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

"I guess I'm just getting old," sighed the Country Editor. "At the rate we're going today, the country will have full-fledged state socialism in no time. The day of American free enterprise may be over unless labor wakes up soon. We're headed plumb into compulsory state control, and as one Michigan citizen, I don't like it."

With the draft getting about every able-bodied printer up to 30, and some even in their middle 30's, we hadn't expected to find the Country Editor in a jolly mood. He had been toiling late Thursday night to get the weekly paper out on time. And he was tired physically and mentally. And so, we thought, must be a lot of other people. How much real thinking about America's future was being done by the man on the street? Well, we thought of the tired and weary newspaper editor and wondered.

"And what do you mean by labor waking up?" we asked. "And aren't you talking about a bogey, this 'state socialism'?"

* * *

The Country Editor picked up a copy of a metropolitan newspaper. "Read that headline," he answered. The type told about another strike in Detroit in violation of the no-strike pledge and in defiance of an international union.

"I know you think I'm against the New Deal," he continued. "But this isn't politics. It's basic economics and history. Let's look at the evidence.

"Here's the evidence as it stacks up, pointing to a drift toward state socialism or the compulsory state. Last October the President promised 60,000,000 postwar jobs. 'Every American able to work and willing to work, has the right to a useful and remunerative job,' said the President. Governor Dewey, in September, one month earlier, declared 'We must have full employment. Those who come home from the war and those who have produced for war—all our people—have earned a future with jobs for all.'

* * *

"That was last fall. Just last month, February, the chief adviser to the Federal Reserve Board, a chap by the name of E. A. Goldenweiser, wrote in a bulletin: 'If a person has done all he can to find a job and still can't find one, the Government ought to offer him a job.' He even came out for the government guaranteeing a minimum living standard.

"All the public opinion surveys show a big majority of the voters favor extension of social security benefits, even to state-medical and dental care. The American Federation of Labor at its recent New Orleans convention urged nationalization and extension of unemployment compensation, doing away with the state experience or merit rating, and for nationalization of sickness and accident benefits through government insurance.

"Labor says that sickness is a threat to the security of the worker and his family. Burden of this disability falls most heavily on the working class which labor says can not afford adequate health services.

* * *

"It is interesting, as I see it, to notice that the conservatives in England are pushing state socialism. Sir William E. Beveridge, for example, has come out with a new book, 'Full Employment in a Free Society.' He would do just what the federal reserve economist would do: Guarantee a job for everyone at minimum living standards.

"What is going to happen to labor under this new world? Well, here's where the catch comes in. Instead of the free right of individual union to arrange contracts with employers on the basis of collective agreements, which is the present American way, the government would substitute 'a unified wage policy' and compulsory arbitration.

"Beveridge declares that 'wages ought to be determined by reason, not by the methods of strike and lockout.' And there you have it, the Soviet compulsory state.

* * *

"As I see it, and I am old-fashioned, a planned society logically ends by being an authoritarian state. The government tells the workers where and when they are to work; the government fixes wages. It's all nicely regulated.

"Why is it that the countries which have had the greatest degree of state socialism are Russia, Germany and Italy—all under state dictatorships? Organized labor doesn't exist in these countries. Freedom doesn't either.

"On March 4, 1933, the Soviet government issued a government decree to restrain an employee from leaving his employment. Four years later, and still before the start of the second world war, the Soviets provided for eviction of workers who voluntarily gave up their jobs and were dismissed for a breach of labor discipline. On June 27, 1940, during the war crisis, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet decreed that workers and employees who, by their own will, leave corrective labor and/or public enterprises shall be handed over to the courts and, by sentence of the people's judges, condemned to imprisonment. Yes, it's all in the history books for any American citizen to read.

* * *

"The Soviets have returned to wage differentials, bonuses, prizes and honors in an effort to induce efficient work and to increase production. They have production leaders, known as Stakhanovites, who get increased earnings and, before the war, even got automobiles, scholarships, cruises to Europe and nameplates on seats in the opera as extra rewards for increasing the output of the workers.

"Over here, R. J. Thomas, president of the United Automobile Workers (C.I.O.), testified at Washington April 10, 1940, that the union had been successful in reducing industrial production between five and ten per cent. Government records show Thomas said the following: 'I don't think there is any question that we have less productivity because we have lessened the speed-up.'

