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

LARGER SALARY NEEDED

Senator Prentiss M. Brown recently reported his campaign expenses as $21,872.57, or an amount twice his yearly salary, meaning that he must have had to rely on donations for most of it. Yet, the State's 17 members of the House of Representatives, each having only his own district to campaign, get exactly the same salary as the Senator.

Members of both houses get $10,000 a year salary, plus travel and other expenses, which may seem like a lot of money to some people, but isn't so much unless the solon has perfected the art of living like a Scotsman. But it would seem that a Senator, having a whole State to represent and campaign, should be entitled to a larger salary than a Representative with only a few square miles within his jurisdiction. The only compensating fact is that the Representative must run every two years, while the Senator need campaign only every six years.

It is probably a matter of pride which keeps the salaries of both on the same level, for where is the Representative who is willing to admit that the Upper Chamber is any more important? Sometimes think the Senate is less important, especially when members resort to that old, old undemocratic trick, the filibuster.

Independent

An American isn't going to let anybody deprive him of the right to say what he pleases, even tho he's afraid to do it most of the time.—Atlanta Journal.

Perhaps

After all, perhaps an old maid is just a woman who didn't know any better than to look for an ideal man for a husband.—Washington Post.

IDEAS ABOUT GOD

There comes to our office a magazine, Destiny, devoted to the beliefs of the "Anglo-Israelites," those who believe the Anglo-Saxon people are the lost tribe of Israel. In the current issue, the lead article is given over to the 18th Chapter of Isaiah, a bit of Bible prophecy which the writer says is being fulfilled in a remarkable way by the American invasion of North Africa. It's all very interesting—this and some of the other prophetic material upon which this group draws.

One point in their philosophy which puzzles me is their interpretation of God as a warlike being—that the present struggle is Armageddon and that God "decreed that Israel should be His battle axe to subdue aggressors." True, that was the Old Testament interpretation of God, but Jesus' interpretation was just the opposite. He said that "God is Love," and was essentially against the use of force and violence. The two interpretations of God do not conform, and Christian philosophy, of course, spurns the old view in favor of the New Revelation, although that does not mean that Christians have not done plenty of fighting in the past 1900 years!

KNOWS NOT WHAT HE SAYS

Woodruff Randolph, secretary-treasurer of the International Typographical Union, in addressing the recent annual Wisconsin Typographical conference at Madison, declared that "the trade union movement should be planning now to prevent the yoke of capital being placed around the necks of workers after the war."

What would Mr. Randolph say were Alfred P. Sloan, chairman of the board of General Motors Corporation, to declare that industry should be planning now to prevent the yoke of labor being placed around the necks of capitalists after the war? He would probably counter with a statement denouncing Mr. Sloan's declaration as ridiculous. And so it would be, but no more so than his own declaration. Those who rant about capital crushing labor do not know what they are talking about. They do not know that capital is labor's greatest blessing; that its employment relieves labor of drudgery (and enables workers to increase their production of wealth. There is not now, nor has there ever been, any friction between labor and capital. (Capital—machines and tools.) They are partners working side by side in the production of wealth, and whatever injures one likewise injures the other.

It is the utterances and activities of just such uninformed union leaders as Mr. Randolph that create ill feeling, spread dissension and prevent labor and capital from uniting their forces in combat against their common enemy—confiscation of private property by means of taxation. (From "Cause and Effect.")

Holiday Safety Pointers Given

In spite of war, thoughts of Christmas brings visions of merry making. This year, more than ever, we must use precaution in order to ensure a happy holiday. The Women's Safety Committee of Detroit recommends the following suggestions:

1. Get a fresh, green Christmas tree. Use a sturdy stand, so that the tree will not topple. Set it in a safe spot, away from the normal path of travel through the house. A stand with a water receptacle will keep the tree fresh, reducing the fire hazard. Put the tree out for the trash collector as soon as the holidays are over.

2. Keep open lights away from the tree. Use only fireproof decorations on the tree and in the house.

3. Use approved strings of lights. Check sockets and cords to make sure they are in good condition. Be sure to turn off the tree lights when the family is absent.

4. Guard against falls while trimming the tree. Use a safe step-ladder to reach high places.

5. Don't leave package wrappings lying all about the house. They are highly flammable and should be put out for the trash collector or burned in small quantities at a time.

6. Give safe toys, thinking not only of the designed and construction of the toy, but also of the age of the child who is to receive it.

7. Teach youngsters to use toys safely and to put them away when not in use.

8. Be extra careful when walking or driving. December has more hours of darkness than any other month.

Aw, G'wan!

