

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

PAGE 2—PART 2 Thursday, Oct. 18, 1945 THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

Snake-Bite And Religion Two "preachers" have been sent to jail for fifty-three days in Tennessee because they were found guilty of disorderly conduct in handling live rattlesnakes during religious rituals.

Of course, the "preachers" and their adherents insist that the prosecution represents persecution of religion and that they are entitled, by virtue of the guarantee of religious freedom, to worship God in any manner that they see fit.

It seems that the set uses poisonous rattlesnakes in connection with ritualistic ceremonies, insisting that God Almighty has promised to protect the faithful and that nobody will be hurt. The fact that occasionally some follower is bitten by a snake and dies as a result of snake-biting does not dampen the ardor and faith of the adherents, who, to say the least, put their faith in an actual test.

The guarantee of religious freedom represents considerable freedom for human beings. It has removed many shackles from human thoughts. This does not mean that it cannot be misused. It very often is utilized as a shield by ignorant and superstitious individuals to justify strange and bizarre religious customs, rituals, and beliefs.

While we yield to no individual in our admiration of the principle of freedom of religious worship, we have no sympathy with efforts to carry it to absurdities. While perfectly willing for an individual to subscribe to any tenet of faith, provided that the worship does not injure others, including the innocent and the susceptible, we have no hesitation in approving the verdict of the court and the terms imposed upon the so-called "preachers."

One of them, upon being convicted, announced a determination not to pay the fine although he had the money available, declaring that he should "serve the Lord" in the jail as well as anywhere else. This is his idea and he is entitled to act upon it, but there is no use for anybody to worry about his term in prison.

Punishment Necessary I hope they catch up with him some day and make him pay for what he did to us," says Sidney Gibbs, British sailor, speaking about Kango Gho, Japanese guard who treated Allied prisoners brutally and even clubbed one man to death.

This is, we presume, the common hope of men who were tortured in the hands of a brutal foe. Helpless and from friends, these Allied men suffered more than physical pain as the barbaric Japs resorted to various devices to vent their spleen upon the white men.

Whether the army of occupation will purchase Kango Gho, his there were thousands like him. Every one should be caught, given a summary, but fair trial and, if found guilty, taken out and shot.

It is no sense of revenge that suggests such a procedure, nor even a desire to inflict punishment upon guilty wretches. It is a determination that half-savage people should be taught, through such punishment, that it is dangerous to commit such crimes, even against prisoners of war.

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, on the 18th day of October, A. D. 1945.

Immigration Barriers

There is a voracious group in this country which, with wild reasoning fervor, are advocating the lowering of the immigration barriers to admit hundreds of foreigners far beyond our 154,000 annual quota.

Hearings will soon be held by the House Committee to determine immigration policies of the future. Indications are that we will have a big enough problem providing work for several million returning veterans to say nothing of the great number of unemployed due to reconversion.

Despite arguments of one-worlders to the contrary, we do have a tremendous war debt that must be paid by the taxpayers—our obligations are to those at home first.

Instead of lowering the barriers, we should build them tighter and restrict all immigration from Europe for the next three years. European nations need the manpower to produce food for their own countries, otherwise, we must feed them. . . and the American people cannot feed them further restrictions on our food stocks.

It is axiomatic that a great majority of immigrants—no matter how skilled some may be in some trade—are chiefly in the lower income brackets for at least 20 years after they land in America. We do not need nor want this kind of competition in our labor markets.

More than that, let us not import any more race hatred or nationality discord in America until the "melting pot" has had a chance to thoroughly assimilate and educate and Americanize those who are already here.

THERE IS PLENTY OF INTELLIGENCE WITHIN BIRMINGHAM to solve most of its civic problems! All that is needed is for the people to express themselves more often.

EVERY PROFESSION HAS ITS BLACK SHEEP—BUT perhaps the real problem lies in the ability of some of the black sheep to pull the wool over the eyes of the ethical members.

Most ECONOMISTS ARE DIVIDED INTO TWO CLASSES: those who really know little of practical value and those who really know nothing of practical value.

The Birmingham Eccentric Published every Thursday, at Birmingham, Mich. in the Eccentric Building, 125-127 North Woodward Avenue Birmingham 11, 12 and 13

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER PAUL NEAL AVERILL Business Manager Advertising Editor HAROLD F. BURROE Circulation Manager CLAUDE WALKER Production Manager

NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish brief suggested material providing it business value, and suggestions are welcome. 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.

