upon them concentrated public disapproval.

Probably most Americans believe that our country and institutions are in danger, and that uniform, compulsory military service is the fairest way to meet the situation. The public is intolerant of those who would selfishly evade that service. Yet, it is in just such times of stress that hard-core elements of our society may be destroyed through lack of discrimination between selfish evasion and conscientious effort toward world order.

Society and the Non-conformist The conscientious objector lives that war, because of its methods, and because of its effects on the temper and character of men, prevents achievement of the legitimate ends it seeks. After the World War he saw military victory, as usual, used to impose inequity and to sow seeds of new war. He notes that every people who believes that its use of force is to protect it against force, or to remove injustice. He believes that while war has long been a habit, in the course of social evolution it must be replaced by reliance on good will as the only sound basis for society, and that men will respond to good will that has become plainly evident to them. He believes this change will not come suddenly, and that the

example of many individuals persistently acting in good will, for a long period, will be necessary before nations will be ready to rely on mutual consideration. He believes that before the increase of reliance on good will has brought about the removal of all affected public policy that abate sovereignty, economic barriers, and inequities will be replaced by mutual consideration and fair dealing, that ethical principles will apply between nations, and that causes of war will be largely removed. He believes his best contribution to this change is a protest to look from reliance on force.

Those who rely on force may feel that while freedom of action should be recognized that in emergency individual conviction must give way to united action in order to insure the will of the majority. Yet for one who believes in good will to give up his position at such times is to assume the practical futility of that position. He believes that only by holding to his course, even though force is used against him, can his contribution. He believes that unless many individuals persist in times of stress, the change in social conditions, necessary changes in social temper may never occur, and evolution toward good will may be an idle dream.

What should be done? The conscientious objector should welcome inquiry into his motives, to assure that he is not trying to evade danger and duty. He should be a good citizen, and should live his life in all relations, not just an attitude toward war. He should recognize that in relying on force, most men are acting sincerely. He should respect the right of others to make their own choices to respect his. He should not obstruct national defense.

Public officials, when they deal with a sincere conscientious objector, do well to respect his position, for in his own way he is understanding and making a contribution to human society which must be made if mankind is not to destroy itself. Present social conditions, Allies achieved overwhelming victory in the war to end war. The tragic aftermath of that victory suggests tolerance and respect for those who sincerely and thoughtfully seek a different solution. Most great social advances were begun by a few persons. A wise society will not destroy a minority that, without violence, is committed to finding a better way.

ARTHUR E. MORGAN. A CHILD'S THANKSGIVING I'm thankful for a mother dear to teach me right from wrong. For bread and milk and other food that keeps me well and strong. For flowers in summertime and splashy puddles when it rains. In winter for the snow and ice and frosty window panes. Where trees and birds are painted, and ships and castles gay. And I'm thankful for my play with my dog and my cat. My Sunday clothes, the radio, my baseball and my bat. For music every morning when we march along the hall. For my story books and games, and for my dog and cat. My Sunday clothes, the radio, my baseball and my bat. For music every morning when we march along the hall. For my story books and games, and for my dog and cat. My Sunday clothes, the radio, my baseball and my bat. For music every morning when we march along the hall. For my story books and games, and for my dog and cat.



Michigan Mirror

NON-PARTISAN STATE NEWS LETTER

LANSING—The Michigan vote in the election for Governor and Lieutenant Governor in the Upper Peninsula.

Because of the Republicans' "anti-bus" fight at the Grand Rapids convention in September, observers have scanned the returns carefully to detect any sign of a split in Wayne or Kent counties. The Roosevelt-Van Wagoner and Willie-Dickinson votes were nearly identical in each case. There had been some rumors, prior to the election, that a "trade" was under way to sell out Dickinson for Van Wagoner in favor of Willie. Yet the actual returns seem barren of such speculation.

A Possible Cue Now that the fighting is over, amateurs and professionals alike are chipping in their "own cents' worth" of analysis as to why the voters did as they did.

Plausible, at least, is the following theory which seems to fit logically the Michigan vote at hand: The Michigan outcome, like the national outcome, is a result, directly of the record-smashing, history-making activity of one man—Herr Hitler!

Last spring the domestic failure of the Roosevelt administration—defeat, unemployment, labor dissatisfaction—pointed to a popular reaction in November. Even immediately after the June convention the Gallup polls showed the leading by a majority of electoral votes over Roosevelt.

Something happened to turn public opinion. And that occurrence was not political propaganda—persuasion by words—but historic events. The Detroit-Huron-Clinton Park & Parkway Association.

H. B. EARHART, President. PARAGRAPHS A new movement to abolish the dime, some ill-fated from the start. "With what other coin can you lighten the load screw in a radio?"—San Francisco Chronicle.

Impossible It is pretty hard to keep up with your neighbors without falling behind your creditors.—Spring-Field Union.

It Won't Matter If the traffic on our highways get much bigger—it won't make much difference if they do beat the trains to railroad crossings. Life.

To Fill A Need Wanted—Charter members for a Society for the Removal of Old Houses from Bellefontaine Park. Agent Election Posters from Billboards.

Can't Keep Up A condition has grown up in which our young at home can only get along with a radio running in case of a breaking development in geography.—Los Angeles Times.

Nothing Strange This item says that a Philadelphia pianist has only one hand. "What of it? I know several singers who have no voice at all."

that religious instruction should be left to Churches and parents. I have received reports from the U. S. A. stating that the Bible in schools question is being taken over, owing to doubt, to the activities of the Gideons, of the 502 State Street, Chicago, who are supplying Bibles, free, to schools.

France, for about the last 60 years, has prohibited religious instruction in the schools, which has been one of the factors in the increase of juvenile crime and the restriction of births which has doubtless aided in the fall of France through lack of man power for the defence of the country. The 13 stripes in the American flag should be a reminder that the 13 original States provided for Bible reading in the schools.

Please do not look upon this letter as an intrusion, as I send my Bulletin to several countries where the Bible is not read in the schools, including Russia, a Colonial, earnestly hope that the Monroe doctrine may be extended to include New Zealand.

SAMUEL PEARSON 51 McKinley Crescent, Brooklyn, Wellington, New Zealand. 1st November, 1940.

Editor, The Eccentric: This is a letter of sincere thanks to you and your newspaper. It is to let you know how deeply the officers, the trustees and the members of this Association appreciate the information which you gave the subject of the Parkway-Playground Program. Proposal in your news columns.

Now we can rejoice over the outstanding success of our measure at the polls and also over the fact that the Parkway-Playground program, over the years, will make our area a far safer, healthier and happier place in which all of us can work and live.

Again, we are sincerely and deeply grateful to you for your help. The Detroit-Huron-Clinton Park & Parkway Association. H. B. EARHART, President.

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Line Was Busy Tom—"Was it a big wedding?" "Um—yes, I got in line twice to kiss the bride and nobody noticed it."

SIGNATURE LOANS TO WABEEK STATE BANK WITH SATISFACTORY CREDIT RATING

Wabek State Bank of Detroit BIRMINGHAM OFFICE—WABEEK BLDG. FERRDALE OFFICE—141 WEST NINE-MILE RD. MAIN OFFICE—FISHER BLDG., DETROIT DOWNTOWN OFFICE—FORD BLDG.