

Radio Editorials

Some discussion has arisen over the rule of the Federal Communications Commission which forbids radio station owners from pushing political or controversial points of view.

There are, of course, two sides to the argument, but it is a mistake to assert that the regulation is a violation of the right of free speech.

A radio station receives from the government something of a monopoly. This is not the case with a newspaper, for a magazine. There is no limit upon the number of publications that can be issued except the desire of individuals to publish them.

While we are not familiar with the manner in which the FCC has enforced its rule, it might be better, in the public interest, to maintain the policy. Obviously, limited air waves might be monopolized by those who direct chain programs, large advertisers or by particular groups of owners.

"If, in the setting up of a Jewish State in Palestine, the military forces of the United States must be used to keep the Jews and Arabs apart, then I believe we'll be kindling the flames of the Third World War!" That statement was made by this newspaper months ago by a very prominent leader in the Congress of the United States. His name is Arthur H. Vandenberg.

Birmingham is growing rapidly; it is confronted by many public problems, the solution for many of which will cost local taxpayers added taxes. One problem to be met will be the request of some outside areas to be annexed; we suggest that some of such propositions be studied very carefully.

Those two Oklahoma fifth-graders who flew a small plane 150 miles, claim they learned flying by reading the comic books. Well, is this but a preface to the day when two other kids will fly to the moon—having obtained their learning from the comics?

Michigan Civil Service rules prevent State employees under C.S. from "engaging in political activities." The wardens of Marquette and Ionia prisons both are reported to have "engaged in political activities" in the effort to prevent Joseph A. Sanford from being confirmed last week as Commissioner of Corrections. You'll hear more about this soon.

It's about time our elected representatives, as well as those people who elected them, realize that government exists for the benefit and service of the governed; people do not exist for the benefit of governments.

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What Should Drivers Fear?

When safety specialists tell us that more than half of the drivers killed in grade-crossing accidents last year were disregarding warning signs and signals, we cannot help wondering what is so basically wrong with the psychology of such drivers. Why is it that a motorist who will stop instantly at a policeman's warning signal will, a moment later, drive placidly through a red light—and possibly straight into a serious accident?

Various excuses are offered by motorists caught violating traffic control devices, the most common being that the driver didn't notice the light, or that he was going too fast to stop when it turned red. Actually, if the truth were admitted, the big difference was that he was afraid of the traffic policeman but not afraid of the red light.

Fear is a powerful deterrent. But is it possible that much energy is being wasted running away from the wrong bogey? Are some motorists perhaps more afraid of being arrested for a safety violation than of violating their own safety?

If that is the case, they are misinterpreting the very reason for law enforcement and it is high time to take a different view of traffic policemen and highway trafficmen. If sometimes it appears that these guardians of safety enjoy bawling out traffic law-breakers, possibly it is because they much prefer it to picking them up in a basket after a fatal accident. Motorists should prefer that, too.

Traffic control devices are the outposts of the law. They cannot prevent motorists from killing themselves, they can only try. Every motorist will find that it pays to stop for them, look at them, and listen to what they say!

If all the time spent on solving puzzles in an effort to win grand prizes could be used in ditch digging, we could complete the Nicaraguan Canal in a week.

The Birmingham Eccentric

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Local Youth Finds Young Adults Club in Wisconsin City

When the various USO halls in Madison, Wis., were closed after the war, the young people who had been working in them found themselves with too much unorganized time on their hands. The search for someone to do something about this situation led with Roger Blackmore, a Baldwin High School graduate and student at the University of Wisconsin.

The "Young Adults Club" which was organized in Madison, Wis., is now one of the most popular organizations in the city, and is growing rapidly.

Blackmore, president of the club, said that the club has a complete recreational program, covering both summer and winter activities. There are dances, card parties, a popular snack bar, shows, and many other activities which became a part of the lives of the young people, especially the young women, who were in the city during the war.

Happenings of Long Ago

FIFTY YEARS AGO

A cadet corps is being organized in the local schools here, on the belief that Birmingham boys have what soldiers are made of. It will be a nice feeling in these times of unrest and war to have our own trained men.

Have you ever known that if you have a file of Harper's Weekly from 1848 to 1867 in good condition it is worth \$200? We wish we had one.

Franklin has one citizen who is willing to fight for Spain. He is William Shuler, and expects to leave for the scene of action soon. He will follow the overland route in company with his faithful mule.

