

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

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Thursday, July 17, 1947

THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

War Talk As Escapism

There has been serious concern expressed by some of the thinking people of the nation over the apparent tendency of Americans generally to conclude that war is inevitable between the United States and Russia.

The careful judgment of most of our highest civilian and military leaders is that war is not inevitable. No one, however, underestimates the possibility of an armed clash between the United States and Soviet Russia.

It should not be overlooked that the conclusion reached by many people, that war is inevitable, stems from the unwillingness of these individuals to face harder tasks and decisions that are connected with world problems.

As an example, it is much easier for the average American to conclude that war is coming than it is to reorient his thinking into present world conditions.

One of the major decisions that the people of this country will make, and one of the hardest problems that confronts them today, is to determine what the attitude of this country will be toward world trade.

From Pittsburgh comes information that the world's largest commercial coal producer is going to erect a plant to make gasoline out of coal and, if the process proves feasible, will construct a \$120,000,000 plant.

In view of repeated assertions that our gasoline supply, underground, is not inexhaustible, it is interesting to note that the promoters of the new project say that coal synthesis will provide the nation with an adequate reserve of gasoline for three thousand years.

On numerous occasions this newspaper has contended that more than one local citizen would donate a sum of money toward the development of Birmingham's park and recreational program, providing it appeared as though this community really became interested in such a project.

Last winter the local Rotary Club contributed \$3,000, and a recently a member of the St. James Episcopal church gave \$4,000, the latter sum to be matched by the City.

Early Americans

The archeologists are still trying to discover the truth about the early settlements in America, some of which are believed to have antedated Columbus by a number of years.

The Scandinavian sailors are believed to have reached North America and there is some evidence that indicates the amalgamation of early settlers with some Indian tribes.

While the Scandinavians probably reached this country, we know very little about the early residents of North and South America. The ancient civilizations that are, even now, being revealed, indicate that some of the people in this hemisphere were well advanced in comparison with those who resided in areas which we have been taught gave birth to the human race.

The best things in life are free, often has been stated. Including good advice, which, like the best things in life, are seldom sought and accepted.

Now that the Birmingham Fire Department will be sending its new 1000-gallon-per-minute pumper in response to alarms, regular "fireside" spectators will undoubtedly find new efforts to be at the scene to see how the new truck operates.

Last week's announcement by the Birmingham Retail Merchants association that it will endeavor to promote more uniform opening and closing hours for local business establishments will be welcomed by many local shoppers who are dissatisfied with the present helter-skelter schedule.

No, son, they don't call sailboats 'she' because they make a better showing in the wind," a local yachting enthusiast replied to his youngster.

The Birmingham Eccentric

Published every Thursday at Birmingham, Mich. in the Eccentric Building, 224 North Woodward Avenue. Telephone 11, 12 and 13. Editor and Publisher: PAUL R. AVERILL. Business Manager: GEORGE W. AVERILL. Managing Editor: HAROLD P. BURKILL. Advertising Manager: ...

Happenings of Long Ago

50 YEARS AGO July 23, 1897

Never in our wildest dreams did we ever expect to be so surprised and delighted as we have been in the past two days. Noticing a trolley party was being developed in a small town of our western New York State to visit Michigan we paid no attention to it, but Monday night of this week the fact that we were invited came upon us all at once, and on a rousing call from A. Whitehead, president, our village was profusely decorated with National colors and Old Glory was made most prominent.

On a side switch from the main line of the electric railway, gracefully curving and in front of G. E. Daines furniture emporium, which has been quickly constructed by John Savage, our popular electric railway superintendent, stood the enormous trolley car that had conveyed our visitors to us. Think of it! a car that carried from the manufacturing city of Piquette, N. Y., to our village 400 souls, men, women and children accompanied by four of New York's best bands.

My, but business is booming at Edith Hamilton's this hot weather, especially in the ice cream and skunks. They are strong when we notice that a goodly number meet at a certain time and place, and we have also noticed that these same people do not leave until they have had their usual dinner. From all these observations one would naturally infer that they all find a good square meal every time.

Joe Marvotte has a swansong. It holds some nice fat healthy bones. They are strong when occasion requires. Occasion required the other day when a cat got in and ran away with a piece of pie. This a picnic lunch. We will provide lots of coffee—and milk for the children.

Mr. George A. Beasher of Greenwood avenue and her two daughters, Caroline and Barbara, will be in charge of the first all-metal airplane to Grand Rapids. According to an item in Time magazine, Hiscock and his associates may bring out two new cars soon.

Mr. Frank Skinner will be prepared when the match starts, and "Take a couple of Boy Scouts," they say, "rub them together."

5 YEARS AGO

We noted a recent news story headed "German Bomber Crew Interred in Turkey? Too bad it didn't read '... Fried in Greece.' You have read that a certain James C. Petrillo, president of the National American Federation of Musicians, has refused to allow Interlochen's National Musical Camp to broadcast its programs over the radio; thus American musical youth is denied the right to an audience outlet. Petrillo, as we recall, rose up to his present place from an ordinary orchestra member in Chicago by routes not entirely within ethics and high ideals. In his own sphere he is as ruthless and arbitrary as a dictator, and it is hard to understand why the majority of American musicians don't rise up and throw him.

Want a Good Cleaner-Upper Man?



Former Talahi Campers Invited To Anniversary

Birmingham residents who were former campers at Camp Talahi, the Detroit Y.W.C.A.'s camp for employed girls, are invited to celebrate its 20th anniversary reunion with a picnic reunion for former campers on Wednesday, July 23, according to Anne Lindsay, camp director.

"We can invite Talahians to this homecoming, only through the newspapers," says Miss Lindsay. "We have no record of the married names of our former campers. But we hope that many of them will read of the picnic, and bring their entire families... This a picnic lunch. We will provide lots of coffee—and milk for the children."

Guests of honor for the reunion will be the first campers who were born in 1927. There is still a free week at camp for any daughter of these first campers who claims it, according to Miss Lindsay. Girls must meet the camp qualifications of being at least 15 years old and employed.

Camp Talahi is located on Lake Umbagog, in Maine. "Too hot at home," he said. "Frank Skinner will be prepared when the match starts, and 'Take a couple of Boy Scouts,' they say, 'rub them together.'"

THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner

Here's a beach shot with an exposure of 1/500 of a second at f/16—half the normal exposure but adequate because of reflected light from sand and water. Reflected light such as this helps make good portraits, since it softens the shadows caused by strong sunlight overhead.

SEA, SUN, SAND, AND SKY

LAST MONTH, in talking about exposure, we mentioned in passing that for pictures at the beach it's best to "stop down"—that is, to use a smaller lens opening than the normal one for average subjects on a sunny day.

The reason for this is that sand and water reflect a great deal of light. As a result, there is more light than you would expect. Most inland subjects, AND since there is more light on your subject, a smaller lens opening than normal prevents overexposure.

If you have ever used one of the handy, inexpensive, pocket exposure guides sold by photographic stores, you'll know that scenes of this type are classified as "bright subjects." Under this heading are grouped beach scenes which include nearby water, sand, and rocks, and scenes with prominent foreground objects. For such shots exposure is halved. Where the stand-

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