Editorial Page of The Birmingham Eccentric

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

Knocking on Wood

with JOHN H. HARWOOD

THE LIMB WAS SAWED OFF

This is not the column originally written for this space. That document, written last Saturday, is as outmoded as last year's income tax, and now reposes deep in the waste basket where only the mice can read how wrong I was. I ventured the opinion then that Japan was bluffing—that she would not fight the United States unless her leaders were crazy. Now, I have discovered my error, but I am really convinced that the Japanese are out of their minds.

Would a sane or smart nation commit hari-kari on a surprise attack on the strongest nation in the world when its real objectives could have been served otherwise? Two weeks of bombers could hardly have seriously crippled our fleet at Hawaii, the Japs must have known that. Was the attack meant to frighten us so that we would withdraw from close to home waters but not from far eastern waters? Perhaps the real intention was to divert our eyes from a more vulnerable spot. Would it not have been simple for the Japs to have made a concerted attack against the Dutch East Indies and thus take a chance that we might not go to war? Those islands are Nippon's real goal, for without oil she cannot survive.

Instead, the Japs have proved to such a height of infamy that we will not rest until the last brown men are soundly trounced.

Will Hitler Benefit?

It has been frequently stated that a Japanese-American war would serve the ends of Hitler by diverting our attention in the Pacific.

On the other hand, such a war will really unite this country and will probably lead to early hostilities against Germany on the Continent, the North Atlantic.

Another possibility: It may be whipped, that will release the British and American forces in service in the Mediterranean and elsewhere. Japan, of course, would have tied up those forces indefinitely.

Germany's Influence

How great an influence has Germany been in inciting Japan to war? The axis were a party to, no doubt; however, Japan has committed a long series of provocations against the United States long before Hitler started on his bloody course. Hitler may have promised to declare war on the United States, but he was not in what manner could Germany expand her present activities.

The Japanese had enemies on every side; the United States had laid down an ultimatum "get out of China or else," and was the only face-saving alternative for the Japs was for them to take an all-out attempt to fight their way out of the iron ring around them.

The War Brought Home

The news now takes on a more personal tone, for who is there who does not have a relative, acquaintance in the armed forces?

Right now, I am worrying about the fate of men I once knew at Selfridge Field when that post was on my beat. I would like to have had a few of Brig. Gen. Henry B. Clagett, hard-as-nails cigar-chewing commander, but our air forces were the pitiful when the Japs started raiding overhead! No doubt there was confusion and plenty of it, with much in the shipshape category, but there of the caliber of Colonel George and Maj. George P. Kenney. The latter, I believe, was the stevedore-turned-flyer who used to terrify the crowds when he flew upside-down only 50 feet from the ground.

Others of Selfridge's distinguished alumni are now in high capacities. Lieut. Col. Frank M. Andrews, quiet-spoken but keen as a tack, is commander of our Canal Zone and Caribbean forces; while Maj. Gen. George H. Brett, is some where he's not supposed to be, somewhere in Egypt and India, surveying the situation. All brave men, it goes without saying, and highly-capable.

The Primary Front

We focus our attention on Japan, but actually, that theatre of war is still secondary to the battle going on between Russia and Germany. There is the real dogfight which is to determine the future history of the world; the fact that Germany has apparently given up an effort to capture Moscow this winter is an event of great significance, for it means that the blitz is definitely bogged; and, that we will be able to rush modern planes and tanks to Russia by spring when they can do much good.

King Winter has played the trump card; from now on, Axis is set for a decline.

Have You Met . . .

Mr. and Mrs. Alan G. Loofbourrow who are living at 556 Fairfax avenue? The Loofbourrows moved here from Detroit, recently, chiefly because they found the type of a home they wanted here, and also because it will be nearer to Mr. Loofbourrow's work at the Chrysler Corporation where he is an engineer. By hobby, Mr. Loofbourrow is an amateur photographer with Mrs. Loofbourrow as his assistant.

Dr. and Mrs. W. F. D. Grace who have just moved into their new home at 32464 Beaconsfield road? They profess that their hobbies revolve around gardening and bowling. The Grants moved out here from Detroit because they wanted to get away from the city, and also because a small army of friends have purchased lots and are building houses in the same neighborhood. Dr. Grace is with the Dental Division of Henry Ford Hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Milne, 19170 Bedford road, who moved out here recently from Ferndale? The Milnes have had their lot on the Detroit-Toledo line for two years now and not got around to building. They have one son, Jack, who is a sophomore at Baldwin High School this year. Mr. Milne is employed in Detroit.

The Richard M. Foresters? It is easy to understand why they moved to Birmingham, for Mr. Forester lived here all of his life until last March when he married Miss Marion Bookout, of Detroit. They are now living at 343 Elm street. Mr. Forester is a golf professional, and for a hobby acts as an official in basketball games.

