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

THE RURAL "PLOT"

Last week, Wayne County representatives were in Detroit, fighting for an honest equalization from the State board which has equalization as its business. Birmingham, too, loses considerable money every year because of this same rural "plot" to nick the cities.

For years, the more populous areas have been taxed more than their share so that the rural areas could be relieved of part of the burden, and last week, Wayne County protested that because of higher taxes in Detroit, industry was moving out to the low-tax areas.

Equalization, so far as the State is concerned, has only to do with the distribution of State aid to the schools. There is a complicated formula for figuring how much each school district should get, taking into consideration how much local taxes are raised. The equalization comes in at this point: different local assessors value property at different levels; the equalization is supposed to compensate for these differences.

Does Just Opposite

Instead of true equalization, however, this process is greatly inaccurate and unfair. Birmingham, for example, has its figures juggled at Lansing and it costs us money every year, but repeated efforts in behalf of an adjustment have been unavailing. Detroit went to Lansing last week and squawked long and loudly, and got some relief, but Auditor General Vernon J. Brown, remarked afterward:

"This reallocation we have just made is crude, incomplete, unscientific and purely arbitrary."

It can never be anything else, Brown said, until the State Board gets enough money to go into all the counties and investigate the valuations set by all the local assessors, and that will cost $500,000.

The rural politicians will fight that, of course, for they don't want equality. They want city people to keep on paying more than their rightful share. The rural politicians don't want the populous areas to get their legal and rightful representation in the State Legislature; moreover, they are so reactionary that they will even oppose Wayne County's efforts to modernize its ancient county government (See proposal No. 2 in the coming election.) The rural politicos figure that progress in Wayne might put ideas into the heads of their own constituency.

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RATIONING OF GASOLINE

Michigan and all of the Middle West is to receive gasoline rationing after the elections to save tires—so go the rumors.

If we must save rubber, why wait? Why not move now to cut out all pleasure driving, giving everybody just enough gasoline to get to work? And whatever happened to that 45-mile-an-hour speed limit?

I don't feel much like voting for politicians who are so concerned about getting into office that they are afraid to act or tell us where they stand.

If the rubber shortage is acute—and most of the officials say it is—pleasure driving ought to cease at once. I don't believe it is yet necessary to restrict driving only to war workers, for in an area like Detroit, where there is a great suburban area not completely served by common carriers, a serious condition would result from complete restriction on gasoline. But persons who can walk to work, or can ride a bus or train conveniently, or can share rides with others should not complain too much if their gasoline privileges are reduced.

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"Not Democratic"

The Republican Women's Federation of Michigan recently adopted a resolution urging people to say that we have a "republican" form of government instead of "democratic." I can't see that it makes much difference, although I can imagine that the world-wide propaganda boosting the cause of democracy might result in some advantage at the polls for the Democratic Party. That is probably what the Republican women are worried about.

The question is pretty much academic, otherwise. Webster discusses democracy by pointing out that it may be absolute or pure (like the old New England Town meeting where the affairs of government were settled by a group of people in a meeting); and representative democracy, wherein the people rule through their elected delegates. Webster's definition of a representative democracy and of a republic are practically identical.

Happenings of Long Ago

50 Years Ago
Aug. 25, 1892

"Mr. and Mrs. John Bodine are expected home sometime next month and will make some visits in Pennsylvania on their way home.

"Miss Elda Parks is home among her many friends once more and is enjoying a much needed vacation.

"Flying Jib, Jr., is the name of Mel Clement's new colt, recently bought of Tom Hanna, and the horse that in time is to break the world's record as a trotter.

"This is a pretty good time to think about taking out a little fire insurance. Mr. Whitehead (incidentally an owner of the Eccentric) wrote policies all day long after the fire in the Ellis house the other day.

"Robert Groves of Troy, had the misfortune to break his leg in two places last week, Dr. C. M. Raynale was called and did everything to make the sufferer comfortable and to effect a speedy recovery. We hope to see Groves around again soon."

25 Years Ago
Aug. 24, 1917

The Redpath Chautauqua was scheduled to start the following Monday and last through Friday. The tent was located at the corner of Gray Court on Pierce street.

"Mrs. George Raynale has gone to Cincinnati, Ohio, to visit relatives.

"Mr. and Mrs. Glen Schlaack, Mrs. Hattie Schlaack, and daughter Rhea, have gone to Middle Straits Lake to spend two weeks.

"Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Huston have safely arrived home after a two week trip down the St. Lawrence River, clear to its union with the ocean.

