

Editorial Page of The Birmingham Eccentric

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



By GENE ALLEMAN

Another party who claimed that he knew this trail.

We left White Pine Extension mine about 6 o'clock in the evening of a late August day, and our guide said we would easily make Lily Pad lake by nightfall where we were to camp. We were all carrying heavy packs and following the old trail was no cinch at all, as you found out from experience.

Nightfall found us somewhere on the trail and we sat down and had a consultation as to whether we had better turn back or whether we should try to go on. We were all agreed that we would keep going if the best we could in the dark. While we were talking and trying to decide what to do a brilliant full moon rose over the mountains and we finally decided to keep on going and try to find the lake by the line of blazes in the moonlight.

It was tough going. One man would stay by a blaze and another would go ahead and pick up another and then call out and wait until the first man had seen where we were going, never sure if we were going or not.

Finally we saw the water of the lake glistening in the moonlight through the timber in a little valley ahead of us. We made straight for it and hit the lake at a spot where the little spring comes out of the foot of a big timbered hill. It was about midnight, and we were so tired and so cold that we simply made a fire and went to sleep without any further ado.

It must have been about two hours after that alone about two in the morning that I woke up nearly frozen stiff and jumped out of the bag and threw some wood on the dying embers of the fire and got a nice blaze going. With my back to the fire and getting the chill of the night out of my bones I took note of my surroundings. As I said before it was a late August and in this Lake Superior country we sometimes get a frost about that time. Well, the night had cooled off considerably enough so that a chill must have come from the water and hung like a blanket over the landscape.

The full moon was in the sky so that I could see it light through the tops of the tall trees on the high hill back of our camp, and the tree tops seemed to hang suspended in this moonlight and mist like some ghostly scene from another world. It was too beautiful and weird to seem real.

I tried to wake up my son to take a look at the scene that he had carried up in his sleeping bag like a little bear and all my efforts to arouse him were in vain. So I drank in the scene for a long time and wished that I were an artist so that I could catch it all down on paper for someone else to see and admire. Finally I went to sleep with my back to the fire and still seeing in that moonlight filtering down through the tree tops.

Herbert Wood, editor, Bangor Advance, Bangor, Mich. Dear Sir: I have read with much interest an article in your paper from the Michigan Mirror about a trip to the Porcupine Mts. This was clipped out and sent to my sister who knows of my interest in this region. I enjoyed the article immensely and I very much agree with your sentiments about leaving the Porcupine Country as it is today—a wilderness with access only by bridle paths and foot trails. Open it up with criss-cross roads and main highways and it will soon be just one more park made by man, and it will lose its virgin charm.

Now a word about that mysterious blazed trail leading to the old White Pine Extension mine. That old blazed trail leads to Lily Pad lake which is a widening of the Little Carp river after it leaves Mirror Lake, its source. If you will look at your map of this region you will note that Mirror Lake is a wilderness with access only by bridle paths and foot trails. Open it up with criss-cross roads and main highways and it will soon be just one more park made by man, and it will lose its virgin charm.

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Lily Pad lake lies in the stretch of the river that flows southwest just before it makes its bend to the northwest. It is a deep little lake between two spurs of the mountains and is full of big native brook trout—some of them over two pounds in size.

On the eastern bank comes to the outlet a nice spring whose water hits the little ice cold brook which flows into Lily Pad lake. And where this spring water hits the little there are some big suckers of trout lying for some one who knows how to get them. One rose to my bait that must have weighed at least three pounds. But he would not take the hook.

Your account of your trip along this blazed trail to Lily Pad lake brings to my mind a trip that I made into this territory about eight years ago with my son and

Christmas, 1944 The people of the United States celebrate Christmas, 1944, in the conviction that some husbands and others are engaged in bitter warfare against the enemies of the nation.

It is a sobering realization but, nevertheless, the great Christmas holiday will mark again the hope of mankind for a more glorious day. Destined to honor the Prince of Peace, it brings to us all an opportunity to give expression to happy hopes and to participate in the festivities that carry joy to the hearts of children.

Even a people at war can turn momentarily to gaily decorated trees, multi-colored lights, holly wreaths and sprigs of mistletoe, exchange gifts and friendly greetings. These Christmas customs, this year, will be tinged with an overtone of sadness over the absence of loved ones whose memory adds to the meaning of the Christmas season.

Particularly sacred to the children, the present Christmas must not fail to reach the growing hearts of millions of little boys and girls. This is their great holiday, the day of magical gifts and supreme happiness. Let all adults have a hand in making Christmas real to children. In so doing they will share the great joy of the celebration.

In Christian countries the holiday has a special religious significance, commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ. It is appropriate for us, in the midst of our festivity, to remember the natal day of the Christian Savior by observing religious significance. Many churches will have special services and all will feature special programs on the Sunday before the 25th.

