

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

Knocking on Wood

with JOHN H. HARWOOD

WE'RE WATCHING THE SEATS

The Republican Party won some 20-odd seats in the House in the last election and appears to have interpreted that as a mandate from the people, but as a mandate for what? As far as I am concerned, the G.O.P. is very much on the spot.

We just about saw, when the Republican Party has learned anything in the past 25 years insofar as foreign policy is concerned. We wonder whether we can change its historic isolationism to fit new conditions.

Regardless of what mistakes Wilson made, regardless of the fact that the League of Nations failed, it is true that the Republican party helped kill it, for without the United States, the League did not mean much. The Republican bosses who elected Warren G. Harding led this nation back to isolationism, which failed utterly and disastrously, for regardless of how much you and I would like to steer clear of Europe's bloody battlegrounds, the cold, unremittable fact is that we are in the past 20 years—that we cannot remain idle. We might as well face that fact now, and prepare to take a role in international cooperation.

Problems At Home. I do not wish to see, either for us or for any other nation, that we have enough domestic problems to keep us busy for a long time; but the terrible and inhuman materials secured by this nation in the last two wars means that we MUST collaborate with other nations so that it NEVER happens again in this century.

This means that the Republicans must join with the Democrats and evolve a new foreign policy. When this war is over, do not ask me to be a Republican, but I will be glad to see you for all that you can do for promoting anything on the Democratic side.

What Our 1930 Tariff Did. We have all heard about the necessity of making the world markets free, and of giving nations a chance to use the world's resources—well, in the past, this access has been hampered by the tariff walls which this nation has taken the lead in setting up.

So, it behooves the people who are Democrats to let their leaders know that they are watching them, and likewise, if you are a Republican, let your leaders know that this is 1943, and that 1920 Republicanism won't serve present needs.

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING. Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the Members of the Birmingham Automobile Club, Inc., will be held at the office of the Association, 243 East 12th Street, Birmingham, Alabama, on Friday, January 23, 1943, at 8:00 P. M.

Michigan's Real Interest. There is no State in the Union which has as much to gain from the lowering of trade barriers

Germany Seeks To Divide

indeed, declares Lord Halifax, Ambassador to the United States, he points out that Hitler's greatest opportunity for defeat is to be found in dividing the nations that are fighting Nazi Germany.

Consequently, the Ambassador says that we must expect determined efforts to drive a wedge between the Allies. This is not surprising. He points out the axis has led to Great Britain differ materially from those sent to the United States. He gives some examples from recent broadcasts:

"The German radio told you one evening: 'The British determine Washington policy. Churchill requests, Roosevelt obeys.'"

"Another example was this message directed to the British people: 'I certainly never entered Churchill's calculations that old England would become a colony of the United States.' But a little later, says the Ambassador, Goebbels told Americans 'It must be fruitful for Mr. Averge-American in these days not to be sure whether his own nationality is actually yank or British.'"

Here is another example: The British were told 'Churchill has not yet realized that the United States has resolved to fight to the last Tommy.' To the United States was sent the following message: 'So long as the members of the United States are willing, England will fight to the last drop of Iowa blood.'"

These examples should cause Americans to be on the alert against enemy propaganda. There are numerous questions upon which the United Nations have not entirely agreed. These questions will be thoroughly promoted by Nazi propagandists who will overlook the one overwhelming fact, that the United Nations have agreed to destroy Hitler, Mussolini and Hirohito.

As the British Ambassador quite correctly says, 'If we are going to fight to the last drop of Iowa blood and you are going to fight to the last Tommy, it looks like being a hard war—for Hitler.'"

Vegetable Gardens in Style!

In view of the constant rationing of food, canned and preserved food, hundred articles of food, unnecessary to suggest to local people that they make plans for a vegetable garden in 1943 and, so far as possible, preserve foodstuffs for use when fresh vegetables and fruits are not available.

part of our population living in agricultural and semi-agricultural areas probably fare better than the city dwellers in regard to food supply but only if they take advantage of available opportunities to grow and preserve foodstuffs to supplement available supplies.

People's Column

The Eccentric is pleased to receive communications for this column. All communications must be signed, but signatures will be kept confidential unless the writer must be limited to 500 words, and must be in the office by Tuesday noon for publication of the following Thursday.

Writes Bouquet For Police Officers

The Editor, The Eccentric: I have today written a letter to your Chief of Police complimenting the very courteous and efficient conduct of Officers Dunn and Brown in the charge of one of the squad cars last Sunday night, Jan. 3.

Both Mrs. Streng and I feel that their courteous and efficient behavior is a compliment to Birmingham and should be recognized. Their quick check-up on our stalled car indicates that they are wide awake to the welfare of the residents of Birmingham.

Manager, Detroit Office Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company

Your Job, Too

Military secrets, particularly in vital Michigan war production areas, will be in danger unless the public understands this one fact: That every American citizen, whether he is a man or woman, is an important part in guarding wartime secrets. It is not enough to learn something or hear it casually or read it in a letter that every citizen should understand that doesn't mean that it isn't important, according to the Office of War Production.

1943—How Hard Will It Be?

