

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

Knocking on Wood

with JOHN H. HARWOOD

WILL HITLER ATTACK US?

WE HAVE received from the Office of Emergency Management, Washington, a booklet on Civilian Defense prepared by the War Department, and in it are complete plans for building air raid shelters, sandbagging buildings, and so on. For example, you might spend the summer constructing a "Semi-buried splinter-proof air raid shelter for six persons," such as the one detailed on page 37 of the booklet.

Personally, I am sick to rashes and glad this summer I even may go into broccoli and cauliflower, even for them. This "devil may care" attitude brought on by the war seems to be spreading.

Seriously, though, I do seem a little premature for people in Michigan to be thinking about building air raid shelters although it is certainly proper that the War Department should have such a mind. But common sense indicates that even if it is possible to fly an airplane across the Atlantic and back with a load of bombs there is no conceivable way in which an attack can be made on this stage of affairs. That goes too, for the trial balloon planned for Detroit.

I am not saying that Hitler will never attack us. Why should he? He will try to sink our ships when we stop start in the Atlantic, but he will not declare war. And even if he ever succeeds in conquering England, he will try to control South America, and if he does not, there is no way to North America. Why not? A conqueror never stops when more booty is to be had.

All that, of course, is possible, but highly improbable right now. Even if he conquers England, and even victory in the Near East in Iraq, Iran and Egypt, does not mean that Hitler will attempt to cross the Atlantic to get at us. No, it does not make sense to anyone who still can swim together a few lessons from the first, the English Channel is still English. On the other hand, Hitler will by hysteria fear otherwise.

To a student of mass psychology, the recent bubble bursting by Senator Vandenberg and Admiral Land was interesting, but I do not remember back a couple of weeks, the convoy issue was growing hotter and hotter, reaching a boiling point. "What's the use of our riding Britain if 40 per cent of the staff flares its way to the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean?" Then Senator Vandenberg threw a handful of facts under the feet of the Whirling Dervishes by introducing in the Senate figures supplied by Admiral Land.

A fine four family fat was being rushed to completion, at the corner of Harmon and Woodward. The first of its kind to be erected in Birmingham, the owner being Charles J. Bain. The Birmingham Club had elected the following officers: president, M. H. Zechler, vice-president, M. H. George; Field secretary, Frank Gordon; treasurer, Charles E. Jones; directors, T. R. Denovan, Frank Gordon, H. George, M. H. Zechler, Thomas E. Liscouski, Dr. George P. Raynal, W. H. Bassett, Lester E. Wise. Miss Ethel Gledhill was home from Chicago on a visit with her mother.

Still more light has come. In an Associated Press report from London last Wednesday, the Admiralty was quoted as saying that the April shipping losses, 391,070 tons—was the lowest in 11 months. That was merchant shipping in the Atlantic and included British, Allied and neutral vessels in the British service. The British are tightening up on their convoys. There are always new ways of meeting new menaces, although the new methods usually do not go into effect for a month or two after the new mode of attack is made. No matter how many submarines there may be, they will not enter the battle of the Atlantic, a defense will be built to meet them. Hitler can't win the Battle

Governor's Veto A Sad Mistake

Here is an item of state government that checks of "holies." It concerns the recent veto of an "anti-Boss" bill that passed both Houses of Michigan's Legislature; it affected the status of political convention for the Wayne County Council to divide that County into the convention areas, thus making more difficult a one-man political rule of that County. You may recall that for quite a number of years Edward N. Howard, practically his own County's delegates in his vest-pocket.

In affixing his veto to the Bill, Governor Murray D. Van Wagoner, a Democrat, is reported to have said that "it's up to Wayne County Republicans to put their own house in order, and not come to the Legislature to have it do a job that should be done by the decent voters in Wayne County."

Certainly, in his official duties, the Governor has, or will, sign many bills that, at their own, tend to strengthen the business, social, or economic order of society in one or more sections of Michigan. That is one of the chief reasons for the biennial meeting of the State Legislature.

As every month passes, the British dollar grows stronger and American production grows greater. Hitler may chase the British out of the Mediterranean and out of Egypt but it is not likely he will ever get into the British Isles, and he would have tried it long before now.

On the other hand how can England ever conquer the German except by a slow painful process of starting out of Europe. At that point, in my mind, is the most uncertain of all.

Perhaps that is what induced Rudolf Hess to make his dramatic flight to Scotland, but we are before Europe is one mass of ruins and its people started to the scramble of scavengers. However, the British are too full of fight to ever consider it.

