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

AMEND THE CONSTITUTION

Although the Constitution of the United States as drawn in 1787 has proved a remarkably-workable document, it is by no means perfect as shown in the fact that 21 amendments have been added. A 22nd and 23rd amendment are in order.

One change we need is that of giving the President the power to veto any portion of a bill which he dislikes. At the present time, he must veto all or none, and the result has been the political trick of tacking certain non-germane amendments to important bills, with the amendments always consisting of measures which could not become law if considered alone. This is purely trick and we should have none of it.

Senate's Treaty Power

But that is not to be the main burden of today's column; we are concerned, rather, with the necessity of having the United States give two-thirds approval to treaties. On the surface, this may appear to be a good thing, but history has shown that it has often enabled a handful of argumentative Senators, acting as politicians rather than statesmen, to block the will of the majority. Majority rule with protection for minorities is the basis of every election and almost every law. Congress can declare war by a simple majority, but two-thirds of the Senate must agree on the peace treaty—if one is ever adopted.

* * *

What History shows

The scholarly Walter Lippmann, who has time to dig out the facts—not to mention the background!—last week wrote a fine article on the subject, pointing out that the two-thirds rule has proved almost unworkable throughout our history.

Lippmann doesn't think that a constitutional amendment is necessary, because from the very beginning, there came into being what are known as "executive agreements." In 1816 and 1817, the President, authorized by an ordinary Act of Congress, made an agreement with Canada to keep the boundary free of menacing warships. When Texas, an independent nation, was annexed, the Senate rejected a treaty, but later adopted a joint resolution approving the step, otherwise Texas might never have been made a part of the Union. The Senate would approve treaties annexing Hawaii, that vital bastion of our Pacific defenses, but in 1898, President McKinley got a joint resolution through both Houses. President Theodore Roosevelt acquired the Samoan Islands and a naval station rights in Cuba by executive agreement.

Monroe Doctrine No Treaty

"As a matter of fact, our greatest foreign policies have not been founded on treaties submitted to the Senate or shaped by them," Lippmann wrote. "The Monroe Doctrine was announced to Congress . . . ."

Lippmann concluded: "The conclusion to be drawn from the test to which Congress has just been put is that the postwar agreements should be developed in the form not of treaties but of measures which depend upon a respectable majority in both Houses of Congress."

* * *

A New Foreign Policy

I feel strongly on the subject of our postwar policy, for I believe it will be insanity and suicidal to follow the old path and make the same mistakes over again. If again we try to draw into our traditional isolationist shell after this conflict is over, it will be like beating our heads against a stone wall. I've said it before in this column and I make no apology for repeating it: No matter how much we may wish to remain isolated from the rest of the world, our participation in two terrible wars in 25 years have proved that we CANNOT remain isolated.

Therefore, common sense must cause us to adopt a new foreign policy, which any one can see must be that of long-time collaboration with Britain, Russia and China to maintain a just peace. The word "just" carries the implication that peace must not be rigid, but should be flexible enough to permit the smaller nations of the world to work out necessary changes.

Had we realized these facts in 1919 and thenceforth, and acted upon them in collaboration with other peace-loving nations, we would not be at war today.

VFW to Help Sign Aviation Cadets

Young men 17 through 26, throughout Oakland County, who want to become pilots, navigators, or bombadiers in the Army Air Forces are being offered an excellent opportunity to prepare for this training.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U. S. recently was designated by the War Department as the sole assisting agency for the procurement of aviation cadets. This was in recognition of the organization's efforts prior to the halting of enlistments last winter, resulting in the enlistment of more than 15,000 cadets up to that time.

The Oakland County Council, V. F. W. has established two centers in the County for the handling of applications, coaching and examining of applicants. These are located in Pontiac and Ferndale. The Pontiac headquarters are located at 221 S. Saginaw where examinations are held every Tuesday evening, beginning at 7:30. There is also an information center in the Peoples State Building, manned by a staff of volunteer women who have been trained to interview applicants and assist in preparing of necessary documents. Ferndale headquarters are located in the office of the Secretary of State on Woodward avenue.

