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

PROPAGANDA IN PRINT

While having my locks shorn at the barber shop the other day, I overheard an old-timer remark: "You can't believe what you read in the papers these days." I agreed with him, to a certain extent.

The old-timer was referring to government, and war news. I don't believe much of that either, for much of the stuff they send out in the world capitals is a mass of lies and propaganda. But I do not fair to blame the newspapers for printing official statements, and don't think the correspondents are happy about being able to get at the facts. Even our own officials in Washington, sometimes hand out statements which they know are false.

Ominous Situation

The most disquieting thing on the whole news front, foreign and domestic, is the failure of Congress to pass legislation which will control inflationary rises in prices, wages and rents. Farm leaders are so stupid and selfish as to think that farm prices can go sky-high safely; labor won't stand for a ceiling on wages. Meanwhile labor and everybody else are suffering a weekly cut in real income as the cost of living increases. Where is the President? Where are our smart political friends?

I can think of nothing which will so unsettle this country as a radical change in the level of prices, yet the President is doing nothing and Congress, Democrats and Republicans alike, fiddle away thinking only of their own selfish political interests.

—o—

Privilege Entails Regulation

Farmers say they must have more money for their milk, and a semi-strike is threatened. I won't argue that point, but I do think there are certain principles which can not be overlooked. The most important is that if the State is to guarantee the dairymen a fair price for their products, then it becomes a special privilege which entails regulation. If the dairymen get together and fix the price of milk—something of doubtful legality—then the State has every right to examine the books of dairies to see whether their profits are exhorbitant. Organized fixing of prices is unlawful under the Sherman act, and the State should follow the same principle.

The whole system of price fixing becomes a mess, sooner or later, just as it is now with wheat and cotton. The price boosts are political football with the taxpayers being thrown for a loss; and it takes an army of employees to handle the mess. Only in time of national emergency has the government any business monkeying with prices at all.

Wayne County Government

A letter to a Detroit newspaper touched off the grand jury investigation and subsequent trials. An enterprising private citizen man discovered recently how employees in the Wayne County tract index office got paid for working. The Wayne County board of auditors, could not stand the unfavorable publicity when they fired several people, one of whom then accused the auditors of political payroll padding and inefficiency, and one of them of being labeled a "drunk."

In Wayne County, you have county government at its worst. Terribly outmoded, it needs a thorough overhauling and reorganization. The principle, true as is that the people elect an army of officials and the people can't watch all of them, the solution is to elect, say, three or five men who would then hire an expert to act as manager. That would fix responsibility, and if something went wrong, the people would know whom to fire.

Now, the responsibility is so vague as to be practically nonexistent. Only the newspapers occasionally uncover something. County government everywhere needs modernization.

But what we are worrying about is the hip-and-rum drinking.
—The Pathfinder.

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People's Column

The Eccentric is pleased to receive communications for this column. All communications must be signed, but signatures will be kept confidential upon request. Letters must be limited to 500 words, and must be in the office by Tuesday noon for publication the following Thursday.

Thanks Expressed In Red Cross Drive

Editor, The Eccentric:

The American Red Cross wishes to express its appreciation to those who have helped make this year's enrollment drive a success.

To the Birmingham Eccentric for their help, and their permission to use floor room to sell memberships to those who were not reached by the house-to-house canvass;

And most heartily to the captains and individual workers who donated so many hours to this worthy cause.

Since the first report additional contributions have increased the membership to 2,000 and the receipts $3,503.

MRS. W. H. KNOWLES.

Expresses Disfavor Of Hunting Does

Editor, The Eccentric:

Yes, I got my buck, a 150-pounder, near Tawas City where I have hunted for the last eleven seasons.

From my observation, talks with other hunters, and reports I have read from other parts of the State, the present deer law allowing the killing of does under certain conditions has been very much abused and is in strong disfavor with the majority of hunters. Already in Tawas City petitions are out calling for its repeal and also for repeal of the camp deer license in any form.

With modern transportation hunting conditions have changed considerably. Comparatively few hunters remain in camp the full season, a large number may be there for one week but a still larger number are in the deer country for week-ends only as evidenced by traffic conditions.

The majority of hunters that I have talked with are strongly in favor of a required examination showing fitness, and responsibility before a hunting license is issued.

