

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

Knocking on Wood

with JOHN H. HARWOOD

LOOKING BACK

Writing a column does one thing for you—it puts your ideas down in black and white so that afterward, you can look back and accurately determine how right or how wrong were your original guesses. You can figure a batting average of sorts.

Regarding the war, I have made mistakes, and occasionally, I have hit the nail on the head. For example, a year ago, I wrote, "No doubt, we will send an expeditionary force to North Africa to aid the British"—a statement I made not because I had any secret information, but because it seemed the logical thing to do.

Japs Meant Business
On the other hand, one of my worst blunders was in declaring before Dec. 7, 1941, that the Japs were only fooling. I based my belief on the idea that no nation will go to war unless it has a chance of winning, and from that standpoint, I am more convinced than ever that my original estimate of the outcome was correct.

The Japs do not have a chance of winning other than temporary successes, but we have all found out, especially the Germans, that Pearl Harbor, that the Japs are the world's greatest gamblers. Never having known the odds of defeat, they are staking all on their rash bid for domination of the western Pacific.

UNCLE JOE WRITES
To Editor:
Your "Education Incomplete" article last week which dealt with the people's average income, in the first place the voting public in the last election was made up of people over 20 years old, but to the great number of public spirited youth in our armed forces, taking an average of 18 to 20 years of age, your article was written about people who have been out of school for a long time, prior to 1930 the schools, through adult demand, did not have a high finance as a career, in fact, they went back in the days when, my school superintendent made a bank president was a total loss to society and a black mark on the school's record, and boy how I missed!

Can't Win Long War
Regarding the war in general, my original estimates have been correct. Basing my beliefs on strategy outlined in German military journals, I have believed that Germany's lack of sea power and her inability to get at the sources of the world would prove her undoing in the end, unless she won a decisive victory in the west, and this has been realized this, and thus have laid great stress on Hitler's tactics.

Now, Harwood, what do you saw to a little current editorial for a change, and leave the history to the historians.

NOTE—I wish apathy toward community responsibility were as widespread as Uncle Joe believes it is. In time of war, people rise to the occasion, but in time of peace only a minority shows enough concern to vote. Will there be any marked improvement after the war? I doubt it.—J.H.H.

The Promise
A young married couple who were fighting for months to get a vehicle they would buy with their savings. Wife wanted a sedan. Her husband wanted a roadster. So they compromised and bought a baby carriage.

"A Friendly Bank" extends.
Friendly Seasonal Greetings and suggests
WAR BONDS and STAMPS as timely and patriotic Christmas Gifts

WABEEK STATE BANK
THE WABEEK BUILDING

Be Honest About Taxes

Society, as we know it, could not be perpetuated without government. Whether it is the best, the best possible, or only fair, the continuance of peaceable lives, the carrying on of farming, business, commerce, or any activities require law and order, established processes, protective safeguards, and the cooperation which is only possible through government.

Regardless of the fact, and it can't be entirely avoided, the fact remains that the average citizen gets more for his dollars paid in taxes than for any other expenditure he makes. The average family head doesn't pay as much taxes as his children cost the government for their education, and he has a moderate amount of money. All the rest of the benefits from government he gets without that!

Government can't operate without some money, and taxes are necessary. Every citizen should be willing to pay his proportionate share of the common cost of these beneficial services. Taking the government out of many of "beat taxes" should be frowned upon. It is a little hard to grasp how an otherwise honest, upright man can defend in his conscience, for example, a successful subterfuge, or deceit, to cheat the government out of its money, or other taxes.

On the other hand, every effort should be made by tax officials to equalize taxes, to see that every citizen is fairly treated, that he is not called on to pay proportionately more or less than his neighbors have to do. Yet, the last result, equalization, is hard to accomplish, just as hard to maintain after its accomplishment, in view of the changing factors involved.

Notwithstanding the many centuries during which various governments have collected taxes, the problem still calls for the thought and effort of good citizens.

