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

RATIONING OF GASOLINE

Will rationing of gasoline come to America like it has elsewhere in the world? I doubt it, except in certain localities. Britain is short on petrol, not because there is not plenty of it available within the Allied sphere, but because there is a shortage of transportation.

America has more oil than we know what to do with. Go to any oil field and you will find that most of the wells are capped so that the daily flow is greatly restricted. On the East and West Coasts, gasoline has been brought in by water because that is the cheapest mode of transport; now, as everybody knows, the supply has been imperiled by submarines and by the transfer of ships to other routes.

Michigan gets most of its gasoline from the big refineries at Toledo, where several of the popular brands sold here obtain some from the same spigot; and also, from the refineries near Chicago. That is a short haul from here, and unless the big gasoline transport trucks are taken away and railroad cars are restricted, there should be no shortage of gasoline in this area. We are too close to the source of supply.

Besides that, I think the tire situation will provide an automatic check on the use of gasoline.

—o—

WHERE ARE THE EXPERTS

Who predicted that once the ground was frozen in Russia, the mechanized forces of the Germans would sweep forward to victory?

Who predicted that South America was full of Nazis and would be a ripe plum for the Fifth Columnists there?

—o—

THEY DESERVE CREDIT

Men are enlisting, and leaving their homes every day through Selective Service to join the armed forces—without a murmur of protest. Their patriotism deserves praise, especially when those men may some day wish heartily that they had the plane or gun which might have been turned out by stupid selfish laboring men who went out on strike.

The soldiers and sailors are giving up their civilian careers and their homes to defeat the enemy; apparently, the radical unionists who strike for double pay for Sunday work, over union rivalry and other unimportant matters think that all the sacrifice should be in the armed forces. There is absolutely no excuse for any unauthorized strike, or for any walkout without first resorting to mediation.

Mr. President, how about a Fireside Chat on that problem? Is there no way that wildcat strikers can be taught to mend their ways?

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 500 words, and must be in the office by Tuesday noon for publication the following Thursday.

Women Voters See Challenge

Mr. George R. Averill,
Birmingham Eccentric,
Birmingham, Michigan.
Dear Mr. Averill,

"This and That," of March 12 seems like a direct challenge to the Birmingham League of Women Voters, for you ask what women are doing in this war emergency other than Red Cross, etc. We League members believe that not only is our physical territory in danger but a far more reaching and truly menacing threat is made to our national existence as a self-governing, free people. What is at stake in this war is whether life shall be ordered from above and accepted from before, or whether the people themselves shall govern.

We do not have any panacea for solving all the problems of government or of war production. We do believe that certain broad principles if adopted would do much towards relieving the situation.

We believe that the war program must be financed as largely as possible by taxation based on ability to pay. We know that the smaller the income the larger proportion of it goes for consumer goods so that a sales tax bears heaviest on the smaller incomes. Therefore, we believe that it should be the last resort of government financing though we realize that we must give to the government in one way or another 50 per cent of our income to finance the war.

Must Control Inflation

We believe that inflation must be controlled by legislative and administrative action, such as price control legislation, allocations and rationing, and fiscal policy.

We believe that we must develop a war labor policy which will prevent work stoppages and at the same time preserve the right of collective bargaining. The Gallup Poll, of March 15, showed that willing to give from one to ten hours of work to win the war. That figure is conclusive proof that labor is as patriotic as any group in this country. The will to work is an important factor both in war production and morale and can only be maintained if labor and management are free agents in settling disputes. If there needs to be government control it must apply equally to both sides. If wages and hours must be controlled, prices and profits must be absolutely controlled, also.

We believe that the attitude of the individual citizen is responsible for abuses of civil liberties, for official agencies do not work in a vacuum but reflect the state of public opinion. Therefore, showing tolerance towards others and practising self-restraint in the use of one's own freedom will do much to preserve civil liberties.

We believe it is the citizens' duty to equip local government to meet the demands of war time. The present setup is inefficient and extremely costly. It is a luxury which in peace time can be afforded; in war time it is intolerable. In county government there has been no organization since horse and buggy days. In Oakland County alone there are 223 units of government including school districts, all with taxing and administrative powers and no correlation between them. This means frequent elections which have to be financed, uncertainty on the part of the voter as to qualifications and responsibilities of candidates and far too many of them. Moreover, the overhead costs of government is about the same so that in small units a disproportionate part of the tax levy goes to maintain this government organization.

