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

Newsworthy quotations from Michigan people in the news:

"I find much unfinished work ahead."—**Vernon J. Brown**, state auditor general, vigorous at 70, dispelling rumors of retirement from state service. "If it be the will of the Republican nominating convention and the voters of Michigan, I shall put aside all thought of retirement from office of auditor general for at least another two-year term."

"Draft boards fail to realize that if they sent all their men of draft age to pre-induction examinations, close to half of them would be rejected, so the draft is cutting in as deep as some people fears."—**Brig. Gen. LeRoy Pearson**, state director of selective service commenting on the 1944 draft of pre-Pearl Harbor fathers.

"Until a few years ago, it was necessary to get the farmer out of the mud. These needs have largely been met. Today's need is to get the motorist out of the urban traffic jam."—**Mayor Jeffries** of Detroit in appeal for federal funds to acquire Detroit right-of-way.

"It would be political suicide for a Nebraska candidate to advocate state aid for local governments (such as you have in Michigan. It just doesn't exist in Nebraska."—**Gov. Dwight Griswold** of Nebraska during a visit to Michigan.

"This life is not conducive to the health, morality and normal routine of existence."—Winning appeal of **Detroit Federation of Musicians** (AFL) for two weeks' annual vacation to bandmen at strip-tease burlesque theatres.

"Republicans opposed to bossism will have better than an even chance in the state convention at Detroit, April 20, to accomplish the retirement of Frank D. McKay as national committeeman."—**John A. Wagner**, Battle Creek, chairman of anti-McKay forces.

"Today, the Republican voters want Dewey. Their voice must guide the convention."—**Gov. Harry F. Kelly**, chairman of the Michigan delegation to the national convention.

"I want to get my feet on the concrete before I do any talking."—**Dr. William DeKleine**, Michigan's new health commissioner who was former national director of the American Red Cross.

"You mustn't sell the hide until you've shot the bear."—**Lt. Gen. William S. Knudsen** warning that the war is far from won.

"Any shrewd politician knows that Willkie and Vandenberg could not have carried Michigan in '40 but for my help."—**Gerald L. K. Smith**, Detroit, organizer and director of "America First."

"We already have indications that postwar cars will cost around 25 per cent more than when we stopped making cars two years ago."—**George T. Christopher**, president, Packard Motor company, Detroit.

"We are trying to foresee as best we can what the problems of the future are likely to be and to reformulate a common, overall objective."—**Dr. John A. Hannah**, president, Michigan State College, explaining the college's new program for two-year general education prior to specialization.

"Two weeks ago I was sure I would run for governor. Today I am not sure. I have made a further appraisal of the situation and of my strength as a candidate for governor is not as great as I had hoped for."—**Dr. Eugene C. Keyes**, lieutenant governor.

"Fines may be an advisable method of warning, but not as a punishment."—**Brig. Gen. Louis A. Kunzig**, new business manager of the Michigan state liquor control commission urging outright suspension of licenses as an effective enforcement weapon.

"Few persons can distinguish one beer from another, either by taste or effect."—**William Lev**, president, Michigan Brewers' association, commenting on an analysis showing that five popular brews contained only 2.84 per cent alcohol by weight.

Other thought-provoking quotations, gleaned from the Michigan press:

"The way you are spending money foolishly today is a shame and a disgrace. Not only are most of you now wasting money, but you are almost convincing your friends that you are unworthy to have good wages."—**Roger Babson**, economist, in statement to Negro population.

"A secret is something that everybody knows but that the small-town newspaper can't publish."—Loyal (Wis.) Tribune.

"I consider any fur coat a luxury."—Eleanor Roosevelt.

"Juvenile delinquency is when little kids start acting like their fathers."—Duffy's Tavern on radio.

"Associated Press announces that Truk is properly pronounced 'Trook.' This may convince some people, but not the truck-drivers."—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

"The man who has to tell a dirty story to get a laugh isn't a humorist."—**Joe E. Brown**, addressing Marine group in South Pacific.

