# 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

Monday, June 19, the Michigan state legislature will convene in special session at Lansing for the express purpose of enacting a law to validate the "federal ballot" for Michigan soldiers and sailors in the November election.

Here's how the change would work:

By August 1, or August 15 at the latest, every Michigan service man or woman will be given an army-navy postcard. If the service man fills out the card, it will go to Secretary of State Herman Dignan at Lansing. The cards will be routed to county clerks, and from there to city clerks according to the applicants' home towns.

* * *

**This card is a formal** request for an absentee ballot. However, a request may be made by letter, and in fact 20,000 such letters have already been received at the secretary of state's office at Lansing.

If by October 1 the absentee ballot has not been received by a Michigan service man, wherever he may happen to be, then the federal ballot law—if validated by the Michigan legislature June 19—would permit commanding officers in the field to distribute the federal ballot.

This federal ballot provides a vote only for the following: President, vice-president and members of Congress.

* * *

**In fact, it was the** federal ballot plank that evoked such a controversy among members of Congress, bringing about a working coalition between southern democratic members and northern Republican members.

If the suspicion prevails among Republicans that the federal ballot is intended to circumvent the state ballot and to favor a fourth term for the President, why then did Governor Kelly and the entire Michigan Republican delegation at Washington—Vandenberg, Ferguson and the congressmen—decide to recommend its legislative validation in Michigan?

* * *

**Here is the governor's explanation:**

"There is an unanimity of opinion that the state ballot affording the right to vote for federal, state and county office—the same opportunity which they would have to vote if home—is infinitely preferable to the supplemental Federal ballot which is confined to presidential and congressional offices.

"It is my hope and belief that the great majority of Michigan veterans serving in or attached to the armed forces will have the privilege to apply and receive the state ballot and have it returned so it can be counted on election day.

* * *

**"Voting of soldiers** and sailors in time of war is necessarily subject to military and naval operations. Because of the vast theatre of war—and type of operation—I am of the opinion that even though everything is done to transport the state ballot, there will be some who will not receive it and should be given the right to vote the supplemental Federal ballot, as a final insurance.

"I held a meeting last night with all of the congressional delegation from Michigan. They agree heartily with my conclusion that a special session of our Legislature should be called to authorize in the general November election the use of the official Federal war ballot above referred to. I am therefore calling a special session of our legislature to convene at Lansing on Monday, June 19, to consider such legislation."

* * *

**While Michigan Republican** leaders are confident that the state ticket has excellent chances of victory in November, some of them privately are not so optimistic about the national outcome.

Here is the logic behind their thinking.

Unless the continental invasion becomes an overpowering blitzkrieg, the November balloting would be conducted amid great military crisis. Such uncertainty would favor the re-election of the President as the nation's commander-in-chief — especially by men in the field.

Right or wrong, this theory has many supporters.

* * *

**In the face of such** political speculation, the stand of the Michigan Republican delegation—governor, two U. S. senators, and a dozen congressmen—only represents a significant conviction.

It was ably expressed by the governor when he said:

"This is not a partisan matter. It is a matter of fundamental right —the right of democracy for which we are fighting."

These words, worthy of a statesman, are in the finest traditions of Americanism—that intangible spirit of the heart that prompts men to put America first; selfish interests, second.

## Inaccurate Reporting

One of the acknowledged weaknesses (and there are others) of newspaper reporting is the haste with which much of the world's news is obtained and transmitted. This is especially true in the daily field, and applies more often to news of a legal or technical nature.

For example, let us consider a Supreme Court decision from Lansing. It may relate to a subject involving the regulation of a public utility, or affect its rates for some service rendered.

The Court hands out the decision to Lansing representatives of the three press wire services, and to the several regular newspaper correspondents attached to the Capital City.

Here enters the element of competition for the next edition. The reporters, most of them not lawyers themselves, hastily peruse the decision, then rush to telephone their offices, or get the story on the wire. Necessarily, the story in most cases will not give a true and calm picture of what the decision really means.

When the story reaches the State editor's desk on each newspaper, it may be cut, rewritten; here is another chance for errors to creep in. For the boys in the home office, too, are not lawyers or technical experts.

Thus, you see, in the haste of getting information to the public, news is unwittingly twisted, out of line with actual facts.

