

The Birmingham Eccentric

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NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events which have news value and which are written by persons not connected with the editorial staff of the paper.

Very few weekly newspapers in America publish special spring and fall fashion sections, such as came with last week's Eccentric.

We Are Proud Of It, Too! You think you know that you will know that your community is capable of getting out a well-printed ten-page edition on book paper, and that it already has won widespread comment, not only local, but from other sections of the State.

What manner of man is Franklin D. Roosevelt that he causes a great American daily newspaper that has been Democratic for 100 years—now for Wendell L. Wilkie, a Republican?

Something terrific has happened in the editorial mind of the Cleveland Plain Dealer, when recently it announced its inability to support the man it did plead for heartily in 1932, a bit less heartily in 1936.

The Plain Dealer's reasons may be seen in these two foreword paragraphs: The Democratic national platform of 1932 was liberal, forthright and courageous.

Now, here's a novel question for the learned jurists of the land of the brave and the home of the free.

The Law and A Beard One Harry Strauss, alleged killer, slated to come to trial next month, is growing a beard in prison while detained to await trial.

ALTHOUGH HE RECEIVED fewer votes last week in the primary election than when he was running for Lieutenant Governor, Governor Dickinson ought to feel good about winning the nomination. It proved that about 225,000 Michigan Republicans want him kept in office, even though slightly more than that number voted for the other Republican candidates.

BRIMMINGHAM WILL REGRET that the Louis J. Giffels family, of Kennewas avenue, is going to move to Buffalo where Mr. Giffels, for years manager of Olympia in Detroit, will take over new duties in a similar capacity at the eastern end of Lake Erie.

THIS IS THE MONTH when millions of young folks go back to school and college. During the next nine or ten months the educators will have in their possession the plastic minds of these young people; let us pray that school folks will better measure up to their educational responsibilities in these confusing times.

THE NUMBER OF BRIMMINGHAM voters who went to the polls at last week's primary election was the lowest since 1934. Birmingham boasts of its high average citizen intelligence and interest in the American way; last week's total votes cast suggests that the habit of disinterested objectivity assumed asset of intelligence.

QUICKLY, NOW, can you tell how many shopping days remain before Christmas? And when you have answered this, how about making out your shopping list in advance and getting in on the early bargains?

If there was ever a time in the last million years when we needed leaders, it is now, now

Chaotic World Demands chaos Leaders from Business Stratum, Urges Pitkin

Pitkin, distinguished author, educator, and analyst of our times, writing in the current Rotarian magazine. "If ever we bring order out of this chaos, it will be through leadership—large and small—coming from the business and professional stratum of our population."

"There's a challenge to the business and professional men of our planet," Dr. Pitkin writes. "There's a job to do. The world is on fire. You can't put it out with an eight-hour day. You can't put it out by reading books on the nature of combustion. You can't put it out by debating all night whether it is better to pour water on it or to throw sand on it or to cover it with wet blankets. Great businessmen of the Old World once sat at their desks, twiddling thumbs and musing over the sad state of affairs. Where are they now? Ask the wind. Great statesmen de-layed in the hope of finding some easy way out of their crises. Where are they now? Once again I suggest: ask the wind."

To the thousands of small-town businessmen who ask "How can I help?" Andrew Pitkin says: "The answer reduced to its lowest terms runs thus: Liberty, like chaos, begins at home. They come and go from there outward. Where do you live? Rio de Janeiro, you say? Or Hartford, Wisconsin? Sorry, but that's the wrong address. You live in the world. Old frontiers are going down in flames. All of us are citizens of the world, not by choice and planning, but by default." "The need is urgent for men in small communities and large who are experts and can lead wisely."

How become a leader? "Give something to live for," plan far ahead! Dr. Pitkin declares. "This is primary advice for anyone who would lead his fellows. But there are three other matters of leadership, much more. Here are six things leaders, especially those in politics and government, must do: 1—perceive current trends; 2—evaluate these trends and take a definite position; 3—draw up a program; 4—organize all such people to the end of putting this program over; 5—deal with opponents effectively during the campaign to put it over; 6—administer the program after it has been adopted."

As the schools of the United States begin another year's work, it is well for Americans to take pride in the spectacle which cannot be duplicated elsewhere.

In this country some thirty million children will begin or continue their education. It will cost the nation more than \$2,500,000,000 to provide educational facilities for its future citizens. More than one million men and women are employed as instructors in the public and private schools of the nation.

While naturally proud of the educational system of this democracy, Americans should never forget that the processes of education, like other processes, are constantly subject to change and improvement. While we should not be quick to accept the fads which are introduced by so-called experts, we should not close our minds to the possibility of increasing the efficiency of our school system.

Thousands of local and nearby children will soon resume their studies. They will go to schoolhouses to be instructed by their adults. The courses they take represent the best judgment of their elders.

It is gratifying to learn that, more and more, the groups are considering the problems of the child-mind and attempting to make the educational system fit the needs of the pupil in order to develop boys and girls into substantial citizens of this democracy.

