Editorial Page of The Birmingham Eccentric

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

Michigan Mirror

INTERPRETING THE NEWS

Michigan is getting a more realistic picture of 1944, the year of invasion and perhaps of decision. Selective service is now reclassifying a quarter of a million men—many of them fathers—for possible duty. Already an estimated half million men are in uniform. Casualty lists appear to be long, yet the big channel invasion has not started! **What will be the effect** of heavy invasion losses and a sustained continental battle on Michigan public opinion? If the 300 German divisions are able to withstand the Allies double assults on two fronts without collapsing prior to the American elections in November, the effect of invasion and battle causalties cannot be underestimated. Nearly all straw votes taken among American soldiers at fighting fronts disclose a substantial re-election of their commander-in-chief, the President.

* * *

We are now told that the army was short 200,000 men from its 8,000,000 man quota for the last four months of 1943. Hence the need exists for elimination this spring of many occupational deferments. What we tend to forget, however, is the exacting and arbitrary necessity of replacing each man who is killed, wounded, or incapacitated by illness or nerves. This need of military replacements is announced by the war department to be 75,000 to 100,000 men each MONTH. War is like a modern football game; it's the reserves that count.

* * *

The sobering effect of the new drain on Michigan's manpower serves to remind us also that neither Prime Minister Churchill nor President Roosevelt has ever uttered assurance that 1944 will bring victory. In fact, the British and American Commanders-in-chief recently cautioned their respective nations against optimism that the war will be won in 1944. If war workers accepted such a realistic view of the task ahead would they persist in quitting their jobs through unauthorized strikes?

* * *

Edwin E. White, retiring chairman of the Michigan regional war labor board, blames the increase of Michigan industrial disputes on the 1944 state of public thinking. "The basic cause is that here, as elsewhere in the country, victory seems to be taken for granted. More and more people are thinking of the post-war situation and are getting ready for what they believe that situation will be."

* * *

Gen Peyton C. March, chief of staff in the first World War, via Associated Press, on his 79th birthday: "This country is in for a shock when the abled-bodied soldiers start pouring out, and the wounded start pouring in. The war hasn't even started. Wait until Germany and Japan begin begin fighting on their own soil .... We can lose this war right here at home thinking it is almost over."

* * *

Capt. Michael Fielding, wounded aviator, told Detroiters that the United States has lost the equivalent of 50 divisions of men because of a high percentage of neuro-psychiatric casualties. Why? "Too much mollycoddling."

The latest bit of over-optimism is that the Japs may be defeated first. We tend to forget the statements of Admiral Nimitz, General McArthur and General Stilwell—men who know—that without China bases we cannot defeat Japan. We have yet to regain the Philippines. We are still far from Japanese factories and her main supply base. Illusions of such wishful thinking seem to be that we can defeat Germany from the air and Japan on the sea. Actually each step is preparatory to land invasion—getting and holding land bases from which men and machines may operate.

The sartorial splendor, suave confidence, and snappy retorts of Special Prosecutor Kim Sigler in the Lansing legislature graft hearing are the talk of Lansing. Kim delights reporters by wearing a different suit each day. Results: columns of newspaper publicity as writers portray a Hollywood-like personality. Lansing expects many more indictments, the total running perhaps to 60.

Secretary of State Herman Dignan has two sons, Tom and Jim, both in the U. S. army air corps. Hobbies: Serving as starting judge for harness horse races, watching a good boxing match, and playing pitch. He belongs to the Masonic Fraternity, the Elks, Owosso County club, and the Shrine. Makes friends easily.

Governor Kelley has received from the American Red Cross a barrage of impressive evidence to substantiate the qualifications of Dr. William DeKleine of Grand Haven as Michigan commissioner of public health. When the legislature convenes this month for final adjournment, the Senate is expected to confirm the appointment. The governor's office sprung the appointment late in the special session; caught senators by surprise.

* * *

The Upper Peninsula's mineral resources include millions of tons—almost a limitless supply—of low grade iron ore ingrained with jasper rock. Practically every major iron mining company in the Lake Superior district is experimenting to discover a practical procedure of separating the iron ore from the rock.

* * *

The Michigan Unemployment Compensation commission expects to have a kitty of $270 millions piled up to meet the post-war "storm" of unemployment. Among the headaches is this: What is going to happen to the 350,000 "in-migrants" who flocked to Detroit from other states for war jobs? One bright spot is the assured demand for new automobiles. This will provide re-employment for many war workers.

* * *

While Mayor George Welsh of Grand Rapids was demanding a share of the state's sales tax surplus for municipal post-war needs, Mayor LaGuardia of New York City was asking a House committee at Washington for $380 millions of federal funds to assist New Yory City in carrying out a projected billion dollar post-war program. Unloading local governmental responsibilities upon Lansing or Washington is becoming almost a custom. A prominent Kansan once remarked "nobody wants to be without a bowl when it's raining soup."

