Editorial Page of The Birmingham Eccentric

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A Confused Mr. Truman

Picture the currently fantastic foreign policy gymnastics of the Truman administration: walking a tight rope, one foot is poised on a determination to give every possible aid to western Europe to hold back Communism, including support to England—the other foot reaches out into the space represented by refusing to aid Nationalist China, leaving the latter to the brutal treatment of the Communists.

We levy taxes upon Americans to support England, without which she would have fallen long ago. Yet England, fighting desperately for every trade economic gain she can get, comes right out and agrees to recognize Communist China.

President Truman almost simultaneously tells the world that the United States will do nothing to help Nationalist China to defend Formosa.

This duality of foreign policy just doesn't make sense.

Repercussions of it will be seen in Congress; no longer will our government have a practical bi-partisan foreign policy.

Michigan's Senator Vandenburg, long the symbol of Republican cooperation for a bi-partisan foreign policy, has lost his former effectiveness—the Truman Formosa announcement did that. (For Vandenburg was not even consulted in advance on this as well as many other recent foreign problems.)

The average American is getting disgusted with the queer mixture of Truman administration thoughts and actions in problems of foreign policy; so are his representatives in Congress. Mr. Truman most certainly is doing his best-worst to wreck confidence and faith in his policies.

Air Travel Continues Safe

Overly impressed by the publicity given a few serious crashes, the average American has the idea that traveling by air has been a risky proposition in 1949.

The fact that the nation's scheduled airlines are expected to hang up a safety record may sound surprising but it is vouched for by Joseph A. O'Connell, chairman of the Civil Aeronautics Board.

The regular carriers have flown 6,000,000,000 passenger miles, with 81 fatalities to the middle of December, or about 1.2 deaths for each 100,000,000 passenger miles. This is better than the 1948 rate of 1.3 and the 1947 rate of 3.2.

Might Use Some at Home

The United States plans to use 260,000 copies of a picture-story series on great Americans to introduce U. S. American heroes to the people in South Korea, Thailand, Viet Nam (French Indo-China) and Indonesia.

The hope of the State Department is that hand-to-hand circulation about the history and background of this country will be spread in areas under Communist pressure.

Pamphlets on the careers of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Walt Whitman, Abraham Lincoln, Andrew Carnegie, Jane Addams, Thomas A. Edison and George Washington Carver will be distributed with words in the native languages.

We very much doubt whether the effort will be worth the cost but the experiment represents a comparatively small sum to spend in the effort to influence public opinion.

We would not end the "comic book technique," but if the United States must buy them, we could suggest some areas inside the United States itself where there is great need for instruction about Americans and American ways.

Calendar makers, it seems, cannot agree on the correct date for Thanksgiving, 1950. One manufacturer sets it for November 23rd and another fixes it for November 30th. Since Congress passed a joint resolution some years ago agreeing that the Thanksgiving holiday should be celebrated on the fourth Thursday of each November, the twenty-third would seem to be the date. This happens not to be the last Thursday of next November because the month has five Thursdays.

The unfortified border between the United States and Canada has been held up to the world as a demonstration of what two friendly peoples can do in the way of keeping peace. In fact, relations between the two countries have been so friendly as to be almost informal when compared with some of the technical transactions which occur between foreign nations. If we could only figure out just why this border remains unfortified, and why the relations are so friendly, we might be able to apply the same principles to our relations with other nations.

Some of the Washington experts believe that the period between 1950-1960 will be a fairly prosperous one in the United States, with a few ups and downs, but no real depression. They agree that the drift of government will be toward more paternalism, but are confident that no abrupt radical reforms will be legislated into law. This will not please the horde of Socialist Planners who want to make this country into a land of less personal freedom than is now enjoyed.

A United States of Europe long has been heralded as a means of strengthening those countries against Russian domination, as well as to overcome existing economic trade barriers and thus help to bring about prosperity. It sounds all right—on the other hand, do you think you could get the various States in this country to lose their automobiles and personal identifications?

For every member of Congress, there are three lobbyists to work on him or her in the nation's Capital. It is a well known fact that our Congress and every State Legislature is controlled more by the lobbyist group than by public opinion.

We hope that John L. Lewis writes his own biography before he shuffles off this mortal coil. It should provide interesting reading to many people, including psychiatrists who study human behaviorism.