She—Strange that the ocean should leave a litter on the beach.

He—Why strange?

She—Because the ocean is naturally tidy.

Farewell to Parents

In a recent newspaper we noticed the picture of a fine-looking young American. He was a young Ensign in the American Navy. Over the picture was the heading, "Dies for His Country."

The last words of Ensign Neal A. Scott, of Goldsboro, North Carolina, whispered as he lay mortally wounded, was a farewell to his parents in far-away North Carolina.

To his attending shipmate, he entrusted this message to his father and mother: "Tell have you and mother for these twenty-four years have been all that I could ask for in this world." This was this fine young officer's farewell, spoken just after he had called to his shipmates, "Keep those guns firing."

Naturally, these parents, as many others, are full of sorrow, but they should take pride in the splendid commentary on what service they had been to their son. The young man died a hero, rendering in a spectacular way a great service to his country. Those parents, over the years, had rendered in a quiet way just as great a service in rearing so fine a son.

Lessons of History

Speaking of the lessons of history, Secretary of State Hull has said:

"The first is that man's innate striving for freedom cannot be extinguished.

"The second is that liberty is truly won only when it is guarded by the same watchfulness, the same courage, the same willingness to fight for it which first secured it."

These are true sentiments. We direct particular attention to the second. America needs to remember it. Forgetting it during the past twenty years may have helped bring us into a second world-wide war.

It goes without saying that in the future we should tie our international future with those nations who believe in liberty and practice it. Whenever one of these freedom-loving nations is attacked by any future aggressor, we should be ready to engage in battle to protect, not the nation attacked in itself but the cause of liberty assailed.

The lesson of the past twenty years is that the loss of freedom by any one nation is a stepping stone towards the enslavement of other liberty-loving countries. To fight tyranny at its outset is cheaper in lives and treasure than after it has been strengthened by the destruction and robbery of its victims.

Our "Best Run War"

Frank Knox, Secretary of the Navy, is but speaking the solemn truth when he tells the American people that this is their "best run war."

Not everything can be shouted from the housetops but enough is known to make every patriot thrill with pride at the accomplishments of this democracy, going into the greatest of all its wars.

WE ARE NOW ENTERING THE SECOND year of our country's participation in this war. This second year ought to be a humdinger to get us along the road to victory, for our nation certainly never before has gone through so rapid a shift from peace to all-out war activity.

"Best Seller" Increases

The Bible leads all other books in its sales but is increasing them considerably.

Dr. Robert Taylor, executive secretary of the Chicago Bible Society and representative of the American Bible Society, termed the condition "an amazing Bible revival," and said that "America is discovering the Bible again.

"It isn't just a flareup caused by the war but is the result of a real spiritual renaissance which has been coming on for some time but has been quickened by the war."

Many of the large publishing firms were weeks behind in their orders and the American Bible Society, which normally distributes 10,000,000 copies annually, is running several days behind schedule.

The tempo of orders, Dr. Taylor said, began to rise last spring and the increase "has constantly accelerated until it is hard to control."

As evidence of the upswing in business, he pointed to the distribution of 1,500,000 Bibles and portions in 12 central states last year as compared to the 2,500,000 expected to be sent out this year.

Names of Soldiers

The erection of a large display board in the Civic Center, upon which will be inscribed the names of all local men in the armed forces, is a good idea. When it is up and the names placed thereon, those who review it will be impressed by the number of names they see; they also ought to be impressed with the fact that no longer can the United States remain isolated from the rest of the world in the discussion and settlement of international problems. For the proposed sign will offer conclusive evidence of the fact that, when a fanatical German ex-corporal rose up on the German scene in 1933, and became that country's Chancellor, he was on the way to dangerous entrance into the home of every home in this and other lands.

The Birmingham Eccentric

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PAUL NEAL AVERILL — Business Manager
JOHN H. HARWOOD — Managing Editor
MARGARET HITCH — Advertising Manager
CLAYTE E. WALKER — Production Manager

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

NOTE: The Eccentric is inclined 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 Wednesday. The right is reserved, however, to make such superficial changes in the copy as may be necessary to conform to the style of the paper and as are required by laws of the state. Because of the large number of letters received from readers, headlines written by those other than members of the staff cannot be used. Any reference upon the character, standing, or purpose of any person or corporation which may appear in the columns of The Eccentric will be cheerfully corrected upon being brought to the attention of the publisher.

If It Isn't Being Used, Uncle Sam Wants It!

From the Hudson Dispatch, Union City, N. J.

