Editorial Page of The Birmingham Eccentric

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

Michigan Mirror

INTERPRETING THE NEWS

By GENE ALLEMAN

As soon as they have made up their minds how the $20,000,000 to $25,000,000 surplus on July 1 should be carved up, Michigan legislators are due to go home.

The 1945 legislative session is entering the wind-up phase with lawmakers leaning toward a revision of the intangibles tax to produce approximately $7,000,000 and a hike in the state's profit from liquor sales to effect an increase of $10,000,000 in state revenues. The two items alone, if they survive the sharpshooters, would cover the one-sixth of the state sales tax originally proposed by municipalities.

There appears to be little likelihood that "poor man" taxes will be imposed on cigarettes and beer—two additional revenue possibilities suggested by Governor Kelly in a left-handed strategic move to put the cities on the defensive.

The governor has indicated that he will sign the anti-branch bank bill which weathered both houses of the legislature. The 25-mile zone for establishment of branch banks was in the old statute and hence is not new. The act will prevent the incorporation of a bank chain similar to the Michigan National banks. Upstate bankers have been apprehensive that Detroit institutions would sponsor state-wide branches.

Enactment of the bill is a feather, in the hat of the Michigan Bankers' association. It is another reminder that the Carr-Zigler grand jury, which was created to conduct investigation into the bank bill of 1943, has yet to bring out its indictments—if any. Incidentally, the Hooper case is back in the headlines. It is known that Hooper was to testify in a number of other graft cases.

Liquor reform bills appear to be jammed in the house liquor committee, and chances aren't good that they will survive the final week legislative rush. Many legislators are cool to the idea of changing the rules, as was done during World War I, preferring to wait until the "boys" come back home. It has been the experience of the state liquor control commission that when local officials—municipal, county and township—are on their toes and clean up bad conditions, the state gets no complaints. In this respect the biggest problem in enforcement of liquor laws, now as ever, is "politics." Legislators still appear with many delinquent saloon-keepers before state commissioners at hearings—a subtle inference that an easy penalty would be greatly appreciated. We can't quote names, but these are the facts.

With the exception of one state, Iowa, Michigan liquor prices are lower than those existing in the Middle-West. Tavern-keepers are netting more profit today from number of drinks served than they did before prohibition, and still the consumer gets a "break" when he purchases bottled goods at state stores or distributors. In the open states of Illinois, New York, Indiana and Wisconsin the average retail cost per bottle is $4.54. In Michigan it is $3.87, or 67 cents below the four-state average. Even with a hike in the state's profit, the consumer will benefit on a comparative basis. Here is one of the reasons why the pressure is so strong for abolition of the state monopoly. Profits which now go to the state treasury would go into pockets of a few people in the liquor business. And these profits run into the millions.

Michigan sales and use taxes provide 50 per cent of the total annual revenue. Little known is the fact that out of a total of 23 sales tax states Michigan is one of four states with a rate as high as 3 per cent. Illinois cut its tax from 3 to 2 per cent in 1941; California from 3 to 2½ per cent in 1943; Michigan and Washington are the only states which have a 3 per cent tax with no exemption of foods. Neither of these states has an income tax. North Carolina and Ohio, other 3 per cent states, exempt sales of food for consumption off the premises. Verily, the Michigan sales tax is the goose that lays the golden dollar—$100,000,000 estimated for the current year!

More about Blaney Park in the Upper Peninsula.

"We have always looked for our ultimate return to the timber growing on the land rather than to the resort phase of the development," writes G. Harold Earle, president.

"The things we did not realize about the resort phase include the fact that we didn't anticipate a most severe and prolonged depression during the major portion of the development of our project, to be followed by a war, and more recently an attitude upon the part of Government generally unfavorable to business, and invasion of our rights of invasion of the field of private enterprise by government.

"It was these things that caused me to say we might not have started the resort phase, or at least have developed it as we have, if we had known about the coming depression, the war, and all of those things."

The Earle brothers—Harold and Stewart—still retain faith in the "most promising future, for both land use and resort and recreational development in the Upper Peninsula." Harold objects to reference to the Upper Peninsula as a "tough country," a description originated by John Martin, author of "This North Country," and quoted recently in this column.

