

Editorial Page of The Birmingham Eccentric

THURSDAY, MAY 14, 1942

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

Knocking on Wood

with JOHN H. HARWOOD

WEIGHTY CIVILIAN PROBLEMS

It sounds simple enough for Washington to issue an order freezing prices of most commodities which you and I buy, but in reality, the step involves many complex problems and a vast number of headaches and heartaches.

The heartaches will come for the businessmen who are going to find themselves in the wringer and unable to move without violating regulations. More heartaches are due for the thousands of small manufacturers who will be forced to shut down because they will no longer be able to get metal and other strategic materials.

A New Situation
The situation has never before confronted us. When before government told almost every small manufacturer "You must have any more raw material?" Perhaps the only comparable situation was enforced just before the war of 1812, and the plight of southern industry during the Civil War.

I am not thinking of the earning capacity of individuals; everyone can work and wants work will have something to do before this war is over. The problem of small business, instead, is one of fixed charges. How is the business man to pay his taxes, rent, interest and insurance when things go on whether or not his plant is operating?

The retailer is going to experience plenty of difficulty with price fixing, for while both retail and wholesale prices are to be fixed on many commodities, they have been established at varying levels and the retailer who acts as a retailer, in replenishing his stocks, will find the fixed wholesale price at which he is to sell at a price at which he is to buy.

Another uncertainty is the cost of labor; it takes labor to conduct a business, but as long as things continue to rise, how can an employer pay them and still stay afloat? Wages, certainly, must be frozen, too.

It seems inevitable that there must be blanket price control, plus adjustments.

Two Kinds of Rationing
The government is asking to see by the papers that they are cutting down on coffee shipments and that coffee is to be rationed. Won't we be able to get any more?

The answer is this: We will still be able to buy the things we need in most commodities, but it will be harder to get. In other words, the rationing is going to be a rationing of things of more value than they are for the ordinary citizen.

Price fixing has suspended the law of supply and demand. Normally, scarcity would force the price to the point where there would still be buyers willing to pay the price asked, and that would be the end of the matter.

So, when the law of supply and demand is suspended in favor of price fixing, most people are concerned, rationing must take its place, and this will be formal, as in the case with sugar, or informal, as in the case of merchants' one-to-a-customer rules.

So, Mrs. Buyer, prepare to do more trading around if you really want bananas, silk stockings, and some other things which are no more scarce as time goes on.

Let's Save the \$5,000
This cold war with others is asking you, Van Wagoner what he is going to do about Mr. Bernard Youngblood, the manager of the suspended Michigan East Bank.

State Treasury can use the money and industry can use an able-bodied man. Many expect that the Governor will remove Mr. Youngblood from office.

An All-Around Artist
One thing about General McAuliffe which makes him stand above the rest of the military crowd is his romantic flair. He's the bold, dashing officer we have read about in books.

Correcting needs no comment from me. It has sounded its own story at the mouth of its guns. It has scolded its own nephews on enemy tablets. But through the bloody haze of its last reverberating shot it still always seems to see a vision of grim, gaunt, ghastly men still unafraid.

Mr. McKee is out again, we are glad to see. North Woodward avenue is not the same without him.

Sign in a cafe: "Use less sugar, stir like hell; we don't mind the noise."

The Magazine "Steel" reports that as a result of the nationwide salvage campaign, steel production is increasing and is not dropping off as was feared.

As you know, the City will pick up all metal at the curb. If you have an old stove or something too heavy to get out yourself, phone 4014 for a junkman.

A deal is in progress whereby another denomination may take over the old Presbyterian Church on South Woodward avenue.

The Birmingham Land Company has been foreclosed out of two lots of land in Section 20 of Tray Township, which is an area near the northeast section of Birmingham.

Mr. and Mrs. James Demaree who are living here with their seven-year-old daughter, Peggy Jane, from Hixon, Texas.

Have You Met...
The Birmingham Eccentric will be glad to see you at any time.

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

"Pushed Around"

Naturally, we haven't statistics on the subject in the detail that government ought to have, but we are inclined to become a bit disgusted about all these wholesale rationing and semi-confiscation orders out of Washington.

High Marks and High Salaries

There is little relationship between high marks in college and high salaries in later life, according to a ten-year analysis of the records of more than 1,000 college graduates by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

He's in Good Hands

As a result of a meeting held here, Birmingham was to have a unit of the Michigan State Trooper in the week ending May 10. Richard B. Hewitt has been appointed captain.

Bits of Birmingham

Miss Emily Hook, of 185 Ravine road is to be the owner of a new coupe. It will always seem to see a vision of grim, gaunt, ghastly men still unafraid.

No Shortage Of Cosmetics

In fact, suitable substitutes are being found that don't even affect the appearance of cosmetics. In other words, ladies, the shiny nose will not be among the war horrors of the near future.

Wonder What The Angels Think

At night when they see so many shells explode into fires on so many parts of the earth. Wonder what kind of special hard work the devil has planned for Adolf and Benito and Hirohito and Tojo and their kind, when they "cash in" their dirty chips.

"A Junior Album"

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

TOP, left to right: Billy, son of Mr. and Mrs. B. J. Rutens, 911 Jimmy and Walter, children of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Bodie, 244 Ridgeland, Marilyn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. I. H. MacKenzie, Wimbledon, Reed, son of Mrs. J. W. Vaughan, road, Patsy and Charles, children of Mr. and Mrs. Charles son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold P. Cornell, 168 North Chester, This, Feb. B. Charnatz, 1352 Dorchester. BOTTOM, left to right: Elizabeth, here arranged by Beatrice studio, Birmingham.

THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner

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

EDITING CINE FILMS
It is in the editing of films that the amateur movie maker embarks upon the creative side of movie photography. The exposing of the film in the camera is sometimes a mechanical function.

REASONS FOR EDITING

Amateur movie films require editing for many reasons. First, because it is the intention of every movie maker to tell a story in motion pictures. In order to achieve his aim it is sometimes necessary to rearrange scenes, particularly if they are not filmed in proper sequence.

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Happenings of Long Ago

50 Years Ago
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SCOUT NEWS

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
SHELTON WRIGHT
This week we would like to tell you about Shelton Wright, a man who has served about 10 years in Birmingham through his duties of being in charge of Camp George in the last few years.

ROGGER CAMERA TEST
A contest designed strictly for amateurs, was the way W. D. Rogers, manager of Rogger's Department Store, explained the grocery firm's \$2,500 photographic contest which started May 11 in all Rogger stores.

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