

# 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

### OPENING GUN OF THE FOURTH TERM

Several days before Vice President Wallace arrived in Detroit to give his speech Sunday, Washington writers already attached significance to the talk by pointing out that the President had read it and approved. The fact, too, that it was broadcast nationally lent evidence to the belief that here was the opening gun for the fourth term.

Or, if not for a fourth term for the President, at least it was a ringing exposition of New Deal principles. There was a good deal of politics in the speech, otherwise, what was the point of the familiar blast against the reactionary corporations, and the reiteration of Mr. Roosevelt's devotion to the common man? A political fight is ahead on the home front, and Mr. Wallace let us know that plenty of sparks are to fly.

### Heavy Responsibility

These past few years have been no picnic for the Vice President. It was evident when I met him Sunday afternoon, I noticed that he was a good deal grayer and that his face showed the imprint of responsibility far more than back in 1935 when I met him as secretary of agriculture in an Ohio college town. But the change was not surprising, for Mr. Wallace is no professional politician thinking of his own affairs first. People with petty interests bear that burdens lightly.

### "American Fascists"

A good many people will not like Mr. Wallace's speech. As these lines are written Monday morning I have not yet had a chance to observe the editorial and political comment as it will arise throughout the country, but unquestionably there will be some tart rejoinders.

I did not care for his play on the "American fascists" theme, for I felt he used the term very loosely and inaccurately, leaving the implication that enemies of the Administration are fascists, when that is not necessarily true, no more than the conservatives can slough off Mr. Wallace as an unimportant "imperialist."

To be sure, we have American fascists, but every reactionary is not necessarily a fascist, let alone in accordance with my definition of fascism. The term, as it denotes the use of force—a private army—to organize the state in accordance with my definition of fascism. The term, as it denotes the use of force—a private army—to organize the state in accordance with my definition of fascism.

### The Practical Record

Now it is true that Mr. Wallace is so impractical as the conservatives would have us believe, par-

### PECK'S Cash and Carry

Suits, Topcoats, \$1.09 Plain Dresses—CLEANED and PRESSED For Delivery Phone 230 WOODWARD—NEAR MAPLE

### SALVAGE MEMO

TIN CANS—Rinse after using, remove label, open bottom 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 nearest market when you have a few pounds. Rancid fats not wanted.

### SCRAP METALS, GLASS, RUBBER—Leave in neat Post Office or put at curb on your last City collection day this month. Copper engine parts, plates and old keys may be left at the library.

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

### "A FRIENDLY BANK"

WABEEK STATE BANK OF DETROIT

## Bank By Mail

Save time, save gasoline, save time. Make your checking account deposits by mail. Special deposit envelopes and instructions on their use are available at the Wabeek State Bank office that carries your account.

WABEEK STATE BANK OF DETROIT

BIRMINGHAM OFFICE—WABEEK BUILDING

## Missing: A War Song!

Ann O'Hare McCormack tells us seeing a company of soldiers, who "wanted to sing but had no song," and then declares that "this is not a singing war because it is not a sentimental war." It will "come along one day without any artificial stimulus."

This brings to mind the fact that the war has not produced a "great song," but we are inclined to agree with Irving Berlin, who writes in Variety that "the 'Over There' of this war will not come through contests or specific rules." It will "come along one day without any artificial stimulus."

To risk our own opinion, we suggest that songs that live arise from deep human emotions. In the present war, the people on the home front have not been stirred out of their selfish complacency. This is apparent in Congressional bickering, civilian complaints, and political shenanigans.

The nation has, of necessity, gone to war in self defense. It is determined to end a menace which became real, despite the Pollyannas, but for some reason, it much too often "four freedoms" do not click.

If the mood of the American people continues, there will hardly arise a notable war song from the home front, but the chances are that some soldier or sailor will be moved, through suffering and deep experience, to give expression to the fundamental feeling of our service men. This will be the war song of this war.

## U. S. Male Dynasty Ending

The long-standing male dynasty in the United States is about to come to an end, according to Frank R. Wilson, Assistant Secretary of Commerce Jose Jones.

Mr. Wilson points out that the 2,900,000 male majority which the nation had in 1910 is being whittled away at the rate of 100,000 a year. Sometime this year, he says, the nation will pass from its traditional role as a "youthful nation" and become one of the so-called "elder nations."

While nature provides approximately one hundred six males to one hundred females, Mr. Wilson points out that the lengthening of the life span of the weaker sex, combined with the greater vulnerability of the stronger sex to the hazards of life, will end the predominance of males, a characteristic of youthful nations.

## Who Is Proprietary Bill for Presidential Guilty?

Congress recently passed an appropriation bill for Presidential pay, but in it prohibited payment of any money to three New Dealers, who were accused by a House committee of affiliation with subversive groups. In commenting on the bill, FDR said that Congress was guilty, in the bill, of usurping functions of the executive and judicial branches of the federal government. Of all people to make such a statement! The President himself, often has been so accused, and maybe he ought to know what he is talking about. But how much better if he had set a good example of "hands off" himself.

