Editorial Page of The Birmingham Eccentric

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

Michigan Mirror

INTERPRETING THE NEWS

By Gene Alleman

There is no way to evade the question. Here it is:

Is it sufficient that Michigan men—perhaps your son or husband—should die on foreign soil in 1944, just as other Michigan men did a quarter century ago, just to vanquish an enemy and to win for ourselves another war?

Michigan people are greatly concerned about tomorrow; many of them are not quite sure what we are fighting for today.

They realize that the time of destiny is nearing, like the ticking of a clock. This heralds the approach of midnight. When the German Luftwaffe is routed from the skies and when the spring rains have ceased and the poppies are flowering once more, the Americans and Canadians and British will unite in a mighty, determined assault upon Hitler's fortress. We have announced to the world that such is to happen.

Translate these words into homeown reality, and you have inevitable casualty list that always does not affect the other family across the street.

Recently we heard an interesting talk by Margaret Bourke-White, the Life photographer who visited the Cassino front in December.

A young woman whose hair is already turning gray, she gave vivid word pictures of the Italian front and the hardships which our American troops are undergoing. She closed with a poignant and unforgettable remark: "Surely, we must have a better world tomorrow to justify such a price."

Well, how about our world of tomorrow? It is a little strange that while we have been concentrating our resources of men and women to make things that may non-productive—for cannons and tanks and the such are intended only to destroy life and wealth of others—we have carved for ourselves a legacy of strife and improved product. Let us consider some of them.

As American lives are being saved today through the use of sulfa and penicillin—the "wonder drugs" that kill infectious germs. American lives will be saved in post-war years by these newly developed pills.

Chemists have developed atabrine, a synthetic substitute for quinine. The army has an influenza serum that is seemingly effective.

In the field of electronics, we will have a portable telephone—The military "walkie-talkie"—over which we can talk from a moving automobile to our home or office. General Electric has perfected a low-priced television tube for home use. Televized programs will be commonplace at theatres during the next decade. Radio is making rapid strides, too. Colleges are looking to frequency modulation as a means of extended adult education.

While the Airplane will never supplant the automobile, it will become more popular as a speedy and safe mode for long-distance travel. Already a Michigan bus company is planning to inaugurate prelecopter service.

The list is far from being complete. It suggests a few of the new benefits—"gasoline" from vegetable products, "rubber" from alcohol, that is made from sawdust, plastic furniture and dehydrated foods and other new wonders all for our world of tomorrow.

But will these wonders, and others like them, be sufficient to balance the cost of the war, as Miss Bourke-White voiced in her report of Cassino?

A quarter of a century ago, we were a lad of 18. We enlisted as a volunteer in our home-town infantry, a national guard unit, and by chance wound up in a position to see the world for democracy.

We well remember the memories of the day when our transport convoy landed in England at Liverpool, our boat docked next to a hospital ship that had just arrived from France, and we witnessed the unloading of wounded men from the troops.

Today, we are again in war. Convoys are again landing in England. Hospital ships are now in port, ready for the front that is soon to come.

Can we win the peace this time? We know now that we did not win World War I. Should not peace be included in our bargain for tomorrow?

In an interview two years ago, Thomas E. Dewey said that the United States might abandon its new-war isolationism and be willing to cooperate with its war Allies in preserving the peace.

Leland Stowe, the war correspondent, in his new book "They Shall Not Sleep," warns that Americans are not prepared to play a role of leadership in the world; that we do not know our world neighbors sufficiently to get along with them; that "we do not know how to listen to our dead."

Stowe says other things that are disturbing, such as his conviction "that the odds are definitely against Americans winning the peace."

To men of the intellectual stature of Dr. Alexander Grant Ruthven, president of the University of Michigan, the answer lies in the field of education. He points out that "the soldiers of a democracy should know for what they are fighting" and that international cooperation cannot be assured by political guaranties, economic nostrums, force, blood-relationships, or fear, but only through knowledge and the resulting mutual understanding."

Bring that idea home to Michigan. According to the 1940 census, the average amount of education—formal knowledge possessed by adults—was 8.6 grades. That is proof to the educator of the imperative need for **continuing** education, through which we may attain a better understanding of our responsibility in a new world. Here is a challenge to the school, church, press and radio!

Just 100 years ago the governor of Michigan, John S. Barry, said in his message to the state legislature: "Universal education is the only sure basis on which republican institutions can permanently exist."

Today, we await the news of fantastic invasion of Europe. We wonder about the world of tomorrow. We ask ourselves, "Shall we win the war, but lose the peace—once more? Have we prepared ourselves sufficiently to win the peace, this time?"

