

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

Knocking on Wood with JOHN H. HARWOOD THE LIQUOR BUSINESS AND WAR A citizen recently raised this question: "Why should America send money to Great Britain when that commonwealth seems to have plenty of it to make into Scotch whiskey, which comes over here by the boatload." That is only one angle of the liquor business and its relation to war.

Another question raised is this: "Why should the truck owners get all the tires they want? And further, 'America in short of sugar and the materials which are turned into industrial alcohol. Should the distillers keep on making whiskey?'"

While the reader ponders those two conundrums, I turn to another event on John Barleycorn's mind—the fact that Michigan has two new members on the Liquor Control Commission who apparently mean business in their desire for a new deal. Ralph Thomas, former president of the Automobile Club of Michigan and head of the Speaking-Items Printing Co., is the first of them, and is already has ideas on the subject. The other new member is Felix H. Flynn, of Cadillac, well-known Republican politician.

No Sales Promotion I am placing my hopes in Mr. Thomas, for he knows that the Commission is for. Said he last week: "We don't consider we are here to promote the sale of liquor or to make money for the State, but to see that the liquor business is honestly and efficiently run in Michigan. 'Politics is out.'" The Civil Service department has informed the Commission that the payroll can be cut \$171,000 a year, and it appears that this may be done. The fact that the enforcement staff is the big problem, according to Thomas, and he means to get more men on the job. Well, perhaps some of that \$171,000 can be spent for special state liquor police. Another source of revenue could be the money which the state takes from liquor license money and gives to the local units, theoretically for enforcement. The trouble has been here, the money in local units goes into the general fund and the police pay no more attention to it than saloons than to grocery stores. There is a difference.

Need Backbone Thomas and his associates are going to need plenty of backbone. For nowhere else in the States are there more pressure, more industry and more headaches than in Michigan. Returning to the subject of Scotch whiskey, tires for beer bottles and water for growlers here then donated it to the British via Lease-Lend, and then he pays a million dollars for the spirit. The British will point out that whiskey is their biggest item of export, and that it is helping keep the country out of bankruptcy. The trouble is that the American taxpayer is paying twice. He first pays the tax on the growler, here then donated it to the British via Lease-Lend, and then he pays a million dollars for the spirit.

Regarding the further distillation of whiskey, I think it would be wise to order every distillery to devote its attention to industrial alcohol, for there are millions of gallons of whiskey now on hand, enough to last for the duration. I doubt the wisdom of shutting down the breweries at this time, but it does seem foolish to use our precious rubber for frequent and wasteful deliveries of beer to the stores and saloons. The breweries ought to pool their delivery resources, using their trucks jointly, letting the salesmen take the orders. Competition ought to be out for the duration.

Senator Brown Senator Brown's foolishly voted for the "Lend-Lease" scheme (since repealed) but that indiscretion has been cancelled in my mind by his stand on the commodity issue. The government owns more than a billion dollars of cotton grain, etc. which it bought from the farmers at a fancy price before the war. Now Uncle Sam wants to sell it, but

WABEEK STATE BANK OF DETROIT BIRMINGHAM OFFICE—WABEEK BUILDING 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

Concerning the Future of Our Schools During difficult times of the past, one thing in particular saved Birmingham's school system from going down hill. It was the fact that financial stress here had its counterpart in every other endeavor, public and private, and therefore, jobs were scarce. Teachers had little other choice than to stand by and hope for the best.

Now, things are different. Jobs are plentiful and men teachers will soon be able to double their incomes by going into defense work. Women teachers are becoming scarce, and school systems are starting to raid one another. The superintendents are already in Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti and Detroit, signing contracts with the unions before they are graduated, and you can rest assured that the schools with money will take the cream of the crop.

What does this mean to Birmingham? Simply this: If we are to keep our best teachers and hire needed replacements of a competent caliber, we must pay market prices, or we are out of school staff.

One solution is to eliminate kindergarten and put the schools on half time so that fewer teachers can handle more classes; or, we can get along the best we can, permitting the finer teachers to go elsewhere, and allowing morale to vanish through the payment of subsistence wages.

Or, we can possibly raise more money for the schools. That can be accomplished by two-thirds of the taxpayers voting increased millage, or by our more-affluent municipal branch of government coming to the rescue. At the present times, it appears that increased millage will be tried first, admittedly, a difficult undertaking, for a two-thirds majority is a tough hurdle. If the proposal fails, there is little doubt but what an effort will be made to get help from City, for there is little logic in any city administration operating municipal affairs in high gear while the schools limp along on two cylinders. If there must be cuts in public service, they should be made with equity, for Birmingham's children are just as important as its streets, sewers, parks, trees, and rubbish collection.

Good Newspapers Congratulations to Frank J. Russell, of Iron Mountain, in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, and the staffs on their Iron Mountain, Rhineland, and Marquette daily newspapers for winning awards of excellence in a contest sponsored by the Inland Daily Press Association recently. Mr. Russell, a two-titled, forthright, unusually civic-minded editor and publisher, wields a great influence in midwest journalistic circles—suggesting something of the rugged corners in which he lives. His subscribers are indeed fortunate in having him and his several staffs as custodians of their Iron Press in these days of world upheaval.

MORE AND MORE, as you go about the nation, you discover that Old Dobbin and his two or four-wheeled cart is coming back, because of the automobile tire problem. And, alas! just when most of us thought that the nation had the sparrow problem well in hand.

