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

WHAT WILL WE DO WITH THEM?

There has come to my desk a publicity release from the Consolidated Vultee Aircraft Corporation in which one of the vice presidents protects renegotiation of contracts on the ground that the present policy "does not allow for necessary reserves for postwar transition," plus a couple other criticisms. But should war plants be allowed to keep enough of their profits to revamp their greatly expanded plants?

A proper principle, it seems to me, is that a company doing war work should be allowed a fair and reasonable profit, plus enough extra so that the firm can restore its plant to its prewar status. But if X Corporation had one factory before the war and ten now, why should we — the taxpayers — be asked to pay for the change-over of all ten factories? The money for that, it seems to me, should come from private capital, by borrowing or through the sales of additional stock.

Muscle Shoals No Solution

We the people now have billions of dollars invested in various war plants now being operated by private business. Their use after the war poses an interesting question. Do you remember the furor created after the First World War when Henry Ford wanted to buy Muscle Shoals water power property?

Many of the plants were built without thought for cost, so no business man is going to seek to buy such a plant after the war at its inflated price. Yet, good buildings should not rust and rot away. Perhaps the New Deal plans to go socialistic and put the government further into business.

However, I don't expect that the New Deal will have much to say about it for the political trend is unmistakably away from the Democratic party, even though FDR may possibly win another term if the war is still at an acute stage. Recent events in Congress showed that the legislative branch is now in the hands of Republicans and dissident Democrats whenever they choose to effect a coalition.

* * *

THE WAY THE WIND IS BLOWING

Labor leaders were nettled, to say the least, at the speed and fervor with which Congress overrode the President's veto of the anti-strike bill. 'Labor has been reduced to a status of slavery," is the ridiculous attitude some have taken, and the State CIO says every Congressman who voted for it must be defeated at the polls.

What these labor leaders do not see is that the defeat of the veto is indicative of a rising tide of public opinion against strikes and monkey business; people able to think clearly on the subject see that labor, indeed, will be reduced to slavery if this war is not won and won as soon as possible. The New Deal is on the skids and labor, if smart, will trim its sails accordingly.

* * *

THE THREAT NOW

Time, not the Axis, is our greatest threat now. Victory was never so sure, but the cost of this war is so terrific that every day the conflict is extended will add to the problem of recovery afterward. That is why we must not let down.

* * *

COMPETITION IN LIGHT METAL

A recent report from Canada to the effect that a new process will permit the production of magnesium at a price under 15 cents a pound is very interesting.

Using the process, this metal—much lighter than aluminum—is recovered from waste in asbestos mills.

Magnesium is now being extracted from salt brines and sea water at considerable cost, and has never been used much in this country because of patent and cartel agreements through which magnesium was not allowed to compete with aluminum.

It will be a great thing if we can get some competition in the light metal field, because we are going to need lots of it for those helicopters that you and I want to buy! Competition should bring down the price, yet increased sales will probably offset any loss to the producers when the price-per-pound is cut. That's the great challenge that so many business men are afraid to meet; manufacturers want to keep prices up and restrict competition, even if they do violate a fundamental law of the capitalistic system. Yet, the road to plenty, the sound road to profit, the way to defeat poverty is to expand production with greater sales at lower prices to more people. We've done that in the United States to a certain extent, and that's why our standard of living is the highest in the world.

THE KAISER CAR

Henry Kaiser knows that, and this is the reason why he wants to build a $400 automobile after the war is over. His car will sell, too, as long as there is a shortage of good used cars. But if John Q. Citizen can buy a good second-hand Chevie, Ford or Plymouth for $400, do you think he will spend $400 for something inferior even if it is new?

Just Silly An overlooked honor, it seems, is being passed around annually in the nation as some self-appointed Americans get busy and select the country's "No. 1 Father."

We can imagine fewer sillier efforts, unless it be the selection of the "No. 1 Mother."

Papa 1 for 1943, be it noted, is none other than Gen. Dwight D. (Ike) Eisenhower, who has been rather busy in North Africa.

