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

WHAT IS THIS, ANYWAY?

Rep. Jesse Wolcott says our fleet really took a beating at Pearl Harbor. Premier Mitchell Hepburn, of Ontario, sneers that our much-vaunted naval forces are in hiding. Pearson and Allen, the columnists, say the American people were never given the "blunt, sickening truth" about our losses at Pearl Harbor, but that the Japs know what they are, having taken motion pictures of the damage.

If so, why the secrecy? Did not the Roberts Investigation give us the whole truth? Are we a bunch of kids? Can't we stand bad news?

Washington apparently does not yet realize that fifth-column rumor-mongers work best when the truth is not told. Singapore was not informed of the worst, correspondents say, and the result was that wild rumors undermined morale when the Japs finally arrived at Johore Straits. Perhaps that is one reason why the "siege" of Singapore was such a fiasco.

THE WAR GOES ON

Are you perturbed about the loss of Singapore? This scrivener is disappointed, naturally, but not surprised. Loss of the strong (?) hold had been predicted for some weeks, and thus the bad news, when it came, was not unexpected, although most people had hoped it could have been held a little longer to permit strengthening of Java and Burma. Because planning and time are the Japs' big asset, they will rush ahead with their conquest, probably taking Java and cutting the Burma road.

Having won the first battle of the southeastern Pacific, the Japs will then try to consolidate their many positions in anticipation of the inevitable counterblow which we would strike. They may, also, attack Siberia, to shut us off.

The crisis of the entire world conflict is fast approaching; when the German spring offensive gets under way, and as the Japs continue to make Southwestern Asia a hot spot, there are to be many, many fearful situations—so hang on to your hats!

The future is not inviting. The whole situation makes the trench warfare fought in France in 1914-1918 look like a frontier skirmish. But, do not lose heart. We can handle 'em!

The aggressor nations seem to be out in front now, but their position is the same as that of desperadoes who once raided western towns. Theirs was the advantage of surprise and surprise, but eventually the forces of law and order won out.

Most of the world's population, most of its industrial might is now devoted to the cause, and preparing for the mighty counterattack, which, when it comes, will crush with steam roller effect the efforts of the aggressors.

The fall of France, Pearl Harbor, the loss of Singapore, the probable loss of MacArthur's forces, the heavy losses of the Russians, are the preliminary rounds which have been our misfortune. But, they are only the preliminaries. The main event is coming up.

DONDERO OPPOSES PENSIONS

Julius F. Wenzl, Sr., of 511 Hanna street, was only one of many Birmingham residents who were incensed when Congress voted itself a pension. He wondered what stand Rep. George A. Dondero had taken, and he wrote him, receiving this reply: "I have not only opposed it at the present time, but I have voted against it on previous occasions when it was presented to the House. I was amazed and disheartened to think that the administration would present such a bill and that the President would sign it at a time when the people of the country are asked to save, conserve and sacrifice because we are at war . . ."

Happenings of Long Ago

50 Years Ago
Feb. 18, 1892

Miss Martie Sly entertained forty of her high school friends at her home on Friday evening.

Bess Stockwell, son of J. S. Stockwell, fell through the ice while skating on Harris Lake recently. Jay Hitchcock helped him to get out.

The Literary Club met at the home of the William Adams on Friday evening and a fine program was rendered, consisting of music, recitations and dialogues.

The Milkmaids' Convention was scheduled to take place at the M. E. church, on Wednesday, Feb. 4. Admission 15 cents.

Mr. Allie J. Bodine, of Jackson was in town over Sunday last and reports his trade in the wholesale grocery line very satisfactory and pleasant. Wonder what does bring the boy around home so often.

25 Years Ago
Feb. 16, 1917

Born to Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Jones, a son, Feb. 4.

Mrs. Maria H. Stinchfield, 98, died from the effects of a stroke of paralysis on Wednesday morning at the home of her son, Charles Stinchfield at Stony Croft, Bloomfield Hills. She was survived by one other son.

Mr. and Mrs. Neil Rosso gave a 500 party at their home on Frank street Wednesday evening for the benefit of the Eastern Star Lodge.

Mr. and Mrs. G. Schwanbeck had left for New Orleans where they were to spend the remainder of the winter.

Fred Quarton was wrecking his house on West Maple avenue.

Miss Nina Johnson and Miss Louisa Clausen were to start on Feb. 24 on a trip to Washington and California.

5 Years Ago
Feb. 18, 1937

City Commissioners voted at their meeting on Monday to join the Michigan division of the Cities Alliance, an organization that was designed to bring about the reduction of gas rates through the piping of natural gas into the cities comprising the group.

