

Editorial Page of The Birmingham Eccentric

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

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Judge Bans Newspaper Articles

A judicial order "without precedent," in the State of Washington, and, as far as we know, in any other state, was recently issued against a newspaper prohibiting it from publishing an article which the plaintiff alleged would obstruct justice.

It seems that a construction company, working on a housing project, was criticized in a series of articles that denounced the type of buildings being erected. The company retaliated with a damage suit against the newspaper, and alleged that the printing of articles, while it was attempting to collect by suit from a war veteran tenant, constituted an obstruction of justice and contempt of court.

The judge issued the restraining order. His exercise of judicial discretion implies the right of judges, anywhere in the land, to prohibit the publication of any news articles which tend to affect the thinking of readers in regard to any suit in any court.

If this ruling is upheld, it means that any individual, or corporation, when its activities are criticized by any newspaper, can file a suit of some type and secure an order restraining the newspaper from printing the facts.

You can imagine, then, what would happen to your freedom of the press.

The temporary suspension of production of atomic bombs has been suggested by Brigadier General Carlos P. Romulo, President of the United Nations General Assembly, together with the prohibition of the use of atomic bombs.

The idea of the Filipino diplomat is to create a temporary truce between the United States and Soviet Russia. He has suggested, according to newspaper reports, that such a truce be accompanied by safeguards, including international inspection.

The inspection idea insures Russia's rejection of the proposal. Without it, the United States did not consent to any such plan.

In fact, since the Russians have the bomb, it might be more dangerous for the United States to stop adding to its stockpile than to depend upon an agreement with the Russians, who might manage to evade the pact and catch up with the United States.

Japanese Wins Nobel Prize

A Japanese physicist, now a visiting professor at Columbia University, has been awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics for his prediction of the existence of an elementary particle, the meson.

The Japanese physicist, Dr. Hideki Yukawa, worked at Kyoto University, in Japan. In developing his theory on the structure of the atomic nucleus, he found that a long-sought link must be what is called the meson.

It is hardly possible to explain the idea, but Dr. Yukawa says that the whole notion of the most elementary particles of matter has been changed since the discovery of the meson. He points out: "It is very hard to distinguish between matter and energy. The meson is in between matter and energy. We know that mesons are unstable, that they change and make new particles."

Mathematical Problem

The famous Leaning Tower of Pisa, in Italy, has listed another three-tenths of an inch in the last twelve years, according to scientific measurements.

The circular structure of marble, completed in 1350, is 179 feet high. It is sixteen and one-half feet out of plumb and the record reveals that it listed twice in between 1829 and 1910.

Mathematical geniuses, with a yen to solve problems, might begin to calculate how far the Tower will list before it falls over. Obviously, if the process continues long enough, the structure will hit the ground. Will some expert figure out the year in which it will occur?

Revelations made by a former Air Force Major that he discovered atomic secrets were being shipped to Russia in 1944, upon orders from the White House, has caused a great stir among current high government officials.

Congress will make a sweeping investigation "of the subject." That's all fine, and we hope it is successful. In those days the destiny of the United States was considered the sole right and property of a few men close to FDR, including Harry Hopkins.

They were friendly to Russia, even though they should have known Russia, eventually, would array itself against our country. Our State Dept. still appears to lack courage to face this threat.

Adults, who once were children, control and operate every phase of our Twentieth Century living. Therefore, it is foolish that when something is wrong, it is the fault of these adults. To achieve greater perfection in the circumstances of living, we need better trained, more honest and unselfish adults.

Happy Beginnings of Long Ago

50 Years Ago DECEMBER 15, 1899 A hare and a rabbit were consumed one day last week when M. B. Dennis sold his Ann Street property to Sam L. North.

When a few more families move to Pontiac or Rochester so they may be able to get a good use of the necessity of bringing some manufacturing interests into Birmingham.

Albert Lamb cut at Big Beaver has a horse that he is going to see. Every summer he looks like an ordinary horse, but as soon as the cold weather comes he grows long and curls tightly. By the time spring rolls round again the animal looks like a shaggy-haired buffalo.

We are in receipt of a batch of very fine photos from Albuquerque, N. M., sent by Miss Dolores Louise. She has a camera from us last fall and has apparently put it to excellent use.

Surprised? Well we should be so! Monday last, Joe Rainey, who has been absent from our midst for a year, called into our office. From his looks his work is agreeing with him for he is robust and the picture of health.

20 Years Ago DECEMBER 15, 1929 Police Chief O. J. Tuttle warns drivers that they have five to nine days left in which to buy license plates for the coming year. To date 134,000 plates have been issued through the local department which has been offering 24-cent plates.

Mrs. Charles Shain, chairman of the committee on the Community House said today that although they expect to open the house in February, there will be no formal dedication until spring. A tentative date for the house-warming has been set as April 28.

A unanimous vote of the village council was given Monday night, permitting the city to install such telephone call stands as deemed necessary in the village. Company owners were present and stated; prior to the vote, they felt their standards would greatly improve their service.

The pulmotor squad of the Birmingham fire department worked half an hour before they were able to revive James Griffith, overcome by monoxide gas Monday afternoon in the Eastern Michigan bus. Three other workers were able to reach the bus before the building began to collapse.

James Cobb, postmaster, said today that 10 extra men are being added to the carrier force for the local post office to handle the additional Christmas mail. An additional truck will also be available to meet the prompt delivery of parcel post packages destined for the city.

