Editorial Page of The Birmingham Eccentric

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

Knocking on Wood

with JOHN H. HARWOOD

THE CHURCH'S ROLE IN WAR

At a recent meeting of the Federal Council of Churches held in Cleveland, concern was expressed by a few over the Church's indifference coward the war, and to a large extent, I believe this concern is well-founded. A great many churches are ignoring the conflict except for reference in prayer and sermon.

The fundamental reason is, of course, that Christian theory extols non-violence and holds that universal peace will come about through love and brotherhood of all men, rather than through force. Then, too, many clergymen remember the First World War when the church was a great deal more warminded than today, and suffered from the reaction later.

However, regardless of any church's views as to pacifism, there is still a great and vital role which every church can play, and it is a role which is equally valid in Germany as in the United States. The truths of religion, if they are really sound, MUST be applicable anywhere regardless of time, place, race, creed or color.

Here is what I vision as a logical course: (1) Abstain from preaching hate and revenge. I believe most churches are following such a course today. (2) Provide comfort for the bereaved and lonely and assurance for those beset with fear, both at home and on the battlefield. This, of course, is being done insofar as church membership is concerned, but it is surprising how little some churches are doing in places where there are many soldiers at hand.

(3) Work *energetically* to relieve suffering, sending food and clothing to the millions who are in want. A Christian cannot ignore suffering no matter how it comes about, but how many churches have done anything except to take an occasional collection? What has been the per capita contribution of church membership? What are the churches doing in the role of the Samaritan in this greatest upheaval of modern times? What would the Godless Communists of Russia think if they received a shipload of butter, for example, from the Christians of America? The possibilities are tremendous, for never was there a time to better prove that Christianity can be much more than just talk.

(4) Finally, the churches can continue and amplify their efforts toward interesting people in the tenets of lasting peace so that this tragedy does not happen again.

* * *

The churches are already talking about the peace, and insisting that it must be written along the line of Christian principles. But standing aloof as many of them are insofar as charity is concerned, what weight will the church have in influencing the nature of the peace? Very little, I'll wager.

THOMAS' DEPARTURE

It was with regret that I read of the resignation of Ralph Thomas from the State Liquor Control Commission, for here was a non-politician with a genuine desire to do a good job in this most difficult of tasks.

So, his departing advice is interesting. "The appointment of members of the commission on a political basis is a fundamental weakness of our system," Thomas wrote. "Members should be appointed without regard to party affiliations and on the basis of merit and fitness."

(Gov. Kelly appointed former Democratic State Treasurer Theodore I. Fry, to replace Thomas, joining two other politicians, Felix Flynn and Glen Dunn.)

Thomas, further, suggested legislation to prohibit all sales on Sunday; reduce gradually the license quota by half; make it a misdemeanor for minors to falsify their ages; and give the Commission power to subpena witnesses.

He suggested that 40 investigators be hired to act on inquiries instead of 20 men waiting for complaints, as at present. He advised also that communities be required to use for enforcement the license money returned them under the law. This latter point is certainly a valid one, for today, the returned money goes into the municipalities' treasuries and is not used directly for enforcement at all. You might even call it a racket.

Thus goeth Mr. Thomas, and his recommendations are likely to be soon forgotten. Politics are like that.

THE CAR OF THE FUTURE

A letter from LeGrand Daly, of Birmingham, research and sales engineer: "Dear Mr. Harwood; I enjoyed reading your article re the Kaiser automobile very much.

"Sometime shortly, I would be pleased to show you what we believe approximately $600 will buy in 1944, 1945, or 1946—when the war is won—the International Car.

"Consider these specifications: (1) Weight around 2,000 pounds, about 20 pounds per horsepower, possible with plastics, wood, light steels, magnesium and aluminum. (2) Speeds up to 100 m.p.h. (3) Economy, 20 to 40 miles per gallon. (4) Bodies safe and comfortable; wheel base 110 inches, room for six. (5) Complete ride on flexible synthetic rubber suspension. (6) Rear drive engine gives less power loss, more snap and greater safety and road stability. (7) Styling, visibility and appearance patterned after lessons learned in design of fast pursuit ships."

NEED CLOTHING

DETROIT — An appeal was made to Detroiters today to share their surplus warm clothing with the civilians and guerilla fighters of the Soviet Union, battling the Nazis in a second grim winter of total war.

The appeal came from headquarters of Detroit's chapter of Russian War Relief, Inc., 1217 Penobscot Building.

"Russia's need for all kinds of clothing at this time is very great," Myrtle Powell, executive secretary of the local chapter in charge of the clothing drive, said.

"They have been fighting a struggling invading army along a 2,000 mile battlefront for more than 18 months now, and the demands of war have greatly depleted civilian stocks."

SALVAGE MEMO

TIN CANS—Rinse after using, remove label, open bottom end and flatten with foot. Place at curb for City collection the last week of every 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 on put at curb for City collection the last week of the month. Copper engraver's plates and old keys may be left at the library.

NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES—You can donate these to Salvation Army, which will call for them. Phone 4014. Scrap paper not wanted.

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WABEEK STATE BANK OF DETROIT

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WABEEK STATE BANK OF DETROIT

BIRMINGHAM OFFICE—WABEEK BUILDING

M. S. C. Prexy Young, Able

Dr. John Hanna, president of Michigan State College, is a rather young man to head so large an educational institution; however, his age appears not to prevent him from having lots of common sense. His ten minute talk to Michigan Press Association members at East Lansing last week was packed with information and data upon the subject of "The College and War Problems." He pointed out that college administrators have as much to contend with today as any private business; since the military services have practically taken them over. Within the next few weeks M.S.C. will lose 2,200 male students from its present roster of 5,800; this will leave only a hundred or two civilian boys—the remainder of whatever males dot the campus being privates in the U. S. Army, paid, and being made to gear their minds and bodies to the war. Incidentally, we believe Dr. Hanna to be a very, very promising educator—some day we'll endeavor to get his ideas in an interview.

Gov. Kelly Is Brief

One evening last week, at the annual meeting of the Michigan Press Association in East Lansing, at M.S.C., we listened to our new Governor, Harry F. Kelly; he spoke not more than five minutes, to the point, with forthrightness upon the subject of the newspaper and its relation to the total war effort. We liked the Governor's message; his brevity, we suggested to him later, added lustre and lasting emphasis to the message. The Governor, who lost a leg in the first World War, knows what war means, too.

Conscientious Objectors

Out of the millions of men who have been classified under Selective Service, there emerge only 6,277 to be classed as conscientious objectors.

These figures reveal that the problem does not assume military importance. Contrary to what many persons believe, the conscientious objector does not lack courage. It takes considerable stuff to stand out against the call of the nation and the almost unanimous cooperation of the people in time of war.

The trouble with most conscientious objectors relates to their intelligence. They are usually possessed of high ideals, earnestly desire a better world but are utterly unable to orient themselves in the actual world which contrasts so vividly with their dream world.

Supposing

Just suppose—

That the United Nations are planning an all-out offensive against Hitler in April, and

That vast quantities of gasoline and fuel oil must be transported before the attempted knockout blow, and

That, early next Summer, as a result of the present restrictions upon the use of gasoline, the Allied armies will have what they need and launch a stupendous and overwhelming attack, and

That it will shorten the war and save the lives of thousands of young Americans, maybe a number from Birmingham.

Now, aren't you willing to do without your gasoline?

Submarine Losses

A reader wants to know whether the submarines of the enemy nations are sinking many of the ships of the United Nations.

Frankly, we have no available information upon which to base a reasonable answer. Certainly, the u-boats are taking a toll but since no official figures, as to sinkings are released, it is impossible to estimate how many ships go down at sea.

The situation is supposedly better than it was. The United States has put into service many additional ships, designed to make it unsafe for submarine operations and the convoy system is in more widespread use. This has probably cut losses but so long as our men and cargoes must travel thousands of miles across the oceans there will be losses.

