

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

EDUCATION INCOMPLETE
The United States spends more money for educational purposes than all other countries of the world combined, yet we seem to be no further ahead than many other less fortunate nations in solving some of the problems which beset us. In the last election, for example, not even half of the eligible voters bothered to cast their ballots. What's the reason?

Simply this: our students are taught various and sundry facts and how to earn living but they are given no effective realization of their obligations. They are taught how to GET the most out of life in the superficial way, but not to GIVE.

New I realize that to teach the art of giving is no small order; that it is not easy to hold forth in the trees with a bow and arrow when he has beset man since the day he first cut swinging along in the breeze with a spear.

But if the Germans and Russians can instill in their youth a fanatic love for totalitarianism, we should not be so backward as to neglect to instill in our youth a burning love for democracy? It seems to me that in the decades ahead we are to hold our own with the nations which teach the glory of sacrifice to the State.

All of this will require experiments and new techniques in educational psychology, but that should not be difficult in a land where every city of any size has a college of education. The point of focus, it seems to me, is the elementary school, where the youthful mind is still open to suggestion. We want too late to teach civics.

The present methods are a failure is evident, for are today's high school and college graduates any more interested in the school box and community service than their elders?

ALL CAN SEE

In the battle of Guadalcanal, the Navy is using land-based dive bombers on many missions, but it is an interesting fact, for all it should clear up once and for all the debate of whether dive bomber technique should be included in our Air Force curriculum. The Navy, of course, invented dive bombing but the Army (and the British Army, likewise) have made it their own. The Germans, however, adopted it with great vigor.

50 YEARS AGO

Dec. 1, 1892
"Many old-time Birminghamers look, turkey in our midst."
"A word toward our residents is beginning to get uneasy at the outlook, and many of them fear that they are debated issue of whether dive bomber technique should be included in our Air Force curriculum. The Navy, of course, invented dive bombing but the Army (and the British Army, likewise) have made it their own. The Germans, however, adopted it with great vigor."

MONOPOLIES

The AP and A. P. on ground in news and in the groceries are both accused by the Government of being monopolistic. Knowing more about news than about groceries, I feel free to say here that insofar as the Associated Press is concerned, I think the Anti-Trust division at Washington is off its trolley.

STATE OF MICHIGAN—In the Probate Court for the County of Oakland, A. D. 1942.

Present: Hon. Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate.
New: Matter of the Estate of E. K. Oiler, Decedent.
This E. K. Oiler, executor of said estate, having filed in said court a petition praying that the time for presentation of claims against said estate be limited and that a time and place be appointed to receive, examine and adjust all claims and debts against said decedent, and that the date be allowed for creditors to present claims against said estate.

4 YEARS AGO

Dec. 2, 1938
"Four thousand devotees of football saw the Maroons of Baldwin at their best in their defeat to the Royal Oak Aces at the annual contest in Royal Oak." The score was 19-6.
The A-Swing Club, being organized in Birmingham to hold dances for the young people at the Community Center on Sunday evening.

ARTHUR E. MOORE

JOHN H. OSLER, 4914 Glenary Circle, Birmingham, Michigan.

WEEK STATE BANK OF DETROIT

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WABEEK STATE BANK OF DETROIT

BIRMINGHAM OFFICE—WABEEK BUILDING

Governmental Ideals

The younger people also understand fundamental principles of their government.

No chance should be taken that they grow up without learning to appreciate the vital factors which formed this union.

We are afraid that the Americans take for granted that their government, and because they understand the theories of our governmental system, they take it for granted that they will have ready copy coming off the machines of all three, and they know from experience that a newspaper can get along with one of the greatest prestige, to be sure.

In the Detroit afternoon field, the News, the AP while the Times has UP and INS, and as of yesterday's last edition, the Times did not fold for lack of circulation, advertising or news coverage? The AP is much similar to the Chevrolet dealer in Birmingham demand also that he be allowed to sell Ford cars. Does (or did) one appliance store cry "monopoly" because a competitor had an exclusive franchise for a certain make of radio sets?

