

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

Knocking on Wood

with JOHN H. HARWOOD

DO WE NEED A SEPARATE AIR FORCE?

Believers in air power, alarmed in the past at the alleged indifference which our high military leaders have had for the airplane, have clamored for years for a separate air force under its own leadership and responsible not to the Army or Navy, but to the President and Congress. I have long agreed with those who felt more attention should have been paid to airplane development, but I still believe that a separate air arm would be a mistake.

News from Britain has indicated that in many quarters, there is some dissatisfaction with the autonomous nature of the Royal Air Force. For example, it has been charged that lack of RAF co-ordination made losses at Crete too heavy; and the sinking of the battleship Prince of Wales and Republic of Malaya can be ascribed to the fact that these two battleships had no air protection. The factor in Britain has been for less separation and more unity in the high command.

Vote Monday On School Tax!

While American soldiers are fighting and training to fight the enemies of democracy on battlefields of the world over, what are you, Miss Mr. and Mrs. Voter back home, doing to reaffirm your loyalty to the American Way? America's voting men are fighting to preserve the right to vote. Do you think enough of that right to us it now, while you can?

The proposal to be voted on in the special election next Monday would raise 2 1/2 mills in extra school taxes for the next five years. This means \$2.50 per thousand in assessed valuation; in other words, if the assessor says your house is worth \$3,000 (you probably value it at \$6,000), the extra tax would cost you \$7.50 a year.

Why does the school district need the extra money at this time? Simply because the schools, and particularly the teachers, are being squeezed in an economic strait. We need not waste space in telling you how living costs have risen; the unhappy feature about the present situation is that school revenues have not increased to keep pace with rising costs of every sort. Picture for example, the average male teacher (and most of them are married), trying to get along on \$1,973 a year, which, unless supplemented by summer work, means about \$38 a week. It is possible to live on this, of course, but it is difficult when teachers are supposed to dress well and maintain the standard of living which their training gives them the right to expect.

But let's look at the problem from the other side of the fence—from the standpoint of the parent, the property owner, the business man. Let's not feel sorry for the teachers, but, rather, think in terms of keeping up the schools and of building the city generally. Already, some of the teachers have quit to take better-paying jobs elsewhere, and jobs are relatively plentiful not only in the teaching profession but in war industry. Good teachers are not going to stay in Birmingham in relative poverty, although some have remained outside offers because of loyalty for the school system.

A business man with no children in school should be concerned with the school's future, for that single asset will bring more people to build their homes in Birmingham than the reputation for having a good school system.

The question today is not one of improvement of the school system, although that is financial picture, but rather, the problem is preserving what we have.

The measure, in order to pass, must gain a two-thirds majority and that is very difficult to attain. This it behooves every friend of the schools and of the city as a whole to get out and vote Monday. You must have been registered, of course.

MARCH BUILDING PERMITS here amounted to \$27,430 in the same month a year ago but the total was \$150,450. This may you know, the disastrous effects of war on home construction—certainly that German paper-hanger has raised havoc in the craft he once worked at.

Our Ignorance Of Russia

The people of the United States, together with those in Great Britain, are gradually revising their ideas about Soviet Russia.

The splendid showing of the Soviet Army against the Nazis, together with evidence that the people of Russia are behind the Red Army, creates a presumption that the people of Russia are first in their support of Joseph Stalin and the Communist government.

Incidentally, the Russian dictator has surprised Americans by his grasp of world events. There is no reason for surprise, apparently, except our own ignorance of the world situation and our refusal to make any intelligent effort to understand Russia and the Russians.

For example, in 1936, Mr. Stalin, in an interview with an American newspaper man, discussed two points of danger, "one in the Far East in the zone of Japan, and the other in Europe in the zone of Germany."

From this distance, after the lapse of six years, it appears that Mr. Stalin scored a bull's eye. Certainly, it was his fault that the people of this country were not able to detect accurately the target.

The same observation can be made in respect to the idea that the people of Soviet Russia were against their government and that the Soviet Union would collapse under attack.