"There you have it: An American labor leader proud of the fact that he has curtailed productivity, yet talking about state guarantee of jobs and state insurance for this and that. That type of thinking can only take labor into controls of the government. And that means the end of free enterprise for both capital and labor."

The Country Editor lit up his pipe. "Of course, I'm prejudiced," he added. "I'm one of those damned capitalists. Last week I worked 60 hours."

Peace Has A Price

The nation now begins to learn about the price of two wars with aggressive enemies and it is time for us to realize that peace also demands a price.

One of these days, when, no man knows, the wars which we fight will end and the victorious powers will have to rearrange a shattered world. One of the prime objectives will be a plan that will make improbable another costly defense of this country.

There are some people in the United States who still believe that we can have peace without assuming any responsibility, despite our stupendous power and the role that we play in the affairs of the world.

There are men and women, sincere and devout, who insist that what the world needs is the application of religious principles to the problems that perplex mankind and that, thereafter, there will be universal peace.

We are sorry that we cannot believe this dream is real. We do not see how any amount of religious virtue, in the people of this country, would have restrained the rapacious greed of the Germans and the Japs. We can see room for improvement in Japan and Germany and we do not think we are unduly prejudiced against these nations.

Until the day comes when our enemies wish to live in peace with us, it is necessary to "carry a big stick." It is quite a burden and can be lightened only through association with other powers willing to carry a part of the load. If we expect them to help, we must be willing to contribute our full share.

Revolution In Radio

Something of a revolution in the radio industry is in sight as the Federal Communications Commission proposes wave-length allocations that cover every phase of high-frequency broadcasting.

The new arrangement will shift the entire frequency modulation industry to a new band, involving the remodeling of existing FM transmitters and the scrapping of nearly a half million FM receivers now in use.

We will make no effort to go into the technical changes involved, but some ninety channels are planned for FM, with twenty of them allotted to the exclusive use of educational institutions. Television is authorized to start commercially on certain frequencies and the suggestion is offered that the "walkie-talkie," the portable transmitter-receiver used by the military, can be adapted to civilian needs and serve in a wide field.

Civilians would not be required to have any technical knowledge to operate the "walkie-talkie" device. It would enable doctors to keep in touch with a central exchange while traveling, a farmer's wife to talk to her husband in the field, and stores to direct delivery trucks while in transit.

These are only a few of the suggested uses because the "walkie-talkie" has possibilities "as broad as the imagination of the public and the ingenuity of equipment manufacturers."

Home Folks Patriotic

In view of the dangers and inconveniences endured by our fighting men it is almost ludicrous for people on the home front to voice complaints.

All men who fight for their country take risks. They make sacrifices, even if they are lucky enough to come out of the scrap with sound bodies. It is no picnic to face an enemy in snow and ice, await a mortal blow, and still press on toward victory.

If there is any person who would prefer battlefield sacrifices to home front discomforts there is a way to get active service. If, because of age or infirmity or sex, one is unable to give to the nation the only service that counts in bloody war, one can still be loyal enough to extend complete support to the men in service.

Compared to what the civilian population of other countries have endured, we do not know that there is a war going on. Business men want reconversion to make quick profits, labor wants higher wages, and everybody else, almost, wants more money. At least, that is what seems to be the mood expressed by what we often hear, and read.

It is encouraging to be able to believe, however, that the vast bulk of our people are ready and willing to accept greater dislocation of normal living if it will assist our brave fighting men.

WHILE THIS NEWSPAPER, as is well known hereabouts, is much opposed to the New Deal boondoggles, we are more than delighted to publish, from time to time, the opinions of those who do not agree with us. After all, the American press boasts that it is free—and that freedom includes the right of all people to get their views published, free of charge.

TALKING WITH A RETURNED South Pacific veteran the other day, he said: "I'm sore at people who think that U. S. civilians should give up all their pleasures, even the so-called places of amusement. After all, that is one of the American things that we fight for, that we want to come back to. We don't want our country back home to take on the appearance of a solemn morgue."

The Birmingham Eccentric

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

NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish brief contributed material providing it has news value; and suggestions are welcomed. Contributions are usually edited superficially so that they conform to general 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.

Happenings of Long Ago

50 YEARS AGO
March 7, 1895

"Correspondence unavoidably crowded out this week."

