

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

Published every Thursday, at Birmingham, Mich. In the Ecceentric Building, 220-222 North Woodley Avenue

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The Ecceentric is a member of the National Editorial Association, Michigan Press Association and Woodley Press Club

Defense By Assumption

It seems to us that the responsible officials of the United States, familiar with the facts after studying the world situation, should have known for the past two years that Russian aggression was a possibility almost any time.

This being the conclusion, it follows inevitably that there was no excuse for the policy of economy in connection with our preparedness for war.

Apparently, the defense of the United States was resting firmly upon an official, but erroneous, conclusion that no great war was imminent.

In support of the economy program, launched by Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson with the approval of the President, officials gave out optimistic statements as to the national defense.

On March 3rd, the President was quoted as saying that "never in the history of the United States have its defenses been in such good shape except when actually at war."

Ten days later, Secretary Johnson told a Senate committee that the Army was stronger than at any time since the end of the war and the Air Force was at the highest state of combat readiness since the war.

In May, the President explained that he was not alarmed over the possibility of a shooting war with Russia and, in June, he was quoted as saying, "The world is closer now to permanent peace than at any time in the last five years."

We call attention to these facts to show, beyond doubt, the complacency and over-confidence of the President and the Secretary of Defense.

Apparently they have awakened in time and are now vigorously trying to implement programs which will translate our "defense potentials" into weapons and munitions before we get into a war for our national survival.

The Reds "Beat Hell Out of Us"

A candid description of a battle, given by an officer of the U. S. 24th Division, says that the "Northern Korean Communist troops beat hell out of us."

This is the frank comment of a man who has been fighting against overwhelming enemy forces.

It is about time that the American people catch on to what our fighting men have been enduring in the Korean campaign.

There is no use being misled by optimistic reports of "advancements going to the front" or stories that report the heavy losses of the enemy.

American forces in Korea, rushed into a battle for which they were unprepared and unsupplied, have taken a terrific laceration.

Nothing but the courage of fighting men has enabled them to withstand the overwhelming attacks of the enemy.

Consequently, so that we will appreciate the sacrifice and courage of our men, in battle against great odds, it is well for the people at home to know the truth of what goes on in the battle zone.

Social Security Hoax

When you, as a worker, pay your annual social security costs into the federal treasury, you should remember that your money, along with that of millions of others, immediately goes into the payment of current costs of government.

Unlike the premiums handled by an insurance company, your social security payments are not withheld in a trust, for payment to you when due.

So, Fellow-Worker, what you pay is merely another tax, labeled "Social Security Contribution." Both the New Deal and the Fair Deal have played a hoax upon you . . . for the money eventually to be paid you when you reach 65 must come from the then current federal budget.

In brief, it's as though you gave somebody a sum of money payable, say, in ten years. He spends your money this year; he hasn't any to pay you ten years hence . . . unless you "loan" it to him.

Always remember that government is a perpetual pauper, doesn't create any wealth, only taxes and spends!

Here's Inflation:

Here are some figures, taken from reports of the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, which show how inflationary spending has debauched the American currency.

The figures show the value of the dollar as 100 cents on January 1, 1939, for comparative purposes.

Table with columns: DOLLAR VALUE, PUBLIC DEBT. Rows: 1939 (112.5 cents, \$22.5 billion), 1940 (100.2, 40.4), 1941 (80.8, 136.7), 1942 (61.1, 252.3), 1943 (59.1, 252.8), 1944 (59.1, 252.8), 1945 (59.1, 252.8), 1946 (59.1, 252.8), 1947 (59.1, 252.8), 1948 (59.1, 252.8), 1949 (59.1, 252.8), 1950 (59.1, 252.8)

From Our Point of View

Mental health experts cite figures to show that in the past 20 years, the nation's mental health has been getting progressively worse. Do you suppose it's because the Democratic administration has been driving so many people crazy?

Getting what you want may make you satisfied; but isn't it also true that only by wanting what we get we become happy?

