

When the Press Is Not Free, Then Freedom Is Dead

Adolph Hitler was a smart man in one respect. One of the first things he did when he took over Germany was to give Goebbels the power to suppress the news.

In this respect Hitler was a smart man. He knew that he could never keep his hold on the people if they had access to the truth.

Every dictator and bigot knows the same, whether in foreign lands or in our own. Freedom cannot exist without the free exchange of facts and ideas.

There are those who criticize the press, saying that it is censored; that it is not free to publish both sides of an argument because it is controlled by special interests.

But oftentimes this criticism is really a tribute to the freedom that our newspapers enjoy. For nine times out of ten, those who criticize have an axe to grind themselves, and are disturbed that the press does not cater to them.

In Birmingham anyone who has a legitimate story to tell will find these pages open for the facts. And if a dispute arises concerning those facts, the other side of the story will be told too.

For we editors know, from the experience of others in totalitarian lands, that suppression of the news breeds "smart men" like Adolph Hitler.

That is why The Birmingham Eccentric calls your attention to National Newspaper Week, October 1 through October 8.

It is admitted by President Truman that he wants government to provide for the wants of ALL the people. He can't yet get Congress to go for his "security-for-all" ideas, so his steel fact-finding committee suggests that private industry assume the burden.

That is, indeed, great news. . . not only for peacetime use, but also for use in the event of war. (Which may mankind forbid)

The United States Bureau of Mines reports it has developed methods of producing crude oil from shale; that reserves of shale within the U.S. contain seven times more oil than has been used in this country during the past 90 years.

That is, indeed, great news. . . not only for peacetime use, but also for use in the event of war. (Which may mankind forbid)

Because more people rely on newspapers for information than on any other media, Michigan governors hold press conferences twice a day.

The governor discusses problems of state government with reporters. The daily newspaper, in the matter of news, carries news on these developments.

Woes of Michigan grape growers are being discussed in a conference called by Governor C. Mennen Williams and covered by the press.

As the grape conference went around and round, getting nowhere fast, testimony quickly focused attention on the general problem of marketing Michigan food crops.

Under state agricultural advertising law, any group of growers can qualify for limited state aid in their own advertising.

Because of the 1949 bumper crop, which is substantially in excess of the normal, the state department of agriculture has offered to provide \$4,000 from the department's special fund to augment the commission's program of promotion.

Minard Farley, Jr., enterprising secretary of the apple commission, has secured the cooperation of Florida outlets in an effort to obtain an apple haul.

Minard Farley, Jr., enterprising secretary of the apple commission, has secured the cooperation of Florida outlets in an effort to obtain an apple haul.

Minard Farley, Jr., enterprising secretary of the apple commission, has secured the cooperation of Florida outlets in an effort to obtain an apple haul.

Not Up to Him to Lower City Safety Standards

Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley in the coming weeks presents a recommendation to the city commission asking that all angle parking be eliminated from Woodward south of Brown street, and parallel parking substituted, we do not believe anyone can validly criticize his request.

We believe he will do it, for he hinted at it last week when city commissioners discussed this particular parking problem. It arose in connection with the future installation of parking meters in that area when properties now under construction there are completed and the public begins patronizing them.

Moxley is the city's chief traffic safety and enforcement officer. With the exception of one or two other residents, he is the most qualified to speak on local traffic safety problems. He knows local conditions and statistics, as well as national safety standards.

"There have been 27 angle parking accidents since the first of the year, averaging \$125 to \$150 damage each," he told the commission. "While there have been no really serious personal injuries, we can never tell when they will occur."

"I would like to see all angle parking areas eventually eliminated from the city," he concluded.

We believe in the light of these statements and statistics, Moxley cannot do otherwise than recommend parallel parking for South Woodward.

If the business men and the city commissioners believe they will take the chance on having more accidents result from angle parking than would occur from parallel parking, it is up to the merchants and residents and the city commission to alter Moxley's recommendation to the desired effect. The responsibility for the deviation must be assumed by those who ask, promote and authorize the change.

To ask Moxley to come up with anything other than the right combination to produce the most traffic and pedestrian safety is asking him to close his eyes to his duty as Birmingham's traffic safety director.

The Birmingham Eccentric

Published every Thursday at Birmingham, Mich., in the Eccentric Building, 221-223 North Woodward Avenue, Birmingham, Mich. 45217. 12, 15 and 18 copies per month.

Subscription Rates: One Year - \$2.50, Six Months - \$1.50, Three Months - \$1.00.

NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish contributions from individuals and organizations. Contributions are usually edited and published in the next issue.

back for truckers who bring fresh fruit to Michigan.