Earle says his grandfather was not responsible for extension of the railroad to Hermansville. "The railroad was built as a branch from Powers to Quinnesec because of the opening of the iron mines there and happened to go through the location of Hermansville."

ALL NEWS COPY must be in The Eccentric office by 9 o'clock each Wednesday morning for publication that week. This advance in "deadline" is effective April 12, and is caused by war-time manpower problems. adv. 2-3t

No. 18817

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 30th day of March, A. D. 1945.

Present, Honorable Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate.

In the Matter of the Estate of John Southard, Deceased.

Louise Southard having filed in said Court a petition praying that the administration of said estate be granted to the petitioner or to some other suitable person.

It is Ordered, That the 30th day of April, A.D. 1945, at eight o'clock in the forenoon, Central War Time, at said probate office, be and is hereby appointed for hearing said petition.

It is Further Ordered, That public notice thereof be given by publication of a copy of this order once each week for three successive weeks previous to said day of hearing in the Birmingham Eccentric, a newspaper printed and circulated in said county.

ARTHUR E. MOORE
Judge of Probate

2-3-4

16,923

STATE OF MICHIGAN—In 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 28th day of March, A. D. 1945.

Present, Honorable Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate.

In the Matter of the Estate of Frank Edwin Beal, Deceased.

Richard Earhart, Special Administrator of said estate having filed in said Court His Final Account and petition praying for the examination and allowance thereof, the discharge of said Special Administrator and the cancellation of his bond.

It is Ordered, that the 30th day of April, A. D. 1945, at eight o'clock in the forenoon, Central War Time, at said Probate Office, be and is hereby appointed for hearing said petition.

It is Further Ordered that public notice thereof be given by publication of a copy of this order, for three successive weeks previous to said day of hearing in the Birmingham Eccentric, a newspaper printed and circulated in said County.

ARTHUR E. MOORE
Judge of Probate

JAMES A. KENNEDY
Attorney at Law
901 First National Bank Bldg.
Ann Arbor, Michigan

2-3-4

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Man's Enemy

One of man's worst enemies are the insects. Insects are the most numerous and versatile group in the animal kingdom and can be found practically anywhere on earth where life exists.

They can live in water, on land, above the ground or under the ground. They can feed on all parts of a plant above the surface or attack the roots of a plant below the ground. They can find lodging in the heart of the largest of trees or between the surfaces of a leaf or within a tiny leaf stalk.

Every housekeeper knows the scourge of certain insects. Roaches can make life miserable for the woman of the house, while moths may destroy the most valuable clothing in the wardrobe, if proper precautions are not taken.

White ants attack dwellings or other structures and may continue their depredations unknown to anyone until the building is ready to collapse. Flies, with their disease-bearing proclivities, are not only a nuisance but are a menace to the health of human beings.

The farmer sustains an average annual loss of not less than ten per cent of the value of his crops if he takes no measures to control or check the ravages of these insect pests. Weevils, worms, grasshoppers and the like take their annual toll of the profits of the farm.

Saving American Lives

In discussing "the fruits" of Lend-Lease, Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson discloses that the United States "has equipped or "supported in varying degrees of completeness" 4,760,000 troops of the Allied armies.

Mr. Stimson points out that the country has done this "with an expenditure of only sixteen per cent of our total munitions production." The figure seems to indicate that, without Lend-Lease, there would be several million fewer troops in the Allied armies, now engaged in the decisive phase of the struggle against Germany.

If this were the case, the United States would have to form larger armies if the Axis is to be overthrown.

Officers From The Battlefront

The Army has opened a school in Paris to turn out second lieutenants at the rate of 1,000 per month in a streamlined, twelve-weeks course, with the first class slated for graduation in May.

The young officers will be used as platoon leaders. Presumably, the school will offer opportunities to men who have seen combat and deserve the training that will enable them to wear bars.

Most Americans will applaud the decision of the Army to train capable soldiers, with battle experience, for officers rather than to depend on a system of training new recruits at home. Certainly, men who have faced the enemy under modern battle conditions deserve every recognition that the Army can give to them.

Education Or Athletics?

We have been mildly interested in recent revelations regarding a basketball team of an institution of higher learning in another state where it is revealed that one of the players, "expelled" in connection with alleged bribes, has never been a student at the college, never attended a class, and only carried books occasionally.