Have You Met . . .

Some more former Detroiters, **Mr. and Mrs. E. S. McCall** who felt the yen to get out of the smoke zone into the ozone, so to speak? Besides Mr. and Mrs., there is Jim McCall, who is 13, and Nancy McCall who is 9. Mr. McCall is with the S. S. Kresge office in Detroit. Their address is 617 Glenhurst road. Mrs. McCall speaks for the family when she says, "just love it here."

PECK'S
Cash and Carry
Suits, Topcoats, Plain Dresses $1.09
CLEANED and PRESSED
For Delivery Service Phone 230
WOODWARD—NEAR MAPLE

SALVAGE MEMO

TIN CANS—Rinse after using, remove label, open bottom end 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 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.

"A FRIENDLY BANK"
WABEEK STATE BANK OF DETROIT
Bank By Mail!
Save tires, 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

Capital Punishment

"First Woman Out Under 'Lifer' Law" read a headline in The Detroit News a few days ago. The story went on to state that she is the seventh person thus released under this law, which permits parole after ten years for crimes less than first degree murder.

We mention this now as relating to the perennial efforts on the part of some Michigan people who want a capital punishment statute placed on the State's law books, because, they always argue, "life sentence in Michigan generally means only about an average of 13 years imprisonment."

Our whole argument on this subject is simply this: if the people of Michigan really want life imprisonment to mean life imprisonment, an Act of the Legislature is all that is required to make it possible.

That ought to upset the arguments of those who seek capital punishment because "life only means 13 years."

Funny, why those favoring capital punishment for this reason do not oppose pardon for persons, like the woman mentioned in the headline, who is given release after ten years. Her original sentence was "for life," but subject to the milk of human kindness contained in this "lifer law."

That same "milk of human kindness" also works in the cases of many of those sentenced for first degree murder; in the cases of real bad, bad first degree murderers, however, the record shows that very few of them ever are released; most of them die in prison.

However, we suppose that when some bad crime is again committed in Michigan, the cry will sound forth for a capital punishment law—even though the record of States that have such laws shows that a death sentence does not lower the number of such crimes.

CORA H. FARRAR, WELL KNOWN BIRMINGHAM woman who was buried here two weeks ago, was interested in many civic affairs concerning this community. One of her chief avocations was that of English folk dancing, and she accumulated many books and papers on the subject; so the creation of the "Cora Farrar Collection of Folk Art," centering in the Baldwin Public Library, is fitting honor to the memory of a local woman who gave much of her time and energy in reviving this ancient English custom upon American soil.

LOCAL BOYS OF THE ARMED SERVICES WHO HAVE seen action in combat zones get back home occasionally these days, and what adventure stories they have to tell! Take the case of Corp. Harvey Whalen Jr., who saw action on Guadalcanal; he saw plenty of stuff that would make an old-fashioned adventure story of the golden west seem like child's play.

Employment of women in the nation's shipyards has trebled within the past year. Why not? . . . like attracts like, they say, and a boat has always been referred to in the feminine gender.

Drydock Follows Battleships

When war broke out in the Pacific ocean the United States Navy had no repair bases in the South Pacific and consequently our ships had to wage war some six thousand miles from their bases.

This disadvantage is being overcome by the construction of huge floating drydocks, unlike anything that the world has seen before. Rear Admiral Ben Moreel, Navy Engineering Chief, says that three, under construction, will handle battleships, lifting up to 100,000 tons.

An ingenious design permits the construction of the drydocks in sections, each a complete unit. Ten sections will take care of a battleship, seven handle heavy cruisers, the lesser units can be assembled for smaller ships. Floating machine shops will be ready to go along with the leviathans.