What can be done to help correct the problem?

We suggest that the newspapers, themselves, initiate a "waiting period," in which their reporters may assimilate and better interpret the Court's decision; a uniform "waiting period" of say, 24 hours could be adopted—then the element of competition could enter and the correct stories rushed into print.

Unless something like this is done, newspapers will continue to present distorted news of certain kinds; the public will be partially misinformed; and the newspapers' level in public acceptance will be lowered. That is only natural. After all, most newspapermen try to be accurate; here's an opportunity for improvement in one phase of their service to society.

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EARL BROWDER, FOR YEARS HEAD of the Communist Party in the United States, recently "dissolved" it. He gave it another name, the Non-Party Association For Political Education. It will support F.D.R. for re-election. Those Commies have learned a bit of patience—but they'll be back again when the war is over.

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"THOSE DETROIT BREAD TRUCK DRIVERS certainly had lots of crust to go on strike recently," a local housewife was heard to say. "But that's the only way they figured they could get more dough," said her husband. Well, since man doesn't live by bread alone, let him eat cookies.

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BIRMINGHAM THIS YEAR AGAIN promises to have many Victory Gardens. Many of our gardeners believe they will continue these efforts after the war—they've obtained values from their premises that they never received before, they say.

## Heroes Die In U.S.A., Too

Not every patriotic American, in his country's common defense, meets his end on the battlefield. Plenty of them, in various ways, do so right here in the United States, even though they still wear the clothing of a civilian.

Such, indeed, was the case last week of Arthur J. Brandt, of Kennesaw avenue, Birmingham, whose passing, after a month of acute illness, occurred in Cleveland, Ohio.

Mr. Brandt, who, with his wife and three sons, lived in Birmingham since 1924, was a quiet sort of person, yet whose talents in the engineering field were recognized not only nationally, but far beyond our country's area. His specialty was in laying out big industrial factories, staffing them, and making them produce efficiently great quantities of goods.

Such a project he completed in Moscow, some years ago, for the Russian government, when he developed the then largest truck factory in the world. Other countries, too, obtained the benefits of his wide experience in industrial building.

Although a busy man, yet he found time to serve Birmingham for a term on its City Commission. He was a devoted member of the local First Presbyterian church, an exemplary citizen.

Since Pearl Harbor, Mr. Brandt had worked long, long hours, travelling by air a hundred thousand miles a year, to get into quick production the nation's air fighting facilities; he was originally selected for that assignment by his former General Motors Corp. boss, Lieut.-Gen. Knudsen.

According to his intimate friends, "Art" would be alive today, had he taken even 30 days off for a complete rest; but his sense of obligation to the war effort prevented such a vacation, he felt; which proves, indeed, that he passed on "in the line of duty."

To his family, Birmingham extends its sympathy, of course. He will be remembered by all who knew him—for his type of serving is deserving of praise and emulation.


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GEORGE R. AVERILL ..... Editor and Publisher
PAUL NEAL AVERILL ..... Business Manager
H. LEE NORTH ..... Managing Editor
HAROLD P. BUERGE ..... Advertising Manager
CLAUDE E. WALKER ..... Production Manager

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NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish brief contributed material providing it has news value; and suggestions are welcomed. Contributions are usually edited superficially so that they conform to general newspaper style. Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation which may appear in the columns of The Eccentric will be gladly corrected upon being brought to the attention of the publisher.

## Rotary Committee List Is Announced

The Birmingham Rotary club is this month busy preparing for the close of the present year's activities and for the opening of the new club year on July 1.

Recently the club held its annual election naming M. Ray Cook as president, and Rotarian Cook has been at work setting up his various committees for the next year. Other club officers include Howard E. Estes, retiring president to be vice president next year; Forbes S. Hascall, secretary and Oscar P. Peterson, treasurer. On the board of directors in addition to Messrs. Cook, Estes and Peterson are Herbert H. Gardner, Dwight B. Ireland, Clyde C. Bennett and William L. Story.

