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

EVERYONE MUST HELP!

People who despaired of the American people's public spirit 10 days ago certainly have no reason to grieve today. With the country at war everyone realizes there's a job to do, a job which must be done as quickly as possible so that the nation can return to the state of peace which is essential in a democracy. Any one with the least spark of patriotism is wondering "What can I do?"

The biggest contribution, of course, is being made by the young men who are marching on paths which may lead to the ends of the earth. This cavalcade will grow larger as time goes on, depending on what Russia can do to Germany, and how our forces fare in the Philippines.

One Easy Contribution

But civilians, too, can do much. One easy but important thing that everyone who can read and write can accomplish is to sit right down now and write the President, our two Senators, (Arthur Vandenberg and Prentiss Brown) and our representative, (George Dondero) demanding that something be done in a hurry about prices, for if they continue to go up and up our economic system will collapse, a worse blow than any Jap aircraft or German submarine could administer. I am addressing this particularly to those who are concerned about the rising cost of living. Why not write that letter today!

Organizational Work

Other contributions to the national welfare are coming right on. The women in Red Cross, for example, never stop, but the toilers who have been at it for years need some relief and assistance.

Men, who think in terms of physical action will enjoy getting into the auxiliary fire and police corps. Every citizen who lives near our city wells and public property can keep an eye on them, reporting any suspicious occurrences to the police.

Then there are the American Women's Voluntary Services classes which are already underway with Mrs. L. S. Pyle the local leader.

The big project now under way, of course, is the registering of all interested persons at the Community House, listing their names and listing their skills. You can read more about that in an article on Page 3.

The Eccentric, of course, will furnish the necessary publicity in all these various endeavors just as it has in the past.

The Surface Only Scratched

I have been thinking about defense savings bonds and stamps. Too many people have yet to buy one ten cent stamp, let alone a bond, and I think it is high time we got under way for those who cannot afford to save a dime, quarter or dollar a week, I think in terms of the smallest denominations?

If the stamp albums and leaflets could be stuck right under people's noses as they do their shopping, it would help. And as soon as I get a spare evening I am planning to retire to my workbench in the basement and devise and fashion a little display stand out of plywood. If we can get a model of some sort, I know there are enough amateur wood workers in Birmingham who would be glad to turn out copies. In fact, if there is some zealous fellow who would like to get going at once, I would be glad to confer with him.

When this stamp and bond business first started, the idea was to keep it on a "high" and meritorious status, and no doubt it should stay that way. However, I think we should honor clubs and firms who are making a special effort to cooperate, as we did the Lions Club, for example, every member of which has already purchased a defense bond.

Why not encourage every business house in town to enlist its employees 100 per cent in stamps savings, even if the janitor buys only one ten-cent stamp a week? The Eccentric would be glad to honor these 100 per centers in some way, at least by publishing their names.

And there are other ways in which this vital endeavor can be encouraged.

Victory

That we will be victorious in this war is a foregone conclusion; the United States has lost no wars in the past and there is no reason why we should stumble now. But we must finish the job as soon as possible, for the strain is to be great.

No Easy Job

Japan has no easy task before her. It is 1,890 miles from Japan to the Philippines and considerably farther to Singapore, and as long as we hold the Philippines, Japanese shipping will be subject to attack from our planes, warships and submarines. The ominous thing for Japan is that for every plane and ship we lose, we are producing many more; for every barrel of oil we consume, we can pump five more from the ground.

Going Up!

When the United States was on a sound financial basis, 45 billion dollars was known to be the limit our national debt could go with safety. That limit was raised to 65 billions so that we might finance wars all over the globe. Now Secretary Morgenthau informs us the 65 billion limit must be raised. All that goes up must come down—and "great will be the fall thereof!"—Sequin, Wash., Press.

All men in the U. S. Navy and Naval Reserve are paid twice a month. They receive no coins but are paid to the nearest dollar.

Have You Met . . .

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph L. Bell who are now living at 1148 Pilgrim road? They have three children, Marsha, 11, who attends Quarton School, Barbara, 4, and Susanne, 9 months. Mr. Bell is now engineering manager of the Detroit offices of the Martin-Nebraska Corporation, coming here from Baltimore, Md. They decided to live in Birmingham because one of their friends who lives here was so very enthusiastic about the community.

Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Bevis and their two young sons, Gregory, 3, and Frederick, who is 7 and a student at Quarton School? They moved out here from Detroit recently into their newly completed home, which is a combination cape cod and colonial house, at 385 Fairfax avenue. Their many friends in Birmingham influenced them to come here. Mr. Bevis is an accountant for the firm of Ernst and Ernst, in Detroit.