The movement under way to provide Baldwin High School Cafeteria with a cafeteria is an interesting one, for it is the first of \$1,000 projects done at the last Brighton P. L. A. members who are setting out to raise it. The business people who eat their lunches at the drug stores and restaurants will probably welcome the shift of patronage to the high schools. Several of the parents of the school, however, said that the loss of school business won't be too regretted because of shortage of labor and other problems, while on the other hand, a couple of merchants who depend on the school trade will probably miss it considerably.

PERHAPS THERE ARE MANY REASONS why Paul V. McNutt was made head of the manpower problem by President Roosevelt. McNutt, you recall, wants to be President. He, while Vice President, originated the famous "2 per cent club," which provided funds from Indiana officials for carrying out his political ambitions. We do not believe that FDR wants to be succeeded by McNutt; so McNutt is given his present position, and it is probable that McNutt will be plenty disliked by millions of U. S. voters. That's a smart way to get rid of an ambitious man, Mr. Roosevelt.

The Difference

A reader of The Eccentric asks us to tell our idea of the difference between a lobbyist, a publicity man, and a lawyer, when all of them are working for the same corporation in an effort to secure benefits for it in return for accepting its cash.

A lobbyist, in a sense, pernicious, is usually a secret employee. He may pose as patriot, or a disinterested citizen, but he is a lobbyist, for which he is paid. He may be sincere, but the suspicion arises, usually justly, that he will sell out for either side.

A publicity man, on the other hand, frankly acknowledges his position, being paid to promote the interests of his employer by securing an understanding on the part of the public of the good things this his employer thinks he is doing.

A lawyer, bestirring himself in creating favorable sentiment for his client, is in one of the categories above, depending upon whether his connection with the client is concealed. At the same time, in the effort, he is no more practicing the legitimate business of his profession than a cowboy.

TALKING WITH A STUDENT IN MICHIGAN'S largest University recently, the student said: "Between us students and the average professor is a chasm as wide as the Grand Canyon; they merely stand up before us and, with their hands behind their backs, deliver a sermon of companionship, sound off their ideas like transcribed radio programs. We students must 'take it or leave it.' What wonderful opportunities these professors pass up to make of their students real citizens in this world!"

FOR QUITE A NUMBER OF MONTHS the editor of this newspaper has endeavored to be calm in his outlook upon the troubles of this world, because he is "explosive" by nature, he felt that calmness was better for his mind and soul than perpetual cursing; but this gasoline rationing mess last week set him off again—and when he'll stop nobody knows.

The Birmingham Eccentric

Published every Thursday, at Birmingham, Mich. in The Eccentric Building, 220-222 Second Avenue East. Editor and Publisher: JOHN H. HARWOOD. Managing Editor: HAROLD P. BURGER. Advertising Manager: CLAUDE E. WALKER. Entered as Second Class Matter in the U. S. Post Office at Birmingham, Michigan.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
(All Outside U.S.A.)
One Year \$1.50 (Outside U.S.A. Country)
Six Months .75 (Outside U.S.A. Country)
Three Months .40 (Outside U.S.A. Country)
Single Copies 10c
All orders payable in advance.
All newspaper and advertising copy must be in the Eccentric office by Wednesday noon to obtain insertion rates.
The Eccentric is a member of National Editorial Association, Michigan Press Association, University Press Club, and Oakland County Press Association.

NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events which have new value and which are written by persons who are interested in the subject. All copy must be presented before noon on Wednesday. The Editor reserves the right to make such changes in the work submitted as are necessary to the interests of the public. Because of a mechanical situation in the composing room, the Editor is unable to accept copy for publication more than 48 hours before the date of publication. Any copy received after this time will be held until the next issue and upon being brought to the attention of the publisher.

Signal Corps of the Canadian Army at Borja Field, and at Vimy, Ont., and has been transferred to Dorset, Nova Scotia, for duty in the expected home. Dec. 29 for 21 days.