Happenings of Long Ago

5 YEARS AGO
Dec. 16, 1987

The public is invited to pick a name for the new auto highway parkway, located between the old Grand Trunk railroad right-of-way. Names suggested were Hunter avenue, Main street, Brooks avenue, Woodward avenue, etc.

The Ypsilanti Normal Coop was enthusiastically erected by a large audience at the Christmas program, given at the Baptist Church.

We Heard It Said Jim Dr. O. O. Beck, local physician and surgeon, demonstrating is a natural-born salesman, for he actually sold personal sacrifices for in order to preserve it.

25 YEARS AGO
Dec. 21, 1917

"There are altogether too many motorists in this town who drive at night without having lamps lighted."

The Secretary of War states that only 5 per cent of the soldiers will be able to get Christmas leave because of the railroad and food situation.

Dr. Dudley A. Sargent, of Harvard university, claims the women are more savage than men and have more endurance and should make as good soldiers as armed men.

50 YEARS AGO
Dec. 15, 1892

"There is nothing like death for bringing a man's good deeds to light, but no man willingly adopts that method of obtaining praise."

"A promise in a feature is not by any means as probable a citizen as would be a temperance office-holder. In the latter case it is a matter of best be sure grounds for it."

"To Congress: Whatever you do, do it without taking the country in a state of nervous prostration."

"A gun has been invented by a Frenchman which fires cartridges loaded by a compressed gas. The gun is said to be noiseless and to emit no smoke."

People's Column

The Eccentric is pleased to receive communications for this column. All communications must be signed, but signatures will be kept confidential upon request. Letters must be limited to 300 words, and must be in the office by Tuesday noon for publication the following Thursday.

About Oil And Politics

Editor, The Eccentric:

In regard to an article in The Eccentric last week about the consumption of fuel oil: "the average user should not have consumed more than 22 per cent of his year's total" do a little figuring. Our heating season is approximately seven months or 210 days. If rationing started Oct. 1 (did it?) we had to Dec. 10 approximately 70 days or one third of the season. Twenty-two per cent won't do it. Note—Mrs. Taylor is correct; the figure should have been 22 per cent of period two and all of period three.

In no jeer sputter in an earlier edition that the Government wouldn't want to put you out of business (this was apropos truck situation, I believe) . . . are you sure?

The most influential anti-New Dealers are the small business men, independent professional men and newspaper men, by and large, wouldn't you say? If such can be put out of business by "the war effort," so called, they'll either die of broken hearts or retire into disputude mostly, won't they?

My husband and most of my men folk belong in this class and I'm facing the possibility of a desperate, instead of a reasonably-secure old age if the social aims of the present regime succeed.

If you think I'm a bit crazed, read Burnham's "The Managerial Revolution" published 1940 or 1941, especially those chapters in which he—a university professor who says he's neutral toward the Leftists—writes of how much faster the New Deal aims can be pushed if war comes; and eventual liquidation of people like the Averills and the Taylors as still in the discussion stage.

The next legislature, Congressional elections will probably tell the story, I believe. More power, sanity, faith and practical hope to you editors!

LAURA PARKS TAYLOR
Newgate Road
Birmingham

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, in said County, on the 5th day of December, A.D. 1942.

Present, Honorable Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate.

In the Matter of the Estate of Louis H. Hoyseman, Deceased.

Edward B. Wilkinson, administrator of said estate having filed in said Court his amended final account and petition praying for the examination and allowance thereof.

It is Ordered, that the 11th day of January, A. D., 1943, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, at said Probate Office, be and is hereby appointed for hearing said petition.

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

ARTHUR E. MOORE,
Judge of Probate.

OLIVER N. KIRK,
Attorney for Estate,
Birmingham, Michigan.

38-39-40

NEWS FROM MEN IN SERVICE

HOLIDAY LULL

No draft induction is scheduled here until January, Tuesday, a group went to Custer (their names were listed on Page 1 last week). Wednesday, Gerald M. Furman took the 5:15 train for Fort Custer. Rolland Fox, inducted Dec. 5, at Detroit, decided to go to Custer immediately without taking advantage of the usual furlough.

ALL ON DEC. 2

Gerald Cooley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Asa Cooley, of Bates avenue, enlisted, was accepted, and left for Ft. Custer all on Dec. 2. He is in an aviation ground crew.