The Douglas C. Giles who are living at 1272 Villa road? They moved in to Birmingham from their former home on Orchard Lake road, because they thought they would like to live here and because it is closer to Mr. Giles work in Detroit. He is mortgage supervisor for the Manufacturers National Bank. The Giles have two small children, Richard, 4, and Katherine Elizabeth, 2.

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Lincoln's Words Point The Way

Seventy-eight years ago, on November 19, Abe Lincoln delivered his immortal Gettysburg address. This famous oration has been quoted and repeated so often, that today it has become a part of our language.

We have heard the Gettysburg address often enough to know it by heart, but many of us do not know the conditions that prompted Lincoln to deliver it.

Eighteen cooperating northern states had buried the soldiers that had fallen in battle at Gettysburg. A dedication program to honor the dead soldiers was planned with Edward Everett, a distinguished orator of that time, as the main speaker. President Lincoln was asked to make a few brief remarks after the main event.

At the time of this history-making speech, Mr. Lincoln did not know what the outcome of the war would be. The armies of the Confederacy were still intact, and large sections of the northern population were sick of the war. The election was not far off, and Mr. Lincoln was not sure that he commanded enough votes to get re-elected.

He knew how important it was that his few remarks be a success. He had to persuade the people of the North that they were fighting the battle of freedom and that they must fight on so that the dead Northern soldiers would not have died in vain.

Lincoln delivered his short and carefully worded talk with complete poise and in a manner denoting sincerity and strength. The true greatness of Mr. Lincoln's speech was not recognized immediately; time and history have, however, put the Gettysburg Address among the greatest of the great.

Years after Mr. Lincoln died, many writers believed that the talk was spontaneous; they believed that Lincoln depended upon the occasion for his inspiration. A number of scholars today, however, believe that in preparing his speech Mr. Lincoln made one of the supreme efforts of his life. They point to the fact that he knew how important it was that his speech be a success, and that he was not the kind of man to treat his duties lightly.

Today, we of America need another Gettysburg address. Many brave American sailors have lost their lives on the high seas. Have they died in vain? And are the British, Russians, and Chinese dying in vain in their fight for freedom? It would be good to hear Abraham Lincoln again, telling the people of America the importance of fighting for freedom.

A Preacher Goes to Jail

A minister of the gospel has been sentenced to serve eighteen months in a Federal prison by a court in New Jersey after his conviction for refusing to fill out a draft questionnaire.

Before sentencing the preacher the Court gave him nearly a month in which to change his mind and fill out the draft paper, but the man persisted in his refusal, defending himself by proclaiming his personal loyalty to Christ, his Christian concern for mankind, and his devotion to American democracy.

It should be understood that the minister was not convicted because he would not wage war, as a matter of conscience, but because he refused to fill out a questionnaire, permitting him to make any claim for exemption that he might have.

The sentence is entirely proper and we are at a loss to understand the brother's devotion to democracy and in complete disagreement with him as to his interpretation of loyalty to Christ and the obligations of a Christian.

Boiled down, the reverend gentlemen set himself above the law of the land, which enables him to preach a free gospel and gives him every advantage that civilization accords a minister of recognized faiths. He assumes that he can accept the benefits and disregard the obligations of society, actually imposed through the machinery of government.

ONE WAY THAT EVERY AMERICAN can help in this war is to be alert to the dangers of alien enemy sympathizers in our midst. If you suspect some one of such a nature, get in touch with the F. B. I. in Detroit; or a call to the editor of this newspaper will start an investigation.

JAPANESE TREACHERY in the original invasion of Pearl Harbor will not be erased from American memory for generations to come. It will take a mighty bit of real Christian charity, after this war is over, for America to remove its deep feelings against these Nipponese rascals.

ITALIAN TAILORS PLAN to eliminate the cuff on men's pants, partly to conserve cloth and partly to cease patterning after British styles. Before this war is over, many of the Italians probably won't even have pants.

VERNE COLBURN, proprietor of the local Star Cab Line, has promised free rides to all men in the military services, when they are in Birmingham, "for the duration." That's a fine gesture of co-operation.

Eccentricities

Berlin offers a free pass to all country clubs for the invention of an ersatz golf ball. The need here is for one that emits loud moans when lost under fallen leaves.—Detroit News.

Believe-It-or-Not Ripley drew a picture of a dog that wags its tail up and down. Must have been raised in a small apartment.—muses the Marysville, Kan., Advocate-Democrat.

Somethings queer about that sample family budget of the home economics bureau. It only adds up to 100 per cent of expenses.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

You will never "find" time for anything. If you want time you must take it.

Sergeant York's Opinion

Sergeant Alvin P. York, World War hero, fears that America is in real danger because it is smug, self-satisfied, and susceptible to over-confidence.

He blames the activities of Lindbergh and other leaders of the America First Committee for this condition, saying, "Unless we wake up, we'll be easier for Hitler than France was." He labels Lindbergh, Wheeler, Nye and other similar leaders as "appeasers of Adolf Hitler."