Would Punish The Parents

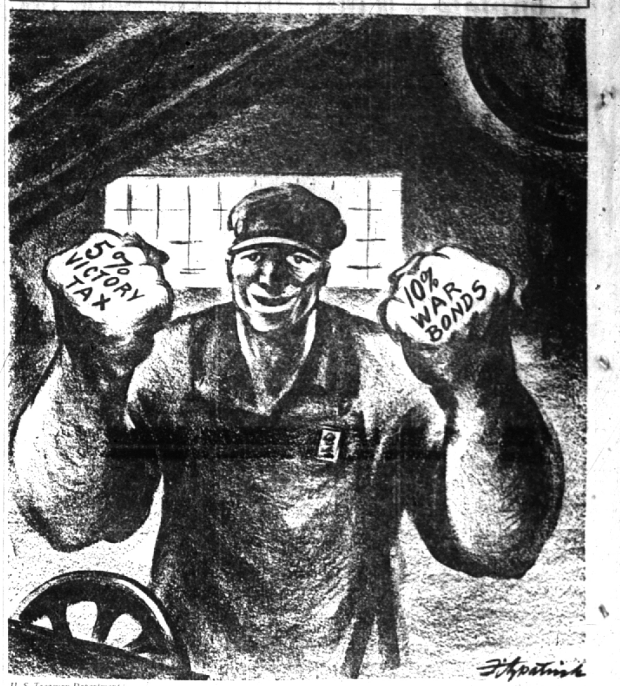
The proposal of the West Virginia judge that the grand jury indict parents, through whose neglect children are permitted to become delinquent, may not be so bad, after all.

Judge Clay S. Crouse points out that children "as young as ten years of age have been apprehended in the act of crimes" and asks, "Who else but parents could be responsible?"

There is no getting around his pronouncement against parents who carelessly and negligently let their children roam the streets and acquire evil habits. These parents fail to carry out a social responsibility and it is not altogether absurd that they be held for trial.

Parents are now, under the law, responsible for some of the civil damage that their children inflict upon others. If the type, to whom the judge refers, suspected that a criminal court would take action against them for the unfaithful performance of their duties to their children, there would be less juvenile crime.

IT TAKES BOTH!



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NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events which have a news value and which are written by persons not connected with the editorial staff of the paper. 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 style of the paper and as are required by laws of the state. Because of a mechanical situation in the composing room, headlines written by those other than members of the staff cannot be used. Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation which may appear in the columns of The Eccentric will be gladly corrected upon being brought to the attention of the publisher.

Happenings of Long Ago

50 YEARS AGO
Jan. 26, 1893

"Birmingham property is being sought out by many Detroiters. Homes that would rent at from $12 to $20 per month are in an active demand.

"Congressman Aitken makes a good suggestion. It is that path masters make use of their road grader to move a lot of snow from the road bed. By so doing they would make good sleighing for a good many more days than if nature is left to herself."

"Why don't our city fathers act at once, be up with the times and change Saginaw street to Woodward avenue as it should be? What earthly use or why should it be called Saginaw street? Saginaw is 100 miles north of us and has no connection with Birmingham at all."

"The coldest winter in 22 years" say the signal service records. Why didn't Wiggins, Hicks, De Voe or some other weather sharp foretell this months ago and make an everlasting reputation out of it? Probably he would have if he had thought of it."

25 YEARS AGO
Feb. 1, 1918

"The Birmingham Red Cross society has more than doubled its quota for this month. The following is a list of work sent into the Detroit Chapter during the month of January: 5,000 gauze dressings, 200 muslin bandages, 3 dozen pajamas, 4 hospital shirts, 183 knitted articles."

"Although Friday evening, Jan. 25, was very cold and blustry, more than 1,000 people accepted the invitation of the Board of Education and visited the new Baldwin High School."

"Japan, which holds itself responsible for the preservation of peace in the Far East, is ready to take radical steps to put an end to the increasing disorders in Siberia, according to Premier Tarauchi who addressed the opening session of the Japanese Diet. He reiterated his country's absolute loyalty and fidelity to the Allies and its determination not to sheathe the sword until an honorable peace is secured."

"A card from Mrs. Frances Bowers who is now at Los Angeles, Calif. tells of her living in sunshine, eating strawberries, and of a 70 mile auto ride in one day when she visited the soldiers in a camp. And here we are right now, 8 below zero, snowing hard and a 40 mile gale helping things along, and no coal. Can you beat it?"

