

# Editorial Page of The Birmingham Eccentric

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



By GENE ALLEMAN

**Michigan** is the slogan for May, 1934. It has been proclaimed thus by Governor Harry F. Kelly. It has the official endorsement of a state agency, the Michigan Agricultural Marketing Council, which is cooperating with the Michigan Food Council in its observance.

The idea grew out of a conviction among organized food groups and state legislators that Michigan must tell its story of quality and diversified agriculture in competition with other food producing states. There is a growing belief also that such food products must be graded as to quality and then marketed according to consumer-approved methods.

The fact that Michigan rates among the first ten states of the Nation in vital war foods is something that is not fully known and appreciated even at home. In both acreage and in production Michigan rates high in fruits, vegetables, beans, sugar beets, dairy and poultry products and even honey.

Michigan is not a typical corn-and-soybean state. It does not rate high in production of wheat, for example. Yet corn and wheat are not major elements in the modern diet of Americans.

When the growers presented their proposals to the agricultural committees of the Michigan state legislature in the house and senate, legislation was quickly enacted for an all-Michigan program of advertising which would be the means of cementing together these diversified food groups into one state program, coordinated with the national and foreign markets for grading and marketing of Michigan food products. While big business interests in Michigan are virtually unknown in Michigan, the weather is not so all-weather as in other parts of the Middle West.

The same all-weather conditions, cooled by the waters of the Great Lakes, have both the vacation seekers and the farmer.

Michigan's cool climate, tempered by winds off the Great Lakes, is the major factor that has stimulated the development of the state's diversified agriculture. Droughts are virtually unknown in Michigan. The weather is not so all-weather as in other parts of the Middle West.

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**SALVAGE MEMO**

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

**WASTE PAPER**—Strain and keep cool. Turn in to your meat market when you have a few pounds. Rancid fat 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, M.A.G.ZINES, SCRAP PAPER**—Pick-up of these may be arranged for by calling the Salvage Desk, at the Municipal Building, Room 1230 between the hours of 8 a. m. and 5 o'clock, Monday 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 Phone 230

WOODWARD—NEAR MAPLE

**Best Hunting Dogs**

Hillman and George Powell's two Walker hounds are presented as the outstanding hunting dogs of the fourth century. They have been in the kill when 12 bobcats, 10 foxes and 10 raccoons were taken in recent months.

**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

## A Minority Of Racketeers

What's wrong with the United States? That is a question that the politicians attempt to answer in one breath while shouting their heads off about the superiority of the American system in the next breath.

There is no patriotism in being ignorant, and intelligent Americans know that there is much wrong with the United States. This does not mean that our nation is worse than other nations or that the writer is ignorant of the great blessings that belong to the American people.

If anybody wants to know some of the things wrong with this country we will cite a few instances from the news.

(1) Thirty-three shipyard workers arrested in Maryland for fraudulently checking the welding done by an estimated 700 workers, each of whom paid \$1 for the overcheck, which added as much as \$15 a day to the welder's pay.

(2) A New Yorker arrested for selling certificates to the general public, enabling them to buy cigarettes at a rate established for shipments overseas. This faker operated a "patriotic, non-profit group" but the district attorney says he made \$11,000 in four months.

(3) A North Carolina man, convicted of having 2,536 gasoline coupons, two-thirds of which were allegedly counterfeit.

(4) Forty men in Los Angeles, arrested in connection with the sale of drugs which enabled them to evade induction by causing them to develop temporary symptoms of mental and physical unfitness for military service.

Let's stop the list, which could be lengthened. The criminals are not the individuals mentioned in the stories alone. In practically every instance there were hundreds, or thousands, of people who were just as guilty as the men arrested. No crook can operate for a profit unless he contacts other crooks.

Here we have a nation at war, fighting two dangerous enemies at the same time. While millions of Americans loyally support their country and are being called to the front, the sharks take advantage of conditions to graft and get what they are not entitled to have.