Mr. York has only one outstanding complaint against foreign policy of appeasement. "It won't work," says he. "Everybody should have learned this by now, especially after the attack upon Russia, which for years did everything possible to appease Hitler."

Mr. York urges us not to "suppose that since Hitler is stopped for the moment, that he is licked." Now is the time, he adds, "to pour in every available weapon that we possess and crush the monster." This advice, he admits, makes him an interventionist, but he continues, "I am proud of the label."

Americans may be interested in Sergeant York's statement:

"I am not afraid of war. I went through one and I hate it every minute of it. No one who lived through the last one could possibly have any other feeling. We all hated it. And yet we cannot avoid this new war unless, like Lindbergh, we value our present security more than we value liberty and freedom and democracy."

What Is Man?

Do you recognize the Pleiades when you see them in the Western sky? Maybe you know them as the "Seven Sisters," according to the legend of ancient Greece?

Anyway, don't try too hard to find the seventh sister, invisible to the naked eye. Just remember that the astronomers have recently added 34 stars to the group which now numbers 41, according to the experts.

Dr. Adrian van Maanen, of the Mount Wilson Observatory, identified the new members of the constellation, which is one of the nearest to the earth. Light from these stars, moving 186,330 miles a second, requires only 500 years to reach the earth.

These figures give us an appreciation of the amazing distances in the universe that is slowly unfolding its vastness to the scientific research of man. No wonder the Psalmist wrote with "prophetic wisdom:

"When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?"

Funny Americanism

We see where some children have been barred from attending the public schools in Baltimore county, Maryland, because they declined to salute the flag of the United States, holding that such a salute violates the law of God.

Waiving the obvious ignorance of those who attempt to be so positive about the "law of God," we wonder what good will be accomplished by keeping a handful of children out of school, where they might learn more about their own country and gradually acquire a better understanding of what a salute to the flag means.

Naturally, there is a tendency on the part of super-patriots to flout what they consider the unpatriotic gestures of ignorant people, but we fail to see where the attitude of these children will injure the United States of America, or entrust the loyalty of other people. We are also of the opinion that salutes to the flag, given upon any basis except the personal inclination of the individual, are worthless mockeries that can be feigned by the rankest traitor in the land.

Standing safely distance from the scene of the controversy, we have some difficulty in determining whether the little children, or the officials who barred them from school, are the worst examples of Americanism.

BEGINNING THIS WEEK, local citizens are asked to register at the Community House for defense work in this area. This simply means that as you register you state what abilities and talents you possess, and the folks at headquarters will place you where you may fit in best for the duration of this war.

LAST WEEK A GROUP of citizens appeared before the Board of Education, asking for a junior high addition to the Quarton school, estimated to cost $180,000, and to be paid for within five years. Since then the war has struck the United States. Admitting the need for this addition, under present circumstances those seeking it will no doubt refrain from pushing the matter at this time.

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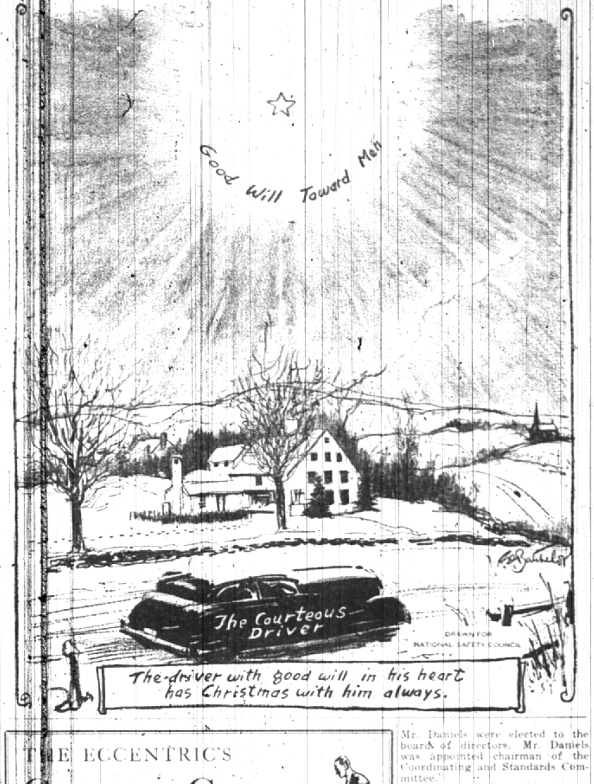
NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events which have news value and which are written by persons not connected with the editorial staff of the paper. All copy must be presented before noon on Wednesday. The right is reserved, however, to make such superficial changes in the wording as are necessary to the style of the paper and as are required by laws of the state. Because of the mechanical situation in the composing room, headlines written by those other than members of the staff cannot be used. 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 publisher.

