

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

Many People Think So... (And Some Otherwise)

By Frank E. Bogart

Did you notice the story, published Oct. 7 from General MacArthur's Southwest Pacific headquarters, about the beheading by Japanese of a 23-year-old captive Allied flyer in New Guinea, back in March, as revealed in the diary of a Jap soldier found in the ruins of Salamaua?

The young flyer may have been either American or Australian, but more likely was the former. Yet military censors said they would not reveal which he was, and there is so far a veil drawn around his identity.

This is a situation which should be rectified at once. His identity can and should be made known without delay. It is known, that he was based at Fort Moresby, Australia. And the day his plane was shot down is also known.

In these days when there is strong complaint of the fact that theatrical ballroom is employed by the spy of the home front toward the savagery of our Jap foes, the American Government should find and release all the facts immediately in such a case as this.

What Do You Think? It is far from enough for the State Department to announce that the Japanese officers responsible for this atrocity are being held and will be held responsible for it if they are still alive when the war ends. This young man is fully as great a hero as was Captain Colin Kelly—even more so.

Some may feel that it would be an affront to the family of this young man to publish his name. I cannot agree with that. What do you think—especially those of you who have sons or other relatives facing the Japs today?

For my part, I believe that failure to give publicity and details in such a matter as this only tends to bolster the opinion of those who say—and there ARE some who say it—that all atrocity stories are mere propaganda, not to be believed at all.

Let Youth Tell Us The Detroit Department of Recreation has moved to set up at once 35 "Teen Age Clubs." It is something that seems to be in the right direction concerning the wester of controversy over juvenile delinquency and how it should be dealt with.

It is Youth itself that can best tell the authorities what it thinks

SALVAGE MEMO TIN CANS—Rinse after using, remove label, open bottom end and flatten with foot. Place cans for last City collection day of the month. Keep dry; keep separate from rubbish.

WASTE PAPER—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 engravers' plates and old keys may be left at the library.

NEWSPAPER MAGAZINES—You can donate these to Salvation Army, which will care for them. Phone 4014. Scrap paper wanted.

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No Instant Democracy

It is constantly reiterated that the present war is designed to strengthen the cause of democracy throughout the world. In a sense, this is true, but one should understand that no war can possibly create democratic institutions among people. Our victory can remove from the world the autocratic aggressors and thus protect the development of democracy everywhere. This is about all that can be accomplished by the war.

The vast majority of the people of the world have no conception of democratic government and are without the intelligence and training that is necessary to any effort to establish a democracy. Consequently, neither their experience nor their intelligence will be increased as a result of our warfare.

The easy assumption that all the peoples of the world are clamoring for self-government and waiting the opportunity to establish democratic governments should not mislead us. The devastation of Germany, Italy, and Japan will not, of itself, produce democracy in Africa, India, or South America.

Victory over the Axis will secure the liberty and freedom of the peoples of the United States and Great Britain, encourage the development of democracy that is under way in China and Russia, and lay the foundation of a world order which will foster and permit the unfolding of freedom throughout the world.

Democracy will not spring into being everywhere just because the war is ended with a peace which provides for the security, the welfare, the rights and the freedoms of the common man. Democracy is a growth which must be nourished and supported by the people before it will bloom anywhere.

Paper Civilization

The present civilization of the world can almost be called a paper civilization because of the important role played by this relatively cheap but extremely valuable product.

Not only do newspapers depend upon it, but many other business and commercial products are based upon pulp. This explains the present campaign to urge farmers and others to make an effort to supply pulpwood at the present time.

It is interesting to recall that the Chinese used paper before the beginning of the Christian era and that their basic method of manufacture is followed to this day. The name, of course, comes from the papyrus plant, but its product has been almost entirely supplanted by paper, which was introduced to Europe by the Saracens in Spain.

In 1920 paper products had a value of nearly a billion dollars, with newspaper less than one-tenth of the total. This does not include imported supplies, but refers to industry in the United States.

SOME FOLKS WHO GO TO CHURCH religiously appear to become very complacent, self-satisfied. Having gotten most of what they want from their religious contacts, they manifest evidences of what, in other ways, would be termed plain selfishness. Doesn't religion include "loving thy brother", too?

who set up this column's maiden effort last week: "Friend Editor—Success to your column. Just watch your paper products have geographical errors." A better specimen than that I never did see.

At Detroit Institute Of Arts, Oct. 17-22

The following lectures and exhibitions are scheduled for the coming week at the Detroit Institute of Arts: Sunday, Oct. 17, 4:00 p. m., gallery talk: The Art of Planners; Tuesday, Oct. 19, 8:30 p. m., motion picture: Carnival in Landers; Wednesday, Oct. 20, 8:30 p. m., general lecture of museum collection; Thursday, Oct. 21, 8:30 p. m., lecture: Art in the Italian Theatre of War and After; Friday, Oct. 22, 8:30 p. m., gallery talk: The Ivory Carvers of the Middle Ages; by Francis W. Robinson. Exhibitions: The Artist in Advertising; English Eighteenth Century Art; and French Eighteenth Century Painting.

YOUR TAX-AND BOND-DOLLAR HOW THE GOVERNMENT SPENDS IT (First Half of 1943) About 14% General operations, 12% Social Security, 10% Navy and Army, 8% Merchant vessels, 6% Miscellaneous, 4% War, 2% Unemployment, 1% Post Office, 1% Public Works, 1% Other agencies.

Farm Land Values Rise

There are farmers, living in the area, who have a vivid memory of the evil effects of inflation upon the value of farm lands in 1920-21. The records show that farm land values stood at 103 in 1914, rose to 129 in 1918 and hit 170 in 1920. Nobody knows where they settled in the collapse that followed because in most areas, there was no market for farm lands.

