

A Free, Responsible and Aggressive Press is Democracy's First Line of Defense

Helping Veterans

Creation and launching of the Birmingham area of Veterans' Counseling Center, with offices in the Community House, is a most deserved activity for the returning soldiers and sailors who wear the military uniforms of the United States.

The Quest For Truth In News

Every American should support the effort of newspaper men and press associations to establish vital principles in connection with the gathering, transmission and publication of the news of the world.

The newspaper men generally support three principles, outlined recently by the American Society of Newspaper Editors, which include (1) that news should not be censored at the source; (2) that the press should not be used as an instrument of Government propaganda; and (3) that a free flow of news should be permitted in and out of all countries.

Neither newspaper men nor the public at large, however, should conclude that the establishment of these principles will automatically mean that all facts as to international problems and other public issues will be presented to the people. The truth of the matter is that the principles, once established, will only make it possible for newspapers, radio commentators and other public men to present the facts, fairly and justly if they want to do so and are qualified to do so.

It is quite common for writers and commentators to assume that the only barriers to the acquisition of facts are those that place difficulties in the way of selecting, transmitting and publishing news. This is incorrect. Not only must the facts be collected and transmitted, but they must be published and in the publication there must be evident a desire to give out all the facts, so that the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, will be published.

In the United States there are few barriers to the selection, transmission and publication of news. This does not mean that there results, automatically, a fair and impartial presentation of all the facts. It does not mean, necessarily, that all newspapers, magazines, radio stations, and other media for the dissemination of information make an attempt to present a balanced publication of all essential facts.

EXPERIENCE IS ONE FORM OF EDUCATION that cannot be transmitted to offspring. The closest one can come to it is to offer advice which, because it is free, is seldom accepted and applied.

Opposing Our Airport

It is quite understandable why residents in the immediate vicinity of a new or proposed airport object to it. A whole list of such objections were raised recently in Birmingham when a group of people appeared before the City Commission, opposed to the new Herz Airport on East Maple avenue.

That the Birmingham area needs an airport for future requirements of air traffic must be admitted by all; just where to put it probably always will bring objections.

However, as in the case of the Herz Airport, if it is located on land unrestricted, gains the approval of the federal government, and does not constitute an unbearable hazard to human life and property, it no doubt will remain.

There always are, of course, the courts to go to for all parties who oppose such projects.

Using German Weapons

A 200-man naval technical mission to Europe is "reaping a fairly rich harvest" of German technical developments for the United States Navy, according to Commodore Henry Adrian Schade, head of the mission.

The naval officer says, however, that despite high opinion of German technical ability, it cannot be concluded that the Germans have advanced further than the Americans. Pointing out that "it is a matter of emphasis," he says that the Germans specialized on developments like the V-weapons, although some German officers believed that the special weapons were overdone at the expense of aircraft and other things.

The officer says that the Germans had a "large development program under way" and that their principal accomplishments were in the field of rockets and jet-propulsion. While there would have been some new weapons, he expressed the opinion that they would not have altered the decision of delayed the end of the war for any great time.

The reason for the large mission is that, if the Germans have anything that we need, the Navy will employ it in the war against Japan. It has already been published that German rocket bombs are being manufactured for use against Japan and every advantage will be taken of German technological developments.

The Birmingham Eccentric

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NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish brief contributions of news, facts and values and opinions are welcomed. Contributions are usually edited superlatively. Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person or corporation which may appear in the columns of the Eccentric will be gladly corrected upon being brought to the attention of the publisher.



Happenings of Long Ago

50 YEARS AGO August 1, 1895

"The editor of the Chicago News deserves to lose several million subscribers. He says there are only 100,000 male Americans who are not either bow-legged, knock-kneed or spindly-shanked."

"Near Jackson, Ohio, the other evening, a horrible accident occurred at the home of Mr. Seth Haltermann. His 15-year-old son was playing with a shotgun which he thought was unloaded and, after putting on a cap, he snapped it, losing the contents of the gun entered the face of his little sister, who was standing near by. The girl being near, and the entire family charge entering the face, it made a fearful wound, and it is not at all probable that the child will recover. The boy is very dependent over the accident and will probably lose his mind from it."

"Wheat wanted at Birmingham Mills. We will pay 20¢ per bushel above market price, Jones & McClellan."

"A chicken pie and ice cream festival will be given by the ladies of the M. E. church, Friday night, Aug. 2, at the residence of M. K. Taber. Admission to grounds, 3¢; chicken pie and coffee, 15¢; ice cream and cake, 10¢. To come will be to have a good time generally. Let everybody come."

"When a man can't think of anything else to say, he finds fault; when a woman can't think of anything—that no that won't work; who ever heard of a woman being in that predicament?"

"The dry, hot weather is making the season's work at the cemetery expensive. If you have not made your dues, will you kindly attend to it."

"Watch out for the cars. They are not here yet but are coming."

