

Editorial Page of The Birmingham Eccentric

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

Michigan Mirror

By GENE ALLEMAN

A reporter's word picture of Michigan in mid-July, 1944, shows a state where the summer season in Northern Michigan, and many parts of the Upper Peninsula, promises to set an all-time record for attendance and expenditures. George Bishop of Marquette, manager of the Upper Peninsula Development Bureau, tells of visiting the Keweenaw highway commission's park and cabins out at Copper Harbor on the week-end of June 24-25. "More than 200 travelers were there," he confided. "Don't ask me how they got to Copper Harbor, but they can be reached only by automobile. I don't know."

Michigan, the world's automobile center, is awaiting 1944 which now appears to be the earliest date when production of cars can be resumed. As contrasted to California and other states where aviation is predominant, Michigan has an estimated "backlog" of seven billion dollars in automobile manufacture. It should absorb much of the economic "shock" that will inevitably when war plants are reconverted to peace-time utility.

The transportation situation isn't a bit good. The ODT estimates that 5,000 autos are getting junked per day. Automobiles are wearing out. Trucks are near to a serious deterioration point, especially heavy-duty trucks. Automobile freight interstate Railroad passenger trains are overcrowded, and the regulars are suffering discomfort, delays, poor service. Buses are filled; standing room is common. Motor travel is the only service on which improvement is in sight, as the federal government has abandoned around Sept. 1.

To get a close-up of how global war is affecting money, just look around your own block. Or, if you reside in a town or city, or in the regulars are suffering discomfort, delays, poor service. Buses are filled; standing room is common. Motor travel is the only service on which improvement is in sight, as the federal government has abandoned around Sept. 1.

Social unrest is shown by the number of really transfers and railway travel. Labor unions have still high. People are on the move. Theatres are thronged. Betting on horse races has reached dizzy heights. This craving for entertainment is a part of the war picture, an inevitable escape from war jitters. A good laugh is a good mental tonic. That's one reason the newspapers still continue the daily comic strips, despite string-

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 at curb on your last City collection day of the month. Copper engravers' plates and old keys may be left at the library.

NEWSPAPERS—M.A.C.A.ZINES, SCRAP PAPER—Pick-up of these may be arranged for by calling the Salvage Desk, at the Municipal Building, Room 1230 between the hours of 8 a. m. to 5 o'clock. Monday through Fridays. Regular city curbside pickup first Friday of each month.

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When Soldiers Come Home

The war has brought about changes to Birmingham, but the outstanding variation in normal life is occasioned by the absence of so many young men who are in the armed forces of the nation.

A few short years ago these youngsters were the life of the community, developing into average Americans with a thought of warfare in a foreign land. They have been rudely snatched from the ordinary processes of growth to carry the banner of freedom that waves over this country.

Mothers, wives, sweethearts, and relatives glare and then pray for their safety. Everybody wants them to come back when the conflict ends. On every side they are praised for their contribution to the security of our civilization.

One day the war will end. Most of our boys will come back. What will they find? Will there be the best possible welcome, an opportunity to work and develop into mature citizens, unhampered by economic ills that stifle initiative and ability?

The change from war to peace will not develop jobs for the service men unless somebody thinks of the solution. Every business galore must then pray for their safety. Everybody wants them to come back when the conflict ends. On every side they are praised for their contribution to the security of our civilization.

The nation has called these young men into service, whether they wanted to fight or not. It is up to the nation, when they return, to guarantee them an economic opportunity at least equal to what had. Business may be unable to provide work for all, but the government that spends for war can spend for peace, if necessary.

Deserter And Hero

The armed services are confronted with an unusual case in the history of William B. Murphree, who deserted the Army in 1941 after six years as a soldier.

What makes the problem difficult is the fact that Murphree enlisted in the Marines under an assumed name and has been cited for bravery on Guadalcanal and in the Battle of Iwo Jima. In addition, he won the Navy Cross in the Makin Island raid.

Technically, the young Telemessian is guilty of desertion, but the armed services will probably omit prosecution and let this fighting man "ride on his record."