STRICTLY FRESH

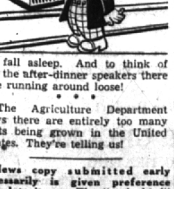
WHEN the overall history of this century of progress is compiled, 1950 will probably be remembered as the year that saw the passing of the "Mule Train."

* * *

In spite of the success of television, engineers insist that "smellovision" is "still scientifically unproven." Nevertheless, the boys must admit we're very, very close.

* * *

A man in New York was arrested for selling phonograph records claimed to induce listeners



to fall asleep. And to think of all the after-dinner speakers there are running around loose!

* * *

The Agriculture Department says there are entirely too many nuts being grown in the United States. They're telling us!

News copy submitted early necessarily is given preference

Happenings of Long Ago

50 Years Ago
JANUARY 19, 1900

The handsome home of James Sharp went up in smoke Saturday. James was in the barn and Miss Mary had come to town. Desiring something from the kitchen James went to the house to find the whole interior in flames. Neither he nor any member of the fire department could figure out how the fire started.

Farmer James Miller of Southfield sold a two-year old hog to the Schlaack brothers for their market that reached the tidy weight of 420 pounds. James has the best of everything on his farm and the brothers buy only the best for their market.

A dancing and café party was recently held in Liberty Hall to honor Allie Adams who has returned from New Mexico. To say that the young people enjoyed themselves and are glad to have her back in their midst would be to put it very mildly.

It might be that people really read this paper after all. Last week we advertised the "Koal Kabin" farm for sale. The deed and title were transferred just 24 hours before we went to press. That we call service.

James Garrett, the popular conductor on the D & P electric, has accepted the position of cashier at the Power House in the place of George Kendall, recently resigned.

20 Years Ago
JANUARY 23, 1930

W. J. Baumgartner, Bloomfield Highlands, announces that the 15th annual dog show, sponsored by the Detroit Kennel club will be held Mar. 7, 8 and 9. He said that the officials expected more than 1,000 entries this year, with a great many coming from the Hills-Birmingham area.

Delton Miller, 20, jokingly told his mother Saturday morning that he was going over to Quarton lake and win the silver loving cup as the best skater. Then, he did just that, piling up a score of 16½ points to top any other blade fan there. To follow through, the local hockey team downed Cranbrook, 2-0.

Birmingham Masons are planning a series of parties for the winter months, the first of which will be given at Bloomfield township park Feb. 7. The party is open to all Masons and their friends, and tickets may be purchased through committee members. None will be sold at the clubhouse.

Efficient work on the part of our fire department saved Birmingham from a serious blaze Tuesday morning. Fire at the McKee filling station threatened a large supply of oil and gasoline, and only the excellent work kept the blaze under control.

Frances Frye will be valedictorian of the mid-year graduating class of Baldwin high school. The young lady, who came here from Washington, has been very active in school affairs, is a capable pianist and gives science as her chief scholastic interest.

5 Years Ago
JANUARY 25, 1945

Ray Bathards who has been in charge of handling mail between the city post office and the Grand Trunk railroad, has resigned, effective March 1. It is announced that he plans to return to his former business as a painter. Bids will be open for the post office work immediately.

Lloyd S. Linton was named head of the Birmingham Real Estate board at their annual meeting last Thursday. Linton, who is associated with Max Broock has a wide experience in the field of real estate and in bank receivership procedures.

Birmingham is cooperating to the fullest with other nearby communities in an effort to have definite plans for the betterment of the entire area mapped out when the war ends. Special committees are investigating all angles of expansion and development for the Birmingham-Bloomfield Hills area.

Job classification and wage boosts went into effect for city employees Monday. The plan covers every type of work done for the city with substantial increase in wages in practically each branch. It has been under consideration for many months and its adoption was announced some time ago.

Monday evenings, from 8 to 9, is proving one of the most popular hours in the city. Adults from every corner are flocking to Barnum junior high school to enjoy the recreational facilities offered by the swimming pool there. One swimmer was heard to remark, "That was the nicest evening I've spent in years."

