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Knudsen—A Great Man!

Many fine and wonderful statements already have been made in eulogy of the man who was known to the world as William S. Knudsen, who passed away at his Detroit home last week. Many more fine and wonderful thoughts, too deep and profound for utterance, were also surging within the hearts and minds of people as they reviewed the remarkable career of this Danish emigrant youth who, coming to the United States at 20 years of age, without much schooling, carved for himself a great name in the industry of his adopted land; who became known as an unsurpassable leader of men; who quit the presidency of General Motors Corp., at a salary of \$500,000 per year, to head our nation's industrial war effort, wearing three U. S. Army stars on his shoulders, at the call of the late President Roosevelt.

William S. Knudsen gave much to the world in which he lived; he was living proof of the fact that, in this land of the free, poor boys and girls may reach high places—places never attainable in old-world lands where either tradition or regimentation is the rule. It was in the automotive field that Mr. Knudsen made his greatest peace-time contribution; because of him and a comparatively few other great leaders, Detroit and Michigan have become the automobile center of the world; because of this, Birmingham and many other Michigan communities have grown in population and opportunity.

While the mortal remains of William S. Knudsen lie in nearby Acacia Park Cemetery, at Southfield and the 13 Mile roads, what he stood for and what he achieved will remain alive in the memories of this present generation, later to become legendary inspiration to all who seek forever to keep America a land of opportunity for those willing to work with heart, brain, and hands to gain honest livelihoods.

Like every American we are glad to pay the least tax but, for the life of us, we can't see the wisdom of not paying the surplus money available on the public debt.

One witness before a recent Congressional committee, asserted that he represented 20,000,000 young people. Which probably fooled nobody, including the brother making the statement.

Wages are what an employer pays for the time, energy and intelligence of workers; some times it is what he gets.

Smartness, rather than sincerity, is what ruins many public addresses.

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After You, Mr. Motorist!

The fact that so many traffic accidents happen at intersections brings to light an unattractive, though fairly prevalent human characteristic—the urge to push in ahead of the other fellow.

Most of us have laughed at those classic comedians, Gaxton and Alphonse, who stand eternally howling and scraping before a doorway, murmuring, "After you, Alphonse!" "No, after you, dear Gaxton!"

Nothing like that happens on the highway, and it might be a healthy sign if it did.

Safety authorities emphasize that discourtesy and disregard for the rights of others are leading causes of highway accidents. That is not a very admirable state of affairs; the best cure for it is law enforcement.

Driving conditions are becoming increasingly hectic every year. That makes "must" than it is at home—literally a matter of life and death.

After you, Mr. Motorist. I want to live!

One fault with some members of the younger generation is that they dislike work.

The Birmingham Eccentric

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GEORGE R. AVERILL, Editor and Publisher. PAUL NEAL AVERILL, Editor. GEORGE W. AVERILL, Managing Editor. HAROLD P. BURGER, Advertising Manager.

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Notice is hereby given that the Commission of the City of Birmingham will meet Monday, April 22, 1948, at 8:30 P. M. in the Municipal Building, 225 North Woodward Avenue, Birmingham, Michigan, to consider any objections to the consolidation of the 10th and 11th wards.

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'Now to Make Some Time'

Happenings of Long Ago

FIFTY YEARS AGO

April 6, 1898. Editor and friends here have received letters during the past week from James H. McNeil who left our little city last fall for Dawson City. He tells wonderful tales about the "land of gold" out there, but upsets local housewives with the idea of paying \$100 for 50 pounds of flour.

We, the Eccentric, are 20 years old with this volume, and when we close this year we will be old enough to vote.

Ed Miller very reasonably asks what has become of the pathmaster who has the road west of the mill. Judging from what Ed says there is blood on the moon if the pathmaster doesn't do something about the highway—and soon.

We are pained to announce the severe illness of one of our fair ladies on Tuesday last. She had an attack of heart failure and for a few hours her life was despaired of. The excellent work of Dr. Raynale is all that saved her.

Birmingham has three boys in the U. S. Navy now. George Edwin A. Meyers and Lt. Strathearn Herrie. All are awaiting their ships ready to sail into battle when the call comes.

The teachers for our school have all been re-engaged with the exception of H. T. Randall, whose only obstacle is that she is now married. We do not think education board to talk, but our opinion seems to mean just nothing.

TWENTY YEARS AGO May 3, 1928. "Pellon," the hero in a comic strip which threatened the home of Mrs. Katie Drum on Saturday night, children were asleep in their rooms when fire started in the kitchen. The dog's frantic barking failed to arouse the children, but did call the attention of a neighbor to the fact that something was wrong. She summoned the fire department, who removed the children before they suffered any serious effects.

Miss Ruth Holsinger, a student in the College of Literature, University of Michigan, was among the recipients of special honors at the annual Honors Convocation at Ann Arbor recently.

A preliminary contest for Birmingham students who have airplanes is being held by the Airplane Society of Birmingham at the High School this afternoon. The contest will be conducted in two classes, one for right-handed and the other for flying speed.