Give Courtesy for Christmas



THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner

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

Camera Club Treasurer Wins First Prize in National Contest

Charles T. Beals, 1439 east Brown street was awarded first prize in the magazine "Mechanix Illustrated." The picture is reproduced in the January issue, and we are happy to be able to reproduce it here. Excellent photograph incidentally, is Chuck's specialty. Mr. Beals is an enthusiastic amateur photographer, taking down prizes in numerous contests in the past. He's the treasurer of the Birmingham Camera Club, and takes a very active part in the clubs numerous activities.

"Drafted" was taken with a Voigtlander camera on Superpan Supreme film, developed in DK 20. Two prints were used, one over the other, and the other at camera angle (quite a trick, Mr. Beals!).

Beginners Guide to Developing and Printing

(Continued from last week)

Last week we mentioned the desirability of learning how to make contact prints, before delving into film development. We list below the following suggested materials needed for making contact prints:

1—One safelight lamp, with 10-watt bulb, and yellow green (OA) Wratten filter.

2—One printing frame, or one printing box, commonly called a contact printer.

3—Three trays, each somewhat larger than the prints to be made. Use one tray for washing, be at least four times as large as the prints.

4—Two or more packages of paper of the correct size.

5—One package or bottle of developing powder.

6—One package or bottle of acid fixing powder. The acid fixing bath can be bought ready mixed also. Agfix acid can be bought in 1 lb. bottles. Methley's can be diluted to a 20% solution, or full strength. The latter is known as glacial acetic acid. To make 20% solution, add three parts of glacial acetic acid to eight parts of water.

(To be continued next week)

Birmingham Camera Club Elects Officers

At the last meeting of the Birmingham Camera Club, held at Community House, Chas. B. Charmatz, editor of Camera Corner, was unanimously re-elected. Elbridge S. Newhall, Jr., vice president, R. W. Bogan, secretary, and Chas. T. Beals, treasurer. Mr. Upmyer acted as the chair. The meeting of the new classifications will be explained later.

The package of paper should be opened in a room to which no light is admitted, except the light from the safelight. In each package of paper will be found a printed slip with directions for using it, including recommendations as to the developer to be used. These directions should be followed to the letter. Developers can be bought ready mixed in powder form, or even this step can be omitted if one desires. The acid fixing bath can be bought ready mixed also. Agfix acid can be bought in 1 lb. bottles. Methley's can be diluted to a 20% solution, or full strength. The latter is known as glacial acetic acid. To make 20% solution, add three parts of glacial acetic acid to eight parts of water.

(To be continued next week)

Mr. Daniels were elected to the boards of directors. Mr. Daniels was appointed chairman of the Coordinating and Standards Committee.

Joseph Munroe of Detroit was guest speaker of the evening. Numerous members prints were displayed, which Mr. Munroe commented on, selecting an excellent portrait made by B. W. Bogan as the print of the month. This portrait will be reproduced in the Camera Corner in an early issue. Mr. Munroe also displayed numerous prints of his own, and gave an excellent discourse on numerous phases of photography.

Visitors Welcome!

The Birmingham Camera Club meets on the second and fourth Tuesday evenings of every month. Meetings are held at Community House. Visitors always welcome.

Due to the holiday season, the meeting normally scheduled for Dec. 23 will not be held. The next meeting of the club will be held Tuesday, Jan. 3. At this meeting members and guests will bring their cameras, and instruction in indoor lighting will be given.

Defense Bond Quiz

Q. What simple and satisfactory way is provided for all of us to express our gratitude for being Americans?

A. The means is the purchase of defense savings bonds and stamps—available to almost every man, woman, and child. Ownership of even a 10-cent stamp carries the satisfaction of knowing you have helped the nation to arm.

Q. What denominations of defense savings stamps are on sale at retail stores?

A. Stores are concentrating on selling 10-cent and 25-cent stamps, in order to get a maximum number of customers to participate in the defense savings program. Many stores also carry 50-cent, $1, and $5 stamps. Stamps of all denominations may be purchased at post offices.

Note.—To buy defense bonds and stamps, go to the nearest post office, bank, or savings and loan association. Also stamps now are on sale at retail stores.

One Shot, Two Birds

CORUNNA, MICH.—That proverbial hunger who kills two birds with one stone has a modern counterpart in M. J. Katz, Corunna station agent for the Grand Trunk. During the brief Michigan open season for pheasants, Katz paid a visit to bushy land near the station and had a shot at a cock pheasant at the verge of the bush. The pheasant dropped and when the hunter walked over to retrieve the quarry he found his shot had also slain another cock pheasant which had been standing about four feet behind the visible target.

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