We cannot escape.

What will be our answer?

The average total earnings, including war risk payments, on Liberty ships for offshore voyages were $244.50 per month for ordinary seamen and $775 for masters, exclusive of food and lodging, a recent survey by the Maritime War Emergency Board shows. Under a ruling recently issued by the board, the average will be slightly lower, but the pay on voyages to actual combat areas will be higher.

Com. House Roll Call

Among the most valuable assets in a community like Birmingham and adjacent areas is a central building where various public activities may be carried on. If you were to strip a community of such a place you would, indeed, impoverish it in its ability to carry on even a semblance of contemporary civilization.

Such a place is the Birmingham Community House. Publicly supported, directed by voluntary effort on the part of its citizens, this local institution right now is conducting its annual Roll Call; it seeks to obtain $16,000.00 for ensuing year.

If each of us here, after considering the House's great value to Birmingham and vicinity, really makes suitable contribution, the $16,000.00 goal will be reached with ease.

Starting humbly in a small house 22 years ago, the Community House has grown to such an extent that, in some way or other, it now touches the personal lives of most of our people; it offers the comforts and conveniences of shelter for service clubs, innumerable men's and women's organizations, projects and entertainment for both young and old; its auditorium is filled many times yearly with sponsored musical and educational programs; it participates in activities to help the indigent, it operates an employment office—it has done all these things for years during peace times, and, now that we are at war, beneath its friendly roof are carried on many volunteer projects intimately tied in with winning victory.

While this Roll Call is going on, either by mail or personal contact, you will be asked to subscribe to the support of the Community House. Most of you already know its great value so we suggest that you act upon that current good impulse and reveal it through a contribution.

The Birmingham Community House is called "The Heart of Birmingham." In more ways than one, that slogan fits the case.

You are a part of Birmingham, aren't you? . . . Then this institution really is yours . . . use it often, and in the using feel that you have contributed your portion of its annual cost of maintenance. Make out that check NOW!

You Owe Plenty

If you are not aware of the tremendous "stake" that the United States has in world affairs, just compare your individual portion of the nation's public federal debt, as of pre-war and last fall.

Before Pearl Harbor the per capita debt of our people was $293.00; as of last fall it had risen to $935.00. Before the war Britain's per capita debt was $107.00, and last fall it was $164.00. Other nations were much less than the U. S. A.

All of which merely suggests that this nation is pouring out its manpower and physical resources far beyond that of any other Ally—which brings up the natural question: Can the U. S. A. ever again remain isolated from the rest of the earth?

To that question, we think, there should be a thunderous NO!

Conserve Our Trees

One of the most valuable assets to any community are its trees.

Birmingham still has lots of beautiful maples, elms, and oaks, plus other kinds of shade-producing, water-holding, and ornamental trees. They ought to be cared for and retained, wherever possible. Once cut down years must pass before they can be replaced.

Once Woodward avenue was lined with very large and beautiful trees, trees that had been generations in growing. Came along the fateful slogan of the 1920's: "Everything must give way to progress." So the trees were cut down when Woodward avenue was widened.

From time to time the City Commission authorizes the cutting down of trees, here and there; the latest large cutting was around Baldwin Public Library.

We know that the Commission is mindful of the value of trees, and we trust that it will conserve every tree still standing, unless logical reason is manifest for removing some of them. Local citizens, especially members of the Women's Garden Club, are zealous guardians of our trees, which they should be, of course; last week a group of them appeared before the Commission on behalf of tree conservation. They seek to have the City revise and correlate its various ordinances covering the subject of trees, which seems to us a wise plan.

THE SPIRIT OF EASTER, like that of Christmas, is more than a mere physical observance. It is a symbol, a goal for attainment in human relations of friendliness, tolerance, sacrifice, Good Samaritanism. Unless exemplified by people most of the remainder of each year, Easter and Christmas are mere pagan ceremonies, don't you think?

CITY COMMISSIONER RAY A. PALMER has been selected by his fellow Commissioners to succeed John E. Martz as Mayor of Birmingham for the next year. Mr. Palmer has given lots of time to local public service; his present honor is fitting reward that he may enjoy and grace it is the hope of his townsmen.

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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
April 19, 1894

"Mr. H. W. Booth and family now occupy the O. W. Hewitt homestead."

"Go and take your children to the illustrated World's Fair lecture at Library Hall, Sunday next. All are welcome."

"Eleven new applications for water have been received the past week by F. W. Blair, village clerk. Our water works system is second to none in the state and our water supply is the purest and best in the earth."

