

A free, responsible and aggressive Press in democracy's first line of defense

Knocking on Wood

with JOHN H. HARWOOD

EXTENDING THE DRAFT TERM FROM what we have been able to gather from draftees stationed here and there about the country, they are considerably disappointed in the fact that a longer term of service is in prospect.

There has even been talk of a strike, or a march on Washington in protest, but I doubt whether anything will ever come of it.

Boys Are Rarified But there is no doubt that the boys are rarified about having been led to believe one thing, and then getting a deal of a different sort.

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Safety Program Launched by Police

The Eccentric is glad to report that a safety program for Birmingham has been launched by the Police Department with the co-operation of the Safety and Traffic Division of the Automobile Club of Michigan.

In that regard, The Eccentric, for several weeks has urged proper strict attention to prosecution of lawbreakers in accidents in which officers were not witnesses.

We have discussed the problem thoroughly with the City Manager and in defense of the department, he has cited this reason of that reason for failure to prosecute in examples.

However, the Manager has assured us that the Police Department will exercise a reasonable effort to investigate and to prosecute on their own initiative every traffic violation in which conviction appears possible.

We are willing to let the entire matter rest at that point. The Eccentric is not carrying on a crusade, nor is there the slightest of personal feeling involved.

Things appear to be under way. Our Police Chief, no doubt, will be able to effect numerous advances in the next few months.

Nearly thirty thousand ideas have been submitted to the National Inventors' Council by Americans who think they have discovered some gadget or other that will be helpful to national defense.

It is reported that less than one hundred possessed merit and that only one or two were of "great importance."

The council continues anxious to hear from those who have suggestions for ideas. If an idea is utilized, compensation will be made even if the matter is kept secret for purposes of defense.

Activation freezes the face; dissipation involves the race; exhaustion pines for the race; that's the cycle of achievement, of progress. Then follow rest and wonderful recollection of having run the race!

IN PREPARATION for striking but three chisel blows into an uncut diamond, valued at \$2,000,000.00, in New York recently, a distinguished expert spent many months studying the construction of the gem.

A VERY REAL PLAN for national defense, along the frontier, would be for the New Deal to curtail all unnecessary expenditures for its various "pet" agencies, schemes, many of them, that are not so needed in these days of other defense production activities.

Animals, says a naturalist, "don't know how lucky they are." Do a family of rabbits, for instance, realize that they are making about in a beautiful saskin coat?—Punch.

Who Is Culpable?

Was a young soldier, driver of a truck, which ran into the side of Mrs. Betty Ruth, 1845 1/2 Ave. recently, resulting in her death, will be prosecuted, and Prosecutor Charles J. Wilson has authorized a warrant for his arrest.

Fifty per cent of the persons killed in bicyclist accidents in 1939, 1940 and 1941, between the ages of 5 and 14, Paul W. Keenan, noted expert, reports in the current issue of the National Bureau of Child Health, are boys.

The fact is not outside that of the bicyclist. The figures largely overlooked speak on this.

The third "E" Engineering, of necessity slow and expensive, but enforcement an education can be readily set into practice.

Several communities have special bicyclist training courses. The number of bicyclist accidents with the participation of the authorities.

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Average Life Is Longer

It is interesting to report that the average life expectancy for those born in 1934 was 72.1 years, and that for those born in 1935 it was 72.2 years.

Even though the average life figure does not mean prolonged old age it does signify an improvement in the general health of the race.

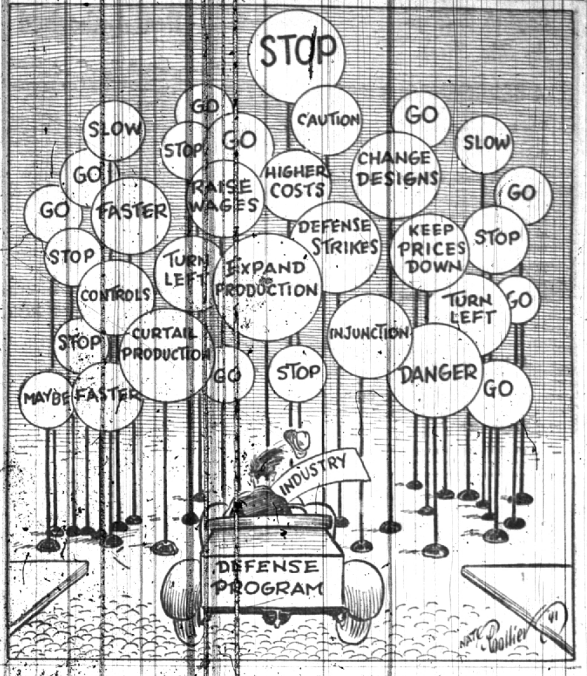
GOVERNOR VAN WAGENON and the other day I know that there are countless examples in State history of good things being done for the work that can be done.

The "Vamps" of Washington, D. C., Saturday, in a House "ordered" a 50 percent cut in automobile production.

The Birmingham Eccentric

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One Traffic Cop Would Be Better



PEOPLE'S COLUMN

The Eccentric is pleased to announce that a contest will be held to select the best short story to be published in the People's Column on Thursday next.

As of June 30, 1938, there were six townships in Oakland county whose proportionate share of the debt was in excess of one million dollars—Aston, Commerce, Farmington, Holly, Orion, Oxford, Pontiac, Royal Oak, Southfield, Troy, Waterford, and West Bloomfield—and six cities and villages whose share was above the million-dollar mark—Berkley, Birmingham, Ferndale, Pontiac, Rochester and Royal Oak.

As of June 30, 1941, there were twelve townships, 12 whose proportionate share of the debt was in excess of one million dollars—Aston, Commerce, Farmington, Holly, Orion, Oxford, Pontiac, Royal Oak, Southfield, Troy, Waterford, and West Bloomfield—and six cities and villages whose share was above the million-dollar mark—Berkley, Birmingham, Ferndale, Pontiac, Pleasant Ridge, Pontiac, Rochester, and Royal Oak.

At the present time our per capita debt is more than 20 times that of March 31, 1917, a few weeks before our entry into the World War, when it was \$12.26 as against \$588.74 as of June 30, 1941.

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Congressional Record by Representative George A. Dondero

The Share of National Debt in the last week from June 30, 1939, the total share of national debt has increased from \$44,112 to \$114,501,441, an increase of \$70,389,329.

Writes of Morale Among Inductees Editor, The Eccentric: I for one am grateful for your printing, Rep. Dondero's position on the proposed "draft" and conscription laws.

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THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner

Here are some tips included in the article, entitled "Watch Your Skies"

When it comes to getting good contrast and beautiful sky effects in outdoor shots, the man with a ten dollar camera can do as good a job as the owner of an expensive camera.

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Eccentricities

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"Gone With the Wind" is to be put on the air as a radio serial. We doubt that a radio set, however good, will last that long.—Den Moines Register.

The big account of some of our weddings does not appear in The Eccentric but is sent to Dad.

WABECK STATE BANK OF DETROIT

Complete Banking Service Pay-As-You-Go Checking Accounts Commercial and Savings Accounts Collateral and Life Insurance Loans Unsecured and Co-Maker Loans F. H. A. Modernization Loans Automobile Loans