



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

**Splendid Firemen!**

Thursday morning of last week the Birmingham fire siren sounded off, loud and long; it was a call to the numerous volunteer members to drop their respective business and professional tasks for the moment, and join the regulars to help put out a fire.

As the story on page one of this issue narrates, that fire was on North Woodward avenue; it was a serious one, and a potential hazard to adjacent residential property in that area.

But fire chief Vern Griffith's regulars and volunteers, while unable to prevent unavoidable damage to the premises, did a splendid job in keeping it under control.

This bit of comment is not only to offer praise to the regulars, but to that fine group of volunteers who, responding to the deep impulse to join others in the protection of their community when danger menaces it, risk life and limb.

Yes Sir, and Yes Ma'am, Birmingham is justifiably proud of its fire-fighters!

**How Much Paternalism?**

President Truman last week told Congress his ideas on "The State of the Union." In that message he outlined a variety of objectives, all of which tended toward the paternalistic State. Within certain limitations, some of his suggestions were within the plans and aims of the American people to attain, at the same time retaining Constitutional freedom.

But where Mr. Truman demanded unnecessarily high tax levies to play the role of governmental Santa Claus, he was doing something bad for the morale and self-reliant capacities of our people. Where he sought to provide special privilege legislation for certain groups, while denying the equitable rights of others, he was playing politics.

There is no substitute for citizen intelligence and alertness relative to the problems of the day. As a free citizen, you always have the right, and the duty, of contacting your Congressman; he wants to hear from you. He is your last line of defense in the battle for freedom!

Before every election, some successful candidates always promise to do something about this or about that. Some of these days some public officeholder is going to promise to pass a law about the weather. We wouldn't be surprised to find him being given an overwhelming number of votes.

Some people's definition of Americanism: The idea that everybody connected with the other political party is a skunk.

Economy in affairs of state depend upon strong-willed executives who don't need votes right away.

**Arlington Reburial Ceremonies Become a Patterned Process for All Creeds**

From Our Washington Story

By Esther Van Wagener Tuft

WASHINGTON — The Army chaplain finished the funeral rites, a little old lady arose from her chair and walked to the foot of the casket, where hung the "dog tag" of her soldier-son. She read it carefully, and moved on. Her two sisters did the same.

"That's what 90 percent of the mothers and wives and aunts do at each reburial," confided Colonel Raymond J. Williamson, Director of reburial in World War II.

The ceremony repeats over and over moments separated by only a few minutes in the seemingly endless ceremonies of reburial services men killed abroad in World War II.

War I, which is guarded by sentries 24 hours a day.

The rolling 210 acres of the Arlington cemetery is located on the beautiful green sloping hills of Virginia, overlooking the nation's capital. The white-pillared home of General Robert E. Lee—At Arlington Hall—is at the crest of the hill. Here are buried the bones of many American war heroes: General Philip Sheridan of the Civil War; General John Pershing, General Douglas MacArthur (father of General MacArthur); Floyd Bennett, famous Navy flyer.

President William Howard Taft, Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes and Secretary Williams Gibbs McAdoo are buried here too.

Any man who served his country in the armed forces is permitted to be buried in Arlington Cemetery. So may his wife, who buried there every two years until she died.

The reburials for World War II dead began October 31, 1947, at the first ceremony attended by President Truman, the Supreme Court, Cabinet members, senators and congressmen.

Since that day, more than four hundred reburial services have been held, the great majority of which are mass reburial services to twenty, twenty-five or more men who served his country and returned in Arlington. Col. Williamson, a placid middle-aged man from the Pennsylvania, has attended each of the four hundred funerals, and afterwards, offers the commences of the United States government to each family.

He tries to combine the necessary Army precision with understanding of the family's deep feelings.

The procedure is this: At the time of arrival of the bones at Arlington, each family is notified. Again, when the body leaves the eight or nine trucks which carry the bones in the United States, the

**A Safe Way to Save**

More than 7,600,000 wage and salary earners in the United States are buying U.S. Savings Bonds regularly through a payroll savings plan. Many of them have signed up at their banks so that each month a bond is automatically purchased to build up their financial reserves.

The result is, after a ten-year cycle, they have a safe income coming in every month. This is better than a gratuitous annual because "the individuals have practiced it through provident investment and intelligent savings."

Treasury Department officials point out that the American people have increased their holdings of savings bonds from forty-three and one-half billions in February, 1946, to over forty-seven billion, with thirty-two billions of the total in Series E Bonds.