Uniforms Wait For Women

We have commented before upon the failure of women to respond to the war needs of the nation. For some reasons, the ladies show no great enthusiasm to wear the uniform of the country.

The War Manpower Commission speaks of the "apathetic attitude of some American women" as the nation launches a campaign to secure 200,000 additional women in uniform and hundreds of thousands for essential civilian jobs.

At present, the authorized quota of the WAC is 200,000, with Army officers estimating that 600,000 could be profitably used. Against this need, the Women's Army Corps boasts 62,800 officers and enlisted women.

The WAVES have a personnel goal of 92,400 for 1944 and a present strength of 43,000. The SPARS want 12,000 women as compared with 6,500 in actual service. The Marine Corps wants 18,000 women members and has 14,800.

The general verdict of experienced officers is that the women in the services are doing a splendid job and that the fighting efficiency of the nation would be increased by the prompt enrollment of the several quotas desired.

The Earhart Mystery

The disappearance of Amelia Earhart in 1937 in a flight from Lae, New Guinea, to Howland Island, 2,526 miles distant, raised suspicions in some minds that the aviatrix landed on some Japanese-held islands and that her fate has been concealed.

Howland Island is Southeast of the Marshall Islands group. While it is possible that Miss Earhart landed on some of these islands, the chances are that any forced landing probably occurred on some of the Gilbert Islands group.

It is barely possible that information will be acquired as to her fate. Some native, in some lonely island village, might be able to explain the mystery of the disappearance and it is possible, that, somewhere, the wreckage of her plane will be discovered.

Miss Earhart made her last visit to Michigan, just a few days before she took off on her last plane trip. She appeared at a teachers' convention at Petoskey and then drove to Detroit, via Birmingham, left at once for her last air trip. Michigan has hoped against hope all the years that some favorable word of the famous aviatrix be received.

CERTAINLY, WE HEARTILY APPROVE THE IDEA of controlling local dogs; while most of them are harmless, there are enough other types to warrant their being kept on leash or within proper enclosures. But to spread community-wide alarm that every dog scratch or bite might result in rabies is to perform a public disservice; remember the old adage: "The thing I feared has come upon me."

MOST MICHIGAN REPUBLICANS WANT TO SEE Frank D. McKay ousted from his job as National Committeeman from this State. It will be interesting to see how successful they are in the current campaign. Mr. McKay has very thick skin, when it comes to pricking through his political exterior.

Can You, Or Do You Read?

If a man is so unfortunate as to lose his sight there is much sympathy thrown his way because he cannot read.

If a man who can read fails to take advantage of his eyesight to become a more informed citizen, should not the same sympathy be extended to him in his unawakened state?

How many of the people you associate with have any idea of the new developments that confront the world, who understand the primary policies of world affairs, who try to delve into the mysteries of economics, or anything that is not mostly emotional?

True enough, it seems, is the assertion that man is endowed with great intellectual capacity but continues to be ruled by his emotions. And, before ending this dissertation, what have you done about the problem for yourself?

Rayburn on "Sob Sisters"

Speaker Sam Rayburn says something when he urges the women of the nation not to be "sob sisters after the war, saying that the poor people of Germany and Japan had nothing to do with this."

Just as certainly as the sun rises there will arise a vocal minority in the United States, when peace is concluded, to defend the enemy peoples and to say, "forget and forgive," basing their argument upon what they consider eminent scriptural authority.

What the fanatics will overlook is the necessity of punishment, not as revenge, but as a deterrent to some other self-deluded "master race" in the future. It is vitally necessary to the future peace of the world that the Germans and Japanese people thoroughly understand that aggression, under any pretext, does not pay.

ARE YOU PLANNING YOUR 1944 Victory Garden yet? According to government boys and girls in high places, the nation will have to grow more food individually than last year.

The Birmingham Eccentric

Published every Thursday, at Birmingham, Mich., by The Eccentric Building, 220-222 North Woodward Avenue

Telephones 11, 12 and 13

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

Entered as Second Class Matter in the U. S. Post Office at Birmingham, Michigan

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

(In Oakland County)		(Outside Oakland County)	
One Year	$2.00	One Year	$2.50
Six Months	1.25	Six Months	1.50
Three Months	.75	Three Months	.85

All newspaper and advertising copy must be in The Eccentric office by Wednesday noon to obtain insertion for that week, except Classifieds—4 p. m.

The Eccentric is a member of: National Editorial Association, Michigan Press Association, and University Press Club.

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.

