

Editorial Page of The Birmingham Eccentric

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



By GENE ALLEMAN

The country newspaper editor was in a retrospective mood. "Some of today's trends disturb me," he began.

It was a warm spring afternoon and we were traveling in an automobile together on a short business trip.

"Maybe I'm just old-fashioned, or perhaps it's because I'm getting older and my hair is turning gray. But I do observe that changes are taking place in the lives of the people of my town and county. And I wonder what will be the outcome of these changes, tomorrow, after the war."

"Take the farmer, for example. I attended a meeting of the county A.A.A. committee the other day. There was a time when all this government control and regulation were highly resented by the farmer. He shied away from the government's efforts to regiment his affairs.

"Now some of the best farmers are members of the county committee. They talk enthusiastically about the things they once condemned. What about this thing called 'free enterprise'? As I see it, we're losing something that made America great—freedom of the individual to think and to act for himself. Now, he expects the government to do it for him.

"And the merchant in town? Well, you know the story.

"Several things have happened to him. First, the fact that automobiles and the modern concrete highway have given the consumer a choice between my town and the nearby large city. Progressive merchants who study the needs of the public and who tell the public about their merchandise through effective advertising are meeting this new trend pretty well. But some of the merchants are not.

"And then there is the growing concentration of industry and business into the hands of corporations and their stockholders offering more and more competition at lower prices. The merchant who can't average his business with these big concerns is increasing that he now works for someone else.

"Community leadership is going to suffer unless these merchants

Next Tuesday, June 6, the 100th anniversary of the Y.M.C.A. of Birmingham, the "Y" will observe throughout the world. Numerous programs commemorating this useful agency will be centered within the United States. Birmingham, too, will hold its celebration.

The Y.M.C.A.'s total influence for good during its 100 years is incalculable. Millions of young men of all ages have benefited by the varied spiritual, physical, and educational programs that this great agency has extended to them.

For most of these 100 years the "Y" stood out among voluntarily supported, good Samaritan agencies, for it has never existed in Birmingham, the "Y" idea here, sparked by the formation of the numerous other agencies and organizations that have since come into being.

In many areas upon earth the "Y" has conducted its activities in buildings owned by it. While such an edifice has never existed in Birmingham, the "Y" idea here, sparked by the men who have comprised its directors, has helped many a young boy. One of Birmingham's good contributions to the "Y" program in Oakland County has been its leadership in operating the summer camp up near Hule, in Inoco County.

From the original idea of helpfulness that the "Y" personifies have come many other organized social activities, each striving to improve the character of man. Which, of course, includes various organizations directed toward the development of girls and women.

Next Tuesday evening, at seven o'clock, the local "Y" committee will hold a dinner at the Community House, dedicated to this 100th anniversary. A fitting program will be held which is open to the public.

Perhaps you will show your approval of the "Y," and its program of Good Samaritanism by being there.

The state of South Carolina has created the Office of Alcoholic Education. The duties of the official will be to teach the harmful effects of drinking alcoholic beverages to the pupils of the schools of the state, both white and Negro.

The material used will include charts and data, text books, pamphlets, reports, etc., furnished by the anti-alcohol organizations, government reports and state information services, as well as by liquor manufacturers who realize the importance of protecting the youth of the land from the menace of their product.

It is entirely proper that the school children of a state be advised in their youth as to the dangers of alcohol. If the program is carried out, it will accomplish much more, in our opinion, than the hysterical effort to promote prohibition by itself.

VICE-PRESIDENT HENRY A. WALLACE has started his bid to China, as an special representative of his. F.D.R. Henry is quite a benevolent person; he'll probably find ways to spend American money to help the stricken Chinese, in the interest of future world solidarity. America is rich—or thinks it is, in certain official circles.

enough to solve his own problems without running to the government all the time.

The "Y" has run to the country editor's observations, thinking about tomorrow's historic assault of the editor upon Hitler's European forces and the significance of the fateful decision that is yet to come.

