

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

Many People Think So... (And Some Otherwise)

By Frank E. Bogart

I have been asked by a girl student at Baldwin why the services should not admit girls at age 18 to their auxiliary. My personal opinion is that they should, with the possible reservation that such girls not be sent overseas until they reach 20. Superintendent Dwight B. Ireland and Principal Ross Wagner state that they see no objections.

The Eccentric will try to call to the attention of the proper authorities, military and Congressional. This step may already be in the air. I feel that in some ways than the proposal to draft women of 21 to 25 so that they could be sent overseas need not be called to service.

Certainly if the WACS WAVES and SPARS cannot get the recruitment quotas they are presently seeking, lowering of the age limits should help them greatly.

WOMEN'S TROUSERS AGAIN

Two other letters to be answered. A lady asks me to consider "the other side of the trousers for women question." She cites the comfort of housework and gardening while wearing them. True, she points to the saving on stockings costs. Very important. Then she admits that if they ever do go out of fashion, she'd probably "follow along." My contributor of last week, and I myself, feel that greater discretion in the public appearance of female trousers addicts is all that is called for. Any tailor could tell you that for women of certain, shall we say, "structure"—they just don't go.

FORTITUDE, MADAM

The other letter concerns "too much government propaganda" movies. I feel that there probably is too much but have an even stronger suspicion that too much of it is "overdone." Any on the radio too. In this I concur with the opinion of Joe Hans, Pontiac, who said that he felt the movie industry too much. There is little they can do to help themselves, and almost nothing the theater owners and managers can do about it. If you feel that I do, this is just one time when you can bring Christian patience and fortitude to bear on the problem. I always go for a smoke.

THIS WEEK'S GRIN

I got a grin out of the little boy on the bus the other

SALVAGE MEMO

TIN CANS.—Rinse after using, remove label, open bottom end and flatten with foot. Place at curb for last City collection day of the month. Keep dry; keep separate from rubbish.

WASTE FATS.—Strain and keep cool. Turn in to your meat market when you have a few pounds. Rancid fats not wanted.

SCRAP METALS, GLASS, RUBBER.—Leave in bin near Post Office or put in your last City collection day of the month. Copper engraving plates and old keys may be left at the library.

NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES.—You can donate these to the Salvation Army which will call for them. Phone 4014. Scrap paper wanted.

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For Delivery
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WABEK STATE BANK OF DETROIT

BIRMINGHAM OFFICE—WABEK BUILDING

Liquor Store Treatment

Increasing numbers of complaints from people relative to the treatment they receive at the hands of Norman Fisher, manager of the Birmingham Retail Liquor Store, come in to us. A sample is the letter we are publishing in this issue. The Eccentric just why so many people appear to receive "unenviable treatment" at the hands of the local manager, is a matter of personal correction and concern for him, of course. It is to be hoped that he corrects the situation before these denunciations upon his supervisor become a deluge of criticism; after all, as the letter in this issue states, Mr. Fisher is a public servant—a fact which, if he analyzes, may result in the changing of his manner in dealing with the public.

Buying Land

It is not our business to advise individuals as to the purchase of land. Such advice would necessarily be based upon a futile effort to forecast what will take place.

At the same time, it is our obligation to call attention to existing trends, to give facts and to report responsible opinion. Together they may make it possible for individuals to form considered judgment before taking action.

Consequently, we report that Secretary of Agriculture Wickard is concerned with "the threatening land boom," reflected by the increase in both sales and values of land, "which is alarming in many areas."

We are not prepared to suggest that present land values are inflated or that it would be unwise to purchase real estate at this time.

Nevertheless, the present trend is strongly suggestive of the boom which occurred during and after the first World War. This, many will remember, collapsed with disastrous effect upon many individuals.

COMPARED WITH ITS LIST OF REGISTERED VOTERS, Detroit's populace recently failed to respond to its collective civic duty in the primary campaign for Mayor. Somehow or other, in spite of public apathy, self-government after a weak fashion yet survives in the United States. People who fail to vote are, after all, traitors against the institutions of democracy—harsh as that may sound, folks.

CONGRESS HAS BEEN ACCUSED OF LOSING, by surrendering, its Constitutional powers to the Executive branch of the federal government. In more ways than one, that is true today. However, it must be remembered that the vast majority of U. S. citizens, too, have lost, through apathy that is the same as surrender, the Constitutional rights it had—and still has, if the people will use them. Congress is no worse than the people who elect it. Please always remember that!

