Editorial Page of The Birmingham Eccentric

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

Michigan Mirror

INTERPRETING THE NEWS.

By GENE ALLEMAN

Seeing is believing. We have just witnessed with our own eyes a remarkable day's demonstration by the 76th division at Camp McCoy, Wis., in which American doughboys from 48 states demonstrated the combat use of such modern weapons as the automatic rifle, machine gun, mortar, pistols, grenades, anti-tank guns, flame throwers, and rocket firing bazooka.

We have seen doughboys go through the rigorous bayonet drills, hurl grenades at pill boxes, wield the deadly machete knife in practice combat against Japs, and harden their bodies and steel their nerves by crawling on their bellies through mud holes and barbed wire toward an enemy trench while live bullets cut through the air three feet above their heads, and while dynamite blasts rocked the earth one to five feet away.

We saw doughboys protected by an artillery barrage advance upon fortified points with the aid of the finest military weapons the world has ever seen. All the product of the genius and labor of American industry.

We saw 10,000 doughboys parade in division review amid a blinding rainstorm that drenched everyone. General to Doughboy will merit well the highest honors that a grateful country can bestow. The Navy, the Air Corps, the Marines and other branches of the service have big jobs to do. Yet it is still the doughboy armed with a rifle, pistol and other equipment weighing seventy-six pounds in all who is the first to engage the enemy in hand to hand combat and who is the last to hold the land which he has thus seized. The exploits of their branches of the service have been well publicized. Now seems an appropriate time to give a hand to the man who takes the greatest risks and performs an indispensable service.

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The 400 industrial leaders were given a real taste of army life. Arriving in special trains from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois and Michigan, they were garbed in military fatigue clothing, given field rations for a mid-day lunch, fed and lodged in army barracks.

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Visitors had the opportunity to witness actual demonstrations of the use of modern weapons from anti-tank guns to the well known bazooka which fires rocket shells. Artillery guns laid down a barrage of 105 and 15 millimeter shells while doughboys simulated an advance toward enemy positions.

The impact of the day's experience was tremendous. We had come from a civilian world into a military world with only a few hours time between them. Back at home was the normal security of life, we grumbled a bit over gasoline and food rationing, we fuss over lack of this and that. Following this impact of the military is hard, you feel ashamed that any Michigan worker would go out on a strike or that you had ever grumbled about any petty annoyances of civilian life.

* * *

Picture if you can the following experience that every man in an infantry company must undergo before he is permitted to enter actual combat. It is called infiltration training. The setting is a simulated no-mans land, criss-crossed with barbed wire and pocketed with shell holes, leading to an enemy trench.

The doughboys armed with rifles make their way toward the enemy trench, machine guns are firing live bullets in criss-cross fashion over their heads, in a control tower an operator sets off deafening blasts of dynamite that spout up high in the air like the burst of an artillery shell. The blasts spray mud over the men. The whir of live bullets in their ears.

Thus the army conditions each infantryman to actual battle scenes. It is a grim business and it makes you think and think.

* * *

The day's program was concluded with a division review. After a hot day clouds appeared in the west and soon a heavy thunderstorm broke loose. The 10,000 infantrymen took it as part of the war training. Without raincoats, General and Private alike participated in the event while civilians caught the spirit of the occasion and shouted round after round of cheers as the units marched by.

* * *

Seeing is believing. We only wish that every person on the Michigan front could shave shared these experiences and could have seen for themselves what the American boys in camps or overseas are doing for them. It would have made you more proud to be an American.

Wonderful, Isn't It?

If you don't believe that "politics is a dirty game," then ponder the reactions of leaders of the CIO as they argue the right to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to support FDR and his satellites in this coming election, even though Congress enacted a law against such activity.

The law is specific. It prohibits banks, corporations, or labor unions from contributing money to the election of anybody for a federal office, from president down.

For example, if General Motors Corp., or any other big industry, were to set aside a half million dollars, or any sum, to use in connection with federal elections, it would be prosecuted by federal law enforcing agencies.

But in the case of the CIO, its leaders assume that the federal statute does not cover them at all. Why? Well, in the reported words of Sidney Hillman, chairman of the CIO's Political Action Committee, "our organization has not entered into monetary contribution toward the campaign for FDR—because he has not yet announced himself for a fourth term."

And in this contention, presumably, New Deal law enforcing agencies will probably support him.

Wonderful, isn't it? If you "belong" to the right political party in these United States, maybe you can do things legally that others not so affiliated cannot do. Wonderful, isn't it?