Merely making money is no proof that an individual has reached success. In the first place, the more money you make the more the tax collector takes from you—and that upsets your digestion; in the second place, having too much money often does evil to one's real self—and how can one be very happy living with an impoverished and barren inner man?

One of the best and most valuable phases of having a sense of humor is to be able to laugh at yourself when necessary. To be able to laugh at yourself means that you are able to apply a mighty healing salve to scratches upon the surface of your pride and vanity. That kind of salve is worth a million dollars a pound.

We presume the death rate of grandmothers in the Detroit metropolitan area last week went up tremendously—what with the Tigers and Yankees in town battling it out for first place in the American League.

So They Say . . .

Harry S. Truman: Democracy and freedom brings to each individual, each day, more of what he wants than any other system of government.

Paul G. Hoffman, head, Economic Cooperation Administration: "The stumbling, bewildered, sickly Europe that three years ago cringed at every Communist frown is gone."

Alben W. Barkley, Vice-President: "We must drive back this monster that has crept over the earth, destroying the freedom of man."

William Green, president, American Federation of Labor: "A widespread wave of sizable rent increases will inevitably be reflected in the demands of organized workers for higher wages."

Ernest Bevin, British Foreign Secretary: "If you will look at a map of the world, you will see what extreme trouble it would cause to have a big civil war in Indo-China and one in Europe."

Margaret Truman: "When I do marry, my husband will not be a politician."

Albert Einstein, scientist: "Pipe smoking contributes to a somewhat calm and objective judgment on our human affairs."

James P. Kem, U. S. Senator from Missouri: "We cannot ignore the fact that there is a very definite limit to our financial resources."

Isador Lubin, U. S. Delegate to Economic Council: "The American people will not again tolerate a major depression."

Henry A. Wallace, 1948 Presidential Candidate of Progressive Party: "The Russians could have prevented the attack by the North Koreans and they could now stop the attack at any time they wish."



Happenings of Long Ago

Bits Of News Stated From Old Files Of The Ecceentric—The Items That Make Up The Historical Background Of The Birmingham Of Today.

50 years ago AUGUST 17, 1900 And now it is said that Albert Haddell of near Pontiac will be held a frog farm. It is claimed that there is a regular Klondike in a business of this kind.

A report comes to us of mid-night prowlers on the west end of town. If they knew how close they came to being shot one night last week they would not be guilty of the offense again.

The local paper is printed to print all the news, but the Birmingham Ecceentric printed all the drunks, scraps, family quarrels, etc. what a howl there would be! The actual persons involved would be pretty indignant.

A pleasant surprise was given George Casey Wednesday afternoon by about 20 old boys, young friends. They enjoyed themselves as only healthy young people can and the time to return to their homes came all too soon.

The three young men who thought they were perpetrating such a joke on one of our respected citizens on Wednesday evening last would well to call on him and apologize. They are all known.

20 years ago AUGUST 21, 1930 More than 120 men have been enrolled in the evening school for police officers of southern Michigan according to Capt. William L. Davis, director. He said that he had never had a more interested group attend. Classes have been in the municipal building.

Descriptions of the three men who held up the Keasey sausage wagon and escaped with \$60 last Friday tally with those given to police from several other areas. It is believed that the men are being made to apprehend the trio.

James R. Packard, 13, son of Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Packard has just been made and Eagle Scout. He joined Troop #43 less than two years ago and is the official bugler of the Pine Tree patrol. Jigger is believed to be

The high school gridiron season will open here on Sept. 21, when the local boys face an Elye on Pierce field. Coach Hal Helmer has nine games hooked for the coming season. He says he has the best backfield material Baldwin has had in years.

The streets were quiet and somewhat deserted Wednesday morning as a maintenance work stoppage tied up his service for several hours. The Detroit Commuters to the point of view, Detroiters of that point of view, Detroiters of that point of view.

hounded by West Maple and Willets, more beautiful than the park in question.

THE PROPOSED parking building could be patterned after the library and municipal building, several stories high.