WENDELL WILKIE is the name of an American chap who, starting as a crumb, became head of a great American enterprise; that means he fulfilled the American idea of SUCCESS. Now he is a Republican candidate for President of the United States against Franklin D. Roosevelt. Mr. Wilkie's personal history reveals that he was NOT a success in business. November 5 is the day when American voters make their preference between the two candidates; the results of this election will prove whether or not a majority of Americans are really in sympathy with the American idea on what constitutes SUCCESS.

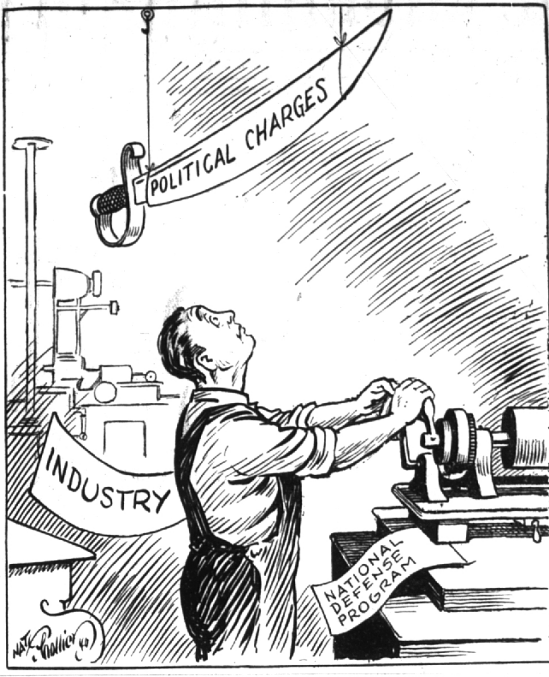
BRIMMINGHAM EXCHANGE CLUB members last week were told that 71 tax-payer groups in Michigan are banded together to keep taxes down. The idea is a fine one, of course; however, we have gone their ways, but we still exist. Upon my ink pages there appears the following: The story of this place throughout the years. I told of youth and war, of girls and wed. Of rich and poor alike, of thief and sage. And how they lived—though most of them are dead.

The Country Paper Speaks I am the oldest business in this town: Old mills have been abandoned; I persist. Old houses, old hotels of great renown Have gone their ways, but I still exist. Upon my ink pages there appears the following: The story of this place throughout the years. I told of youth and war, of girls and wed. Of rich and poor alike, of thief and sage. And how they lived—though most of them are dead.

While ageless I am of the present age; Man's varied acts have always been my text— What happened long ago, and what comes next. Though I am old, in truth I still can say: The Indian boy he so near to my date. Both yesterdays and morrows I survey. Of ne'er-do-wells and those of high estate. I lived because I served, and still shall live Because, of all I have, to all I give!

But in the state primary the darkhorse is the equal of the favorite. At least, his chances of winning are as good as his rival's. Dr. Keyes' good government, embolized on a myriad of newspaper advertisements, billboards and direct mailing pieces, did what no party convention would have done for the Dearborn crowd. The boys at Lansing are still scratching their heads and wondering how it could have happened. One answer is: It could take place only as a primary election. And so, if you aspire for state office, take comfort. If you deplore the breakdown of party organization and party responsibility, read the news and weep.

THE SWORD OF DAMOCLES



Dr. Eugene Keyes, Darkhorse! I'll Leave It To You . . .

LANSING—Riding on a well advertised slogan, "Keyes for Good Government," Dr. Eugene C. Keyes, a darkhorse candidate from Dearborn, provided a surprise feature of Michigan's primary election this month.

He led a field of young men for the Republican nomination of lieutenant governor. Virtually unknown among party leaders, Dr. Keyes is today the subject of attention by old-time politicians. Republican members of the State Senate are wondering "who" is next to Dr. Keyes and how they may fare in the next legislative appointment committee. Most of these senators is planning a trip soon to Dearborn, perhaps to visit Ford's dearborn village and then to "drop in" casually for a chat with the new state figure.

The Republican nominee has the distinction of being a three-in-one professionally licensed physician, dentist and lawyer, all at the same time. His popular-price medical clinic at the automobile building in Wayne county is envied by rival practitioners for its profitable operation. And yet Dr. Keyes has never been a member of the state or county medical societies.

Because of the apparent cost of Keyes' primary campaign, more than one Lansing observer has wondered how it was being financed. From the friends of the Dearborn physician-dentist-lawyer comes the assurance that Keyes, a business success, has paid the bills himself. He made a vote independent of any group and was not pledged to factional commitments.

True, Dr. Keyes was elected one year ago to the city council of Dearborn, but that is long ways down the ladder from the office of lieutenant governor, glorified somewhat by the 1939 legislature which made it a \$6,000-a-year job. The sudden death of Governor Fitzgerald had demonstrated the possibilities which this office offered, automatically elevating Luren T. Dickinson into the governor's chair. Because Mr. Dickinson is 81 years of age, it is inevitable that interest will center to a great degree on his running mate as candidate of the party.