When the present war began the index of farm land values stood at 84. It has moved upward to 102. In the natural course a further increase is expected. Experts wonder where the rise will end.

The rising value of farm lands is based, fundamentally, upon profits made out of farming. Despite what the professional farm leaders and the politicians say, figures reveal that agriculture is making money.

In 1939 the net income of farm operators, after payment of taxes and farming costs, was \$4,500,000. Last year it was \$10,200,000, and this year it is expected to reach \$12,400,000,000.

We do not suggest that it is unwise to buy farm lands, even at their present value. Individuals who know how to manage farming, and have the labor and capital to operate, can probably make money through the purchase of additional farm lands.

It is risky business for a novice and dangerous for anyone operating a farm upon slender capital. To be accepted, what is now owned to gain an equity in twice as much land is a risk to be mortgaged after considerable scrutiny, as many older farmers, who took the venture in 1920, will tell you.

Word from Plato

Plato is given credit for the advice: Do not train boys to learning by force and harshness, but lead them by what amuses them, so that they may better discover the bent of their minds.

The Birmingham Eccentric

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People's Column

Editor's Note: Publication of the above letter has been delayed only because of lack of space. Birmingham, Mich. Sept. 23, 1943. Editor of This and That. What's all this noise about schools not teaching fair dealing and attempting to teach courtesy? And what do you suggest to remedy this situation? Your last week's editorial was similar to the present one. It was exposed to that I have on about what's wrong but fail to suggest a solution.

In the first place, the student is under the influence of formal education for a brief 25 hours per week for 40 weeks while they are under family and other influence 144 hours per week for the 40 and 168 hours for the remaining 12. When Johnnie gets to the thinking age and looks around a bit he finds that papa whom he has always regarded as a superman makes his money by pulling a few shady deals now and then, and mumps does alright when he gets a partner and a few good signals at the bridge table. He then looks at the other side of the picture.

Strictly Fresh

A NEW YORK State Health Department official says the death rate among single men is twice as great as among married men. That's because the married ones learn how to "take it."

The Active Month of October

Calendar for October 1943. OCT 4-11: THE BATTLE OF BANTAMON. OCT 6-19: THE LAST BATTLE OF MANASSAS. OCT 10-19: THE GREAT CHICAGO FIRE. OCT 11-19: THE GREAT CHICAGO FIRE. OCT 12-19: THE GREAT CHICAGO FIRE. OCT 13-19: THE GREAT CHICAGO FIRE. OCT 14-19: THE GREAT CHICAGO FIRE. OCT 15-19: THE GREAT CHICAGO FIRE. OCT 16-19: THE GREAT CHICAGO FIRE. OCT 17-19: THE GREAT CHICAGO FIRE. OCT 18-19: THE GREAT CHICAGO FIRE. OCT 19-19: THE GREAT CHICAGO FIRE.

Happenings of Long Ago

50 Years Ago Oct. 12, 1893. "Beautiful day last Monday. Beautiful weather nowadays." "Our old friend and neighbor Mr. Cooper Pickering made the quickest trip to Chicago and returned Wednesday morning and returned Wednesday night and saw all of the fair he wished." "The party who took a bag full of alternates last Saturday, marked 'H. E. D.' group, got where they had been placed by the owner, had better return them at the office at once. A prompt return of the bag and nuts will make the matter straight. A word to the wise is sufficient."

20 Years Ago Oct. 12, 1923

The annual St. James Fair, held last Saturday afternoon and evening on West Maple avenue, surpassed the previous one by a very great margin, and was a decided success. "The party who took a bag full of alternates last Saturday, marked 'H. E. D.' group, got where they had been placed by the owner, had better return them at the office at once. A prompt return of the bag and nuts will make the matter straight. A word to the wise is sufficient."

5 Years Ago Oct. 13, 1938

"Permission to use various school properties for skating rink this winter was granted by the City Board of Education." "Expenditures in preparation for the 1943-44 school year are in any other year since the World War." "The new transport division of the army took members of the Birmingham club at their weekly meeting Tuesday."

70,000 Acres of State-Owned Land Bring \$261,075

LANSING, Oct. 6.—With recent sales in 14 northern counties netting \$43,000 to be distributed to the local governmental units, the conservation department announced today that since July 1, 1942 it had disposed of 70,000 acres of state-owned land for a total of \$261,075. In addition to the acreage disposed of, the Department has 3,198 planted lots.

THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner

The proper viewpoint may either make or break a picture. It helped in "making" this one. features do not appear the same. The point of view has a great deal to do with the background we get in our picture. Suppose, for example, we are taking a picture of someone on a golf course. If the camera viewpoint is high, that is, if we are shooting down from a ridge, the smooth grass of the course will form the picture background. If, on the other hand, we are down near the hole, we will get a different background will be divided between the golf links and sky. We will have a general landscape scene for a background. Then, if we crouch low and tilt the camera upward toward the subject, we will have a background of three entirely different pictures. The distance between the camera and the subject is also an important consideration in our choice of viewpoint. Much can be done to change the picture by changing the distance between the camera and the subject. As we approach a subject, it becomes much larger in proportion to objects in the background. At the same time, by bringing the camera closer to the subject we can often suppress or eliminate details that are not really part of the picture and do not improve the picture effect. Choice of viewpoint, in fact, gives us a remarkable degree of control over the arrangement of our picture. Be sure you're getting the best viewpoint before you shoot.

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"Special dedication exercises for the new track field at the Percé school will be planned for early spring." "The Birmingham Board of Education determined Tuesday night." "The first edition of the Junior Civic publication of the Baldwin City high school, was published Monday, Oct. 10."