"Guy E. Miller, who is an old seasoned soldier boy and who saw service in Mexico, is with his regiment at Grayling—the 31st."

5 Years Ago
Aug. 24, 1917

Mrs. John J. May, the former Amie Lambie, had arrived safely in Manilla, having sailed from China, it was revealed by a report from the New York Times. Her husband, Lieut. May, who had been a supply officer at Hangchow, was still in China waiting for transportation with other American aviators.

Birmingham's second annual dog show was to take place on Saturday, Sept. 4, under the auspices of the Oakland County Kennel Club.

Mrs. Susan R. Henry, widow of the late W. W. Henry, died Wednesday following a long illness. She had lived in Birmingham since 1910, having moved here from Detroit.

Announcement was made of the engagement of Dorothy Schwarse and John Carl Hilty, both of Birmingham.

WABEEK STATE BANK OF DETROIT

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WABEEK STATE BANK OF DETROIT

BIRMINGHAM OFFICE—WABEEK BUILDING

Country vs. God

Considerable discussion has followed the arrest of a young man in another State for refusing to register under the Selective Service Act.

The 19-year-old youth, son of a Methodist preacher, believes that the "government has no right to coerce the conscience of a citizen in his loyalty to God." He feels that to comply with the law will be "a contradiction of Christian teachings, democratic liberty, and individual freedom."

We believe that the young man, despite error, has exhibited considerable courage in a course of action that requires great strength of character. He feels a conviction and he abides by it, which is commendable, when viewed apart from the wisdom of conduct itself.

That the youngster has been misled, that he is wrong, and that his course, if pursued by all citizens, would lead to the destruction of what he thinks he is defending, is plain to mature minds which have carefully considered the respective duties that men owe their government and their God.

We are dealing, however, with an immature mind, plainly strongly influenced by what he refers to as "Christian teachings." The fact that his father was a veteran of the last war, that he registered for this war, and that his brother now serves his country in the Navy indicates that the interpretation of "Christian teachings" adopted by this misguided young man did not come from his own family.

Where did it come from? The answer is to be found in the amazing wave of pacifist sentiment that dominated the nation for nearly twenty years after the last war.

The denunciation of war which was so popular for many years has become stilled since the unwarranted attack upon the United States. Even a blind idealist, of mature years, could read the handwriting on the wall for this nation if it proved unable to defend itself from brutal and treacherous aggression.

The wonder is not that an occasional youngster, confused by the teachings of the past years, refuses to register or to have anything to do with warfare. The wonder is that hundreds have not been misled into positions that cannot be maintained, except theoretically applied to a perfect world, which, unfortunately, does not exist.

BIRMINGHAM CONTINUES to send into the nation's armed forces many of its men; even today, they are scattered over many portions of the earth, fighting for the survival and improvement of the world in which they live. They are the real heroes of this war regardless of what the remainder of us back home do to help in this war.

BIRMINGHAM'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS this coming school year will receive $56,445.94 in revenue more than during the last year, (if all taxes levied are collected). That's good news for the welfare of education here.

STARTLING, INDEED, are the figures the United States is supposed to be prepared to spend in this war, the total to date exceeding $200,000,000,000. The sum is so astronomical in average human understanding that it is like trying to count the stars overhead.

Are You in the Scrap?

Tanks, planes, aircraft carriers practically everything we need to win this war is made one-half from scrap metal. And America's steel mills must have six million more tons of scrap metal to keep up and even increase their present production rate.

It's up to us to go through our houses, farms, garages or barns and clean out all our old junk. Everything made of metal or rubber is desperately needed now. So are rags, manila rope and burlap bags.

Give your junk to the Salvation Army or Volunteers of America; phone 4014 if you want them to stop at your house, or place the metal or rubber at the curb for regular City collection. Also, you can drop it at the bin near the Post Office.

Remember, too, that Birmingham is one of the designated communities where tin cans are to be collected for tin salvage. These cans need special care: rinse out well, tear off the labels, open both ends so that the chemical colvent can swish through, flatten with your foot and store until the last collection of each month. The City will make only one collection a month for the prepared cans. In conclusion: save cooking fats, strain it, and when you have a clean coffee can full, take it to your meat market.

Trout Limits

Michigan's State Conservation Commission is considering cutting the daily trout limit from fifteen fish to ten. Personally, we don't think this necessary, for the vast majority of anglers seldom get half their limit, and many of the "experts" don't have many days during the season when they put 15 decent sized trout into their creels. However, if the limit is lowered, we certainly believe that the Commission should allow no less than a two days' catch in possession; for why should a chap go several hundred miles to fish, and then be allowed to bring home only a day's catch? Perhaps, though, the Commission may retain the present ruling of not more than ten pounds and one fish.