Possibly, The Eccentric would care to conduct a poll on these two points and send the results to the Conservation Commission in Lansing.

A. E. DOWNER

Franklin, Mich.

A THOUGHT TO KEEP

The brightness of these autumn days
Will soon depart. Oh then, my heart
You must content yourself in pleasant ways,
Nor mind the haze
Of lowering skies.
Always remember
When bleak December
Is here, that time speeds quickly past;
And Spring will have her way at last.
It is falsely thought to keep
When winds blow chill and snow lies deep.

—Beatrice McDonald

About Our City Affairs

The desirability of a year-around recreation program was mentioned at the Community Institute which was held last Tuesday; also mentioned was the fact that in a number of cities, such a program is financed by the City government. Not mentioned at the Institute, however, was the point: If recreation is properly a function of the City government, is there some other City service which can be eliminated to make room for it in the budget?

It does not seem reasonable that our municipal budget should be increased at this time, when Congress is spending money in amounts that stagger the imagination.

In fact, it was significant that at no time was economy in city government mentioned, when, as a matter of reality, there are a great many people in Birmingham who are concerned about it. This omission was not the fault of the Institute, for the general public was invited to attend its sessions, but none of Birmingham's "economy spokesmen" was there.

In the discussion on City planning and City problems, the accomplishments of the past eight years were listed, and they are many: change-over from village to city; organization of department of public works; Lincoln and Southfield wells completed; voting machines installed; warehouse and garage completed; Poppleton field purchased; convenient city dump acreage acquired; Hunter boulevard open in co-operation with the State; prevention of sales of liquor and beer by the glass; annexation policy adopted; Springdale Park improved; and ordinances governing signs, trailers, street trade, new merchants, dogs, and zoning. Construction of the new sewage disposal plant was also a major accomplishment.

Also listed was the program of current problems such as traffic and safety and automobile parking. The Eccentric believes also, that two other problems might well be included.

A re-examination ought to be made of all City functions and expenses to determine their order of importance. Some day, and not in the too distant future, the City will find itself faced with this problem: Cost of material and manpower is going much higher, while revenues will stay the same. Thus it will be imperative to lop off the services rendered which are of borderline necessity. Not only should municipal officials study the problem, but a citizens' committee should be invited to assist in determining what things we can do without.

Second, Birmingham ought to give attention to the problem of getting more people to build homes here. We have a big municipal paid organization which in comparison with other cities is not by any stretch of the imagination running on a pinch-penny basis, and it could serve many thousands more people; but Birmingham today is more than half vacant lots. A committee might make a study to determine how people of the right sort can be attracted here, and why many now choose to build in other districts.

Returning to the Institute, The Eccentric believes that a word of appreciation is due the people who labored to organize it. The aim is an excellent one, and, in future years, no doubt the function of the Community Council and the Institute it sponsors will grow in importance in Birmingham. The Institute will attract more interest when its sessions become more dramatic; that is, when people of divergent viewpoints attend and really debate what they have on their minds. But things as new as the Council and Institute cannot be expected to achieve perfection overnight; the important thing is to get a start.

Shrugs Won't Save U. S. A.

In his talk in Birmingham last week, P. J. Currier, Detroit lumberman who lost a government housing contract, even though his bid was $40,000 lower than the next lowest, emphasized this fact: *under the hysteria of "defense emergency," many of the traditional American policies are being thrown overboard.*

In his own case, he found this out: because he was affiliated with the C. I. O. labor group his contract was taken away from him; had he been connected with the favored A. F. of L. organization, he would have retained the contract. Thus, he points out, the federal government has sold out to one labor group, even though both, under the Constitution, are supposed to be equal before a government purchasing department.

Most people who learn about this will shrug their shoulders and say: "Well, that's government for you; especially when it is too politically minded." These otherwise good citizens appear not to have any deeper concern than the shoulder shrug, and a few critical remarks made across the neighbor's fence, or in the barber shop.

If they would contact their Congressman, or Senators, or even write a letter of opposition to the White House, some good could be accomplished; but they don't, and thus do we witness the gradual slipping away of traditional American practices.

Do the people really want to be saved?