Mr. Hillman, in talking to a Senate Committee investigating the subject, stated: "These activities on the part of the CIO Political Action Committee are merely the exercise of its constitutional right of free speech, free press, and assembly. They are not prohibited by law."

Yet Mr. Hillman, on the other hand, is in favor of the Wagner Act, which prevents employers from saying what they think about labor unions—and if this isn't opposite to the Hillman paragraph above, just what is?

Wonderful, isn't it?

All of which, of course, goes to prove that "chickens come home to roost."

In a democracy, even as regimented as ours now is, unfair statutes gained by one political group against another finally boomerang.

The federal statute against which Mr. Hillman argues now, is called the Smith-Connally provisions of the Corrupt Policies Act. It was designed originally to prevent powerful rich groups from tossing money into political campaigns; well, the CIO is a powerfully rich group these days, too.

Perhaps we could summarize this CIO Political Action Committee's dilemma, insofar as it relates to the Smith-Connally provision, by merely saying that: "Wonderful, isn't it, to be in favor with high public officials?"

Maybe it is—until, in the ordinary course of democracy, the scales of justice and equity begin to balance.

We await the outcome of this case with interest.

Wonderful, isn't it?

ALLIED INVASION OF EUROPE SPELLS the end of Hitlerism. The terrific price, in men, money, and materials is, indeed, a small cost to pay for the perpetuation of human liberty on this old earth.

Two Economic Dangers

The average American citizen, we believe, favors the utmost practical freedom for the individual, including freedom of enterprise, with fair competition and equal opportunity in the economic sphere.

This being a basic faith of Americans, it is not surprising that certain business interests attempt to use these principles to avoid governmental regulations and controls. Strangely, they have nothing whatever to say about trusts, monopolies, cartels, tariffs, subsidies and other favors that the Government has given to business at the instance of business itself.

The freedom of the individual and of enterprise can be stifled by the activity of Government or the practices of big business. It is immaterial, so far as the average citizen is concerned, whether opportunities are denied by one or the other. Federal control is no more damaging than agreements to fix prices, allocate territory and stifle competition.

"A Long War"

Captain Eddie Rickenbaker, World War ace, says that "this will be a long war." And that there is justification for the belief held by many men overseas that there isn't enough patriotism on the home front.

The Captain reminds Americans that it is a privilege to buy a War Bond and reminds the public that "it is going to be asked to buy bonds in the Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, Ninth and Tenth War Loans."

BEFORE THE BLUE BIRDS COME BACK to the White Cliffs of Dover there'll be plenty of fighting airplanes in that part of the sky—winging their way to and from Hitler's Europe. But the blue birds sure are coming back—and the vultures will pick the rotten flesh of Hitler & Co.

HUMAN BEINGS ARE FAR FROM BEING CIVILIZED to a high degree. When they move in the mass, they are like herds of wild animals—and often they go over the cliff into the deep valley below. Plenty of examples today to prove it, too.

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Maurice F. Cole Is New Head of VFW

Maurice F. Cole, department senior vice-commander and prominent Oakland county attorney, was elected commander of the Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States at the state convention held in Grand Rapids June 17 and 18. Thomas K. Browne of Royal Oak was re-elected department inspector.

Maurice F. Cole

Commander Cole, who lives in Ferndale, was graduated from Alma College in 1915 with a B. A. degree and later received an M. A. degree from the University of Michigan and an LL.B. degree from the Detroit College of Law. First commander of Paul W. Hornaday post, No. 1407, of Ferndale, he has practiced law in Ferndale since 1923. He served in the first World War from Aug. 27, 1917, to June 19, 1919, and rose from private to first lieutenant. He was principal of Lincoln high school of Ferndale from 1920 to 1923, before setting up practice. He has held several public offices including city attorney of Ferndale, assistant prosecutor for Oakland county, and circuit court commissioner.

Browne, a member of Acorn post, No. 1669, VFW, has been commander of Oakland County Council of the VFW. He was department inspector in 1937-1938 and 1942-44. He enlisted in the Navy at the age of 14, telling officers he was 16, and served in the Far East and Cuba, previous to the first World War. He was discharged in 1906.

Carl Vigstedt Made U. S. Army Air Corps Technical Officer

NEW HAVEN, Conn., June 15th —Carl Vigstedt son of Mr. and Mrs. Karl Vigstedt, 1446 E. Maple, Birmingham, received his commission and gold bars at the graduation ceremony of the Army Air Forces Training Command School at Yale University. Having met rigid physical and mental aptitude tests, Lieut. Vigstedt was sent several months ago as an aviation cadet to this school where he began training to become a technical officer in Aircraft Maintenance Engineering.