It is difficult to conceive that such a state of affairs existed without the knowledge and participation of some of the faculty and administrative officers of the institution. Apparently, there was a demand for a winning team as an "advertisement" of the college and the quality of the basketball team was more important than the functions of the college.

We are aware of the importance that friends and alumni of various institutions of higher learning place upon a winning football, basketball or baseball team, and that the pressure of a the group has led many institutions to undermine the fundamental concept of an educational process. It is time that the abuses be corrected everywhere.

"Waste" Of War

Here is an example of the waste of war.

The Army began the construction of a huge shipping base in July, 1942, to handle war supplies destined to support an Aleutian campaign. The base was completed in the summer of 1943, but, by that time, the Japanese invaders had been ousted from the Aleutians. It is easy to conclude at this time that the Army should not have constructed the base. Our judgement, however, must be based on conditions as they existed in 1942, when the enemy had vantage points in the Aleutians and nobody knew whether the Japanese would attempt a major offensive into Alaska.

TO EXPECT ROOSEVELT, CHURCHILL AND STALIN to agree upon every post-war problem is like expecting any average three people to do likewise. Human nature cannot stand such terrific adjustments.

The Birmingham Eccentric

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GEORGE E. AVERILL — Editor and Publisher
PAUL NEAL AVERILL — Business Manager
H. LEE SMITH — Managing Editor
HAROLD P. BURKE — Advertising Manager
CLAUDE E. WALKER — Production Manager

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

NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish brief contributed material providing it has a news value and suggestions are welcomed. Contributors are asked to prepare copy briefly so that they conform to editorial 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.

People's Column

Dear Sir:

May I impose on your good will to give reply to Mr. Harvey Whalen of California.

Mr. Harvey Whalen;

My Dear Sir:

Congratulations on the prominence given your tirade in reply to my letter stating my views on enforced military training.

Your letter, except for one quotation from the Old Testament, did not contain one statement which could be interpreted as support for military training. My mention of the Greeks and Romans was more than sufficient to state my point. May I give you a few reasons which you will probably accept but I will condemn as support for military training.

During World War I, I saw my father dealt his death blow by international intrigue. I saw and experienced the social outrages and exploitation of widows and orphans by imperialistic lust and greed. Perhaps your limited horizon cannot conceive a picture of an eight or nine year old boy watching the enemy fly over the housetops and feeling a great pity for those enemy soldiers who would have a funeral made for them air within a few moments and then for two days and nights watch the town burn to the ground; the whole thinking of the relations of a feed of love being destroyed so brutally and with such mockery of His Holy Being.

That was only World War I. Now we enter into World War II with the greatest treachery and brutality the world has ever known. Censored news does not give nor will we hear of people we used to know, eyes wide open, staring unseemingly; mouths open, jaws dropped, as something beyond their comprehension, unbelievable, full of horror, fills their hearts with a strange numbness. They poke amongst the ruins of their homes, hoping that perhaps they will awaken and find it was all a nightmare dream; hoping again to hear the steps of the sons who died in Jap prison camps, hoping to see their husbands walking up the steps, those husbands who were blasted into eternity by so-called Christians. But all this, and many to those who do not or will not understand, is of no avail.

Again I stick my neck out, in the true sense of the word. Neither the United States nor Great Britain are democracies, much less Great Britain, which is an imperialistic Nation that wishes to retain that imperialism, no matter what the cost. The United States is a republic with democratic ideals yet to attain.

No, I am not an authority on the Bible but my preference is for the teachings of Christ in relation to the kingdom of heaven on earth. The Sermon on the Mount alone transcends all of the Old Testament. I quote from the "Church School" The gospels, "Lars of Living." Francis McComas, McGuffey, "Jesus felt it necessary to insist that it was possible to so keep the Mosaic Law as to make it violate the double commandment of love to God and man." Again from last week's lesson: "There are many who profess the kingdom but who do not the will of God to establish the kingdom." This is in line with the professed Christianity of the Detroit newspaper which editorially claimed preference of the Mosaic Law, "an eye for an eye and tooth for a tooth and not a life for a life." This was a complete denial of Christ and His teachings, by a professed Christian. Mr. Whalen have been to respect all religions and it is total ignorance to put it mildly, for one to take any faith and force it upon a neighbor. I respect the other person's view point and accept it as truth.