There will come a time in the history of this republic when a public official who craves his trust will be denounced with more vehemence than a soldier who deserts his comrades in battle. Not only must he be free from wrongful acts, but it must be, like Caesar's wife, above suspicion. The breath of scandal that lurk around a man in public office may occasionally be without cause, but more often it is entirely justified.

The officials that we will measure up to the stand of public morality that is demanded by the voters. They will never be better, and should be expelled when worse.

THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

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GEORGE R. AYERLL, Editor and Publisher
JOHN H. HARWOOD, Managing Editor
HAROLD P. BURGER, Advertising Manager
CLAUDIE E. WALKER, Production Manager

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NOTES

The Eccentric is pleased to publish articles of interest which have been written by its readers. All copy must be presented before noon on Wednesday. The staff cannot be held responsible for return of unsolicited copy. No return of unsolicited copy will be made. No return of unsolicited copy will be made.

WEDDINGS ARE SITUATIONS IN WHICH TWO PEOPLE, A MAN AND A WOMAN, ARE JOINED AS HUSBAND AND WIFE.

What does a man and a woman, joined as husband and wife, have in common? They have a wife, if they have a wife, and become wife, their wife will weld them more closely together, 'tween man and wife, can make strong bonds that last for life.

Senator Norris

We have long admired the public career of Senator George Norris, of Nebraska, and regret that he should go down in defeat.

Political experts, however, say it was largely his own fault. He repeatedly announced his retirement and, at almost the last hour, decided to fight again for re-election.

The 21-year-old veteran seemed to take his defeat to heart, saying he could not understand it and that the voters of his State had repudiated him. He stood for in his long and courageous public career.

This is a mistaken view. The policies of the Nebraska have, in a large degree, become the accepted policies of the United States. He has lived to see the fruition of many of his political dreams.

Middle Classes Should Organize

Representative August Herman Anderson, of Minnesota, recently advised the House that America's middle class, backbone of the nation, was threatened with liquidation by current and impending taxes and suggested that congress "do something about it."

While the word "liquidation" may over-emphasize the gravity of the threat, there can be no mistake as to the position of those who make up what is generally termed the "middle class" in the United States.

Unorganized economically or politically, these people have no pressure group to represent them. Consequently, in an era of pressure politics, they are hopelessly outclassed and, therefore, bear a relatively heavier burden than other classes.

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HOME FOR TURKEY

Staff Sgt. Stanley Ross was home last night to spend Thanksgiving with his family. Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Rosso. Stan is now in Chicago where they are training him to become a messenger.

LETTER FROM WHITNEY

We received a letter from former coach Franklyn Whitney, written in Thanksgiving Day, and in it he said "I would like to know how our football team did today. I think Birmingham boys all over the world do not say 'Yes, but it will be some time before the New Georgia boys, for example, find out the score of the traditional battle between the two schools."

MORE ENLISTMENTS

Selective Service office here has been advised of the following enlistments: William J. Wallace, Air Force, Kelly Field, Texas; Lynn George Schwilke, Air Force, Kelly Field, Texas; William George Campbell, 788 Ann street, Air Force Enlistment Reserve; William R. Dunstan, road, Bloomfield Hills, aviation cadet, Air Force Enlistment Reserve.

BROTHER IN ALGERS

When buying a Detroit newspaper, Mrs. Vern Colburn, 936 Park Street, has her favorite; however, last week she purchased a different one quite by chance and turning to the back page, she saw a picture from Algiers, and there was her brother working with a group of soldiers in the cans of gasoline. The other night, while viewing a newsreel at the Birmingham Theatre, she saw the same scene in action. "I hadn't seen my brother in three years," she said, "and I had thought he was up like that in front of my eyes was quite a shock. In fact, I had to leave the theatre. He is James

People's Column

The Eccentric is pleased to receive contributions for the People's Column. All communications must be signed, and contributors will be notified by mail upon request. Letters must be in the office by Tuesday noon for publication the following Thursday.