According to Col. Raymond J. Reeves, Commanding Officer of the school, the new lieutenant is now prepared for duty at an advanced flying field. There he will be in charge of a crew of enlisted men who are specialists in maintenance —the men who repair aircraft shot up during fights and raids and who provide the flying crew with a plane inspected and prepared for combat.

Lieut. Vigstedt graduated from Royal Oak high school in 1939 and attended Michigan State College from September, 1939 until March 1943. He was a member of Delta Chi fraternity.

He entered the army in April, 1943 and was stationed first at Ft. Sheridan, Ill. From there he went to BTC No. 10, Greensboro, N. C., and then to Seymour Johnson Field, North Carolina. The first of this year he was transferred to AAFTTC, Yale University, where he received his commission.

Strictly Fresh

THE Solid Fuels Administration for War turned out a limitations order with a sentence containing 169 words. Probably all heated words, too, and none oily.

* * *

Inmates of the zoo in Rome are reported to be among the most serious cases of malnutrition. Evidently the Nazis stopped short of throwing Christians to the lions.

* * *

After a look-see, administration observers report that the solid south won't bolt the Democratic ticket. Apparently Dixie is going to stick to the old trade mark no matter how the product turns out.

* * *

The admirals had some little trouble persuading Churchill to wait until after D-Day to visit the Allied beachhead. Probably they bethought them of the Norway rescue fiasco, and so were in no humor to follow "too little, too late" with "too much, too soon."

* * *

Hitler tried to do business with the same old "stand or die" exhortations when invasion came. But a good many sumermen turned out to be middle-of-the-roaders.

Well, Well, a Summertime Snowman

Birmingham Airman Receives Another Air Service Award

HEADQUARTERS U. S. ARMY FORCES in South Pacific—By the direction of the President, the Oak Leaf Cluster in lieu of an additional Air Medal was awarded by Lieutenant General Millard F. Harmon, Commanding United State Army (correct) Forces in the South Pacific Area on May 31, 1944, to Technical Sergeant Gordon L. Drumheller, of 328 West Brown street, Birmingham, Mich., as aerial radio operator gunner from Feb. 14 to Feb. 27, 1944.

A bronze Oak-Leaf Cluster is awarded for meritorious achievement while participating in sustained combat operational missions of a hazardous nature during which enemy opposition is met, or during which an area is traversed where enemy antiaircraft fire is effective or where enemy fighter patrols are habitually encountered. The missions for which the award was given were with the 13th AAF.

(Use the Eccentric Want Ads)

RATIONING AT A GLANCE

Meat, Pretinil, Food—Expires May 6. Blue, Red stamps A8 through W8, good indefinitely.

Processed Foods—Blue stamps A8 through W8, good indefinitely.

Sugar—Sugar stamps 30, 31 and 32, each good for five pounds indefinitely. Sugar stamp 40, good for five pounds of canning sugar through February, next year.

Gasoline—In 17th East Coast states, A-13 coupons good through August 8. In states outside the East Coast area, A-11 coupons good through June 21, A-12 coupons good June 22 through September 21.

Fuel Oil—Period 4 and 5 coupons, good through September 30. Next period 1 coupons for the 1944-45 heating year may be used as soon as they are received from local boards.

Shoes—Airplane stamps 1 and 2, good indefinitely.

Buy a War Bond today in behalf of a fighting man.

THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner

A nice record snapshot, yes (top). But what a difference when a little action is brought into the picture.

NEW YEAR'S may be the traditional day for making resolutions, but right now with the arrival of spring and the grand sunshine beckoning you to outdoor activities, it's time we resolved to take some really good story-telling snapshots to send to those in the Service.

Some amateurs are quite satisfied if their efforts result in good clear prints. Such pictures do serve a purpose, but it takes more than correct exposure, proper development of film, and clear, sharp prints to make an appealing, human interest picture.

Consider, for example, the illustrations above. The one at the top is technically a good snapshot, but it is just another picture. Not the slightest bit of animation or action is apparent and the subjects seem to be anything but at ease—in fact they seem quite bored with the whole thing.

But what a difference (lower) when a little action is brought into the picture. And that simple little gadget called a filter, which slips over the lens of a camera, darkens the sky, adds interest and quality to pictures.

No, your subjects do not have to be actors or actresses. Just have them do the things they might do in everyday life, catch them expressions and actions in the picture quite naturally. It isn't necessary, of course, to have a lot of action. Sister might be arranging her dolls in their carriage, with the shutter clicked just as her attention is attracted and she looks up from her little charges.