How many votes do you think the General would have received if he hadn't just completed a successful military campaign that has nothing to do with the job of being a father?

Wounded Don't Die! The new techniques devised for the treatment of soldiers wounded in battle are performing miracles in saving the lives of these men. Russian Relief, Inc., says that on the 2,000-mile battlefront in Russia, only 1.5 per cent. of the wounded have died. Nearly forty per cent of the Russian wounded are back in the war and one-third are fighting soldiers.

Commenting on this, Howard W. Blakeslee, of The Associated Press, says that the Russian record is slightly higher than the remarkable recovery rate at Pearl Harbor, when 9 out of each 100 wounded were saved. The Russian recovery rate of 98.5 percent of all wounded, however, is not as good as "the Guadalcanal miracle of one per cent of wounded dying."

The three main causes of the high rate of life savings, include the use of sulfa drugs to delay infection, blood transfusions, and prompt methods of getting the wounded to field dressing stations and permanent hospitals.

It is little short of amazing that any system of treating wounded men is able to prevent the death of all except less than two per cent. It is a tribute to the doctors and their helpers, both in the battle zone and in the back areas.

Patronage Grab The McKellar measure, which would require Senate confirmation of some 30,000 Government employees paid more than $4,500 a year, is a patronage grab of the first magnitude.

It requires no gift of prophecy to know that the United States Senate has not the time to seriously consider 30,000 nominations. Inevitably, the fate of any individual employe will depend upon how he happens to stand with his Senators.

The Senators naturally are willing to handle the patronage, but it is hard to see why the House of Representatives should concur in such an open-faced effort to subordinate the executive department to the Senate.

WE NOTE THAT THE STATE OF MICHIGAN holds some bonds, now worth less than they cost; that, in itself, is not new or strange in business. However, if an investigation reveals that the bonds weren't worth buying in the first place, then maybe somebody ought to start hollering. Such scandals have happened in years gone by. Republican years, too.

It Probably Will! Astronomers of the world are attempting to learn the secret of VV Cephei, a double star, whose main body is thought to have a volume twenty-seven billion times as great as the sun.

The twin star includes a red giant and a much smaller blue companion which travels around its larger brother. It takes twenty years to traverse the orbit and most of the period it is in eclipse behind the large star.

Most of the knowledge of this pair of stars was obtained in the 1936-38 eclipse of the blue star by the red one. Observations during this eclipse, but astronomers are waiting for the next eclipse, in 1956, to check their previous observations of the light and spectral variations.

While further observations may alter present conclusions, VV Cephei is thought to be larger than any other known star. It is three thousand light years from the earth, which means the distance that light will travel in three thousand years at a speed of 186,000 miles per second.

The next time you hear a citizen expounding volubly, explaining the issues that beset mankind, ask him a question about VV Cephei. It will probably shut him up.

TO THEIR EVERLASTING CREDIT, the women of the United States are doing a great job, in thousands of ways, in aiding the war effort. We would hazard the guess that, outside the active service in the armed forces by our men, women are performing more sacrifices in civilian activities than the men are.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THOSE who made successful the current Community House campaign for funds. The fact that local people voluntarily gave $14,800 for the next year's support of the enterprise suggests that they believe it valuable as a community institution—which it is. Ye Ed also thinks it worth while to hand an orchid to his brother, Paul Neal Averill, for his leadership in the campaign; he did a similar job a year ago, too.

The Birmingham Eccentric

Published every Thursday, at Birmingham, Mich., in The Eccentric Building, 220-222 North Woodward Avenue
Telephones 11, 12 and 13

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

(In Oakland County)		(Outside Oakland County)	
One Year	$2.00	One Year	$2.50
Six Months	1.25	Six Months	1.50
Three Months	.75	Three Months	.85

All newspaper and advertising copy must be in The Eccentric office by Wednesday noon to obtain insertion for that week, except Classifieds—4 p. m.

The Eccentric is a member of National Editorial Association, Michigan Press Association, and University Press Club.

