

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

Knocking on Wood

with JOHN H. HARWOOD

THE STATE OF THE PUBLIC'S MIND With Hitler closing in on Moscow, and with Japan rattling her sabre in ominous fashion, it is obvious that events which are to shape the history of the world are teaching the climax stage. What does the average man think about it? What is passing through the mind of Joe Doakes in field, factory, office and barroom? This columnist admits that he can't hope to know, but thinks that he can make a fairly good guess, basing his conclusions on the belief that he looks at the shape of things with an average sort of squint.

Nobody seems excited about the situation except brother columnists in Washington and New York. The writer has reached the conclusion that the American people are "punch drunk." Bullies on the radio, extras at the newstand don't seem to raise anybody's blood pressure any more. Think that the American's withdrawal conquest of Holland, Belgium and France prepared us for the worst in the war, in fact, so many people predicted Russia's defeat that many must derive a certain subconscious satisfaction from Stalin's reverse.

Only drum-beating Congressmen are excited about a destroyer which bumps into a torpedo. Mr. Johnny Q. Citizen has expected that serious attempt to cross the English channel, and the average man believes that if Hitler can't get across 20 miles of channel he is not likely to get across the Atlantic Ocean—at least not tomorrow. But when Hitler took on Russia and proceeded to succeed in that gigantic undertaking, the ordinary citizen is bothered with the thought: Maybe he might get over into this hemisphere some time.

However, I think a little fear is beginning to creep into the American mind. The people were not surprised to be scared when Germany knocked out France. Then Hitler settled down to try to bomb England but never did try to bomb across the English channel, and the average man believes that if Hitler can't get across 20 miles of channel he is not likely to get across the Atlantic Ocean—at least not tomorrow. But when Hitler took on Russia and proceeded to succeed in that gigantic undertaking, the ordinary citizen is bothered with the thought: Maybe he might get over into this hemisphere some time.

THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner

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

James R. Packard produces a fine example of good architectural photography, of the colonnade at Cranbrook. Your guest at Camera Corner this week is James R. Packard, of Pierce Street, Birmingham. Born in Detroit and raised in Birmingham, since childhood after graduating from Cranbrook school and attending the University of Michigan, Jim turned his attention to photography in 1937. After apprenticing with one of the largest studios in Detroit, where he specialized in color photography, he was appointed assistant to the photographic department of the Cranbrook Foundation. A few months ago Jim Packard was placed in full charge of the department, where his numerous assignments have kept him busy almost day and night. Mr. Packard is at present working in Fort Wayne, Ind. on a series of architectural portraits of a residence designed by Eliel and Erno Saarinen. His principal forte at the moment is architectural photography. We reproduce an example of his work of the colonnade between the new Art Museum and Library at the Cranbrook Academy of Art. Technically perfect, it portrays the scale and grandeur of the architects' design, using the statue of Felix Pilgrimage by Carl Milles, as the focal point of interest. Jim is only 25 years old, and fortunately hasn't formed any prejudices or preconceptions.

Some day he hopes to do pictorial work, and perhaps—so he tells us—may do teaching of photography. Jim explains that to him, the mastery of the fundamental photography is the most important thing. That is why he can admire the work of a Merriam as a Weston without any partiality. The next time you are out Cranbrook looking for an angle, or you are in a studio in Detroit, where he specializes in color photography, he was appointed assistant to the photographic department of the Cranbrook Foundation. A few months ago Jim Packard was placed in full charge of the department, where his numerous assignments have kept him busy almost day and night. Mr. Packard is at present working in Fort Wayne, Ind. on a series of architectural portraits of a residence designed by Eliel and Erno Saarinen. His principal forte at the moment is architectural photography. We reproduce an example of his work of the colonnade between the new Art Museum and Library at the Cranbrook Academy of Art. Technically perfect, it portrays the scale and grandeur of the architects' design, using the statue of Felix Pilgrimage by Carl Milles, as the focal point of interest. Jim is only 25 years old, and fortunately hasn't formed any prejudices or preconceptions.

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A Day for The Navy

On Monday, of next week, the President of the United States will observe "Navy Day," now broadened by the President to be "Naval and Total Defense Day." The safety of the nation, for many years, rested exclusively upon the navy of the United States. We maintained a small standing army, relying upon the warships of the fleet to safeguard the nation against sudden attack and to give us ample time in which to build and equip an army suitable to any emergency.

The collapse of France and the fear that the British Empire might be beaten by Adolf Hitler last year, and that units of the British fleet might come under the control of Germany, caused the people of this country to reconsider their position in reference to the new methods of warfare.

We were then engaged in a great naval expansion program for the fact that years would pass before the fleet could be enlarged to protect us in two oceans made it necessary for the United States to prepare an army to take care of any grave peril that might develop before the new naval program could be completed.

It should be understood that when we speak of the United States Navy, we include the fleet air arm and the shore establishments that make it possible for the warships to function efficiently. The development of air leaders and dive bombing, now so much in vogue was developed by the American navy.

The importance of adequate defensive forces, upon both the Pacific and Atlantic oceans, is a national duty that is being performed. The size of our fleets depends upon the size of the fleets maintained by other nations, especially those that are in the class of potential enemies. Surely the protection of our shipping, in all the waters of the world, is a national duty that is being performed.

On Navy Day we would remind the people of the nation of the experience we have had with disarmament because, just as surely as we live, when the present world emergency ends, there will arise an insistent demand for economy at the expense of the fleet. The United States once junked hundreds of millions of dollars worth of warships in the belief that disarmament could be established as a principle. However, the nations that need the ships that were not completed after the last World War.

As a people, we should not lose sight of the fact that the possession of an adequate navy will make unnecessary the maintenance of a tremendous army. With a sufficient navy in the Atlantic and the Pacific oceans, where the two-ocean navy will be on guard, there will not be need of a huge standing army. This will be economy.

The world's largest dry dock, 1,100 feet long and 100 feet wide, has been completed at the Philadelphia Navy Yard where it will be used in the construction of bigger battleships.

The giant dry dock, able to care for a ship twice the size of the 35,000-ton North Carolina, abandons the sloping skid ways and will build dreadnaughts on an even keel. When the dock is completed the keel will be flooded and the ship floated into the Delaware river.

Fourteen months were required to construct the shipyard which was built close to the keel of the latest designed battleships. All that we know is that 35,000-ton ships have been succeeded by 45,000-ton ships. It is known that larger battleships will be constructed but no exact tonnage has been announced.

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ONCE AGAIN WE SAY: "Why shouldn't the Republican Party in Michigan get behind Albert J. Engel, Congressman from western Michigan, for Governor?" Mr. Engel is well known in Michigan; he is fearless and forthright in his public service; he commands the respect of leaders from every section of the Wolverine State; he is able, and honest—boy! what a campaign he would put on!

WHEN YOU SIMMER DOWN to simple terms the manifold evils of our nation, you find that selfishness and desire for power are the chief causes of confusion in a country, or in the whole world. If our present federal government only had more men with the vision, moral integrity, and courage of a Cordell Hull in it, what a great improvement we would be everywhere.

LITTLE FARM PRICES and general wages are frozen, (this country will never escape the dangers of inflation; of course, along with this must go the "freezing" of other commodities, so that a dollar today will buy its worth of what one needs tomorrow.

Eccentricities A watch is that round, metal device which the speaker of the evening places before him on the table as he arises, and does not consult thereafter.—Detroit News. A man recently walked half a mile on his toes. Profoundly his ideas as to how to get home as possible (without waking the baby)—Humorist. A well-known millionaire sportsman confesses that he has never yet entered a night club. This, no doubt, explains why he is still a millionaire. Sometimes a pessimist is a man to whom an optimist owes money.—Dallas News.

The Curse of Selfishness

Human selfishness, perhaps the most important factor, is responsible for the mess our world is in today. Take the matter of the mood and motions of Congress; most of those Senators and Representatives are politicians; they were elected by human beings; they will be defeated or reelected by the same human beings in their separate areas. Because the majority of the folks back home want government to play Santa Claus to them, they support that Congressional willful blindness if he can get them something from government. It may be a new post office, a great WPA or PWA project; it may be a subsidy to the farmer, or a protective tariff to a certain individual group; it may be a far-reaching piece of labor legislation; it may be anything that helps one group, one section of the country. The South wants its cotton protected by government largesse; the corn and wheat belt seeks the same objective, and so the southern, etc., etc. Selfishness, though the curse of the age, for were it not a string part of the human makeup, the evils that it spawns would never see the light of day. What a wonderful opportunity the church could have if it would take part in the working out of a few fundamental economic truths about production and distribution of wealth that human beings create, and about which this fight so ignorantly!

Who Lives on The Planet, Mars? The Planet Mars, which is usually more than 25,000,000 miles from the earth, is not only about 38,000 miles higher and consequently, astronomers are interested in the "close" visit of the planet about which there has been so much speculation.

Human beings have wondered whether the planet is inhabited by other beings, similar to those that live on earth. Some believe that the existence of certain green areas on the planet, (however, Mars approximates a desert planet, with little water on its surface, it would be a wild presumption to conclude that life, as it exists among the human race, is on the planet.

At this stage of man's knowledge, we know very little about the universe. We should not doubt ourselves overmuch with the possible existence of human beings on the planets. Rather, we might spend our speculative time in considering the possible existence of other forms of life capable of existence under conditions which seem to be on the planet.

Commendable Procedure Something new in labor technique is reported from Philadelphia where a union, rather than call a strike to interfere with production of hats and caps for the armed forces, has filed a suit in equity, seeking to enforce a labor contract.

In other words, instead of calling a strike, the labor union has gone to the courts, requesting that its interpretation of the contract be enforced by the courts. The action, it is hoped, will serve as a deterrent to other labor organizations and obviate the necessity for industrial strikes.

We listened to a formal report of the Hat, Cap and Millinery Workers International Union of the American Federation of Labor for this interesting procedure. Certainly both the union and the employer ought to be anxious for a judicial interpretation of the contract that will settle the matter. However, the decision of the court will probably be less expensive to both the union and the employer.

Discovers Axis Materials It will surprise many Americans that large supplies of essential metals, which are essential to Axis dominated countries, have been discovered at various storage points in the United States.

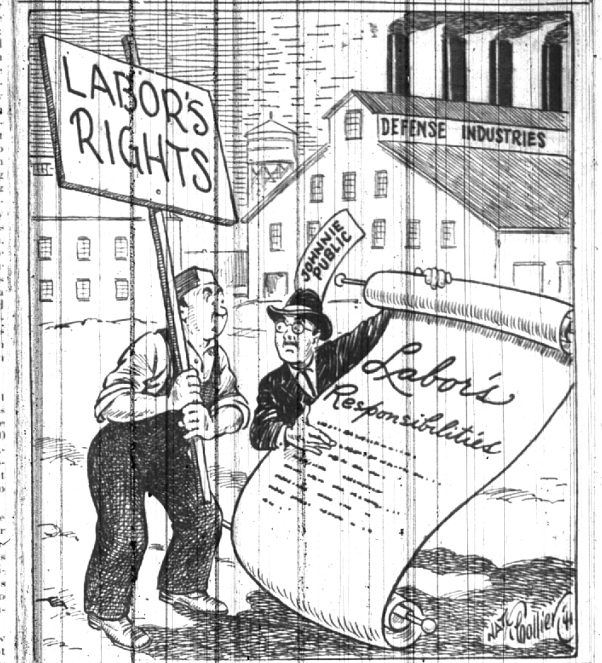
The supplies have been discovered for this country, according to Vice-President Charles McNary, head of the Food and Defense Board, by one thousand square miles of aluminum, 700,000 pounds of tin, 1,500 tons of iron and steel were discovered and a preliminary survey of the plant of New York indicates that as many as 1,000 carloads of materials were involved.

AMERICAN MERCHANTS and merchant ships traveling the North Atlantic must expect to be shot at by the Nazis; that is inevitable. If a few of them are shot at, our country shouldn't get so excited that its leaders declare a state of war. Sure, get the goods to land for the British—that's expected to lose a few of them in the undertaking.

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Not to Be Neglected!



The planning committee for this year's Labor's Responsibilities campaign is now accepting applications for the amount of work done behind the scenes. MRS. J. H. McHILLIGER, General Chairman.

New Jersey Reader Writes of Safety

The Editor: Not so long ago after a fatal accident which resulted in the death of a young man in Birmingham, while riding a bicycle, your paper carried an article which was a very good one. It was a warning to all of us to be careful when we are riding a bicycle. It was a warning to all of us to be careful when we are riding a bicycle.

New Football Lights Bring in the Money

The Editor: I want to thank you for the article which you carried in your issue of October 18, 1941, about the football game under the lights. I think the football game under the lights is a very big business. I think the football game under the lights is a very big business.

People's Column

The Eccentric is pleased to receive contributions from its readers. All contributions should be sent to the Editor, The Birmingham Eccentric, 112 North Third Street, Birmingham, Ala. Contributions should be sent to the Editor, The Birmingham Eccentric, 112 North Third Street, Birmingham, Ala.

World Unites in Appreciative Word

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WABEEK STATE BANK OF DETROIT. "A friendly bank" 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 - WABEEK BUILDING