"It is possible to beat a trend?"

As we asked these questions, "Y" men were going around that a lot of other Michigan people may be wondering about tomorrow.

"History insists that every great war has been followed by some kind of a revolution. What other word for change, World War I can't be an exception to the rule—can it?"

"You mean what are you going to do? It's your decision, too."

"Announcement was made this week that the program of the Friday Morning Series of lectures and talks by Detroit Town Hall, at the Cass Theatre, has just been completed. There are to be 12 lectures instead of 20 as for last season. After this, the lecture series likely will go back to 20 again, according to word from the theatre.

Dorothy Thompson, well-known radio commentator will open the season late in October, followed by Sir Norman Thomas, champion of World peace, and authority on international problems; Pierre Clemenceau, grandson of the first Premier of France; Georges Clemenceau, who is now in Washington as a member of the French National Committee; Henry F. Taylor, correspondent for the New York World Telegram, author of "Time Runs Out" and Edmund Stevens, staff correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor, who is now in Russia, and will return next December.

Milton Hindus, literary critic of the Atlantic Monthly Book-Shek; Ethel Barrington Colt, who is directing the legitimate stage for Opera and the lecture platform; Hubert Laing, financial adviser to the Chicago Public Book-Shek, founder of a new co-operative movement and writer on military, political, and economic affairs; Charles Knickerbocker, author and writer for Dutch and Swiss papers, who has covered the battle fronts in Europe since Ethiopia and Dr. Ira Hilton Jones, scientist and chemist, complete the list.

"Retainer Fees" Are Unethical

The Carr-Sigler grand jury investigation in Lansing that far has revealed that Michigan's Legislatures have not always been free from corruption. The number of indictments so far suggests that too many members of this legislative group of people are susceptible to "easy money."

The grand jury, of course, is interested in outright, illegal bribes and similar methods of "buying votes."

There is, however, one method used to influence votes in legislative assemblies that, while it may be legal at present, it certainly isn't ethical, and it often prevents a legislator from acting wholly in the public interest.

We refer to those members of a Legislature who accept "retainer fees" from various corporations or other types of business. Chief offenders in this group are lawyers who are on the payrolls of business, at the same time serving in the Legislature as the people's representative.

For example, a lawyer may be retained as a "tax expert" by some private or public organization; he also sits in the Michigan House or Senate; he may be chairman of some committee dealing with proposed bills to regulate the very type of business he gets his "retainer fee" from; this thing has happened, more than once.

Yet it is quite legal in most States.

Of course, it hardly is to be expected that the Legislature itself will adopt statutes to outlaw such unethical procedures. Perhaps the only cure is fast passage of the constitutional amendment covering this weakness.

It's hardly equitable, it seems to us, to allow a legislator to accept, say, \$3,000 per year as "retainer fee" from some Michigan industry, and at the same time indict and send to prison another non-lawyer legislator who accepts a hundred or more dollars for his vote when a bill comes up for final consideration.

Both methods are wrong. One is legally labelled so, and the other ought to be, too.

The Birmingham Eccentric

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and picnic members of the St. James parish tomorrow. The adjoining summer homes of Mr. and Mrs. William Smith, Mr. and Mrs. William Smith at Pine Lake are to be opened to members of the parish for a luncheon, a picnic and supper at 6 o'clock in the evening.

Edgar C. McBride, of Pine Lake, will be in charge of the luncheon property, appeared before the village commission Monday night to ask for a rezoning of his property. It is believed that the rezoning will connect Anson streets between Daines and Frank streets.

5 YEARS AGO
June 2, 1939

"When voters in the annual school election in Birmingham polls, they will be called upon to select five candidates for membership on the school board." One of the nominees, Lee E. Joslyn, Jr., is an opponent for the uncompleted term of two years, which was appointed in 1937 on the resignation of Charles S. Kinnison.