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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 work submitted as are necessary to the style of the paper 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 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.

Another 1942 Milestone

THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner

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

FLASH BULBS

For the past few weeks your editor has used some syndicated material to make up the contents of this pillar of photographic piffle. Frankly, it's the most pleasant way we know of grinding out a column, and the only tools required are a pair of scissors. This reading material isn't hard to take, and to those of you who have enjoyed reading the instructive articles can for once thank, instead of blame, our w.k. war.

The other evening we had a phone call from a lady in distress. We mean a lady in photographic distress. This too pleased us no end, for we felt that we had assurance of at least "one" constant reader. Nevertheless, this pleasant voice was in a quandary over some flash shots of the baby, and the call was the result of a lack of knowledge regarding shutter speeds, and aperture settings. We know these things are confusing to the novice, so we'd like to pass on to those of you who might be interested, a very simple formula which was developed by one of General Electric's brain children at Nela Park, about two years ago.

This clever scheme involves a chart, on which are indicated a series of guide numbers, broken down by type of photo flash bulb, film speeds, and exposure shutter speeds. Before I go any further, I must add that all manufacturers of flash bulbs furnish free of charge these charts pertaining to their own flash bulbs, and may be obtained at any good photo supply shop for the asking. General Electric, Wabash and Westinghouse all print these folders, and contain other valuable data on flash photography, besides the chart giving the guide numbers.

Here's How:

The way this scheme works is quite simple. For example: Suppose you are using a film with a Weston speed rating of 32, and are planning to make flash exposures at 1/100 of a second. Also suppose that you are going to use a Wabash Press 40 flash bulb in a directed flash reflector, the chart will disclose that the "Guide Number" is 160. With the guide number established, all that remains to be done is to calculate the distance between your subject, and divide the "Guide Number" by the distance in feet, to get the correct F stop. Therefore, if your subject is 10 feet from the flash lamp, you would expose at f 16, if 20 feet from flash lamp, expose at f 8 and so forth and so on.

This simplified method for determining correct exposure data is based upon the fact that with any given film, lens stop, shutter speed and flash bulb—the amount of light reaching the negative will vary with the distance from the lamp to the subject! (Not camera to subject—but lamp to subject! When lamp is used on the camera—then the distance is measured from the camera, of course!)

A number has been assigned to every film type—shutter speed—bulb combination, which is known as a "Flash Number" or "Guide Number." Dividing this number by the distance in feet will give the nearest lens aperture "stop." All that is necessary is to remember the flash or guide number.

When two or more lamps are used, exposure is generally determined from the lamp (except for back lighting) nearest to the subject. Outdoor synchro sunlight pictures generally require but slightly less exposure than indoor flash pictures. Outdoors at night, or in large or dark walled interiors, use one stop larger opening than the guide indicates.

Any questions? O. K. Class dismissed.

PRIZE WINNER

The September issue of U. S. Camera features a photographic war poster created by Charles T. Beals, 139 Brown street. This poster won recognition in the monthly Victory Poster Contest, sponsored by U. S. Camera. Mr. Beals also won a prize in the Detroit Free Press Photo contest, and so far is the only Birminghamian to be so honored. Beals is treasurer of the Birmingham Camera Club, and one of the club's most enthusiastic workers.

An average house contains 700 feet of electric wiring; a four-motored bomber needs 13,000 feet, or about 2½ miles, and a battleship requires 845,000 feet, or more than 160 miles, of copper wire.

Consumer News

Let's All Help!

HEAT CONSERVATION

This week's spell of cold weather has been an unpleasant reminder to many of us that winter is not far off and that there won't be many more days without a fire in the furnace.

Uncomfortably, some of us are remembering that we didn't have the old furnace checked up in the spring to be sure it was in good running order. Warm spring weather makes us forget such humdrum matters. But there's still time to get ready for winter, and here are some of the government's suggestions on heat conservation and furnace care that may prove helpful.

(In this connection, remember that the oil shortage is likely to make heat conservation for oil burners a "must"; and a well-cared for oil-burner is the most economical of heat.)

Furnaces Need Care

Keep your furnace, flues and chimney clean. Dirt and soot cut down the heat conductivity and hamper draft. Have the system cleaned at least once a year; and at the same time have the serviceman check all air leaks in the firebox and pipes and where furnace meets cellar floor.