Stretch Tax Dollar

We believe that by reorganizing this antiquated system our tax dollar would go much further and those necessary departments such as education and public health could be adequately financed.

These convictions of our League members are based on study and investigation of these problems. But more important than these is the main purpose of the League, namely, to help citizens understand government, that the individual citizen has a responsibility and does count and that ETERNAL VIGILANCE IS THE PRICE OF LIBERTY.

Finally, we are convinced that a Congress must be elected in November, 1942, which is capable of dealing with the problem if will face, particularly the post-war organization for peace. For upon this Congress may well hang the fate of the kind of civilization for

(See People's Column, Page 3)

WABEEK STATE BANK OF DETROIT

"A friendly bank"

Complete Banking Service

Pay-As-You-Go Checking Accounts
Commercial and Savings Accounts
Collateral and Life Insurance Loans
Unsecured and Co-Maker Loans
F. H. A. Modernization Loans
Automobile Loans

WABEEK STATE BANK OF DETROIT

BIRMINGHAM OFFICE—WABEEK BUILDING

City vs. Schools

The time has come when Birmingham should no longer put its municipal operations in one water-tight compartment, and the schools in another. Good schools are just as vital as any municipal service, and it is not sensible nor just that our municipal government and its services continue in full bloom while our schools wither. If the war emergency means retrenchment, then that retrenchment should take place after a survey has been made of both city and school budgets to determine which services and employees we can do without.

One Junior High School

After weighing the pros and cons of the proposed central junior high school for Birmingham, we have come to the conclusion that the benefits will far outweigh the disadvantages.

Most of the opposition has centered about the fact that 7th, 8th and 9th graders in some localities will have a longer distance to travel to get to their classes, and that grades 2 through the 6th at Barnum must walk to the Pierce School. This is unfortunate, of course, but not vital, when we consider that millions of children the nation-over are walking a much farther distance every day and are the healthier for it. A stepped-up program should be inaugarated, of course, to ensure safety at the cross-walks.

On the other side of the ledger, one junior high school situated near the center of area and population is quite logical for a city of this size any competent educator will tell you that. The new school will eliminate a duplication of effort and equipment and should cost less to run. The greatest advantage is the fact that there will be one good school, and not three or four junior highs with an inferior program. It will be more democratic, ending sectional rivalries and distinctions, and it will end crowding at Baldwin High.

The important considerations are twofold: Is it better for the children? Is it more efficient?

BY THIS TIME THE RESIDENTS of the Birmingham School District ought to know that their educational system is in serious need of more money. May 4 is the date of a special election when they are to decide if they will approve a two and one-half mill taxation increase, which is to bring in an extra $39,000 to the schools, most of which is to increase teacher salaries. This proposition CAN carry, if a live organization of ardent supporters gets behind it—especially on election day.

FELIX H. H. FLYNN, the Cadillac, Michigan, chap who appears well entrenched enough to get himself a $7,500.00 per year job on the Liquor Control Commission, as a Republican, under a Democratic Governor, will bear watching. He can do a swell job for the people, or he can let his friendship for "Boss" Frank D. McKay and others sway his judgment; time will tell.

"THE SWEETEST STORY ever told" these days no doubt refers to the various news dispatches regarding the federal government's allotment of sugar rationing.

Detroit's Apathy

Detroit's problem of getting enough air raid wardens presents the typical example of American democracy in inaction. As we see it, it's not because Detroit isn't patriotic and doesn't want to defend itself; it is just plain human apathy and inertia. If, in a heavily crowded theatre, fire broke out, most of the audience would stampede itself to death, if some one or two people didn't get up and shout: "This is the way out!" It seems to us that Mayor Jeffries, having found that people do not rally sufficiently to voluntary action, ought to "draft" enough air raid wardens by the simple process of requesting certain citizens to do so, on his official stationery. This simple "draft" method will tickle the vanity in many cases, and in others bring home to them their essential citizen responsibilities; why not try it, Mister Mayor?

WE THOROUGHLY BELIEVE in the right of labor to organize, even though we do know that plenty of racketeers are running some labor groups, and that many, many union men have been coerced into joining; but we also know that any group, whether it be capital or labor, that gets dominant control of government will use that control selfishly and democratic government will go overboard.

WE HAVE GENERALLY PRAISED the efforts of Eleanor Roosevelt as she went about "trying to do good." But now we are in a war, and she ought to retire to the task of being a helpmeet in the White House. Indeed, we'll gladly subscribe to a move by Congress to give her a pension for the duration.

