

Editorial Page of The Birmingham Eccentric

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

PAGE TWO



By GENE ALLEMAN

What will happen after the war? Uncle Sam is no longer Michigan's most important single customer. Here is a question being asked by many Michigan growers today. Remember, when the United States government comes to Michigan and buys our food products, it requires careful grading of these products so that the quality is defined and the price paid in proportion constantly to the value received. Michigan food products were inspected and graded, Uncle Sam purchased in 1943 some \$200 million of Michigan fruits and vegetables, 1169 carloads of Michigan shell eggs, 5,000,000 bags (10 pounds) of Michigan dry edible beans, and also dairy products by the millions of pounds. Cherry orders total 71,396,180 pounds; grapes 26,385,506 pounds; and tomatoes 74,233,510 pounds.

Michigan growers have received millions of dollars from the sale of food to the federal government only because their products were properly graded and inspected by the government's rigid requirements.

Beneficial results, by reducing economic waste, and by eliminating inefficient practices that increased costs to consumers and decreased prices paid to farmers. Consumers, retail and wholesale buyers have been quick to recognize the value of the grading of food products.

"However, the wants of the consumer should be one of the first considerations, and should not be overlooked. After all is said and done, the consumer is the Judge. Often, the growers efforts have been governed by the conditions and problems which have confronted them at the point of production, but growers should demand their own prices, and consider only the consumers wants and desires.

"If some growers were forced to buy and eat some of the products they place on the market, they would soon realize the necessity of sound grading and marketing program. The consumer's market basket has not grown larger, and their demands are not satisfactorily filled with graded Michigan food products. Growers should consider their customers for satisfactory products from some other state."

Rome and Addis Ababa

On May 9th, 1936, Premier Benito Mussolini proclaimed to the world, "Ethiopia is Italian."

The Fascist leader was enthusiastic about the success of the seven-month war, the aggression which led Italy to her present predicament.

Conditions have changed greatly since Haile Selassie fled his capital and the people cringed under the merciless bombing of the strutting Italians. Mussolini has also been compelled to leave his capital which now, in enemy hands, seeks exemption from the fate of war by an appeal to "civilization."

It would, no doubt, be a misfortune if the capital of Rome suffers the fate of Addis Ababa, but when a nation appeals to the sword there are no immunities. The lives of our fighting men are worth more than the "glories" of Rome and unless the Germans decide to abandon Rome the ancient city is certain to feel the impact of Mussolini's war.

Describes German Soldiers

German soldiers are divided into two classes by Gen. Bernard L. Montgomery, former commander of the British Eighth Army in Africa, who speaks with authority.

Gen. Montgomery says that the older German soldiers, who grew up before the Nazis, are "coarse, almost considerate" opponents. In Africa they picked up British wounded, along with their own, and gave fair treatment to prisoners of war.

The younger German soldiers, whose minds were trained in the Nazi school, are described as "thoroughly nasty" by the British leader.

Obviously, the younger German soldiers must be re-educated. This is a difficult task and begins, as the New York Times suggests, "by showing them in battle that crime doesn't pay."

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MEMORIAL DAY

Remember the heroes of yesteryear. They too fought boldly and well, for the cause each in his time believed in preserving! They—in real life as in the pages of the present generation's school books, have perpetuated the ideals of democracy. On Tuesday, May 30, we salute, together with the heroes of our own time—the nation's heroes of yesteryear.

TUESDAY, MAY 30th

"At the Cost of Life Itself"

The Rt. Rev. William T. Manning, Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church, points out that the weight and distribution of suffering and death and there are things which must be upheld and defend even at the cost of life itself.

This is a truth that pacifist-inclined citizens forget when they depreciate the heroic efforts of our fighting men whose efforts alone make it possible for them to have any independence of thought.

We have never been able to understand the eager readiness of certain clergymen to give aid and comfort to aggressors and evil doers and we are thoroughly in accord with Bishop Manning's conviction that the tendency of pacifism by giving the impression that the pacifist position is the true Christian position.

Six-Ton Bombs

As the great Anglo-American aerial offensive proceeds to blast German production centers, the use of bombs gradually increases.

The first two-ton bombs were used by the British on July 8, 1942, against Wilhelmshaven. This was considered the last word in explosive effect but it was followed, in less than two months by four-ton bombs, which fell on Karlsruhe and, sometime later, on Berlin.

The latest information from London is that a six-ton bomb has been employed against German factories for more than a month. So destructive is the explosive that the pilots are carefully briefed and given strict orders to bring back the bombs if they are not sure of hitting the specified target.