Three fatal accidents and 1,170 arrests were reported during the past year in the annual police summary presented by Chief John P. Hackett.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Higby celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at a small luncheon and open house.

Dr. Alexander S. Diack, formerly of Birmingham and former president of the Detroit Dental Society, died during the previous week, at his home in Pasadena, Calif.

Have You Met

Mr. and Mrs. William A. Schnapp, who came here recently from Highland Park? Birmingham, they would be, a nice place for their two children, Norma, ten and a half, and Billy, five, to grow up. Norma is in 5-A and Billy in kindergarten over at Adams school. The Schnapps are living at 851 Oakland Avenue. Mr. Schnapp is chief production clerk for Detroit Fisher Body.

The Wayne Wessendorfs who are living at 1069 Knox street? They moved out from Ferndale because, tiring of apartment life, they wanted to live in a house of their own, and Birmingham seemed the best place around. Mr. Wessendorf is a tool designer for the U. S. Woodruff Airplane Parts Company in Detroit.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph T. Ott and their young son, Joe, who was two years old last Saturday? Formerly of Detroit, the Otts are living in their new colonial home at 1862 Winthrop lane. They were looking for a place to build and they fell in love with Winthrop Lane, Mrs. Ott tells us, the minute they saw the weeping willows out there. Mr. Ott is with the Katz Advertising Agency in Detroit.

WABEEK STATE BANK OF DETROIT

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WABEEK STATE BANK OF DETROIT

BIRMINGHAM OFFICE—WABEEK BUILDING

Practical Education Plans to incorporate in Birmingham's school system a technique of practical vocational guidance, as set forth in this newspaper last week, appear to possess considerable value.

As you may recall, the plan consists of adding to the high school faculty a co-ordinator, or teacher, who will find out how many upper class students wish to obtain paid work-jobs in local or nearby business, professional, or industrial enterprises; they would go to school four hours each morning, spending the remainder of each day on the job.

This plan means that students who do not intend to go on to college will be given a chance to develop "employable skills," supplemented by direct teaching in the high school, thus enabling them upon graduation to find gainful work.

It is a recognition of the schools that the traditional high school course has been designed too much for students who plan to go to college, whereas statistics prove that the vast majority of high school students do not continue their scholastic education after graduation from the secondary school.

Superintendent Dr. Herman L. Shibler and the Board of Education intend to explore the plan further and, if adaptable for Birmingham, probably will inaugurate it at Baldwin high school next September.

"Pat's" Chance Governor Murray D. Van Wagoner now has the opportunity to make a real reputation of economy and efficiency for himself; he can do this by leading a movement to cut down expenses, save on critical materials, such as automobiles, and do a host of other war-time necessities. His example can sway the people of Michigan to re-elect him in November; and that same example can find reverberations throughout the entire nation. Incidentally, its success would insure "Pat's" elevation to higher office later. Will he do it? He alone can provide the answer.

Prayer Service News The other day we read a news story, telling of a prayer service conducted in the offices of a company engaged in the manufacture of precision tools, which are vital in the defense program.

The press dispatch pointed out that the service was no wartime innovation but that the practice began at the Saginaw, Michigan, main plant of the Severance Tool Company in 1931. The service, instituted by the president of the company, is held during company time, but attendance is not compulsory.

We think this item deserves to be classified as news. It is an example that could be followed with profit by business generally throughout the United States. Religion, in its most general interpretation, should not be a one-day affair. Moreover, the highly proclaimed brotherhood of man will not arrive until religious principles are active in the everyday business affairs of the world.

TREAD LIGHTLY on the rubber heels of your shoes these days of rubber scarcity; also try to re-tread your tires, if you can.

Worse Than War There is much truth in the assertion of Dr. Charles E. Diehl, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, United States, who says that men who once thought there was nothing worse than war "have come to realize that Hitlerism is worse."

The statement embraces the attitude of a great many religious leaders in the United States. Thousands of these good men, after the first World War, determined to devote themselves to the promotion of peace and applied themselves energetically to the denunciation of warfare.

These leaders now know what Dr. Diehl means when he says, "We are at war, we did not want to get into it, we hate it and tried to avoid it, yet we had it treacherously thrust upon us."

Women Who Work The ancient notion that the place for a woman is at home receives something of a shock when we are told that 11,143,946 women were employed in regular work when the 1940 Census was taken.

There were 50,457,892 females, fourteen years of age and over, in Continental United States, and the figures indicate that approximately one-fourth had regular jobs, outside of their homes. More than 2,500,000 women were employed by factories, and more than 1,500,000 were employed by retail stores.