"We are not fighting for democracy except our own."—**Senator Robert A. Taft**, Ohio.

"The American economic system of completely free competition has about as much chance of, regretfully remembered by all present, all returned home."

"Geo. H. Mitchell has been appointed postmaster at Birmingham. How the democrats will take the appointment of Mr. Mitchell it is difficult to say, but likely there will be some disappointments."

"High and lofty kicking by so-called ladies at a Beddow party the other week is the latest amusement for social gatherings. Some people must be ignorant of the laws of etiquette and common decency which should be taught by their loving mamas. Oh girls, for shame, put on sackcloth and sit in ashes for three days."

"The annual meeting of the Cemetery Society will be held at the library room Saturday, April 7, at 3 p. m. All persons interested are requested to be present."

20 YEARS AGO
April 4, 1924

"All reservations are made and all plans and itineraries completed for the Senior Washington Group and their party to leave Saturday noon, April 12."

"Robert K. McClellan of Harmon avenue, well-known Birmingham business man, was appointed Monday night to the somewhat stupendous task of raising the assessed valuation of Birmingham property from a little over five million dollars to an amount approximating $7,200,000."

"Chief Anderson of the police department warns Birmingham residents that their chickens must be kept off the streets, and should be locked up to prevent their roaming abroad."

"For the first time this season the American Association of University Women will hold an open meeting next Wednesday evening in the senior session room of the high school."

"A movement was started Monday evening to inaugurate into the Masonic circles where a De Molay chapter, a junior Masonic order for boys between the ages of sixteen and twenty-one years."

5 YEARS AGO
April 5, 1939

"A landmark, of 34 years, the drug store of Charles J. Shain on the corner of West Maple avenue and Pierce street was damaged by flames Tuesday afternoon in a fire which for a time threatened a portion of the business district and caused an estimated damage of approximately $5,000."

"With its goal set at $12,000, the Birmingham Community House is completing its organization for the annual Roll Call, which will begin April 14 and continue through April 24."

A "superior" or first division rating for Class B schools was given to the Baldwin high school band at the sixth annual band and orchestra festival, sponsored by the Southeastern Michigan Band and Orchestra Association Saturday."

"Ray H. Bechtold, principal of the Baldwin high school, was elected president of the Birmingham Rotary Club Tuesday noon, at a meeting of the directors, who had been elected at the Club's meeting Monday."

"The city of Bloomfield Hills re-elected its three commissioners without contest, and indicated a definite Republican choice of candidates for state office."

MICHIGAN LAKES

With more than two square miles of fresh water for every three square miles of land, Michigan may claim a greater proportion of fresh water to land than any other state, province or country in the world. Michigan has almost four times as long a shoreline on the Great Lakes as any other state.

The American Red Cross shipped enough coffee overseas during the last twelve months to brew 183,000,000 cups for free distribution to servicemen.

establishing after the war as the old high-wheeled bicycle."—**Stuart Chase**, economist.

"My boy, that's all you can do."—**Dr. S. Parkes Cadman** in reply to question from young man: "Can I lead a good Christian life in New York City on $15 a week?"

Happenings of Long Ago

50 YEARS AGO
April 5, 1894

"A good dramatic play under the L. L. A. is the next social event."

"What's the matter now? What's going on? etc., seemed to be the inquiry last Friday afternoon as several well filled carriages were seen going in a direction leading to the home of Mr. and Mrs. S. T. Boyd where her class was most cordially entertained. After spending an evening's enjoyment with their teacher which will long be

"Who is it?"

$7,761 To Rear A Child

Insurance company statisticians figure that it costs $7,761.87 to rear a child from birth to eighteen years of age, if the family has an income of about $2500.00 a year. The calculation is based on 1935-36 price levels.

The item for clothing and shelter, $3,357.33, represents the largest expense, being followed by food, $2,271.88, and the family automobile makes transportation and recreation the third item, $1,126.80.