WELCOME TO BIRMINGHAM, Mr. (and Mrs.) Herman L. Shibler, new superintendent of local public schools. You'll find this a nice community in which to live; you'll find that parents are interested in the schools and that, all in all, the young folks who invade your classrooms are worth trying to civilize. (P. S. Dear Mr. Shibler: Confidentially, a little more old-fashioned discipline in the classrooms won't do any harm.)

EIGHTY-TWO-YEAR-OLD former Governor Luren D. Dickinson recently revealed to the public a growing personal problem, i. e.: that of too many marriage proposals from women who live in various sections of the United States. Says he: "I tell you, Folks, the old gentleman certainly knows how to keep his name before the voters of Michigan."

HAVE YOU YET PREPARED and started to complete the purchases you intend to make for your Christmas list? The early shopper gets the best selections.

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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 submitted before noon on Monday. The right is reserved, however, to make such superficial changes as the work submitted may require in the style of the paper and as are required by laws of the state. Letters to the editor, publication of meeting room, headlines, written by those other than members of the staff cannot be guaranteed. Any remarks or reflection upon the character or reputation of any person, firm or corporation which may appear in the columns of The Eccentric will be corrected upon being brought to the attention of the publisher.

With the Collegians

Georgia Military Academy

JAMES LENARD JUHL, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Juhl, of Birmingham, is a member of the Junior College Department of the Georgia Military Academy, College Park, Georgia, where he is taking preparatory work for entrance into an eastern college. Juhl's academic work is of superior rank, being in the school honor roll each grade period of the two weeks since the opening of school.

The Georgia Military Academy is a government home school with preparatory and junior college departments. During the past several years G. M. A. has specialized in preparing students for engineering colleges and the government academies. Mathematics has been the outstanding feature of the school.

Cadet Juhl in addition to his academic and military achievement is a member of several athletic teams and will excel in all branches of work this year.

Stratford Junior College

ROSALIND RANDALL has recently been appointed in charge of stage properties and costumes for the play "Emma," She is also an active member of the school field-hockey team. Rosalind is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Randall, of Shirley Drive.

Ohio Wesleyan

DELAWARE, Ohio — Elected this week to freshman players, student dramatics organization at Ohio Wesleyan University here, was JAMES LEE, son of Mr. and Mrs. Crawford Lee of 620 Ridgedale, Birmingham.

A member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon social fraternity at Ohio Wesleyan, Lee was active athletics at Baldwin high school from which he graduated last year.

University of Michigan

Twelve students from Birmingham who are attending the University of Michigan this year have been pledged to social fraternities at the University. Pledging will continue through the first semester and initiation will take place during the second semester.

Fraternities and those students from Birmingham pledging them follow:

Alpha Tau Omega—Wallace Watts, 212 W. Lincoln; Chi Phi—Bruce Carey, 1231 Buckingham, Chi Psi—Clark Pardee, 256 Dorchester; Russel Fisher, 256 Abbey; and Richard Graves, 248 N. Bates. Phi Gamma Delta—Robert Cole, 1207 Buckingham.

Kappa Sigma—Robert Foley, 888 Madison. Sigma Chi—Kirk McKinney, 587 Greenwood. Sigma Phi Epsilon—Edward Hascall, Jr., 755 Ridgedale. Theta Delta Chi—Lloyd Linton, 208 Oak. Delta Tau Delta—Lawrence Neumann, 687 Henley.

Rockford College

JEANNINE COLGROVE, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence E. Colgrove, of Pilgrim avenue was awarded her class numerals at the annual Hockey-Riding banquet at Rockford College last week. Jeannine, who is a freshman, won this honor by her membership on a class hockey team.

University of Michigan

WARREN WATTS, of Wellington, JOANNE PENNOYAR, of Lake Park Drive, and PHILIP GUNN, of Park, all of Birmingham, served as Red Cross representatives during the annual campus Red Cross drive held at the University of Michigan during the period, November 10-14.

ROBERT PORTER, of Birmingham, and BRADLEY PORTER, BIE, of Bloomfield Hills, who are students at the University of Michigan this year, served on committees for the annual Interfraternity ball held at the University not long ago. Porter, a member of the Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity, was the assistant general chairman for the ball, while Bigbie, a member of the Psi Epsilon fraternity, was a member of the publicity committee for the ball.