The original design for a battleship repair drydock had to be discarded because it was too large to go through the Panama Canal locks. Then the sectional type was devised, with each section having living space inside water-tight hulls for the crews. Each section can be towed and self propulsion machinery can be added if priorities permit.

With 183 new docks planned, including the floating and stationary types, the Navy expects to have facilities wherever the fleet happens to need them. The program involves an expenditure of more than $500,000,000 but as Admiral Moreel points out, the "cheapest and quickest way to build a ship is to repair one already built."

SELECTION OF CHARLES E. LEWIS, of Hawthorne road, Birmingham, as the new chairman of the local OPA War Price & Ration Board, is a good one. He succeeds the first chairman, H. Willard Wedge, of Clayson, whose own job as city manager requires all his time. Mr. Lewis, a lawyer, has served Birmingham in days gone by as a member of the City Commission; he is a loyal American, faithful citizen, and a real gentleman. He will lend further integrity to the Board he now heads. To the others on that Board we say: Congratulations for your own preference for Mr. Lewis.

The Birmingham Eccentric

Published every Thursday, at Birmingham, Mich., in The Eccentric Building, 224-232 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 on Wednesday noon to obtain insertion for that week, except Classifieds—1 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.

People's Column

Tells Uncle Joe To 'Go Lay Down'

Editor, The Eccentric:

For many months your rambling, writing, Uncle Joe' has been playing the same old record over and over in your columns until it has soured. It runs like this —"The strikers are the country's only genuine patriots; all employers are wicked old ogres who ought to be done away with." Just simple labor union propaganda, so why not direct Joe to send his baloney to the labor union journals which wouldn't give him in a lifetime the space you grant him weekly. Maybe your columns wasted on Joe might be better used for more news of the boys in the service, who are making it possible for Joe's buddies to raise more and more hell with the war effort.

Uncle Joe's "buy war bonds" lines, too, are becoming worn. We all buy them, though few boast of it, and we don't consider we are making a sacrifice, the interest return being the best there is around today.

With rationing being applied to so many items today you are justified in limiting Uncle Joe to a letter a month, or better still to one in a lifetime. Your readers deserve punishment, perhaps, but not so much of it. So have a heart, Uncle Joe, and go lay down for the duration.

"UNCLE MOE."

ANOTHER

Editor, The Eccentric:

Perhaps you have forgotten how the bigger industries had a sudden lapse of memory after the last war regarding the promises of work for the fighting men. And if you will recall, the Great White Father in Washington could do nothing to refresh their memory.

This time the union has that same promise in writing and it's now up for renewal. The old wage-and closed-shop football is and always has been kicked around for political agitation, but you will find that now as in the past when the other articles are cleared up the wage and closed shop issue is easily disposed of.

Now we read that Congress is getting up in arms against labor for these work stoppages. Why just labor? Aren't there two sides who are equally guilty? Why not include the other side in the current tongue lashing?

Your old Uncle Joe has a solution as always; I know that labor will agree, but what about the other side? Perhaps they will also agree after the coal controversy is settled.

My idea is compulsory arbitration with an army court martial to face if the order is not fulfilled. When contracts expire, or interpretations of the contract are up for discussion on any infractions by either side are found to exist, if the shop committees can't solve the problem refer it to the army who will have a permanent board in each vicinity.

Summonses will be issued to the heads of both sides to appear at a specified time under an impartial jury. The conference will be called before the strike is called; they will go behind locked doors with nothing to eat and only water to drink until such time as they reach agreement.

This will eliminate this idea of the board going into a huddle after a strike is called and deciding to do nothing until work is resumed and then breaking up immediately after work starts.

It will be argued that this is Government interference with private enterprise but I maintain that when a business reaches the point where its payroll directly affects thousands of families it no longer remains a private enterprise but becomes a vital public interest.

Another vital public interest is that 4 for 3 money the government is issuing at present. Let's all kick in an extra $18.75 this week.

UNCLE JOE.