What is your reaction to this recital? Do you condemn the user of the fake gasoline coupons along with the crooked seller? Do you condemn the sellers who allowed the government through the aid of the crooked checkers? Do you condemn the draft dodgers along with the racketeering pharmacists?

ADMITTING THAT WE KNOW only what we read in the newspapers, magazines, and hear over the radio, we prefer to see Gen. Henri Girard lead a France that has appeared in the world, Gen. Charles de Gaulle. Girard has more than once proved, by action, his ability and loyalty to France; de Gaulle talks more, but has less military or private record to place him ahead of Girard.

TODAY OUR NATION IS ALMOST COMPLETELY in the hands of officials, necessitated largely by this war emergency. Today we accept, for the most part, the blunders of officialdom. Were we at peace, and still ruled over by so many bureaucrats, can you imagine how lacking in freedom would be our individual lives?

## Happenings of Long Ago

**50 YEARS AGO**  
May 3, 1884  
"Mr. D. W. Walker has been quite ill for a number of days but is now rapidly mending."

**20 YEARS AGO**  
May 2, 1914  
"The invitation issued by the village committee a week ago to residents of adjoining subdivisions to signify their wishes on becoming annexed to Birmingham has brought but little reply, according to Manager Starr, yesterday."

"Proceeding the installation of a combination flashing light and bell danger warning signal at the Grand Trunk track crossing on Forest East Main Street, 10th avenues, work was started this week pouring concrete bases."

"The Birmingham Junior Y" groups presented a program in

## Admiral Nimitz Honored

The Congress of the United States paid an appropriate tribute to Admiral Chester W. Nimitz in passing a bill, awarding the Distinguished Service Medal. The President, in approving the bill, indicated his approval.

The leadership of Admiral Nimitz in our war against Japan has been extremely successful. He was not stumped by the front-line clamor, in the early days of the struggle, and there is no reason to believe that he will be misled by recent successes.

In the Pacific the Navy has come into its own, fighting aggressively against the enemy. Few people today doubt the effectiveness of the fleet as it proceeds to challenge the enemy on the high seas and cut off Japanese garrisons in the South Seas.

Admiral Nimitz has exemplified the fine type of leadership that one expects from high-ranking American officers. He has generously given credit to those under him who have commanded various naval forces, and it is a pleasure to see that credit come to publicity, the admiral is a shrinking violet.

FROM VARIOUS STATE-WIDE SOURCES WE LEARN that State Highway Commissioner Charles M. Ziegler, Republican, is a rather mediocre public official. "Which suggests that Murray D. (Pat) Van Wagener, who held that office and also was Governor, even though a Democrat, might have done a better job than Ziegler. "Pat" has lots of friends in Michigan—even among the Republicans.

WE SUGGEST THAT THE BIRMINGHAM LEAGUE of Women Voters re-elect its current president, Ann Yonker, for at least another term. This lady has many practical ideas for the improvement of both citizens and government; it takes a year for her in her position to "learn the ropes"; her succeeding years in office would really be the "harvest years" for such an organization.

## The Birmingham Eccentric

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NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish brief contributions from its readers. Contributions are usually edited and published as they appear. Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person or organization appearing in the columns of the Eccentric will be gladly corrected upon being brought to the attention of the publisher.

demonstrating the work which they had carried on during the winter. An exhibition held before parents and friends in the Baldwin auditorium Tuesday evening.

"The proposition of and addition to the program of the Baldwin has been under discussion by the local board for several months, was temporarily postponed Monday evening when the architect submitted an estimated cost of the proposed building amounting to \$180,000.00."

"The last meeting of the Women's Literary Club for the current year took the form of a public luncheon Tuesday afternoon at "Highbridge," the home of Mrs. P. W. Farmer on Crooks road.

"Billy McBride, proprietor of the "Palace of Sweets," West Main Street, has announced an addition to his establishment on the newly purchased territory next to his shop."

