

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

Knocking on Wood

with JOHN H. HARWOOD

THE WAR'S FUTURE COURSE

Providing the Russians can withstand the summer campaign of the Germans, a successful conclusion to the war is in sight, and within the next year or two, the Nazis must be running short of oil, for the Rumanian fields do not provide the type of petroleum which makes good lubricating oil. Not only that, the Reds have been exacting a terrible toll of Germany's manpower, and when the Nazi reserves fall seriously short, collapse will come, just as it did in 1918.

Russia holds up, I do not foresee any great use of the Army of several millions which America is preparing, principally because there is a shortage of ships in which to transport the men and the vast supplies which must accompany a modern, mechanized army.

Remember, in 1917 and 1918, it was all we could do to get our men to France and to supply them and the Allies with food; airplanes, tanks and artillery were not taken across at all. We were not sending men to Australia, to Alaska, to Africa, to India and to Iceland, and sailing to some of these bases, a cargo ship can make only a couple of round trips a year. However, our air force is already striking at the foe on many fronts and will be in a position to attack at an increasing rate, particularly from the British Isles.

The Nazis, too, will be taxed to the utmost to keep the supplies lanes open.

That does not mean that our Army will not continue to grow, for it must be prepared to strike at Germany from Australia, and for an invasion of the European continent should that be made possible. Our resources are unlimited, and willingness of the British to attempt it.

Germany is knocked out, the United Nations, with Russia, can bring Japan to her knees. When German victory is no longer in Europe, Japan can not hope to win in this greatest gamble that any nation ever attempted.

The important thing now is to help lick Germany first, sending our troops to the Pacific to keep Japan from spreading her lines farther, but Japan is doomed when Germany falls.

ROYCE THE RAIDER
Brig. General Ralph Royce always got along well with the newsboys, and he can easily visualize his triumphant press conference last week after that daring raid on the Japanese Embassy. For even during peace times, he loved the spectacular, and certainly he made Seiffert Field, him when he was his commanding officer!

A RELATIVE MATTER
People who think Fort Custer is a drab-looking place don't know the half of it, writes a soldier. His facilities are de luxe compared with Jefferson Barracks, Mo. Yes, and Jefferson Barracks would probably remind boys in our outposts of the Hotel Waldorf Astoria. When the firing is heavy, one hole may be luxurious compared with another.

NOT LOGICAL
"War of Nerves Hits Nazis Hard" - new newspaper headlines. What sort of talk is that? If one force threatens to attack another, and the defender takes steps to stand off an attack, does that mean that they are shivering in a blue funk? If England talks of invading the continent, why shouldn't the Germans prepare to resist it? What has that to do with nerves? One suspects, however, that invasion talk may be a bluff to divert Germany from the East. Otherwise, would not plans of invasion be hidden by censorship?

"SOCIAL JUSTICE"
There was considerable discussion last week as to the true ownership of Father Coughlin's "Social Justice." What difference does it make as to who owns the sheet? The important consideration is its content. "Social Justice" still trying to keep us out of war by branding the war as a phony, a war fought on behalf of

international bankers and plutocrats. Would the boys who died at Pearl Harbor agree to that? Even if "Social Justice" line were partly true, it is too late now to argue the side issue; we are in the war and we must win it. Anyone who thinks we can make a peace with Hitler and the Japs is out of his mind.



OVERNIGHT CAMP

Of interest to all Scouts in the Emergency Service Corps is the announcement that this group is planning to go on an overnight camp this week-end, April 25 and 26. Boys who plan to go are asked to meet at the Community House on Saturday afternoon at three o'clock. Tents will be supplied and the boys are asked to bring the rest of their equipment which will be of use. Saturday night will be spent at a camping location. Babbitt, which is about 17 miles from the Community House, will be the return home sometime Sunday afternoon.

ABOUT FRED ZOEHLIN

Fred Zoelin, the subject of this week's sketch of men active in carrying on Birmingham Scouting, has contributed not only to the war, but to the peace. During the war, Mr. Zoelin saw service with the First Canadian Tank Battalion, while in Germany, he represented Canada in the 100-yard dash, high hurdles, and the relay at the Inter-games, which were held at Paris in 1919. Mr. Zoelin started out in Scouting in 1912 in a suburb of Chicago, where he served as an assistant scoutmaster and while in this capacity, he received the National Honor Life-Saving Award. In addition to this, he is a member of the Order of the Arrow, organization for Scouts and Scouters. Mr. Zoelin, a former commissioner of Scouting in Birmingham, has also served as scoutmaster of B-1 and at the present he is assistant scoutmaster and leader of that troop's Explorer Patrol. He is connected with a stock brokerage firm in Detroit.