Poor Wind

By BEATRICE McDONALD

The wind goes billowing through the trees,
Especially on days like these.
Alone and friendless, blustery and wild,
Catching its breath like a small frightened child;
Moaning and groaning along on its way,
Chanting a dreary and woe-begone lay.
Why is it bitter and lonely and cold?
Why is it restless and ruthless and bold?
Maybe it's grieving for roses and clover.
Don't you remember, Wind? Summer is over.

Psst---Your Deficit's Showing

Michigan Mirror

INTERPRETING THE NEWS

By Gene Alleman

Drums are being beaten again to ease the traffic bottleneck at the Straits of Mackinac by building a bridge. Who would pay for it? Everybody and nobody.

Linking the lower and upper peninsulas of Michigan in this fashion has been a dream of Northern Michigan resort interests, engineers, and politicians for many years. During the highway department regime of Murray D. Van Wagoner, a bridge authority was created by the legislature. A causeway to the bridge was half-completed in 1941 on the St. Ignace side at a cost of around $1,000,000.

World War II intervened, and the project was sidetracked.

Now, under the inspired leadership of Stewart Woodfill, president of the Mackinac Island Grand Hotel, it has been revived. Governor Williams has been asked to include it in his call for the 1950 special session of the state legislature starting March 15.

"The Mackinac Bridge Citizens Committee", of which Mr. Woodfill is chairman, estimates the Straits bridge could be built for approximately $50,000,000.

One-half of this amount—$25,000,000—would come from the U.S. Treasury at Washington. Would this sum come out of the state's allocation of federal aid for state highway construction? Or would the amount be appropriated outright by Congress as a grant for a local improvement?

The committee's literature states that "the highway from Detroit to Sault Ste. Marie, via the Straits of Mackinac, is one of the few highways in the United States that has been designated by the Congress as part of the Interstate highway system of the United States." Furthermore, the federal government may grant 50 per cent of the cost of improvement of these interstate highways, it is explained.

Thus the assumption is clearly given that the $25,000,000 federal grant for building the Straits bridge would come out of Michigan's federal aid for highways. The bridge would be constructed in lieu of new highways elsewhere.

The committee also throws out the possibility that Congress might authorize outright grants of money for local improvements, such as a Straits bridge.

The remainder of the bridge cost—also $25,000,000—would be financed by a toll paid by motor vehicle users—automobiles, trucks and motor buses.

The Citizens' Committee estimates that a minimum of 1,900,000 motor vehicles would use the bridge during its first year—say, 1955. The $25,000,000 share of the bridge cost, when financed by self-liquidating bonds bearing 4 per cent interest, would impose an interest load of $1,000,000 in the first year. The toll revenues would total $1,900,000. Maintenance and operation would cost $300,000. So around $600,000 would be available the first year to retire bonds.

To review the plan, the financing would be accomplished by $25,000,000 from the U.S. Treasury—either in federal aid for highways and hence as a substitute for new roads elsewhere or as an outright gift—plus $25,000,000 in bonds to be paid off by bridge tolls.

At a time when billion dollar treasury deficits have reoccurred with clocklike regularity at Washington for 16 out of 18 consecutive years, $25,000,000 does not seem to be much money.

This thing called "federal aid" has the magic of being everybody's money. Like state aid, it lacks local responsibility; is possesses the lure of being a gift. Both federal aid and state aid infers that everybody pays the freight. If you don't get your share, someone else will. If we don't take money for a local post office, then this money will be spent elsewhere.

You are familiar with the ring-around-the-rosey story of tax money from Washington and Lansing.

As to the engineering feasibility of the bridge, the revived bridge authority would provide the technical answer.

So there you have the story in a nutshell.

As for every project that calls for more government spending, the taxpayer—rich and poor—must ultimately foot the bill. That goes for a Straits bridge.

Internationally Speaking

By Eugene Hess

This column last week published the address made by the Queen of the Netherlands on the occasion of the transfer of sovereignty from the Netherlands to the new Republic of Indonesia.

Despite the fact that the Netherlands stock exchange answered this historical event with a bear market for shares of companies having properties in the former colony, it is open to question whether the last word has been spoken about the property rights of these Dutch firms.

However that may be, it appears useful to throw some light on the Dutch colonial administration which was partly responsible for what we have just witnessed:

Holland has done a superb job in the former colony with regard to the foundation of new cities, new harbors, the construction of railroads and roads which never existed before. Also, hundreds of hospitals and many hundreds of schools have been established.