MOVING ALONG

John Patrick Darval passed the intelligence test for officer's training with 132 out of a possible 200 and will be sent to Camp Robinson, Ark. Richard Darval will graduate from primary to basic training Dec. 24 and is stationed at Thunderbird Field No. 2, Phoenix, Ariz. John and Richard are the sons of Mr. and Mrs. John B. Darval, of Merrill avenue.

EXPECTED HOME

Pfc. Richard B. Smith, First Air Base Squadron, Mitchel Field, N. Y., will be home Dec. 20 for an eight-day furlough. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William N. Smith, of Yosemite boulevard.

BRUCE DODDS LEAVES

Bruce R. Dodds left a week ago last Friday for Aberdeen, Md., where he has been commissioned as a Lieutenant Colonel in the ordnance section. Lt. Col. Dodds was a Ford dealer before going into the Army.

Classifications, Dec. 7, 1942

Thomas J. La Follette, 3-A; Lloyd L. Stanley, Jr., P; William H. Deal, P; Leonard A. Wineman, P; Emil E. Deaton, P; Clarence L. Chatfield, P; George L. Wilson, P; William D. Sevin, P; Harold D. Bingham, P; Charles D. McCombs, P; Ernest M. Engleson, P; Edward D. Spicer, P; John H. Glove, P; Gerard R. Kothe, P; Donald E. Hoeltzel, Jr., P; Roy G. Kinzie, P; John M. Tillotson, P.

Kenneth M. Hunt, 1-A; William C. Bauer, 1-A; Fred M. Adams, 1-A; Kenneth J. Bigelow, 1-A; Donald P. Wise, 1-A; Thomas R. Navin, Jr., 1-C; Norman R. Barnard, 2-B; Lewis C. Hill, Jr., 2-B; William W. Dean, 2-B; John R. Flick, M. D., 3-A; William G. Pierce, 3-A; Robert L. Clark, 3-A; Glenn L. Snell, P; William G. Crawford, 3-B; Rufus P. Malone, 3-B.

WHAT CODE MEANS

The classification code is as follows: 1-A, passed physical examination, awaiting call for induction in Detroit; 1-C, already in service, to take physical examination, enlisted, VOC, volunteer officer candidate by person in 3-A.

2-A, necessary men in civilian activity essential to the nation's health, safety or interest; 2-B, college students; 2-C, those with dependents; 3-B, men in vital work with dependents; 3-A, those who have completed their service; 4-B, taking advanced military training in school, 4-C, aliens, 4-D, divinity students and clergymen; 4-F, unfit; 4-H, necessary in agriculture.

HOME

PVT. WALTER H. CHECK, son of Mr. and Mrs. O. M. Check, of Big Beaver road, spent Thanksgiving weekend with his wife, the former Peggy Tracy, and his parents. Pvt. Check is stationed at Ft. Meade, Md.

END OF RECRUITING

Cessation of recruiting for men 18 to 38 will release thousands of service men for combat duty, and will bring to an end much of the promotion and ballyhoo with which the public has been bombarded. There will be "enlistments" with in the service, however, as calls are issued for fliers, submarine personnel, parachutists, etc.

PROBLEM

The editor of this column foresees a problem between the Army and Navy over selection of the best men. The Army now controls the induction centers, and the tendency—not always the case, however—has been selection of the likeliest-looking recruits for the Air Forces. Naturally, the Navy will want to continue to get the same quality of personnel it secured in the past through enlistments. No doubt the problem will be worked out through the men indicating their own branch of the service at the time of induction.

TEACHING

Mrs. F. Raymond Woolfenden, 543 Vinewood, recently received an interesting letter which she read but the last meeting of the MOMS Club. It was from a mother in Kentucky who expressed her gratitude for the fact that Mrs. Woolfenden's son, Pvt. George, had taught her son how to read and write. The Army school at Camp Maxey, Ala. He teaches illiterates.

ARRIVE AT J. B.

Word from the Air Forces replacement training center at Jefferson Barracks, Mo., near St. Louis, announces the arrival of three more Birmingham men: Pvt. James Davis, of 330 Square Lake road, Troy, and Pvt. Stanley Todd, 884 Pierce street; John S. Davis, of 330 Square Lake road, Troy, and Pvt. Robert Miller, of 325 Gray street. All are former Baldwin High students.

BENNETT PROMOTED

The promotion to first lieutenant of Lt. Robert A. Bennett, Jr., of Birmingham was announced this past week at Fort Monroe, Va.

Lt. Bennett, at present, is on duty as a member of the staff and faculty of the Coast Artillery School. He is the production chief in the film unit of the school's department of training publications. These film strips, along with the training films, play an important part in the training program necessary to the rapidly expanding Coast Artillery Corps.