ONE WAY TO INCREASE the nation's rubber supply will be the invention of a process that can reclaim the elasticity from state-ments made by people who "stretch the truth."

THE OKLAHOMA Philatelic Association held a stamp exhibition in Birmingham not long ago. In these days, can there be any question that the most valuable stamp in any philatelist's collection is a defense stamp?

The Birmingham Eccentric

Published every Thursday, at Birmingham, Mich. in The Eccentric Building, 220-222 North Woodward Avenue. Telephone 11, 12 and 13.

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Entered as Second-Class Matter in the U. S. Post Office at Birmingham, Michigan.

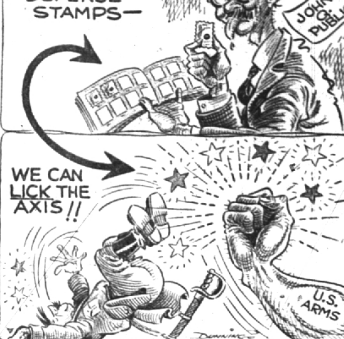
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(In Oklahoma County)
One Year \$1.00
Six Months .50
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(Outside Oklahoma County)
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Three Months .35

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

NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events which have new value and which are written by persons not connected with the editorial staff of the paper. The right is reserved, however, to make such editorial changes in the work submitted as are necessary to the style of the paper and as are required to fit the space. No headline or sub-headline will be printed in the Eccentric without the approval of the editorial staff. Because of a mechanical situation in the composing room, headlines written by those other than the editorial staff cannot be used. Any erroneous reference to the Eccentric will be gladly corrected upon being brought to the attention of the publisher.

Something All Can Do

BY LICKING ENOUGH DEFENSE STAMPS—



THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner

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

PROVE NEGATIVES WITH NEW COCCINE

Frequently the proving of a negative with a wide density range causes considerable trouble, since the response simultaneously to both the dense highlights and the thin shadows of areas. It is most convenient in such instances to have a medium for localized coloring which is easily and conveniently used.

To solve this problem for photographers, Agfa, some time ago introduced a unique medium called New Coccine. This is a red dye supplied in dry form which is readily soluble in water. By applying different concentrations of this solution it is possible to change the density of any part of the negative to any degree desired.

Portrait negatives often are unsatisfactory can often be salvaged quicker and more efficiently with New Coccine than by laborious retouching. It is particularly easy to lighten background otherwise too dark. Blonde hair which has been photographed too dark may be given a more natural shade by simply increasing the overall density with New Coccine. Highlights may be picked up, shadow detail intensi-

fied, and middle tones differentiated by this handy solution.

In a landscape when printed without dodging may lose all shadow detail if a long exposure is necessary to bring out the denser portions, but by applying the pink dye to the thinner areas the density contrast may be balanced and a satisfactory print made. It is even possible by skillful manipulation to obtain a continuous gradation.

Prints almost always show if they are dodged individually during the exposure, with subsequent loss in color and material. Applying the negative by applying New Coccine permits a uniformity throughout all enlargements. The solution may be applied on both sides of the negative itself or on a separate film base which has first been cleared in hypo. A thin camel's hair brush is used. Care should be exercised to avoid standing drops which result in uneven colorization of the negative. A piece of cotton twisted around the wood end of the brush serves as an excellent sponge for soaking the negative. In order to assure smoothness the solution should be applied several times so that the gelatin is allowed to absorb it as evenly as possible.

One of the great advantages of New Coccine is the fact that it penetrates only into the depth of the negative and does not bleed sideways, or run. Another noteworthy feature is the ease with which the dye stained negative may be washed entirely free of the color or only partly as desired. This eliminated the danger of running a highly prized negative. Complete washing may be achieved in one hour in running water. If it is desired to remove the dye quickly, metastability added to a tray of wash water will act as an effective bleaching bath.

Furthermore, New Coccine is inexpensive. A quantity of dye powder no larger than a pinhead will make a sizeable amount of usable solution.

DID YOU KNOW...