The William Cartwrights of 780 Overhill road? The Cartwrights came here from Grosse Ile and think this is a "swell place to live." They have one son, William Francis, who is 17 months old. Mr. Cartwright is manager of the Detroit office of the Edward Petrie Advertising Company.

Mr. and Mrs. Philip Pretz who are living on Worthington road at Wing Lake? Their three children are Toby Maxwell, 10, Jean Pretz, 9, and Susan Pretz, 6, all of whom are students at Brooks School. They moved out here because they wanted an acre or two of land and because the whole family is crazy about boating, near a lake. Mrs. Pretz formerly taught in a Quaker School in Philadelphia, Pa., her original home. Mr. Pretz is an engineer for Chrysler Corporation in Detroit.

Our Country Must Win!

Removed so far from the activities of the European and Asiatic wars that have been going on for several years, the people of the United States have had little more than an academic interest in the world conflagration; but with the treacherous offensive of Japan upon our Pacific possessions last Sunday, and with news coming in all week of naval engagements, our citizens are roused from their dreamy attitude to one of reality—and our entire nation is of one mind:

Every available human resource of the United States must be brought together in the single objective of defeating Japan!

With the devilish cunning for which they are noted, Japan swooped down upon part of the nation's Hawaiian and Philippine possessions, scattering death and destruction from air and sea. This maneuver was planned for weeks, even though Japan had sent a special envoy to Washington, presumably, to discuss peace plans; we now know that this was merely a part of Japan's dirty and unconscionable international diplomacy.

But by that warring action of last Sunday Japan really did, in a certain way, the American cause a tremendous help; for it created in our hearts and minds a terrific righteous indignation, a terrible national decision to make the Japanese eventually atone for this damnable deed.

It also unified our own citizens as, perhaps, nothing else would do.

The die is cast. Congress has declared war. It's going to be a fight to the finish, to the FINISH OF JAPAN as a world power!

It's going to be a fight for the survival and perpetuity of the American way of life against a totalitarian force that has gone berserk upon this earth.

It may be a long war; it will require many sacrifices; but it is the only thing to be done. May God inspire each and every one of us to perform his and her job in the days and months that lie ahead.

For Dear Old Dough!

At the end of the 1939 season President Hutchins of the University of Chicago suggested that perhaps the time had come when "at least one important university" should undertake the experiment of getting along without a football team. Dr. Hutchins neglected to say that Columbia had previously undertaken such an experiment without noticeable success. Anyway, there was less student opposition to his suggestion that might have been anticipated. No football team at all, the students reasoned, would certainly be an improvement over a team which could be beaten by Michigan, 85 to 0. But, outside the campus there were many grave shakings of middle-aged heads; a precipitous drop in enrollments was freely predicted.

Enrollments Heavy

Nothing of the sort happened. Dr. Hutchins reported the other day that enrollments are as heavy as ever. This may or may not be because Dr. Hutchins and his faculty have at last found the way to make Stadium pleasanter to youth than stadium. We are inclined to think that it indicates chiefly that college football, despite its tremendous capital investment, is a rapidly declining industry. It seems about to follow the example of college baseball which, save on certain ritualistic occasions like the Harvard commencement, is now played before virtually empty stands. Over a period of about four or five decades, interest in college baseball seems to have decreased in almost direct ration to the increase of interest in professional baseball.

Logical Development

This open and honest professionalization of football is a logical and indeed inevitable development. The fantastic scale on which college football was developed in the 1920's served to make the game popular among millions who have even less interest in the liberal arts, humanities and social sciences than the players themselves. Today college football has about the status of minor league baseball; its main purpose is to provide a proving ground for prospective big league players. If, as seems likely, the paid attendance at college games begins to show a serious decline, the various forms of subsidy now employed to entice promising young huskies to the campus, may be suspended. Then no doubt, the professional football club owners will set about organizing their own minor leagues scouting and "farm" systems, and everybody —players, public and Dr. Hutchins—should be quite happy.—Washington Post.

CONGRATULATIONS to the Birmingham Board of Education for acquiring that 38-acre piece of delinquent tax land from the State. At no cost to itself, the Board now has an area for future development, should the growth of Birmingham demand it. What puzzles us, though, is this: the City had an opportunity to get this same land, but turned it down.

"Blindly Partisan" Is Silly

State Senator Don Vanderwerp, of Fremont, recently launched a campaign in Michigan to prevent more than one Republican to aspire for each of the high State offices next summer, in the primary contest. The Fremont gentleman, first elected to the Senate in 1934, believes that by such action the Democrats will have less chance of being victorious; his strategy is along this line: "if two or more Republicans seek high offices, the Democrats will swing a large number of their own votes for the weakest Republicans in the primary election, then beat them with stronger Democratic candidates at the later general election."