The computations are based on the expenditures of the family, with one-fifth of the total charged to the growing child. Other items include $296.84 for medical care and $82.50 for education. These figures should be considered while taking into account the services provided by the community for which there is no direct charge. Plainly, in regard to education, the family expense covers only incidental costs.

Like all figures, the calculations listed above will vary considerably in families, having about the same income. Naturally, for those with larger or smaller incomes, there will be greater fluctuations.

F.D.R. vs. Congress

In his handling of most domestic problems, President Roosevelt has shown a decided tendency to operate with little personal concern for the thoughts and feelings of Congress itself. Indeed, his attitude for many months suggests that he and his personal advisors believe themselves to be above Congressional controls. His recent veto of the tax bill, and Congress' revolt and subsequent passage of that same bill over Presidential veto, prove that FDR holds himself above representative government.

Can one, then, believe that the White House will do any different in handling international post-war problems?

Congress, many times, has stated that it knows very little about what commitments FDR has made for the United States, in his conversations with Churchill, Stalin, and Kai-shek. In this he appears to be playing something of the unsuccessful game of Woodrow Wilson.

We believe that Mr. Roosevelt is a tired man, indeed, what he has gone through in 11 years would tire several ordinary men. That may account for some of his superiority complex.

He ought to retire December 31, 1944.

For, from now on, we think he is Presidentially living on borrowed political time.

ALREADY THE ALLIES ARE MANEUVERING for post-war strength in any League of Nations setup that might be created. That's why Russia plans to create 16 sovereign States within its boundaries. Only goes to show that the value and strength of numbers still obtains. One nation still fears the other.

BECAUSE A FEW LOCAL MEN AND WOMEN decided that opening the Barnum swimming pool would be a fine community activity, and because enough others have joined in the financial support of the project, the pool was opened this week. Thus, you observe, how self-government works. Want better days? . . . then work for them.

Onward Christian Soldiers

Quentin Reynolds, in his latest book, "The Curtain Rises," tells about some of the horrors of warfare, and Orville Prescott, in reviewing the book, has this to say:

"Anyone who is not yet convinced that German atrocities are calculated and well planned should be forced to read these pages. Only three buildings were left standing in Vyazma and they were all mined with time bombs.

"The torture, murder, rape, massacre, starvation and enforced slavery that the Germans inflicted upon the martyred town should answer anyone's doubts.

"It is not just the Nazi chieftains who are responsible for German atrocities. The German army from private to general is equally to blame. Quoting the author: 'Vyazma was a city of 60,000 inhabitants. It was 500 years old. Vyazma was killed by the Germans in March, 1943. At the time of the death only 416 citizens of Vyazma were left'."

Commenting upon the above, Alexandre H. S. deHond, writes the New York Times: "After such horror ye the people are asked to a call of repentence by twenty-eight benign clergymen for the bombing of German cities. There was a time when, as a boy at Sunday School, I was asked to pray and fight with all my might a certain nefarious influence by the name of Satan. Onward Christian Soldiers."

YOU HAVE READ THAT OAKLAND COUNTY WILL vote for five representatives for the State Legislature this fall, instead of the two for some years past. Total population of the District Birmingham is now in is 44,813; with this city the largest single unit. Will Birmingham or adjacent territory now come forth with a candidate?

HARRY COHN, PRESIDENT OF COLUMBIA STUDIOS, is reported by Jimmy Fidler to have been the only sizable Hollywood producer who had courage to withstand the predatory demands of racketeer Willie Bioff, who mulcted millions from many producers under threat of making union troubles for them. Cohn ought to win some kind of an "Oscar" for his Americanism.

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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.

People's Column

Lansing, Mich.

To the Editor:

The Department of Conservation has in recent months received many letters requesting questions relative to the Department's plans and policies in the acquisition of lands within the Southeastern Michigan Recreation Area. Believing that the people living in or near the area are entitled to know what the Department has in mind, I am setting forth in this letter a statement of such policies and trust that you will help us and your readers by publishing this letter, or at least excerpts from it.