New committees for the coming year, just announced by Mr. Cook include:

Club Service: Dwight B. Ireland, chairman, including these various special divisions; A. Program: Ben B. Stackable, Otto E. Bender, Ross A. Wagner, Webster Scheifele, William DeGraff and Elmer Haack, serving two months each. A. Membership and Classification: Walter Fanner, Chairman; J. Mark Hardin, C. Fellowship: J. Harvey Rosso, chairman; Clyde C. Bennett. D. Rotary Information: H. Lee North, chairman; Forbes S. Hascall. E. Music: William Howland, chairman; Louis Hascall and Matthew Cammarere. F. Sickness and Aid: W. Glen Harris, chairman; George P. Baynard. G. Entertainment: Elmer C. Huston, chairman; Robert A. McKee, Louis Hascall, Robert C. Bishop and Wylie Bell. H. Attendance: Elmer Haack, chairman, Lloyd S. Linton and Oscar P. Peterson.

Community Service Chairman, Charles J. Shain; Clayton Gracey, Charles B. Randall, Wm. Torrence and Webster Scheifele. Two special groups for part of this committee's work are: A. Youth Service: Dana W. Milliman, chairman; A. K. Trevorrow and Robert D. Lynd. B. Crippled Children: William L. Story, chairman; John McKee and David S. Geer.

Vocational Service: George R. Averill, chairman; Paul Grant, Victor L. Peck, Allen Arnold and Miles Robinson.

International Service: Herbert H. Gardner, chairman; Sam Bruni, Phil J. Williams and Clarence W. Kraft.

Administrative Committees: A. Sergeants at Arms: Harry E. Bissett and Stuart K. Baker. B. Luncheon Fees: Harvey A. Vachon, chairman; Charles W. Mulholland.

## Strictly Fresh

GOVERNOR DEWEY, saying his position on the Republican presidential nomination remains unchanged, does a good deal more explaining in refusing to discuss the question nowadays. It begins to look as if the irresistible forces is going to budge the immovable object.

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**There seems to be a difference** of opinion between FDR and Winnie. The latter said Spain had contributed to the Allied cause by resisting German pressure, but President Roosevelt, citing "too much" Spain-to-Germany shipping, takes the attitude that it's suction, not pressure, and that it's not contributory.

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The National Association of Tobacco Distributors has sent an "operation program" to its members with a view toward postwar planning. Just to give them something to chew on, no doubt, at the fag end of the day.

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Berlin commentator Ludwig Sertorius said the Germans in Italy were "yielding elastically to the overpowering pressure." Recalling Berlin big-talk of the early war years, one's conclusion is that Marshal Kesselring's elastic yielders are reclaimed grade Nazis.

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A former Cleveland ODT official was questioned four hours by police concerning illegal issuance of nearly a million gallons worth of gas coupons, and "by midnight he denied knowing anything about them." Apparently it was the cops that could not take it that time.

## 'Hey, Are You Guys Running?'

## Proposed Tax Change Studied

Still further study of taxation matters was made by the City Commission this week when Commissioner Howard Estes reported several persons had asked him for information regarding the proposed amendment to the state constitution providing for a new system of distribution for the state sales tax moneys.

Wm. Coit Allen, member of the Commission, said he felt there was some better way of accomplishing the purposes desired by the backers of the plan other than by interfering up the State Constitution with such business.

Commissioner John E. Mattes suggested that the Michigan State Tax Study commission should be given an opportunity to complete its work and make its report before any changes, such as now asked, be made.

Commissioner Ralph I. Coryell would have the city refrain from any action which might tend to hinder any of the tax study or tax planning efforts.

Commissioner Wilmer E. Moore asked regarding follow up action of some of the varsity clubs and about any action any one might contemplate in this area. It was learned that thus far there has been no organized effort here to further the proposed action by constitutional amendment.

Mayor Ray A. Palmer, who attended two recent meetings in Flint, said the local Commission members had gone to the sessions more as "observers" than as official delegates.

Russell Berger, city treasurer, reports that at a hearing in Judge George B. Hartrick's circuit court Monday, a petition entered by the city, for cancellation of delinquent personal taxes amounting to $1,104.31 was granted. The taxes in arrears for five years include city, county, school and state assessments. Under court order they are now stricken from the tax rolls.

## Sgt. Robert Carson Wins First Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster

FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE—S/Sgt. Robert Carson, formerly of 316 Oakland avenue, Birmingham, Mich., and now serving as a gunner with a Liberator squadron of the 15th Army Air Force in Italy, has been awarded the first Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster for the Air Medal for meritorious achievement while participating in sustained long-range bombing attacks on the Balkans, Austria and northern Italy from March 15th to April 4, it was announced by 15th Air Force headquarters.

