

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



By Gene Alaman

Now that the Alger-like story has been revived whereby Michigan-born Thomas E. Dewey, the small-town boy from Owosso who made good in the big city, has been nominated for the presidency of the United States, Michigan Republicans are settling down to brief and belated consideration of their own primary decision next Tuesday, July 11.

That decision is whether the nomination of lieutenant governor, a person who significantly had been in the office of governor next January, shall go to Dr. Eugene B. Keyes, the incumbent, or to Vernon J. Brown, who is now completing his sixth year as auditor general.

In that decision of the voters are several issues. Is Michigan ready to elevate the lieutenant governor to the position of greater responsibility and leadership akin to that of an "assistant governor"? In event that the Republican gubernatorial nomination is pointed to a cabinet position at Washington, or Senator Vandenberg or Senator Brown, do you choose for a similar post, who would "fill the shoes" of the governor? Brown or Keyes? The latter, usually, does a preference by Kelly, but Brown serves as his assistant, actively on duty at Lansing five days a week, "political" "purse" of the state.

Let's discuss this situation briefly.

The basic issue in the mind of Governor Kelly, who is to head the state ticket in November, is whether Michigan is ready to elect the office of lieutenant governor to a partnership office with the holder of the gubernatorial mantle. Mr. Keyes' office is primarily preparatory training and advising the governor.

It is Governor Kelly's belief that Michigan is going to face a rough time in the next year or two. Reconstruction of automobile plants, for example, H. V. Holt's plan to reorganize the state and federal government for guidance in their return to civilian usefulness. As a world war veteran himself, Kelly has a sentimental affection for war veterans. He wants to help them.

Furthermore, the increase in complexity of state government—now a "big business" that disburses millions of dollars each year—has imposed tremendous burdens on the governor. Kelly's first move to decrease the load was to reorganize the state government.

Now, when a vacancy opens in the Senate, the power of appointment rests with the governor of the state. Wood Brown appoints Kelly to serve at Washington. Kelly would elevate Brown to the position of lieutenant governor.

These questions are inseparable to the average voter's opinion. He doesn't care so much whether Kelly goes to Washington. He is interested, however, in the man who serves the state as governor—especially during the coming four-year term.

As to the third topic, that of "assistants" in party politics, we confess a personal conviction that strong leadership is needed to administer anything well, whether a private business or a political party. It is more a matter of getting a good boss or a bad boss, one who leads benevolently and preferably one who is responsible directly to the people at the ballot box.

Fats And Greases Needed

The Office of War Information has appealed to housewives to deliver at least 250,000,000 of waste fats and greases to the "dog" can in 1942. Birmingham women are asked to do their part.

The goal is double the collection last year but at least three war agencies emphasize the vital need of fats, which are an ingredient in more than eight hundred types of chemical products.

Of course, we have no way of understanding the full extent of the need, but it should be apparent that the Government would not make such a strenuous effort to collect waste fats and greases unless there existed a real demand. Anyway, the drive gives housewives an opportunity to do something more about the war than to express verbal sympathies for the men who are fighting the enemy.

There is a tendency, on the part of some women, to relieve themselves of this wartime opportunity by thinking that the contribution of one individual is unimportant. It is easy to convince oneself that the small amount of fat one greases that are available is not enough to compensate for the time, energy and effort required to collect and deliver the product.

Fortunately, there are many women who do not take this attitude. In fact, the WPB and WFA report that collections last year relieved "critical shortages" of procuring materials and other war materials. Consequently, it should be a matter of pride for every housewife to contribute her maximum amount of fat and grease in order that there may exist no possibility of a shortage in 1942.

The late Frank J. Hogan, well-known attorney of Washington, who defended some of the Teapot Dome culprits, was a lover of books and in his will recently bequeathed a library.

There is something sacred in the spiritual and intimate companionship of a book, and I do not deem it fitting that these friends of many happy hours should be removed in unloved and unlovely captivity. Rather, I would suggest that the books be given to the intimates of others whose loving hands and understanding hearts will live the place left vacant by Mr. Hogan's passing.

Mr. Hogan's original will specified that his rare books, manuscripts, and documents should be auctioned at a public sale after his death. Later, he gave his executor full discretion as to when and for what price they should be sold.

There may be some readers of this article who are unimpressed by the sentiment expressed by this great lawyer, who was practically a deity to Horatio Alger. They should, incidentally make it their business to become acquainted with some great books and, in time, they might become great friends.

Small Nations And Peace

It is easy to understand the desire of the so-called small nations of the world to have equal voice with larger nations in all matters affecting world peace, despite their inability to carry an appreciable portion of the burden of maintaining world order.

It is not so easy to understand the necessity, however, of patiently proclaiming our intention to be fair to these smaller nations at the present time. Their choice lies between accepting Nazi Germany or the United Nations and it ought not to be difficult for them to make up their minds on the basis of the record.

The League of Nations gave to small nations equal voice with the large powers. Thus Liberia cast a vote equal to that of the United States. Regardless of principles of liberty and freedom this was nonsensical, permitted smaller nations to outvote the larger nations upon the basis of sovereignty and without regard to population or power.

If there is to be peace in the world, at any time, it will exist only because the large nations of the world are willing to assume the responsibility of safeguarding peace. No combination of small powers will be able to provide security and it is foolish to permit them to occupy a position that might endanger peace.