The Conservation Department has been buying lands for many years, and particularly within the last few years has purchased thousands of acres within areas in the southern part of the Lower Peninsula. The policies set forth herein have been formulated as a result of this experience.

In selecting the Southeastern Michigan areas, the Conservation Department chose areas within which the lands for the most part are better suited for recreation than for agriculture. The purchase boundaries were set on the basis of land character and use without knowledge of the ownership pattern. They are not fixed, but flexible, and subject to change. Adjustments can readily be made where a boundary line may bisect a property, in which case purchase of a part of the property may destroy its usefulness to the owner.

Following a policy of proper land use, land whose best use is in agriculture will not be acquired except in exceptional circumstances. Private recreation uses and ownerships, such as summer cottages, boys' and girls' summer camps, bathing beaches, golf courses and riding stables, will not be disturbed except where such private holdings might seriously interfere with the intensive development of an individual purchase.

In purchasing the land the Department has always proceeded on the basis of negotiation with the owner after a careful appraisal of the property by an experienced appraiser. It has set no price ceilings or standards but expects to pay what the property is reasonably worth, considering all the circumstances. On the other hand, it does not propose to pay unreasonable prices and will resort to condemnation if that should prove necessary. As evidence of the Department's desire and ability to purchase by negotiation, it can be stated that only twice in its history of thousands of land purchases, involving hundreds of thousands of acres of land, has the Department resorted to condemnation.

Where land is to be purchased which is occupied by people who have lived there for a long period of years and who desire to remain there for the rest of their days, it is the policy of the Department to provide such persons with lifetime leases and permit them to remain there.

It is quite true that lands acquired by the State are not subject to taxation and that the ten cents per acre payment required under the statutes in lieu of taxes will not compensate for the loss of tax revenue to local governmental units. However, judging from experiences of a similar nature in this state and other states as well, it is our belief that values of private property adjacent to state owned areas will greatly increase. Too, there should be some reduction in school and road costs as well as increased revenues to local residents and businessmen through providing food, lodging, and other services to recreationists. We feel also, that the stabilizing effect that purchases and dedications of this character has on adjacent real estate is going to be of material benefit to that property.

The above may not answer every question that may be asked. In fact, I am sure it does not. However, I believe it will answer the more perplexing ones, and I trust it will assure residents of the area that it is the desire of the Department to be just and reasonable in its operations.

Very truly yours,

P. J. HOFFMASTER,
Director of Conservation.

Detroit Edison Heads Are All Reelected

At the annual meeting of stockholders of the Detroit Edison Company three of the present directors were re-elected to succeed themselves for three-year terms, Messrs. Alfred C. Marshall, president of the company, James W. Parker, its vice-president and general manager, and James F. Fogarty.

President Marshall stated that more than 84 per cent of the stock was represented at the meeting and was voted favorably, a higher percentage of representation than at any time in recent years.

A regular quarterly dividend of 30 cents per share was declared, payable April 15, to stockholders of record March 31, 1944.

All of the present officers of the company were reelected or reappointed with but two changes. Mr. James H. Lobban was appointed General Accountant and Mr. Thomas E. Burns, Assistant General Accountant.

Prepare broccoli in a souffle, or serve with a hollandaise sauce. Every part of broccoli is edible—stems, leaves, and flowen clusters.

Taking Drastic Measures

Fats Collection Sets New Record

Oakland county stood third in the list of Michigan counties which exceeded their household fats collections for February, with a collection of 139.4 per cent of its quota, according to figures just released by the Michigan headquarters in connection with the observance of Michigan War Week.

Michigan used household fats collections for February totaled 85.3 per cent of quota, compared with 85.7 per cent in January, according to tabulations. Based on reports of rendering companies, collections amounted to 720,426 pounds for the state.