Uncle Joe says:

If you start the morning with a shot of caffeine, keep going through the day on nicotine, take your regular riboflavin, thiamin, etc., relax in the evening with your alcohol, go to sleep on aspirins and wake up with bromo, you're a dope.

'FIFTY SIX COUPON POINTS' WORTH SO FAR — AND A LESSON TO THEM HOARDERS!'

Happenings of Long Ago

50 YEARS AGO
JUNE 15, 1893

"Just think of it! There will be an old time celebration in Birmingham on July 4, 1893."

"Eulalie might be forgiven for betting on the horse race, as long as she won, but if she continues to smoke cigarettes in public, good-bye to her popularity."

"Evidently the governments of Europe do not share the opinion, so often expressed by some people, that the days of war are over, or they would not, as the latest figures say they do, maintain 22,248,000 soldiers on a war footing."

"The commencement exercises of the graduating class of '93 of our high school will take place next Thursday evening at the M. E. church. There are four persons in the class and the exercises will be plesant indeed. Excellent music will be in attendance, performers both from Detroit and this place to take part. We understand no admission will be charged this year."

20 YEARS AGO
JUNE 15, 1923

Charles Winningham, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Winningham of Bloomfield Hills, returned to his home last week from Culver Military Academy."

"On Tuesday, June 5, at two in the afternoon, Mr. Leroy Weir, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Weir of Brownell street, and Miss Thelma Stoll, of Southfield, were united in marriage at the Southfield U. P. parsonage by the Rev. W. T. Armstrong."

"Last Sunday as usual, Woodward avenue between Detroit and Pontiac was as thick with automobiles as a sugar bowl is with flies."

"Evidently France has taken enough coal out of the Ruhr to kindle a pretty good fire of hatred. If the fire gets too hot, it may be that the French will burn their fingers."

"The school census of School District No. 1 Fractional, the Birmingham Schools, shows a total of 1,278 pupils for the present year. This is an increase of 130 over last year, when the total was 1,148."

5 YEARS AGO
JUNE 16 1938

"Birmingham voters cast 1,105 ballots Tuesday in what proved to be the second largest school election in the local history. As a result, John H. Rosso and Charles S. Kinnison will continue as members of the Board of Education for terms of three years each, and William A. DaLee will remain as a member of the Board for one year completing the unexpired term of the late John S. Black."

"F. H. LaGuardia, Mayor New York City, says: 'Everybody is labor's friend in October. Why it's nauseous to see some of these political cockroaches coming around posing as friends of labor.'"

"Members of the Baldwin High School graduating class attended the funeral of a fellow classmate, Donald Lackie, who drowned in Lower Long Lake, en masse in their caps and gowns."

"Guy W. Jensen was elected president of the Birmingham Exchange Club at the semi-annual election held Tuesday at the Community House. He succeeds J. Howard Wendorph, retiring president."

"These Birmingham youths were graduated from the University of Michigan: Fred H. Schwarzs, Frederick Walter Boynton, Jr., Harry G. McGavran, Walter A. Guthrie, Rowland Parks Bolton, Walter A. Jensen, Michael Foley, and Clayton Eugene Breisford."

"Darling, as I kissed you then, love was born!"

"That's wonderful, dear. But wipe that birthmark off your lips before we go inside."

What's What About Our Men In Service

Navy Awards Him Its 'Wings of Gold'

Robert E. Riecks, 21, son of Mrs. F. C. Riecks of 21300 13-Mile road, Birmingham, won his Navy "Wings of Gold" and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps Reserve last week following completion of the prescribed flight training course at the Naval Air Training Center, Pensacola, Fla.

Prior to entering the Naval service, Lt. Riecks attended Colgate College for three years.

Early in October, 1942, he began preliminary flight training at the Naval Reserve Aviation Base in Squantum, Mass., and successfully completed the course in January before reporting to the "Annapolis of the Air" for intermediate training.