What will have all over the face of the globe, with millions of our young men involved in the fray, there has become necessary some restrictions upon the right of the average American to do as he pleased.

Business men will face "hardships," says one commercial forecast which, by the way, did not remark upon the hardships and dangers to be endured by our fighting men.

Housewives will be unable to buy all the food that they can pay for, or charge at the grocery and this will be terrible despite the fact that we will continue to be the world's best-fed people.

Adults and children will be forego the use of the family automobile, occasionally, in order that ships and tanks get fuel for use in battle. However, none of them will wish to swap rides with soldiers or sailors.

Even so, the year may prove pretty good to the American people. If it does not bring them victory in one of their wars, it will probably give them positive proof that it is around the corner in both conflicts.

With such engorgement we can put up with inconveniences, discomforts and sacrifices, and we ought to do so cheerfully, loyally and with stout hearts.

The Birmingham Eccentric

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NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events which have news value and which are written by the public. 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 betterment of the publication. An erroneous reference upon the part of any contributor to the Eccentric will be gladly corrected upon being brought to the attention of the publisher.

Uncle Joe Says:

Dear John: In our present discussion of newspapers, I have to stop back for the present because I am unable to show proof. I just called the library and find that my source of information is in another's hands. However, will give you full details of high finance in the press in the near future.

1. Formerly in the automotive set-up, the worker only worked about 40 weeks of five days in a month. This gave him 165 days a year to rest, repair his house, buy necessary clothing plus 100 other personal problems that took his time. Now he is lucky if he gets 35 days a year to take care of his personal problems. These are these are Sundays and holidays.

2. Many floaters drift in for a week and quit. These men are regarded as absentees for a period of five days before their length of the payroll. Due to the fact that they get another job and neglect clearing out until payday.

3. With so many working the graveyard shift (midnight to noon) there is no more use for the habit of taking off. We are continually trying to discourage this procedure and find that the most effective method is to give the victim a good "leaving alone." I want to state right here that we workers have no more use for the habit of taking off. We are continually trying to discourage this procedure and find that the most effective method is to give the victim a good "leaving alone."

UNCLE JOE: Opportunities for commissions in the U.S. Army are open to men who have had at least five years' experience in supervising work of a technical nature. Candidates must be under 45 years of age, physically fit, and have had at least a high school education.

Pincers Movement

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Happenings of Long Ago

50 YEARS AGO. Jan. 12, 1893. "Congress having and its long Christmas spree should stick close to business for the rest of the session."

"There are many promising signs that point to a brilliant and glowing future and in the 'near by' too, for our village. It certainly is not a great jump to imagine someday that we shall touch our corporation limits with the city limits of Detroit if both places continue to extend as they have in the past four years. We are 'how much less than twelve miles apart and graphically approaching.'"

"We wonder if some of the ladies who dash up and down our streets with fast horses, sweet bells, cozy robes, etc., won't now and then stop and take in a poor shivering admirer who stands on the corner?"

25 YEARS AGO. Jan. 18, 1918.

"One of the worst blizzards that this part of the country has known struck Birmingham early Saturday morning. The temperature was 12 degrees below zero in the morning and sank 15 below later in the afternoon."

"A general invitation is extended to the people of Birmingham and vicinity to attend the dedication services of the Baldwin High School on Friday, Jan. 25, from 7 to 11 p. m."

"Camp Custer possesses the largest and most elaborate trench system of any Army training camp in the United States."

"The government has decided on draft registration of all young men as fast as they become 21 years old as the means of keeping filled the ranks of the rear army. It has decided against raising the draft age limit above 31 years."

5 YEARS AGO. Jan. 13, 1938.

"Outstanding musical events in Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills this season, will be the last week by the Helsinki University Chorus of Finland to be given in Cranbrook auditorium."

"Mary Do-Mong and Shirley Smith were named Valdeictorian and Salutatorian, respectively, of the Baldwin High School class of January, 1938."

"We heard it said by Wilmer E. Moody, City Commissioner: The tact and thoughtfulness of young Bob Seaborn, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest W. Seaborn, of Kentucky avenue, in assisting Birmingham police to catch a burglar who entered Mrs. Seaborn's home."

"NEWSPAPERS. MAGAZINES—You can donate these to Salvation Army, which will take care of them. Phone 4014. Scrap paper not wanted."



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THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner

"Situation" provides the humor in this original and humorous snapshot. Attention-Compelling pictures are often those which draw a real laugh, or at least a pleased grin, but few photographs ever purposely try to create humorous pictures.

far from reality. But, if you like a bit of fantasy, don't overlook the chances in humorous table-top setups. With toys, amusing figures compounded from soap, pretzels, pickles and toothpicks, you can have no end of fun. Or does your taste run to a character study? Then have a try at creating humorous characters. If one occurs to you offhand, then take a quick look through the comic strips, or thumb through an old family album. Make-up materials are easy to obtain, simple to use, and in the attic trunk you'll probably find all you need for improvising suitable costumes. If you wish to go back further into history, remember that with a bed sheet as a toga or mantle and a sash and a shawl, you can almost instantly recreate Caesar; while a folded paper cocktail caping a suitable model, promptly brings Napoleon before your camera.

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