Christians In Japan

After more than eighty years of missionary effort there are only 250,000 Christian in Japan, and some of these are merely Government spies. One of the reasons for this is that the Japanese are not, kind people who have been misled by a wicked government.

Tribute To Books

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Local Boys At Wolverine State

Exciting Trip We had an exciting trip over to E. Lansing, Mich., on the well-known locomotive owned and operated by the Wolverine State. We were registered in our respective cities and assigned to policemen (Athletic Club) which are entirely mythical and bear no resemblance to the existing laws of the state.

After passing a physical and receiving our metal tickets, our first order of business was to receive our city officers who were elected the previous Friday morning through the county nominating convention. Delegates were chosen by the voters and scheduled for that afternoon. Vigorous campaigning preceded the elections which were held Saturday.

Mr. Warner, a resident of Washington City in McClelland County, was elected to the State Service Commission, which has charge of civil service appointments. Mr. Gregory's main duty, as the elected supervisor of the Blair County, was collecting the state taxes.

After missing the state senatorship by only a few votes, Frank Allen of Pierce City, was appointed Deputy Registrar of Probate for Baldwin County.

People's Column

The Eccentric is pleased to receive communications from its readers. All communications must be signed and accompanied by a return address. Letters must be in the office by Thursday noon for publication the following Tuesday.

About six weeks ago we called the Fire Department to extinguish a fire in our home. Our equipment stopped in front of the house. I had a distressed feeling as I saw the flames rising from the roof and then, if sufficient fire appeared, providing with a strong breeze, instead, great care was exercised—such equipment as it was necessary to bring into the house was handled carefully. Tar-paper covered the bed and floor in the room where it was necessary to reach into the partition and every precaution used; it seemed to prevent any fire from spreading.

After the fire was extinguished one of the men was sent to clean up the mess. Mr. Charles Grisham came back to make sure there was no possibility of further trouble. Briefly, I have given you a short work as professionals, who knew their job and their duty courtesy was appreciated.

We felt proud to be a part of a community which could boast of such a fine Fire Department. Mr. and Mrs. Ford Hitchcock, 760 Wallace street, were in the fire department to be added.

Oh Boy! And Was He Thirsty!



RATIONING AT A GLANCE

MEATS, FATS—Red Cuts are through 22, 23 and 24. PROCEESSED FOODS—Canned meats, 25 through 27, and 29, 30 and 31. SUGAR—Signed March 30, 31 and 32. EGGS—Signed March 30, 31 and 32. GASOLINE—In 10 East, 100 East, 100 East, 100 East, 100 East. FUEL OIL—Signed 100 East, 100 East, 100 East, 100 East, 100 East.

NATIONAL RESTAURANT REGULATIONS

For the first time, public eating and drinking places will be governed by a national restaurant regulation. This regulation will be effective July 21, 1942. It will require that all restaurants, cafes, and other eating places must comply with the new regulations.

CUMBERS IN SOUL CREAM

It is a fact that the new regulation will require that all restaurants, cafes, and other eating places must comply with the new regulations. This regulation will be effective July 21, 1942.

THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner

Black-and-white prints from color transparencies make excellent pictures to send to the Service. The Eccentric is pleased to receive communications from its readers. All communications must be signed and accompanied by a return address.

NUMBER of questions have been which the first two travels in the bank of the bank. When the first of them of such general interest that we thought we would pass them along to our readers with the answers. We thought we would pass them along to those who have been taking pictures on the popular half-color film.

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 FATS—Strain and keep cool. Turn in to your meat market when you have a few pounds. Hand fats not wanted.

SCRAP METALS, GLASS, RUBBER—Leave at curb on your last City collection day of the month. Copper, brass, nickel 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 1250 between the streets of 12th and 13th. Monday through Friday. Regular city curb pickup first Friday of each month.

WABECK STATE BANK OF DETROIT BIRMINGHAM OFFICE—WABECK BUILDING

Happenings of Long Ago

50 YEARS AGO July 12, 1894 "Anyone wishing huckleberries here at a bargainable price," Mrs. Usher, of Detroit, sent Sunday with friends in town. "Potatoes is being very freely used at the cemetery, keep down."

5 YEARS AGO July 7, 1939 Attention camera enthusiasts! The United Camera Club of Birmingham Eccentric, amateur photographers of Oakland County will have an opportunity to win a cash award of \$1 to \$100 and state-wide recognition.

20 YEARS AGO July 11, 1924 "Banding together three or four days previous the residents of Birmingham Estates, northeast of the city, planned to celebrate the Fourth together. A common treasury was created, someone to buy the fireworks appointed, the community grouped themselves in the big night to watch the fun."

daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. Earl Steele. Together they are the directors of a children's summer play school.

"Members of the Women's Western Golf Association will hold their 39th annual closed championship tournament at Oakland Hills Country Club."

"A course in life saving, given under supervision of two Red Cross instructors, Miss Dorothy Lawrence and Mrs. Thelma Horn, is a practical feature of the summer recreational program in Birmingham."

"The general contract for Birmingham's new post office has been awarded to the low bidder, the James J. Barnes Construction Company of Birmingham. The contract is to official announcement received from Washington."

Folks in Uniform



"It's really a guardhouse. The captain just got this idea for juggling us trainers of the canine commandos."

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