

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 RACE PROBLEM

There is a short-time and long-time solution to the Negro problem in Detroit and elsewhere throughout the United States. With 50 or more dead in Detroit, it is evident that City has been unable to cope even with the short-time aspects of the situation.

Not a Real Solution

The short-time solution is really no solution at all. It is merely stop-gap, but it is the one which a majority of the white people seem to favor, and consists of force. "Put the niggers in their place and keep them there" is a summation of that theory, but the trouble with it is that it doesn't work very well. The only practical solution is the liberal one, the Christian one, the constitutional one. It would take a long time to put into effect—perhaps several hundred years, but it is the only genuine, lasting "out."

It depends on goodwill, education, tolerance, and rational thinking rather than prejudice—and those goals are pretty strong medicine, particularly in the South. But then, the truth is often pretty radical, pretty "dangerous." Thinkers have long recognized that the Christian ethic, to wit, that one should go out of his way to be decent to the other fellow, is the most revolutionary ideal ever to hit this dizzy planet of ours. And likewise, the American idea of democracy, the goal of government by and for the people, was thought dangerous and even today, only a minority of the world's population knows what democracy means. It is still truly revolutionary.

Little Understood

Yes, many people right here in the United States don't understand democracy, for freedom, in their estimation, means freedom for thinkers but not necessarily for the other fellow. And when people are on gaining freedom, whether economic or political, do not recognize that freedom entails obligations as well as rights and abuse this ideal to their own ends. I am thinking of the Negroes who came to Detroit, achieved economic freedom, and then acted in a selfish, arrogant manner toward white people. The riffraff element of Detroit, who are abetted by Southern whites who believe in Jim Crow restrictions to the marrow of their bones, like Americanism means and proceeded to plunder and kill after the best Nazi style. Great harm was done and justice was accomplished though the long-run solution of the problem.

Both sides were at fault, but in the long-run view of the situation, the white people are largely responsible, for did any Negro ever ask to leave Africa to come to these shores?

Matter of Choice

I do not say that the white people must receive Negroes at their homes with social equality—unless they want to. And I've known some Negroes who would feel it beneath their dignity to associate with certain boorish white trash. That's a matter of individual choice.

Another interesting thing is that the religious approach is borne out by science. The Christian ethic, insofar as basic, innate characteristics are concerned, by that I mean the heights of intelligence and mental inclination of about the same order, and one can achieve the heights of intelligence in the same opportunities and environment. The environment we enjoy consists of a vast fund of cultural wealth built up through the centuries, but should not be confused with basic, innate intelligence. If Negroes as a group seem slower witted than a similar group of whites, the difference is so much the result of a lack of development under good conditions would remove the differences, the anthropologists tell us.

It Can Be Done

All of that adds up to the fact that the Negro can be just as useful, clear, well-mannered as any of the rest of us if over a period of years he is allowed to achieve economic freedom; that is, he is allowed to hold some of the better-paying jobs. I am thinking of my friend Ivan, a Negro printer in another city, who was more temperate, smarter and cleaner in mind and person than I have met in a white man of the shop. I am sure I am right about all that. I am sure I am right about the fact that the Negroes as a group seem slower witted than a similar group of whites, the difference is so much the result of a lack of development under good conditions would remove the differences, the anthropologists tell us.

DESTRUCTIVE LEGISLATION

Sometimes, one wonders whether Congress knows what the white is. Take the OPA, for example. It would be the last to say that here is a paragon of governmental order, but the fact remains, whether the OPA is efficient or not, we still must have an organization to direct the details of rationing as long as there are shortages. But the Republicans always willing to strike out at the Administration, joined forces with anti-administration Democrats to slash 35 million dollars from the OPA appropriation. Now, pray tell, how will this blind out improve the OPA, which in the past has had to depend on much volunteer help to function at all as several hundred Birmingham teachers and housewives can tell you?

A Gentle Reminder

A young girl's mother and father for the first time stood in the baby ward of the Santa Fe hospital, and asked suddenly, "Doctor, are there any marks on my son?" Looking the new arrival over, the doctor replied, "Yes, sir, there is. He's marked C.O.D."

Bank By Mail!

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WABEBEK STATE BANK OF DETROIT

BIRMINGHAM OFFICE—WABEBEK BUILDING

Producing New Weapons

One-third of the production for war purposes in Great Britain consists of weapons that did not exist, except in the imaginations of their inventors, when war broke out, declares Oliver Lyttleton, British Minister of Production.

He points out that British output in February was 4 per cent greater than in the same month of last year and continues to expand. Four times as many heavy bombers, for example, were produced in the British Isles in February, this year, than were completed in the same month of last year.

Mr. Lyttleton hints that the days of desert warfare are numbered and tells his people that "we must look forward to fighting in an enclosed country, a country with roads, rivers and railways."

WE HOPE YOU'LL READ THOSE ARTICLES, consisting of letters written to his parents by Pvt. John M. Tiltonson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Tiltonson, of Hickory Grove road. They tell, intimately and humanly, of his training in the U. S. Marine Corps. You who have loved ones in the armed services should get lots of information relating to their own training; so many boys fall for many reasons to leave the home folks informed of military life.

J. HOWARD WENDORPH, superintendent of White Chapel Memorial Cemetery, leaves July 1 for a bigger job in an Indianapolis cemetery. For that he should receive the usual congratulations. We have known him for nearly 25 years, have seen him come up in his field of activity through hard and light work. He is a very dependable chap, and will find further promotion, we are sure.

The Birmingham Eccentric

Published on Thursdays, at Birmingham, Mich. in The Eccentric Building, 222-223 North Wood Avenue. Telephone 11, 12 and 13.

GEORGE R. AVERHILL, Editor and Publisher
J. H. WOODWARD, Business Manager
JOHN B. HAWWOOD, Advertising Manager
BAROIL H. HUBBARD, Production Manager
CLAUDE K. WALKER, Circulation Manager

Entered as Second Class Matter in the U. S. Post Office at Birmingham, Michigan.

Many Local Citizens are critical of the modern educational system, yet only 22 votes were cast at the annual school election. Honestly, folks, would you get a great thrill out of being elected with only 22 votes, when more than 3,000 eligible voters live in this district?

City Commissioner Wilmer E. Moody is a sworn enemy of all rabbits that run loose and eat portions of Victory Gardens. The Commissioner recently stated that he has learned of a new treatment for rabbits, guaranteed to be effective on the spot: sprinkle water containing Epsom Salts on the garden stuff, he says.

Out Sunday to bring a load of the boys home. The scoutmaster, Carl Hilty, took a load of the boys out Friday night and brought along ice cream and cake.

Fred Zoolin, Jr., came along with the Martz group and caught three nice bass in about thirty minutes.

As this was the hottest weekend in history for this time in June, the boys enjoyed three swims a day. However, streaks, hamburgers and winners were quite conspicuous by their absence, due to the rationing.

Sunday afternoon Shelton Wright and Col. Edwin S. George paid a visit to the camp.

Scouts present were Bill and Bud Baggett, Clinton Reed, Elmer Giles, Bill Downey, Bill Smith, Stanford Smith, Herb Deven, Randall Garrison, Peter Northrop, John Rogers, Joe Gilles and Bucky Zoolin.

Den 1, Mrs. G. S. Gove, Mrs. D. L. Pyle, associate, D. L. Pyle, Den 2, Mrs. Thomas Grinnell, Sr., and Edward Evans, Albert Shira, Den 3, Mrs. Russell Nordman, Mrs. Frank Barber, Mrs. J. D. Den 4, Mrs. J. M. Ross, Mrs. D. K. Plumstead, Robert C. Reusch, Den 5, Mrs. Wm. C. Wingenand, Jr., Den 6, Mrs. Frayne, Elliott Hugh, Den 7, Mrs. Charles Olin, Mrs. Robert Olin, Den 8, Mrs. J. D. Den 9, Mrs. Ruth Saures, Mrs. L. O. McIntosh, L. F. Garlitz, Den 8, Mrs. Edwin Clarke, Mrs. A. P. Hamilton, P. Hamilton, Den 8, Mrs. Robert W. Bates, Mrs. Earl Moody, Robert W. Bates.

TROOP B-1 AT CAMP GEORGE

By Staa Smith

Last Friday evening, Troop B-1 went to Camp George under the leadership of Fred Zoolin, Sr., to spend the weekend and open the fishing season. The boys were given the option of sleeping tents or using the new cabins erected near the pine forest.

Friday afternoon, Charles G. Kinnison, who is in charge of activities in the area, drove out to the camp and put on a second class test and he also drove

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The Glorious Fourth



Happenings of Long Ago

50 YEARS AGO
June 29, 1893

"Go to the Baptist Church to night and hear the next little program which space will not allow us to print."

Editor Mitchell describes his trip to the World's Fair at Chicago. At the west end of the theatre, 2 1/2 lets you in to see the dancing girls who are clothed for warm weather, indeed, and dance with a peculiar motion of the body and hips that caused the Chicago papers to intimate to the police that their dances should be suppressed, and nine out of ten of the ladies who enter, color up, look confused, exclaim, "Shamet!" and then like all the rest, sit down. I did.

"The Birmingham High School has again closed another successful school year under the satisfactory management of Prof. Charles E. Fox, principal who has guided his school through another year of work with satisfaction to all parties concerned. The class this year was not as large as there has been in past years but what it is lacking in numbers it made up in quality, all the graduates being four young ladies."