5 YEARS AGO
Jan. 27, 1938

City manager Donald C. Egbert explained that the new location of the water storage tank has caused the discoloration of the water supply.

"Religious training will be given as a tentative course in at least one Birmingham school next September, according to a plan submitted by Superintendent of Schools Howard D. Crull and authorized by the Board of Education."

"Japanese bombers must have poor eyesight, but it is strange that the bombs they drop 'unintentionally' rarely drop harmlessly."

Marriage Licenses

Roy Wendell Talvensaari, 1339 Holland, Birmingham, and Marion Helen Hoganson, 1615 Richton, Detroit.

James Skardoutos, 1830 East Long Lake road, Birmingham, and Helen Lorraine Stuart, 1015 Williams court, Royal Oak.

Wiley Bourcier, 761 Lakewood, Royal Oak, and Ruth Brinkley, 650 14 Mile road, Clawson.

Robert William Reith, 24720 Edgemont drive, Birmingham, and Frances Edwarding Hoyt, 426 North Elm street, Jackson.

Garnet Joseph Lintz, 245 South Woodward, Birmingham, and Gladys Marjorie Swallow, 245 South Woodward, Birmingham.

Robert William Hamm, 3040 Willet, Pontiac, and Lillie Rose Lutz, 3923 Wilson, Rochester.

Chester John Moczarski, 1421 Cole street, Birmingham, and Velma Masarik, 1431 Cole street, Birmingham.

Joseph Laurence Smith, Virginia, and Fontie Claire Mahanah, 6350 Commerce road, Pontiac.

WANT ADS COST LITTLE

New Books at Baldwin

Realist and Idealist are Reconciled

(The writer, Mrs. Ralph Yonker, Dorchester road, has been living at Pine Lake the past eight years but moved to Birmingham for the winter. She is a "voracious" reader by her own admission, covering many fields, but is particularly interested in current history. Six years ago she and several friends organized a reading club which studies now current history. Members are drawn from the Birmingham area and Detroit.)

By ANN YONKER

If "Man bites dog is news," here is something positively sensational: The realists and the idealists are getting together! Now at long last we can have a glimmer of hope for this troubled world.

If you find it difficult to believe the impossible has come to pass, run quickly to your library and get E. H. Carr's "Conditions of Peace" and J. B. Condliffe's "Agenda for a Post War World."

Apart—Three Years Ago

As late as three years ago, Professor Carr in his "Twenty Years' Crisis," presented with brilliance the case of the realists in world affairs. Almost simultaneously Professor Condliffe published his "Reconstruction of World Trade" —a summing up of the international or idealistic position of the democracies. Their views, as expressed in 1938, were as far apart as the poles.

But now again, within a few weeks of each other, these thoughtful Englishmen have published their ideas on the post-war world. And again Professor Carr is in the camp of the realists, while Professor Condliffe presents the idealistic point of view. But how far they both have travelled in these three years!

Somewhere along the line Professor Carr has come to realize that powerful ideals must lie behind any constructive effort to solve today's problems—and somehow it has dawned upon Professor Condliffe that these problems cannot be settled in some new and made-to-order dream world.

Economic Policy

Taking Professor Condliffe's book for a moment. He confines his observations rigidly to post-war economic policy. (Who ever heard of an avowed idealist letting anything as practical as economics get into a discussion of world affairs? But it's true.) His whole book is devoted to outlining the economic task to be done immediately after the war is over. Furthermore, he insists that these economic problems must be tackled at once, and with indisputable logic that the post-war world is being built in the here and now.

Now turn to Professor Carr. Just three short years ago he was one of those who sneered at ideals. But see what he has to say in "Conditions to Peace": "The economic crisis is in essence a moral crisis . . . a new faith in a new moral purpose is required to reanimate our political and economic system!" This from a man who three short years ago was arguing the case of "Realpolitik."

The Exciting Fact

The fact that some of the exact problems attacked by Professors Carr and Condliffe may not be live issues when the war is over is of no importance. There will be other problems. What is exciting is that two supposedly irreconcilable points of view have travelled so far toward the basic approach to such problems!

Almost Alike

There isn't much difference in sports. In yachting it's a luff, in bridge a trump, and golf the rough. —Indianapolis Star.