Families with members overseas, facing the enemy, will reverently pray for the safety of their men. No finer day for supplication can be found than the one which marks the advent of the Prince of Peace who expounded the principles of life for which our soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen fight. With our appeals to the Maker of Man will we hope that next Christmas will see millions of families reunited.

Business Outlook

The outlook for business, according to so-called experts, includes a let-down of possibly fifteen per cent in the first half of 1945, but the long-range outlook is considered promising.

Some forecasters of economic trends take cognizance of the fact that the United States has replaced the British Empire as the dominant world leader, suggesting that business activity will be profoundly affected in our participation in international affairs. While discounting the British Empire, the admonition is flashed to watch Russia.

It should be apparent to all business men that there are factors in the country that carry the threat of wild inflation. Buying power, severely curtailed during the war, will be cut loose if controls are abandoned too quickly after victory. That statisticians tell us that the American people have saved tremendous sums of money which, if turned loose into the markets precipitately, might produce serious repercussions.

Yes, we know that the war's casualties have totaled \$52,018,100 as of mid-December. The total Army and Navy dead was 121,363. In

Facts About Jobs

Paul C. Hoffman, chairman of the Committee for Economic Development, calls attention to some facts in the discussion about post-war employment that are important.

Mr. Hoffman points out that there are only 3,500 businesses in this country "so big" that they employ more than 1,000 persons, but that there are 2,000,000 employers who employ a hundred persons or less, and that these employers provide almost half of the jobs.

Mr. Hoffman calls up another "serious misunderstanding" regarding employment "in industry" or "business." He says that too often we are inclined to think mainly of manufacturing, but actually manufacturing provides only about twenty-five per cent of normal private employment.

Consequently, if the nation is to provide the seven million to ten million new jobs that must be made available above the number existing in 1940, it will be necessary to have thorough and progressive planning in commerce, the service industries and in agriculture where three-fourths of the jobs must be found.

War Tasks

The one task of the nation is to win the war.

For those on the home front there are certain duties, including the support of the cost of the struggle. The government will offer everybody an opportunity to do something about this in the near future.

The Sixth War Bond drive does not ask citizens to give anything. It offers an investment that pays interest. While millions fight, the purchasers of bonds lend their money for a fair return and they deserve no great thanks for doing so.

The wealth of the nation is being defended along its territory, and its freedom. The greater the property an individual owns, the larger the debt to the fighting men.

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Happenings of Long Ago

80 YEARS AGO
Dec. 20, 1864

"Look out for the I.O.T.M. party New Years night."
"Masquerade, Friday evening, Feb. 1st, 1893."

"Where did he get it?" is a query that is being asked in the number of those who live in "class houses."

"No measure quite equal" that of giving some one the pleasure. This is the proper season to test the truth of this assertion.

"The advance in the price of plate glass indicates an increase in the number of those who live in class houses."

"La Porte, Ind., has a prodigy four years old who carries a man weighing 175 pounds with ease, or a tin top newspaper liar."

"There are bigger men in the country than the chairman of the notorious campaign committee, but it is hard to convince that individual of it."

"Everyone was glad to see the face of Agnes Ingham on our streets Tuesday. The little beauty, who carries heat in her eyes, has many friends in this town."

Mrs. Claude Harris, of Troy, has a number of names who are right to be held. December 17 she picked a large bouquet of these little beauties, who carry heat in their eyes, and many friends in this town.

"Some time ago some one borrowed T. A. Ward '20 Years in Georgia' by James H. Blaine 1st volume. Now if the borrower will return it at once Tom's cup of happiness will be brim full for Christmas."

"So long as mobs of hoodlums attempt to seek domestic churches as they did in Chicago recently, would it not be well to divert some of the nation's resources money to home channels?"

Peace—Ain't It Beautiful



of the district hardware convention for 1925 has resulted in the selection of Birmingham as the location of the hardware convention which will open sometime next August.

Local states will attempt to accommodate the village trade by keeping open each evening from now until after Christmas. They heard this practice the middle of this week.

5 YEARS AGO
Dec. 19, 1929

"Birmingham Goddards had a great day last Saturday, selling newspapers so fast and well that the reports, when all returns are in, are expected to total \$1,400, or about \$500 more than last year."

"Charles Gardiner, 15-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Y. Gardiner, 412 Greenwood, received word this week of his appointment to West Point."

"West Point, all of the church choir, the Birmingham Men's Glee Club, all the school children and the choir of the Musicale have been invited to participate in the annual community singing at 6 o'clock on Sunday afternoon—the day before Christmas."

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SO YOU WILL FIND THEM OPEN WHEN YOU GO TO YOUR FAVORITE EATING PLACES

So that you will not be disappointed at finding your favorite eating place closed when you go there to eat, the Restaurants listed here are publishing their operating hours. Knowing that you do not want to waste time, gasoline and tires, they are letting you know that days they are closed and what hours of other days they will be open to serve you. Check this list carefully, it will help you plan your dining engagements without disappointments.

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