"A good orchestra will furnish music for all who wish to dance next Tuesday evening at Library Hall, after the play."

"A new married couple visited with their aunt, Mrs. George Shaim, Mr. and Mrs. Will Tinham, of Northville, Mich. They were on their way to Buffalo, N. Y., where the honeymoon is to be passed and a finer, happier couple we have never gazed upon."

"Miss Alice Hagerman is rapidly developing herself into a crayon artist and winning much praise in this new line. She has just finished life size portraits of Mr. Joseph Wood, M. E. Taber and Mrs. John Hagerman and in each and every instance complete satisfaction has been given."

20 YEARS AGO
April 18, 1924

"Some very important changes on the City Delivery Service from the Birmingham Postoffice are announced by Postmaster Cobb this week."

"Attracted by screams, while on West Maple avenue near the ravine last Thursday, Vernelle Ward rushed to the source of the cries in time to save three-year-old Bruce Corson, who had fallen in the fish pond on the rear of the Clisbe property at the foot of Willetts street hill. Disregarding the peril Vernelle, who is the four-teen-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. William Ward of Ecco City, plunged into the water and dragged the child to safety."

"According to blue prints furnished to the village manager by Quinton Estes Estates, owners of a large Birmingham subdivision, plan an immediate outlay of $25,000 for water main and paving extensions."

"A number of people have been reprimanded by local police during the past week for violation of the new demands made known on the traffic signs placed about the center of the town, according to information given out by Justice Buck."

5 YEARS AGO
April 20, 1939

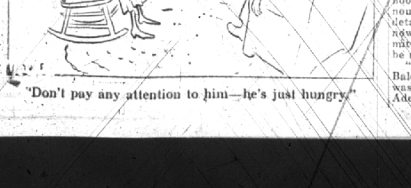
"The Rev. Charles H. Cadigan will leave Bloomfield Hills today from Amherst, Mass., and will preach his first sermon as Rector of Christ Church Cranbrook on Sunday, April 23, at 11 a. m."

"A request to the City Commissioner for a recreation program for Birmingham was contained in a letter from the Birmingham Council of Parent Teachers Associations, received by the Commission Monday evening at its regular session."

"Dedication of Pierce Field track is being planned for Friday afternoon, May 5 according to an announcement made this week and details of the program which are now being completed by a committee from the high school will be released in the near future."

"A change in the policy of the Baldwin Library, effective at once was announced this week by Miss Adeline Cooke, Librarian."

TICKLERS by HAYES



"Don't pay any attention to him—he's just hungry."

Village Sets High Record for Paper

Bloomfield Village set a new high record in paper salvage in connection with its monthly collection for April according to reports from the Good Will, received by Mrs. H. G. Gassaway, village salvage chairman. The collection required two and a half days to complete instead of the usual one day, and yielded eight tons of paper and three tons of used clothing.

Mrs. Gassaway reports this a per capita collection of slightly over 20 pounds. The national average, she states, is about 10 pounds per person per month.

Dates for the May collection have been set for May 2 and 3 and Village residents are again asked to leave their paper in their open garages if they are to be away from home on the collection days.

What Your School Board Is Doing . . .

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was held Tuesday, April 18th, at 8:30 p.m.

The following motions carried:

Purchase of shrubs for the east side of the Baldwin tennis courts.

Balance of McAlpine bill allowed.

Quotations to be obtained for the annual audit.

Registration notices for the annual election to be posted.

The appointment of Florence Ackerly, Georgianna Tuck, Laureta Wade, and Joy Heath as teachers in the Birmingham Public Schools rescinded.

The appointment of Alma Weston and Irene Malik as teachers in the Birmingham Public Schools for the year 1944-45 approved.

Salary adjustments approved.

Dismissal of school on Decoration Day, May 30, approved.

Mr. Rossd was authorized to publish notice of redemption of bonds in the Michigan Investor.

Bills in the amount of $9,239.18 confirmed.

Accounts payable in the amount of $3,954.77 authorized.

Requisitions in the amount of 3,778.93 approved for purchase.

ERNEST W. SEAHOLM,
Secretary.

Strictly Fresh

SOVIET education is now teaching that capitalism is a "progressive" instead of a "backward" system. Apparently Stalin's policies, too, have contracted a touch of three R's disease: revision, revision, and revision.

* * *

Civilian shoe production for 1944 has been cut from 360 to 324 million pairs. It seems we will have to wait until more leather comes from hiding.

* * *

Headline: President Again Works in Study. Evidently there is a Brown Room as well as a Blue Room in the White House.

* * *

Cigars for civilians have been cut 32,000,000 monthly. The new move, while it leaves no it's or and's, sets a new record for butts.