—DON McLEES

Have You Met...

Mr. and Mrs. Walter G. Patton, who died of living in the city, so moved out to Birmingham, where they are living at 1647 Yorkville road. They have one daughter, Katherine, aged 18 months. Both Mr. and Mrs. Patton attended the University of Michigan, where he was affiliated with the Hermitages and she was a member of the Alpha Omicron Pi sorority. Mr. Patton is a statistician with the Climax Molybdenum Company of Michigan, with offices in Detroit.

Mr. and Mrs. Roland B. Booth are making their home at 762 Woodlake road. The Booths have one son, a relative here, and besides have always liked Birmingham. Now that Mr. Booth is retired they have moved out here and plan to spend a lot of time gardening and just being outdoors.

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Support Com. House

Starting next Tuesday, April 22, a host of volunteer workers will stage the 19th annual campaign to raise operating funds for the Birmingham Community House. The value of this community-supported institution hardly needs lengthy argument to prove its earned status. The Heart of Birmingham is in this issue of The Eccentric you will find a special message, urging your support through other media, you have been told that the House has done for this area during past years. We suggest that you lend a willing ear to the campaign worker who calls on you, followed by an extension of a portion of your pocketbook's contents.

Military Strategy

Although it must be admitted that most Americans are vitally interested in this present war, it is equally true that most of us outside the military and other leadership forces know "plenty of nothing" about what should be done insofar as actual military maneuvers are concerned.

It is true that the majority of our people assume that, if we are at war, and our various industrial centers are in danger of attack, we ought to have lots of soldiers, airplanes, and guns scattered about the premises; but the leaders in Washington believe otherwise, as the President stated in his talk last week. This war is being fought worldwide; every time we can attack the Japs or the Germans and Italians in other parts of the world, we really are defending our own shores.

It has taken a long time for this message to "get over" to our people—if it is over, even today. But the truth of this strategy appears logical. We can expect our coasts to be bombed, our coastwise shipping to be sunk, and even areas far inland under attack; we will have to stand up under it, the while our factories are turning out armaments, and our recruits are being trained.

Then, when we have gathered enough of both (in the meantime sending men and war tools abroad), we'll be able to wage real offensives against our enemies, in their own territories.

From then on the story will be difficult, in our favor. In the meantime, let's hope our leaders cease anything like playing politics or group favoritism; this is not the time for "Unionian reforms."

CITY MANAGER Donald C. Eghert recently paid a Highland, Mich., man to locate a new water supply through the use of a willow wand, or "divining rod." The chap finally decided on a spot near Hunter boulevard—just where the City itself had previously decided upon. If it were possible to use the same system to locate places in units of government where economy could be effected, we'd be glad to pay such an expert five bucks to do his stuff in Birmingham.

ONE THING GOOD that ought to come out of this war is a greater distribution of the earth's wealth among people who have been for centuries held in a sort of economic bondage. Their number runs into the hundreds of millions; so, from the deep and terrifying travail of mol. This is the OTTOMAN human life itself, may come new and better things.

B. Hills Mayor

Our congratulations to Harry J. Klingler, general manager of the Pontiac Motor Division of General Motors, for being elected Mayor of nearby Bloomfield Hills. Mr. Klingler has proved his top rating as a modern genius in the realm of producing tangible things like automobiles, and now some of the armaments of war. He will find, in his Mayor's job, many problems related to the difficult business of government; application of his talents to their various solutions should rebound to the civic credit of the Hills and ought to provide an interesting experience for Mr. Klingler.

Germany's Civilian Murders

Figures compiled by the League of Nations show that the civilian death rate in Germany and England during 1940 increased about one per cent, while in Belgium, occupied by the Germans, the increase was three per cent.

The implication is that Germany has caused numerous deaths in Belgium by removing food, by overwork of undernourished people, by deprivation of medical care and by various callous forms of systematic abuse.

