

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

Knocking on Wood

with JOHN H. HARWOOD

FOR BICYCLE SAFETY

THE recent death of a Birmingham boy riding a bicycle, and one or two other mishaps in which serious injuries were narrowly avoided have caused more than one Birmingham resident to ask: "What can be done about this?" I think the Police Department ought to set up a safety program which will take in beginning auto drivers, and especially bicycle riders. The Eccentric will be only too happy to cooperate in every way possible.

I note in the current issue of the Michigan Motor News magazine that cities which have won awards for safety have usually had bicycle safety clubs. In Port Huron, such a club has 2,300 members. In safety movies were shown in the high school during the past year.

Grand Haven won the highest rating in America in its population class, its bicycle safety club has a membership of 730; 12 movies were shown in the high school. In Colwell, elementary schools devote at least 30 minutes a week to safety; there is a course in safety at the high school, the bicycle club has a membership of 600.

Mount Pleasant high schools give courses in safety.

What Chief Ashley did described a bicycle club at New Baltimore.

"Alfred H. Ashley, police chief of New Baltimore, decided to relieve his bicycle-traffic headache by organizing the youngsters. The Bicycle Club now has 197 members, who meet every two weeks to discuss safety problems. While only about 40 of them have bicycles, the boys and girls are fast earning the money to buy them by cutting lawns and doing various odd jobs about the community.

The members have individual identification cards on which are their photographs, and they have arm bands signifying their membership. They know that their bikes must be properly equipped with lights, horns and rear-view mirrors. They know that they should ride them to promote safety for themselves and others. And they have fun.

Gets Arm Bands Chief Ashley has spent more than \$20 so far on the arm bands and identification cards, which make the organization important to the young members. Some day, they may pay him back. In the meantime, he has the satisfaction of knowing that they are obeying the rules. The club members are all to ride their bikes on the sidewalks any place in town, except in the business section between Green and Main streets on Washington avenue. When they violate any traffic

A Job to Do "What can I do to help?" Every legal American since it became obvious to all that our nation is in danger as the result of Hitler's campaign of conquest. The desire to be of help is universal, but thus far there have not been many opportunities for everyone to make a direct contribution to national defense.

Many families, it is true, have sent their sons to the Army or Navy; those families, and these boys, are making a real contribution. But the vast majority of us have been waiting for a chance to do something.

Now we all have a chance to lend a hand. On July 20 scrap aluminum will be collected in Birmingham and other cities to help overcome the temporary shortage of the metal which is interfering with defense production. The Office of Production Management has asked that every unused aluminum article in the country be tossed on the scrap pile in the hope that enough aluminum will be collected to free material to build 2,000 badly-needed fighter planes. People are being asked to give only those things which can be spared and need not be replaced, such as keys, pens and pencils, paper, griddles, picture frames, old radio parts, and the like. Such articles are gathered dust and cluttering up pantry shelves in every home in the country. They are needed now for national defense.

We have the word of the OPM that no one will profit from the transaction, and the reputation of those leading the campaign is a guarantee of its validity.

Mayor F. H. LaGuardia, of New York, is head of the U. S. Civilian Defense Office, which is sponsoring the drive. In Michigan, Gov. Van Wageningen is responsible for the success of the drive, with the Michigan Council of Defense supervising the campaign. The staff work is under the guidance of our war veterans and county agents, with the mayors and village presidents of the state cooperating. A score or more of youth, farm, school, church, fraternal, service, social, and patriotic organizations are giving active support to the movement. We at the Eccentric, who are doing the work in our own community, and because we know them, we are confident that this is a patriotic campaign from which the whole nation will benefit.

Each pound of scrap aluminum every person in the United States must give all he can. Start weeding out all the useless aluminum articles in your home today, and have them ready to deliver to the collectors when they call on you Saturday.

The aluminum is needed urgently. Here is our long-awaited chance to do something for the defense of our country.

Acting as a member of a local draft board is no soft snap. The hours are long, the grief is plentiful, and the pay is zero. Perhaps what we are about to say in this editorial will be some small recompense to the members of Local Board No. 7, which has in its jurisdiction all of Bloomfield and Troy Townships, including the two cities therein. The men are Carleton C. Patterson, chairman, Edward H. Laird, and James A. Bressler.

These men have served almost a year, and so far, we have heard little or no criticism of their policies. The reasons has been this: At the very start, they read the draft law and interpreted it in a fair and reasonable manner. For example, they sent few married men whether or not their wives have been employed. Many other boards have not.