Pilot Punished

There have been complaints occasionally about low-altitude acrobatic flying by army aviators, who risk their lives in perilous flights without concern to the safety of others in the event of a forced landing.

It is extremely difficult to establish the identity of guilty pilots, but when they are apprehended, the Army puts them on trial and if convicted by court martial, a strict sentence is imposed.

Recently, a lieutenant who flew over a building area in Maine was fined \$1,500, given an official reprimand and confined to his base for three months.

Happenings of Long Ago

50 YEARS AGO
July 26, 1894
"Miss Flora Keyes is expected home this week."

3 YEARS AGO
July 20, 1941
"To stimulate a greater interest in affairs of Birmingham's various governmental services, plans are being issued by the City Commission to stage, on Saturday, September 16, what is hoped to be an annual 'Citizen Loyalty Day'."

20 YEARS AGO
July 25, 1924
"As the best all-round camper, John Gora was awarded the C. C. Timme medal for long and distinguished service to the city."

10 YEARS AGO
July 25, 1934
"The names of four local shooters, Robert S. Porritt, Fred Douglas, W. W. Potter and R. J. H. Eagle, have already been entered as contestants in the Michigan State Championship Shoot to be held at Detroit Registered Shoot to be held for three days, beginning this week."

5 YEARS AGO
July 20, 1939
"The names of four local shooters, Robert S. Porritt, Fred Douglas, W. W. Potter and R. J. H. Eagle, have already been entered as contestants in the Michigan State Championship Shoot to be held at Detroit Registered Shoot to be held for three days, beginning this week."

1 YEAR AGO
July 20, 1943
"The names of four local shooters, Robert S. Porritt, Fred Douglas, W. W. Potter and R. J. H. Eagle, have already been entered as contestants in the Michigan State Championship Shoot to be held at Detroit Registered Shoot to be held for three days, beginning this week."

Half-Holidays General

The retail merchants of Birmingham and other municipalities show good sense and a modern outlook in agreeing to close their stores on afternoon a week during the summer months.

Many of us can remember when a storekeeper thought that his place of business should be opened at the crack of dawn and remain available to customers until the last man retired from the public streets. Gradually, the hours have been shortened without injury to business or inconvenience to the buying public. Benefits to store-workers are obvious.

The buying public, if it approves the policy of giving store-workers an afternoon off, would see to it that the stores suffer no loss. The public should not penalize progressive store-keepers because they are willing to favor their employees.

Financial Experts

The experts who attempt to forecast the reaction of markets to various news events have as difficult a job as the military experts who attempt to predict what will happen in the war.

The professional analysts predicted that the opening of the Fifth War Loan drive would cause a contraction in trading in securities. However, the market failed to conform and a surge of buying drove prices upward.

Similarly, D-Day had been heralded as a bad day for stocks, but the news of the invasion had a contrary effect, with prices moving upward.

AND, BESIDES, IF JEWELRY WERE TO OCCUPY the White House, imagine how wonderful it would be to hear him both sing and speak over the radio! He once studied operatic singing, you know.

The Birmingham Eccentric

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Field meet Wednesday evening.
"Mr. Herbert B. Gardner, of 173 Aspen road, this week agreed that 'at last I have reached the height of my ambition; I have become chairman of a local committee for the staging of a project that does not require me to sell a single ticket!'"

Assessed valuation of property in Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills were reduced to a total of \$40,000 by the equalization committee of the Oakland County Board of Supervisors Monday in Pontiac, bringing reductions in the amount these two cities will pay next year into the county budget to approximately \$6,463.

Three Lions and Exchange Clubs will hold the second of their annual Rotary-Lions contests, winding up the afternoon's sport with a dinner.

In Michigan, pheasants have shown a preference for fertile ground over a crop of corn, having some broody cover or marsh area and an abundance of corn or grain.

Folks in Uniform
The PX must've got in a supply. He couldn't have got them from any of us."