50 Years Ago March 3, 1892 A company of horse breakers or "Editors" had pitched their tent near the Willis barn in the village. About 50 friends surprised James Casey and his family at a party last Tuesday night. They left a lot of presents to commemorate his wedding anniversary.

25 Years Ago March 2, 1917 Ann Rachel Nicholson, 67, died on Feb. 28. She was an early resident of Birmingham and was survived by three sons and one daughter. Mrs. Elmer Walker, of Pierce street, announced the birth of a son, Ernest Wootter, of Illinois, was visiting with Mr. and Mrs. James Wootter, Poppleton avenue, Birmingham, Saturday afternoon, when she gave birth to a son, Clyde Blodgett, died of diphtheria on Saturday morning.

3 Years Ago March 4, 1937 One hundred parents and teachers gathered at Baldwin High School on Tuesday to organize a Baldwin School Parent-Teacher Association. Funeral services were held for Mr. J. H. Wood, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Wood, who was killed Saturday when a training plane in which he was flying crashed. Wood was a United Airlines pilot and a lieutenant in the Army Air Corps reserve. Mrs. Franklin F. Cricker was elected president of the local A. A. U. W. group at the annual meeting last week. Mrs. Cricker succeeded Mrs. Fred D. Farrar, who was to become president of the state organization. Mrs. Warren C. Pratt was elected president of the Birmingham Women's Club last week.

Clear Tree Major Company to Present "Penrod" Booth Tarlington's famous character "Penrod" scheme brought to life in a stage production at Pontiac High School auditorium Wednesday, March 11, at 3:45 and 8 p. m. The Pontiac Association for Childhood Education is sponsoring the production, which is open to the public. Tickets may be obtained here at Sham's drug store.

Your Part In The War The serious situation confronting the United States, as a result of the surprise attack upon us by Japan, Germany and Italy, creates new responsibilities for the citizens of our nation.

The first obligation of a good citizen is to be intelligent in regards to the war in general, and the second is to cooperate loyally in all measures that may be necessary on the home front.

Those who cannot serve in the trenches, in the air or on ships, can render valuable service, without which the war cannot be won. We can maintain morale, increase production, and make available adequate supplies to the fighting forces.

Every loyal American should resolutely accept the privations that may be ahead. To do without automobile tires and cut down on sugar consumption is little, compared with exposing one's self to hostile bullets under the disadvantages that every soldier of the democracies must temporarily accept.

The Birmingham Eccentric Published every Thursday at Birmingham, Mich. in The Eccentric Building, 111, 12 and 13 Telephone: 11, 12 and 13 Editor and Publisher: Business Manager: Managing Editor: Advertising Manager: CLAUDE E. WALKER

Subscription Rates One Year (12 issues) \$2.00 Six Months (6 issues) \$1.25 Three Months (3 issues) \$0.75

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



Center: Mary and Dennis Moore, children of Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Tible, 1369 Glenhurst. Opposite left and right circles: Ralph F. Mason, 12 Mile Road, Birmingham. Bottom center: Jean Ann, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur and John, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur D. Chandler, 2139 Yorkshire. Bottom left and right circles: Michael Williamsbury. This feature arranged by the Beatrice Studio, Birmingham.



THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner CHAS. B. CHARMATZ, P.S.A., Editor

THE LAST DROP—Camera Club Print of the Month, by Martin Otto. At the last monthly print night held by the Birmingham Camera Club, Martin Otto, 902 Purdy street, won out in the stiffest competition held by the members to date. A number of very excellent prints were submitted by 12 members, and after being reviewed by the group and voted on, "The Last Drop" produced by Mr. Otto was voted the best work produced during the month.

Hints on Spotting Prints Don't let your print go to find out if you have been unable to produce a perfectly spot-free print? Yes sir, those little black or white spots, raised by air bubbles, dust and lint on the negative persist in enlarging in the same proportion that you enlarge your print.

What to do? About the only remedy for black spots is the proper use of a sharp etching knife, or a razor blade. Experience has demonstrated that the "Valek" razor blade, because of its approximate 90 degree point, makes one of the best tools available.

Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Mosher, Jr., who are living in the Townsend apartments, The Moshers, recently married just recently, Mrs. Mosher is the former Jane Underhill, of Buffalo, N. Y. Mr. Mosher is the son of the W. J. Mosher of a Pine Kappa Gamma at the University of Michigan. Mr. Mosher was graduated from Williams College where he was a Phi Kappa Sigma member and attended the University of Michigan Law School. At present he is an accountant for Erast and Ernst in Detroit.

Mr. and Mrs. Phillip F. Robb and their 12-year-old son, The Robbs moved up here from Wilmington, Del., when Mr. Robb's work brought him to Detroit. Mr. Robb is a general manager of the middle-west district for the Hercules Powder Company with offices in Detroit and they are finding that they like it here very much. They have two children, Nancy, 10, and Billy, 9.

Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Bradford, who are living at 3465 Broadway boulevard? They moved here from Boston, Mo., when Mr. Bradford was transferred to Detroit. He is store manager for Western Electric. Relatives persuaded them to live in Birmingham and they are finding that they like it here very much. They have two children, Nancy, 10, and Billy, 9.

repeated practice and application of these principles that will make you a successful spotter. If you will understand that a spot should be looked upon as a tone foreign to the normal tone of the print, you will more readily understand the need for the most accurate and delicate method as it occurs in certain areas on your print.