"Mort Voorhees, of West Bloomfield, broke his leg one day recently."

"Many persons in town are anxious for spring work to commence as there has been many weeks with nothing to do."

"We enjoyed a full-fledged blizzard—a regular nor'easter—Monday last, just when we had a right to look for at least a little ethereal mildness."

"The young people of he Presbyterian church have undertaken to paper and renovate the interior of the building. On this account it will be closed next Sabbath."

"The Walnut school house will soon float the stars and stripes as the social at Miss Haskins' furnished enough money to purchase the flag and all necessary apparatus to raise it."

"'London Belles,' an old-fashioned variety show of low grade is current at Whitney's in Detroit. Two merritorious acts are presented by George P. Murphy, sketch artist, assisted by the dancing soubrette, Miss Kitty Kursale, and Miss Grace Gilmore, in skirt dancing and high kicking. The engagement is for the week."

"There will be a contest social at Mr. W. D. Clizbe's next Friday evening. A short program of music and charades will be given, after which there will be several very amusing 'contests'."

20 YEARS AGO
March 6, 1925

"By a formal resolution, passed by the village commission Monday night, Birmingham went on record as being opposed to furnishing water to new subdivisions outside of town, as well as to discontinue such water service when the present contracts expire."

"Plans are now being formulated for the second annual membership drive for the community house, to extend through the week of April 4 to 11. The first action was taken last Monday at the monthly meeting of the community house board."

"Officer [illegible] the Woman's Literary Club for the ensuing year were elected at the annual meeting and luncheon in the Methodist church here last Tuesday afternoon."

Charles A. Bingham, member of the Birmingham village commission, and well known in Oakland county, this week announced the opening of a real estate and general insurance office, temporarily located at 109 North Woodward."

"Plans and arrangements for the musical comedy to be given next Friday, March 13, by the alumnae members of the local high school, are progressing steadily under the direction of Miss Myra Gratton."

5 YEARS AGO
March 6, 1940

"The first games in the series to decide the city championship in the Y.M.C.A. Basket Ball League will be played tonight in Baldwin High School gym, starting at 7:30 o'clock."

"Landscaping up Hunter boulevard will probably be undertaken this spring, according to City Manager Donald C. Egbert. Agents of the State Highway Department have been in the city gathering information to prepare specifications for prospective bidders on the job."

"Tom Harmon, University of Michigan football star, is expected to be in Birmingham Saturday evening, March 16, to attend the annual reunion at the Methodist church of campers at Mahn-Go-Tah-See, Y.M.C.A. camp."

"The Board of Appeals for Birmingham's Zoning ordinance was reappointed for another year of the City Commission, Monday evening. On the board are Charles J. Shain, E. S. Clark, Arthur Bull, Wylie Groves and George Steelman."

"Following a complaint of a prowler early Monday morning phoned by Edward Kurth, chase was made of a suspicious car by Patrolman Larry Kamin. Pursuit started at Cedar and Lincoln avenue, but the other machine, described as being dirty, got away."

"When the Finnish vice-consul, George Heideman, talked at the Community House Tuesday noon, he had numerous friends in the room. John B. Moody, his brother-in-law, was there; Dr. William Lloyd Kemp, a college fraternity brother, attended also; Mrs. Julia K. Lally is also an old friend."

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People's Column

Dear Editor:

Reading your paper of March 1, in your "Bits of Birmingham" column you had a vote for the meanest person in town. I would like to nominate another person to that place, title or honor.

There seems to be a certain type of business people, who seem to delight in refusing to be co-operative and business-like in their dealings with the public. In fact a lot of them apparently forget the lean years of the early thirties. They forget, or maybe they prefer not to think of the time when they had to solicit business and competition was very keen.

My pet peeve is a man who had a wonderful opportunity to build good will and a good business for the future, but, inert to all common sense, delights in being very contrary and insulting—in a very brave way over the telephone.

I have done business for three years with a local company. The transactions have been strictly cash. Trying to keep up to the existing conditions today my wife tried to order just enough fuel to finish out the winter season. In the ensuing telephone conversation she was called a liar, charged with buying elsewhere, insulted, refused and had the receiver banged in her ear.

To say the least—very tactful post-war planning and a lot of good will—for the competition.

So, in my estimation of human nature, as compared to this fellow your paper poacher is pretty much of a piker.

Respectfully,
M. L. VIERS,
928 E. Maple.