**5 YEARS AGO**  
May 4, 1929  
"When the familiar Gilbert and Sullivan operetta, "I. M. S. Pinafore," is presented by music students at Baldwin High School Friday, May 12, in the school auditorium, Mary Gardner will sing the feminine lead as Josephine, and Robert Slass will be heard as her father, the captain."

"Official declaration that Birmingham's school district exceeds 10,000 population, and therefore is entitled to vote on changing from a city to a school district, was made at the annual election June 12, was sent to the local board of education."

"Letters requesting the attendance of representatives at a meeting to be held this evening in the Community House have been sent to all Birmingham organizations by the Birmingham Recreation committee."

"Of interest to music lovers will be the organ recital and concert to be given Friday evening in Redeemer Lutheran church at 7 o'clock by Ernest J. Kossow, former pianist for a Detroit radio station."

"Mrs. Lee R. Jostly, Jr., state president of the Woman's National Farm and Garden Association and a member of the Bloomfield Hills Branch, will address the Birmingham Branch at 7 o'clock Monday afternoon."

"Arnold Bernold will direct the concert to be given by the city instrumental music pupils in Baldwin high school auditorium Tuesday at 7:45 p. m."

**TICALERS BY HAYES**

PERFUME PERFORME

Do you have something for an indifferent old bat who doesn't give a hoot about men?

(Try an Eccentric Classified Ad)

## GIRL SCOUTS

By MARGARET BARNEY

We are proud to announce the formation of a new Brownie Troop, Troop 21, at Bloomfield Village. Mrs. Robert Copeland is the leader, with two assistants, Mrs. Laurence Kelly, and Mrs. John Schenfeld.

The chairman of the troop committee is Mrs. Paul Averill and the committee under her consists of Mrs. Joseph Harley, Mrs. Richard Flemming, Miss Dolores Goeddelke, and Mrs. Henry Gassaway.

Members of the troop are: Marjane Ando, Sue Barsdaley, Judy Howell, Mary Louise Garton, Cynthia Copeland, Judith Ann Flemming, Joan Gassaway, JoAnna Harley, Helen Huffmann, Sheila Kelly and Linda Sheehan.

The rally held Friday night at Barnum school was a great success both for the number of attendance and money donated for the Juliet Lowe Fund. This came to \$12.61 and for the Victory Fund \$17.70. The money will go toward war work this year. About 400 Scouts were present.

Troop 21 at Barnum school will hold a sale on Saturday at a typical market, on Maple road, from 10 to 1 o'clock. Proceeds are to pay for wool for the Afghan sweaters the girls are making for Red Cross.

The Lone Troop at Poppleton school on Big Beaver road gave a typical market, on Maple road, from 10 to 1 o'clock. Proceeds are to pay for wool for the Afghan sweaters the girls are making for Red Cross.

Troop 7, Pierce School, was entertained with a puppet show at its last meeting. The three girls producing it were Gwendolyn Uppinger, Jacqueline Tolbert, and Phyllis Gassaway.

A number of interesting mother's meetings were held as well as Mrs. F. D. Webb, Mrs. J. D. Hagey, and Mrs. G. H. Barney, who drove out from Birmingham.

Last Saturday Troop 20 packed 4,000 "Home Acres" books for the Red Cross. The girls of Troop 20 had just been organized with Mrs. Platte from Gilbert Lake as leader.

## Three Allies Issue Combined Report On Their Food Supplies

The average United States or Canadian citizen fares better in the food supplies available to him than does the average British citizen, the Combined Food Board of the United States, British, and Canadian governments revealed in a report this week.

The report of the Combined Food Board is the most complete and reliable comparison yet made of food supplies available for civilian consumption in these three countries. For per capita 1943 food supplies in each country were compared with prior supplies and with supplies in the other two countries—in terms of kinds of calories, minerals and vitamins.

Pre-war diets of the three countries were very similar in nutritive value and in commodities eaten, although the United States had a higher consumption of meat, poultry, eggs and fruit than the United Kingdom and much more fruit and vegetables than Canada.

