

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

Hitting Where It Hurts

We were somewhat surprised this week to see that in the August 17 issue of the New York Times magazine section The Eccentric was mentioned in an article concerning unusual names of newspapers which are published in various parts of the country.

While it is always pleasing to be mentioned in The Times, the particular reference to The Eccentric was made in such a way that it appears to strike us below the belt.

The venerable Times put us in that group of newspapers which "deprecates its services" in the title of the publication. The Eccentric never has and never will "express disapproval of" the value of its news service to the community. If that were so, as the Times apparently maintains, then The Eccentric would have no justification for publication.

Quite the contrary; The Eccentric since it was founded 70 years ago, has built a solid reputation for clean, accurate reporting of community news events and has distinguished itself by continually advocating measures that lead to the betterment of the community.

It appears to us that the Times would have done better to ask us why "The Eccentric" was chosen as the name of the publication, rather than to speculate from such a great distance.

There is quite a difference in obtaining the name of the newspaper from the title of a local club 70 years ago in which the two founders of the newspaper were members, as compared to naming the paper "The Eccentric" because it "deprecates its services."

Red Army The Largest Army Ground Forces, reminds Americans that the Russians have an army larger than those of all other nations combined.

This is a fact which should be remembered whenever the people of this country consider the state of affairs between Russia and the United States. It should tend to prevent opposition to the maintenance of an American army of around 1,000,000 men. It might even convince some people that universal military training is apt to be a persuasion for peace.

We would not have anybody believe that we think the Russian Army of 3,000,000 men will be used against the United States. Certainly, there is no immediate prospect of such a development.

Moreover, we have it on the excellent assurance of high-placed gentlemen in the United States that the Russians will not fight us unless we attack them. These assurances, however trustworthy, are not sufficient to warrant the United States in neglecting its armed defenses.

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Unjust, Says Evatt

"It would be unjust if Japan's population at gains privileges and benefits denied the countries which she had devastated," asserts Dr. Herbert Evatt, Australian Minister for External Affairs, who suggests that the gradual economic development of Japan be a part of a general plan for the economic betterment of East and Southeast Asia and the Pacific as a whole.

The Australian suggests a post-treaty supervisory allied control commission, which would, among other duties, coordinate Japanese economy with those of Pacific and East Asiatic regions. He does not believe that Japan's postwar economy should be viewed in terms of a level comparable to that of years prior to the war. He expresses the view that it should be adjusted to the level of other Pacific nations.

There is considerable logic in the position taken by Dr. Evatt, who does not think that the future economic progress of Japan should be delineated by the needs and possibilities of that country alone. He takes the view that the aggressor in the Far East inflicted great losses upon other peoples, in addition to the sacrifices made by them in the struggle against the aggressors, and concludes that there is no justice whatever in permitting the Japanese to become "top dogs" in the economics of the Far East.

To Prosecute Draft-Dodgers

There has been no general amnesty for draft-dodgers, according to the Department of Justice, which says that willful violators of the Selective Service Act will be prosecuted.

This is the proper policy for the United States to follow. It is a serious crime for an individual to evade responsibility to his government during a war by evading an act designed to procure men for military service. There should be no let-up in the prosecutions.

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People's Column

Aug. 22, 1947 To the Editor: Although I know that it is their job, nevertheless I want to commend the linemen of the Detroit Edison Company who worked at night and put up new lines after the storm Wednesday.

Aug. 21, 1947 To the Editor: Just as sure as night follows day, the U. S. will have other tough wars to fight. It costs loads of money to wage modern wars as witness the 260-odd billions of carry-over debt from the last war plus some six billions of yearly interest to pay on that debt.

Have You Met... Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Millette, formerly of Algona, who are now living on Villa road? Mr. Millette is a salesman with the Brant Lumber Co. The couple have one child.

THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner

Ed O'Neal and George H. Mitchell one afternoon the early part of this week ticked off 53 miles on their bicycles, and the next day attended to their work without a retort. They say they are training for a century run, 100 miles in ten hours.

50 YEARS AGO August 27, 1897 A strange disease has broken out in Birmingham, which our leading physicians have named "camp fever." The only known cure is a long vacation, a lake and a cozy camp.

20 YEARS AGO Sept. 1, 1927 The new Birmingham Savings Bank will officially open Sept. 1, this week when she will attend Vassar College and Robert Milton of Pontiac late Saturday night. The two boys stopped the cars of the men at the point of a snafu, and robbed them of about \$20 each.

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PICTURE OF THE WEEK More than a mere documentary record of an American industry, the spider web tracery of Great Hill works make a picture pattern that is fascinating in itself. And it's as true and good a picture of the American landscape as those of Maine's rocky coast or of the country rose in Iowa. It was made with a Deardorf camera using Ansco Superpan Portrait film. The exposure: 1/5 second at F 32. No filter was used because a light sky was needed to bring out the silhouettes of the derricks.

There is a fruitful source of picture material and one often neglected by the amateur who has not taken the best photos of the things that are merely pretty. It is right at hand in the backyard, so to speak, of your own city; it is the photography of industry.

The Obvious and Spectacular In the beginning, you will probably be most excited by the obvious and spectacular. You may see the freight-yards furiously spouting steam and smoke on a frosty day. You may see a chimney spout tugs awkwardly nudging a live iron pier, the silver curves of a blast furnace plant, the power ugliness of a blast furnace, or the steady noise and heat and cold, and a few smells to contend with. Each shot is another problem to lick. But you've taken it. Perhaps you've taken it one that the company will want to buy. There may be more than fun and experience in it for you.

Second Anniversary of 'Peace'

MacARTHUR Sept. 1, 1945

"Jimmy" Butts, once a Birmingham business man, has been appointed postmaster at Flint, a very wise choice and one that could not possibly be bettered.

Miss Carr Poppleton leaves for Poughkeepsie, N. Y., this week when she will attend Vassar College and Robert Milton of Pontiac late Saturday night. The two boys stopped the cars of the men at the point of a snafu, and robbed them of about \$20 each.

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