Lets give it some thought. EMILY K. WADE 1907 West Maple

To the Editor: Having read several articles about parking for Birmingham, and having seen the picture in your paper a couple of weeks ago by some "Sob Artist" who asks "Shall this park become a parking lot?" An article by me is included.

Why are the citizens of Birmingham supposed to supply a parking lot and then pay for parking in same?

We are sure, the Briggs Realty company, handling the parking lot, being very civic minded and loyal citizens of Birmingham, should be by the present site of the city park, put up a parking building, parking lot and then pay for parking in the building to be paid for by the park.

HAVING MET a great many "ota Timers" in the city, we are more in favor of the park site, parking lot and then pay for parking put out of their homes.

One parking site proposed puts 34 families out of their homes. In view of the shortage of World War II. Hasn't he given enough?

If the city planners and city fathers would ask the man or woman on the street his or her opinion, they should add a chapter to the book of rules on "Vocational and/or Spiritual Guidance for Ex-Dictators."

FRED WEAVER St. Louis, Mo.

Want ads could be accepted after 5 p.m. each Tuesday.

USE A SLIT TRENCH DURING AIR RAID

What kind of an air raid shelter gives you the most for your money? According to Birmingham's retired Major General G. E. Reinhart, it is a slit trench.

The general ought to know. During the last war he commanded divisions in the South France, where slit trenches were the GI's best friend. Then, through France, Germany and Austria with another division.

For a time he was military governor of eastern Austria with headquarters in Linz. General Reinhart spent most of his Army career in the field artillery.

THE END RESULT between shelling by artillery and by dropping bombs is only slight, he said. "Generally, a bomb has thinner walls, hence more explosive can be packed into it for greater penetration," he explains.

HE SPOKE OF wonderful things he saw during his years of fire burning in their young hearts. He did not hesitate to talk about his own experiences.

He said that he had a sweet face and both his words and the timbre of his voice charmed his young listeners.

Children in twos and threes began to follow him as he made his way toward the south of France.

His following grew and when the excited band began to hold hands to follow him, he made his way toward the south of France.

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LOOKING AHEAD

STEPHEN OF THE GOLDEN VOICE

They would march dry-footed to Jerusalem and the Promised Land.

THE REAL CONTROL of the army of children had passed, however, from Stephen to his father, designing hands and he had become their unwitting tool.

These men had evolved a scheme. As the blond shepherd boy led his innocents out of the mountains and down the Rhodope valley to the sea, there were awaiting them at Maroneles two shipwrecked sailors, Yannis (alias "The Pig") Porcos and Hugo ("The Fish") Kostas.

The men behaved like Christians and when Stephen failed to part the sea with his staff, they offered their ships to take the children to Palestine "for sheer love of God."

Seven shiploads of children, still starry-eyed and trustful, set out from Stephen's shore. The rainbow's end of the ships, and every boy aboard drowned.

THESE DROWNED ONES were the most fortunate—for in time the children who survived reached a strange, savage land.

Egyptians came aboard and rescued them from starvation. They lived out an short miserable life in bondage.

The mortal sin boy who left France with Stephen of the Golden Voice, never returned.

These men, if God motives do not necessarily bring miracles.

The application: Those who beckon us to a gray Utopia as a shepherd government, must carry out their everyday cares as well as their Utopian dreams.

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H. F. Riley Named To New Ford Position

Harley F. Riley, 1119 East Maple, was recently appointed field manager of the dealer development program of the Ford Motor Co. He was formerly division sales manager for Hudson Motor Co.

In his new position, he will assist Robert R. Nadel, director of the dealer development program.

The University of Michigan.

Paper People

By BEATRICE MADONALD

The people that I know and love really do not know all that they conceal their inmost thoughts. They grow well acquainted with pleasure and pain. In magazines and books. Whether they dwell in ink-ponds or venture forth to dare add do. They are the only people who are not afraid to be pleased. Exactly what they think and feel.