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Happenings of Long Ago 5:15 o'clock, will dine privately at the home of his sister, Mrs. Angus D. Meloy, 715 Wimbleson, and will make a public appearance locally from 7:30 to 8.

CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE For each issue of The Eccentric is five o'clock Tuesday afternoon. Please get your "copy" to us in time each week for publication. Thank you!

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Advertisement for 'The Detroit News' featuring a large illustration of a man's face and the text 'Atomic Bomb! Peacetime Army! Axis Blunders! Future Weapons!' and 'Stick with Our Boys to the Finish! Buy an Extra \$100 Bond'.

Advertisement for Wabek State Bank of Detroit, featuring the text 'Stick with Our Boys to the Finish! Buy an Extra \$100 Bond' and 'WABEK STATE BANK OF DETROIT'.

To the Editor: We all know that in order to avoid a future war we have a more permanent peace, we must get at the cause.

The military affairs committee, headed by Sen. Wm. W. Voorhees (Dem.), West Virginia, have a practical and timely idea to discourage the business of creating wars, by recommending that all German industrialists be punished as war criminals for helping produce "instruments for aggression."

When we look at World War I, and consider the millions of young men killed, wounded, and crippled, the misery of starving people, and the colossal amount of money wasted in destroying lives and property, we know that our war crimes tribunal will be justified in pronouncing the death sentence on the men who were behind this organized savagery.

When a group of men make it their sole purpose and aim to gain power and profit by slaughtering young men, it is time that the placemakers of the earth should elect and support leaders who will face the warmakers and do something to destroy their control over the people and war making.

The wages of war are just what they should be. Europe is passing through today. It is high time that the people of Europe select leaders who want peace and stop playing "Guns."

With the aid of the aeroplane man has the wings of an angel. With the force of atomic energy man has the power of a Hercules.

Today he is confronted by the greatest challenge he has ever faced in history. Will he be able to minister all these mechanical, machine and chemical inventions?

Will he use this energy for destructive purposes to destroy others and himself, or will he use it for constructive purposes to build better things for better living for others and himself?

Things for better living for others and himself? I look forward to receiving the Eccentric to keep abreast of the activities of this ever-growing city which was founded by men who resided there. Now and then I recall a former Knight of Phi Kappa Delta, who was a member of the local chapter and much other entertaining material in the Eccentric which I believe is one of our state's finest newspapers.

Here in Mount Clemens I still practice strictly to office practice and find my Oakland county friends will drive over here to see their former resident. Life is a series of changes, and we hope to return to Oakland county sometime in the near future. We are sure as these things and dollars are the reason why two subscriptions are enclosed for another year's subscription to the finest community paper in Michigan.

To the Editor: We wish to take this opportunity to thank you for the excellent health and also enjoy reading the happenings in Birmingham.

Please vote the change in address. The former used to be our business address, but we are having to say that we have found a home at last in this jam-packed big city.

In An Automatic Water Heater it is THE MAGIC FLAME that makes the difference!

AUTOMATIC No waiting... No noise... No need to look to the basement to see if the water heater... everytime you need hot water.

DEPENDABLE Built to last... ECONOMICAL Takes little gas to operate and costs only a few cents per day! MODERN It supplies instant hot water 24 hours a day, for all family needs.

If you are one of the thousands of homemakers who have had to make a trip to the basement to turn up the water heater every time you had a need for hot water during these war years you know the advantages of a modern, dependable, automatic gas water heater.

For greater comfort, cleanliness, convenience and health, plan now to install an automatic gas water heater as soon as possible. It will save you time and money and provide endless convenience and pleasure for the whole family.

CONSUMERS POWER COMPANY RESTAURANT OPERATION SCHEDULE

So You'll Find Them Open When You Go to Your FAVORITE EATING PLACES Know that you do not want to waste time and travel, the restaurant listed in this advertisement are being you know that they are clean and what hours of operation they will be able to serve you.

THE NORMANDY LUNCHEONS DINNER PLEASANT RIDGE CORNING'S (EL PATIO) WOODWARD Ave. at Cadillac Highway