

Editorial Page of The Birmingham Eccentric

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



By GENE ALLEMAN
Just as coming events cast their shadows ahead, so the approach of V-Day to Europe is precipitating currents of adjustment on the Michigan home front.

The Michigan office of Civilian Defense is headed toward partial or complete disbandment. Auditor General Vernon J. Brown has announced opposition to renewal of appropriations, holding that the period of emergency is over when enemy air raids could be made.

Organized labor has been in green pastures. Financed by public debt, war contractors have paid lush overtime wages. Cut-backs in production will hasten a return to normal hour rates, now frozen by the Little Steel formula.

The arrival of Governor Thomas E. Dewey at Lansing this Saturday night is an indication that Michigan is considered by Republicans to be a doubtful state.

Roosevelt's lead in industrial centers was broken down by one of his own men, a Michigan official of applied research.

Renewed interest of Michigan employers in the post-war period is "free enterprise" reflects a growing apprehension that the state-owned government in general may be forced into the employer's role of guaranteeing jobs and wages in an expedient manner.

Henry (Buck) Weaver of "Free Enterprise" has described "free enterprise" as being "freedom to compete with one another in serving the public better."

These facts are significant. Fifty-seven per cent of the decline in farm land production during a 13-year period following 1929 came in 1921 and 1922.

The post-war prospect of agriculture is bright. The surplus (within two to five years after the surrender of Japan) and an export market for such surplus goods needs due to increased farm mechanization in technology.

Farm earnings have been reported to be at a high level. A certain element in this country almost wishes the Allies would slow down. Not fifth columnists, but the wretches who are having a heck of a time keeping up with those hourly advances.

Hitler has lost his Romanian oil to the Russians, whose comment may well be: "The better to grease the skids under you, my dear Adolf."

WABEEK STATE BANK OF DETROIT
Pay By Check!
Cancelled checks afford the safety of a receipt for each bill paid—pad your check stubs against each expenditure.

They Are Devils!
In all the annals of history, there has never been a time to compete, in evil immensity, with the one in which the Germans killed and cremated untold hundreds of thousands of people in eastern and central Europe.

No pack of hungry wolves ever menaced decent human beings any greater than the leaders of Germany under Hitler: they have stopped at nothing to vainly conquer the world; like wolves, they must be put out of the way, either by extermination or life imprisonment.

Hitler and his gang of evil followers almost did conquer the world, as even contemporary history reveals; but they overlooked one most important thing about life: they forgot that he who is on the side of Right shall eventually triumph; this the United Nations are now doing.

Like a good and faithful political party man, Harry S. Truman, Democratic candidate for Vice-President, comes out for the reelection of Roosevelt; his chief argument is that "America must not change horses in the middle of the stream."

With the nomination of Dewey and Bricker, the Republicans have given the Grand Old Party a youthful blood plasma, with plenty of red blood corpuscles in it.

THE AMERICA FIRST PARTY, led by Gerald L. K. Smith, has adopted the American burlap as its symbol; against the elephant and the donkey, perhaps the bison symbolizes the strength of Smith's followers.

RIGHT NOW, OUR NATION'S ENTIRE EFFORT is concentrated on the production of tools of war, to win the war. It is to be hoped that, when peace comes, we'll not become so silly that we'll scrap most of these tools; to keep them will require some foresight, alas, for quite a while!

Christmas Boxes For Prisoners Of War To Be Mailed At Once
Removal of time limitations that restrict the use of special shoe stamps is announced by OPA.

SHOE STAMPS GOOD
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MINE "ICE BOX"
The first shipments of food to be stored in the Atchison, Kansas, mine converted into a huge storage warehouse are ready for moving.

TICKLERS (LITTLE RITUALS)
HLO COWBOY
I HEARD TWO MEN TALKING ABOUT YOU, MISTER SMITH!
HLO MINE! HLO MINE! HLO MINE!

NEAR VANISHING POINT
There are only 20,000 new passenger cars in the country today, OPA announces. The quota of new passenger automobiles available for rationing in this country will be 3,000 with another 300 as regional and 300 as national emergency reserves.

When you attend a theater to see Global a drama, the curtain is down at Drama first when it goes up, what you see and hear are the lines, the acting, the stage setting, fashioned by the play's author.

The dominant emphasis will be the theme of Selfishness in private affairs, in government, in labor, even between nations; Honesty, as a character, won't have enough prominence in the show.

Sidney Hillman and his CIO Political Action Committee are getting much criticism these days, from Democrats as well as Republicans. Here is a labor leader getting hundreds of thousands of dollars from the pockets of labor, and using it to re-elect Roosevelt and other disciples of the New Deal!

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Happenings of Long Ago
50 YEARS AGO
September 13, 1894
"Did you go to the game?" "John Found had a visiting ad'vt this week. Look it up."

20 YEARS AGO
September 12, 1924
"On being in the history of Birmingham and vicinity, the Eccentric wishes to thank the Methodist Episcopal Church for ringing the church bell each year on election day."

Rotary Club Fund To Aid Peruvian Student
Efrain Ribeiro, a 22-year-old civil engineer of Lima, Peru, has been awarded a \$1,200 scholarship for a year of graduate study at Michigan State College.

Peach Harvest Is At Peak This Week
Housewives who expect to can peaches are advised that the Michigan State College, Michigan State University, has announced that the market in greatest volume and at lowest prices this week and next week is expected to reach the peak.

THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner
Beaches and swimming pools offer ideal conditions for snapshots. Plenty of illumination and reflected light reflects with unusual, pleasing quality and tone (accidentally if carefully analyzed, but also mostly a matter of over-exposure).

RATIONING AT A GLANCE
Meats, Fats—Red stamps A8 through 28 and A5 through 4R. Processed Foods—Blue stamp A 8 through 28 and A5 through 1/2. Sugar—Sugar stamps 30, 31, 32, and 33 each good for five cents.

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The Last Request
FATHER, DEAR GOD, YOU GOT US TO BRING ME A SOFT PEACE!



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