The boiler in the cheese factory at Bedlow exploded last week. As a result that town will make no more cheese for a few days, and there will certainly be no shortage of milk there.

Mrs. Lyons is soon to start for Nebraska to spend the hot weather with relatives.

When you are in legal difficulties please ask the judge to have any legal notices in the Birmingham Eccentric. It will be supporting your home town paper by turning items to which belong here by rights, anyway.

TWENTY YEARS AGO

The committee in charge of the erection of the new First Baptist Church at Willets and Bates, this week released architectural sketches of what the new building will look like. The total cost will be about \$165,000, with plans for the dedication set on about December.

An appropriation of \$200 has been approved to be used to hire a playground supervisor for Adams and Barnum playgrounds. This move was made upon the recommendation of theillage board of education.

Approximately 500 women attended the convention of the Diocese Women's Auxiliary held last week in Christ Church Cranbrook.

As graduation looms, Birmingham schools look forward to fall enrollment indications are larger this year than it has been in the past.

The Birmingham Fire Department

'Need a Guide, Sonny?'



entirely of bees. They were all safely corralled in a large cage, much to the relief of those on the sidelines.

The salvage committee reports that this week Birmingham has turned in enough tin cans to make another car, and a total of 20,004 pounds of used fat.

Marsden D. Wilson, now head of the schools at Whitmore, Mich., has been named head of Bloomfield Village School. He succeeds George Beauchamp, who will soon enter the armed forces.

'Tis Washington

By The Duchess

"He" says the cause of war is lack of understanding between people. Said the general and president of Columbia, "If all people of the world understood each other there would be no danger of war."

He wasn't talking of mere surface exchange of greetings and information. And if we don't eliminate the causes of war our grandchildren will find the world "an unhappy place to live!"

That's important to like. He's just had a grandson. The matter of small feet soon involves into a class from an accident.

It's disheartening that a recent survey by the insurance company reveals accidents now caused every other cause of death for the preschool age child... and above the least improvement over the years.

And the only hope is more alert parents. But the worst of it is children have so many hairbreadth escapes, parents begin to think it's all a matter of luck.

American Tourists please copy. Churchill advising his conservative British leaving for America: When you get there, you have to forget the British class social government of Great Britain.

It is the government of Britain and you do not criticize it. Someone should have told Henry Wallace that before the former vice-president took off for Europe.

Veterans must win when they see in the newspapers both the Arabs and Jews wearing the GI garb in the Palestine fighting.

With the war in the air, can anyone wear GI garb? The Arabs secure those uniforms, finally the best in the world, via the surplus property sale route. So do the Jews, who also are helped by well-meaning friends in the United States.

Maybe the ex-GI would feel better if he would meet Americans. If the olive drab uniforms were dyed as the U. S. Army did in previous years when selling uniform surpluses to the French, Germans, Austrians and Czechs.

The President has been reading history books. He discovered that Henry Clay was a pretty smart fellow. The Republican twice refused the Vice Presidency when an acceptance would have elevated him to the Presidency.

But they shouldn't hear the Secretary, Democrats who have anti-Turman fever. He's not, at all, trying with the idea of withdrawing from the 1948 Presidential race.

'Need a Guide, Sonny?'



The speaker isn't coy. The other day, Congressman Edgar Notestein Rogers, who hails from his own Massachusetts, presented Speaker Joseph Martin as President of the United States.

In responding, the Speaker jokingly said another Speaker, the late Tom Reed: "You could go a lot further, and do a lot worse, and you probably will."

New Location

Dr. N. W. Burkman, Birmingham dentist, has moved his office from the Wabek building to his new location at 428 Merrill street. He has maintained his dental office in the former location for the past 15 years.

John Paul Jones' body was brought to this country from France in 1905 aboard the USS Brooklyn.

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THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner



A simple, story-telling snapshot like this appeals because it pictures a situation everyone understands.

What Makes a Picture?

SEVERAL weeks ago one of our acquaintances tried to pin us down. "All right," he said sagaciously, "What makes a good picture good? Why is it that two shots of similar subjects, both in focus and correctly exposed, may be as far apart as the poles in arousing interest?"

clear at a moment's glance just what they try to convey." I showed my friend the picture used with this column. Not a great picture. I frankly admitted, yet one with plenty of appeal.