Having been designated a Naval Aviator, Lt. Riecks will go on active duty at one of the Navy's air operational training centers before being assigned to a combat zone.

* * *

FLIGHT TRAINING

STUTTGART, Ark.—2nd Lt. David E. White, Cav. Res., son of Mr. and Mrs. R. K. White, of 639 Puritan road, Birmingham, has just been transferred to the Stuttgart Army Air Force at Stuttgart Ark., where he will undergo the last phase of flight training prior to receiving his wings as a combat pilot.

Prior to becoming a student officer in the Air Corps, Cadet White served with the 14th cavalry at Tucson, Ariz., and the 8th Armored Division at Fort Knox, Ky.

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SEABEES

Men in 1-A with experience in the building or construction trades were advised today to investigate the opportunities offered by the Navy's Construction Battalions, or Seabees, before receipt of their final induction papers.

According to Lieut. Comdr. R. G. Buller, Civil Engineer Corps, Construction Personnel Procurement Officer for this area, men who have received their induction notices no longer are eligible for the Seabees. Only men in 1-A, 3-A, or 4-H may apply forthis service at 370, New Federal Building.

UP A GRADE

Granville E. Hunter, 1308 Eaton road, Berkley, has been promoted from the rank of sergeant to staff sergeant, is was announced today by his commanding officer at the Army Air Forces Basic Flying School, Newport, Ark.

S/Sgt. Hunter joined the Army Air Forces in February, 1941, and helps keep 'em flying now as technical supply clerk.

* * *

HOME ON FURLOUGH

Aviation Cadet Robert Wolfston is spending a week's furlough at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. Warner Wolfston, of Foxcroft.

Cadet Wolfston is attending the Army meteorological school at Grand Rapids. He has brought as his guest Cadet John White of Hollywood, Calif.

* * *

SPECIALIZED TRAINING

Pvt. George A. Sterling is now a cadet in the Army specialized training program and is enrolled in the College of Engineering of the University of Indiana, Bloomington. Prior to this, Cadet Sterling was at the University of Illinois for reclassification following basic training at Medical Corps at Camp Grant, Ill.

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HOSPITAL APPRENTICE

GREAT LAKES, Ill. — Robert Lawrence Garfield, 19, son of Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Lawrence Garfield, 431 Aspen road, Birmingham, was graduated today from the Hospital Corps School at the U. S. Naval Hospital here. One of a class of 531 men, he is now rated as a hospital apprentice, second class.

Graduation terminates a six-weeks course of preliminary training at the Hospital Corps school. Included in the course is the study of anatomy and physiology, hygiene and sanitation, materia-medica and weights and measures, first aid and bandaging, nursing, transportation of casualties and dietetics.

The graduates will continue training at Naval hospitals before being sent to duty at sea or to other shore stations.

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AT J. B. MO.

Pvt. Ralph L. Skinner, Jr., whose parents live at 731 Chester, has arrived at the AAF replacement training center, Jefferson Barracks, Mo. He was employed as a filter engineer by Skinner Purifiers, Inc., and attended Cornell University.

Wm. G. Tracy Graduates at OCS

William Gregory Tracy graduated from Engineer Officer Candidate School, Fort Belvoir, Va., on June 9. He is now a second lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers, Army of the United States. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. R. Tracy, of Goodhue road, Bloomfield Hills.

Lt. Tracy was born on Jan. 15, 1923, and attended Cranbrook School and Cornell University. He entered the Army on Jan. 14, 1943, at Fort Custer. Before entering the service, he was employed by Yellow Truck and Coach as a special student on military vehicles.

Lt. Tracy spent Friday with his parents enroute to his new post at Camp Phillips, Salina, Kan. His wife, the former Helen Tippett, accompanied him to Kansas.

* * *

Classification June 8.