Of course there is much logic in Senator Vanderwerp's reasoning, even if his plan substantially sacrifices the idea of competition in primary elections, which merely reverts to the old-fashioned idea of out-moded political conventions. For, you see, the able Senator has already picked several Republicans of his choice for the coming single-candidate primary, including present Secretary of State Harry F. Kelly for Governor.

The editor of this newspaper is a personal friend of Senator Vanderwerp, and on fairly good terms with Mr. Kelly—so what we say on this subject certainly is without personal bias.

For the present, then, we must admit that we can't go along with Senator Vanderwerp's plan, entirely. Certainly not for the high office of Governor. Not that we are opposed to Mr. Kelly for he has done a reasonably good job as Secretary of State; but, to date, we haven't heard or read any public utterances from Mr. Kelly on his platform should he run—and we don't like the idea of being "for somebody" just because he is a Republican, or a Democrat.

We think most Michigan editors and Michigan voters, in the average, are going disillusioned about remaining "blindly partisan." The past ten years have shown full of us that neither political party, as such, has the solution for every economic, social, and political ill that is wasting away the body politic. What we are interested in are the ideas, the plans, the records of men and women who seek public office. By their records shall they be judged.

So, let the Michigan Republicans who want the party win next fall, let 'em put out what constructive plans and leadership either publicly or privately, but in either case most solidly behind what they stand for; what their records are. Then other Republicans can decide whether or not want the party wide assortings so to speak, the Democrats.

For, Senator Vanderwerp, please remember that, for example, Governor Van Wagoner is no candidate when it comes to political maneuvers; incidentally, is second to none in stacks up a far better-than some Republican Governors who have had in Lansing in the last 20 years and Michigan voters no longer are going to be fooled by high-sounding, sweet-smelling political promises by candidates of either party.

THE TORREY NEIGHBORHOODS Play CENTER, sponsored by activities in the southern part of Birmingham, will provide needed recreational facilities for youth in that area. A vacant store building on Ruffner street near Adams avenue has been rented and will be furnished with equipment for the project. If you have anything you think will help, contact Mrs. [illegible] Cole, of Ruffner avenue.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, Birmingham Goodfellows will hold their annual newspaper sale, proceeds of which go to providing Christmas baskets and presents for less fortunate families in the community. The project is one of the finest during the holiday season; in the language of Shakespeare: "The quality of mercy is not strain'd, it droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven upon the place beneath. It is twice blest; it blesseth him that gives and him that takes." Its mightiest in its simplicity.

BIRMINGHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT refunded $345,000 worth of debt bonds last week—saving total of charges of $76,701 over the life of the bonds. The rate was the lowest ever offered in Michigan for long term bonds, 1.025 per cent or about half the previous rate. This low rate suggests that investors believe in the integrity and ability of this area to meet its obligations? (Although the picture was much different eight and ten years ago.)

IF THE STATE HIGHWAY Dept. makes proposed traffic improvements on Hunter Boulevard, to cut down accidents, that will be good news for everybody who uses this bustling travel artery.

The Birmingham Eccentric

Published every Thursday at Birmingham, Michigan, by The Eccentric Building, 220-222 North Woodward Avenue

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Entered as Second Class Matter in the U. S. Post Office at Birmingham, Michigan

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

	(Outside Oakland County)
The Oakland County Press	
One Year $2.00	One Year $2.00
Six Months 1.25	Six Months 1.25
Three Months 75	Three Months 75

All newspaper and advertising copy must be in the Eccentric office by Wednesday noon to obtain insertion for that week.

The Eccentric is a member of the National Editorial Association, Michigan Press Association, University Press Club, and Oakland County Press Association.

NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events which have not been covered by the regular staff, but such news articles must be submitted before noon on Wednesday. The right is reserved, however, to make such suggestions and changes in the style of the paper as are necessary to conform to the style of the paper. Because of the limited space available, the Eccentric cannot publish all of the letters received by the staff cannot be published. Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation which may appear in the columns of The Eccentric will be gladly corrected upon being brought to the attention of the publishers.

Eccentricities

Be yourself. You'll be found out sooner or later, anyway.—Rochester Times-Union.

One good feature about this Chinese war is that so far no one has written a war novel about it.—Judge.

Contract bridge would be a great game if there were any four people who played it alike.—Judge.

"There's nothing like a saxophone," says a musical paper. Except, unfortunately, another saxophone.—The Humorist, London.