Lt. Bennett was born in Birmingham, Ala., and by coincidence lived for a time in Birmingham, Mich. They are Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Bennett, Sr., of 248 Bates street, Birmingham. He attended Antioch College in Ohio and then went to work for the Jam Handy Company in Detroit. He was inducted as a private in the Army in February, 1941 and subsequently was sent to the West Coast. While there, he was selected by his battery commander to attend officer candidate school at Camp Davis, N. C. Upon graduation from that school, he received his commission as a second lieutenant, and reported to Fort Monroe for duty.

Lt. Bennett is married to the former Hannah Elizabeth Hamill, of Detroit, and they maintain a residence at Buckroe Beach, Va.

They will pay a visit to Birmingham for the Christmas holidays visiting Mr. and Mrs. Bennett, Sr.

U. S. NAVY FLYER

DETROIT—Robert Nadeau, 615 East Long Lake road, Birmingham, Mich., took the first step in his career as a U. S. Navy Flyer. Enlisted for flight training in the US Naval Reserve several weeks ago, he was called to Detroit for a physical examination and flight physical training at the University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa.

Under the Navy cadet selection program, he will get three months of intensive training at the Atlas Air Force Training Command, Naval Field, Ill. He formerly practiced at Bishop Airport, Flint.

Other Birmingham men who have been assigned to Maxwell Field:

Cadet Sgt. Maj. Miami Beach Lt. Col. Miami Beach

Cadet Hagopian, Miami Beach, Fla.

STILL IN FLORIDA

PANAMA CITY, Fla.—Lieut. E. Hamilton Bassett, son of Mr. and Mrs. Medical Corps, at the Atlas Air Force Training Command, Naval Field, Ill. He formerly practiced at Bishop Airport, Flint.

Other Birmingham men who have been assigned to Maxwell Field:

Cadet Sgt. Maj. Miami Beach Lt. Col. Miami Beach

Cadet Hagopian, Miami Beach, Fla.

STILL ENLIST OFFICERS

DETROIT—Qualified men between the ages of 17 and 50 are being sought for officer training in the United States Naval Reserve, Lt. Comdr. R. D. Wolfe, officer in charge of the Detroit recruiting office of Naval Officer Procurement, announced today.

"Men between 19 and 34 who possess college degrees and have outstanding academic or professional records will be considered for general duty," he said. "Men up to 50 with engineering degrees or broad practical field experience may qualify for commissions even though they do not possess a college degree.

Young men 17 years old who are enrolled in an accredited college or university are still eligible for enlistment in V-1, the Navy's reserve program for college students.

The Women's auxiliary branches of the Naval and Coast Guard Reserve, WAVES and SPARS respectively, are unaffected by the man-power order.

(Continued on page 5)

"UNCLE JOE" WRITES

Dear Uncle Joe:

I was disturbed when he read the story of The Eccentric. He was greatly and justifiably disturbed, on account of the silly jam over the gas ration. Well, George, here's the scoop:

Let the government rent one parking space, one block, this for instance, for each automobile owner. Let the government hire at a nominal sum of $50 per month, a supervisor and a clerk at the rate of $75 and $125 respectively.

Appoint a manager and assistant for each office. $75 and $125 respectively.

I have elaborate plans for distribution so that the ration will go to the person who needs it most, or to the person who can prove it is needed, certified by special messengers.

Just add this cost to our present tax and heed an ear to the ground.

Sorry, George, one admits that this is not as efficient as the present force would be, but if everybody, or you were the boss, it would be the same. Just as we would have to do and then you are compelled to give up some sacrifice, time or other not so sacrifice too much of your driving. Now, George, you know that this country is undertaking a big job, namely fighting the world and, incidentally, at the same time, for this is accomplished, we are all going to be incommoded even more and we're not going to be too much of a nuisance to the point where it might possibly hurt. So, George, the problem is no greater than it is, and all you have to do is go quietly about it and solve the dilemma.

"Uncle Joe"

Girls Again

I read in a book that Apollo was chasing a nymph and she turned into a tree.

"He was lucky. The one I'm chasing always turns into a jewelry shop or a restaurant."

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

"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

PECK'S
Cash and Carry
Suits, Topcoats, Plain Dresses $1.09
CLEANED and PRESSED
For Delivery Service Phone 230
WOODWARD—NEAR MAPLE

Storm Windows
COMBINATION DOORS
PORCH ENCLOSURES
CABINET WORK
SMITH WOODCRAFT CO.
Phone 2218 Grant & Ruffner