Happenings of Long Ago

50 YEARS AGO
March 8, 1894

"Farmington promises a sensational breach of promise case."

"The average college student can give a shyster lawyer points on how to prove an alibi."

"Our street commissioner cleaned off the crosswalks and now you can cross over without wading in mud up to your ears."

"We have received a lengthy communication from our old friend Annoymus. If the writer will father or mother this production we will print it."

"It is difficult to work up sympathy for the white woman who after living several years with an Indian husband finds herself deserted for a squaw and left with a brood of copper colored papooses to provide for."

"School Notes, Troy and County Line crowded out this week."

20 YEARS AGO
March 7, 1924

"Charles A. Bingham, local insurance man, Past Master of the Local Masonic lodge, was presented with a beautiful Past Master's gold jewel by members of the lodge at the regular meeting Thursday night of last week."

"Though the registration books of Bloomfield township show the names of 2800 qualified voters, only 426 appeared at the polls on Tuesday to cast their votes at the first primary election on township affairs ever held in Bloomfield Town."

"A petition asking County Drain Commissioner Crawford to install a storm drain on Lincoln avenue will be circulated in the Village this week."

"Melvin C. Hart, principal of the high school, addressed the annual meeting of the Baldwin P.T.A. Tuesday evening in the high school."

"Suit to clear the title on the Baldwin Public Library property was begun this week in the Chancery Court at Pontiac by Village Attorney Frank L. Doty."

5 YEARS AGO
March 9, 1939

"Birmingham's new postoffice has advanced a step nearer to becoming a reality with the completion of a design by the office of the procurement division of the Public Building Branch of the Treasury Department. The edifice, illustrated in the accompanying architect's drawing, will be of Neo-Greek design, to be constructed of brick with limestone walls."

"A promise of cooperation from the State Highway department in landscaping the new Super Highway through Birmingham was given by Murray D. Van Wagoner, State Highway Commissioner, in a letter to Mayor John E. Martz."

"In preparation for the annual Roll Call for the Birmingham Community House, the steering committee met Monday noon at the House to discuss preliminary plans. The date for the roll call this year has been set for April 14 to 24, the committee disclosed."

BEAVER SEASON

Licenses to trap beaver from March 15 to 31 in all of Lower Michigan are now on sale and the demand is larger than in former years. This is due to the opening of all southern counties where beaver have been declared a nuisance and the State hopes trapping will eliminate them from agricultural areas where flood damage has been extensive. Trappers will be allowed to take eight beaver, or six beavers and two otters, but there are few of the latter this far south.

Says State Potatoes Must Move to Assure Full Crop This Year

Millions of bushels of Michigan potatoes must move into consumption and soon to assure quota production of this essential food crop this year, declared Fred Hibst, of the Michigan Potato Growers Exchange, in announcing plans for a state-wide consumption campaign to be conducted this month.

"Producers of the state have an estimated 4,000,000 bushels of the 1943 crop still in storage," Hibst said. "Shipment before new potatoes from the south reach the market will require the cooperation of Michigan's million and a half householders. Growers of the state have been assured the support of the state's shippers and food retailers, in a united sales effort backed by a product of the highest quality. Every public information medium will be employed in putting the situation before the people of the state."

In urging support of the campaign, Clarence Bolander, Lansing, deputy commissioner of agriculture, said that quality of the 1943 crop was exceptionally good and pointed out that storage in a cool place for a number of weeks yet would not impair this quality.

"Producers must clean their old crop before they can undertake their 1944 task with confidence," Bolander said, declaring that with a quota increase of 22 per cent over their 1943 production of 22,365,000 bushels, Michigan producers "have a vital role in the world food picture."

Local, Air Mail, And Parcel Post Rates To Advance March 26

Postage rates for letter mail addressed for local delivery, domestic air mail and parcel post will be increased March 26, Postmaster Joseph Byrne announced today. The increases were authorized under the new federal tax bill.

In addition fees for money orders, insurance, registration and COD mail also will be increased, he said.

Local mail will jump from 2 to 3 cents per ounce at post offices having boy carrier service and air mail will rise to 8 cents per dunce from the previous 6 cent rate.

Each parcel post package will require 1 cent more or 3 per cent more than the present rates whichever is greater, per pound.

Money order fees will be increased.

WOULD BUY MORE LAND

Michigan's Game Protection Fund, made up of fees paid for hunting and fishing licenses will contribute $600,000 toward the purchase of park and recreational lands in southeastern Michigan for every $1,000,000 appropriated by the legislature from the General Fund. The Conservation Commission's action in offering contribution of funds was made in connection with a Departmental proposal submitted to the 1944 special session of the legislature to buy 100,000 acres in southeastern Michigan to relieve an acute need for public recreational lands.

