

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

Knocking on Wood

with JOHN H. HARWOOD

WHY WORRY ABOUT A SONG?

Some still are worrying about the fact that Tin Pan Alley has yet to produce a popular song comparable to those written during the last war. One person felt badly enough to march soldiers back nothing to whistle but that ditty. "I've got spurs that jingle jangle jingle."

What's spurs got to do with the war? The critic asked. I am willing to agree that most of the war songs that the composers have been able to sell have been pretty bad. Many are melancholy, sentimental with a wistfully wistful melody, and so it is no wonder they have failed to catch the public's fancy. On the other hand, that ballad about the noisy spurs has a sprightly, catchy tune.

Going still further from the war, Australia soldiers, marching in Africa at the opening of the war, sang as they marched. I'm off to see the wizard, the wonderful wizard of Oz. It's the melody that counts!

Consider America's original fighting song: "Yankee Doodle," so popular in the Revolution, what had it to do with war? And no it goes in many other instances. The men in service want peppy tunes, they aren't much concerned over the words.

We wonder how hard they will have to beg the coal miners to censure their 35-hour week?

THE MATHEWS INCIDENT Most of our readers are aware of the fact that in our Sept. 24 issue, there was a line in the classified section which described that the President had been in Detroit. Meanwhile, all other newspapers throughout the land were suppressing the same bit of news on the theory that no publicity would make his transcontinental inspection tour more safe. As you all know, the Detroit papers used considerable ink in describing all the details—how the line of type set by the Eccentric editors for the simple reason that classified ads are usually innocuous enough to need no more than cursory attention.

That brings us to the subject of Mr. Mathews' article, and why we accept his quite unusual type of classified advertising. You must know Mr. Mathews to understand his ads, otherwise you might think him a Communist, another Gertrude Stein or a "fool," as one letter-writer put it. (The letter was unsigned; that is, we do not print it in the People's Column.)

You see, Mr. Mathews is mad at government in general. You read his ads, and you will see that he thinks politicians—all of them—are parasites and fools. He has no use for government and is not afraid to say so. At times, Mr. Mathews' ads adopt the sternest, most imaginable; in other moments, such as when he plays his ideas on the piano, his demeanor is quite gentle. Not only is he an artist in this respect, but he is a shrewd business man with a knack for getting attention through his non-conformity.

The Weak of Politicians As far as I, personally, am concerned, Mr. Mathews' general outlook and my own do not coincide. I am not mad at government in general, neither do I believe that politicians are any worse human beings than the average run of people who elect them.

When Mr. Mathews, on occasion, steps into the public eye, it is generally ripe for a friendly argument, for there are many subjects on which we do not see eye to eye, and one of them is the tenor of his advertisements.

When Mr. Mathews' views, I, and any other courageous newspaper editor, believe we have the right to express them providing they do not label any individual and spreading the same to subscribers. People who do not like this line of thought or his type of advertising may buy their antiques elsewhere while at the same time, those who agree with him will no

Why Don't They Move That Scrap Metal?

A tall, tired-looking man stood at the end of a hotel room. There were about twenty daily and weekly newspaper publishers there. The tall man's face lit up. He turned his tired eyes toward a sharp-tongued critic. "Why don't you move the scrap we have piled up for you?" the critic demanded. "We've done our part. The people have done their part. You government fellows are the ones who are falling down. No wonder the people are fed up. . . etc., etc."

The newspaper man quit talking and glared. Patiently, as if he had told it a thousand times, the government man started speaking quietly. "You are right . . . and you are wrong. Listen. You have done your job. The people have done their job. I want you to believe that we are doing our job, just as fast and as well as we can. But there are a lot of things you don't know. I'll tell you about them if you will be patient and listen."

"You have done a good job, but you are going to do a better job. We need more scrap metal. We need it right now, before snow flies. If we don't get it, we can't get it this winter. We are 5,000,000 tons short of our needs, and that's counting what you have already piled up. If we fail to get that 5,000,000 tons, we may lose this war. . . and I'm not trying to fool you or scare you."