In conclusion, may I state, and maybe the neck is cut further, military is not, such a great opportunity to the make-up design plan for the kingdom of heaven on earth. Think of the the next time you say the Lord Prayer.

May God continue to be with you and keep you safe.

I am respectfully yours,

HAROLD PHILLIPS
Miss Hazel Street
Birmingham, Mich.

The current size of the Japanese Navy, according to Lt. Jg. Naval spokesman, is equivalent to the size of a powerful U. S. task force.

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WOODWARD—NEAR MAPLE

Happenings of Long Ago

50 YEARS AGO
April 11, 1895

"The prosaic man
In his wisdom can
Skip the Easter sonnet;
But he's bound to see the Easter bonnet."

"Next Sunday is Easter."

"A nice, wet rain—the first spring shower—came to us last Sunday."

"We intended to print the fish law this week. It's crowded out but will show in next issue."

"Li Hung Chang is the greatest soldier China has. He faced the enemy and the result was peace."

"Because fashion makes the girls wear green it must not be assumed that the girls are also green."

"Gov. McKinley says he isn't talking politics just now. He is too busy trying to make votes."

"Let other countries go to war, and we'll furnish the supplies to both sides. That is the only use the United States has for war."

"Bismarck would probably envy Uncle Sam the power he wielded 20 years ago more than all the cheap birthday 'puffs' recently showered over him."

20 YEARS AGO
April 10, 1925

"Take an only child of an indulgent family, on his second birthday the community house, as this village of Birmingham and vicinity, will be the scene of an elaborate celebration on Tuesday, April 28, which will mark the second anniversary of the founding of the community house."

"It is reported that 'road is poor stuff to hoe on' streetcar residents along several Birmingham streets have, as well, petition the village commission for the installation of curb, gutter, and paving of their thoroughfares, according to the information made through the local village manager Starr."

"Applicants have been processed from ten local boys for regular trains in the new Boy Scout troop that is being sponsored by the Rotary Exchange and Young Men's Service Clubs."

"Arrangements are now being made by village manager Starr to hold Birmingham's annual 'clean-up' during the week of May 1. It will require several days to do the job this year, whereas, five years ago, one day was enough. Rubbish of various kinds, collected during the year, is to be put in piles in vacant land placed at the early hour. No special charge is made for the collection."

5 YEARS AGO
April 11, 1940

"To burn the mortgage (with attendant ceremony) in behalf of the Community House is progressing favorably, it was learned Wednesday. The goal is $12,000; the closing date is April 22, and, meanwhile, 250 workers are combing the city in the solicitation."

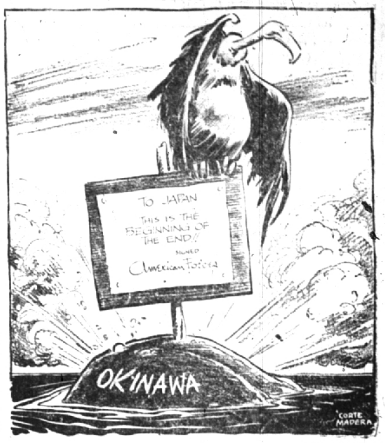
"New head of Birmingham's Rotary Club is Dr. Lester H. Gage, local dentist, elected by the Board of Directors to succeed Ray H. Rudolph. When Dr. Gracey takes office July 1, Rudolph becomes vice-president. The veteran L. E. Howarth was retained secretary and Oscar P. Peterson, treasurer."

"Appearance of the picture of John F. Martz on the front page of The Eccentric early in April every year has almost become a tradition. Monday night Commissioner Martz was named Mayor Martz for the fifth term of one year by the unanimous vote of the commission."

"Will it be four times and no more to change a lot of the old saying about 'three times and out'? Evidently, on account of the population of Birmingham Heights by the City, plus other annexations, the following in the area affected (see map), but the April 8 election they were unanimous in coming in, threatened as they were, by being water and sewer connections from Birmingham."

Be sure that all concerned are informed or placed under bonds to drop the cream factory which five years ago tried to locate here.

Posted



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