NOTE. The Eccentric is pleased to publish brief contributed material providing it has news value, and suggestions are welcomed. Contributions are usually edited superficially so that they conform to general newspaper style. 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
July 6, 1893

"The pressure which was brought to bear upon President Cleveland for an extraordinary session of Congress to consider the silver and financial question has had its result and the President has issued a proclamation."

"Bicycling is the nearest to flying that human ingenuity has yet approached. Only one or two square inches of the bicycle wheel come in contact with the earth at any one time, so that the bicyclist, if he is not flying, is very near to it. If he has a pneumatic tire he literally rides on the air."

"Master Charlie Shain is visiting his aunt, Mrs. L. D. Friday, at Davisburg."

"The Board of Regents of the University of Michigan have conferred degrees upon over 700 students."

20 YEARS AGO
July 6, 1923

"From all indications Birmingham celebrated the Fourth of July in an entirely satisfactory manner. From the fireworks, which began to make themselves noticeable a number of days previous to that commemorating the Declaration of Independence, and which lasted until well past midnight Wednesday Fourth, there were no accidents in the Village other than a few burns which necessitated no more than the home remedy of soda or kerosene."

"The publisher of The Eccentric is pleased to announce the acquisition of Herbert S. Case, of Sault Ste. Marie, to the staff of the paper, Mr. Case will become the managing editor of The Eccentric."

"Mr. and Mrs. Clinton E. Sears of Adams avenue, returned last week from a two months' tour through the Western States and British Columbia."

"One of the most successful events in the K. of P. annals of 1923 was staged Wednesday, June 20, at Sugden Lake, when about 100 members and families gathered in the spacious grove of the Beier Land Co. for their annual picnic."

5 YEARS AGO
July 7, 1938

"Mrs. Dorothy Kemp Roosevelt of Charing Cross road will achieve widespread recognition when she appears as piano solist with the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington, D.C., under the baton of Hans Kindler, at an open-air concert on Wednesday, July 13. She will play Strauss's Burlesque in D Minor'. It will mark her initial appearance with an orchestra."

"Birmingham's contingent of boys who will invade Alaska this summer with the Buchanan party includes . . . Newell Wright, David Raymond, Angus McLay, Douglas Mott, and John Cain. The party will leave Saturday on the 16th annual tour, accompanied by Mrs. Betty Lamborn Roberts of Birmingham."

"Birmingham's second summer recreation program, which began officially Friday, is well under way with approximately 1,000 registrations, Miles W. Robinson, general chairman, has announced. The program includes a wide range of activities, with swimming in the Barnum pool ranking among the most popular sports."

"Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Braisted and LeRoy, Jr., of Pilgrim road, leave Tuesday for an extended tour through the far west, including stops at the national parks as well as dude ranches and other scenic spots. They will be gone about six weeks."

Snoopy Porcupine Saved by Towerman

ROSCOMMON—The same curiosity that killed a cat almost killed a snoopy porcupine in Roscommon county, but Amos Gilbert, towerman at the Nestor fire tower, happened along in time to rescue the luckless animal from the results of its own folly.

Towerman Gilbert was a trifle mystified at the sight of a No. 2 salmon can moving uncertainly through the grass along a Roscommon county road. Upon investigating the strange phenomenon, he found that a porcupine with more curiosity than caution had got his head stuck in the can. The amused Towerman extricated the animal from its uncomfortable predicament and sent it on its way.

Preferred

"May I see the captain?" inquired a lady passenger.

"He's forward, miss," replied the first mate.

"Oh, I'm not afraid," said the lady. "I've been out with hospital students."

Food for Shipment Dehydrated, Pressed

Overseas shipments of compressed foods—the ultimate in saving ocean, land and air cargo space—are increasing and within six months should represent a substantial share of total food shipments, the War Food Administration said today.

Dehydration removes most of the water from a food, resulting in an enormous saving in shipping and storage space. Compression goes one step further, squeezing the dehydrated food into the smallest space practicable.

In its simplest form, low compression, it is accomplished by tamping, vibration and compacting of a product so that waste space in a container is held to a minimum. Flour, for instance, can be compacted so up to 20 percent more will go into an ordinary sack.

