

Editorial Page of The Birmingham Eclectic

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



Michigan Mirror
INTERPRETING THE NEWS
By GENE ALLEMAN

The "little red school house" tradition, a recipient of rural education and a target of modern educators, is rapidly becoming one of the Michigan casualties of World War II.

The reason is economic. Teachers are being lured to other occupations where compensation is more attractive.

"The shortage of teachers in Michigan this year is estimated to be 3,500," said Dr. Eugene B. Elliott, state superintendent of public instruction. "Next year it will increase, we estimate, to around 5,000. The average salary of a teacher in Michigan is \$1,941 a year. This means many teachers receive less than the medium sum."

"Approximately 100 communities in Michigan are now being organized their school districts. Parents are demanding better programs for their children, and the larger schools can afford such courses as music, art, domestic science, and manual training, and can pay salaries adequate for skilled teachers."

The house of representatives has approved a bill which would permit school districts to create a study commission to investigate the advisability of school consolidations. The bill, if enacted by the legislature, would legalize a voluntary procedure and would not compel a school consolidation where taxpayers did not want it.

Dr. Elliott said the bill was patterned after a measure enacted by Washington state which provides that school districts have a right of consolidation.

"We do not advocate the closing of all one-room schools," he added. "Consolidation is not practical in all cases, and it should be effected only where benefits can be realized by the taxpayers in behalf of their children. It is our hope that the one-room school, even if abandoned, may continue to serve as a rural community center for the social needs of the rural community."

Modern transport whereby a bus has replaced the horse and buggy in rural school districts is one of the economic changes which has favored consolidation of school districts.

The state public education commission submitted recommendations two years ago for reorganization of Michigan's 6,000-plus school districts. Summary: That no elementary school child shall walk more than one and one-half miles; that no secondary school student shall walk more than two miles; that districts if reorganized shall permit bus transportation whereby an elementary school child would not be on a bus more

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Human Rights At San Francisco

"To err," says a famous proverb, "is human." Fortunately, however, it is also human to try to profit by our mistakes. Human blundering kept us from making the first World War the last, and human thoughtlessness brought us almost to disaster before the tide turned in our favor this time. The United Nations' determination that this shall not happen again is the keynote of the San Francisco Conference.

At the end of the last war we made the mistake of believing that peace would take care of itself. When the guns were silenced we went back to "minding our own business," neither noticing nor caring what went on in other lands. Ethiopia, we thought, was far away. Fascism, unpleasant though it sounded, we discounted as a way of life peculiar to Italy. Even the rise of Hitler found most of us unmoved. We dismissed him as a "crackpot," and laughed at his ranting.

Thus it went on, until suddenly we saw that we had missed the forest for the trees. The "local incident" in Ethiopia led to aggressions in Spain, Albania, Greece, Austria, Czechoslovakia, and Poland. Fascism, once peculiar to Italy, spread like wildfire over Europe. And that German "crackpot," who began by attacking minorities in Germany, finally became the greatest single enemy humanity had ever known. The only chance we had of saving at first the rights and freedoms of a very few, soon spread until it threatened to devour all.

The protection of individual rights, wherever they may be threatened, is no longer a mere freedom of opinion. Most of us have stopped feeling like Santa Claus because we are doing our share to bring peace to the world. For now we know that the only hope for our own security lies in a peace that protects the rights of all peoples, wherever they may live.

Freedom and justice, under any assembly; equal justice under the law—basic human rights that have been ours for many generations—these must be guaranteed in every corner of the world by the United Nations.

Human rights, which have been our birthrights at San Francisco, for international security is unattainable unless individuals within nations are secure. Let us have a realistic world organization, armed with a potent, functioning Commission on Human Rights. Only then do we stand a chance of avoiding the errors of the past.

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That some legislators at Lansing have been complaining because of the "lack of leadership" by Governor Harry F. Kelly was a topic recently covered by this column.