If the spigot at the fire lining of your furnace runs muddy water, flush the boiler. When sediment collects on a level with the fire line of your furnace the boiler will overheat and rust.

If the smokestack temperature is much over 600 degrees F. when you have your fire burning as high as possible, you can be sure you are wasting fuel. About 400 degrees is the temperature to aim at.

Learn to adjust your fire to burn hot in the mornings, cool at night. A draft of air from below makes a fire burn more intensely, a draft of air above slows down the burning. For a hot fire, increase the draft from below by opening the ashpit draft door and closing check damper. The cool fire is made by closing the ashpit door and opening the check damper and fire-door damper. Of course, all furnaces need more adjustment than this simple procedure, but experience with each type will give you your proper regulation.

Keep your ashes cleaned out. About 2 to 6 inches of ashes should be left on the grate under the fire—the thinner the layer, the hotter the fire.

Avoid letting your furnace "get away" and overheat. This is wasteful.

Oil Burners

A serviceman using a fuel thermometer and gas analyzer can tell how efficient your oil burner is. If he finds incomplete combustion he can stop leaks and adjust air flow to make better burning and considerably less use of fuel. He can also adjust the flow of heat into different rooms, making warmer living rooms and cooler bedrooms.

Consult your serviceman about reducing your burner's firing rate. Speed of heating will be cut slightly but so will fuel costs.

The recommended temperatures at which a house should be kept are: 65 degrees when people are active, 70 degrees when family is sitting down, and 50 to 60 degrees when the family is in bed.

Hints on keeping heat inside the house: Weatherstrip all windows and doors; use storm doors and sashes; insulate your second floor ceiling; place thermostat on an inside wall in your house; keep damper in fireplace closed when not in use; use reflecting shields on radiators; keep radiators closed in unused rooms and shut the doors; don't block air ducts with pieces of furniture.

NEWS FROM MEN IN SERVICE

ABOLISH 1-B

National headquarters of Selective Service has abolished the classification of 1-B (hitherto, those with partial disability which allowed them to do limited military service.)

In effect, the new order lowers the standards for those who may become 1-A men and makes available many thousands more. After they get to the induction station, those with partial disability will be assigned to work which they can do.

Reclassification of the 1-Bs will take place during the next four months.

WHAT CODE MEANS

The classification code is as follows: 1-A, passed local physical examination, awaiting call for induction in Detroit; 1-B, available for limited service; 1-C, already in service.

2-A, necessary men in training or in industry; 2-B, defense workers; 3-A, those with dependents; 3-B, men in vital work with dependents; 4-A, those who have completed service; 4-B, taking advanced military training in school; 4-C, aliens; 4-D, divinity students and clergymen; 4-F, unfit.

Classifications, August 20, 1942

1-A

Ervin Henry Parker, Donald Craige Longyear, Charles Ross Turner.

1-C

Elmore Stephan Gregorik, William Roger Robertson, Lorne Wilson Shippey, William Albert Rosso, Harry Bryan Huft, Max Bailey Horton, Jr., Adolpho Bruni, Jack Chandler, Harold Joseph Holden, David Underwood Thomas.

2-B

Alan James Van Osterburg, Basil Wanciak, Robert Waldon Johnson.

3-A

John Whitehead Gafill, Herman Henry Trost.

3-B

Edwin Fredrick Bohlen, John King Giesey, Francis Herman Kern, Frederick Guy Avery, Ellis Alvin Kowinsky, Clarence Frank Kramer.

4-F

Howard Oscar Sutton, William Forrest Lippold, Sr.

Classifications, August 21, 1942

1-B

Joseph Gorton Greene.

1-C

Don Raphel Noel.

2-B

Thomas Russell Quay, Richard James Kinnee.

3-A

Wallace MacMahon Mitchell, Stephen Henry Hollern, William Edwin Mosher, Jr.

3-B

Harold Lawrence Riegel, Jules St. Aubin DeBeaubien, William Burdett House.

ENLISTMENTS

The Selective Service office here has been notified of the following enlistments and commissions:

William McCoy Wibel, 3825 Oakland avenue, U. S. Naval Reserve, commission of ensign.

Daniel Ward Kincaid, 292 Daines, Navy.

Wilson Dale Harbison, 711 Forest, Navy.

Max Bailey Horton, Jr., 787 Greenwood, Enlisted Reserve Corps.

Wellington Hugh Denyes, 655 Ann, branch not stated.

R. J. Reynolds, 2200 Telegraph road, Navy.

Nelson C. Hatherley, 988 Humphrey, Air Force.

