

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

Let's Have The Facts It is rumored around Washington...

The Pearl Harbor facts were held up until Congress was on vacation in the hope, perhaps, that all would be over and forgotten when Congress re-adjourned.

However, the grave political blunder occurred when we were told that "it was not the fault of any one individual but the fault of 'the whole American People'."

This passing the buck and placing the blame on the voters is an old political trick that did not click...

In 1937, when President Roosevelt made his famous speech in Chicago about "quarantining aggressive nations," we had just three under-equipped and under-developed Flying Fortresses...

In the same year—1937—when a bill was before Congress to reorganize the Air Corps and graft it a budget and staff of its own...

So, the blunder of being unprepared cannot be blamed on the American People.

On September 1, 1939—the day Hitler started World War II by invading Poland—we had just 19 Flying Fortresses and fewer than 600 short range fighter planes.

In 1942, after Pearl Harbor—when the American People were keenly aware of our grave danger, Major Alexander DeSewarsky went to Washington to attend what he thought was to be a personal discussion with the President regarding the question of United States Air Power...

No, the unpreparedness of the United States both before and immediately after Pearl Harbor was not the fault of the "Whole American People."

The fault lies squarely at the door of the men who were supposed to safeguard our Nation: The President, the Secretary of War, and the Secretary of the Navy—it was the job, the duty and the authority of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Henry L. Stimson, and Frank Knox to prepare this Nation against attack...

The money had been authorized and appropriated to prepare Hawaii against attack... and the time for completion of the projects set for six months before December 7, 1941.

But, we were not prepared. WHY? The American People have a right to know the true facts.

They have a right to know if the real fault was political corruption and graft; and, if graft, who were in on the financial skull-duggery. Who got What and How Much?

No wonder 52 pages of the report were withheld because of military secrecy.

Always To Be Suspected

From Japanese sources comes the opinion that the Japanese people, by locally cooperating with the forces of occupation, will be able to convince the world of their right to associate with civilized people...

The Japanese, it should be remembered, opened their war against Russia by a surprise attack upon Port Arthur. They began their war against us, while diplomats were in conference in Washington...

In China, and wherever the Japanese forces have gone, helpless people have been mistreated in horrible fashion and deliberate efforts were made to degrade and punish representatives of the Western nations.

Even now, with the Allied occupation of Japan proceeding, there can be little confidence in the apparent submission of the Japanese people. Nobody knows whether the Japanese military clique has formulated sinister designs or whether there is something like an underground organization in Japan...

THE VALUE OF COMPULSORY EDUCATION IN THE United States has again been shown by the abilities of our young men and women to adjust themselves to the requirements of Japan...

BIRMINGHAM AND ADJACENT AREAS ENTER UPON another fall and winter series of activities, some of them social, some civic. It is to be hoped that from the latter kind will come practical ideas and suggestions for a better community, state, and nation...

IT CERTAINLY IS A LONG, LONG ROAD THAT hath no bumps, cracks, or one-armed drivers upon it.

The Birmingham Eccentric

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Dear Old Golden Rule Days



Happenings of Long Ago

80 YEARS AGO Sept. 19, 1865. "Bicycle races today."

"Don't fail to take in the bicycle races this afternoon."

"C. W. Crawford took in the State Fair, and says it's a huge thing."

"You can eat ice cream and buy a cigar now in Pontiac on the Sabbath day."

"Have you given up the lecture course and have you taken the ticket?"

"That fountain on the corner is a dead give away on our water works and we earnestly recommend about four more quits of water pressure up on it."

"Pontiac is troubled with loafers and being hanged around the post office insulting and annoying ladies who say it is unsafe to go to mail letters on Sunday."

"Remember the Burlesque Art Gallery to be held at the M. E. church parlors next Tuesday evening, Sept. 24. Refreshments will be served and all are cordially invited to attend."

20 YEARS AGO Sept. 18, 1925. "Birmingham's Four Carriers, otherwise known as the intersection of Woodward and East, and West Maple avenues, will soon become a 'stop' thoroughfare, where all vehicles will be compelled to come to a full stop before proceeding."

"Preliminary to presenting a petition to the school board next Monday evening a group of Birmingham residents assembled last Monday evening and drew up resolutions to equip a local branch of the Merrill-Palmer school of Detroit in the local school system, to be included as a part of the high school girls' curriculum."

"A strange sight met the eye last Friday morning in Birmingham. Threading its way among automobiles, came a cart, containing of a crude planing laid on two large wagon wheels that wobbled crazily as they revolved on their axles. But the astonishing part of this tarantula was that a man was being of burden and a woman his load."

5 YEARS AGO Sept. 19, 1940. "The Birmingham Red Cross workshop is to be reopened Monday according to word from Mrs. E. C. Hatch, general chairman of the local group. Birmingham's chapter ceased its activities in August when the Community House was closed."

"Birmingham youths interested in the Vocation Education Program for National Defense may attend classes in Highland Park or Pontiac, it was learned this week."

"Plans for a bigger and better Second Annual Community Institute in Birmingham were started

Bits of Birmingham

(Continued from Page 1, Part 2)

Van Johnson sure isn't the man he's generally reported to be. If you doubt this, just read the big sign at the Birmingham Theatre this week. It reads: "Van Johnson, 'Beverly Hills Cop' and 'Secret Stuff'! See what we mean?"

