

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

Michigan Mirror INTERPRETING THE NEWS

Is local government more efficient than state or federal government? Ask State Treasurer D. Hale Brake, and you'll receive a prompt and emphatic reply: "Yes!"

Whenever a state official hands together the key men of influence in varying ways, the air suspiciously and newspapers sharpen their pencils.

"For years I have believed that long distance control in government is always expensive control, and I am now convinced of this."

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The "Better World" Mistake

The absence of news about the conferences recently concluded between the President and leaders of the United Nations is lamentable unless the enemy is to be given valuable information.

Without definite facts the commentators and the writers have been freely drawing upon their imaginations.

The "better world" idea is constantly paraded. Apparently some people have the idea that the middle enterprise of the second World War is devised to create a new order.

The purpose of the struggle is to defeat the aggressors because, unless they are conquered, the freedom of the democratic nations, along with that of some others, will be a thing of the past.

It is a fact we presume, that defeat of the Axis will give to all peoples everywhere a better opportunity to develop their institutions and to improve their condition.

We think it very important for people to understand this because when the war is over, we will not be disappointed and disillusioned if the utopia does not arrive in a few months.

The sole justification of the present American war effort is the necessity of combating aggressive enemies, determined to conquer and rule the world.

From Southern China comes the news that the United States has sent field hospitals to China, with one-fourth of the personnel Chinese from America.

The difference in language in China is often overlooked but the Cantonese representatives, who accompanied our field hospitals, are not familiar with the southern Chinese dialect.

More men of MORE ability, more industry and more integrity. It's the man, not the office, that makes government good or bad.

And back of the man in public office is the voter—you and I—who get pretty much what we deserve through our sponsorship of good candidates for public offices.

At present this great middle class—the Teachers, Dental, Doctors, Merchants, Associations, Rotary Clubs etc., all organized to letter one specific group.

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Gasoline Facts Oil Men

Sixty executives of oil-trade associations from all parts of the country, recently meeting in Chicago, declared that it was high time they furnished the public with oil information as well as with oil.

Thereupon, William R. Boyd, president of the American Petroleum Institute, explained that war demands for gasoline are already eighty times greater than in the First World War.

Chairman Robert E. Wilson, of the Committee of the Petroleum Economics of the Petroleum Industry War Council, added that prospects for gasoline supplies have improved somewhat in certain critical areas but "not sufficiently to indicate any likelihood of relaxation of rationing."

"The outlook has improved slightly," he said, "but continues tight and will doubtless continue very tight throughout the European phase of the war."

President Boyd gives the figures on gasoline production, putting it at 1,800,000 barrels daily. Of this, 600,000 barrels go to the military forces and 445,000 into essential industries.

These facts are given to the public by leaders of the oil industry. They do not represent figures by government experts, trying to justify rationing of gasoline, but they completely justify the present strict regulations.

IF ALL THE UNNECESSARY AND UNNEEDED HOURS of government jobs were laid off tomorrow, government would function better; taxes would become less burdensome; but, alas! politicians would then have to depend upon good government for re-election.

MICHIGAN REPUBLICANS, LIKE THE DEMOCRATS, are always scrambling for position and power. They get, largely, the temporary kind; enduring position and power come only from doing what is RIGHT!

NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish brief contributions from its readers. Contributors are asked to send their material to the Editor, The Birmingham Eccentric, 210-212 North West Ave., Birmingham, Ala. 35201.

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He HAS Been Looking Poorly



Major Kenneth H. Donnelly, postal officer of the Sixth Service Postal Office, at General Aurnand's suggestion, offers the following hints to get your V-mail message to all the fronts where American soldiers consider mail the most important sound a single can blow.

The soldier's address, as well as the writer's return address, on the message side of the V-mail letter, should be printed completely, correctly, and plainly.

Don't try to enclose anything inside a V-mail letter and don't paste anything on the message side of the sheet.

The writing must be fairly large, clear and well-shaped and ink should be used when a light ink or a very typewriter ribbon does not photograph well.

Store leftover foods cold and covered, and use them as soon as possible to save food values.

THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner

Informal portraits like this one are always welcomed by those in the Service as well as by friends and relatives at home.

THE most important requisite of any informal portrait is that it be a good likeness. Indeed, the very word "portrait" means a likeness, but it implies more than that.

Suppose you are making a picture of your sister. Perhaps it would be best to show her, fairly close-up, knitting, as in the picture above.

Now, about lighting indoors. The placing of the lights must not be extreme, for you don't want odd lighting effects in these pictures.

And don't forget that those in the Service like to receive informal portraits of members of their family and friends.

John van Gulder

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People's Column

To the Editor: It is my opinion that this so-called "unorganized majority" is just about the most highly organized group in the country.

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SALVAGE MEMO

TIN CANS—Rinse after using, remove label, open bottom and flatten with foot. Place at curb 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.

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

PECK'S Cash and Carry

Suits, Topcoats, \$1.09 Plain Dresses. CLEANED and PRESSED. For Delivery Service Phone 230 WOODWARD—NEAR MAPLE

Pay By Check!

Cancelled checks afford the safety of a receipt for each bill paid—and your check stubs detail each expenditure. Open a Pay-As-You-Go Checking Account with as little as \$1.00. No minimum balance required.

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