That the surface of photographic paper greatly influences the character of prints even though the paper is coated with the same emulsion? A paper with high sheen usually produces a greater scale than matt papers.

That graininess in projection prints is usually increased if the enlarger lens is stopped down?

That lack of standardized agitation during negative development causes more inaccuracies than any other processing procedure? Exhausted or grately constructed pet solutions are a close second.

That a few bubbles in a photographic lens do no harm whatsoever, and usually indicates the glass in the lens is of good quality?

That contributions for this column will be most gratefully received?

STATE OF MICHIGAN—In the Probate Court for the County of Oakland. At a hearing held at the Probate Office in the City of Pontiac, in said County, on the 26th day of April, A. D. 1942.

Present, Reginald A. E. Moore, Judge of Probate.

In the Matter of the Estate of Zeke S. Martin, Deceased.

Arthur J. Brandt, executor of said estate having filed in said Court an final account and petition praying for the confirmation and allowance thereof, determination of the terms of said account, and the discharge of said executor and petitioner.

It is Ordered, that the 26th day of May, A. D. 1942, be and the same is hereby set as said day of hearing, in the forenoon, at said Probate Office, to hear and determine said account and petition.

It is Further Ordered, that public notice thereof be given by publication of a copy of this order for three consecutive weeks previous to said day of hearing, in the proceedings in said cause, in the manner printed and circulated in said County.

Witness my hand and the Seal of said Court, at Pontiac, Michigan, this 26th day of April, A. D. 1942.

GLENN C. CHILDS, Judge of Probate.

People's Column

The Eccentric is pleased to receive contributions from its readers. Contributions should be sent to the Editor, The Birmingham Eccentric, 220-222 North Woodward Avenue, Birmingham, Michigan. Contributions should be sent to the Editor, The Birmingham Eccentric, 220-222 North Woodward Avenue, Birmingham, Michigan.

5 More Organizations Endorse 2 1/2-Mill Levy

(Note: The following letters have been received from the proposed 2 1/2-mill increase for the schools, to be voted on Monday.)

Editor, The Eccentric:

At their regular April meeting, the Birmingham Branch, League of Women Voters unanimously voted to go on record as favoring the 2 1/2-mill increase in taxes for the operation of the Birmingham Public Schools and urged its members to vote for this increase on May 1, 1942.

CHARLOTTE G. PENFIELD, Secretary, Birmingham League of Women Voters.

Editor, The Eccentric:

The Rotary Association at their meeting on Monday, April 20, 1942, voted to endorse the Birmingham Education's proposal for 2 1/2 mills increase in taxes for the operation of the Birmingham Public Schools.

FRANCES M. RICHIE, Secretary.

Editor, The Eccentric:

Please be advised that we wish to go on record as endorsing the "mill increase" in taxes for the betterment of the operation of our public schools.

Yours truly,

Ladies' Missionary Society of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Birmingham, Michigan.

MRS. ROBERT MCKEE, President.

MRS. HAROLD STORCH, Secretary.

Mr. E. W. Seaholm, Secretary Board of Education, Birmingham, Michigan.

Dear Mr. Seaholm:

Your letter of April 2, addressed to Mrs. Brumbaugh, Commissioner of Girl Scouts of Birmingham, was received. The Girl Scout Council meeting held April 14, 1942.

As individuals the members of this council are very much in favor of this 2 1/2-mill increase in taxes for the operation of the Birmingham Public Schools.

However, it is felt that since we, as a group, are endorsing the scouting activities of such a large number of young girls whose parents are very much in favor of the Birmingham Girl Scout Council to endorse this proposition.

MRS. WALTER E. SMITH, Sec'y.

Editor, The Eccentric:

At the April meeting of the American Association of University Women, a motion was taken on the subject of increase in taxes for the operation of Birmingham Public Schools which was given approval by this organization. We believe that the expenditures this extra money will provide are essential to the efficiency of Birmingham educational facilities.

WINIFRED EWEN, Corr. Sec.