Many people were surprised to learn that Gypsy Rose Lee had written a mystery book. Up to now, mystery has not been the lady's strongest point.—New Yorker

Another Americanism is feeling proud of your income, thinking wistfully of the old days when you made less and didn't owe anything.—San Francisco Chronicle.

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Good Tidings for Christmas

THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner

CHAS. B. CHARMATZ, P. S. A., Editor

Beginner's Guide is Developing and Printing

The completion of a photograph from an exposed film to finished print on paper consists of two processes.

The first of these is the conversion of sensitized film into a negative, which is the transparent image of what we see in front of us. The second process is the conversion of the negative into a positive, which is the finished photograph whatever was originally in black in the negative will appear white in the finished print, and whatever was white in the negative will appear black in the finished print. All intermediate tones and colors will appear in corresponding shades of gray. This second process is called "printing" or, sometimes, "contact printing," and sometimes "printing by transmitted light."

Processes the Same

The processes are similar in principle, although the methods employed differ.

The principal difference is that in the first process the film is exposed in the camera, while in the second process the sensitized paper is exposed in a device called a printing frame. The stronger the light and the greater the exposure, the more intense will be the darkening of the paper, and therefore, the more opaque will be the resulting negative. Also, the greater the exposure, the more opaque will be the resulting print. Thus, the same factors govern the exposure of the film in the camera and the exposure of the paper in the printing frame.

The second process, that of printing, is the one that is most frequently neglected by beginners. Many a good negative is ruined by improper printing. Many a negative that would have produced a good print is ruined by improper printing. Many a negative that would have produced a fair print is ruined by improper printing. Many a negative that would have produced a print that could be improved by careful printing is ruined by improper printing. Many a negative that would have produced a print that could be improved by careful printing is ruined by improper printing.

Contact and Projection Printing Processes

Contact printing is the process of putting the negative and the paper in close contact and then exposing the paper to light. Projection printing is the process of projecting the image of the negative onto the paper by means of a lens and then exposing the paper to light.

The choice of the process depends on the size of the negative and the size of the print. If the negative is the same size as the print, contact printing is the process to use. If the negative is smaller than the print, projection printing is the process to use.

Processes Compared

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News of Camera Clubs

The Birmingham Camera Club meets at the Community House at 8 o'clock on the second and fourth Thursday evenings of the month. The club has a membership of [illegible] and is one of the largest and most progressive camera clubs in the state. It is affiliated with the Detroit International Camera Club and the Detroit Camera Club.

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Happenings of Long Ago

50 YEARS AGO
Dec. 10, 1891

The average Birmingham boy has always been noted for his audacity, but little did we dream that we had one brave enough to reach up to the stage and pinch a coquette toe as Venie did at the recent Temple of Fame entertainment. If we've been the queen we'd kicked out one of his eyes.

The B.D.C. band made arrangements for the New Years for the grand party of the season, New Years Party. They were to decorate the hall finely for the occasion, and are planning on "The old folks party" music.

Times have certainly changed, and appealing to women ran—All the average Birmingham boy is a little plumpish. This is a frequent thought and a wholesome one. All of a baby's beauty is due to fat and nearly all of a woman's—we know it as curves and dimples.

What plumpness has to do with good health is told in a little booklet sent free on delivery etc.

Mr. Marion Coe, former resident of this village, paid a short visit last week, Saturday.

25 YEARS AGO
Dec. 8, 1916

Manley Bailey was spending the holidays with Bert Joyce in Richmond.

An announcement was made of the marriage of Miss Marie Zoulek and Harry G. Mosher.

The Birmingham High School football team defeated Royal Oak on Thanksgiving morning at the Barnum field. The score was 14-0 in favor of Royal Oak.

George Randall, of Southfield avenue, was on picnic one night around 10 o'clock when a man stepped from behind a tree, at the corner of Maple and Bates, and tried to hold him up. Randall grabbed the man by the throat. The robber begged to be let go, saying he thought that Randall was a friend and went footing. Randall pulled the man to a street light and found that he was a stranger. He let the man go.

Owing to the war in Europe, London stores are going out of style—skirts will also seek a lower level. Something to be thankful for anyway."

Dr. and Mrs. B. L. Cleveland, of Hudson avenue, left for St. Petersburg, Fla., where they were to spend the winter.

5 YEARS AGO
Dec. 10, 1936

Dr. John P. Wood was chosen as the new president of Birmingham Exchange Club, . . .

Wesley Whittenberger, 70-year-old resident of Birmingham, died on Wednesday evening at St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital where he had been confined for 12 days. He had been a resident of Birmingham for 19 years. Surviving was his sister Mabel Whittenberger, of Birmingham.

Funeral services were held for David Warren, 23 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. William W. Warren, who died the previous Saturday as a result of injuries received in an automobile accident.

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