The Birmingham Eccentric has no hesitation in suggesting to its readers that they seriously consider the regular purchase of U.S. Savings Bonds. The process will not only add to the safety of the individuals but will constitute, in the fullest sense, an investment in the United States of America. There is no better investment.

**Planning for the future is the only way of improving the future.**

That's why we believe every citizen in the Birmingham area should make himself or herself familiar with plans and aims of the City Plan Commission. That is, unless you don't think the present needs improving.

**Too many individuals, and some Congressmen, believe that a two week's trip to some foreign country makes them an expert on foreign affairs.**

During the war there were those who insisted it was punishment for man's sins. Who can explain what we are going through now that we have peace?

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**50 YEARS AGO**

January 15, 1899

"Oh for the sea, the open sea!" That's what a local man said to himself as he floated in the Detroit harbor the other night when he found his seat was right behind a hat that looked like a palm tree.

We forgot to mention last week that while fishing on Long Lake, John Stabler, Col. Ellsworth and George Warner caught the nicest string of fish we have seen yet. They got eight pickerel that weighed 25 pounds.

James Anderson's new barn will be no myth for 12 big loads of stone for its re-building passed over office yesterday. Now boys, set 'em in a building, set a building bee and a painting bee, along with an insurance bee and James will do all right, so!

January wound up his weeping spell by going on a hysterical spree and kicking the mercury down several steps. The way the wind and snow kicked with each other for a time suggested good sleighing is still a noisy undertaking.

The Novel Club discussed "All Sorts and Conditions" by Henry Sorenson last Saturday. The meeting was led by Miss Post who handled the matter in a very learned manner.

**20 YEARS AGO**

January 17, 1929

White boys and girls enjoyed the heavy coats of Monday.

The novel Club discussed "All Sorts and Conditions" by Henry Sorenson last Saturday. The meeting was led by Miss Post who handled the matter in a very learned manner.

During the coming season Willett's motor oil will be available to motorists, so it will be available and safe for coating. James Anderson's new barn will be no myth for 12 big loads of stone for its re-building passed over office yesterday.

Gordon E. Parry, E. 10 Mile Road, had a narrow escape Tuesday when he suffered a heart attack while driving his car on Woodward Road. The car went out of control and climbed onto the car tracks before it stopped. Parry, taking the hospital by the back door, was taken to the hospital.

Plans are under way for the new club house at the Birmingham Golf Club, which will be started next month. The estimated cost of a total of \$235,000 will be spent on the building and other improvements at the club.

**5 YEARS AGO**

January 13, 1944

Robert C. Peck was named assistant manager of the Birmingham branch of the Wabek State Bank at a recent meeting held in the Detroit offices. Several other Birmingham men were elected to serve the bank for the coming year.

Eight Lions clubs of Southeastern Michigan, represented by members, met in the Community House Sunday afternoon for their district conference. The meeting was in charge of N. Arthur Gleason, member of the Flint club.

Mary Jane Tuttle and Sue Gulcutt at all," Col. Williamson said.

Any services requested by the family are read. Usually this included the customary services of the Catholic, Protestant, and Hebrew special Buddhist ceremonies.

The policy of the Army in reburial services as democratic as possible, rank, race, or creed.

Many of the mass burials have included Negroes, Japanese-Americans, and Latin-Americans.

"We have never had any difficulty in re-burial. The family is then notified 10 days before the time for the service.

At 1:30 p.m. each Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the families of each deceased soldier arrive at the Administrative Building at Arlington. They are provided with an escort of the same rank and same branch of the service as their loved one. At 1:45 they form a procession, led by several cars of Army officers, and they ride down to the reburial plot. Each family is escorted to the grave and the casket is buried. After they are buried, the band plays, the volley of shots are fired and the guard of four men standing by each casket folds the American flag in a triangle and hands it to the widow or the mother.

**WINTER SONNET**

When Spring returns—for Spring is on her way,  
 All laden down with violets, and soft  
 Glad gently sighing winds that bear aloft  
 The songs of nesting birds—I shall be gay,  
 And, oh, so busy doing happy things,  
 I shall plant flower seeds and scour my house  
 And fashion for myself a little blouse,  
 Beruffled and sprigged past all imaginings,  
 I shall bake biscuits feather light and brown,  
 And cakes like yellow gold, and stuted pies,  
 And never shall I scold nor wear a frown.  
 Only the blithest smiles will light my eyes,  
 Oh, Winter, your bleak winds I bravely spurn  
 When I remember Spring will soon return.