In Canada, the report states, food levels are very close to those in the United States, with civilian supplies of most foods in both countries at or above 1936-39 levels.

In the United Kingdom, despite very large increases in food production, the reduction of imports has lowered civilian supplies of most foods sharply below 1936-39 levels.

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## Strictly Fresh

HITLER didn't have much to say to the hereonk on his 55th birthday. Apparently he was too busy preparing to meet his own maker.

A British woman architect told British women that American housewives had more leisure time than British women because they were "less complicated" by a knob. She failed to describe, however, how they bridge the time from twid to twist.

A Philadelphia pastor advised holding Sunday dances in churches to draw the young folks away from the city streets. Packed pews would result, he said, if he could book Gabriel for opening night.

A recent poll of Britishers reveals that 86 per cent approve of the British government's minister. It looks as if he's winning in a Gallup again.

Word from Britain is that diplomats are being kept within the city limits of London. The red tape for you, locking the barn several years after the horse had been stolen.

## It's Leap Year, Too

NOW ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS GET THE MOST OF THE MEAN!



## New X-Ray Machines Will Be Placed In Service By July 1

By July 1 the Michigan Department of Health plans to have two new portable X-ray units ready for use in searching for tuberculous cases of tuberculosis. With the addition of these two X-ray machines, each of which can X-ray 120 persons an hour, the health department expects to X-ray 200,000 persons a year, according to Dr. William DeKline, commissioner of health. At present, with one static-mounting unit, 40,000 persons are X-rayed a year.

The new X-ray machines ordered by the health department are photo-coupled X-ray units which use the small 35 mm. film. These units were specially designed for easy transportation and quick assembly. They will be set up in industries of any other large institutions requesting such service. Included in the team of five workers which will travel with each X-ray machine will be a physician to read the films. Any person whose X-ray indicates need for further study will be given a full size X-ray immediately.

The health department will compensate all necessary X-ray studies. Persons with indications of tuberculosis will have the preferred X-rays to their family physicians for their observation and the final decision as to what care is needed.

## People's Column

To The Editor:

I have lived in the village since 1926 and since that time I have known a Spring when lakes opened to be as much then around town as this year, particularly in the spring.

Would it be advisable to start some sort of a cleaning program, possibly sponsored by the youth, to pick up more particularly toward the broken glass to eliminate children's eyes and hands, and beyond, and automobile tire damage?

Very truly yours,  
R. C. Hahon  
323 Puritan Road  
Birmingham, Michigan

(Use The Eccentric Want Ads)

## THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner

If you will have your subject look directly at the camera, you'll get more of a "trust-in-us" picture. That's the kind the Servicemen like best.

They tell us that snapshots from home mean more to the boys in the South than almost anything else we can send them. Of course this isn't a bit hard to understand because everyone likes to look at a snapshot.

When a boy has been posted to a new place, he's usually a little homesick for his old place. He's just plain started to get a glimpse of the home folks and home surroundings. And let's up to us as how to provide that glimpse.

What sort of pictures shall we send? Well, of course, simple, direct snapshots are usually best. And he'll want, probably most of all, pictures of his girl—or his wife—or Mother and Girl, or his wife or Mother, perhaps some of his friends. And he'll want those pictures to show his folks carrying on with their everyday affairs, doing the things that make up their life when he's away from home. Mother going to her housework or going the taking, or feeding the chickens, or perhaps just taking out for a walk. Dad busy with the pipe and his newspaper, or checking over his fishing gear, or planting his garden. Kid brother can be playing ball, flying a kite, or riding a bike. And so on. Just cheerful little glimpses of how things are going.

And just by way of reminder, Mrs. Mother, going to her housework or going the taking, or feeding the chickens, or perhaps just taking out for a walk. Dad busy with the pipe and his newspaper, or checking over his fishing gear, or planting his garden. Kid brother can be playing ball, flying a kite, or riding a bike. And so on. Just cheerful little glimpses of how things are going.

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