CHRISTIANITY, ALONE, will not solve the world's problems, although it will go a long way toward preparing people for those economic adjustments necessary to make the world peaceful.

The Birmingham Eccentric

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GEORGE R. AVERILL — Editor and Publisher
PAUL NEAL AVERILL — Business Manager
JOHN H. HARWOOD — Managing Editor
HAROLD P. BUERGE — Advertising Manager
CLAUDE E. WALKER — Production Manager

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The Eccentric is a member of National Editorial Association, Michigan Press Association, Suburban 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 who are not members of the editorial staff of this 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 mechanical limitations 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: Laurie and Carol, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. W. Glenn Costello, 948 Madison. BOTTOM CENTER: Robert, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Channon, 394 Bryn Mawr. Patricia, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Delahanty, 32549 Lahser. LEFT SIDE, top to bottom: Virginia, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. John P. Wood, 675 Larchlea. Sutherland and Scott, sons of Mr. and Mrs. William P. Ellwood, 711 Hupp Cross. RIGHT SIDE, top to bottom: Joe, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Ott, 1862 Winthrop. John, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Anateh, 18275 Berkshire. Billy, son of Mr. and Mrs. O. L. Bumpas, 540 W. Lincoln. This feature arranged by the Beatrice Studio, Birmingham.

APPLICATION FOR A VICTORY GARDEN PLOT

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

I agree to the following:

1—To supply all seed and materials.

2—To plant and tend garden, including hoeing and cultivating in a workmanlike manner, until it is harvested.

3—To use due care that no trees be damaged.

4—To waive all claims for damages against the owner of the land and the Birmingham Farm and Garden Association, arising out of my use of the land for garden purposes, or the sale of the land at any time during my use of it.

5—That in the event of the sale of the lot, all my rights would terminate.

Dated at Birmingham, Michigan, _____ Month

_____, 1942. Date

_____ Signature of Applicant

Mail or Send to
Conservation Department of
Women's National Farm and Garden Association,
Office of Civilian Defense, Municipal Bldg.,
Birmingham, Michigan.

(Don't Write in This Space)

Lot _____ Subdivision

THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner

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

FILTERS

Filters and their uses can be easily understood if the beginner can learn to convert mentally a colored scene into a black and white print—to imagine the colors and know how they should appear in monochrome.

Most beginners are amazed when, having made a picture of a bright red flower bed, they discover that the flowers are no where nearly as bright as they originally appeared—that instead, they are almost black and, for some inexplicable reason, the grass and leaves are light, bright, almost white!

If the red flowers turn out almost black, what does this mean? Remember that darkness in a print means a lack of light, under exposure, or probably—the failure of light to act on our film emulsion. However, if we have given proper exposure and the red flowers are still black, it shows that this red light didn't make much of an impression on our emulsion.

Another example: Beginners are often mystified that the rich white billowy clouds failed to stand out clearly against the deep blue sky in their prints as they did in the original scene. Here we have exactly the opposite situation where the red of the flowers failed to shoot enough light through to the emulsion to make a normal impression, the blue of the sky has overdone its part and so deeply into the emulsion as to equal the effect of the white light reflected from the clouds.

No film made has the ability to convert all the colors into perfect relative tone values in monochrome. Lest you be disappointed at what appears to be lethargy on the part of emulsion-making science, let it be said that the average normal human eye is no better.

LIGHT

The human eye and a photographic emulsion "eye" see light much as the ear hears sounds, and as a radio receiver draws signals from the ether. Light has wavelengths and each of the various colors is "tuned in" by the eye relegated on a different wavelength. Emulsions strive to match these bands so that all colors can be tuned in; but they do not succeed completely and perfectly.

Let us break up a ray of light and see how many different color bands there are. Reading from left to right, starting from the long wavelength to short wave length, we have infra-red, red, orange, yellow, green, blue, violet and ultra-violet. It makes little difference which is long or short; this is the way colors break up into bands. As photographers we are concerned with all save the very first and the very last colors. Disregarding these we have six colors with which we are all familiar: red, orange, yellow, green, blue and violet. In the center of this line-up we find the spot of the greatest sensitivity of the human eye—between the yellow and the green.

(More about filters next week.)