"Scrap metal does not walk to the steel mills. It has to be shipped. That takes freight cars. It takes trucks. It takes manpower. You know, without me telling you, that the railroads will be short of freight cars, trucks and their tires. You know about me. . . how many of them are already in service."

"Be patient, mister. I have been working twenty hours a day. . . hard work without much sleep, and eating when and where I can. I have been doing that much. I'm making you and all the people everywhere, in every county and every neighborhood, to keep our word for it when we say we need more scrap metal. We want it now—before snow flies—or we won't get it this winter."

"Yes, I'm tired. I've been damned uphill and down. I don't blame people who do not understand. That's why I'm here talking to you fellows today. I want you newspaper men to help them understand. I want you to help your own boys in service. I want you to help link Hitler and the Japs."

Calling All Kids!

CALLING ALL KIDS... COLLECT SCRAP... BUY WAR STAMPS... PREVENT WASTE... SERVE YOUR COUNTRY... CALLING ALL KIDS NOW...

WHEN THIS WAR IS OVER, and the United Nations have won, don't you think it would be nice to visit those cemeteries and read the inscriptions on the tombstones of boys like Hitler, Himmler, Goebbels, Mussolini, Tojo, Hirohito, etc. . .? Boy! We'll bet those hot grids in hell will burn 'em plenty. . . Normally we are quite humane in our attitude toward our enemies, but you know what Hitler, Mussolini, Hirohito & Co. are human beings?

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S latest move to control inflation includes controls of wages and salaries. It is reported that it is estimated that the inflating of \$25,000 per year will affect his statutory \$75,000 annual income, after taxes and insurance premiums, plus fixed obligations are quite high. Later on, a chapter in his book on "How I Got Along On \$25,000 Per Year" will be mighty interesting.

SURE, YOU'RE GOING TO VOTE in favor of that Amendment to the State Constitution, November 3, that will allow Wayne County to modernize its government, aren't you? If there was an out-and-out sensible proposition for all voters to approve, is that Amendment. In nearly every case, the folks who will vote against it do so from selfish viewpoints; they, or some friend or relative, stands to lose a soft job if it carries. Let's see if you can't get a few per cent for that Amendment on November 3.

The Birmingham Eccentric

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NEWS FROM MEN IN SERVICE

Classification, Oct. 1, 1942. Gilbert F. Geer, 3b; James W. Doyle, 3b; Howard J. Geer, 3b; Kenneth Geer, 3b; Robert W. Patterson, 1c; Robert W. Hatch, 3b; George R. McLaren, 1c; Robert W. Burnet, 3a; Leonard M. Fandale, 3b; Emerson G. Kline, 3b; George Kline, 3b; Harold M. Naumann, 4d; Rollin A. Bixby, 1c; Lyman J. Craig, 1c; James P. Gustave A. Sattler, 3b; Putnam, 2b; Loran E. Hunt, 3b; Robert W. House, 3b; Stanley R. O'Brien, 1a; Albert Martin, 1c; John B. Wilson, Jr., 1c; Harry V. Collins, Jr., 1c; Fred C. Taylor, 3b; Harold M. Maitrot, 4f; Harold Geggie, 3b; Arthur J. Hunter, 3b; Leslie V. Jones, 3b; Charles R. Sattler, 3b; William A. Ervest, 1a; Peter C. Hendricks, 1c.

Classification, Sept. 28, 1942. Walter P. Hickey, 1st; James J. Minton, 3a; James J. Kline, 3b; Thomas B. Kline, 3b; Marshall H. Squire, 3a; Verne H. Gale, 3b; Ronald J. Grunberg, 1c; George J. Locke, 1c; Oliver H. Mullins, 1c; Harry W. Wheaton, 3b; Delbert C. Wells, 1c; Frederick H. Henkel, 2b; Wilbur W. Cather, 1b; Melton, 1c; William L. Elye, 1c; W. O. Ervin, H. Parker, 1c; Henry C. Dearing, 1c; George J. Locke, 1c; Robert A. Wolfson, 1c; Robert H. Lee, 1c; Melvin Renshaw, 3a.