Collection figures show 23 counties exceeded their quota. For the second month Washtenaw led the procession with 174.5 per cent of quota. Other leading counties included Macomb, 145.4 per cent; Oakland, 139.4 per cent; Mason, 133.9 per cent; Van Buren, 133.2 per cent; Berry, 129.7 per cent; Livingston, 127.9 per cent; Cass, 126.4 per cent; Kent, 120.3 per cent; St. Joseph, 117 per cent; Muskegon, 116.7 per cent; Barron, 112.1 per cent, and Ingham, 101.5 per cent.

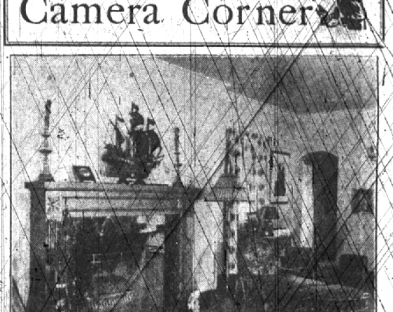
The "fine record was marred by some of the more populous counties, where collections were slightly lower during the month," the report states. "Wayne county experienced a five per cent drop, obtaining 75 per cent of its quota. Genesee county had 74.7 per cent of quota."

TREASURES

I love the trees,
And wild flowers blooming on a hill,
The gold of a day begun and its end,
Robins and blackbirds chipper and peal,
The call of a vagrant whip-poor-will,
The wild things that live in the brush,
Sunset turning a lake to gold,
The sound of an early morning breeze
Through tall oak trees,
The grandeur and hush of night,
Children content to play,
The comradeship of friends,
A gallery of paintings, a beautiful song,
White snow covering hill and plain;
These things over and over again.

—Beatrice McDonald

THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner



Interiors are not difficult to take. Why not make a picture of your soldier's favorite lounging spot and have an extra print made to send along to him.

AMATEURS are doing an excellent job of keeping those in the Service supplied with snapshots from home. Most of these pictures, however, are snaps of the family, relatives or friends. That is fine. But the boys and girls also like to receive pictures that show them the homes themselves where they lived before going into the Service. To complete the story, then, you should take some shots of home interiors.

Under ordinary conditions hand or flash lamps would be used for illumination in taking pictures of home interiors, but, as it is quite difficult to buy these lamps, due to their scarcity you might as well use a simpler method.

Without the aid of flash or flood lamps it is better to rely entirely upon daylight coming through the windows, and supplement it where necessary with a reflector. For instance, if a room has a rather dark corner, you can usually brighten the corner by having someone stand just outside the camera range and hold a large white cloth, or piece of cardboard, so that it throws the light in that direction. Or, better still, you might use a 100 watt or 200 watt home-type light as an inexpensive reflector or bridge lamp. Exposure for interior pictures depends upon the illumination, type of film, film aperture, and the subject characteristics of the room. A room containing dark carpets, furniture, and woodwork will require a longer exposure than one which is generally light in tone. For an interior with medium colored walls and furnishings and two windows, make an exposure of four to five seconds.

If you are using very fast film and the sun is shining, with the less aperture set at f/16, with slower type film the exposure time should be doubled.

One important things to get in pictures that should be room by Corp. Bill know it when he sent into the Service. So, for an outside leave the furniture in its usual place. You probably won't be able to include the whole room in your picture but you can get parts of it with each picture you shoot.

Whenever possible have enough your square between the legs and the nearest piece of furniture so that nothing but the floor can be seen in the immediate foreground. The reason for this is that any object which is very close to the camera will appear much larger in comparison with objects that are farther away.

Of course, when you are making a time exposure you must have a tripod or support for your camera. A tripod is best, but because it can be set up different heights and in nearly unused room may prove to be another, a small table, however, will serve the purpose.

Space will not permit going into further details regarding interior snapshots, but you will find photography books at dealers and in libraries which will help you.

Give those in the Service a lift by sending pictures of home interiors.

John van Gulder

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, SCRAP PAPER—Pick up of these may be arranged for by calling the Salvage Desk at the Municipal Building, Phone 1230, between the hours of 9 and 12 o'clock, Mondays through Fridays. Regular city curb pickup first Friday of each month.

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