Undoubtedly, some of these women workers are forced by economic circumstances to supplement their family incomes. Practically all of them, no doubt, seek employment in order to raise their standard of living or that of their family group.

REPUBLICANS IN MICHIGAN this year are going to have a difficult time electing major office-holders. For two reasons: first, we are in a war and the "ins" have an advantage and, second, that really important personalities have the Republicans to offer?

The Birmingham Eccentric

Published every Thursday, at Birmingham, Mich., in The Eccentric Building, 220-232 North Woodward Avenue

Telephones 11, 12 and 13

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

(In Oakland County)		(Outside Oakland County)	
One Year	$1.50	One Year	$2.00
Six Months	.75	Six Months	1.25
Three Months	.50	Three Months	.75

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

The Eccentric is a member of: National Editorial Association, Michigan Press Association, Typo-graphical Press Club, and Oakland County Weekly Press Association.

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.

'A Junior Album'

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

TOP CENTER: Judy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fritz K. Kleene, 187 Cranbrook Road. BOTTOM CENTER: Anne and Isabel, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. B. Roderick Macdonald, 370 Pleasant. TOP, LEFT AND RIGHT CIRCLES: Nancy and Sue, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Owen, Bingham Lane. CENTER, LEFT: Barbara, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Gibson, 1410 Yorkshire. CENTER, RIGHT AND BOTTOM RIGHT: Betsy and Lee, children of Mr. and Mrs. Lee B. Durham, 32410 Westchester. BOTTOM, LEFT: Elizabeth, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rawson Vaile, 864 Pilgrim. This feature arranged by the Beatrice Studio, Birmingham.

THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner

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

BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO DEVELOPING AND PRINTING

Developing The Negative

(Continued from last week)

As soon as the developer has been drained back into the bottle, pour in the acid rinse and agitate constantly for a minute or so, then pour this out and down the sink.

Now pour in the stop bath and leave it for from 3 to 5 minutes, agitating constantly then pour this too down the sink. It costs little and won't keep more than a few hours.

Then pour in the hypo fixing solution, which should be allowed to remain 10 to 15 minutes. Agitate the first couple of minutes.

When the hypo is poured back into its bottle, the lid may be removed from the tank, and the film placed under the faucet for washing. About 30 minutes under running water is required for this. The water must be the same temperature as the chemical solutions. If colder water is used the washing time will be much longer. Under no circumstance use even slightly warmer water than the chemical solution.

Having been thoroughly washed, the film is removed from its reel, rinsed off again under running water, and a film clip attached to one end, from which it is then suspended from a rack, shelf, or something high enough to allow it to hang free. The photographic chamois or the viscose sponge is then moistened in water and squeezed as dry as possible, and wiped gently down the entire length of the film to remove surface moisture. The other clip is then attached to the bottom and the film hung up to dry in a warm airy place, well-protected from dust. It will dry in from 1 to 6 hours, depending on the humidity.

Cautions and Precautions

During all these operations, check the temperature of solutions frequently, using a thermometer that will slip into the closed tank. Keep to 68 degrees by setting the tank in a large tray of water kept at that temperature by heating, or with pieces of ice.

Wash the thermometer under running water after each use, also every graduate, stirring rod, and anything else that comes in contact with the chemicals.

Scrub the tank and reel thoroughly after each use, and allow it to dry before closing. Never attempt to thread film into a damp reel. It won't go.

After use, wash the chamois or viscose sponge thoroughly and put it away in a closed jar of fresh water, which should be changed once a week, or oftener if used more frequently.

Filter both developer and hypo through cotton or filter paper after each use.

One quart of hypo should be used for no more than 3 rolls of 35 mm. or 120 size film. It then may be used for prints, after filtering. It is better, however, to throw it away after 5 rolls.

Short cuts and time saving omissions are fatal to good development, but carefulness and cleanliness pay big dividends. The beginner who follows to the letter the procedure outlined here will produce as good negatives as the most seasoned professional, which should be the goal of every amateur. For, after all, anything that is worth doing, is worth doing well. If you are willing to be painstaking you can soon become a thoroughly proficient darkroom technician. If you are not willing to be painstaking you might as well give up photography right now and turn to some other less exacting hobby.

BIRMINGHAM CAMERA CLUB HOLDS MOVIE NIGHT

The Camera Club's first movie night met with an enthusiastic and large turnout. Three reels of a "Mexican Trip" in Kodachrome were flashed on the screen. These were taken by Elbridge G. Newhall, Jr., and running comments of the trip were made by Mrs. Newhall while the pictures were shown. Most interesting sequences of bull fights and Mexican peasant life held the attention of the audience. After the showing of the movies, some color slides were projected. These were the works of club members, and showed an unusual aptitude for color work. The club was honored by a visit from Cornelis Zwann, the celebrated portrait painter and father of Miss Beatrice Zwann, a professional portrait photographer and member of the Camera Club.