James Gallery, editor, Tuscola County Advertiser at Caro, comments editorially as follows:

Governor Kelly had prepared them for passage, most of these same politicians would have howled "dictator" until the skies rained. When he didn't do that, they howl "lack of leadership" until the same skies do the same thing. It seems to us as if the Governor has presented many problems to the legislature. He has made suggestions for laws which he considers desirable, but he has issued no orders.

The legislators have, therefore, been up on a spot where they must use their own judgment—and how some of them do hate to bail."

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Postal Employees

If there is one segment of the population of the United States that is entitled to a raise in pay, we believe it to be the postal employees of the government of the United States of America.

It is about 20 years since this group of faithful public servants has had pay adjusted. During that time we all know that living costs have increased much, that wage adjustments have been made in nearly every other field of activity.

At present there is a bill before Congress known as H. R. 2071, the contents of which, if passed, will boost the average pay of postal employees \$100 per year—certainly not enough for the folks who, in the daily discharge of their duties, play so vital a part in the intimate, the business lives of our people. So, folks, may we suggest that you write to Congressman George A. Dondero, House Office Building, Washington, D.C., your approval of this bill?

3 to 1 In Our Favor

Up to the beginning of 1945, the Army Air forces lost 17,380 planes from all causes, according to General H. H. Arnold, who reports that Germany and Japan together lost 50,658.

The ratio of losses is slightly less than three-to-one in our favor. Naturally, our Air Force knows the number of planes we have lost but the probability of error exists in regard to enemy planes. Inasmuch as the Air Force has been careful in regard to claims of enemy planes destroyed, the probability is that the figure is approximately correct.

In regard to planes lost in air combat against the Germans, the General reports that we have lost 6,989 but only 1,296 against German anti-aircraft fire downed 3,400 American planes, while Japanese anti-aircraft accounted for only 440. Our other losses are accounted for by the weather, accidents and mechanical failures. Some were destroyed on the ground.

She loved him for every dollar that he possessed—which, in the long run, makes very little sense.

The Birmingham Eclectic

Published every Thursday at Birmingham, Mich., in the Eclectic Building, 217 North Avenue. Telephone 11, 12 and 13.

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Entered as Second Class Matter in the U. S. Post Office at Birmingham, Michigan, under the Act of March 3, 1917.

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 Months75 Three Months85

Single Copies 10 Cents
The Eclectic office is Wednesday only to obtain the subscription price. Write to the Eclectic office for the subscription price.

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

NOTE: The Eclectic is pleased to publish brief contributions and notices. It has no space for general advertising and is not responsible for the return of unsolicited material. Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or position of any city, person or corporation which may appear in the columns of The Eclectic will be gladly corrected upon being brought to the attention of the publisher.

BACK TO DUTY AGAIN
Leon C. Sawyer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Sawyer, 3216 Quanton street, has been promoted to sergeant. Sgt. Sawyer served 16 months with the 8th Air Force before being discharged as a sergeant. He was returned to the States the middle of December and after a 30-day delay enroute at home, he went to Lincoln, Neb. He has now been sent to Pratt, Kansas, for reassignment.

NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNERS—BIRMINGHAM WOODWARD

Notice is hereby given that a meeting will be held at 2 o'clock P. M. in the Municipal Building on Monday, April 19th, 1945, at 2 o'clock P. M. to hear suggestions and objections to the proposed plans for the subdivision of the property of the City of Birmingham, known as the "Woodward Subdivision," in accordance with the plan filed for record in the Office of the City of Birmingham, and recorded in Book 117, Page 117.