STATE OF MICHIGAN—The Probate Court for the County of Oakland.

At a session of said Court, held at the Probate Office in the City of Pontiac, in said County, on the 19th day of January, A. D. 1943.

Present: Hon. Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate.

In the Matter of the Estate of **Anna M. Linton,** Deceased.

George W. J. Linton, administrator of said estate, having filed in said court a petition praying that the time for the presentation of claims against said estate be limited and that a time and place be appointed to receive, examine and adjust all claims and demands against said deceased by and before said court.

It is Ordered, that two months from this date be allowed for creditors to present claims against said estate.

It is Further Ordered, that the sixth day of April, 1943, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, at said probate office, be and is hereby appointed for the examination and adjustment of all claims against said deceased.

And for the examination and allowance of his final account, determination of the heirs of said deceased, assignment of the residue of said estate, and the discharge of said administrator.

ARTHUR E. MOORE,
Judge of Probate.

Albert E. Smith,
Attorney at Law,
1914 Dime Bank Building,
Detroit, Michigan

44-45-46

ATTENTION, MR. GARDENER!

"Victory Gardens Mean Victory Meals."

In spite of the snow drifts and ice, Birminghamites are thinking about their Victory Gardens to be made in balmier days.

The Victory Garden Committee of the National Farm and Garden Association, with Mrs. William McCallum as chairman and Mrs. Stanley R. Saunders as co-chairman, is busy rounding up its plans to encourage and aid everyone in Birmingham to garden this year.

A desk will be set up in the Defense Service Center at 131 Pierce street, just off Maple. Mrs. C. W. Moyer will have charge of the desk, and the committee plans to be instrumental in procuring vacant lots, dispensing literature and information, and in every way assisting in helping the novice and making things easy for everyone. In addition to the central desk there will be garden centers all over town where troubles can be ironed out.

Last year the Victory Garden at Willits and Bates was a demonstration to the public of what can be done and this year it is expected this experiment will prove an inspiration for gardens all over the city. There should be no vacant lots in Birmingham this year. All should be turned into gardens for the benefit of the families and for food for defense. It is a war job—the food production program has reached a point of emergency where it may be necessary to have a garden if you want to continue to feed your family properly.

The Government is asking that vegetables be planted which can be canned or stored and that have high nutritive value. There is a job for all, to add to the country's food supply, and to see that one's household has fresh vegetables next summer and next winter. Gardening for victory will mean more fertile and better gardens in peace-time.

FARM TRUCKS

All farmers who have not yet obtained a Certificate of War Necessity, or have obtained one that does not provide adequate gasoline for necessary operations should immediately contact the County Farm Transportation Committee, 318 Hubbard Building, Pontiac.

THE ECCENTRIC'S

Camera Corner

Pictures of the family, friends, and news events at home make the best type of snapshots to send to men in service.

DO YOU have a nose for news and an eye for pictures? Can you recognize a newsworthy event in your neighborhood and tell the story with your camera? If the answer is "Yes" to both those questions, or even if it's only "Maybe," you're wanted on the newsfront immediately. Your assignment is to make news pictures of activities at home to send to the boys in service.

Actually, there's probably little that pleases any service man more than to receive snapshots which are really news pictures of fresh and interesting things that are happening at home. For instance, a picture of dad shoveling out the snow choked driveway would make a fine home news photo. Likewise a picture of sister in her new winter outfit would be interesting. And a snapshot showing the children building a snowman or blasting away from a "fort" during a snowball fight would be welcome to any man far from home.

You see, you don't have to have spectacular news subjects in the true newspaper sense to make pictures which will be "newsy" to your soldier, sailor, or marine. Fire of all, they want pictures of their family, friends, and home, and after that all they ask is to be kept posted pictorially on the new and interesting happenings about home.

However, here's a tip. Service men like the personal touch in their snapshots, so when picturing a general scene include some member of the family, or a close friend. And remember, when making your "news pictures," that it's the things with which your service man is personally acquainted which will give him the greatest lift.

Try it, and you'll find that covering the home news front photographically, will give both you and your service man a real thrill.

John van Gulder