The next meeting of the Birmingham Camera Club will be held next Tuesday evening at 8 p. m., Feb. 24, at Community House. Some Detroit expert will be on hand to be guest speaker and print critic, and we shall undoubtedly have our usual interesting meeting. Members and visitors are invited to bring their best prints for comment and criticism, in any size, mounted or unmounted. Once again, members will select the print of the month for publication in The Eccentric.

Realistic Weekly

To save the frequent embarrassment of congratulating acquaintances on engagements that have just been broken off, we understand that a new weekly is about to appear, entitled "Who's Whose."—Punch, London.

"My wife's a whiz at removing spots from my clothes," a Mount Hope man was boasting.

"Grease spots?" asked his friend.

"No, five spots and ten spots."—Wichita Eagle.

People's Column

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

Postmaster Replies To Critical Patron

Editor, The Eccentric:

Ordinarily I would not waste time, which I can ill afford, to answer the unjustified and misleading blast in the people's column of last week's Birmingham Eccentric written by Dale O. Miller, of Washington Road.

However, as Postmaster of Birmingham, I feel it my duty to put the records in order.

It is true, I did tell a couple of people that the office closed and the stamps were locked in the vault, and perhaps the gentleman from Waddington Road was the one who rushed out of the lobby door, when I endeavored to explain that the Revenue Department had extended the auto stamp deadline until midnight Feb. 2.

It surely is not the fault of the local Post Office if Mr. Miller could not find time to get his stamp until after closing hours on what he thought was the last day. These stamps were on sale at post offices in every town and hamlet in the country and required no more time to purchase than an ordinary postage stamp.

Mr. Miller pointedly states that I told him "WE HAVE HOURS." I do not know what would prompt me to make a statement, as on that particular day, the clerks remained on duty until 12:45 p. m. to serve all patrons who were in the lobby, receiving no compensation for 45 minutes overtime.

Mr. Miller also takes exception to a notice on the outer door reading "as an emergency measure the lobby doors will be closed" at certain hours. By what method of correlation Mr. Miller deduced that this notice had any connection with reduction of working hours is beyond me.

For your information, Mr. Miller, the Post Office hours are the same now as they have been for more years than I can remember, and are controlled by an act of Congress, which I am quite sure, is composed of men, from the old deal, new deal, or what have you, and were in operation long before the new deal was heard of. No postmaster will attempt to tamper with this law.

For your information Mr. Miller, the closing of the lobby doors does not in any way delay the dispatch of mail. The Post Office Department does not put rules into operation without considering them from all angles, particularly those pertaining to the convenience of the public. The clerk who makes the last dispatch closes the lobby doors, and all mail deposited in any of the 14 mail boxes located throughout the business section of Birmingham receive the same treatment accorded those dropped in the Post Office, as said boxes are emptied in time for each train.

Evening mail deposited at any box in the business district goes out just as promptly as mail left at the Post Office.

J. A. BYRNE
Postmaster

Oakland County, too, Needs Home Rule

Editor, The Eccentric:

Oakland County residents are horrified by Wayne County's scandals and say in the spirit of the short-sighted man praying in the Temple: "I thank thee, Lord that I am not as other men."

We are justly thankful for the quality of our country's government. Is our thankfulness self-righteous, however? Does it ignore opportunities for improvement?

Certain citizens of Wayne County are attempting to correct its governmental evils. They are working to obtain County Home Rule as a means of adapting their system of government to fit the needs of over 2,000,000 people. They are Reformers (spelled with a capital R) who must not only clean house, fumigate and repair but make extensive alterations so destructive political rats will be kept out and living made more satisfactory. We wish them success and pledge them our help.

We see no necessity for turning Oakland County government upside-down. We must, however, continually improve it. We also recognize the necessity of real economy and greater efficiency because of war costs and the pressing needs of our part of the half million people moving into greater Detroit.

Our hands have been and are tied without a Home Rule Amendment. Oakland County has favored such an amendment in the past. We could put one to good use today for it would encourage constructive action within the county and facilitate undertakings common to the public good of the metropolitan area.

Home Rule would indeed be a Life-Preserver if scandals were to break loose here. Its importance is not as a remedy, however. It is as an aid to government continually fulfilling the needs of the times.

Our needs are great and the time is ripe.

We must have Home Rule.

HENRY S. BOOTH
President
Oakland Citizens League