Restrictions in the use of steel in war model ice boxes saves an average of 79 pounds of steel per ice box.

Consumer News

Facts About Rationing and Wartime Buying

STOVES TO BE RATIONED

All new heating and cooking stoves designed to burn coal, wood, oil or gas for domestic use (with certain exceptions) will be rationed in mid-August, the OPA has announced.

CERTIFICATE FOR SLAUGHTERING

A livestock owner who buys custom slaughtering must, after July 1, sign a certificate giving his address, the slaughter permit number, the kind and number of livestock killed and the total dressed and live weight. This certificate must be signed by the custom slaughterer.

CADET NURSE CORPS ORGANIZED

Newest in the women's uniformed groups in the United States Cadet Nurse Corps, set up to revive young women's interest in enlistment as student nurses. The Bolton Act, signed by President Roosevelt June 15, will provide student nurses with a distinctive uniform and insignia. Also, this legislation permits the government to give accredited institutions the funds to pay room, board, tuition, and fees for nurse trainees, and to give them a stipend of $15 a month for the first nine months of training, with gradual increase.

CLOTHING PRICES STABILIZED

Women's, girls' and children's fall dresses, suits, coats, blouses and similar apparel will cost approximately the same as last year, as a result of a revised maximum price regulation for manufacturers issued recently by the OPA.

RATIONING AT A GLANCE

PROCESSED FOODS—Blue stamps K, L and M good through July 31. P and Q good July 1 through August 7.

MEATS, CHEESE, BUTTER, FATS, CANNED FISH, CANNED MILK—Red stamps J, K, L, M and N expired June 30. P now valid. Q, R, S, T, U, expire July 11. X, July 18. All expire July 31.

COFFEE—Stamp 24 good for 1 pound through June 30. Stamp 25 good for 1 pound from July 1 through July 21.

SUGAR—Stamp 13 good for 5 pounds through Aug. 15. Stamps 15 and 16 good for 5 pounds of canning sugar each.

RATIONED SHOES—Stamp 18 good for 1 pair through October 31.

GASOLINE—No. 4 coupons in A book good through July 21. B and C stamps pasted on back.

TIRES—Next inspections due: A book vehicles by Sept. 30; C's by Aug. 31; B's by Oct. 31. Commercial vehicles every 6 months or 5,000 miles, whichever is first.

FUEL OIL—Coupon 5 good for 10 gallons, it must last until Sept. 30 for both heat and hot water. Renewal applications now being mailed to users, fill out and return to board immediately.

Red Cross Boosts Water Activity

Oakland County has more facilities for swimming than any other part of the midwestern area. Consequently, water safety is a responsibility the Red Cross is making every effort to meet. For the last six years the local chapter has had a water safety director at Lake P-40 on beaches once a week during the summers. The Red Cross is anxious to train as many people as possible in swimming and lifesaving. Orville M. Cox, water safety representative from St. Louis, was here recently to help organize this year's program.

Formerly the Red Cross has tried to supply requests for instructors and lifeguards. But now with the manpower shortage, the ideal arrangement would be to have representatives from pools and beaches take the Red Cross instructors' course. Both men and women over 19 years of age are urgently needed for this work. Occasionally, the age limit is lowered for someone particularly skillful in teaching.

Recently, at the request of the Army and Navy, a new series of courses has been inaugurated, designed to train boys and girls of pre-induction age who may soon be in the Armed Forces. A man may break speed records in a pool, but in global warfare he must know how to jump from a sinking transport, swim through debris and burning oil, find streams under full pack, or stay afloat for many hours. These new functional courses now open are the same as those being given at many training camps.

Flooding Brings New Food to Beaver

MANISTEE—To the list of damage caused by beavers flooding farm land, a Grand Traverse county farmer has a new and unusual charge to add. Conservation officer Ray Wolters reports that a local farmer brought in a pelt from a beaver which he allegedly got into his chicken coop and killed several chickens.

Conservation department game men declared that they had never encountered a situation in which beaver, a non-carnivorous mammal, would kill or prey on flesh.

