

Knocking on Wood

with JOHN H. HARWOOD

HE MAKES 'EM MAD I WAS talking with a friend the other day who observed that Mayor Edward Jeffries, of Detroit, would not go far in politics because he "made too many people mad."

I like the way Jeffries handled the situation. I may be a bit old-fashioned but I cling to the idea that love engenders respect and obedience, no matter if it is the church or some charitable organization which wants them relaxed.

I was amused recently to see WPA laborers swinging their arms on a frosty morning—going through motions to attain warmth which would have been forthcoming just as readily through swinging a pick.

The British Dominions are a jumble of some matters. While we require peace training in the draft, Canada is just now instituting four-month training instead of 30 days. Australia, it is reported, is fearful lest the liberal Mr. Roosevelt will ruin her profitable cash grain business with England.

HE MEANT IT I think Mayor Jeffries meant it. Of course, politicians have always made a play for the galleries, but when they take a stand for effect they don't do it that way.

Perhaps my friend is right. Jeffries may step on enough toes so that he will lose the next election. But I have a hunch that he has attracted the favor of sufficient of the mass voting public that the defect of minority groups won't count, particularly now that this strong man lurches out against the background of corruption which Detroit has had the good fortune to uncover.

The scandals of Detroit may cause some to lose faith in popular government. However, I am firmly convinced that there will always be a measure of graft under any system of government, and that fact, under a dictatorship where words can't easily be turned out, is more irregularities in private business as in public.

THE Augustus O'Dell, the architect of Bloomfield Hills who is the city's magistrate on the side, is reported to the Birmingham City Commission recently that the FHA requires parking space in front of apartment houses. While that objective is 100 per cent desirable, I wonder, still, by what right the FHA has the power to impose regulations in Birmingham.

William E. Walker, 78, died Saturday evening at his home on East Beaver road.

Birmingham received a National Traffic Safety Contest certificate from the National Safety Council in Chicago. This award put the city on the honor roll for not having a fatal accident during the past year, and reflects considerable credit on the local police force in handling of traffic.

"Dread these spring thaws! Promise you'll say nothing about this affair. . . . We want to keep it a military secret."

We Are Criticized For A Headline

Dear Reader, that

Here is most interesting angle of a public question. Dear Reader, that mightily concerns you and the amount of taxes you pay into the coffers of your local city and county.

Our local critic seems to think because we headlined the story: "Legal Victory Saves People Over a Million," we took a deep personal pride in the latest Court decision touching the case.

But let us print the letter, after which we will have something more to say regarding the entire subject. Here it is:

Editor, The Birmingham Eccentric, Birmingham, Michigan, Dear Sir: The headline used in Thursday's edition of The Birmingham Eccentric, "Legal Victory Saves People Over a Million," seems to me to imply that the news item is something to be proud of. If that is the case, then the newspapers proud of the fact that the people of Birmingham and Bloomfield Township have built sewers, secured water received, and have built daily, and how because of an error on the part of the Drain Commissioner.

I do not criticize the newspaper for reporting the outcome of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals decision but I think the headline would have been more appropriate if it had read "Legal Victory Costs Bond Investors, Pension Funds, Widows and Orphans Over a Million Dollars."

I do not want the title published in the paper but am merely writing to you because I do not like the inference the reader would ordinarily get from the headline used. If by your clearance you would like to print this article in the People's Column you may do so, but if you did do that, don't use my name, just a Contributor.

Now, Dear Reader, what are the facts about this case? Briefly they are that a former Oakland County Drain Commissioner, acting upon petitions for drains submitted to him, went ahead and did the job. He established certain special assessments districts for the payment of these drains. The Commissioner's own legal counsel apparently approved the action; bonds were issued and sold to get the money to pay for the work.

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In the language of our last week's headline: "Legal Victory Saves People Over a Million." Or it could have read: "Bondholders Lose a Million in Illegal Drain Investments."

ARMCHAIR PHILOSOPHER MENTAL TREASURE Charles B. Driscoll once offered a small prize to a writer who would write the best letter about a buried or sunken treasure in any community, state or county. He received more than 2,000 answers for the prize. He still is searching for the pot of gold—sure treasure at the rainbow's end.

One creative thought may often be more valuable than all Captain Kidd's doubloons! Henry Ford, for instance, thought of the invention that has transformed the world—electricity, radio, airplanes, X-ray, are ideas from human minds.

We are sure to be moved strongly because he probably has not even considered the matter; he may be connected, professionally with the legal phases of the subject, or he may own some of the bonds—we do not know. Whatever his relationship is, we do not regret that it is caused to be disturbed.