WHAT, OTHER THAN BASIC GREED and desire for power, changes national boundary lines? Sometimes we wonder, when considering all of mankind's wars, how high would be the pile of human beings lost in all wars, that resulted in changed national boundary lines.

Happenings of Long Ago

50 YEARS AGO

Dec. 7, 1893

"The fireproof building that will burn has apparently yet to be built."
"Thanksgiving was duly enjoyed by all in our midst and the turkeys that are living today have great reason to be thankful."
"The man with 'souffle' eyes is a dangerous fellow. Sooner or later he is liable to turn up as correspondent in a divorce suit."

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce R. Laffey and their two children, Katherine, age 4, and Bruce, Jr., who is four weeks old? The Laffey family came to Birmingham from Detroit last month, having taken up residence at 2748 Amberly road. Mr. Laffey is an engineer at Vickers Company.

20 YEARS AGO

Dec. 7, 1923

"At a well attended annual meeting of the Birmingham Masonic Temple Association, held Tuesday night of this week, Robert McClellan, former secretary of the association, was elected President for the ensuing year. He succeeds Charles J. Shain in that capacity."

"A motion picture, 'The Village Manager Starr' was passed when the Commission voted to spend \$400 for the installation of an Arcola heating system in the Birmingham Fire Hall."

"The newspapers are once more full of pieces on that gay and rollicking subject the tariff. But, thanks to the foresight of some wise men of the past, there is no law to compel a man to read them."

FOLKS IN UNIFORM



"Strange thing—I keep hearing planes approaching."

German Barbarians

It is difficult, indeed, to believe that modern nations, even in wars, do the things being attributed to Germany. Yet one cannot doubt the reliability of news dispatches recently come from Naples, where Nazi atrocities are revealed, covering almost every damnable act that human beings can commit.

We may rant about the barbarism of the Japs, but in the Naples acts may be seen barbarism equal to anything even a Jap can do.

Nazi leaders, of course, must be given over to frenzy and hysteria, as they witness their plans for world domination tumbled under the blows of the Allies.

What they have done in Naples, we may expect to see repeated in Rome; we may expect to see it repeated wherever the German army is forced back toward Berlin. This newspaper never has condoned pure hatred, as such; but we are not going to lose any sleep over Nazi leadership loss of life, or destruction of property within the Reich, as advancing armies march toward victory.

Training Boys For War

More than one million boys, sixteen and seventeen years of age, are expected to take voluntary civilian training courses this fall which are designed to prepare them for more effective service in the armed forces.

It is recalled that during the school year that ended last June nearly 60,000 high-school students completed courses adjusted to army needs. Others took courses preparatory to officer-candidate schools.

The program designed to reach boys of this age emphasizes the determination of this country to fight the war to complete victory. It is wise, no doubt, to give the youngsters preparatory instruction but, even in the midst of war, it is hard to comprehend the complete nature of our war effort exemplified by such a program.

SOMETIMES WE THINK THAT, around Thanksgiving time, the most sacrificial bit of organic life in evidence is the turkey.

The Birmingham Eccentric

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mer-Bregate & Co. opened their doors to a well-advertised variety of bargains.

5 YEARS AGO

Dec. 7, 1938

"Juvenile arrests in Birmingham amounted to 13, during the month of November, according to figures shown in the monthly report submitted by Chief of Police John P. Hackett to City Manager Donald C. Ebel."

"As the holiday season approaches employees of the Birmingham Telephone Company begin to worry about the annual headache that comes to all postal clerks—the late night rush of Christmas packages."

"Birmingham boys and girls are demonstrating what 'fast work' they can be in securing votes sponsored by the Birmingham Retail Merchants Association."

"Thirteen extra street lights will be installed on Woodward avenue in the business section for the Christmas season."

"Christmas 'toys' will come to life on Wednesday afternoon, Dec. 21 when the dance pupils of Miss Yvonne Gay, of Safford road, presents a benefit Christmas pantomime at the Community House. Proceeds will go to buy toys for children in needy families."

Only 3,941,588 At Parks This Year

LANSING, Dec. 8.—Travel difficulties severely affected attendance at State Parks during the 1943 season, the first summer of gas rationing. Attendance was only 3,941,588, the lowest since 1941, and a drop of over three and a half million from 1942, when 7,513,000 people enjoyed the state parks.