The pelt was sent to the Lansing office, to be disposed of with other nuisance beaver.

To Keep Lettuce

The best way to keep lettuce fresh and crisp is to remove the core and let cold water run over the head, shaking out the excess water until leaves are nearly dry. Place in hydrator, covered pan or cellophane bag in the refrigerator.

"WAKE UP, AMERICA!"

Must We Beat Hitler First?

Moderated by
REED VAN ALLEN
General Chairman
American Democratic Foundation

As debated by

Henry Noble Hall
Veteran British-American Journalist; International Authority, Author, Lecturer.

John Goette
INS War Correspondent, Radio Commentator; Authority Far Eastern Affairs; Author: "Japan Fights For Asia."

MR. HALL OPENS: We have two enemies, Germany and Japan, one in Europe the other in Asia. We have not strength enough to carry on two major offensives simultaneously on two different continents, so must concentrate our striking forces. Germany is already locked in a death struggle with Russia on the eastern front. The British-American forces are ready to launch an attack on the western front. Modern warfare demands the accumulation of vast resources in men and war materials. If we shift now from Germany to attack Japan, we will lose the initiative we have already gained and all the time and effort spent in preparation for the coming offensive. We should also endanger our good relations with Russia who is not at war with Japan and whose assistance we need to beat Germany. Also, it would be too costly to try to win back the islands of the Pacific one by one. We must strike at the heart of Japan from China after we have driven the Japs from Burma. For this an army of two million men will be ready after the monsoon in October. Meanwhile, most of America's naval strength is already in the Pacific where we also have air superiority.

MR. GOETTE CHALLENGES: Mr. Hall typifies what we Far Eastern realists condemn in "Beat Hitler First." They are hypnotized by an idea, not motivated by actualities. He says two million men are set to strike at Burma in October; that our naval strength is in the Pacific where we have air superiority. *Then we do have the forces to go for Japan!* He deplores beating Japan island by island. Our strategists on the spot do not depend on any single plan. They plead only for the green light. It is the pretty phrase "Beat Hitler First," rather than the lack of power, which hamstrings them. Japan has the initiative. Let's take it away NOW!

MR. HALL REPLIES: Poppycock! It is not the pretty phrase "Beat Hitler First," nor weakness of fighting power that hamstrings the *Far Eastern realists.* It is the hard fact that to beat Japan we must bomb Japan from China, and cannot do so till we have re-taken Burma, re-opened the Burma Road and built air fields within striking distance of Tokio. We cannot re-take Burma before October, because of the monsoon. Whether Hitler is beaten or not will interfere not a whit with the planned strategic plan—approved by President Roosevelt and Mr. Churchill to crush Japan. That plan cannot be applied NOW!

MR. GOETTE OPENS: Japan is potentially the strongest power on earth! What she needs to transform her potentiality into reality is TIME. That is exactly what "Beat Hitler First" plan gives her. We are like a man kicked by one assailant who runs two blocks down the street and strikes a third person. Japan gave us an ignominious licking in the Pacific. Nineteen months later we are in an all-out effort to crush Germany which grabbed nothing from us. We must wait until some uncertain day when Hitler is no more. I do not say beat Hitler first. Not Japan. Let's go for both at once! In Europe we have Britain and Russia to help. In the Pacific, now, and probably for most of duration, Japan will be our baby. Remember—in 3 years 10 months, the Nazis have not acquired a square inch of British or American soil. In 90 days Japan swept Britain, America, Netherlands, France, from East Asia and the Southwest Pacific. Furthermore, Japan has carried the war to the American continent and is in a position to strike at the U. S! Let's save *American* lives by whacking Japan before she becomes the strongest power on earth. The price of time for Japan is American blood.

MR. HALL CHALLENGES: It is absurd to say that Japan is potentially the strongest power on earth. No matter how much time she has, Japan can never equal the sea, air or land power of either the United States or Great Britain. Nor is it true to say that in the Pacific and probably for the duration the fight will be America's "baby." Mr. Churchill said that bugaboo in his address to Congress. And when did Japan successfully "carry the war to the American continent"? The Aleutians are just as much Pacific islands as Guadalcanal. Japan is not even in a position to strike at Australia, let alone the United States.