CAMERA CLUB NOTES

The Birmingham Camera Club which meets on the second and fourth Tuesday evenings of the month at Community House, extends a cordial invitation to all local amateur and professional photographers to attend the club meetings. Appreciating the trying times many members have enjoyed the existence of an activity that enables so many of the club members to spend at least two evenings a month in pleasant relaxation and recreation. Photography seems to be an excellent war-time avocation. As a matter of fact, some of the present activities of the club includes the use of both the still and movie camera in assisting some of the war time civic organizations and activities. For example, the cinema group has accepted an assignment to film a movie which will portray the patriotic work of school children collecting waste paper. This movie will be used to further educate children in going about this task.

Miss Beatrice Zwaan, owner of the Beatrice Studios on Martell Street, instructed the Camera Club group on indoor portrait lighting at the last meeting of the club. Models were supplied and some excellent results were obtained.

The next meeting of the camera club will be held Tuesday evening March 24. This meeting will be devoted to review of members' prints.

CALLING ALL GARDENERS!

Tuesday, March 21, has been set for a round table discussion on gardening. Many calls have come in lately, asking various questions as to soil, fertilizers, bugs, etc., and in answer, we have secured the best possible men to give you this information.

K. D. Bailey, County Agricultural Agent, is going to talk with us on soil and fertilizers. If you have a problem on your lawn, your garden, or vegetable garden, join us with a notebook and pencil and your questions.

Don Hutson, extension specialist in insect control from Michigan State College, will be with us to talk and discuss "Bugs" and tell us how to eliminate them.

Mrs. Ruth Mosher Place will speak on seeds and your garden design, will be ready to help you plan and design your flower and Victory Garden.

This is open to all interested gardeners, experienced and the beginners, and will be held at the Community House at 7:30 p. m.

TO GET SPACE

An application blank has been printed, at the Ec to be filled out and sent or brought in to the Office of Civilian Defense at the Municipal Building.

It is for those not having room for a victory garden in their own backyard; and for those finding need for more space.

Letters have been sent to owners of vacant lots within the Birmingham and Village districts. Some warm responses have been received by many of these owners endorsing this patriotic movement. Only the lots that have had full authorization from the owners will be used.

A ploughman has been secured for all Victory Gardens, whether in your own back yard or alloted property. He will be available as soon as the ground is in condition and at a minimum price. List your name, lot, etc., and sign up for the plowing, stating the size of your garden plot, if you wish this service.

Further details will be given at the Farm and Garden desk in the Civilian Defense Office, which is open daily and from 7 to 9 Monday and Thursday evenings.

IN THE FUTURE—

Practical advice for the gardener, written by Doris Patten, will be a feature of this column.

School Children Plan for Gardens

In this time of national emergency, it is necessary for every member of the family to feel that they are in some way contributing. The children of Birmingham are being given this opportunity through the wise planning of the committee for Victory Gardens, headed by Miss Frances Looney of Baldwin High School.

Mrs. Delia Wilson, of Barnum School, is ordering seeds and fertilizer. Tomato and pepper plants have been raised in flats in her schoolroom and will cost the children the nominal price of one cent apiece.

A pamphlet with plans for five gardens is being prepared by Malcolm Tindall of Adams School. These help each child to use the available to do the best advantage.

A. E. Ebersole, of Barnum, is in charge of garden demonstration which will give the young gardeners a definite idea of just how to proceed.

The Birmingham Garden Club is giving the project its support through the Education Committee. This includes summer supervision and a planned display of the gardens produce in the fall.

Ralph Coryell, of the Recreation Commission, also promises that they will lend a hand.

Last year 50 children planted and raised their own gardens and the enthusiasm this year promises that many more will share in this worthwhile project.

CHICAGO DOG SHOW

CHICAGO—Pedigreed pets of the canine world representing 109 different breeds will be on display in Chicago's all-breed purebred dog show, to be held at the International Amphitheatre Saturday and Sunday, March 28 and 29. It is the second largest indoor dog show in the world.

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 26th day of February, A. D. 1942.

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

In the Matter of the Estate of Alexander Paton, Deceased.

H. Ross Mack, Charles A. Buchman and James K. Watkins, Trustees, under the Will of said deceased, of said estate having filed in said Court their Seventh Annual Account for the period beginning January 1, 1941, through and including December 31, 1941, and petition praying for the examination and allowance thereof.

It is Ordered, that the 30th day of March, A. D. 1942, 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.

LEWIS A. WATKINS,
Ford Building,
Detroit, Michigan.

49-50-51