Only 9,889 camping permits for both trailers and tents were issued by the state during the 1943 season. In 1942, 15,131 permits were issued. The peak camping year, practically an out-of-state campers, was 1941, when approximately 16% of the total park attendance were able to reach Michigan state parks in the 1943 season.

Only eight of the 38 camps had an attendance over 100,000, including two in Oakland County: Doer's No. 4 at "Lake Lusk, 325,000; and Brierley No. 2 at Rochester, 135,000.

She's Serious Now

"Well have you given John his final answer?"

"I haven't yet; but I've given him his final 'No.'"

Shall We Proceed, Gentlemen?



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.

Dec. 4, 1943.

To the Editor:

I've been reading your last issue about a local resident's petition to treatment of the public at the Birmingham Liquor Store, and I want to praise that writer and add my own convictions on the subject. There have been times in the past when I, too, observed discourteous treatment of the public in that Liquor Store.

On one occasion I almost felt like jumping over the counter and telling Mr. Fisher, the manager, that if he wants to stay on his job he'd better learn that he is only the manager of the Store, not the owner; that the taxpayers of Michigan really own the place, and everything that's in it; and that he's only working for them.

Lots of us have been treated in that Store. So I hope these letters on the part of the people.

AN OLD RESIDENT OF BIRMINGHAM

Dec. 4, 1943.

To the Editor:

In regard to the letter in the People's Column about the State Liquor Store here I want to add my opinion of the man who is supposed to be the manager. He is such a grocer and if you ask a question he storms back at you as if you had no business asking the question. After all, he is there to serve the public.

MRS. ROBERT J. MEYERS,

476 W. Hickory Grove Rd.,

Bloomfield Hills.

Nov. 24, 1943.

To the Editor:

A letter written by a former news correspondent to the Detroit News will have one of two results. It will start a newspaper in securing the nation, or be backlogged, arousing only the slightest interest; just another case of "Nothing can be done about it."

May I cite a few instances, under a different system of production, in a medium sized plant. The general rule is to rush the work through in as short a time as possible, and load the rest. This results in work of inferior quality. The plant operates 7 days—24 hours per day—on certain days. When production is called for six days per week rather than seven, the union said no, the work for the business days are given over to shift; to 100% loafing time, such as reading the Sunday funnies, playing bridge, sleeping or what have you. This is done in the open, and not in the rest room as mentioned by the News.

Every day some 24 hours are taken to the line the estimate is doubled by the time it reaches production. Every time a picture figure were presented to show where, on a particular operation, it is not possible to do it in 20 hours a day. The answer was "No, it's not possible to do it in 20 hours a day."

The cry for manpower is growing louder. It is a hollow cry. When a minimum of one third of man and woman power in the plants is instantly available, the shortage of manpower is merely unequal distribution. Thousands of men and women are lost in Union activities in the plants. No I rating

THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner



In composing this picture the photographer used good judgment in having the limbs and trunks of the trees serve as a frame for the house.

To many camera fans "picture composition" is a terrifying expression. To them it seems to imply learning books of rules, delving into art theory—nothing but a manner of effort and trouble. As a matter of fact, picture composition is simply planning arrangement—arranging the parts of a picture so that they will carry out that idea. After that, simply frame your subject. It's really as simple as that.

"But," you may ask, "suppose the subject can't be moved or rearranged?" Any subject can be moved or rearranged. Just change your position by changing your position to obtain a different view of what you are picturing.

We may compare good composition in a picture to good arrangement of a room. Regard your blank film as an empty room. Then set out to furnish this picture-space in a pleasing manner.

In furnishing a room, you don't want to include so much furniture that the place seems cluttered. This is also true of a picture. Never crowd your picture space with too many details—keep the arrangement simple.

In organizing your room you wouldn't want to place all the furniture together in front of one wall, for then you would have a stiff, unattractive arrangement that would look crowded and uncomfortable. Just as in a picture, you want all the subject matter, or even the most important subject, to be centered stiffly and formally. You don't want an informal arrangement, so that the eye enters the picture easily and finds comfort and harmony when it arrives.

This is the common sense method of making snapshots. Organize the picture as you would your living room, so that it places and comforts the eye. Spend a few extra moments planning the picture, and you will find that it is a good photograph, and is sure to yield better pictures.

John van Guilder