Colin H. John, 556 Tooting Lane, Air Force.

Donald Arthur Cabral, 431 Westchesterway, Enlisted Reserve Corps.

ENLIST FOR AVIATION

Three more Birmingham youths have enlisted as aviation cadets. They are as follows:

William A. Rosso, 21 years old, son of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Rosso, 644 Pierce street. He was graduated from Baldwin High in June of 1939, and since has attended Lawrence Tech.

Jack Chandler, 20 years old, son of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Chandler, of 4706 North John R. route 2, Birmingham. He attended Cass Tech High School, and Lawrence Institute in Detroit.

Warren L. Dalley, 21 years old, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph R. Dalley, 7 Prall street, Pontiac. He was graduated from Baldwin High here in 1939 and since attended Lawrence Tech.

These men will be assigned to duty soon.

ADVANCED

George Irvin Thompson, Jewell, Iowa, whose sister, Mrs. S. M. Gastren, lives at 849 Henrietta street, was recently advanced to Aviation Machinist's Mate, second class, at the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Fla., according to an announcement from the public relations office of that station.

OFFICERS NEEDED

The Army wants men who can "Keep 'Em Falling." This time the motto applies to enemy aircraft, and the men needed are officers for the Army's rapidly growing Antiaircraft Artillery which already has established records for blasting Axis planes out of the sky.

Major General George Grunert, commanding general of the Sixth Service Command, today announced that the expanding program of the Antiaircraft Artillery Officers Candidate School offers increased opportunities to Class 3-A Selective Service registrants who apply as Volunteer Officers Candidates. Men with a background of mathematics, engineering, mechanics, physics and allied subjects are particularly qualified for the Antiaircraft School.

If the candidate is not selected to attend a candidate school within four months after induction, he may, upon request, be relieved from duty and returned to civilian status until such time as selective service registrants in his class are called. Apply at the draft office.

NOW MAJOR BYNUM

FORT BENNING, GA.—Promotion of Capt. Hartwell T. Bynum to the rank of major was announced here today. Maj. Bynum is intelligence officer for the Second Student Training Regiment, a training unit for infantry officer candidates.

Maj. Bynum is a veteran of World War I, having served as private, corporal, sergeant, sergeant major and second lieutenant with the 5th Division in the United States, France and Germany. Discharged following the war, he took out a second lieutenant's commission in the Officers Reserve Corps in 1929 and was active in reserve affairs until being called to active duty in October, 1941.

After attending a three-months officer training course at the infantry school at Fort Benning, Maj. Bynum was assigned to the Second Regiment in February of 1942, where he commanded an O. C. company until being assigned as regimental intelligence officer several months ago.

Maj. Bynum's civilian home is in Birmingham, Mich. He was vice-president of the C. A. Pfoffenberger mortgage banking firm in Detroit. Maj. Bynum and his family are now residing in Columbus, Ga.

BIRTHDAY PRESENTS

Young men of the community who become 20 years of age are getting birthday presents from the Selective Service board here—questionnaires. Every week, just a few days past their birth anniversaries, the men are sent their notices.

Last Saturday, for example, questionnaires went to Frederick James Walls, 629 Pierce street, whose birthday was Aug. 22; also to Sherwood Shaver, route 1, Royal Oak; Robert B. Gehrke, 724 Glengarry road; Duane George Winter, 1207 Smith street; Calvin P. H. Vary, route 1, Birmingham; and Ronald H. Clement, 327 S. Woodward.

All on this list were either 18, 19 or 20 when they registered, and are listed according to their birthdays.

CHANGE OF BASE

Corp. Francis R. Appell sends us his new address so that his copy of The Eccentric comes without interruption. He is on foreign duty with an address, care of the New Orleans postmaster, indicating that he is at some Caribbean spot, or perhaps Panama.

Pvt. Lloyd C. Smith's new address is Co. E, 4th Battalion, Fort Monmouth, N. J., having gone there from Camp Pickett, Va.

(Continued on Page 6, Part 2)

SALVAGE MEMO

TIN CANS—Rinse after using, remove label, open bottom end and flatten with foot. Place at curb for City collection the last week of every month. Keep dry; keep separate from rubbish.

WASTE FATS—Strain and keep cool. Turn in to your meat market when you have a few pounds. Rancid fats not wanted.

SCRAP METALS, GLASS, RUBBER—Leave in bin near Post Office or put at curb for regular City collection. Copper engraver's plates and old keys may be left at the library.

NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES—You can donate these to Salvation Army, which will call for them. Phone 4014. Scrap paper not wanted.