A Birmingham great-grandmother, who had been having two good eyes, branched off on a trip to the University Hospital, Ann Arbor, and had the cataracts removed. Returning home she was surprised to find her eyes had now appeared and remarked: "My goodness! I never realized how dingy my eyes were. I certainly will have to clean things up, change them around and brighten the place up. I never can stand to live in a place like this."

A lot of Birmingham residents were joining with folks living nearby in a case of shivers Monday morning. The mystery took a nose-dive to down around 42 but its attempt at a record failed and being discouraged, Mercury slowly climbed back up to a reasonable, seasonal temperature Monday afternoon. Then promise was given that the weather would behave for a while. There did not appear to be any damage from frost around Birmingham but this Wanderer, who was in state 4, did see numerous gardens and flowerbeds turning black from the frost. One Birmingham resident, when asked, "well, it's getting time when once in a while we do have some chilly weather. Next month is October and sometimes we even have snow storms here in October."

If you don't want to get a ticket for speeding, just don't speed in the way the police are explaining the situation to those motorists who just cannot slow down to regulation speed. Anyway they report tickets to Judson Bradley, Gross Points for speeding 35 miles an hour in the 25 mile zone and one to Roy T. Bramson, Bloomfield Hills, same speed in a 45 mile zone. Clifford Bell, Birmingham, received a 50 in 35 ticket and William J. Hopp, Detroit, one of those 40 to 30 tickets.

From a look at the police daily records the past week one would think that "dog days" are back again. Mrs. George Dixon reports that her son, John, age about four years, bitten by a dog owned by T. Spores, 212 Fairview, near Edwin Hill, 1044 Hazel, reports being bitten by a dog owned by Mrs. Doyla, 1017 Hazel, near Gillette, city nurse, reports that Dexter Lewis, 439 Lakeview, bitten by Mrs. Gillette's dog.

Now it's walk in the streets that worry autoists. The police

Patricia Joan Davis, Pontiac, was listed as 60 miles in a 45 mile zone. Her car was in Bloomfield Hills, 10 miles in a 25 mile zone. W. L. Davidson, Buena Vista and W. W. Johnson, West, three tickets for speeding.

Overheard from a seat in the end zone, at last Saturday's football game between Michigan and Great Lakes. Michigan's Great Lakes team was dressed in beautiful white silk uniforms and they looked like a million dollars. They looked like you, wearing having the same uniforms as you, and looking particularly at one guy, who was wearing a white uniform by the middle of the third quarter. Guy yelled out, "Look at that guy. How dare those fellows wear bonds all day!"

The City Commission receives all kinds of complaints and suggestions from citizens interested in the welfare of the city. Monday night residents of Oak and Webster streets complained about a chicken house and pen, kept none too clean. The complaint was referred to City Manager Harold H. Corvan.

Birmingham residents were reminded the other day of the year's work back when the city was young. The city's first horse-drawn carriage, pulled by horses, bays and chickens, was seen on the streets. The cause of the recalling of this time was the sight of two sheep wandering along Hunter boulevard, between Maple and Oakland. Motorists were startled, but the animals did not suddenly decide to cross the street in the thick of traffic.

In case you have been wondering about those two beautiful bouquets of flowers at the Baldwin Library the Wanderer can explain that they are gifts from friends in the Wayne county libraries. Miss Charlotte Squires, the new children's librarian at Baldwin, the flowers by adding a touch of beauty to the library rooms.

League Bowling got under way Tuesday evening at the Hillwood alleys at Blochfield Hills, with the large Bowlers and bowlers who lined up for this sport. Listed among the larger names playing were the late Pauline E. Evers, Huntington Wood, Helen Baker, Birmingham (Vater-Church), Beverly Power, Shibley, Wax, Beaver, Tol and Engineering, Shrine, Spain and Fisher, Body, Sawyer.

Conchak (reported by C. M.) says you're the limit! If I mail you a letter addressed to the dumb man in Boston, I know who they'd deliver it to. "So if it's their return it's the letter."

Household Goods of any kind are easily sold by using the Eccentric's classified ads.

UNIVERSAL ELECTRIC MOTOR SERVICE. PHONES 4466-680 502 30, WOODWARD. DOMESTIC, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL MOTORS REPAIRED AND REBUILT.

PECK'S Cash and Carry. Suits, Toppings, Plain Dresses. \$1.09. CLEANED and PRESERVED For Delivery Phone 230. Service WOODWARD—NEAR MAPLE.

ACME Window & House Cleaning Company. Phone 1162. 424 PARK STREET BIRMINGHAM. "Oakland County's Oldest Window Cleaning Service"

A FRIENDLY BANK. WABEEK STATE BANK OF DETROIT. Stick with Our Boys to the Finish! BUY AN EXTRA \$100 BOND. WABEEK STATE BANK OF DETROIT. BIRMINGHAM OFFICE—WABEEK BUILDING.

Water heaters that are generally available for sale now. A few are being manufactured and distributed. It will be to your advantage to have your name on your electrical dealer's list, so that you will be able to get one at the earliest possible time. The DETROIT EDISON Co. See your dealer or your plumber for information. He will be glad to help you decide upon the model that will fit your needs.

Heaven at Seven. ABOUT the first thing a returning service man wants to do is to talk to Mom or Dad—the wife or sweetheart—or the baby! Then the rush is on Long Distance—and it's an extra-big rush right now. So please do everything you can to keep Long Distance lines clear for our soldiers and sailors during the evening hours. If you'll make none but necessary calls during those hours, their calls can get through quicker. MICHIGAN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY.