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

A "DEAL" WITH THE TAXPAYERS

Last year, as everyone knows, the voters of Birmingham and its school district turned thumbs down on a proposal to raise the tax rate for benefit of the school system. Now, with the cost of living up 10 per cent, there is talk of another election on the issue, based on a swap with the taxpayers which won't raise the total rate at all.

"The idea intrigues me," Lee E. Joslyn, president of the school board, told that group not long ago, and I am inclined to feel the same way.

Here is how it would work: There are two tax rates for the schools, one for operating and one for debt service. The operating rate is subject to the 15-mill limitation and cannot be raised except by a special vote of the people. The debt levy can be set at any level the board deems necessary to pay off the bonded obligations of the district, BUT, money raised on the debt levy can not be transferred to the other pocket. The law is very strict about that.

During the past eight years, the district has staged a remarkable comeback with regard to its debt, paying off bonds faster than the schedule called for. Now, there is reason to believe that the district can safely cut the levy for debt by two mills and still pay off the bonds on schedule, although it would be wise, of course, to get out of debt as soon as possible to save interest.

T. W. Eustis, 371 Linden, has suggested that the board make this proposal to the voters: "Approve two extra mills for operating and we will cut the debt levy two mills, making your tax bill the same."

The extra two mills would last only three years, I believe, and then the rate would go back to its old level.

* * *

Do the schools need more money? Well, everybody is probably willing to argue the point. As a neutral observer, I am willing to testify that during the past year the schools have been just able to scrape by, and that the school board has really scrutinized every purchase to effect a saving in money. I believe the schools are as economically run as is possible without cutting down the quality of instruction. In my opinion, there can't be much argument on that point.

The second important factor is the rising cost of living for the teachers, and the rising cost of coal, paint, and of other materials and of workmen. No one can deny that. (The latest estimate relates that the cost of living in Detroit has jumped 10 per cent in the past year.) So, it is apparent that the schools must get more money for the emergency period of price rises unless we are willing that deterioration set in. As long as the debt picture is favorable, I can see no harm in making this unique trade.

However, I am also in favor of the State splitting up increased sales tax revenues to give all state and school employees pay raises to compensate them for higher living costs.

* * *

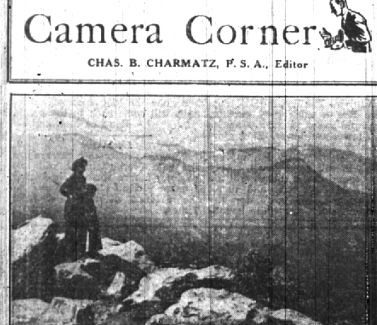
About Senator Vandenberg

The speaker last Tuesday night, Dr. Staley, was not very enthusiastic about Senator Vandenberg, criticising him chiefly for his high-tariff beliefs. Well, I don't agree with him on that, either, nor on some other points.

However, it can be said in Senator Vandenberg's favor that he provides intelligent opposition—as intelligent as any politics can be. Our republican form of government is based on the two-party system; the opposition is just as important as the Administration, and I would rather have Senator Vandenberg in Congress five times over than some others I can think of. Even if one doesn't agree with Senator Vandenberg's politics, I think one must admit that he is an asset to the country.

THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner

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



Good landscape pictures are easy to make if you remember to include some foreground objects. Note how the rocks and figures in this shot give a general idea of the size and scope of the scene, and also create an illusion of depth.

TRAVEL PIX

There is an old story that has circulated for years, relating to the sale of railway tickets to Niagara Falls. In the form of a riddle, the question is: "who sold the greatest number of tickets to Niagara Falls?"

Probable answers might be "The New York Central," or "the ticket agent at the Grand Central Depot." Actually, so the story goes, the photographs of Niagara Falls, which used to, and perhaps still adorn the thousands of railroad stations throughout the country have sold more passages to the Falls, than all the timetables and special fare inducements.

Ansel Adams and his many beautiful shots of the Yosemite have perhaps induced more people to visit our national parks than any other medium. Which brings us to our little lesson in picture taking for this week. Many of us will soon be leaving for that winter vacation in Florida, Mexico, the west coast, or that boat cruise. Are we going to be able to relive these outings by bringing back a truly fine collection of worth while scenic and landscape pictures? You'll find, if you shoot thoughtfully and wisely, that good landscapes are comparatively easy to make, and provide worth while additions to your snapshot collection.

Some Simple Rules

A few simple general rules. First your light. Very few good landscapes are taken when the sun is overhead. Late afternoon, and early morning are better and you'll find that long shadows help give interest and pictorial quality to outdoor scenes. Next, your exposure. Get in the habit of deliberately under exposing for distant views. Give half-normal exposure; distant scenes or important objects over a mile away, which are usually lacking in contrast, will give flat dense negatives if given full normal exposure, and will lack sharpness.

Also, learn the proper use of filters. Books have been written on this subject, and only a few fundamental rules can be touched on here. The color of the filter used will render those colors lighter. For example: Very little contrast would be apparent between some trees placed in front of a red barn. By the use of a red filter, you would render the red barn in a lighter tone, whereas the trees would show up in darker contrast. Remember to increase exposure in accordance with the film used, and increase in exposure, with the filter used.

Last, and not least—compose your landscapes in your view finder. Learn to think in terms of "framing" your scene, and also of foreground material. The viewpoint should be carefully chosen—remembering that a lot that is extraneous can be eliminated or at least made unobtrusive by moving the camera to the right or left, up or down, or nearer or farther away.

LECTURE

Miss Eleanor Parker Curtis, of Washington, D.C., will be the guest of the Miniature Camera Club of Detroit's next meeting, to be held in the Science Auditorium of the Joseph Campau Hall, University of Detroit, located south of McNichols Road, on Livernois Ave. The lecture on "Pictorial Photography" starts at 8 p.m., on Monday evening, Nov. 3. Admission 50 cents. Miss Curtis is one of the most noted salon exhibitors having hung over 1000 prints in 333 salons during the last five years. A collection of her most famous photographs will be on exhibition in the lecture hall.

SIMPLICITY

Met a very pleasant lady the other night who confessed to rapturously digesting our photographic

(Continued on Page 6)

U. S. Navy Is 166 Years Old

Last Monday, October 27, commemorated the one hundred and sixty-sixth anniversary of the founding of the United States Navy. For it was that many years ago that a committee of three men, John Adams, Silas Dean and John Langdon purchased the merchant ship Black Prince of Philadelphia. Renamed the Alfred, this vessel had the distinction of being the first ship in the United States Navy. These men were appointed by Congress, through the efforts of George Washington, as a Naval Committee responsible for the purchase of two vessels. An original appropriation of $100,000 was increased several days later, making possible the purchase of four ships in all—the latter three named the Columbus, Cabot and Andrew Doria.

The date October 27, on which Congress in 1775 acted to establish our Navy, is celebrated annually as Navy Day. The purposes of Navy Day are to pay a deserved tribute to the splendid service the men in the Navy have rendered in making and keeping us a nation and to better inform the American people of what our Navy is and does for them. When originally chosen, October 27 marked not only one of the most important dates in U. S. Naval history, but also the birth date of Theodore Roosevelt whose life was devoted to furthering a sound naval policy for the United States.

In its early days, the history of our Navy was a turbulent one. During the revolutionary period 73 vessels of all descriptions were used, but through sale, capture and destruction only one was left in 1785 and during that year Congress abolished the Navy, leaving the burden of the protection of our country in the hands of an army of only 80 men. In 1794 our Navy was revived by a Congressional Act authorizing the construction of several frigates to deal with the Algerine pirates and the first U. S. Navy Department was established four years later. One of these new frigates purchased as a result of this act of 1794 was the Constitution—with the Constellation, United States, President, Congress and Chesapeake making up a Navy which, through successful encounters with French cruisers and privateers, established an enviable reputation for itself. In 1801 a series of engagements with the Barbary states and the ensuing treaties rendered commerce in the Mediterranean safe from attack and ended the payment of tribute by Americans.

The outstanding performance of our Navy and privateers during the War of 1812 insured freedom of the seas for our commerce and further increased our national prestige abroad.

The effective work of the Navy during the World War is still fresh in the minds of most of us. The astonishing fact that no American soldier was escorted to Europe, lost his life in transit across the Atlantic amazed even those in the highest positions of authority.

All American foreign relations, all American participation in the life of the community of nations must find its expression through traffic on the seas. Ships, both commercial and naval, are the means of giving effective outlet to America's right to participation in international trade and politics.

FOR MANY YEARS Michigan's Department of Conservation has been quite free from political manipulation. One of its long-time members is Harry Whiteley, publisher of the *Dowagiac Daily News*; recently Mr. Whiteley delivered a castigating denunciation to Governor Van Wagoner for the latter's apparent plan to re-shuffle part of the Department on what seem to be political lines. Mr. Whiteley has a long and distinguished conservation record, and his opinions are respected throughout Michigan. We hope, in the interest of a good administration for himself, that the Governor will not do anything affecting the Conservation Department that can be construed as "political manipulation." For there are tens of thousands of Michigan sportsmen who will resent this.

NEARBY OWOSSO, in order to keep its youth off the highways Sunday nights, has lifted the ban on Sabbath dancing. Well, that's one practical way to solve a contemporary problem; Birmingham holds its dances at the Community House on Saturday nights.

THE LARGEST CROWD in the history of Michigan football saw that Minnesota game at Ann Arbor last week; 85,753 human beings were in the huge stadium. This interest in a sports game, contrasted against the apathy of people in problems of their government, is a sad commentary upon self-government.

GOVERNOR VAN WAGONER is quoted as saying that he will protect workers of a plant who wish to continue their employment, even though strike pickets try to prevent them from doing so. In this, the Governor is standing on traditional American ground. Hoodlumism in strike troubles should not be tolerated anywhere in America.

Eccentricities

According to Dorothy Dix, "no knowledge we ever acquire is so important as a knowledge of what to say and how to say it." Except perhaps, a knowledge of what not to say and when not to say it.—Weston (Ore.) Leader.

Affluence is the condition that impels a man who left the country to live in the city to leave city to live in the country.—Louisville Times.

"What is home without a mother," asks a weekly paper. The answer is "Modern."—Punch.

"What would you call a man who deceives his wife for 12 years?" asked a woman in court recently. A magician.—The Humorist.

U. S. Should Watch Hitler

The word comes from Washington that the President is convinced that Hitler will not declare war upon the United States regardless of what we do in regards to the war in Europe.

This conclusion, we think, is sound for the present. The future may produce a different situation, however, and the reasoning will not be valid.

Hitler is apt to treat the United States exactly like he treated Russia. As long as it suits his purpose he will play "low" and say nothing. At the opportune time, if it comes, he will launch a sudden, unexpected attack.

It may be safely assumed that the United States has already earned the undying hatred of the Nazi Fuehrer. Back of the desperate gamble in attacking Soviet Russia may be the spectre of American supplies, tipping the scales of armament in favor of Great Britain. If Hitler succeeds in whipping Russia, to the point that the Red army ceases to be an effective fighting force, we suspect that the next German offensive will be against the British Isles and that, if this succeeds, the second will be against the United States.

It will be just as well for the people of the United States to prepare their defenses against the worst that can happen. This will be a combination of Germany, Italy and Japan, with the possible assistance of France in Spain. The aim will be the conquest of the Western Hemisphere and the division of the rich territorial and monetary spoils that these continents offer.

Metals from The Ocean

Metallic magnesium is being recovered from sea water at Freeport, Texas, and the heads of forty university chemical engineering departments agree that the process is the outstanding engineering achievement of 1941.

Prof. Alfred White, of the University of Michigan, says that 300,000,000 gallons of raw ocean water is daily processed to produce 100,000 pounds of metal as well as large quantities of bromine for anti-knock motor fuels.

The recovery of the metallic magnesium is important now that magnesium alloys are being so widely used in the construction of airplanes. They are the lightest metals used in industry, having practically the strength of aluminum and about two-thirds of its weight.

In time to come man will take many things from the ocean. In fact, he still draws heavily upon the earth's atmosphere for useful substances. We may even look to the sun for our power and thus secure an unlimited source of energy.

ENROLLMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY is being encouraged by the federal government more than at any time in the history of the nation. As you have noted from advertisements in this newspaper, many splendid training opportunities are open for American youth in a field of military activity that traditionally suggests more romance and adventure than serving in the land forces. The editor of *The Eccentric*, himself a former marine engineer on Great Lakes and ocean-going steamers, can attest to the many avenues of learning that lie in maritime pursuits.

PERSONS WORKING IN DEFENSE industries, where the government is footing the bill, are entitled to a fair share of the wealth they produce; excessive profits should not be allowed. However, workers in non-defense industries, whose products are not receiving increased selling prices, are thus held down to income, even though the cost of living is on the rise. It seems to us, in fairness to the latter group, that a ceiling on wages should be placed, which will tend to keep living costs where they are. The tax collector can take care of excessive profits.

YOU ASSUME THAT YOU LIVE in what is called a democracy, where people themselves determine the influence that government exerts over them; you would be more correct if you admitted that you live in a republic, where elected representatives do the thinking for the whole people. This latter type of governing is much closer to dictator-ship than a pure democracy is—especially when a majority of the elected officials have at their disposal billions of your tax money.

THAT RECENT DRIVE to gather aluminum throughout the United States apparently was more of a symbol than a real need for metal; reports come from every section of the land that great quantities of aluminum still remain where they were thrown by patriotic citizens. You recall that the idea came from New York's Mayor LaGuardia, known for his love of attending fires; is it possible that his aluminum drive was merely a false alarm?

The Birmingham Eccentric

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GEORGE R. AXTELL, Editor and Publisher
PAUL NEWCOMB MERRILL, Business Manager
JOHN H. HARWOOD, Managing Editor
HAROLD P. SHERICK, Advertising Manager
CLAUDE E. WALKER, Circulation Manager

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All newspaper and advertising copy must be in the Eccentric office by Wednesday noon to obtain insertion for that week.

The Eccentric is a member of National Editorial Association, Michigan Press Association, Lawrence Press Club, and Oakland County Press Club.

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 presented before noon on Wednesdays. The right is reserved, however, to make such superficial changes in the copy submitted as are necessary to fit the style of the paper and as are required by rules of the state. Because of a mechanical status in the composing room, headlines written by those other than members of the staff cannot be used. Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation which may appear in the columns of The Eccentric will be gladly corrected upon being brought to the attention of the publisher.

The American Scene

Happenings of Long Ago

50 Years Ago
Oct. 29, 1891

Whitehead and Mitchell, publishers of The Eccentric, are moving into their new Exchange Bank Building. One thousand extra copies of The Eccentric were printed and sent all over the state to publicize the opening of the bank—which was "modern, convenient and a good investment."

"Geese and turkeys alive for sale. Call on Samuel Bell."

R. W. Farrand gathered 15 bushels of walnuts from one tree in the yard of Charles Hawkins and thinks it a good yield. We do, too.

All ladies of the Church and vicinity who are interested in having a society here for reading and general improvement were invited to meet at the residence of Mrs. A. Marsh on Monday, Nov. 2.

Messrs. Ford, Cornwell, Webster, and Will Ford cut down and removed the maple trees in front of the store and bank of White Bread and Mitchell, to the dismay, sorrow, joy and consternation of everyone concerned.

"Some people have too much conscience to hitch a horse to a tree, and if you have no hitching post, what can they do?"

Miss Hattie Pardee of Pontiac, spent last Sunday with Mrs. Fannie Shaw.

25 Years Ago
Oct. 27, 1916

No longer was the aforementioned Oakland Hills Golf Club a mere probability, for it became a considerable reality at an organization meeting and election held at the Detroit Athletic Club on Tuesday. At the meeting the club was incorporated, articles of association signed, by-laws and members placed on the charter, officers elected, and details of the future set the club discussed by those present. The directors of the club, different from others in this area in that it offered membership to more than golf. Now officials are looking for a site, and Luther Trowbridge, vice-president; H. B. Harmon, secretary; Adrian T. Bowling, treasurer. The directors will be Dwight H. Hawkins, Harry W. Ford, David Gray, Alex Philip, E. H. Loveley, Fred Brenner, Harry W. Frost, Frank H. Jones, Gilbert Lee, Walter C. Marshall and Dwight H. Lee.

The following fascinating bit was taken an important place in the personals column: He didn't have a care in the world, according to his clothes and others were looking just as if they'd buried their best friend. But didn't say he'd lost his job or that his wife had left him. Then, next he begged a dollar. If the paper couldn't spare it, he offered the publish that would get the sun to scorn. He kept on advertising and just nosed suffice to say that he was in California at his cottage on the bay. The last time he lived in Birmingham? Now this is not a lie. Oh, no, we will not, for his name, you'll guess it by and by.

On Nov. 4, Drs. Cole and C. P. Kay will were to remove tons of fluid from the Levinson building on Woodward avenue, next to the D. R. Waiting Room. They were to occupy a suite of rooms that Mr. Levinson had just designed especially for physicians, and a white enameled operating room being a feature. New furnishings and equipment was to be installed, together among other things of an X-ray machine, and an especially fine apparatus for treatment of diseases of the nose and throat.

Farmer Hudson celebrated his birthday anniversary last week by entertaining over 65 friends from here and from Plymouth. Many of them, naturally came here to join Mr. Marshall is president of the Wellman Company. In De-

5 Years Ago
Oct. 29, 1936

Pianist services for James Conway, United States Senator, Bloomfield Hills, were held last Monday. The Rev. S. S. Mathews, Church of Christ, officiated.

Social Workers attended the opening class of the French Camp Ridge School, held at the Community House the past Thursday afternoon.

Good Hope Hill farmers were invited here in order to take advantage of the Grange Hall, Bloomfield, daughter of Mrs. Ford of Southfield road, and Pvt. James S. Ford of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

The Bloomfield Garden Club's annual meeting was held in the home of Mrs. Albert K. Spicer, Jr., and Mrs. A. D. Hadley presided over the business meeting.

Mrs. E. Murray of Pine Lake road, entertained the Birmingham branch of the Women's Association of the Detroit Institute of Arts.

Mrs. Percy Pettypiece, daughter of Mrs. Ralph Hamilton, was hostess at a luncheon at the Country Club.

Mrs. Hans Mandell's [illegible] was hostess at a luncheon at the Mandell home in Birmingham.

Mrs. and Mrs. Jack S. Cummings [illegible] Joan, to Wm. Mackenzie, son of Mrs. Mackenzie of Detroit. At the meeting the club was incorporated, articles of association signed, by-laws and members placed on the charter, officers elected, and details of the future set the club discussed by those present. The directors of the club, different from others in this area in that it offered membership to more than golf. Now officials are looking for a site, and Luther Trowbridge, vice-president; H. B. Harmon, secretary; Adrian T. Bowling, treasurer. The directors will be Dwight H. Hawkins, Harry W. Ford, David Gray, Alex Philip, E. H. Loveley, Fred Brenner, Harry W. Frost, Frank H. Jones, Gilbert Lee, Walter C. Marshall and Dwight H. Lee.

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The Hugh Hemphills who moved from their home on Chicago Boulevard, Detroit, to 2400 Mayfair Lane, Bloomfield Hills, because they wanted to live in the country. Mr. Hemphill is a manufacturers' agent with offices in Detroit.

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Ackles [illegible] are living at 885 Oakland avenue. Before this Ackles were married last spring, Birmingham and Mr. Ackles' home. They moved back here as soon as they could locate a house. Mr. Ackles is with Fisher Body in Detroit.

The James Johnstons who are living at 550 Hazelden drive? The Johnstons lived in Birmingham six years ago, and returned this time from Cleveland, Ohio. Mr. Johnston is an advertising man with headquarters in Detroit and Cleveland. They have three children, James Jr., 17, Marjory Ann, 16, and Robert, 14, all of whom are attending the Baldwin High School.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter C. Chaffee [illegible] moved here from Royal Oak? One of the principal reasons for their moving into Birmingham was because their son, Donald Chaffee, lives here, on Pleasant avenue. Their other two children are boys, from [illegible] Mr. Chaffee is an architect.

The Alfred D. F. Fortiers of Lake Fairfax avenue? The Fortiers have lived next door to Birmingham, in Royal Oak, for the past 17 years, and have always had a hankering to live here so finally did. They have two daughters, Sally, who will enter Baldwin High School at the end of this semester, and Gloria, 17, who is a freshman this year at Michigan State College.

Mr. and Mrs. William K. Carter, of 2252 Dorchester road, who moved to Birmingham from Cincinnati, Ohio? They decided to live in Birmingham because they prefer the country to the city. The Carters have two children, Virginia, 10, and Kellogg, 8, both of whom attend Adams School. Mr. Carter is a sales engineer for Stanley Works in Detroit.

Have You Met . . .

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