MR. GOETTE REPLIES: Mr. Hall, here are figures: Japan is the world's second largest empire (3,000,000 square miles; population, 500,000,000). She has 90% of the world's rubber; 60% of its tin; more oil than all Europe. A Jap submarine bombarded the California coast February 23, 1942. For a year she's remained entrenched in the Aleutians. Mr. Hyatt, Australian Minister, told me a Jap invasion of Australia should not be discounted. We must rely on the courage of those who bear the brunt of the war in the East. They plead for a chance to fight. Shall we increase their burden by letting the Japs consolidate? I hope not!

Dog-Marine Loses Promotion Chance

Dog-marines, the ferocious canines that help guard the Pacific Coast lines don't have to take stringent eye exams to be admitted to the armed services, but they have been proven to be better able to detect unusual things than human beings. Take P-40, a chunky German Shepherd dog, who turned out his keepers recently by barking loudly and incessantly.

The Marines found the dog gazing intently out to sea. No humans could see or hear nothing and tried to silence P-40. The dog, in spite of reproof, kept barking. Ten minutes later, a Jap fish-float, used by the Nips to support their nets, was washed ashore. P-40's trainers wanted to reward the dog for his vigilance but the night before his promotion was to have been okayed, he lost his chance for advancement by killing a Marine Sergeant Major's cat.

People's Column

He Will Find Some Agreement This Time

Editor, The Eccentric:

You'll never know how many times I have wished that the colored problem could be handled as you pictured it in the last issue but, alas, your old Uncle Joe can't see your solution for at least a dozen more generations.

The history of the American Negro has been a sorry one from the beginning and, educated and uneducated alike, can see no end to the feeling of the whites toward him. The white man has always tolerated him and always will, but now he is making a bid for acceptance which is an entirely different matter.

We of Birmingham, who have no colored problem except as domestic servants, have never done what you are asking of Detroit and that is to accept the colored race. We have no right to ask Detroit to do something we won't do, or at least never have done. Yes, it's all well and good to say that we accept him, but in saying this we mean that we accept him as long as he stays out of Birmingham, the same as the Christian church says we accept him so long as he stays in his own church.

No, you can never look for anything but race problems until we whites without mental reservations accept the colored, whether black, red or yellow as our equals. When we are ready to do that and manifest it in action as well as words we will begin to get somewhere but not until.

Before going too deep into this race question, let's ask ourselves these four questions. How many of us moved into Birmingham in the first place to raise our children in white schools? How many of us avoid even driving through colored sections while in Detroit? How many of us would accept a colored family as our next-door neighbor? How many of us can truthfully say we would continue our membership in our present church if tomorrow the congregation became half colored and half white?

Those of us who can answer these questions in the affirmative have a right to preach race equality, the rest of us should continue to buy our regular quota of War Bonds and keep out of the current race question.

UNCLE JOE.

GIRL SCOUTS

ATTENTION GIRL SCOUTS!

Girl Scouts are registering today for Day Camp from 2 to 4 o'clock in the Girl Scout room at the Community House. Only the first 30 registered scouts to sign up may attend. Mrs. Edwin Faulkner will have charge of registration.

The Day Camp will run from July 26 through July 30 at Springdale Park. The hours are from 9 until 3 o'clock and lunch will be furnished each day. The registration fee, which covers all expenses, is $2.

Mrs. Edward Ruslander is chairman of the Day Camp this year, and she will be assisted by six volunteer leaders who will have charge of games, crafts, folk dances, food, and camp records.

Troop 2, whose leaders are Mrs. A. W. White and Mrs. Carl Mayer enjoyed an outdoor dinner at the cabin last Thursday.

Girls who are 12 years old or over are asked to help with surgical dressings at the Community House. The hours are 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Mondays, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesdays. This is being planned as a mother and daughter war project for the summer.

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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 at curb on your last City collection day 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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