Now, national Selective Service headquarters has issued orders to all local boards, clamping the meaning of "deferred" to mean that more than home shall continue unbroken by the draft. But few changes have been necessitated here because Local Board No. 7 had enough perspicacity to interpret the law correctly in the first place.

The board was also fortunate in securing as its chief clerk an individual who had had experience in the 1917 draft—one who has handled draft business with civility usually lacking in military business. She is Mrs. Augusta Merrill.

The FEDERAL BUREAU OF MIOS estimates that there is enough coal in this country that can be made into gasoline to last our people 3,000 years. Present oil sources may be exhausted, at the rate of consumption, in the next 15 years. Thus do we learn that Nature, aided by man's inventiveness still stands by to make possible the continuance of the motor car and the airplane—plus all internal combustion engines.

FOR A LONG TIME local rumors have been going the rounds about a lack of complete harmony among Birmingham police officers. More than one City Commissioner has heard this "rumor." A "quiet investigation" by the Commission ought to be in order.

Eccentricities Perfect? Communication facilities have been so far perfected that it is possible on the same day for every nation in the world to be shocked by the conduct of all the others—Springfield Union.

Yes! We are living in a world of change, says an eminent professor. Yes, but the trouble is that it's so darned fast that you get your hands on any of it—Boston Herald.

How? Still, if it weren't for football, how would anybody know that the colleges were open for business?—San Diego Union.

Two Chances The things commonly known to provide an education late in life are a correspondence course and a set of children.—The Denbroke World-News.

Freedom Is Made From the archives of broken peace, we are bringing out "old world" and dusting them off for use again as shining lanterns to lead us through the darkness of another war.

Without freedom, justice and truth, all of the heart to do, none of them used more frequently than freedom.

You cannot say what freedom is, perhaps, in a single sentence. It is not necessary to define it. It is enough to point to it.

It is the warm laughter of a girl on a park bench. It is the violence of an argument outside an election poll; it is the righteous anger of the mob.

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It is the rum of a train over the continent and the unaffair faces of people looking out the windows of a train over the continent.

It is all the howdy in the world, and all the hellos.

It is Westrick Pader telling Roosevelt how to raise his children; it is Roosevelt letting them raise themselves.

It is Dorothy Thompson asking for war; it is Gen. Hugh S. Johnson asking her to keep quiet.

It is we who come to remember the words to the Star-Spangled Banner.

It is the sea breaking on wide sands somewhere and the shoulders of a mountain supporting the sky.

It is you who fill your lungs with wind and the dirt that is in your chest.

It is a man cursing all cops.

It is the absence of apprehension at the sound of approaching footsteps outside your closed door.

It is the resentment of intrigues, the tilt of your chin and the tightening of your lips sometimes.

It is all the things you do and want to keep on doing.

It is all the things you feel and cannot help feeling.

Freedom is for you—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Book Who's Getting Stung

U.S. NEWS ITEM U.S. CLARE PRODUCTION REACHES NEW HIGH

THE BIGGEST AND WASTEST WASTES I EVER SAW

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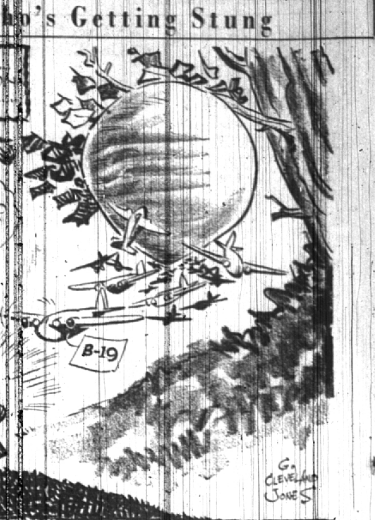
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PEOPLE'S COLUMN

The Eccentric is pleased to receive communications for this column. All communications should be kept confidential upon receipt. Letters must be limited to 300 words, must be in the hands of the Editor by Thursday noon of the following Thursday.

Says There Is Need For Planned Births

Editor, The Eccentric: There seems to be an almost universal interest in social problems affecting our community. One such problem, about which I am deeply concerned, fails to receive a proportionate amount of attention. Simply because people at large are uninformed about it. This is the great need on the part of many of the less well-to-do families in and near our city, of a knowledge of Planned Parenthood of Child Stages. These terms are to be preferred to the Birth Control of earlier years, since many people mistakenly believe Birth Control to be a program aimed solely at decreasing the high rate of illegitimacy in the population. On the contrary, the approach should be and is a positive one. We, that have fewer babies," but rather, let us have more babies born at the right time and under the right circumstances so that each of them will be free to grow up to healthy, useful citizens.