Why do not the same in peace for the benefit of the people?"

Don't forget, friends, that our miracle of production has been achieved by running up a colossal debt that had to do it for us in Asia. Who doesn't ignore the expense, for example, when the best medical care is needed at home? But on the other hand, no one expects Troy Township to maintain a 200-room hospital. Medically speaking, we have shot the works here to prevent a terrible foreign epidemic from spreading to our shores, but that does not mean that in the future we can station a doctor at every four corners.

## Business on the Spot

Thus, by setting up a beautiful, and perhaps impossible goal for the immediate future, Mr. Wallace is putting American business men on pretty much of a hot spot, for the problem is not that of business alone, but one to be shared jointly by business, labor, farmers, government and

## Principles As To News

Broadcasts in four languages are sent out daily from the new, 50,000-watt medium wave transmitter that has been set up in North Africa for the purpose of giving the people of Europe the "truth about the war."

The policy of the broadcasters is simple, including unfavorable as well as favorable news, in order to establish a reputation for honesty. The rules are sound enough to invite the attention of American broadcasters and newspaper reporters who can study them with profit.

The technique involves six rules: (1) Victories are described simply, with understatement rather than exaggeration. (2) No attempt is made to incite the listener with bombastic utterances and superlative adjectives. (3) A deliberate policy of including unfavorable as well as favorable news items.

(4) No vilification of Axis leaders, but careful recitation of their past statements in connection with present news events which discredit them. (5) No extravagant claims as to air raid damage in enemy controlled areas or in connection with occurrences in enemy territories. (6) No editorializing on the events reported.

The reader thinks that these principles, sound as they are to the publication of news, are the guiding rules of our radio broadcasters and news commentators, we suggest that they clip them and read them over, just before turning on the radio or reading the newspapers.

## DESTRUCTION OF THE SHERWOOD SCHOOL

By fire suggests that people who own property outside of incorporated areas ought to get together on the project of adequate fire protection. With so much property value (and life) at stake, the cost, compared to the need, is a trifle.

WITH THE ALLES ABOUT TO JUMP upon the Italian boot, soon comes the time when the Italian boot will have their tongues hanging out in weariness.

## The Birmingham Eccentric

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NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish brief contributions of material providing news of local interest. All contributions are usually edited and published as they come in. Any anonymous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation, which appears in the columns of the Eccentric will be gladly corrected, upon being contacted, the attention of the publisher.

## People's Column

### Feels He's Fighting For Freedom of Press

Editor, The Eccentric: I have just received my first copy of The Eccentric and wish to express my full appreciation. It is one of the best important contributions that we have with our home front. It also represents one of the freedoms for which we are preparing to fight, and many are already reading through my recent copy. I have found articles of interest that I probably would have never heard about it. Such manifestations of freedom give us the heart to go on training with a determination to win this war beyond a shadow of a doubt. May I thank you kindly with a gratitude that only soldier or sailor can know.

Y. J. MOORE, JR.  
U. S. Navy Pre-Flight School  
Iowa City, Iowa.

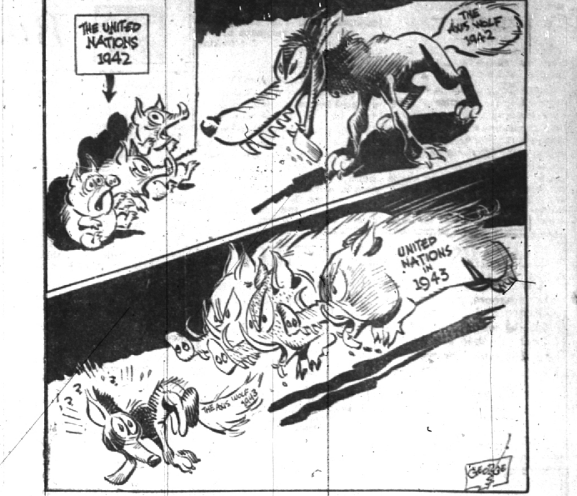
### Sight of Baby Elk Called Rare Sight

Vanderbilt—A glimpse of a gawky elk calf—a very rare sight to Michigan woodsmen—was reported by W. H. Horn, superintendent of the Pigeon River state forest, near here.

The elk calves, which are kept hidden in the thickets deep in the forest by the cow elks, are rarely seen by travelers or natives. Michigan Superintendent Horns admits that this is only the third calf he has ever seen in 20 years at the Pigeon River state forest. The color of the calf's hide, which was the same as that of the old cow elk hovering nearby, led Mr. Horn to believe that the calf was an early spring calf and had already lost its spotted coat.

Elk, which disappeared as a native species from Michigan soon after the white man invaded the area, were imported into the state in 1855 by the conservation department from Wyoming, and the herd, now concentrated in the Pigeon River area, is now estimated at between 300 and 500.

## My, How They've Grown!



## Happenings of Long Ago

### 50 YEARS AGO

July 27, 1893  
"Herbert" Poppleton and son, Knox, took in the luxuries at Watkins Lake on Tuesday last."