The organization lieutenant governor were to be made at a party convention, such as is the case for state treasurer, attorney general, secretary of state and auditor general, an independent candidate of the type Dr. Keyes wouldn't have had the proverbial snail's chance.

The organization custom is to recognize the loyal party worker whom the leaders feel can be trusted. Or perhaps the "powers that be" weigh the geographic, class and possibly religious factors at the ballot box and cut a deal which is henceforth relayed down to the rank and file. In the latter procedure the unknown may be given an opportunity, but it is usually for a reason known only to a select few.

Staggering Appropriation One billion acres of America's finest soil, not to produce enough wheat at present market prices, to equal this huge total of money spent on higher taxes than the average annual acreage of land under cultivation for all crops is about 300,000,000 acres; this is less than one-third the acreage necessary to meet this staggering need in a single year.

These astronomical appropriations will necessarily be reflected in higher taxes on the American people have ever before been called upon to pay. Already our industry is paying heavy taxes; last year industrial taxes aggregated more than \$600 for every person on the payroll—according to the American Federation of Laborers, tax reports of 183 leading corporations indicated such an average.

Knocking on Wood!

with JOHN H. HARWOOD

WE ATTENDED A big press preview in Detroit last week for one of the new cars, and as might be expected, almost every conversation inevitably turned to politics. With newspaper and advertising men present from many sections of the country, the various points of view were very interesting, and particularly cogent were the observations of the gentleman who sat at our right—a man representing a big Southern magazine.

Wilkie is not likely to take many southern states, he said, for the reason that after generations of voting Democratic, few people are likely to change. "On the other hand, people in the south, as great respecters of tradition, are sensitive about the Third Term or our acquaintance with Hitler. He would not declare, "If Wilkie is smart, he will hit the Third Term hard when he is out looking for the best political issue on which he will get anywhere."

All Heard Before Across the table sat a heavy-set advertising man from Chicago, and on this subject he sounded like a man who had memorized his hand-outs from the last election. It was "Roosevelt and ruin!" "The man's crazy!" "He wants to be a dictator!" "That other choice you mentioned, he wore a couple of Wilkie buttons."

Our friend from the South remarked that Wilkie has buttoned until a couple of weeks ago and then I took it off. I came to the conclusion that if I could wear the elevator man or the janitor to wear one, I had done something; but my wearing it did me no good. Everybody I know in a business way is going to vote for Wilkie anyway. You know, when you see the man on the street—old fellow driving an old car and barely able to make both ends meet—scowls the bottom of his eyes so heavy for Wilkie, there's a reaction. He begins to figure that if all these well-to-do fellows are so strong for Wilkie, then Roosevelt must be his man. That may be poor reasoning, but it is the way millions of people feel about it.

The man from the South was also disappointed in Wilkie's failure to "turn on the heat."

Called to Say "A big group of farm paper men were talking to Rushville last week, and we went there, expecting to get something that would write up for our papers. Nothing happened. Wilkie took us out to his farm, we talked a little in generalities, but that was all." An automobile man observed that the factory workers are still pretty strong for Roosevelt, but that a great many middle-class people were switching this time. "That's Wilkie's only chance," he observed.

Later, we looked over the new cars and marveled at their beauty and quality of workmanship. America is still creative while Europe is straining to produce more instruments of death and destruction.

DESPOTISM PRODUCES LITTLE Since 1935, the number of chemical patents in the United States—one important measure of progress—has increased 15 per cent, while the number of chemical patents in leading foreign countries was decreasing 12 to 30 per cent. It is significant.

To those who may think that it is lost if Germany should win its present contention, let them remember that Germany is exhausting its men, machines and other forms of wealth and capital at a tremendous pace; that there is no one else to compete with her in the field of invention; that Germany is in a competitive race with Germany or anybody else.

What great invention has Germany ever brought forth? Even in the field of war machines, who invented the tank, the machine gun, the airplane? Not Germans, True, but not the American either.

Arthur J. Altmeyer, chairman, "No European nation has found it necessary to curtail its social insurance program in the face of Edward R. Burke, U. S. Senator "All men should be trained to defend themselves in case they are called on to defend the nation."

Frank Knox, Secretary of the Navy "The only safety in the world we're living in now is to be so strong that our enemies will be afraid to attack us."

Advertisement for Wabek State Bank of Detroit. Text includes: "BUY INSURANCE FROM YOUR OWN AGENT", "The cost may be added to your balance", "Wabek State Bank of Detroit", "BIRMINGHAM OFFICE—WABEK BLDG.", "FERNDALE OFFICE—141 WEST NINE MILE RD.", "MAIN OFFICE—FISHER BLDG., DETROIT", "DOWNTOWN OFFICE—FORD BLDG."