

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

Knocking on Wood

with JOHN H. HARWOOD

If YOU were to ruff a newspaper, you would discover that it is no easy job to keep all your readers happy.

For example, there are readers who will go along for 20 years reading about other people's embarrassing moments, but will kick like steers when the editor won't listen to their own plea.

We, of course, would like to comply with these requests for "we would prefer not to" embarrass a single soul, but can we honestly and consistently do it?

For example, if we should about drunk driving is printed at all, then everyone should be treated alike. If crime news is a legitimate field for news reporting, then it should be handled without fear or favor, regardless of the wealth and position of persons who may be affected.

Many other things can happen. Mrs. Jones' son may be shown on a football field and she, indignantly, phoned about it. Mrs. Smith's son is home, too, but we never hear about it. Mrs. Smith's purpose.

Those of us who get out The Eccentric affirm that it just isn't possible to please everybody. We do our best to keep you, our readers and contributors, happy about our product.

Every cause, every organization, every public chairman hopes to get as much attention as possible for his or her endeavor.

Publicity chairman can help, too, by submitting their material as early as possible, by typing it up and organizing it so that subsequent additions and deletions are not necessary.

THE WRONG CONCLUSION We caution our readers against that universal "BIRMINGHAM STATE BAR ASSOCIATION UNTRUE INFERENCE." You'd be amazed how few people draw every conclusion under the sun from the most accidental conditions.

What Your City Commission Is Doing.. January 5, 1942. Bills approved totaling \$8,554.72, including two weeks pay-off to the amount of \$7,042.36.

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Let's Be Ready But Not Rattled

Birmingham's City Commission and administrative officers are to be congratulated for the promptness with which they organized for civilian defense.

Whether Birmingham needs complete organization for blackouts, demolition of dud bombs, poison gas decontamination squads, and other preparation geared for mass air raids, it is not within our province to know.

Another important consideration must be the avoidance of national hysteria. We must all realize that the creation of just such hysteria may be the design of the enemy, with token air raids and submarine attacks.

Our country is just beginning active participation in a war which will be long and costly.

Victory Will Come active scale in a war which will be long and costly.

WHO BUILT AMERICA? The story that was Greece was built by statesmen and philosophers; it benefited mainly the poor.

Who will build the grandeur and glory of tomorrow? Engineers, inventors, political visionaries, and God-fearing producers.

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How to Save Money

People in this and other areas of the United States who maintain stores can do much toward aiding national defense by making the minimum of demands upon these establishments.

Practically every shopper can contribute something to this conservation program by remembering to request extra services only in an emergency.

Swindling Ambitious Authors Many people who have met in the course of our limited ramblings, has been bitten, to some degree or other, by the author-bug.

WINS A FAKE Lottery Nearly fourscore men and women have been indicted by the Federal case because of a typographical error.

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Happenings of Long Ago

50 Years Ago Mrs. Carrie Blodgett was visiting her sister at Goodrich and will be away for two weeks.

25 Years Ago January 5, 1917 Mrs. Lyman B. Peabody, 81, for 50 years a resident of Birmingham.

5 Years Ago Jan. 7, 1937 Funeral services were held Wednesday for Thacy V. Broughton.

Developing & Printing 24 Hour Service KODAKS - EASTMAN - FILMS WILSON DRUG CO. Woodward at Maple