No figures are given for Poland, where the Nazis are systematically exterminating the population. Nor are figures available for Greece, where conditions are as bad or worse. It should be plain to the people of this country that a Nazi peace will be almost as destructive to other nations as a war against the Germans. Not only will the Nazis remove machinery and raw materials, but they will exploit the conquered people without regard to their fate.

The Nazi program is being followed by the Japanese in the Far East where the wily orientals have invented additional brutalities on their own.

THIS IS AN ELECTION YEAR, you know. There probably isn't any chance of any of the candidates for the various offices shouting: "Vote for me, and I'll keep you out of war!"

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GEORGE R. AVERILL, Editor and Publisher
PAUL R. AVERILL, Managing Editor
JOHN H. HARWOOD, Advertising Manager
CLAUDE E. WALKER, Production Manager

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NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events which have value and interest to the community. The right is reserved, however, to make such superficial changes in the copy submitted as may be necessary to state the facts of the case and as are required by laws of the state. Because of a mechanical situation in the composing room, headlines written by those other than members of the staff, and material of a sensational nature, will appear in the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or institution, will be gladly corrected upon being brought to the attention of the publisher.

A Timely Suggestion



THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner

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

ARTHUR SIEGEL LECTURES

Arthur Siegel, well known teacher of photography and Detroit representative of Life magazine gave a well-received lecture to members of the Birmingham Camera Club during its last meeting on April 14 at Community House. Mr. Siegel brought numerous examples of his work with him which were displayed and commented on. For the first time, many of the members were shown examples of the far reaching realms of photography. Mr. Siegel endeavored to point out the many unexplored fields in which the photographer can delve, either for purposes of exercise, or as a medium of actual art expression. Examples of Mr. Siegel's work included photographs, negative prints, solarization, double prints, and prints from double exposures. Splendid examples of portraiture, pictorial, news and documentary photographs were included. This lecture proved one of the most

thought-provoking talks heard at the club.

CAMERA CLUB TO MEET NEXT MONTH

Next meeting of the Birmingham Camera Club will be held on the second Tuesday evening of May. The exact date is May 12, and the place, the Community House. Henceforth, the club will meet only once per month, at which time the monthly print competition will be held, together with a lecture or dark room demonstration. Because many of the members are busily engaged in war industries, it has been found desirable to limit meetings to only one night per month. In the meantime, smaller groups will be formed, who will from time to time hold informal meetings at individual homes of members. Plans are afoot for several outdoor camera hikes and outings for the summer months. An exhibit is scheduled for early October.

Camera Check-Up

You can get more out of your camera if you keep it clean and make whatever minor adjustments it may require as soon as they are needed. Some of the main points to check on any plate-back camera are revealed in the current May Directory issue of Popular Photography magazine. Here they are:

1. Begin your camera check-up by removing the lens elements. Clean them with lens tissue. Be sure to get them tight when you screw them back into the shutter.
2. Inspect the focal-plane shutter with lens and groundglass back removed. Repair holes with rubber cement and lampblack, letting it dry well before winding.
3. Clean the groundglass, and oil it lightly to improve image brightness. Rub the oil almost dry, with a lens cloth. This stunt is employed by many news photographers.
4. Tighten the screws holding the brackets that support the bed. They sometimes loosen, and unless they are tight the camera bed will not be rigid.
5. Use a square to make sure the bed extends at right angles to the camera box. If it is out of line, pictures taken at wide apertures are likely to be blurred.
6. If you find that the bed must be lowered to square it up, insert a thin shim or a piece of an old filmholder slide under one or both of the side brackets.
7. Make sure that the lensboard is in line with the camera. If it is not, one of the infinity stops on the track may have become loose. Tighten and adjust.
8. To square up the lensboard, focus at infinity with scale set at infinity. Then loosen one of the stops, shift the lensboard, and check the scale by groundglass.

ANCIENT TROIK

My father passed his furrows straight and true. His spade was his rhyme. Each track left his horses. Deepening gutters. In me they stir. Today I drink. For him, for her, By them shaken, I too, must drink. The ancient tale. EPIE ALGER ALLEN 1853 Yorkshire.

PLAYING BRIDGE IS NOT ONLY MORE

thrilling than petty gambling, says Ely Stryker. But it is not only more fun for it. But what could be worked as a cure for bridge?—Kansas City Star.