Earl W. Pressel, p; Robert W. H. Barber, p; Arthur E. Greenwald, p; Howard A. Morrison, p; Arnold L. Park, p; Nicholas T. Mitchell, p; Wendover P. Holzworth, p; Keith R. Martell, 2-B; Lloyd V. Dennis, 2-B; Samuel E. White, 2-B; Gibson W. Hainsworth, 2-B; James E. Roundy, 1-A (H) to 3-C (H); William C. Puckett, 4-H to 3-C (H); Clarence V. Gardiner, 4-H to 4-A; John Haynes, 1-A to 1-C.

Paul F. Mathew, 1-A to 4-D; Johnnie Braggs, 3-A; Arthur F. Ritter, 3-A (H); Edward H. Laird, 3-A (H); William D. Sevin, 1-A; William F. Tighe, Jr., vol., 1-A; Harry J. Klingler, Jr., vol., 1-A; Paul C. Nielsen, Jr., 1-A; John W. Crim, vol., 1-A; William J. Follis, vol., 1-A.

WHAT CODE MEANS

The classification code is as follows: 1-A, passed local physical examination, awaiting call for induction in Detroit; 1-C, already in service; P, to take physical; enl., enlisted; vol., volunteer.

2-A, necessary men in civilian activity essential to the nation's health, safety or interest; 2-B, defense workers; 2-C, necessary farmer; 3-A, those with children; 3-C, farmers with dependents; 4-A, those who have completed service; 4-C, aliens; 4-D, divinity students and clergymen; 4-F, unfit; 4-H, 38 years or older. The letter (H) after any classification means are 18 to 45, and not subject to call at this time; 3-D, "hardship" dependency cases.

What Soldiers Don't Want to Hear Listed

The Office of War Information offers these pointers for homefolks writing to soldiers, sailors and marines—based on suggestions gathered in a survey among servicemen at home and overseas, in cooperation with the Special Service Division of the Army Service Forces:

TELL HIM

1. How the family is doing everything possible to help in the war.

2. How anxious the family is for the boy's return.

3. How well and busy the family is. Give details.

4. How the family is getting along financially.

5. What's doing in the community: news about girls (single) he knows, doings of friends, who's marrying whom, exploits of the home team and other sports events, social doings, effects of the war on the home town. Reminisce a little about past events and places the boy used to visit. Enclose clippings from the home-town paper.

DON'T TELL HIM.

1. Your troubles. He has troubles of his own.

2. Your complaints. He can't do anything about them.

3. About things you are deprived of. He can't supply them.

4. Doleful predictions about the future. He's fighting for that future—now.

5. Unnecessary details about financial troubles. If there are things he should know about family finances, and he is in a position to do something about the situation, tell him. But don't string it out.

* * *

Donald L. Russell Will Get Wings

PAMPA ARMY AIR FIELD, PAMPA, Texas.—Soon to receive his silver pilot's wings here at the Army's twin-engine advanced flying school is Aviation Cadet Donald L. Russell, 24, son of Mr. and Mrs. Anderson G. Russell, 1291 Holland avenue, Birmingham, Mich. A graduate of Baldwin High school, Russell was appointed an aviation cadet last September and took his primary flight training at Pine Bluff, Ark., followed by basic at Winfield, Kansas. He is married, his wife now residing at 19197 Greenlawn, Detroit, Mich.

At the climax of his rigid training he will either be assigned to a combat unit or will become an instructor.

* * *

BACK TO WORK

Robert Stites, seaman second class, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Stites, of Bates street, returned Friday morning to Great Lakes Naval Training Station after spending a 9-day leave with his parents. Robert has just completed his boot training at Great Lakes where he has been a swimming instructor.

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ELECTRICIAN

Fred T. Reed, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. F. T. Reed of Elm street, finished his boot training at Great Lakes Naval Training Station and returned home in time to graduate with his class at Baldwin High School. Fred, who is now a second class seaman, enlisted in the Navy on the first of April. Friday evening, his parents held open-house for him, and he left on Sunday to report to Minneapolis for further training in electrical school.

(Continued on Page 4, Part 2)