Happenings of Long Ago

50 Years Ago Ed L. Keyser had a brand new touring bicycle suit, and, according to the Eccentric, when wearing it, he looked like a German before Europe is one mass of ruins and its people started to the scramble of scavengers. However, the British are too full of fight to ever consider it.

25 Years Ago A fine four family fat was being rushed to completion, at the corner of Harmon and Woodward. The first of its kind to be erected in Birmingham, the owner being Charles J. Bain. The Birmingham Club had elected the following officers: president, M. H. Zechler, vice-president, M. H. George; Field secretary, Frank Gordon; treasurer, Charles E. Jones; directors, T. R. Denovan, Frank Gordon, H. George, M. H. Zechler, Thomas E. Liscouski, Dr. George P. Raynal, W. H. Bassett, Lester E. Wise. Miss Ethel Gledhill was home from Chicago on a visit with her mother.

18 Years Ago St. Dunstan's Guild elected its board of directors to serve for the next year at its annual dinner meeting. The board consisted of Mrs. C. Theresa Van Dusen, Mrs. George Nickerson, Harry E. Hey, Vernon B. Kellett, and Roger Markey. The Community House drive was completed this week, being a most \$5,000 short of the goal set. A post-office of kind other type of activity was being conducted by round out the fund.

THE AMERICAN FAMILY

Advertisement for 'The American Family' magazine, featuring an illustration of a family and text about its content and subscription information.

McKay, et al. Now on Trial

With considerable news, some interesting we are reading sections of the federal government's trial, in Detroit, of Frank J. McKay, William H. McKeighan, Fred C. Ehrmann and others included in the allegation that they "made use of the mails to induce to defraud liquor companies through the sale of political influence."

For many years this newspaper and many others in Michigan, has waged a crusade against "Boss-rule" in Michigan's political circles, especially within the Republican Party; the above mentioned three men for years have been prominent in the State's Republican affairs. Mr. McKay (the amiable and affable gentleman from Grand Rapids), is now one of Michigan's able members of the National Republican Committee; he is former State Treasurer, friend and supporter of many high State officials, including the late Governor Frank D. Fitzgerald.

We have held that McKay, et al. control the absolutely much of the processing and patronage of Michigan's liquor; that we have mentioned his influence in the former Liquor Control Commissions (Ehrmann for several years was secretary and purchasing chief for the Commission); we joined a movement of Michigan newspapers two years ago in an effort to prove to our fellow Michiganders that "all was not rosy in Michigan"—and the good gentleman should believe the situation worth investigating.

(Of course, the legal to do is merely a trial and cannot forestall the outcome. But while it lasts, it is a trial with the obvious exception of our own personal convictions for years regarding Michigan's political Bosses was not without foundation.)

The mills of the gods grind slowly, but they grind exceedingly fine. To the everlasting credit of the federal government (and to the credit of Michigan's long-winded but fair-minded judiciary) the long-waited-for trial of McKay, McKeighan, Ehrmann, and others, is now going on. In the time we shall see what we shall see.

You may recall that in last week's Eccentric, the story of L.H. France, a Birmingham native, who owned and was a real neekie, never sales another sock. When he left his native home in Germany 32 years ago his mother gave him a real neekie, requesting that every time he saw a neekie, he should think of her. That Mr. France has done so is evident, a fine tie, so to speak, between a dutiful son and a loving mother.

"CITIZENSHIP DAY" was held in Oakland County last Sunday, with fitting exercises for the many young men who have since a year ago, have reached the age of 21 years. This day is set aside by Presidential proclamation to impress upon the new citizens the importance and responsibilities of voting. It is a day when the young men who have since a year ago, have reached the age of 21 years, are reminded of their duty to the state. It is a day when the young men who have since a year ago, have reached the age of 21 years, are reminded of their duty to the state.

A GOODLY NUMBER of local industry people are intensely interested in the British projects that bring forth both money and materials for the Island Empire. Perhaps the fact that our community was named after the famous British manufacturing city, plus the fact that many of our citizens have worldwide viewpoints, is the reason that the cause of Britain finds cooperative sanctuary here.

THE FLIGHT OF RUDOLF HESS, a Nazi from Germany to Scotland, last week is no more fantastic than the whole rise and rule of Adolf Hitler. Many comparisons have been made about Hess, and the real he will play out in the future will unfold as a story, and it will be a story as truly and unreal as anything the world's great mystery writers could piece together in a book.