The decoration was presented by Lt. Col. Kenneth Good, 39, of 2924 Fairmont Drive, Cleveland, Ohio, commander of Sgt. Carson's bomber group.

A graduate of Baldwin high school in Birmingham, Sgt. Carson has completed 22 combat missions over enemy-held territory, and has participated in repeated aerial blows against Budapest, Bucharest, Sofia and Ploesti, key Balkan bastions in the German supply routes and communication systems. He was formerly employed by General Motors Inc., and holds a degree in engineering from the Michigan College of Mining and Technology.

The sergeant's mother, Mrs. Myrtle Edna Bird, resides at 316 Oakland avenue, Birmingham, Mich.

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Don't let milk stand on a sunny porch or out in the light for any length of time because light destroys some of the riboflavin. Vitamin G. Store milk in your refrigerator as soon as it is delivered.

A nutritious loaf, which is wired a foolers, may be made by cooked peas, carrots, milk, eggs, whole wheat bread crumbs, butter, minced onion and seasoning. Serve with your favorite meat sauce.

They get medals and wooden crosses; we buy War Bonds.

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THE ECCENTRIC'S

## Camera Corner

For better animal pictures, photograph your pets at their own eye-level.

PICTURING pets is something that I think every photographer enjoys. And now that the season's crop of puppies, kittens and other young animals—and fowl—has arrived, it won't be long before you start shooting them—with a camera, of course. And, as pets are part of our home life, pictures of them are interesting to those in the Service.

Here's what I suggest. First, work alone with the animal; or, if not alone, with just one assistant at the most. When you attempt picture making with too many people around it may prove distracting to your subject.

Next, you'll soon learn that it will make things easier for you, if you place the animal in such a position that he can't move about too much. For instance, if puppies and kittens are placed on top of a box or stool which is high enough to make them reluctant to jump down, you'll find it's not so hard to catch them in a cute or interesting pose.

Then, in the technique of animal photography, is to do your picture taking at the subject's eye-level—as in our illustration. Animals viewed from above, even from your own eye-level, do not suffer many pictorial pleasing qualities they appear too top-heavy and generally look much more natural when photographed from a relatively low point of view.

Fourth, keep your backgrounds simple. Outdoors there's no better background than the sky. Use it often.

Finally, for animal snapshots, a fairly high shutter speed—1/100 second or higher is advisable—to stop any unexpected movement on the part of your subject. If your camera's shutter isn't that fast, you'll be able to make great pictures by placing your pets where the light is bright enough to make fast exposures.

—John van Guilder

## Happenings of Long Ago

**50 YEARS AGO**
**June 14, 1894**

"Mr. Clark Satterlee is very sick, having been stricken with paralysis."

"Among late astonishing discoveries are snakes in Ireland and sugar speculators in the U. S. Senate."

"The European 'War Cloud' is ready to play a short summer engagement just as soon as the curtain is rung down on the coal strikes."

"The San Salvador revolutionists must be American football players. There were 600 men killed in their last battle with the government troops."

"Don't forget the lawn party, strawberry and ice cream social at Mr. Quick's residence on Saginaw street, on Saturday evening of this week."

"Ex-Speaker Reed" started his flirtation with Miss Silver in a somewhat roundabout way, but he'll be a lover worth having if she can get a cinch that will hold him."

"An office seeker was found in one of the parks at Washington the other day in a starving condition. That ought to be a warning to office seekers everywhere, but it will not be."

"Some dastardly scoundrel or scoundrels attempted to set fire to the Franklin cheese factory last week Tuesday night and very nearly succeeded. Fifty dollars reward is offered by the sheriff of Oakland county for the apprehension of the inceadiary."

**20 YEARS AGO**
**June 13, 1924**

"The third annual reception for alumni, former students and teachers of Birmingham Baldwin high school, which comes Friday, June 20, at the Auditorium, promises to be the biggest and most successful event of its kind attempted by the Alumni Association. A fairyland of blue and white enhanced by delicate flowers will delight the guests."

