

Editorial Page of The Birmingham Eccentric

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



By Gene Alleman

At one time Oscar Olander, commissioner of Michigan State Police, knew every employee—State Trooper or clerk—by first name. But not so today.

Loss of police personnel and clerks has been heavy, due to the war.

Driving his car to the office one rainy morning recently, the commissioner stopped to give a "lift" to a girl who was walking south on Harrison road, East Lansing, towards the Michigan headquarters of the State Police.

"Where are you going?" asked Olander, courteously.

"I work at the State Police headquarters," the girl answered.

"Start to work there next week, do you?"

"I work at headquarters too," said Olander.

"How long have you been there?"

"Twenty-five years," replied the commissioner, who was still unidentified.

Whereupon the girl looked Olander over with a critical eye and snarped: "You're nuts!"

Dr. William D. Klein, Michigan's new public health commissioner, is no advocate of nudism. However, he does believe that the modern woman's attitude toward clothing is far more sensible than grandmother's ideas about multiple-petticoats.

Years ago when Dr. DeKline was public health commissioner in Flint, he had occasion to call at the home of a mother whose young baby was near death due to what was then called "summer complaint."

The child was in her crib, swathed in bedclothes sufficient for an Upper Peninsula night in February and obviously suffering from the heat.

"I'd like to ask a favor of you," said Dr. DeKline to the mother. "This baby will probably not get well unless you permit it to die in comfort. Take the baby out on the front porch, put her on a clean sheet and remove all those heavy bedclothes."

The mother in sorrow complied. The baby promptly died to sleep—and much to the mother's surprise and happiness—improved itself and got well.

SALVAGE MEMO

TIN CANS.—Rinse after using, remove label, open bottom and flatten with foot. Place curbs for last City collection day of the month. Keep dry, keep separate from rubbish.

WASTE PAPER.—Strain and break 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 engine plates and old keys may be left at the library.

NEWSPAPERS, M.A.G. ZINES, 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 9 and 12 o'clock, Monday through Fridays. Leave city curbside pickup first Friday of each month.

PECK'S Cash and Carry

Suits, Topcoats, \$1.09 Plain Dresses

CLEANED AND PRESSED

Far Delivery Service

WOODWARD—PHONE 230

A FRIENDLY BANK

MABEEK 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.

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A lake in autumn, soft deep shifting sand.

A robin walking in the winter snow.

Outdoor concerts by the high school band.

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Retirement Plan Should Be Approved

When you vote at Birmingham's annual city elections next Monday, April 3, you will find on your ballot the proposition of approving or disapproving the Retirement Plan for city employees. This Plan, the result of lengthy study by the City Commission, and others, is in keeping with the long-standing policy of many units of government to provide old-age security for loyal employees.

We hope that you, as a taxpayer, have read the various articles and advertisements published on the subject in this newspaper in recent weeks. If you have, you ought to know the pros and cons about it; perhaps you have already made up your mind as to how you will vote.

Personally, The Eccentric is in favor of this Retirement Plan.

It is only fitting and proper that our city employees be given a sense of security for their long and faithful service to Birmingham. At present, they do not come under the federal social security plan, as do employees in private industry. They as yet have no pension reward as do the public school teachers in Michigan.

City Manager H. H. Eorson has stated that the total annual cost to the taxpayers, on the basis of the present number of employees, will be \$16,683,000 against the employees themselves will pay \$9,938,000. Annually this fund will increase; as employees meet the Plan's requirements, amounts will be withdrawn, of course, in the way of pensions.

Manager Eorson has figured that the portion the city pays will in no way endanger the stability of the budget; he points out that adoption of the Plan would increase longevity of employee service, as well as efficiency. We all know, generally speaking, that such a Plan builds up better morale among city employees; because the Commission and Manager Eorson have pointed out the advantages brought forth the present Retirement Plan, and because these folks themselves approve it, we believe in the interest of good government that it be adopted next Monday. So we shall vote for it.

U.S. Soldiers Pour Into England

Hardly a week passes without news from England, telling of the safe arrival of a great contingent of American troops, pouring into the country as reinforcements for the invasion army now gathering in the British Isles.

While it is impossible to estimate the number, James B. Reston, New York Times correspondent, says that "never in the history of war and ships have so many men been moved across the North Atlantic so quickly as in the past six months. . . . Nothing to equal the arrival of this army has been seen."

In connection with this observation, it may be useful to recall that in May, 1918, 244,345 American soldiers landed in England, in July, 1918, 297,000, and in August, 1918, 283,800. Figures are not available for other months in 1918 but the magnitude of the movements reported in the three months given will indicate something of the number of soldiers sent to Great Britain in the past few months.

There is a great difference between the American Army of 1914 and the army of 1918. In the first World War, our soldiers were inadequately equipped and had to rely, to a large degree, upon weapons furnished by our allies. The present American Army carries its own equipment, including all the newest weapons available for combat. In addition, the United States is shipping billions of dollars worth of weapons, equipment, supplies and food to our present allies.

How About the simple every-day life of our soldiers in Italy, suggests that a little more recognition should be given genuine combat ground soldiers.

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People's Column

To the Editor, Birmingham Eccentric:

Dear Sir:

Please print the following in the "People's Column" of your paper:

"A propos de lottas"

It is a short story in this country of ours—this country is short of all things—judging from the shut-up shops and idle taxicabs letting her people go hungry, cold and stranded.

"Could it be a lust for power?"

Signed

March 21, 1944

Dear Detroit, March 25, 1944

Information has been received from the War Department that hundreds of publications are being received here, that they are being distributed to the War Department Army Post offices, which do not bear A.P.O. numbers and as a result thereof cannot be distributed and dispatched overseas.

If you're in second class publication and subscription thereof have been made for Army forces overseas such addresses should be changed to naval department addresses in this respect and also include unit or organizational designation.

Individual matters of all publications, including those not in second class, should be informed insofar as possible that addresses should be complete and indicated above, that they are subject to the first class rate, must be in sealed containers and weigh not more than eight ounces.

Advancing sincere thanks for anything you can do in this matter. I am

Respectfully yours,

ROSCOE B. HUSTON, Postmaster.

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Happenings of Long Ago

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BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Troop B-7

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"Holy guano" was present last Saturday when Mr. and Mrs. Perry Vaughn of Bloomfield Hills entertained with dancing party in the Macabee Hall here.

"For the first time in the history of Birmingham a special operation last Saturday when Homer Leonard opened his new fixture store on the corner of 10th and Douglas, formerly occupied by the Douglas Plumbing Co."

SCOUT NEWS

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Troop B-7

AID FOR SERVICE MEN

American soldiers and sailors, convalescing from illness and wounds in several military and naval hospitals, are provided a chance by the American Red Cross to learn handicrafts and to develop their talents while recuperating. In such hospitals are Red Cross recreation workers and social workers who provide the materials and other facilities for men to do something constructive. The convalescents draw, paint, make models and other articles; make model airplanes and ships; and do carpentry work. Many unknown skills and aptitudes are thus discovered. Best of all, doctors say that "manual diversion hastens recovery by creating a constructive mental attitude."

50 YEARS AGO
March 30, 1939

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"The Wolf Patrol of Troop B-7 held its annual meeting in Percé school gymnasium Tuesday evening, April 4, 7:30 p. m."

"With 'Circus Day' as the theme, the meeting will feature some of the 'most astonishing' attractions ever to be congregated under a 'Big Top.' The side-shows open at 7:30; the main performance starts promptly at 8."

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