5 Years Ago DECEMBER 21, 1944 City Manager H. H. Cowan reports to the board of directors Monday evening that the matter of cans and bottles which are being thrown into water lake is being handled by the department of public works and that they hope to eliminate the nuisance soon.

The weather man tells us we will have a white Christmas. While we have no official weather program, all our amateurs seem to agree that it will be white and plenty of it. They say the weather may warm up a bit before Christmas but will be cold and remove very much of the snow.

Let's Get Started, Uncle!



By Gene Alleman The governor of Michigan is just a glorified clerk? Governor Kim Sigler made this declaration before the Economic Club of Detroit during the first year of his 1947-48 term.

Echoes of the Sigler reform program for centralizing authority in the governor's office were heard this week as a legislative study committee, fresh from an inspection trip to three eastern states, announced adoption of the Hoover Commission "task force" idea in conducting research for reorganization of state government.

Chairman of the committee was Senator James T. Milliken, republican, Traverse City. The committee of state senators received by former President Herbert Hoover. Mr. Hoover recommended use of specialists in each field from outside government to serve as government advisers.

Legislators reported they were strongly impressed with streamlining program put into effect in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. In each case the responsibility of government was increased and many boards and commissions were eliminated as administrative agencies.

Strangely enough, the results of the legislative junket to the eastern state in search of ideas for economy in state government are largely those originally advanced by former Governor Sigler in 1947. In the past the state legislature has been cool to recommendations of increased power and responsibility for the government.

Physicians of Michigan are planning their campaign in 1950 against the issue of "socialized medicine." The Michigan State Medical Society, a pioneer among state groups in publicizing the benefits of private medicine, has been organized by Dr. John Perkins of Ann Arbor, to consolidate purchasing power and government supplies and general administration.

Commercial advertisements on the cover of the Michigan Mirror include: "TEST YOUR I. Q." with a list of ten questions; "Harmonica at Night" by Beatrice McDonald; "Pic-Tours of Europe" by J. Fredrickson; "The Christmas Spirit" by J. Fredrickson; "The Michigan Mirror" by Gene Alleman; "The Michigan Mirror" by Gene Alleman; "The Michigan Mirror" by Gene Alleman.

"Any Way You Slice It" BY HAL P. BUERGE The shoppers have started their annual stampede. The rush is on. Soon the Holiday season will be with us once more.

One-thousand-and-fifty years ago a baby was born in Bethlehem. He was called the Christ Child and was destined to save mankind from an everlasting death.

No one knows exactly what type of celebrations the first and subsequent early ones were. It is assumed that they were of a highly religious nature and were days of intense worship, which indeed they should have been.

When I was a child attending Sunday school the teachers would relate the story of the birth of Jesus and how the wise men made the cold, perilous trip on camels to give Him their gifts.

Not intending to be sacrilegious, but nowadays the hardships that Uncle Louis has to encounter to obtain a loud-cranked motor for his car following the department store ads is no snap either. In fact, as they move the season back a few days each year and the mad scramble begins earlier and earlier, the deed of the wise men becomes seemingly easier by comparison.

Advertisements appear in some of the city papers as early as September urging people to get their overseas Christmas shopping and mailing over with early. Where is it going to end? It's hard to tell right now whether you're doing your Christmas shopping early this year, or if you are getting it at late last year.

The Christmas season is a gay and gaudy one, and just like everything else it should be enjoyed from its commercial side with moderation. It is my conviction that if the enthusiasm most of us put into the promotional side of Christmas were evenly shared with the religious version of the day's significance, then the whole world would greatly benefit by the keeping of faith in the oft repeated phrase, "Peace on Earth and Good Will Toward Men."

Intentionally Speaking By Eugene Hess. THE PHILIPPINE REPUBLIC IS ONE OF THE "NATURAL" MARKETS FOR OUR COUNTRY. So the more it must be recognized that the president of this friendly republic has been forced by economic events to reduce sharply the amount of merchandise that may be imported from the United States in the future.

CAUKLER STORAGE CO. You Are Cordially Invited to Inspect OUR MODERN STORAGE Built Especially to Store Household Goods LOCAL AND LONG DISTANCE MOVING 9 Orchard Lake Ave, Pontiac, Mich. Phone Birmingham 10240

Pic-Tours of Europe J. Fredrickson's CAPITAL STOCKHOLDERS, FOUNDED NEARLY 1,000 YEARS AGO IS FAMOUS FOR ITS BEAUTIFUL MODERN ARCHITECTURE. ALL EUROPE IS NOTED FOR ITS HANDICRAFTS. AFTER 12 DAYS OF MORE IN EUROPE RETURNING AMERICANS WILL BRING BACK \$400 WORTH OF SOUVENIR ARTICLES.

STRICTLY FRESH FASHION report says this is the big year for pearls. The women will string along with that idea, all right. A new bride went to a housewifings store and asked the clerk for a hair sweater.

Harmonica at Night By BEATRICE McDONALD He plays his little tunes, and the melody Upon the clear night air, the melody Comes softly, like the wind, me, Mingling its lovely timbre with my prayers.

TEST YOUR I. Q. 1. About how many cars, trucks and buses will the U. S. auto industry produce this year? 2. What state is known as the "Magnolia State"? 3. What effect is DDT having on some of the world's mosquito population?