There will be no immediate payment of dividends on claims against the closed First National Bank of Birmingham, Murray & Associates, Receiver, announced today.

"The tax rate in Birmingham will remain at \$19 per \$1,000 of assessed value for the year established two years ago, as was determined Monday evening, when the Board of Finance adopted the budget for 1939-40 as submitted by City Manager Donald E. Egbert and the tax rate."

Twenty-two members of the January and June graduating classes of Baldwin high school were elected to membership in the National Honor Society and were inducted into that organization at the annual convocation of the school Thursday. The Dearborn chapter was in charge of the induction ceremony.

Baldwin high school track stars of the past and present will vie with one another in the first mile race will be held by the State Fair time this fall, is the substance of a statement just made by Gov. Frank M. Whitely. Work is being done on the site of the race course at once with the laying of the grade west of the great road from the Eight-mile road to the village of Pleasant Ridge.

"Today's results in the National Open Golf Tournament, which began yesterday morning at Oakland Hills Country Club, will decide the winner of the national open golf championship this year."

"An unusual setting is offered this year for the annual field day

People's Column

To the Editor:

Enclosed is a summary of my ideas on the question of Lend-Lease which I wish you would put in the Eccentric.

These ideas are a general haziness in the minds of many United States citizens as to what our foreign policy is. Due to our Constitution itself it is impossible to have a clear-cut, consistent, fully defined policy for both the executive and legislative branches of the government to handle foreign policy. Moreover, the requirement of a two-thirds majority in the Senate for treaty confirmation, gives control of that function to the minority. Remember the United States was prevented from joining the League of Nations by a lack of seven votes.

The reason for any foreign policy is primarily defense of the nation. If the majority in the Senate to have a clear-cut, consistent, fully defined policy for both the executive and legislative branches of the government to handle foreign policy. Moreover, the requirement of a two-thirds majority in the Senate for treaty confirmation, gives control of that function to the minority. Remember the United States was prevented from joining the League of Nations by a lack of seven votes.

Considered as a defense measure, under the Lend-Lease Act in March, 1941, was tremendously important. The title of the Act itself defined its purpose: "To provide for the national health, safety, interest and defense of the United States." The president was authorized to "sell, lease, loan, or otherwise dispose of defense articles or defense information." Applications are made in the United States and the president was authorized to "sell, lease, loan, or otherwise dispose of defense articles or defense information." Applications are made in the United States and the president was authorized to "sell, lease, loan, or otherwise dispose of defense articles or defense information."

Local Camp Staff Is Almost Ready

Camp Mahogany, the 1944 Birmingham Y.M.C.A. Camp on Look Lake is looking forward to a big season which opens July 25. Applications are being accepted only and, according to Robert D. Lloyd, the director, the camp will probably be filled by the middle of June.

Mr. Lloyd announces that the staff and counselors selected to date are to be very satisfactory. Miles W. Robinson will again be the water activities, including canoeing, fishing, sailing and other aquatic sports. George Clark will be in charge of the program and the president was authorized to "sell, lease, loan, or otherwise dispose of defense articles or defense information." Applications are made in the United States and the president was authorized to "sell, lease, loan, or otherwise dispose of defense articles or defense information."

Sons Beat Dads 3 to 2

In a seven inning ball game at Hule's Field last Thursday evening, the Birmingham Y.M.C.A. boys' baseball team defeated the dads 3 to 2. The first half of the seventh inning saw the boys leading 2-0. The dads had a chance to tie in the eighth, but the boys' pitcher, Bob White, held them off. The game was a close one, with the boys' pitcher, Bob White, holding them off in the eighth. The game was a close one, with the boys' pitcher, Bob White, holding them off in the eighth.

SALVAGE MEMO

TIN CANS—Rinse after using, remove label, open both 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 in bin near Post Office or put at curb on your last City collection day of the month. Copper, brass, etc. plates and old keys may be left at the library.

