

Editorial Page of The Birmingham Eccentric

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 1944

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



By GENE ALLEMAN

SAULT STE. MARIE—Here at one of the oldest and most famous cities of North America, Sault Ste. Marie presents today—announced 1944—a convincing and powerful argument that the day of American military isolationism from Europe is forever gone.

On his desk was a small globe. Colonel Nelson picked it up. He pointed to Sault Ste. Marie. "Here is the most direct route from Europe to the United States," he said.

Returning to Sault Ste. Marie after a year's absence, this reporter was newly impressed with the strategic importance of this town of 13,000 souls along the St. Mary's river between Canada and the United States.

It was our privileged, one year ago, to inspect the army air defense headquarters here at the Sault. Then the military raids across the northern circle from Europe was a military reality.

WASTE PAPER—Pick-ups of these may be arranged for by calling the Salvage Desk, at the Municipal Building, phone 1230 between the hours of 8 and 5 o'clock Mondays through Fridays.

NEWSPAPERS, M.A.G.A.ZINES, SCRAP PAPER—Pick-ups of these may be arranged for by calling the Salvage Desk, at the Municipal Building, phone 1230 between the hours of 8 and 5 o'clock Mondays through Fridays.

Pay By Check! Cancelled checks afford the safety of a receipt for each bill paid—and your check stubs detail each expenditure.

WABECK STATE BANK OF DETROIT BIRMINGHAM OFFICE—WABECK BUILDING

The Gas Franchise Next Tuesday, August 15, electors of Birmingham will hold a special election to determine whether or not they wish to grant the Consumers Power Co. an exclusive franchise to operate a new 30-year franchise to be approved, three-fifths of those voting must be for it.

This proposed franchise has been scrutinized carefully by the City Commission, by the Birmingham Real Estate Board, and others, and has met with their approval.

This election, if approved, does not give the Consumers Power Co. an exclusive franchise; another company could come in later, if the voters so approve at an election.

A public utility seeks such a franchise for the purpose of conducting long-term viewpoint of community's needs and providing it with stability so that it can borrow money, make physical plant investments.

An Effort To Be Made income in the first five months of 1944 totaled \$2,181,000,000, as contrasted with \$2,143,000,000 in the first five months of 1939.

The fact is that the nation, under the necessity of warfare, has greatly increased the amount of money to be distributed among the people of this country.

Old-line economists find the query disconcerting and unanswerable. It is plain, clear whether anybody can satisfactorily explain the process or devise a plan to produce similar results in what mankind terms normal years.

NO CIRCUS EVER LIVED UP TO THE THEME OF ITS posters. No politician ever performed, while in office, what he promised before he got in.

Happenings of Long Ago August 16, 1894 "Sixty Birmingham" camped at Pine Lake and all happy."

50 YEARS AGO August 10, 1894 "Mention that the omission of Bill Galt, a Birmingham youth who is leader of a band on a Great Lakes steamer that plies between Chicago, Duluth, and Georgian Bay, for a Carnegie medal because he risked his life to save a colored boy from drowning at Mackinac Island a few weeks ago, was made in an editorial published in the Birmingham Daily campus newspaper published at Ann Arbor on August 10, 1894."

25 YEARS AGO August 15 Effective today, the new village ordinance prohibiting the burning of homes, or burning of rubbish, was put in effect. The fire limits, is affixed to Birmingham official books.

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Price Control Working The effort to control prices during the war seems to be working extremely well. The National Industrial Conference Board index, which stood at 104.2 in May, 1943, stands at 104.4. This is evidence that price stabilization has been attained.

The Alexander Hamilton Institute points out that the rise in the cost-of-living during the past year was due entirely to increases in the cost of clothing, fuel, light and miscellaneous items. Food prices, it notes, were 4.4 percent lower than in May, 1943.

It is very possible that price control will be continued for a while after the war ends. Many inflationary forces exist, including tremendous savings by consumers unable to purchase goods at this time.

Stopping A Racket An extensive war fraud racket has been unearthed in the city of Boston with the arrest of nearly one hundred workers on charges of conspiracy to defraud the Government.

A number of welders, paid for piece-work, were cited by counters for more work that they performed and some received as much as \$75 a week extra.

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NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish brief contributions of local interest. Contributions are usually edited and returned to the contributor if approved.

RATIONING AT A GLANCE Meats, Fats—Red stamps AS through ZS, AS, BS and CS good indefinitely.

Processed Foods—Blue stamp AS through ZS and AS through ZS good indefinitely.

Fuel Oil—Period 4 and 5 coupons good through Sept. 30.

NEW REGIONAL DIRECTOR Appointment of William J. McCavely as manager of the Pontiac branch of the Birmingham Real Estate Board was announced by Miss Mary Woods, regional director of the Federal Housing Administration.

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People's Column To The Editor: Dear Sir: I have just finished the article in "This and That" column purporting to explain something about Mr. Wallace's personality—or something—and have ended up more confused by the explanation than the question it was supposed to answer.

First, the author complains that Mr. Wallace isn't a "practical politician" when all the time I thought we were screaming for high heaven to get rid of the most practical politician in this or perhaps any other age.

The second charge is that our Vice President is one of those confusing issues (like ministers do) which he doesn't settle; therefore, he is not a practical politician.

I cannot say enough for the marvelous job the Red Cross is doing with the flood funds, because of the Bank's coming out of Birmingham August 16th and 17th I have been prompted to write the letter. I hope it will have some effect in urging you to donate, for to my mind it is one of the best contributions a citizen can make for our men in the service.

IRENE NEUMANN (Mrs. Carl)

Republican With a Sense of Humor On you thought there weren't any more of these things.

MILDRED HARTSUFF, 968 Ridgeland

TICKLERS... by GEORGE... THAT REMINDS ME! I'VE GOT AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE DENTIST THIS AFTERNOON!

WHERAS, said Consumers Power Company has heretofore filed its written acceptance of said franchise, and has requested that the question of confirming the grant thereof be submitted to the qualified electors of the Township, at a special election to be held for that purpose.

NOW, THEREFORE, in pursuance of such resolution, notice is hereby given that a special meeting and election will be held in said Township at Bloomfield Township Office, 4200 Telegraph Rd., on Friday, the 8th day of September, 1944.

MYRNA L. SMITH, Deputy Township Clerk



Reports, Mine Fuehrer

Oakland is Included In Four Counties with Boost in Population

The census taker for Oakland, Wayne, Macomb and Washtenaw counties, Michigan, in the 1940 census, has closed a 4 1/2 per cent gain in population since April, 1940.

THE BREAKDOWN of the figures for individual counties is expected to be released within a fortnight.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL TOWNSHIP MEETING AND ELECTION

WHEREAS, at a meeting of the Township Board of the Township of Bloomfield, Oakland County, Michigan, held on the 10th day of July, 1944, a franchise ordinance was adopted, entitled as follows:

AN ORDINANCE, granting to CONSUMERS POWER COMPANY, its successors and assigns, the right, power and authority to lay, maintain and operate gas mains, pipes and services on, along, across and under the public highways, streets, alleys, bridges and other public places, and to erect and maintain in the TOWNSHIP OF BLOOMFIELD, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, for a period of thirty years.

WHEREAS, said Consumers Power Company has heretofore filed its written acceptance of said franchise, and has requested that the question of confirming the grant thereof be submitted to the qualified electors of the Township, at a special election to be held for that purpose.

NOW, THEREFORE, in pursuance of such resolution, notice is hereby given that a special meeting and election will be held in said Township at Bloomfield Township Office, 4200 Telegraph Rd., on Friday, the 8th day of September, 1944.

Dated 7-10-1944