Classification, Oct. 5, 1942. Robert C. Whalen, 3b; Fred M. Whalen, 3b; Frederick J. Johnson, 3b; Orace Hodges, 3b; Phillipian, 1a; Robert A. Emmett, 1c; Robert E. Hogue, 1c; Bennett M. Martin, 3b; West, 3b; Earl R. Cook, 3b; Dean, 2b; John B. Main, Jr., 1a; Marvin T. Miller, 2b; Donald G. Howarth, 1a.

THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner

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

CAMERA CLUB TO MEET AT GRANBROOK The Birmingham Camera Club will meet at the photographic department at Cranbrook at 8 p. m. Tuesday, October 14th. Mr. Joe Munroe will instruct in the art of printing, both contact and enlargements. Members and guests are requested to bring negatives. Visitors welcome.

FOUR BASIC ACCESSORIES Naturally, every experienced photographer has his ideas upon the subject. But I think everyone will agree that there are four basic photographic accessories which should be owned and used by every amateur amateur photographer. These are: an exposure gauge, a filter, a soft hood, and a tripod.

Why a soft hood? Well, each has its use, and whether you own a lens, or whether you own a camera, it is a good idea to have one of the latest and finest cameras you find that can help you to better picture-making. For instance, it doesn't make any difference whether it is a professional exposure meter or a pocket exposure calculator, it will take the guess out of exposure and exposure meters and such devices.

UP A NOTCH HARRY D. WISE, JR. was recently given the rank of captain in the U. S. Army. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry D. Wise of Williamson road, N. E.

BECOMES AVIATION CADET Earl H. Cunningham, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Cunningham, of Bates road, is now an aviation cadet. He entered the service at Fort Belvoir, Aug. 8, 1941 and was assigned to the engineers corps at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and while there received the rank of corporal.

SECOND APPEAL The U. S. Army air force at Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio, has just issued its second appeal for junior engineers in the mechanical, electrical and mechanical fields. Their need is very urgent. Openings are available for immediate entry into the U. S. Army. Graduate engineers with no experience as well as those who are physically handicapped may qualify.

PROMOTED U. S. Naval Air Station at Corpus Christi, Tex., announces the promotion of Forrest Mitchell, of Birmingham, to aviation mechanic. Mitchell is a native of Birmingham, Ala., and has been in the U. S. Naval Reserve.

HOBBY NOW A JOB Pvt. L. S. S. of Birmingham, who has skill with a pen and illustrates the cover of each issue of the magazine, has turned his hobby into a job. For the past two months he has been in the hospital with a broken leg. His officers learned of his skill and put him to work sketching details of medical operations.

Happenings of Long Ago

50 Years Ago Oct. 6, 1892 Master James Cobb has a volition of Gray's "Quiz Companion and Pron" will become a full-fledged pharmacist in due time. James J. Shan and family have moved into the house of George Shan, lately vacated by Ed O'Neil who has moved to his home, the residence of his father-in-law, the late George Blakeley.

25 Years Ago Oct. 12, 1917 "Birmingham schools now show an enrollment for September of 675 which is a gain of 104 over September 1916."

SALVAGE MEMO TINS CANS—Rinse after using, remove label, open bottom and invert. Put in a tin can at curb for City collection the last week of every month. Keep clean, separate from rubbish.

WASTE FATS—Strain and keep cool. Turn in your meat scraps to the city. Do not put in cans. Rancid fats not wanted.

SCRAP METALS, GLASS, RUBBER, ETC.—Put in bin near Post Office the last week of City collection the last week of every month. Keep clean, separate from rubbish.

SEVEN PICKS ORANGES Pvt. Alton Harris, son of Mrs. Carrie M. Harris, 887 Hayes, has arrived at new station in Sacramento, Calif., after periods of training in Florida and New Jersey. In Sacramento, the soldiers were given opportunity to help harvest the orange crop. He enlisted in the Signal Corps.

NEWSPAPERS, M. G. A. Zines, etc.—Put in bin near Post Office the last week of City collection the last week of every month. Keep clean, separate from rubbish.

WABEEK STATE BANK OF DETROIT. 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.

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