Stephens College

Columbia, Mo.—Two Birmingham girls, students at Stephens College, were pledged to social sororities at the close of rush week. ANN AUCHTERLONIE, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Auchterlonie, of Berwyn road, pledged Kappa Alpha Phi, and DOROTHY M. BARRETT, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James H. Barrett, of Kennesaw avenue, joined Delta Chi Delta.

Duke University

DURHAM, N. C.—The Pre-Medical Society of Duke University recently elected twenty students to become members. Selection was made from a list of eighty-five applicants on the basis of their scholastic standing, participation in extra-curricular activities, and interest in medicine. The list includes RICHARD HARRELL, Birmingham.

Albion College

WILLIAM E. HOPKINS, son of Samuel M. Hopkins of Franklin, appears on the Dean's list at Albion College, a coveted scholastic distinction, for it means that a regularly enrolled undergraduate student has achieved at least a 2.3 average, or better than a B average in his studies for the entire semester of the first semester of the 1941-42 academic year. The current Dean's list contains 52 names.

William Hopkins is a freshman at Albion College where he is pursuing a pre-engineering course.

Oft-Heard Advice

THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner

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

An excellent portrait study by Dr. C. J. Marinus of Grosse Pointe Farms, a good example of story telling portraiture, titled "What, The Use?"

Some Hints on the Proper Use of Daylight Roll Film Tanks

For those of you who have recently purchased roll film tanks, a few words from Eastman Kodak Company may be of interest. Many of the questions asked by amateurs are really problems of technique rather than of chemistry. Here are a few pointers that will help in making the most satisfactory negatives.

Be sure that your tank is perfectly dry, examine the reels of the tank. If any slight moisture is detected, run a small piece of blotting paper between the channels, and if necessary, turn the oven of your gas range on very low for just a minute or two. Before turning off your light, let it run everything you

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Woodward at Maple

Birmingham Camera Club to Hold Election of Officers

The Birmingham Camera Club will hold its annual election of officers at the meeting next week, and will also have a talk and demonstration on composition. Mrs. Munroe will also answer photographers' questions of those attending the meeting. Camera Corner will reproduce the members' best prints in the coming issue.

The club has set no limit on membership, and is again we remind the invitation to camera hobbyists to join us and attend these very interesting and educational meetings.

Happenings of Long Ago

50 Years Ago
December 3, 1891

Misses Gertie and Bessie Merrell attended the Thanksgiving party given by Miss Mildred Academy at Orchard Lake on Wednesday last. Also Miss Bertha Bigelow, Miss Dr. Galbraith was in Detroit on Monday.

George Corey spent his Thanksgiving vacation with relatives in town, distributing the solemnity of the occasion after the style which only George knows how to do.

Weddings in Birmingham include those of Robert G. Lord and Miss Minnie Hatch, both of Bloomfield Hills, Mr. Joseph B. Entchard and Miss Libbie Baldwin, both of Southfield; Miss Minnie Bacon, of Davis, and Mr. Grant Wolf of Birmingham.

The progressive Euchre club met at Mr. Bigelow's home last Saturday evening and it was one of the most enjoyable affairs of the season.

Nice sleighing on Sunday last and many citizens took advantage of the fact and enjoyed a rattling old fashioned sleigh ride, bells and all.

25 Years Ago
Dec. 1, 1916

Mrs. Edward Hatfield, 92, passed away at the home of her son, Stephen, on Nov. 15. Mrs. Hatfield was a native of Macomb county but had lived in Troy township for the past 56 years.

Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Campbell entertained members of the Cosmopolitan Club on Wednesday evening at a dinner party at their home on East Maple avenue.

The following hunters had all returned from Bayland in the Upper Peninsula with a deer: Frank Schlaack, Bert Peabody, Fred York, William Olson, Hiram Park, Harry Spencer, William Lake, and Phillip Schlaack.

5 Years Ago
Dec. 3, 1936

Donald C. Egbert was named Birmingham's city manager, succeeding James W. Parry at the city commission meeting on Monday night at Municipal building. He assumed his new duties on Dec. 1.

Mr. and Mrs. Karl Brons, and their two twin daughters, Catherine and Mary Lou, just moved to Birmingham from Grosse Pointe.

Approximately $90 in cash was stolen from three homes on Dorchester road early Sunday morning. The thief visited the homes of George Shupert, S. H. Knowlton, and Charles Randall.