World Opinion

World opinion should be discredited by the repeated injunction that various nations should be asked in order that world opinion might convince somebody or other of their ways.

What has the opinion of the world been able to do, with respect to the aggressions of Japan, Italy and Germany? The answer is easy. Nothing had an effect upon the rulers of these aggressor states except the fighting power of the United Nations and the same thing will be true in future wars.

We might as well get the idea into our heads that "world opinion" is useless unless backed by the force of some strong nations, ready to implement the moral judgment of the world.

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Happenings of Long Ago

50 YEARS AGO
May 31, 1894

"Mr. L. Corey and son George bicycled, out from Detroit last Sunday."

"Mrs. Blinding is home again for the summer."

"For every overworked brain you can find one thousand brains not worked at all."

"Mr. Purdy's family are moving into their new and handsome residence on the corner of Pierce and Brown streets."

"Charles Howard and family have moved to Owosso and have commenced house keeping in that lively burr."

"We want for a reader about three copies of 'The Eccentric,' May 3, anyone who has one will oblige by handing it to Mitchell at the postoffice."

20 YEARS AGO
May 30, 1924

"Roused to a point where they deem it necessary immediately to prepare a working plan for the widening of Woodward avenue through Birmingham, the village commission Monday night, on a motion made by president Charles J. Shain, directed manager Starr to complete a plan to make the thoroughfare 100 feet wide."

"Who will say that there is not still among us a desire to help our fellow citizens?"

Participation in Japanese Aggression

Malcolm Tindall, science teacher at Adams junior high school, has been granted one year's sabbatical leave to conduct research in the present semester. Mr. Tindall plans to conduct research in the field of Japanese aggression at the Children's Center, psychiatric clinic.

Members of the school are planning a fund-raising at the Community House on Saturday evening, before the school year ends. The affair, which will welcome summer activities, will be called a "Picnic Prom."

RATIONING AT A GLANCE

Meats, Fats—Red stamps for through 75 good households. Processed Foods—Blue stamps for through 48 good households. Sugar—Sugar stamps for 30 and 31, each good for five pounds in monthly. Sugar stamp 40, good for 10 pounds in monthly. Gasoline—In 1944, Coast makes a 10-cups-a-gallon through August 31. In states outside the East Coast Area, A-1 coupons good through June 31. Fuel Oil—Period 4 and 40, good through September 30. Shoes—Airplane stamps 31 and 2, good through August 31.

5 YEARS AGO
May 25, 1939

"Charles Edwards post, Albert An Legion, and City of Birmingham Post No. 2645 Veterans of Foreign Wars, and their respective auxiliaries will join forces Saturday, which has been proclaimed Poppy Day by Mayor John B. Mark, for the sale of poppies to aid disabled and unemployed veterans."

"Stik stockings are on the run in Birmingham. A mass meeting action was taken at a mass meeting Wednesday evening at Baldwin Park, Birmingham, where a committee might just as well stop looking around that military base and retire into their homes. It is a notion made by president Charles J. Shain, directed manager Starr to complete a plan to make the thoroughfare 100 feet wide."

"Who will say that there is not still among us a desire to help our fellow citizens?"

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM

Notice of Registration

TO

Qualified School Electors of the School District of the City of Birmingham, Oakland County, Michigan

All persons who have not registered and who desire to vote at the annual election, June 12, 1944, may register at the Board of Education Office in the Hill Building.

Office will be open for registration every week day beginning May 1, from 8 o'clock A.M. to 5 o'clock P.M. and until 12 noon on Saturday, except for the last day of registration which will be June 3. On June 3, the office will remain open until 8 o'clock P.M. No person is authorized to cast a ballot unless properly registered.

Qualifications for persons who are eligible to register and vote

- To Vote on School Elections
1. Must be a citizen of the United States.
 2. Must be 21 years of age (either male or female).
 3. Must have a three-month residence in the school district.
 4. Must either own property or be the parent or guardian of any child between the ages of five through nineteen included on the census of the district.
- By Authority of the Board of Education
ERNEST W. SKAHOLM, Secretary

TIN CANS MEMO

TIN CANS—Rinse after using, remove label, open bottom end and flatten with foot. Place at curb for last 5th of each month. Keep separate from rubbish.

WASTE PAPER—Strain and keep cool. Turn in to your 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 engravers' plates and old keys may be left at the library.

NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES, SCRAP PAPER—Pick-up by calling the Salvage Desk at the Municipal Building, Division 1230 between the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 o'clock Monday through Friday. Report City curb pickup first Friday of each month.