If mother becomes self-conscious when having her picture taken—send money to have her relax in a chair. Or maybe her hands are called to holding a book or lap rank to get the right expression she might be looking straight towards the camera and flashing a real smile for that boy in the Service.

Write us with your questions and we will answer so don't wait until the last minute to buy it. Have a roll or two on hand so that when you want to take some pictures you'll be all set.

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.

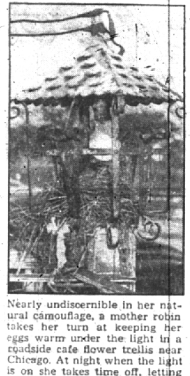
WASTE FATS—Strain and keep cool. Turn in to your meat market when you have a few pounds. Rancid fats not wanted.

SCRAP METALS, GLASS, RUBBER—Leave at curb on your last City collection day of the month. Copper engraver's 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 the Municipal Building, phone 1230 between the hours of 8 and 5 o'clock Mondays through Fridays. Regular city curb pickup first Friday of each month.

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

Incubator



Nearly undiscernible in her natural camouflage, a mother robin takes her turn at keeping her eggs warm under the light in a roadside cafe flower trellis near Chicago. At night when the light is on she takes time off, letting the power company do the job.

"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 28, 1894

"We made a mistake, last week in the date of the marriage of Mr. E. Broox Randall. It should have read June 17 instead of March 17, but for all that the young couple have our best wishes."

"Mr. William J. Kenney of Albaugh Nursery fame, is again in our midst and will do a rattling good business as he is a rattling good fellow and works for a rattling good house."

"The Ward house has been very jolly during the past week and full of company. Among their welcome guests were Miss Trowbridge, of Pontiac, Miss Edith May Stough and Mr. Sollie Stough of Chicago, Mrs. L. A. Sherman, Miss Edith Sherman and Master Willie Sherman, all of Port Huron."

"Farmington township is vaccinating all residents, the expense to be paid by the town at large."

"Miss Julia A. Dancer, of Detroit, is visiting with Mrs. John Johnston, of Maple avenue."

"A young romeo of Southfield is selling the mittens that his best girl gave him and has raised nearly enough already to buy himself a pair of summer pants."

"Maurice R. Blair has been taking the Pharmacy examination for the past two or three days at St. Clair Flats."

20 YEARS AGO
June 27, 1924

"A group of residents from the Southfield avenue section appeared before the village commission Monday evening with a request that the local police obtain better control of traffic on Southfield avenue. Between the hours of 8 to 11 p. m. the average speed of the traffic is between 40 and 50 miles, it was said."

"Work will start this week on the sidewalk to be laid on the new footbridge recently constructed at the foot of West Maple avenue across River Rouge."

"In a communication from the M.A.C. News Service word was received the fore part of the week that James Baynes, Linton A. Carter and Leigh Smith, local men, were graduated on Monday, June 16, at the sixty-sixth annual commencement of the Michigan Agricultural College."

"In a 24-hour test conducted on the new village well last Saturday, the well produced 640 gallons per minute for the full time, though the contract calls for a guarantee of 600 gallons per minute."

"Proclamation was made here this week by J. T. MacGregor, Post Commander of the American Legion, that application blanks for adjusted compensation are now ready for issuance through the Charles Edward Post No. 14, American Legion."

5 YEARS AGO
June 22, 1939

"Birmingham's new streamlined, aerial fire truck went into service Tuesday, after it had been tested and approved by the City Commission in a run through city streets, Monday evening."

"Birmingham's summer recreation program, started Monday with an enthusiastic turn-out. Registration figures taken from playground enrollment the first day, show that between 750 and 800 children signed up for vacation activities."

"Sixteen families have been registered with the Oakland County Chapter, American Red Cross, as victims of the recent tornado, which destroyed homes, and wrought general havoc in a wide area of the county, according to Frank Steere, chairman of the disaster committee."

"William N. Smith was elected president of the newly-formed Junior Chamber of Commerce of Birmingham at its meeting June 16, at the Community House. Other officers elected were: Ralph Smith, first vice-president; Cortland Cromwell, second vice-president; William Marr, secretary; and Charles Lawler, treasurer."

MEDALS

The United States mint in Philadelphia is turning out medals at a record rate to meet the demands of the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Maritime Commission. Army Medals are produced by commercial manufacturers.

TICKLERS by HAYES

"Well, girls, this is goodby—my induction notice came today."

Back the Attack!
BUY MORE THAN BEFORE