The Lake Michigan area is one of the most important in the United States. Grapes, peaches, apples and pears are concentrated here.

The hardier fruits, moreover, are widely distributed in the southern portion of the state. Romeo's peach festival is an example.

Michigan agriculture requires the efforts of many persons other than full-time farmers and family workers. In 1948 more than 35,000 seasonal workers were employed at the period of peak demand in August.

Surplus crops present the big headache to growers.

That's where the state of Michigan comes into the picture for inspection, marketing and advertising.

You will have an opportunity to enjoy Michigan apples this fall, winter and spring at attractive prices. As for grapes, the growers apparently patched up their dibbles, and all is well. At least we hope so.

Birmingham's annual fire prevention week opens Sunday, continuing through October 14. Fire Chief V. W. Griffith pointed out that over 400,000 fires started in homes throughout the country were caused by unattended rubbish in and around residences.

What a name for our beloved city. It gives a lot of us old timers, in the midst of somewhere? It's a wonder they didn't save it, and just call it "Midwife" or maybe "Migrain," because that's what it gives a lot of us old timers.

ROBERT B. ALLEN, 1765 1/2th Ave. S.E., Birmingham, Ala. Beverly Hills.

This Is Worth Fighting For

Happenings of Long Ago

50 Years Ago SEPTEMBER 29, 1899

A poor insect that annoys a whole neighborhood is getting many a hard knock from those who would be treated as passers. The poor animal is not to blame. Better save your hard knocks for the owner or for the village board and marshal who pay no attention to the complaints.

Our townpeople are very anxious that their wells be protected this fall so that we may be ready for next summer, without the troubles of dust and drought.

Everybody was wild with fright last Sunday night over the fire alarm whining, but it was a false alarm. Lightning touched off the alarm and Brother Reebached off the whistle and that was all there was of it.

There remains unclaimed at the Kinneston bakery one bushel basket, 13 small tin pie plates and one spoon as remnants of the union Sunday school picnic held August 14. Any person who has claims upon these articles will be thanked for taking them away.

Mrs. M. J. Taber has the finest lot of quinces we have yet seen, and has a few that she will sell. A magnificent specimen of the fruit reposes on our desk as we write.

20 Years Ago OCTOBER 3, 1929 "Work on the dam of the River Rouge is up to the Oakland County drain commission" City Manager James W. Parry said yesterday. Parry was referring to the alleged attacks made by the state lake commission on the dam in streams, especially in the Rouge.

Bertrand Russell, England's greatest contemporary philosopher, is expected to appear in Detroit Friday. His speech is creating a great deal of interest. He will be introduced by Dr. William O. Stevens, headmaster at Cranbrook.

Birmingham is now in seventh place in amount of cotton done during August among 20 leading cities in Michigan. This is according to a report released today by S. W. Strauss and company. With the building cost in this city at \$200,000 through August it surpassed the Pontiac figure.

Dr. and Mrs. W. L. Kemp of Oakland avenue narrowly escaped serious injury when their car in which they were riding near Crooks road skidded in some loose sand and rolled over into a ditch. Neither was injured.

The village commission Monday night gave W. F. Ward, welder, another chance to have his well water tested. The contract for this was \$200, through August, had expired. The second chance was offered on an appeal from a company representative.

5 Years Ago OCTOBER 14, 1944 Mayor Ray E. Palmer today issued a proclamation setting Oct. 14 as Birmingham Needlework Day. This conforms with action taken in many communities throughout the country as a part of the membership drive of the Needlework Guild of America.

Mrs. Gerda Hansen at Baldwin high school has asked the members of the MOWS club for the names of 20 soldiers, preferably those overseas, so her group can mail Christmas packages to them at once. Persons knowing of servicemen who might otherwise receive no Christmas remembrances are asked to notify her or Mrs. J. Rowland Quinn.

Congressman George A. Dondero of Detroit and Carroll R. Chapman of Rochester are candidates for Ann Arbor to fill the two vacancies of the 17th congressional district. William Kinne Martin of 125 St. Charles is among the alternates named.

The Junior Red Cross enrollment drive will open in local schools on Nov. 1, according to Mrs. J. C. Gloom, general chairman from Pontiac. She said the committee hopes to exceed last year's enrollment of 1,147, since the demands upon the organization are growing constantly.

Birmingham's annual fire prevention week opens Sunday, continuing through October 14. Fire Chief V. W. Griffith pointed out that over 400,000 fires started in homes throughout the country were caused by unattended rubbish in and around residences.