16.114

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 February, A. D. 1944.

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

In the Matter of the Estate of James H. Sheridan, Deceased.

Helen L. Sheridan, administratrix 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 first day of May 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.

ARTHUR E. MOORE,
Judge of Probate.
Ecc. 49-50-51.

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 24th day of February A. D. 1944.

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

In the Matter of the Estate of Angus McNair, Deceased.

F. G. Burnett, Executor 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 1st day of May 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.

ARTHUR E. MOORE,
Judge of Probate.
49-50-51.

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 24th day of February A. D. 1944.

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

In the Matter of the Estate of Mary Elizabeth Endicott, Deceased.

John Endicott, executor 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 first day of May 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.

ARTHUR E. MOORE,
Judge of Probate.
Ecc. 49-50-51

The Sword of Damocles has Wings.

RATIONING AT A GLANCE

Processed Foods—Green stamps K, L and M good through March 20. Blue stamps A8, B8, C8, D8, and E8 are good through May 20.

Meats, Fats—Brown stamps Y and Z in Book Three are good through March 20. Red 10-point stamps A8, B8, and C8 in Book Four are good through May 20. Waste-kitchen fats are redeemed at two ration points plus four cents a pound.

Sugar—Stamp 30 in Book 4 good for 5 pounds through March 31. Stamp 40 in Book 4 good for 5 pounds through Feb. 28, 1945.

Shoes—Stamp 18 in Book 1 good through April 30. No. 1 airplane stamp in Book 3 good for 1 pair each until further notice.

Gasoline—A-10 good through March 21. B, B-1 and C and C-1 stamps good for 2 gallons until used. B-2 and C-2 good for 5 gallons. State and license number must be written on face of each coupon immediately upon receipt of book.

Tires—Next inspection due: A book vehicles by Mar. 31; commercial, 29; C's by Feb. 29; commercial vehicles every 6 months or every 5,000 miles, whichever is first.

Fuel Oil—Period 3 coupons good through March 13; Periods 4 and 5 through Sept. 30; all have value of 10 gallons for each unit. All chance making coupons and reserve coupons good through heating year. In Detroit area, only 66 per cent of annual ration should be used by now.

Too Hard Work

"Are you going to study singing, as you intended?"

"No, I gave up the idea when the teacher convinced me it would take three years of hard work to enable me to sing as well as I thought I sang already."

THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner

Pictures that tell stories of the activities back home are the kind those in the Service like to receive.

NOWADAYS, especially in face of the shortage of film, due to the vast amounts used by the Government, most amateur photographers are not making random shots but are confining their picture taking to specific subjects.

These "specific subjects," for the most part, seem to be snapshots of relatives and friends to send to those in the Service, and rightly so because the receipt of a snapshot from home is really a gala occasion in the life of a soldier. It might be truthfully said, however, that too many camera owners take "potshots" instead of snapshots. A potshot, according to Mr. Webster's definition, "requires neither skill nor effort." It's true that no great skill is required to take a snapshot but it does require a bit of mental effort if you want a pleasing, appealing picture. You just can't point the camera, snap the shutter, and call the result a snapshot. In the majority of cases it's going to be just another "potshot."

When picturing your friends and family, the first thing to do is to select a suitable setting. One of the most common faults of the average snapshot is that it is made in poor surroundings. The photographer may pose his subject in the backyard with a background of clotheslines and flapping towels. Or, he may choose the front porch steps and find in the finished picture that a post is protruding from the subject's head.

That matter of background is really important. An ideal background is the sky, as you have noticed in many excellent pictures. To achieve that effect, try taking your picture from a low angle rather than at the usual eye level. And make it a habit to always look beyond—and in front—of your subject to make sure that no extraneous objects appear in your viewfinder that may detract from your principal subject. The sky, of course, is but one of many suitable backgrounds. You must be the final judge, but always remember that an unattractive background can spoil an otherwise good picture.

Space won't permit going into details regarding the posing of your subject but, to shorten a long story, a relaxed, natural pose will yield the most pleasing pictures.

The technical end of snapshooting is not mysterious or difficult. In every case, just make certain that your camera is focused properly—so that your pictures will be sharp and clear. And try not to jar your camera when you press the shutter release. Squeeze gently, don't jab suddenly or hard.

Exposure is no problem with the simplest type of camera, but with more expensive models with adjustable shutter speeds and lens openings, an investment in a ten cent outdoor exposure guide would be worth while.

But most important of all, conserve your film for pictures from home to send those in the Service.

John van Gulder

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 the hours of 9 and 12 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

"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

1944 WAR FUND

TICKLERS by HAYES

"Why can't he just eat, like other dogs?"