"Who says Birmingham is not booming? Why just think of it. M. K. Taber has opened up a new line of express, mail and passenger from Birmingham to Uxton Plains, a distance of less than 100 miles. The principal intermediate stations are: Bloomfield Center, Pontiac, Durkee's Landing, Wilson's Fishery and Taber's Summer Resort, where Mrs. Taber and daughter, with Miss Mollie Bassett are entertaining many friends. Anyone wishing to travel on this line must apply at least three days in advance. For Mr. Taber is doing a rushing business and expects steamers and Atlantic cable."

20 YEARS AGO July 31, 1925 "The financial program for the coming school year was planned in detail by the Board of Education on Monday evening, and a revision

Legion Team Wins From Hazel Park

Danny Grigg's three-run home featured the attack of the Birmingham American Legion team in its victory last week over the Hazel Park ball team at Pierce Field. The blow came in the fifth with two runners a base. On the defense side it was Dick Blauman's three-hit pitching that helped make the victory possible. Bob Saffell won the plate for Blauman and handled the pitcher in fine shape. Murray, playing field, landed a three-bagger to aid his team to victory. Southerland was on the mound for the losers with Hill doing the receiving. Hazel Park threw a scare into the home crowd in the last seventh when they scored three runs and tied up the old ball game.

Murray and Grigg came through with hits, however, in the last half of the seventh to push across the winning run.

Midgets Win Hot One While the Legion boys were having their big game of the week the Turley midgets had a lot of fun, winning 12 to 11 from Lathrup Midgets, at the Hazel Park Stadium last night.

Three six-runners behind the home towers small fry lashed into a fierce attack which was finished out had been recorded they had eight more runs chalked up on the board. They came from the plate in their final inning to add three more runs and the victory.

Dick Blauman pitched and Bob Smith caught for Birmingham while Doc Gordon did the tossing and Bob Jarvis the receiving for Lathrup.

The winners had fan hits and the losers had eight.

6 Hits, 6 Errors, 6 Runs The Birmingham Intermediates were not quite so lucky in their game with Lathrup last night in a five inning contest. Birmingham Lathrup 9. For Birmingham it was six runs, six hits, six errors and it was about six errors that helped the winners score those nine runs.

The pitchers went along in good shape all night long. Murray, who pitched for Birmingham, allowed Lathrup only four hits while Southerland was touched for six, including a pair of singles by Hopkinson, the Birmingham right fielder.

Household Goods of any kind are easily sold by using the Eccentric Classified Ads.

5 YEARS AGO August 1, 1940

"Some day Lois Stickle may be head mistress of Miss Steele's Select School for Young Ladies, or something similar, for at the age of 11, she is the pinniest, most able little school marm an Eccentric reporter has ever seen."

"For some unknown reason, considerable more boys than girls are born to Birmingham parents, the recent annual school census showed."

"The German nation is prepared for war, not peace, and only a military defeat is likely to bring an end to that country's conquests, a larger Birmingham audience was told Sunday night by S. L. A. Marshall, Detroit News war analyst, in a talk given at the Community House."

"Birmingham National Bank is to be suit conditioned, it was revealed Monday night at the City Commission meeting when a salesman for a cool-water system successfully persuaded the City Fathers to permit use of the water for this purpose. Installation of the system was begun Tuesday night."

PUBLIC NOTICE Public hearing will be held Monday, August 6, 1945, at 7 o'clock P. M. in the Municipal Building to consider the same. The hearing will be held in the Municipal Building, 1000 Woodward Avenue near Harmon Avenue. Treat E. Hays, City Clerk.



A Home of Your Own is Waiting, Soldier, and it will be BETTER, more ENJOYABLE

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IT TAKES A LOT OF TELEPHONE EQUIPMENT TO FIGHT A WAR OUT HERE

With more planes, more ships, more troops going into action over the vast reaches of the Pacific, the demand for new communications equipment continues. Telephone factories are still working nearly 100% on war orders.

And telephones alone won't solve the problem. We need more central offices, more switchboards, thousands of miles of wire and cable. Enlarging a telephone system requires slow, painstaking hand work. Working as fast as we can, it may be a year before telephones can be installed generally without delay.

That is not encouraging news for those who are waiting for telephones here at home. For only after materials, manpower and manufacturing facilities become available for civilian production can we begin our \$120,000,000 post-war expansion and improvement program.

There are over 115,000 Michigan families on our growing "waiting list." If you are among them, we thank you for your patience and co-operation. Our aim is to serve you as quickly as possible.

MICHIGAN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY The \$120,000,000 post-war program means jobs for our 3,000 returning veterans and many others as well

Advertisement for WABECK STATE BANK OF DETROIT, featuring a circular logo with 'WABECK STATE BANK OF DETROIT' and the slogan 'A FRIENDLY BANK'. Text includes 'Sick with Our Boys to the Finish', 'BUY AN EXTRA \$100 BOND', and 'WABECK STATE BANK OF DETROIT BIRMINGHAM OFFICE—WABECK BUILDING'.

Advertisement for LINCOLN-ZEPHYR, featuring Ford and Mercury logos and the slogan 'SALES - SERVICE'. Text includes 'GENUINE FORD MOTOR COMPANY PARTS', 'FACTORY TRAINED MECHANICS', and 'FRANK McALLISTER COMPANY 464 SO. WOODWARD Birmingham 3650 Elmhurst 5984'.