What a name for our beloved city. It gives a lot of us old timers, in the midst of somewhere? It's a wonder they didn't save it, and just call it "Midwife" or maybe "Migrain," because that's what it gives a lot of us old timers.

ROBERT B. ALLEN, 1765 1/2th Ave. S.E., Birmingham, Ala. Beverly Hills.

Big Stories Are Revealed Through Little Impressions, Reporter Finds

By Esther Van Wagoner Tuffy

HELSINKI, Finland—Little impressions tell big stories.

Only in Finland do the people seem to be praised for their "small" or their "very" deeds. They want to be liked for other things, too.

The great Finnish composer Sibelius is also known as the greatest violinist in Finland. When his wife drops her scissors he rushes to pick them up—even if she is in the bathroom room.

No special privileges for the wealthy people here. Every home must give up any extra rooms to outsiders until the housing shortage eases.

Finnish wish we knew other famous people besides Sibelius. There's Waino Aaltonen, the deaf genius of sculpture, whom you can see in his studio. His author of the national epic "Seven Brothers," is now molding a massive heroic relief for the 50th jubilee of Finland's cooperative movement next year.

He met us at the airport, with plaster covering his hands and face. We put our questions on paper—and in his studio. He did not believe in art for art's sake.

Another Finn-great is Alvar Alto, the architect. He is Finland's best salesman. A visiting professor of architecture in London, he knows the world outside. He has created cities of beauty in the northern areas laid bare by the retreating Germans.

Herbert Hoover is revered here. His work after World War I and after the Finnish winter war and even today has made his name synonymous with relief.

In Finland, a needy person does not say "I am going on relief," rather "I am going on Hooyer."

When you lift a glass of aquavit (the favorite drink), you toast with a skol to the host—never to the hostess.

A Finnish peasant wandered into a political meeting. He noticed a picture of Stalin on the wall. She asked "Who is it?" The communist answered "The great emancipator of small countries."

The woman, still gazing at the picture, said "He has such a kindly face. I wonder if he would emancipate Finland."

In Helsinki harbor, there stands a massive old fort. Carved over the top is the legend, "Stand on your own soil, trust not on alien help."

Both Russian and English are taught in the schools. The English classes are large, the Russian small.

Our American minister, Avra Warren, is popular here. He has traveled to every corner of the country and in the sauna (traditional Finnish steam bath) and as much as 15,000 feet down.

THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner

With black-and-white film, you'll need to rely a little more on the contrast between cloud and sky. With a sunset rich in orange, red, and yellow, regular (ortho) film will be wonderful. If the colors are cooler and more delicate, a panchromatic film with medium-yellow filter would be more satisfactory. But if a gorgeous western sky suddenly appears, shoot it with what you have. That dramatic effect may disappear in an instant.

There are several ways to enhance the beauty of a lovely sky. Sunsets over water can be striking, especially with the added punch of a boat in silhouette. Anything from grazing sheep to a lone sheepscraper can be worked in to create a pleasing scene. The handy device of framing the picture with the branches of a tree can be very effective, too.

You may have to try a few sunsets before you get just what you want, but the results can prove to be very rewarding. One of these nights when that unforgettable western sky rages fades away, you'll have the pleasure of knowing that this is one sunset you've captured for posterity.

—John van Outlander

Sunsets offer the camera fan an endless source of beautiful views.

A Word About Sunsets

NOT all of the wonders of nature are inaccessible distances from our own front porch. Once a day there occurs in every photographer's life a phenomenon that is beautiful. They aren't always beautiful or spectacular. But then, every once in a while, you witness such a fascinating performance that you stare with unbelief.

The complete lack of uniformity in this slightly attractive to the West makes it difficult to establish hard and fast technical rules. Normally, who has ever hunted for clouds, but probably couldn't even find the moon in the open sky.

Anyway, "Chuck," if we ever find you again, you are going to get the biggest himecoming a dog ever got. The little girls are saving a big can of dog food for you and we'll go to the store and get you your biggest and best bone. We even have a couple of pillows you can have apart and a sheet or two to rip up. We'd be glad to have you home again that we'd do almost anything for you.

Many folks have wanted to give us another puppy to take your place, but I don't think another one could replace you right now. We only want YOU back and we'd give a lot to have you returned. We aren't going to give up looking, but someday, maybe, after you have given up for keeps, we may buy another brown and white Springer Spaniel. If he is a lady, little dog and please us, enough, we will name him "Chuck." So, for now, goodbye little fellow . . . we'll be missing you.

PEOPLE'S COLUMN Schools Open TAKE TEAS

Michigan Mirror INTERPRETING THE NEWS

Michigan Mirror INTERPRETING THE NEWS