"It is bound to be hot when Congress meets in extra session, however much the optimists may be disposed to keep cool."

"Mrs. M. J. Hamby, of Detroit, mother of Mrs. H. W. Baxter, is here on a visit to her daughter and is enjoying the cool shade of our quiet little village and is having a real pleasant time."

"Our Birmingham boy 'Ginger' Cooper made 25 miles in one hour and ten minutes at the great Hillsden race on Belle Isle last Saturday and got one of the first good prizes offered. 'Ginger's' time in this race was one minute better than the best previous record."

"Since women have taken to the streets in their new, high-heeled shoes, the pale, languid and helpless woman of a few years ago have come out of fashion. We are living in a generation of vigorous men and healthy, beautiful women."

### 20 YEARS AGO

July 27, 1923  
"While trimming trees on the Kenneth Anderson farm at Silver Lake, Emerson C. Brown, 510 Purdy avenue, had a narrow escape from death last Saturday when he came in contact with a high tension wire."

Announcement has been made by the Board of County Road Commissioners of Oakland County that Adams road will be paved with a heavy foot width of concrete.

"Awakened to at least a partial realization that Birmingham is now the slaying of the god of First titles of 'petty squabbles' and their attendant litigations to the safety and comfort of local citizens, the Village Committee, at a special meeting on Tuesday night, adopted a plan to increase fire protection."

"Forty thousand dollars worth of clothing, including a large quantity of Saturday morning, when fire swept the building owned by H. G. Field and Mrs. Victor R. Ogden and family have moved to 123 Smith avenue."

### 5 YEARS AGO

July 28, 1938  
"Phillip Dibble returned Tuesday to the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis C. Dibble, of Hill-top Lane, after spending a month at Camp Nissokone."

"Miss June Botsford will return to Chicago Aug. 2, after a visit of several weeks with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence E. Botsford, of 123 Smith avenue."

"Mrs. E. M. Vehmeyer of Shirley drive, is motoring through Northville, Michigan, with a group of friends."

"Harry S. Starr has just returned to her home on Hazelwood avenue following a week's trip to the coast, where she traveled as far east as Oswego, N. Y."

Three days of championship play won for Mrs. Damon S. Gall the annual three-day medal tournament at Oakland Hills Country Club, held Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of last week, at the club.

### IN ANT CONTROL

P. D. B. has gone to war, but there is still some surplus available for use in and around homes in ant control and clothes moth treatments.

In full, this is a chemical in crystal form, parathion-bismethane. Two to three teaspoonfuls poured into an ant colony several inches deep will smother the ants and their eggs. The parathion is now being used in the vicinity. The gas action of the crystals lasts several days.

## Oakland Tops Goal In Fat Collection

Household fat collection figures for June show Oakland County in third place in the state with 102.6 per cent of its quota. Oakland is the first large county in the state to attain 100 per cent and is one of six to top the quota, according to John D. McGillis, county chairman of waste fats collection.

Waste fats collected in June amounted to \$3,495 pounds. This collection will go into war industries for the manufacture of glycerine from which explosives are made.

## What Your City Commission Is Doing . . .

July 26, 1943  
Bill approved totalling \$1,316.87.  
Communication received from Royal Oak General Hospital Board relative to need for extension of hospitalization facilities in South-East Oakland County.  
Manager authorized to have poplar tree at 642 Ann street removed.  
Bond approved covering Leon Thurston, Springdale Park cemetery.

Resolution adopted approving King Victor Emmanuel's action in accepting Benito Mussolini's resignation as head of the Government in Italy.  
IRENE E. HANLEY  
City Clerk

Changes in rules governing rationing stamps are even more frequent than changes in contract prices—Chicago Daily News.

## THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner

Don't take the chance of missing fine snapshots like this because of a camera in need of repair. Have your camera put in good shape now, and make a practice to keep it that way.

KEEPING his camera in good shape is always one of the prime jobs facing every amateur photographer. It is doubly important now, for just as there will be a scarcity of new cameras this autumn, so will be the kind of good goods, there may also be a scarcity in some types of new cameras and last week we were able to take care of what we have now.

Keeping a camera operating smoothly is not difficult to make a habit of taking care of it. One of the greatest enemies of any camera is dirt. We clean your camera regularly, inside and out. For \$1.00 we had a soft brush a bag but we can actually blow the dirt out of the camera. We clean the lens with the softest possible cloth. The lens with soft cosmetic lens papers, 25¢ a pair. We clean the camera with the softest possible cloth. The lens with soft cosmetic lens papers, 25¢ a pair. We clean the camera with the softest possible cloth. The lens with soft cosmetic lens papers, 25¢ a pair.

Finally, it's a wise plan to send any good camera back to the manufacturer for cleaning and incidental repairs at least once every two years. And keep it in its case all the time. Take care of your camera and it will never fail you when you're set to make fine snapshots like this week's illustration.

John van Guilder



HE GOT THAT WAY RIDING TRAINS ON WEEK-ENDS.