Very few people seem to realize that in our own city, and in other communities, a large number of families who are not planning their children, are in a state of economic straits. Again, very few people know that there exists a form of social insurance, known as the Oakland County Branch of the Maternal Health League of Michigan. This organization, which is affiliated with and accredited by the Birth Control Federation of America, has a staff of nurses who visit families and to give them the help they need. It maintains a clinic both in the city and in the suburbs. Births of every month at 125 North Troy street in Royal Oak, Michigan, are attended by nurses of this branch. Birth control is not a private physician's monopoly. The services of one of our own nurses, who is a member of the Maternal Health League, can be obtained at a very low cost. It is a great relief to have such a service in our own city. Birth control is not a private physician's monopoly. The services of one of our own nurses, who is a member of the Maternal Health League, can be obtained at a very low cost. It is a great relief to have such a service in our own city.

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City Can Be Safer Place

The Eccentric, Editor: I am sure that the traffic congestion in Birmingham is one of the most serious problems facing the city. It is not only a nuisance, but it is also a danger to the lives of our citizens. I believe that the city can be made a safer place by the adoption of certain measures. First, the city should invest in more public transportation. Second, the city should encourage the use of bicycles. Third, the city should improve its roadways. Fourth, the city should increase the number of police officers. Fifth, the city should improve its traffic laws. Sixth, the city should improve its traffic signs. Seventh, the city should improve its traffic lights. Eighth, the city should improve its traffic cameras. Ninth, the city should improve its traffic radar. Tenth, the city should improve its traffic sensors. Eleventh, the city should improve its traffic detectors. Twelfth, the city should improve its traffic monitors. Thirteenth, the city should improve its traffic analyzers. Fourteenth, the city should improve its traffic processors. Fifteenth, the city should improve its traffic controllers. Sixteenth, the city should improve its traffic managers. Seventeenth, the city should improve its traffic supervisors. Eighteenth, the city should improve its traffic coordinators. Nineteenth, the city should improve its traffic planners. Twentieth, the city should improve its traffic designers. Twenty-first, the city should improve its traffic architects. Twenty-second, the city should improve its traffic engineers. Twenty-third, the city should improve its traffic scientists. Twenty-fourth, the city should improve its traffic mathematicians. Twenty-fifth, the city should improve its traffic physicists. Twenty-sixth, the city should improve its traffic chemists. Twenty-seventh, the city should improve its traffic biologists. Twenty-eighth, the city should improve its traffic geologists. Twenty-ninth, the city should improve its traffic astronomers. Thirtieth, the city should improve its traffic meteorologists. Thirty-first, the city should improve its traffic climatologists. Thirty-second, the city should improve its traffic oceanographers. Thirty-third, the city should improve its traffic geographers. Thirty-fourth, the city should improve its traffic cartographers. Thirty-fifth, the city should improve its traffic topographers. Thirty-sixth, the city should improve its traffic hydrologists. Thirty-seventh, the city should improve its traffic geophysicists. Thirty-eighth, the city should improve its traffic geotechnologists. Thirty-ninth, the city should improve its traffic environmental scientists. Fortieth, the city should improve its traffic environmental engineers. Forty-first, the city should improve its traffic environmental architects. Forty-second, the city should improve its traffic environmental engineers. Forty-third, the city should improve its traffic environmental architects. Forty-fourth, the city should improve its traffic environmental engineers. Forty-fifth, the city should improve its traffic environmental architects. Forty-sixth, the city should improve its traffic environmental engineers. Forty-seventh, the city should improve its traffic environmental architects. Forty-eighth, the city should improve its traffic environmental engineers. Forty-ninth, the city should improve its traffic environmental architects. Fiftieth, the city should improve its traffic environmental engineers.

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Strictly Fresh

WITH our program now turning rampart on the dual, it's getting so the young sixth grader can't read in anywhere in the family's evening with those questions about his homework.

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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. Birmingham Office—Wabek Building.

THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner

not intend to go in for processing your stuff, I would recommend a fair background, the better the more camera, a 35 millimeter if your budget is restricted, or a 14mm machine, if you have more funds to spend. I think a camera gives better results and more pleasure with the least maintenance than any other type.

WHAT CAMERA SHALL I BUY? That is a question often heard from some person who is thinking of buying a better camera, or adding to his equipment. It had better be a problem, myself, a couple of years ago, and I am happy to say, the camera I bought has not been replaced.

The field might be divided into four categories: movie, miniature, reflex and ground-glass back. It would be nice, of course, to own one of each, but that runs into more money than the average amateur has at his disposal.

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