NEWSPAPERS, M.A.G.A.ZINES, SCRAP PAPER—Pick up these items as arranged for by calling the Salvage Dept. at the Municipal Building, Phone 1230 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 o'clock Monday through Friday. Regular city curb pickup first Friday of each month.

PECK'S
Cash and Carry
Suits, Topcoats, \$1.09
Plain Dresses
CLEANED and PRESSED
Free Delivery, Phone 230
WOODWARD—NEAR MAPLE

"A FRIENDLY BANK"

WABEEK STATE BANK OF DETROIT

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.

WABEEK STATE BANK OF DETROIT
BIRMINGHAM OFFICE—WABEEK BUILDING

Happenings of Long Ago

50 YEARS AGO
June 7, 1894

"Stranger than fiction—the return of a borrowed umbrella."

"It costs five dollars to hitch a horse to a tree in Birmingham."

"Miss Mary E. Uter, of Detroit, Sunday with the family of Geo. H. Mitchell."

"Fringed bottom trousers will continue to be extensively worn until times are definitely changed."

"Dr. Henry Preserved Smith seemed to have emerged from the office of the General Assembly as a Pickled Smith."

"Mrs. Cal Ellenwood is visiting her daughter, Miss Lillian Roberts at Calumet, Mich. She will be absent about a month."

"Mrs. E. Wroster is visiting his son, Ernest, at Lyndon, Ill. Mr. Wroster thinks if he could dispose of all of his property here he would reside at Lyndon."

"Rah for Cal Ellenwood! He has secured permission from the Village board and will proceed at once to build a three thousand dollar frame dwelling for himself on the site of the old village, a splendid of it, both for the village and for Mr. Ellenwood. Let the good work go briskly on."

20 YEARS AGO
June 6, 1924

The baseball history of Birmingham was definitely decided Decoration Day when members of the local Exchange and Rotary clubs met in combat on the Barren Field and after two hours of the rarest kind of baseball tactics, officially known as James A. Anderson, local chief of police, and the score stood 20 to 13, in favor of the Exchange club.

"Wider Woodward avenue from the Detroit city limits to the Tennessee river will be made by State Fair time this fall, is the substance of a statement just made by Gov. Frank M. Whitely. Work is being done on the site of the race course at once with the laying of the grade west of the great road from the Eight-mile road to the village of Pleasant Ridge."

"Today's results in the National Open Golf Tournament, which began yesterday morning at Oakland Hills Country Club, will decide the winner of the national open golf championship this year."

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Notice of School Election

The Regular Annual School Election by the qualified electors of School Districts of the City of Birmingham, Oakland County, Michigan, for the election of four trustees will be held in the Adams, Barham and Quanton School Buildings, Birmingham, Michigan, June 12, 1944, at 7 o'clock A.M., Eastern War Time and will close at 4 o'clock P.M., Eastern War Time.

The following persons have filed nominating petitions with their Board of said District for the election of trustees and their names will appear on the official ballot, copy of which follows:

The trustees candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared for a period of four weeks and the trustees shall receive the next highest number of votes shall be elected for a period of three weeks.

OFFICIAL BALLOT

FOR MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, TO BE HELD MONDAY, JUNE 12, 1944.

Make a cross (X) in the square to the left of not more than four names for the places to be filled.

FOR TRUSTEE
(Vote for not more than four)

<input type="checkbox"/>	AMOS B. ORR
<input type="checkbox"/>	LEE E. JOHNSON
<input type="checkbox"/>	AMY BYLLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	RUSSELL McBRIDE
<input type="checkbox"/>	OLGA KAPRINTZ
<input type="checkbox"/>	JAMES S. FITZLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	CHARLES H. WERCHER JR.

Ja, but It's Still Crow

VOTING? WANTED? SORRY, BUT WE CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE. BUT WE PREFER TO DO. ONLY WE COULD GET IN THERE!

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