Cranbrook Fire Department Is Well Kept Up

Fire protection for more than a thousand students and members of the various staffs is another scientific responsibility assumed by Dr. Robert T. Hatt, director of the Cranbrook Institute of Science at Bloomfield Hills.

Fire Commissioner Hatt is proud of his fire fighting staff made up entirely of employer volunteers. Insurance company rates at Cranbrook indicate the excellent protection which the department affords, and according to Chief Inspector Longhead of the Bureau of Underwriters:

"The Cranbrook Community is served by a fire department whose equipment is better than most rural departments can boast and better than that of many small cities."

Present equipment consists of a 300-gallon hooster tank on a 1930-ton truck with 1,000 feet of 2 1/2-inch hose and a Ford fire truck with a 350-gallon pump, a 100-gallon hooster tank and 300 feet of 2 1/2-inch hose.

Housed on Valley Road near the Vaughn school, the equipment is quickly available to all of the main roads of Cranbrook and Bloomfield Hills. Though strictly a Cranbrook fire department, it has always been willing to assist neighbors of the community when possible to do so.

Commissioner Hatt is assisted by Assistant Veterans, including since 1935, and his brother, John Vetrino, who serves as assistant chief of the department. The department involves being on the job twenty-four hours a day, including holidays and weekends.

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RATIONING AT A GLANCE

Meats—Fats—Red stamps 48 through 25 good indefinitely.
Processed Foods—Blue stamps 48 through 25 good indefinitely.

Sugar—Sugar stamps 30, 31 and 32, each good indefinitely.
Gasoline—In 17 East Coast states, A-10 coupons, good through August 1. In 16 states, A-12 coupons, good through September 20.

More Calls for Nurses
A call for qualified nurses to work in Veterans Administration Hospitals help provide adequate care for disabled veterans, has been issued by the Veterans Administration. Hospitals are classified in three groups—General Medical and Surgical, Tuberculosis and Neuropsychiatric.

Strictly Fresh
The Navy has announced that rebuilding operations on the French liner Normandie have been halted, because manpower and materials are needed more urgently elsewhere. Maybe it's a case of the Normandie taking a back seat to the rest of the fleet.

Finland made a payment on its war debt to us one day, had its envoys boosted out the next. Like most war payments, it was on his piano, only the finance company matches it back. It wouldn't have happened if the one who played the piano had anticipated it under catastrophe—a "moderate" blow against their home islands.

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Japan describes the B-29 attack on her industrial centers as a "Nippo-knees are undoubtedly knocking in dread anticipation of utter catastrophe—a 'moderate' blow against their home islands."

Hotel Purchased on Madison Avenue—Reached a headline in a New York paper: "The one and only fire way of getting a room for the night."

Well, He Made It



People's Column

"Flowers to Donats" the opening price established by the OPA of leading as published in your July 13 issue, will be changed before the peach season in Michigan arrives. Some one should sell these arm chair experts their 300,000 pounds of peaches in a bushel and a wholesale price of \$2.00 per bushel and a retail price of \$1.00 on 16 cents per pound. It's a peach market of \$2.00 per bushel between wholesale and retail prices.

George R. Ewald
787 Woodward
July 13, 1944

THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner

Babies and children change rapidly as soon they as they "grow up." And don't forget to send prints to their relatives in the Service.

In this war the camera has full military status. Its mass-produced pictures are made and added by the color more than ever before. Film is the accurate and important recorder of military objectives and the most important part of the war effort.

Don't forget to send prints to their relatives in the Service. It's the very moment you want. You can't protect your child and his loved one if you keep your camera loaded and ready for important action, and perhaps have a "peep" roll handy for the home front.

Now about the pictures to send to those in the Service. It can't be said often that you should try to make overexposed and underexposed activity back home. Babies and children change rapidly as they "grow up." And don't forget to send prints to their relatives in the Service.

Believe it or not, thousands of men in the Service have not even been pleased with the pictures they've since they left their homes. In spite of this condition thousands of

shoppers take inconsequential pictures and in doing so deprive others of fun for pictures that are perhaps important and make a gift to the welfare of the men and women in the Service who are scattered throughout the world.

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