GOES TO CALIFORNIA
Pvt. Lawrence E. Russell, 25 years old, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Russell, of Birmingham, has been battery clerk in his unit at Fort Leonard Wood, has left for Camp M. H. Bond for four months of desert maneuvers.

REMEMBER
To all readers—don't hesitate to phone or write us about your friends and relatives in the armed forces. With so many men gone from Birmingham, it is only through such cooperation that we can produce a column that people here are more than once to amuse themselves in reading.

HANDY SKILL
If you can play a harmonica or perform slight-of-hand tricks, among other things, you will be in demand for your services by your fellow soldiers. "The Transmitter," a paper published by the U. S. Army, has announced that the Marines at San Diego, while Staff Sgt. James Cummings is with the Coast Artillery at Ft. Hulen, Texas, has received eight of these three items in the service of Mrs. Leora Cummings, 195 Henrietta.

FBI WANTS MEN
A letter from John S. Bugas, special agent in charge of the Detroit office, states that the FBI is looking for men between the ages of 23 and 35 in good physical condition with the following qualifications: 1. Degree of an accounting degree, or a degree of any kind plus a good working knowledge of a foreign language, or any degree plus police or investigative experience. The beginning salary is \$1,200 a year.

HOME ON FURLOUGH
Bernard N. Craig, seaman first class, has been home on furlough but returned Sunday to Duluth after a visit with his mother, Mrs. Arthur Craig, 308 Oakland avenue. Another son, Hilary A. Craig, has completed training in the

People's Column

The Eccentric is pleased to receive communications for this column. All communications will be kept confidential unless the author desires to be listed to 100 words, and must be received by the Birmingham Eccentric building the following Thursday.

Two Writers Favor Public Dance Hall

Editor, The Eccentric:
May I request that you publish this as an open letter to the City Commission and your readers. I have been seen said and written against the projected use of the roller rink for dancing that a presentation of the favorable side seems to be called for.

Gas rationing has and will continue to narrow the opportunities of Birmingham residents for recreation and I believe that an addition of amusements should be encouraged. Rationing would also have the effect of discouraging desirable out-of-town patronage for such projects.

Are not the "evils of the dance hall" confined largely to the mixtures of dancing and drinking of the beer gardens? Ought not the youth of Birmingham be allowed the alternative of dancing in a local dance hall in preference to that of dancing in the beer garden or in a gallop's ride away?

There is a problem and the Community House dances, as a trifling alleviation inasmuch as they are widely spaced, seasonal events only an average range from 15 through 19.

ALSO IN FAVOR
Editor, The Eccentric:
It is hard for me to understand why—if our teen age groups here in Birmingham have parents—there should be any social problem concerning public dance hall.

My child was young—I was graduated from Baldwin five years ago—I only went dancing on weekends and then "checked out" in an hour or so, as fair by my parents and myself. There was no question as to my conduct when I was young, but I have surprised my social training.

My crowd never found any fun in the Community House dances as they were given for the end of the week. There is considerable change, they are not a cross-section of the high school student body, but a healthy outlet for their teenage enthusiasm; instead they are clearly defined groups of boys, girls, fraternities and fraternities, causing ill-feeling, snobbishness and inferiority complex.

ENLISTMENTS
Listings in this category are about to drop off almost to zero, following the President's order "No Enlistment" during enlistments. However, the Selective Service office here has been advised of the following enlistments: Ellis Northrup, 1040 Gordon court, Army Signal Corps; Ross Edgar Kowland, 1115 Park Road, Army Signal Corps; Albert Roy, 1700 Brown, Army Enlisted Reserve; Charles Robert Delongchamp, 968 Chapin, Navy Air Corps; James Howard Quinn, 115 Park Lane, Army Enlisted Reserve; John L. Macdonald, 179 Catalpa, Navy Air Corps; Lawrence W. Kamin, 525 Vinwood, former policeman, has enlisted in the Air Force as an aircraft mechanic enlistment; Edward Finley, 237 North Wood, Army Enlisted Reserve; Terry Lee Beals, 139 Brown, Army Enlisted Reserve; Charles Robert Delongchamp, 968 Chapin, Navy Air Corps; James Howard Quinn, 115 Park Lane, Army Enlisted Reserve.