The Oakland Hill Riding Club, featuring seven miles of bridle paths is opening to the public. Riders have already been purchased by the club, and more will be added if the public demand is high enough.

The Birmingham fire department kept exceptionally busy the past few weeks answering calls to check grass fires. Property owners are urged to do what seems to be an innocent way of ridding lawns of dead grass can be nothing short of a catastrophe. Do not light grass fires in a wind, nor after more than a very few days without rain. If you would keep your home, and those of your neighbors, from damage and destruction.

THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner

People's Column

FIVE YEARS AGO May 6, 1943. According to reports, a conservative estimate will be one Victory Garden for every four families in the city this summer.

Miss Roberta Hersey, extension specialist in nutrition, will speak at the home coming exhibition which Birmingham women will sponsor at the Community House May 10. Mrs. J. Vinton Birch and Mrs. Milton F. Mallender are co-chairmen of the affair.

Morris Frank, young Southerner, who brought the first seeing eye dog to America 13 years ago, will speak at the Detroit Seeing Eye membership enrollment drive which will be held in Birmingham on next week. He will tell of the uses dogs are put to and the invaluable service they can give to the blind.

J. J. Meyers won the hog calling contest which was a feature of the Village Dance held Friday night. Other contestants were Bill Goff, Bob Keller and Mike Fitzgibbon.

Police have been notified that someone is certain to dump loads of rubbish and dumping it at the intersection of Lincoln and Hillsdale. In our travels around Birmingham we have noticed several other places where this is being done. Can't help but wonder what kind of a person would do a thing like that. It's beyond us.

Boys will sometimes do a lot of work just for the fun of it. Monday night they hoisted the biceps of Roy Bolton, manager of the White Tower restaurant to the top of the building—fun they call it.

Have You Met . . . Dr. and Mrs. Sidney Miller and their children, Peter and Johnathan, who have come from Detroit to make their home at 1117 Stanley street? Dr. Miller is a specialist in internal medicine.

Mr. and Mrs. John Munn who have moved to their new home at 1282 Yosemite from Detroit? They have a baby daughter, Catherine. Mr. Munn is superintendent with D & C Lines.

'Tis Washington

By The Duchesse

The General's army isn't giving up. Undaunted by overpowering forces in Wisconsin and Nebraska, the MacArthur-for-President soldiers are invading capitol hill with some success in both camps.

In the senate, a promise was extracted to invite the general back to testify before the Appropriations committee as the preparation needs of Japan. No MacArthur, Senator Styles Bridges himself will do the writing.

In the House, a guarantee of a joint session of congress to hear the General was made by Speaker Joseph Martin, who isn't MacArthur man either. He's more interested in his own chances of being President.

The strength of MacArthur in congress is in the ranks of the ultra-conservatives who find even candidate Robert Taft guilty of some liberalism.

That Vain for victory . . . Churchill made it by hand, Caesar had his triple V, and Vidali, Viet. And now we learn that during the Italian campaign the walls of Rome were covered with big V's. Undisputed V-letters were the dog's frantic barking.

The net result: 94 per cent of the electors did not vote. Maybe a V-campaign might be a good thing come November since only 55% of American voters go to the polls.

"I want a small office." That was the first request of General Dwight Eisenhower of Columbia University.

It's understandable that "Ike" wants just a presidential office.

Here's a shot any boy or girl might make with a simple camera—and have fun doing so.

For A 12-Year-Old

ONE of our readers has written in asking about box cameras. He's planning to get his daughter a camera for her birthday soon. "I wonder," he writes, "if a box camera is the camera for her. She'll be twelve years old and has never really seen a camera before."

I'm taking it for granted that your first correspondent uses the term "box camera," he refers to any simple, fixed-focus camera—not on the common, box-shaped one—but the fixed-focus reflex type with the large viewfinder. And my answer is "yes." I know of no better way to learn photography than to start out using the simplest type of camera.

For picture taking is fun. With a child beginning to make snapshots it's more fun for her to see, usually, a fixed-focus camera is the easiest camera to use. It has limitations, yes—it can't, for example, see fast action. But used within its limitations a fixed-focus camera gives excellent results.

Remember, with a camera of this type there's no need to treat subjects. Any subject six feet or farther away from the lens is in focus. And exposure's preset. All you need do to make a picture is line up the subject in the viewfinder and release the shutter. It's as simple as that. And with the modern, built-in flash, such a camera is used day or night.

Using such a camera anyone can learn the simple fundamentals—how to load and unload the camera, to always advance the film between shots, to hold the camera steady when shooting, to be sure the subject is centered in the finder. And, as interest progresses, one can use attachments for making closeups or filters for scenic views.

In fact, some of the finest landscape pictures ever seen were made by a man in upstate New York who never uses any camera but a box camera. And there's an old axiom, too, that if you can't make acceptable fast action pictures with a camera, you're not to be made with any other type of camera. So it's a good way to start.

—John van Galder

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