People's Column

The Eccentric is pleased to receive communications for this column. All news items, however, should be limited to 100 words, and must be accompanied by a return address. Publication the following Thursday.

Says Willow Wand Stunt Is a Fake

Editor, The Eccentric:
I was much surprised to see in your last paper that the Birmingham City Manager hired a water "witch" to find out where to dig a well and get water. Of all the fake news items, this is the most palpable. A blind man could see that a stick never turns in anyone's hand. When it breaks it is self off in Mr. Stiles' hand, he was twisting with one hand and holding the other end of the stick. I will say that I am older than Mr. Stiles (72) and I have known that water witching was a superstition for more than half a century, and I would like to come to Birmingham and convince the City Fathers that it is just as stupid to believe in this as it would be to think that a stone could help one to tell the time.
CHARLES MARTIN
Route 3, Birmingham

Ex-China Resident Endorses Aid Drive

Editor, The Eccentric:
Having lived in China for 18 years and seeing parents who are missionaries there, not I know that the Chinese are a great, courageous people and very deserving of all the help we can give them. They have been fighting our battles for over four years and have been doing a fine job of it. In supporting this campaign we have an opportunity to show them that we appreciate the sacrifices they are making.
MRS. LLOYD G. CHAPMAN
547 Hennetta street

Organizations OK School Tax Increase

Editor, The Eccentric:
The Women's Society of Christian Service unanimously adopted a resolution endorsing the 2 1/2 mill increase in taxes for the operation of the Birmingham Public Schools. Women's Society of Christian Service
Methodist Church
MARTHA WILSON
Secretary

V. F. V. FAVORS TAX

Editor, The Eccentric:
At a regular meeting of Post 2045, V. F. W., held at the Elks Club, members present voted to go on record as favoring the 2 1/2 mill increase in taxes for Birmingham Public Schools and endorsing the adjustment to notify the school board.
EDWIN MINKS, Adjutant

Happenings of Long Ago

50 Years Ago
April 21, 1892
"Miss Young of the Normal School, spent her vacation at Birmingham."
"Married at Birmingham on April 13, by M. G. Jones, Esq., Mr. Timothy Renger and Miss Lillie Prince, both of Southfield."
"Little Miss Anabel Corson fell down cellar Monday last and had the misfortune to break her right arm." Mr. C. M. Raynolds mended her up.
"Miss Nellie Smith is not only a graceful bicycle rider, but she manages this fashionable vehicle in a way that encourages the envy of many a gentleman rider."
"Miss Ida Aldrich and Retta Blumberg are visiting in Detroit."

25 Years Ago

April 20, 1917
Russell H. Fisher, youngest son of Mrs. A. C. Fisher, left Detroit last Thursday with the Michigan Naval Militia for the year.
Lloyd Pack was on Friday afternoon in London, Ont., for a few days' visit. He looked fine in his Canadian uniform, according to The Eccentric.

Mrs. Herbert Lawson had been a recent guest of the Richard Lanes.
Mrs. W. W. McAlpine and little grandson, Jackie Spivey, left Tuesday for a visit in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Mrs. Albert Foss and son, Albert, of Detroit, had been recent guests at the home of Dr. Rainey.

5 Years Ago

April 22, 1937
Jean Alice Potter won the district Detroit News Metropolitan Spelling Bee on Friday afternoon on the word "medallion." Jean Alice was an eighth grade student at Kingsway School.
Mr. and Mrs. Richard K. Scales had just moved to Birmingham from Melbourne, Australia.
The engagement of Mary Louise Hills to Clement A. Penrose, Jr., had been announced at a tea the previous Saturday.
Lucille Hallett and Elizabeth Weston returned from a study abroad trip at Michigan State College for the winter term.

'A Junior Album' ... Presenting young people of Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills and Franklin ... Business and social stars of the future ...



TOP CENTER: Esther and Ralph, children of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph C. Haworth. BOTTOM CENTER: Charles and Dennis, children of Mr. and Mrs. Murray. LEFT SIDE: Mary, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Martin P. Veberg. RIGHT SIDE: reading down: George and Emily, children of Mr. and Mrs. Milton H. Berr. 647 Woodland. This feature arranged by the Boatside Studio, Birmingham.