* * *

News that the Army will go on drafting replacements even though the 7,700,000 goal has been reached has a bright side for the timid. A report states that wartime Britain's highway accident toll exceeds her battle casualties by 200,000.

RATIONING AT A GLANCE

Meats, Fats—Red stamps A8 through M8 are good indefinitely.

Processed Foods—Blue stamps A8 through K8, good indefinitely.

Sugar—Sugar stamps 30 and 31, each good for five pounds indefinitely. Sugar stamp 40, good for five pounds of canning sugar through February, next year.

Gasoline—In 17 East Coast states A-9 coupons, good through May 8. In other states A-11 coupons, good through June 21.

Fuel Oil—Periods 4 and 5 coupons, good through August 31.

Shoes—Stamp 18 in Book One, good through April 30. Airplane stamp 1 in Book Three, good indefinitely. Airplane stamp 2 becomes good May 1 and remains good indefinitely.

American service men in teadrinking Britain are getting fresh, tasty coffee every day, thanks to by trained experts of the Quartermaster Corps who blend and roast it, the War Department says.

IT'S TRUE!

Paper must be used to keep naval shells unmarred for accuracy in firing at our enemies . . . And waste paper reserves are the lowest of any vital war material!

SAVE WASTE PAPER

SAVE

U. S. Victory
WASTE PAPER Campaign

Well—

Oakland County Plays Large Part In The Making and Distribution of War Relief Supplies To Thirty Countries

Medical, hospital and surgical supplies, clothing and other relief items valued at more than $79,000,000 have been distributed to war victims in 30 nations through the American Red Cross. These articles have gone to 35,000,000 persons all over the world.

"We have about 50 Red Cross workrooms in Oakland county," reports Mrs. O. W. Kay of Pleasant Ridge who is Production chairman for the county. Mrs. Kay further states that in 1943 the 3,000 volunteer workers in the county have knitted 570 garments and sewed 11,329 garments. They have filled 3,000 kit bags for soldiers and marines embarking for foreign duty. Red Cross workers stand on the dock as a troop ship departs and give these kit bags to the soldiers. Five thousand hospital comfort items including convalescent robes, bedroom slippers, pneumbre pillows and cases, bedside bags, bed shirts, card table covers, hot water bottle covers, bed pan covers and afghans have been made in this county during the past year; also 9,000 knitted articles have been sent to the armed forces.

In addition to this 1,525,689 surgical dressings have been made.

The first foreign war relief quota was given Oakland county in 1939. Five workrooms were established then and fifty dresses for women and children were made. In 1940 80 sweaters were knitted.

Supplies, shipped from Oakland county Red Cross chapter are a part of shares produced and donated by this county as estimated value of $12,000,000 when were sent abroad last year. Other sources of supplies include provisions from United States government and direct expenditure from Red Cross funds.

"A steady flow of relief supplies has been maintained," says Mrs. Kay, "in spite of difficulties of transportation, procurement of supplies and the changing situation, following the entry of the United States into the war. Additions and victory population have had first priority on supplies." Medical supplies and clothing have been a large share of the materials shipped.

Junior Red Cross members have participated in this program by meeting their production quota supervised and completed in school rooms.

More than 53 per cent of synthetic Atabrine available in the United States in 1944 will be allocated to U. S. civilians the War Food Administration says, while 18 per cent will go to U. S. military services and 11 per cent to our allies. Because the U. S. serviceman gets most of his vitamins from natural foods, we do not require great quantities of synthetic vitamins.

THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner

Pictures of the neighborhood children will bring home a bit closer to those in the Service.

HAVE you ever thought of taking pictures of neighborhood youngsters to send to those in the Service? There is an idea worth some thought and planning.

Another GI or Sister Sue in the Service probably knows all of them and would get a real kick out of a few snaps showing their youthful activities.

The possibilities for such pictures are really unlimited. For example, a picture of the youngsters on their bikes, lined up for a "V-for-Victory" formation, would be exciting away from the ordinary group picture of boys and girls standing in a row. And don't forget to include the little tots with their tricycles, who are really try to keep up with those old enough to pass them on bicycles.

You can also plan a tug-of-war between the girls and boys of the neighborhood. Very little action or movement is required to get a picture of this, too, because both sides can assume patient positions and "hold it" so that even with a box type camera you can get a good action picture.

There are many suggestions for outdoor pictures but there are many others and we don't, with a little thought, you can visualize better ones.

You will want to get several pictures to send to Jerry in the Navy, Mom and Dad in the Army, Sis and Sue in the Marines, Sis and Sue