Navy Campaign Will Continue

Editor, The Eccentric:
We wish to express our appreciation for the aid your newspaper gave us in launching our current recruiting campaign, and we are particularly grateful for the advertisement appearing at the beginning of this drive. It was most possible by the cooperation of your paper and the patriotic businessmen of your city. It got us off to an excellent start.

During the past several months, Navy recruitment has been the number of men enlisted for the Naval Service in this district. It is a most important part in our past recruiting records, and we know that such help will be invaluable in the present campaign.

The fine support you have given us in informing the public about the Navy's opportunities for trade training and advancement has been most appreciated. We are most grateful for the interest you have shown in our efforts.

R. E. Flechter, Lieutenant, USNR, U. S. Navy Recruiting Station, Detroit, Michigan.

"Dear George"

Dear George:
I enjoyed your empty chair editorial in the Thanksgiving issue. It was a most interesting and timely article. I am sure that you are not in full possession of the facts.

In the larger plants employing over 100 men, the absentee rate prior to Pearl Harbor was 2.5 percent, and since then it has dropped to an average of 2.25 percent of this at least. In smaller plants, it is absolutely available.

Now, George, don't worry for the Navy is clearing. Many of the smaller plants employing from 10 to 50 men could very easily employ 25 percent more men. They would be absent, thus we have days when we find war plants bringing 20 percent absentee records.

Let's All Help!

GASOLINE AND RUBBER RATIONING NOTES
The importance of gasoline rationing is being emphasized by the production of government experts made earlier this year. That the present rate of usage private automobiles are being retired from the road at the rate of 1,000,000 per year. The rationing of rubber is being reduced to 20 percent of the end of 1942; that by the end of 1943 it will be only 1,000,000 cars in operation. These figures assume that there will be few new tires or tires.

Help! A merry man dashed into the police station, perspiration poured from his forehead. "Help!" he yelled at the top of his voice. A startled desk sergeant looked down at him. "What happened, man?" he asked. "A stick-up," shouted the revolver. "There's a robbery being committed!"

Another reminder that motorist regulations were becoming stiffer was brought back from the East by persons who were there this last summer. This was a number of instances of the loss of driving licenses because of careless driving or driving while under the influence of liquor which was noted there, especially in Massachusetts.

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ARRANGE FURLOUGH

FURT, "GSTER, MICH.—To spend the winter of New Year's at home is the desire of every man at Fort Custer, and officers planning holiday furloughs and passes will be glad to hear that the civilian post starts traveling.

Clatter officers are working on a list of names of the best of the men leave after 7 a.m. on Dec. 16 and return before midnight on Dec. 17. The list of names will be furnished for 14 days beginning 7 a.m. on Dec. 30.

NEED MUSICIANS

Men who play band instruments can obtain non-class ratings of musician, second class in the U.S. Army.

Hoarder Number One!



Since 1934 the Treasury has bought 2,640,000,000 ounces of silver—enough to supply 48 initiated teaspoons to every man, woman and child in America. This vast stock pile lies buried in U. S. Treasury vaults, much of which could be released for war use and keep 350,000 silvermiths working. But the silver remains idle, as dictated by the terms of the Silver Purchase Act.

It was reported that most of the violations were occurring in war plant areas. The explanation was made that some war workers possibly were under the erroneous impression that since their work is "essential" they are exempt from the rationing limit. It did not apply to them in their travel between their homes and places of employment.

Two pertinent cartoons were shown in this same publication. One showed a man jammed in a disarray. The other showed a man with a large head, holding a large stack of silver dollars. He is labeled 'Hoarder Number One!' and 'SILVER BUYER'.

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