The government ban on conventions has resulted in cancellation of the tenth North American Wildlife Conference, scheduled for Feb. 26-28 in New York City.

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What Your City Commission Is Doing . . .

March 5, 1945

Bills approved totalling $12,576.76, including a two week payroll in the amount of $8,897.31.

Classification changes authorized in connection with: Equipment Operator, Greenskeeper and Truckdriver.

Adjustment of street lighting in business section authorized.

Howard Groves re-appointed to Electrical Examining Board.

Initial Merchant's license issued to Juanita Grigsby, for the operation of a beauty shop in her home.

Planning Commission requested to give further study to Section 601 of the Zoning Ordinance.

IRENE E. HANLEY,
City Clerk.

STATE OF MICHIGAN—ORDER OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION—OTTER

The Director of Conservation, having made a thorough investigation of conditions relative to otter, recommends certain regulations.

THEREFORE, the Conservation Commission, by authority of Act 230, P. A. 1925, hereby orders that for a period of one year from March 19, 1945, it shall be unlawful to take otter by any means in any of the counties of the state, except that in the Lower Peninsula they may be taken from March 17 to 31, inclusive, and in the Upper Peninsula from April 1 to 15, inclusive, in accordance with beaver and otter regulations for 1945.

Signed, sealed, and ordered published this sixteenth day of January, 1945.

HARRY H. WHITELEY,
Chairman.
WAYLAND OSGOOD,
Secretary.

Countersigned:
P. L. HOFFMASTER,
Director.

13-19-50.

14,461

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 24th day of February, A.D. 1945.

Present: Hon. Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate.

In the Matter of the Estate of John S. Hoofnagle, Deceased.

Ralph L. Hoofnagle, administrator of said estate having filed in said Court his final account and petition praying for the examination and allowance thereof; determination of the heirs of said deceased; assignment of the residue of said estate and the discharge of said administrator.

It is Ordered, That the 26th day of March, A.D., 1945, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, 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.

OLIVER KIRK,
Birmingham, Mich.

10-26-51.

RATIONING AT A GLANCE

Meats and Fats—Ration book No. 4 red stamps Q5, R5 and S5, good through March 31; T5, U5, V5, W5 and X5, good through April 28; Y5, Z5, A2, B2, C2 and D2, valid through June 2; E2, F2, G2, H2, J2, valid through June 30.

Canned Goods, Jams, Jellies—Ration book No. 4 blue stamps X5, Y5, Z5, A2 and B2, valid through March 31; C2, D2, E2, F2 and G2, good through April 28; H2, J2, K2, L2 and M2 valid through June 2; N2, P2, Q2, R2 and S2 valid through June 30.

Sugar—Sugar stamp No. 35, valid through June 2.

Rationed Shoes—Stamps Nos. 1 2 and 3 on "airplane" sheet in Book 3 good indefinitely. Certificates for purchase of men's rubber boots and rubber work shoes good indefinitely.

Gasoline—Stamp A14 good for four gallons through March 21. B5 and B6 and C5 and C6 coupons good for five gallons each.

Fuel Oil—Period five coupons became good March 1, 1945.

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REGISTRATION NOTICE FOR CITY OF BIRMINGHAM AND BIENNIAL SPRING ELECTION TO BE HELD MONDAY, APRIL 2nd, 1945

To the Qualified Electors of the City of Birmingham, State of Michigan, County of Oakland.

To vote at this election all persons must be registered in the City by Tuesday, March 13th, 1945, at 8 P.M. Eastern Standard War Time.

Citizens of the United States, 21 years old, who have resided in the State of Michigan six months and in the City of Birmingham twenty days at the time of voting are eligible.

TO REGISTER, call at the City Clerk's office in the Municipal Building on or before Tuesday, March 13th, 1945, during business hours. The City Clerk's office will be open on Tuesday, March 13th, from 8 A.M. until 8 P.M. Eastern Standard War Time.

Any registered elector who has moved from one address in Birmingham to another address in Birmingham, since he last voted, may cause his registration to be transferred to his new address by sending to the clerk a signed request, stating his present address, the date he moved thereto, and the address from which he was last registered, or by applying in person for a transfer at any time before Tuesday, March 13th.

IRENE E. HANLEY
Irene E. Hanley
City Clerk

March 1, 1945

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