STATE OF MICHIGAN—In the Probate Court for the County of Oakland. At a session of said Court held at the Probate Office in the City of Pontiac on the 10th day of December, 1942, the following order was made: That the administration of the estate of the late Mrs. A. D. 1942, be and is hereby appointed for hearing said petition on the 15th day of January, 1943.

STATE OF MICHIGAN—In the Probate Court for the County of Oakland. At a session of said Court held at the Probate Office in the City of Pontiac on the 10th day of December, 1942, the following order was made: That the administration of the estate of the late Mrs. A. D. 1942, be and is hereby appointed for hearing said petition on the 15th day of January, 1943.

STATE OF MICHIGAN—In the Probate Court for the County of Oakland. At a session of said Court held at the Probate Office in the City of Pontiac on the 10th day of December, 1942, the following order was made: That the administration of the estate of the late Mrs. A. D. 1942, be and is hereby appointed for hearing said petition on the 15th day of January, 1943.

MUSICIANS HOME
Vernon Wendorph, musician second class, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Wendorph, of Long Lake Road and his cousin, Harold Jones, also musician 2nd class, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Jones, arrived home unexpectedly from Great Lakes Naval Training Station, Monday night to spend the holidays with their parents.

FRONT IN AFRICA
Mr. and Mrs. E. Streb have just received word that their son, Lt. Claude R. Streb is in North Africa. Mr. Streb is a member of the U. S. Army and was stationed with Lt. Streb at Camp Picquet, Va., is also known to be in Africa.

(Continued On Page Five)

What's Cookin' on the Home Front

One only has to see what far as Rochester to see what fun all age groups have in old-fashioned square dancing and waltzes. The dance hall is well-attended and everyone is having too grand a time making friends to worry about social standing, clothes, liquor, or what have you.



Not Sure
The electrician was puzzled. "He's called by his assistant, but your hand on one of those wires."

What a weight of responsibility for human anguish, broken hearts and butchered thousands! It was not the eyes of God that man when he coolly announces that he forged the spark which precipitated the Franco-Prussian war!

50 YEARS AGO
Dec. 8, 1892
A woman was jailed for hugging a man in New Jersey the other day. Don't get alarmed boys; it was because he did it against her will that she was punished.

25 YEARS AGO
Dec. 14, 1917
The French munition ship Mont Blanc collided with a Belgian battleship in the Harbor of Halifax killing 2,000 people and wrecking a considerable part of the city and its suburbs.

5 YEARS AGO
Dec. 9, 1937
The Rev. Warner L. Forsyth, of St. James Episcopal Church, was honored at a banquet given by the members of his church. The annual football banquet was given in the high school cafeteria with Captain Carey R. Averill, publisher of The Eccentric, as principal speaker.

Pot-Luck
Mess Officer—Why did you strike that soldier with your fist?
The First Cook—If I had reached for a soup ladle he'd have got away.

Returned to Normal
"How did your wife like the diamond brooch you gave her for her birthday?"
"Delighted. She was awfully nice for a couple of days, but she's home again now."

SALVAGE MEMO
TIN CANS—Rinse after using, remove label, open bottom end and flatten with foot. Place at curb for City collection. Do not wash, do not use for anything else; 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 City collection the last week of the month. Copper engraver's plates and old keys may be left at the library.

NEWSPAPERS, M.A.G.A. ZINES—You can donate these to Salvation Army, which will take care of them. Phone 4014. Scrap paper not wanted.