MICHIGAN'S CONSERVATION BUREAU reveals that 51,700 deer were slain in the north woods during the last two weeks of November, 1940. This data was obtained from report cards returned by many hunters, and is, of course, an estimated figure. With approximately 200,000 hunters in the woods, it means that one in four got his buck. It also means that to get 'em plenty of 'em, 'dough' was spent with perhaps quite a few deer-skins.

Advertisement for 'The Birmingham Eccentric' newspaper, including subscription rates and contact information.

Yank 'Em Out



From the Women's Angle

There is one thing for which the unthinking public can thank the communists and it seems to be the word "communist." Anything they do, or say, or think, they firmly say, "smacks of communism."

At one time the great American guardians have been a woman looking at her kind, but thinks it's fast becoming that of a woman slipping off her shoes. Down those last week I noticed ever so many women limping—more than men. You know from Lansing on this list, recently, ever woman I saw was shoeless. A peek under most any limping table would reveal a professional wiggling foot, and, in a movie, well, a slip of the right foot coverings.

"To Live Alone and Like It" may be all right, but to eat alone is another matter. Conversation makes every tasteless spoon heaped in fact it adds life to food in general. If you're stuck could supply some thing that resembles a companion along with the meat, they would no doubt, have fewer food complaints.

Spring may be here, according to such indications as the calendar, the temperature, green grass, and the blossoms, but walking in an evening, spring fever and open little girls slipping the rope. How about it? I want to know, who are the boys, little and big, with the "Whistles" Are there no longer in vogue?

For the price of two theatre seats, we can see two shows, under the double feature system. To me a double feature means not show I want to see, and not show I don't want to see. My arrival always being timed so that I have the best of both worlds. I am looking for an uncomfortably long period of time—a whole evening gone—and tired eyes. There are too many things to do in this world to waste an hour every time we go to a theatre. What do you think about revamping the process, making a "double person feature," where for the price of one admission, two people can see one show?

Should the day dawn dim and damp be thankful the world's tolerance and understanding will emerge from out this mess. That the selfish, greedy world will be stripped of greed and pride and our good will prevail? Mothers of men say, that not with the blood of my sons. And I, with four boys grow, "Shi, say, saddy, 'Soer yet with the blood of man?"

Should the day dawn dim and damp be thankful the world's tolerance and understanding will emerge from out this mess. That the selfish, greedy world will be stripped of greed and pride and our good will prevail? Mothers of men say, that not with the blood of my sons. And I, with four boys grow, "Shi, say, saddy, 'Soer yet with the blood of man?"

Have You Met . . .

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Meyer, now living at 178 North Adams, will, who formerly lived in Detroit, are now living in Birmingham. They were always wanted to live in Birmingham. Mr. Meyer is employed by the Birmingham City Incorporated, in Detroit.

Advertisement for Wabek State Bank of Detroit, offering signature loans to salaried employees with satisfactory credit ratings.

People's Column

The Eccentric is pleased to receive communications for this column. All communications must be clear, but, in general, will be published. Letters must be limited to 100 words, and must be in the office of the Editor, Birmingham, Michigan, by the following Thursday.

Pierce P.-T. A. Backs Tax Levy Editor, The Eccentric. I wonder if parents with children in Birmingham schools realize that their children will not be equipped to compete with children from other schools if the Birmingham system is not maintained and improved.

There is an increase in enrollment, and additional increases are expected due to the fact that Birmingham is growing so rapidly. Provision repairs and improvements and additional teachers are needed if we want to keep the schools up to average.

For this reason I approve the two-mill tax levy, as it will be the means for good schools. Mrs. Glenn Perry, Birmingham, Mich.

Rising Prices Will Handicap Schools Editor, The Eccentric. Lots of us feel pretty anxious when we look ahead to the world our children are likely to have to live in. The times ahead look much tougher than our own. If anything will make our boys and girls better fit for their difficult life, we want to do it. It seems to me that voting YES on the school tax increase in June is such a thing.

Our schools are handicapped by insufficient money. As costs rise they will be more and more handicapped. Handicapped schools almost inevitably handicap the youngsters they educate. Let's have the courage and good sense to vote this tax increase up our courses. It is not a big expense. Birmingham, Mich.

For the benefit of the most important people in the world—our own children. KATHYNE T. LOOMIS (Mrs. Peter B. Loomis) Adams School P. T. A.