However, we should remind you that in the exercise of its taxing powers, every unit of government is bound to operate within the laws that have been enacted; such laws are intended to protect not only the general public but also those who invest in public bond issues.

Can our local writer then, rightly, accuse this community for having "literally stolen some of our vital and necessary investments?" We think not.

We wish to remind our local correspondent that there is not absolute guarantee under the sun to anybody that his or her invested money is eternally safe and secure. There always has been, always will be, the whole sale sale of bonds in the United States, and in 1933 has resulted in the loss of untold millions in bond investments, perhaps, insurance companies, trust corporations and individuals and groups.

It is not fair that what would credit to a customer assigned a risk, that the person who a friend or relative invests in a risk.

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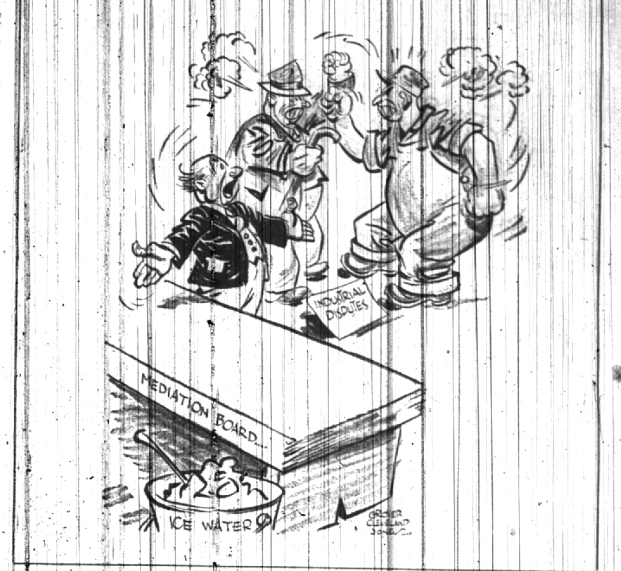
However, had we written the headline that did not cover the facts, we do not think we had implied anything in the headline that would appear "Legal Victory Saves People Over a Million."

While we expect cooperation from the new State Administration and the professional assistance to the balance of 1941 by the friends of Oakland County, we have "Have a Heart!" The work of financing, examining and placing the new Oakland County Crippled Children's Association is a most important and noble task.

PLANS ARE BEING crystallized for Birmingham summer recreation program. This program will include a wide variety of sporting activities for boys and girls, including of every community association.

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'Gentlemen, Be Seated'



People's Column

The Eccentric has been commending the work of the Birmingham Eccentric for its editorial work. The Birmingham Eccentric is a newspaper that is not only a source of information but also a source of inspiration.

Help Crippled Tots, Society Asks

EDITOR, THE ECCENTRIC: Every child in Oakland County is entitled to the opportunity for a full and normal life. The Oakland County Crippled Children's Association is asking for your help.

Says Improvement 'Literally Stolen'

EDITOR, THE ECCENTRIC: The headline used in Thursday's edition of The Birmingham Eccentric, "Legal Victory Saves People Over a Million," seems to me to imply that the newspaper is proud of that legal victory.

Kelly Urges People to Vote

EDITOR, THE ECCENTRIC: The laws relating to elections in the State of Michigan place upon the Secretary of State a heavy burden and duties respecting elections, such as the preparing of laws, regulations and instructions for the conduct of elections.

NOTE: The Secretary of State has announced that the election of 1941 will be held on Tuesday, November 4, 1941. The Secretary of State has also announced that the election of 1942 will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 1942.

LITTLE PLAID COAT

It hangs on a lonely hook Over the attic stair, And my heart is lost in remembering Whenever I see it there.

Have You Met . . .

Mr. and Mrs. Edgewood W. Darr are now living at 441 Hanna Street, The Dunes come from Fredrickburg, Va., and chose to live in Birmingham because of its small town atmosphere. They have two children, Virginia and Charles. William who attends the Barnum school, Mr. Darr is employed by the Internal Revenue department in downtown Detroit.

Wabek State Bank of Detroit

BIRMINGHAM OFFICE—WABEEK BLDG. FERDALE OFFICE—144 WEST NINE MILE RD. MAIN OFFICE—FISHER BLDG., DETROIT DOWNTOWN OFFICE—FORD BLDG.

Advertisement for Wabek State Bank of Detroit, featuring a circular logo with 'WABEEK STATE BANK' and 'DETROIT' text. The ad includes contact information for Birmingham, Ferdales, Main, and Downtown offices.