PECK'S Cash and Carry

Suits, Topcoats, \$1.09
CLEANED and PRESSED
For Delivery Phone 230
WOODWARD—NEAR MAPLE

"A FRIENDLY BANK"

WABEK 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.

WABEK STATE BANK OF DETROIT

People's Column

To the Editor:

Belonging to that simple, Polyantha class which still believes that we are going to find the right answers to all our troubles some where, sometime, I read with some hope, your report of the verbal ramblings of Floyd H. Armstrong, professor of finance at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, before a group of Birmingham business men. I only wonder now why he doesn't stay in his classroom.

According to your report, his theme was "The United States—indeed the whole world—is rapidly drifting toward this or that authoritarianism, government by rule, not by laws; unless we in our country do these things, voluntarily and vigorously, that make democracy work better, then we can expect to be swallowed up in the complicated network of governmental bureaucracy."

Big words, ponderously handled, certainly he must be an authoritarian thought. I, so I looked for his guaranteed solution of the mess we are all in, but nowhere in your fourteen pages could I find it.

Mr. Armstrong apparently didn't think much of his audience as he said in his superior wisdom he remarked, "Most of our people do not think at all; most of those who do think think too much, and incomplete job of it. Then he proceeds to very definitely place himself in the latter class."

I added that another very large class of people take themselves too damned seriously—himself included.

Seemed a little strange to me that as an authority on the sub-

People's Column

ject Mr. Armstrong overlooked entirely the main issue that confronts us today—the winning of freedom for our people.

The horrific and greatly exaggerated condition, which he assumes must continue after the war (contrary to reason) does not bring forth from him a single suggestion as to how things are to be done differently with more success than we now seem to be having.

Just how does he think we could prevail during the last war—some of its features were even worse than the conditions he now proposes? He must be a very clever man, for he never was a democrat. I refer Mr. Armstrong to Art. IV, Sec. 4 of the Constitution of the United States.

Mr. Armstrong should be reminded also that our Constitution was never intended solely for a nation at war, but for a nation at peace. Nevertheless, it provides for authoritarian power in the emergencies of war.

Just how does he think we could have built the necessary powerful Army, Navy and Air Forces—how we could have converted national industry to war production—how we could have had proper government of the distribution of food—how we could have provided our military machine with the munitions he requires?

He must have a better answer, without a "Government rule" which he derides—without government of this kind, and that? Does he have a better answer? He failed to mention it.

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People's Column

The only specific thing he put his finger on, according to your article, was the "need to socialize medicine." If that is all he can find to worry about, the country is in pretty poor condition.

Harvey Whalen, Pasadena, Calif. May 16, 1944.

To the Editor:

Dear Sir:

Who is wrong with our rationing boards? A pilot comes home for thirty days after serving over a year in England, fighting air medal with enough OK Leaf-

People's Column

clusters to cover it up, the Disintegrating Flying Cross, and completing his Ritey medals with a few more stars in for good measure. His wife has been working in a war plant keeping their young son, his brother lives up near the Soo and is seventy years old and not in good health. The ration board says a six gallon of gas, tells him he might get more in Detroit. He telephones Selfridge and they give him five gallons, and his five gallons will come before he gets over there and to Detroit—not to mention the valuable time he stands in line and waits for some guy to finish with his car. He has to get out in a swivel chair.

Someone said the pen is mightier than the sword, but I don't think so. Write your paper, write your congressman, write your President. How about the boys who marched into the service and they have to do that, or will their dads put up such a howl that they will get a square deal? And let it be known we owe these few so much that they should get enough gas for their thirty-day leaves. They may not come back next time. If you ask them they will say a gallon of gas is the best is with more than a bank of flowers on their graves once a year.

That "old pig" could have had forty gallons at Atlantic City, but he didn't know the license of his Michigan car, so perhaps that was Uncle Sam's fault—it may be just local. He got to see the chairman of the ration board, and he couldn't do anything for him. The pilot in Atlantic City told this man that he would give him his ration board, but I guess they didn't know our ration boards. That's another thing, when he mentioned that no coupons were needed when they went over to bomb, it was not a swivel chair.

Yours for a fair deal to our boys while they are living.

J. H. WALLACE,
45 Neome Dr. Pontiac, Mich. May 22, 1944.

For lamb stew, brown the lamb first, then add onions, carrots, potatoes, and last of all peas.

People's Column

AVOID CROWDS
Attendees: One Three Three M. B. Birmingham Theatre
POLYVALENT WING
FUN & AFF FROLIC