Don't Confuse Junior High Issue

Editor, The Eccentric:

The people of Birmingham have within their power next Monday the chance to make much for their school system for their children.

Some residents seem to have lost sight of the one fact that are wandering through a maze of personal prejudices in their thinking.

To jeopardize our whole public school system in order to register a protest against the junior high school issue seems a very shortsighted logic.

Such a course of action should be reminded that it was entirely within the rights of the school board to settle the junior high school question without bringing it to the consideration of the public. The fact is, however, that many hours were spent in informing various P. T. A. groups about this project.

Let us hope by Monday each voter will take the time to think through the effect his vote and if he does, I am sure he will vote "yes" on the 2 1/2 mill tax.

MRS. HUGH D. McLEESSE, 4975 Brookside boulevard

Bond, Stamp Drive To Start May 1

Editor, The Eccentric:

An intensified War Bond Sales Campaign is being launched throughout the United States May 1.

The people of America must more than double their investments in War Bonds and War Stamps.

To this end, the Treasury Department is establishing a money quota for every county in the United States.

Labor and management are being called upon to see that at least ten per cent of every payroll goes into Bonds and Stamps.

This is a significant task and must be supported by the cooperation of all media.

Your assistance in the past has been a great help and in order to achieve our goal we must have your continued and vigorous support.

Sincerely,

H. MORGENTHAU, JR., Sec. of the Treasury

Happenings of Long Ago

50 Years Ago April 28, 1892

"A fence across the front of B. Blakeslee's comfortable home on Maple avenue."

"No fence across the front of an independent property. It tries to regulate the length of the dresses to be worn by its women by law."

"Michael F. Lillis, who has been practicing law at Muskegon, in or about 1892, in Birmingham, had decided to open up a law office in Birmingham. Mr. Lillis is a young man of ability, integrity and industry and is sure to succeed."

"Miss Marie Knowles, of Carsenville, is visiting Mrs. David Roy. Don't fail to attend the social given by the Junior Club, given by the Junior Club."

25 Years Ago April 27, 1917

John Swackhammer, 21, died of tuberculosis Wednesday at his home on Brown street.

"The marriage of Miss Nellie Grove and Joseph Wilson. Another marriage revealed was that of Miss Jeanette Everett, of Southfield, and Ralph Pickering, of Birmingham."

Charles Hoffman, 20, son of Fred Hoffman, of Adams avenue, was seriously injured Sunday morning when he was struck by an automobile, driven by an unknown person who did not stop.

Mrs. Albert Adams had returned from a winter's stay at Palm Beach, Fla.

Charles Randall had returned from a visit with Emory Hanna and Arthur Young in Chicago.

19 Years Ago April 29, 1923

Earl Moody, Jr., and Andrew Watson, Jr., were selected by the Lions Club-Troop Committee, to represent Troop 84 at the National Amcrose at Washington, D. C.

Don Clark, Baldwin senior, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward S. Clark, was unanimously picked by the George F. Johnson Memorial board to have his name inscribed on a plaque for his proficiency in both scholarship and athletics.

Ray H. Bechtold, principal of Longview School of Flint had been engaged as the new principal of Baldwin High School.

Mrs. Angus D. McWay, vice-elected president of the League of Women Voters, succeeding Mrs. Fables H. Haxell.

Have You Met...

Mr. and Mrs. Ludwig Emde who are occupying their new home on Mayfair Lane in Beverly Hills. They moved out from Detroit during the latter part of March. The Emde family includes a young son, Robert, and Mrs. Emde's mother, Mrs. E. E. Eckland, formerly of Clatskanie, Ont.



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WABEK STATE BANK OF DETROIT

BIRMINGHAM OFFICE—WABEK BUILDING

'A Junior Album'

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



UPPER LEFT: Susan Ann, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John L. Shepherd, Kensington Road. LOWER RIGHT: John, Jr. and Peggy, LEFT: Kinch and Susan, children of Mr. and Mrs. B. K. Swartz, 1268 Villa. This feature arranged by the Beatrice Studio, Birmingham.

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