25 YEARS AGO
June 29, 1923

"That the educational system employed in the Birmingham schools ranks among the highest in Michigan and therefore should receive the support of the taxpayers of the school district is shown in a compilation of relative tests on file in the office of Clarence Vilet, superintendent of our schools."

"Some day—perhaps sooner than we expect—America's Most Dangerous Highway" is commonly known to us as Woodward avenue between Detroit and Pontiac may be printed in last Sunday's *Eyes* Press regarding the widening of Woodward and also in *News*.

"Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Hoffman and family of Frank street and Mr. and Mrs. Young Moore and son of Birmingham motored to Louisville, Ky., where they will attend a convention of the Harmon street."

"G. Wasley of Harmon street, left for New York from where she is on a mission of business. She will be gone about three months."

5 YEARS AGO
June 30, 1938

"Charles S. Kinnison was elected assistant cashier and resident executive branch of the Birmingham Wabebek State Bank. Frank E. Quisenberry, well known Birmingham business man, took up his duties today."

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Have You Met . . .

Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Rosenquist, of 363 Southfield. They came here from Fargo, N. D., since Mr. Rosenquist has a position as a research analyst for General Motors in Pontiac. Mrs. Rosenquist has been teaching music in a conservatory.

They have three children, a son and a daughter who are married, and Dean, in the Military Police at Camp George, West, near Denver.

Her husband, says Mr. Rosenquist, has set his heart on living in Birmingham. She finds it a very friendly city and knows they will like it very much here.

Mr. and Mrs. William D. Smith who came to Birmingham from Detroit? They are living at 567 East Lincoln. Mr. Smith is an attorney, now attached to the compensation department of the Lumberman's Mutual Insurance Company.

Mr. Smith's family lives here, and this was his home originally. Your old uncle was just about one ambition—to make their home here. They have an eight month old baby, Joan, and think Birmingham is the ideal place to bring up a child.

Mr. Edward Ritslander will be chairman of the Day Camp this year, and will also take care of the Day Camp records. Her staff will be comprised of Mrs. Robert Koller, who will plan the meals, and Mrs. A. N. Watson, Mrs. Ewald Schaffer, and Mrs. Frank Weib, who will have charge of one of the three group units. Mrs. Charles Kays will teach the games, Mrs. Ralph Mann the folk dances, and Mrs. Edwin Faulkner will take care of the registration records.

New Column Editor
Beginning next week, all Girl Scout News should be sent in to Mrs. Hugh McLeese (Tel. 1309). Mrs. McLeese has been appointed chairman of public relations by the Birmingham Council in place of Mrs. Carlton Smith, who is leaving the city in the near future.

Mariners' Outing
Ten of the Mariners in Dorothy Porritt's Troop 1 had a fine outing at Lake Orion this past weekend. Nancy and Barbara Fletcher were there, as well as Betty Steffer, Joy Wangberg, Dorothy Heckcock, Ruth Savage, Martha Greck, Laura Smith, and Barbara Allison. The girls spent practically every waking moment swimming, canoeing and boating and reported a wonderful time.

Dorothy Dalee Home
Did you know that Dorothy Dalee, who is now a Wave, has been home from California on leave? Dorothy was an Eagle Scout, and tells us that her Scouting proved of great value in living in Birmingham. She finds it a very friendly city and knows they will like it very much here.

HE ALMOST QUIT
Editor, The Eccentric:
Your old uncle was just about to cease activities for the summer and devote my precious moments to hacking weeds in the Y garden when your congress comes along and upsets my plans. By the way, how do you like the Axis principles our Congress is about to effect last week?

Naturally, labor will go on working like the old plug horse, for a barn and hay, but will Congress go one step further and allow Mr. Industry to sell us to some other man as he would that old plug? I think that's the next step.

Congress has placed labor in the position of the old plug, unmindful of the fact that there is a little self-respect still existing with the American laborer, and he resents being sold out by laws which he has been taught to believe existed only in Axis-controlled territories.

However, you don't need to look for trouble at present, because labor figures that we have this war to win first. But I ask you, how else can labor feel that that of bondage? We now have strikes forbidden, jobs frozen, automatically bans contracts, negotiations, and the ceiling lifted on food prices. The net results will follow broad and a roof the same as those in Axis countries.

UNCLE JOE.
Joe—I met my wife in a very funny way—I ran over her in my car and later married her.
Brown—if everybody had to do that, there wouldn't be so much freedom driving.

TIME TO DO SOME WEEDING



NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of School District No. 1 Fractional of the Townships of Bloomfield, Troy, Royal Oak, and Southfield, Oakland County, Michigan, for the purpose of receiving the auditor's report and for the transaction of such other business as may lawfully come before it, will be held in the Baldwin High School Building, Birmingham, Michigan, at 8 o'clock P. M. Monday, the 12th day of July, 1943.

(Signed) ERNEST W. SEAHOLM, Secretary