"The 1924 village tax rate for Birmingham was announced Monday night by the Village commission and will amount to $12.50 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation."

"Only a small number of dogs have been picked up by the police for being loose without the proper muzzling, and of those, all have been claimed and the attending fine of one dollar paid."

"Before one of the largest gatherings ever assembled at a Baccalaureate sermon in Birmingham, the 1924 graduating class of the Baldwin high school listened to the first ceremony that marks a week in which they will forever leave behind them the endearments of local education."

"Following the regular weekly luncheon of the Birmingham Rotary club Monday, George R. Averill, president, announced the names of the various committee chairmen for the year."

**5 YEARS AGO**
**June 8, 1939**

"When the Detroit horse show opens this afternoon at Bloomfield Hills, more than 200 of the finest show horses in America and Canada will be stabled there, representing approximately 750 to 800 entries in the 82 classes of the show, the fifth annual in Detroit."

"Because of his position as County School Commissioner, E. J. Lederle has been asked by groups interested in the approaching school election, June 12, to explain the advantages or disadvantages that might result if Birmingham became a third class district."

"The largest attendance in the history of the Birmingham District marked the annual Spring Court of Honor for local Boy Scouts held at the Community House Friday evening."

"Polls will open Monday at 7 a. m. and close at 9 p. m. in the annual school election. The only voting place in the district for all qualified electors is at the Baldwin high school, Louis M. Randall, business manager of the Board of Education announces."

"Rev. Hamilton Aulenbach, rector of Christ Church and St. Michael's, Germantown, Pa., and formerly of Christ Church Cranbrook, will deliver the principal address at the graduation exercises of Baldwin high school next Thursday evening at 8 o'clock in the school."

### SUGAR STAMP 37 INVALID

Sugar stamp 37 in War Ration Book 4 will never be used, OPA announced. Because many housewives mistakenly sent this stamp to their local boards when applying for home canning sugar, instead of the correct stamp—spare stamp 37—OPA has announced that sugar stamp 37 will not be used at all, so that no one will suffer for this mistake.

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 in bin near Post Office or put 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 hours of 8 and 5 o'clock Mondays through Fridays. Regular city curb pickup first Friday of each month.



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STATE OF MICHIGAN — The Probate Court for the County of Oakland.

At a session of said Court, held at the Probate Office in the City of Pontiac, in said County, on the 23rd day of May, A. D. 1944.

Present, Hon. Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate.

In the Matter of the Estate of Lillian E. Merry, Deceased.

Earl D. Merry administrator of said estate having filed in said court a petition praying that the time for the presentation of claims against said estate be limited and that a time and place be appointed to receive, examine and adjust all claims and demands against said deceased by and before said court.

It is Ordered, that two months from this date be allowed for creditors to present claims against said estate.

It is Further Ordered, that the 8th day of August, 1944, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, at said probate office, be and is hereby appointed for the examination and adjustment of all claims against said deceased.

And for the examination and allowance of his final account, determination of the heirs of said deceased, assignment of the residue of said estate, and the discharge of said administrator.

ARTHUR E. MOORE,
Judge of Probate.

Mr. Earl D. Merry
285 Auburn Avenue,
Pontiac, Michigan.

9-10-11


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STATE OF MICHIGAN—The Probate Court for the County of Oakland.

At a session of said Court, held at the Probate Office, in the City of Pontiac in said County, on the 25th day of May, 1944.

Present, Honorable Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate.

In the Matter of the Estate of John L. McGirr, Deceased.

Allen F. McGirr, administrator of said estate having filed in said Court a petition, praying for license to sell at private sale the interest, of said estate in certain real estate therein described.

It is Ordered, That the tenth day of July, 1944, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, at said Probate Office, be and is hereby appointed for hearing said petition, and that all persons interested in said estate appear before said Court, at said time and place, to show cause why a license to sell the interest of said estate in said real estate should not be granted;

It is Further Ordered, That public notice thereof be given by publication of a copy of this order, once in each week for three weeks consecutively, previous to said day of hearing, in the Birmingham Eccentric, a newspaper printed and circulated in said County.

ARTHUR E. MOORE,
Judge of Probate.

OLIVER H. KIRK,
Attorney at Law,
Wabeek Building,
Birmingham, Michigan.

10-11-12