Production of colonial products was initiated and perfected to a high degree. However, in one respect it appears that the activities of the Dutch have been lagging, namely in the field of labor relations. It is impossible to go into the detail of this, a very complicated problem.

But it may be said that on the whole, labor has been exploited energetically in the longs period leading up to World War II. These poor labor relations appear to be one of the causes which led to the so-called liberation of these islands.

LEGAL NOTICES

Leslie R. Middleton, Attorney, 64 West Huron St., Pontiac, Michigan
No. 15,110

STATE OF MICHIGAN—The Probate Court for the County of Oakland.

At a session of said Court, held at the Probate Office in the City of Pontiac, in said County, on the 9th day of January A. D. 1950.

Present: Hon. Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate.

In the Matter of the Estate of Emma Ford, Deceased.

Stanley T. Ford, administrator of said estate, having filed in said court a petition praying that the time for the presentation of claims against said estate be limited and that a time and place be appointed to receive, examine and adjust all claims and demands against said deceased by and before said court.

It is Ordered, that two months from this date be allowed for creditors to present claims against said estate.

It is Further Ordered, that the 3rd day of April 1950 at nine o'clock in the forenoon, at said probate office, be and is hereby appointed for the examination and adjustment of all claims against said deceased.

ARTHUR E. MOORE
Judge of Probate.
44-46

January 17, 1950

To the Property Owner or Party in Interest:

You are hereby notified that the Board of Appeals on Zoning of the City of Bloomfield Hills will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, January 25, 1950, in the Commission Room at the City Hall, Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, at 8:00 p.m. on the appeal of The Detroit Edison Company to erect a steel tower transmission line along the Grand Trunk Western Railroad right-of-way.

Board of Appeals

"Any Way You Slice It"

BY HAL P. BUERGE

The joys of the home owner are many and varied. For instance, if you own your own home you have the privilege of redecorating it yourself and reaping all the fun. You can even paint the exterior yourself if you happen to live in a secluded neighborhood where the Union painters won't see you and throw up a picket line.

One of my neighbors was picketed during a siege of home improvement last year. A Union scout saw him set the scaffold and by the time he had the paint mixed there were a couple of fellows there to protest. He told them it was his own home and he thought he had a perfect right to paint it, but the picketers went to work anyway. After a day or two of wear and tear on the sidewalk in front of the house with their rough shoes, the pickets became convinced that the man doing the painting was the home owner. I'll tell you how this came about.

You see, a couple of moppets kept running around the yard and every once in a while they would refer to the man on the scaffold as daddy. This didn't cut much ice with the pickets. They reasoned that any scab painter could hire a couple of brats to yell daddy at him once in a while as he worked on a job.

The kids had nothing to do with the convincing. That was brought around by the lady of the house. She didn't scare them away with her barbed tongue. In fact, she ignored the pickets completely. However, the matron of the household was unfortunate inasmuch as she was endowed with a face that would stop a swiss movement and a structure that would make a boxcar seem well designed.

At quitting time one noon she came waltzing out of the front door to summon the painter to lunch. The man wielding the brush climbed down from the side of the house and proceeded to go inside. Just before he entered he kissed the lady on the front porch.

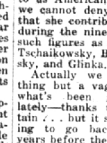
"Brother", I heard one of the pickets say. "I'd rather kiss the porch." That was enough for them. They figured that anyone that would kiss her must be married to her and anyone that was married to her must own the house.

They put their signs in their car and were preparing to drive away when I shouted out to one of them: "aren't you sorry you wasted all that time?" "Oh, we don't consider the time wasted", one of them yelled back, "It's still good advertising, you know." I never thought of that media myself. Maybe I could get the concession.

An example like this could serve a dual purpose. If you have a homely wife you can see how her countenance can be beneficial. On the other hand, if your wife is beautiful you can take her down a peg now and then by pointing out her uselessness.

LEND AN EAR

By MADELEINE BRODIE



ONE HUNDRED YEARS BEFORE THE IRON CURTAIN

It's true that Russia is anathema to us Americans these days—but we cannot deny the great music that she contributed to the world during the nineteenth century in such figures as Rimsky-Korsakov, Tschaikowsky, Borodin, Moussorgsky, and Glinka.