RESOLUTION NO. 84

Moved by Commissioner Allen, Supported by Commissioner Corbett, Whereas, the City of Birmingham has acquired certain property between Edgebrook and the south of Spencer; and Whereas, the person from whom the property was acquired is the owner of Lots 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12, all of which lots are in the rear of Lots 1-13, Inc. Birmingham Woodward Subdivision, and has requested that said lots be vacated, and

Resolved that this Commission shall see, Monday, April 19th, 1945, at 2 o'clock P. M. in the Municipal Building in Birmingham, Alabama, the plan for the subdivision of the property of the City of Birmingham, known as the "Woodward Subdivision," in accordance with the plan filed for record in the Office of the City of Birmingham, and recorded in Book 117, Page 117.

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Happenings of Long Ago

60 YEARS AGO
April 18, 1885

"Why not impose a heavy tax upon the publication of posthumous love letters?"

"The Ladies' Library Society is under obligation to Mr. J. S. Stockwell for liberal donations."

"The first signs of the soda water and ice cream habits are beginning to make their appearance in the eyes of the girls."

"Why look bicycles of the walks in the center of town only? Do people want to be knocked off their wheels because they live out a ways?"

"Papers which print that story about a poor girl having been left \$1,000,000 by a woman whom she charmed with her music, will be responsible for much misery among the rich."

"Nate Fall is making trouble for himself and he may hear something drop if he don't stop repeating that the new lock boxes in the post office are pure steel, two inches thick. They fry only one-half inch in thickness."

"A children's May party at Liberty Hall, May 1. Invitations issued to children under a certain age, and everyone invited to come as spectators with an admission of 10 cents."

20 YEARS AGO
April 17, 1925

"An unusually high standard, it develops, has been attained by members of this year's graduating class from the Baldwin High School, with 15 of the 49 members of the class having an average of 90 or above on their entire high school course."

"Louis Hascall, of North Woodward avenue, a local caller, was elected president of the Birmingham Rotary Club for the ensuing year at a special meeting of the directors, held Wednesday noon at Taft Hall."

"Plans for the proposed addition to the Adams school were taken to Lansing this week by Leigh Lusk and Clarence Vliet for inspection by the state building board after the board Monday evening."

"Birmingham Baldwin High School made a good showing among the eighteen teams taking part in the annual state basketball tournament held at Ann Arbor over the week end, by defeating her rivals, Eaton Rapids, and securing honorable mention on the all-state team."

"Back from the state of California where he recently made a short visit, Charles J. Shain, village president, told members of the Young Men's Service Club the interesting phases of the trip at their regular meeting in Taft Hall Wednesday noon this week."

5 YEARS AGO
April 18, 1940

"Eliel Saarinen, head of the Cranbrook Academy of Art, and one of Finland's outstanding architects before coming to this country several years ago, learned Tuesday evening when he spoke by telephone to relatives in Helsinki, that they had only just returned from their trip to the United States."

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Dear Wanderer: I follow your wanderings in the paper each week and fully enjoy it. However, the reason for this letter is really to let you know that I write in your column last week several articles on city cleanliness. These articles, I know, are to inspire people to help keep the city clean, but how about inspiring the City to let the people to keep the city clean?

Every year more of the people who live in Birmingham are around their places to clean it up. They pile their cleanings at the side of the street and there it lies for weeks while the children haul it all over, breaking bottles and scattering in cans.

I believe the people do their part in keeping the city clean, but I certainly know the city doesn't do its part.

Why can't the city trucks pick up their piles of debris the day they are put on their ashen, they set side by side?

Yours truly,
CLYDE H. COLLINS,
191 W. Frank
Birmingham
April 14, 1945

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Lt. James P. Lowman Writes For News Of Local Servicemen

Mr. Averill: Just a line to keep in touch with our home town; I have been receiving the Eclectic quite regularly so you are in line of communication with me.

I am not in a position at present to say where I am, other than in the Seventh Army, in the 6th Corps, and keeping busy and trim. I would appreciate your saying "hello" to all the people left from the old crew. I do not have much of a line on them as to their standing in or out of the Armed Forces. If you have any record on the "Twins," Am sure they will be glad to hear of the news on the up grade soon.

I remain,
LT. JAMES P. LOWMAN.

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