**Heavy, Heavy Hangs Over Your Head**



**People's Column**

To the Editor:  
 While there is so much fighting on raising and cutting taxes, what about a license on cats? We have many thousands of these animals in the United States, and why are they exempt?  
 Why not slap a fine of \$5 on male cats and a \$2 on females. Then, have a fine of \$25 on each owner of a cat who does not report it?  
 This is just another way to help our state and country get out of the red.  
 Yours' very truly,  
 S. V. Hupley.

Frightened?  
 "Tell me what you eat, and I'll tell you what you are," said a lunch counter philosopher. Whereupon a meek little man, sitting a few stools away, called to the waiter: "Cancel my order for shrimp salad please."

250,000 Poles and only 100,000 Germans? Is there a better way to make peace impossible than by thinking out such a devilish scheme?

**Internationally Speaking**

By Eugene Heaz  
 International Market Analyst

We hear so much about the Berlin problem but we have nearly forgotten the terrible ruth which have been planted on Germany's eastern old frontier. This might lead to another world conflict. Did you realize that several German provinces, numbered before the war 8,800,000 German inhabitants are now populated by 5,000,000 Poles and only 100,000 Germans?

**THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner**

Unusual sunlight lends distinction to what would otherwise have been an ordinary snow scene. Possibly the addition of a footpath in the snow leading in an S curve to the door would have added life to the picture, but as it is, it has a pleasing feeling of snowbound remoteness. Taken with an exposure of 1/25 second at f 16 on Ansco Supreme film. To darken the sky sufficiently for contrast a K2 (medium yellow) filter was used. The photograph for this snow scene where the sky is in black.

The brave new world that you find out of doors after a hang-up snowstorm is an irresistible lure for every photographer worthy of the name. The blue tinted snowflakes with diamonds, the snow sparkles with diamonds, clean blue shadows ripple across a transformed landscape and every detail has a knife-like sharpness.

However, don't let your experience run away with you as you pull on your long underwear, coffee your camera, tripod and filters and head for the hills. Your first impulse is to take everything in sight. Resist it. The prime secret of good snow pictures lies in learning what to leave out.

Don't try to take a snow picture without the sun—and a bright sky. There are two obvious exceptions to this rule, of course: Night photography of city streets after a snowstorm, and pictures taken while it is still snowing.

Be Careful of Trees  
 Don't let trees get the better of you. You don't need nearly as much of them as you think in a snow scene. And you don't need the whole tree. Part of the trunk gets the general idea across. Besides, by exposing properly for foreground snow, you are often

By Gene Allaman

approve any increases in taxes for highway purposes unless the tax were part of a "complete" highway program which covered need "reforms" and unless the tax were imposed "along with the overall budget of the state."

Reflecting his primary interest in the welfare of urban industrial workers, the governor came out flatly for public-financed housing on a cooperative basis whereby a local government, presunably municipalities, would work together with state and federal governments in providing adequate low-cost housing.

A separate measure is to be submitted to the legislature later on covering methods whereby state housing authority would be established and money made available to finance the housing units. The program will also cover additional spending, there was recognition of this problem in the promise to submit a separate statement later on, covering this "serious fiscal problem." In view of the voters' opposition to a diversion of state sales tax revenue, it appears a good bet that new taxes will be recommended as an alternative to otherwise inevitable deficit financing. At least, Governor Williams' thinking is not in the direction of economy through curtailment of public services.

I should like to invite this legislature to develop a "Michigan seal of quality" or some similar trade-mark which could be applied to high quality farm products," said Governor Williams. Such a trade-mark would be defined carefully, "enforced rigidly by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Conservation, and widely and enthusiastically."

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"We are currently faced with the paradox of decreasing construction while population and demand for housing continue to grow," said Governor Williams. "Basically, this is caused by the fact that housing costs are far beyond the reach of the greatest needs, namely, the wage earner of moderate income with a wife and several small children." Will the Republican majority in the state legislature go along with Governor Williams on the key measure, calling for more government participation in our economic life? On this issue, perhaps more than any other, Republican leaders will divide sharply. Governor Thomas E. Dewey, for example, is sponsoring a big public housing program for New York State, while also advocating strictly business-like procedures for industrial housing. The conservative wing of the party condemns such tactics as "stealing the New Deal" and believes the party should champion the cause of conservatism by holding the line for free enterprise. We have often heard that the record always speaks for itself.

And the Michigan record of bipartisan government is now in that making.

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Your check book helps greatly in the task of filling out your Income Tax return to the best advantage. It forms an accurate record of deductible payments for contributions to charity, medical costs, interest, and your cancelled checks are a permanent, Day in and day out, a checking account saves time and trouble. And here at your friendly bank, a small deposit is all you need to open a pay-as-you-go checking account.

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