Actually we don't have anything but a vague knowledge of what's been going on there lately—thanks to the Iron Curtain . . . but it should be interesting to go back some hundred years before the Iron Curtain was dropped to the days when these great composers lived, one of whom, Rimsky-Korsakov expresses best the spirit of that musical epoch.

Rimsky - Korsakov, born in 1844, was an amazing man—a sailor, an engineer, an overly successful dilettante at music and even more rare, an individual capable of discussing his own endeavors with complete candor and honesty.

Foremost Orchestrator

I say dilettante because it wasn't until he had been appointed Professor of Composition at the St. Petersburg Conservatory that he finally got around to a thorough study of harmony and counterpoint and began to get acquainted with all the string and wind instruments.

He had really skipped school—had become teacher before pupil—but it wasn't long before he was recognized as the foremost orchestrator in Russia; and, for that matter, in all Europe.

His father insisted that young Rimsky should, like himself, follow a career in the navy and so he was packed off to the Maritime Academy in St. Petersburg. Subsequently he took many cruises with the Russian Navy to England, the United States and to South America.

But music was already beginning to creep more and more into his consciousness. That several notes arranged in certain orders could produce beautiful melodies appealed to his musical soul as well as to his scientific mind.

Musical Revolution

It might be well to mention that Russia musically was undergoing a revolution. Europe had been dominated by German music for many years—Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert and Schumann had seen to that. Their German principles were reflected in the music of Tschaikowsky, but were entirely absent from the music of our young naval-officer-turned-musician, Rimsky - Korsakov.

He was one of the Russians who decided that it was about time they produced some music of their own—in the sense that its inspiration should come from the soil of Russia and be an intrinsic art nationalism very often leads to vividness and new effects . . . and this is exactly what happened to Russian music at this time.

Many Bold Opinions

Balakirev, associate of Rimsky's at the Academy who was also more musician than engineer, had many bold opinions on the subject of Russian nationalism in music which impressed young Korsakov, who was beginning to find more and more in music, and less and less in gauges to delight the soul.

It was through Balakirev that Rimsky met Borodin, who also influenced him.

It was during this time, and with little technical knowledge, that Korsakov wrote several songs, overtures and the symphonic picture "Sadko" which takes us so fancifully to the bed of the ocean to join in on the aquatic revels performed by all sorts of queer and luminous fish.

An example of the amazing quality possessed by Rimsky-Korsakov—that of complete self-criticism—might be illustrated by this—"On the whole", he tells us of this work "Sadko", "it is pretty good; the general form is satisfactory; the dance themes are impressive; yet, it is largely imitative—a thing of rags and patches".

World of Fantasy

Of his next important work, his second symphony entitled "Antar", he has this to say . . . "The first and second movements are too short and are indicative of an inferior imagination and an insufficient knowledge of technique" . . . (just like Orson Welles—or Wagner who could have stood a smattering of this critical and dispassionate appraisal toward his own work!)

Throughout his life Rimsky lived in a world of fantasy—a world of fairy-tales that produced music where nymphs dance with witches, broomsticks dance with pokers, spirits rise from steaming caldrons, and reality is unreal . . .

Who but this delightfully mad Russian could have created "Scheherazade"—that wonderfully fanciful suite based on tales from the Arabian Nights?

Also Wrote Two Operas

Here a disconcerted sultan is entertained by an ingenious wife who manages to keep her husband from killing her by diverting him with wondrous tales about a Prince and a Princess, a Festival in Bagdad, and a shipwreck upon a vast and magical sea . . . music that is probably as familiar as the Toreador Song from Carmen, and considerably more beautiful.

We mustn't neglect his fiery Capriccio Espagnol—full of dashing Spanish melodies embracing the Fandango, the Bolero and other pulsating rhythms.

He also wrote two operas—Czar Saltan, based on a fairy-tale by Pushkin and "Le Coq d'Or (or the golden cockerel). All this great music represents the dreams of a child-like imagination set forth by the genius and technique of a musical giant.

Korsakov made use of haunting Slavic and Asiatic melodies which give his music its incomparable flavor of sensuality and otherworldliness which he combined with the most brilliant and scintillating orchestration.

He died in 1908, the dominant figure of an artistic revolution that produced Russia's greatest music. Russia may yet have reas-