

Editorial Page of The Birmingham Eccentric

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

DON'T MUFF THIS ONE HARRY!

ONE THING OR MANY OTHER

By George Wm. Averill

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GEORGE W. AVERILL, Editor and Publisher
PAUL NEAL AVERILL, Business Manager
GEORGE W. AVERILL, Managing Editor
HAROLD P. BURGER, Advertising Manager

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We Must Be "Tough"

President Truman's statement to the American public last week, as related to the Korean situation and the possibility of a long period of armed truce between us and Russia, was forthright. We believe that he gave the people a factual picture of the situation.

It is to be regretted, of course, that the President did not, a few weeks and even months ago, inform the United States of the Korean danger zone and its threat to world peace.

You will recall how, time after time this spring, both Mr. Truman and Secretary of State Dean Acheson kept issuing statements on the subject of our foreign relations. At one time we were told "peace is assured," at another "we are threatened with foreign hostilities."

America's weak position, militarily, in Korea at the start of the current conflict was pitifully weak; the cause for that, we were informed, was that our State Dept. refrained from approving suitable armaments for Korea, on the theory that "it would antagonize Russia."

What poppycock! Haven't we learned yet that nearly everything a democracy does, anywhere, on earth, antagonizes Communists?

So now, less than five years since the close of World War II, our nation grinds itself for the possibility of another terrible war. Inept leadership, both in the formation of the United Nations (which gave Russia the power of its single veto) and its subsequent operation, have contributed much to the current world chaos.

Some weeks ago Herbert Hoover suggested that all the democracies band together against the totalitarian governments, to the end that freedom might live, since it has been proved that Russia never has and never will cooperate as a member of the United Nations to preserve peace.

That situation is now arriving, even though a military crisis was needed to bring it about.

So here we are in the United States, changing from peace-time programs to preparation for whatever may happen. We can not do otherwise. Freedom is menaced today as it has not been for centuries.

Sober and informed Americans realize this, and will co-operate with their government leaders in every proper move made to increase our physical and moral strength in this great threat to the liberty and peace of mankind.

Too Much Appeasement

In criticizing the labors of Secretary of State Dean Acheson, one need not discount his loyalty to the American way of life. But, as we reflect upon his far-ast policy, his leniency toward the Chinese and Korean Communists, we begin to see him as the contemporary of Britain's former Prime Minister, the late "appeasement" Chamberlain. Chamberlain tried to appease Hitler, and came World War II. Acheson was the appeaser in the far east and here is the Korean War—the possible spark to ignite World War III. Perhaps, after the fall elections are over, President Truman will decide to "accept" Acheson's resignation. Doing so, we believe, would help the State Dept. and the President, not to overlook the American people!

There are a number of educators, preachers and moralists in the United States, who orate fervently about brotherly love but overlook the compulsion that rests upon civilized men to defend

their faith, culture and civilization. To adopt a passive attitude in the face of an attack upon our way of life, is to aid and abet the enemies of civilization and, in essence, to be traitors to one's faith.

Break Up Big Estates

The Earl of Harewood, a nephew of King George, of Great Britain, and eleventh in the line of succession to the throne, has recently sold seven thousand of the twenty-two thousand acres that he inherited upon the death of his father.

The Earl has been forced to break up his holdings by "the burden of death duties," which we know as inheritance taxes. The assessment against his estate was about one-third of the estate's valuation of \$2,196,480.

The news item is interesting because it illustrates the impact of inheritance taxes upon the ancient estates of Great Britain. It means, eventually, the breaking up of large estates and the selling of land in small parcels to the tenants whose families have occupied the land for many, many years.

From Our Point of View

Harry W. Wade, editorial paragrapher for The Detroit News, has no American peer in that department of the publishing business, we believe. One day last week he said more in a few words than some folks say in volumes; he wrote: "No date as yet has been set for the unveiling of the tablet, 'Washington Slept Here,' on the Pentagon Building."

A New Jersey wife has sued her husband for divorce, claiming that he hugged her to access, thus keeping her from doing her required housework. That's what women get for abandoning the old-fashioned decorum, with its staying power.

Saginaw will vote in November on the question of whether or not to invoke the use of a one per cent city income-profits tax. We hope it is defeated—for if it passes it will herald more and more such taxes—and, in the end, the taxpayers themselves will get the greater economic gouge.

Since the abolition of Michigan's one-man grand jury law a year ago, crime has increased in this State. This was told to a Michigan Senate Committee last week by several Detroit law enforcement officials, including judges. Well, this increase was expected by the opponents of the abolition movement. Let us hope the one-man grand jury law is returned for the protection of our law-abiding citizens.

No matter how much sales persuasion a Texas used, we still we'll never agree that his state is the best in the Union until they get rid of those gloomy cowboy laments.

The average person reads at the rate of 225 words per minute. No one yet has estimated, exactly, how much of what the average man reads he remembers.

So They Say . . .

Mrs. James Judge, social service worker: "As important as cleanliness or neatness around a home is the quality of the feeling between the parent and the child."

Joint Statement, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations and the Armed Services: "The price of freedom and peace is always high in the face of aggression."

Henry F. Grady, retiring U. S. Ambassador to Greece: "The essential difference between Greece's victory and China's defeat is that the Greeks were willing to fight and die."

Harold H. Velde, Member of Congress from Illinois: "We must show the Communists we mean business and by business, I mean force."

Omar N. Bradley, General, U. S. A.: "Neither the soldier nor the diplomat alone can lead the American people in a wise course of international action."

Arthur Daley, sports writer: "Are great pitchers a vanishing race? Are nine-inning pitchers as extinct as the dodo bird?"

Harry S. Truman: "Public education is basic to the proper functioning of our nation."



Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric—The Items That Make Up The Historical Background Of The Birmingham Of Today.

5 years ago AUGUST 2, 1945
The annual recreational field day will be held Friday in the form of a night jamboree at Pierce field. Members of the recreation board have put great effort in planning a program which will provide entertainment for all.

10 years ago JULY 27, 1940
This is special edition of the Birmingham Eccentric, showing 24 pictures of prominent residents, homes, business places and the library. Surrounding them is a story of Birmingham, the fairest city in Alabama to be found in this area.

11 years ago JULY 27, 1939
Morrell B. Deane is home again after a four month's sojourn in the wilds of Texas. He looks well, says he feels well, and his many friends rejoice over his safe return.

12 years ago JULY 27, 1938
Mrs. Elsie Keys is away on a trip to visit relatives in Ludington. Her trip is the treat of her daughter, Miss Jennie and Flora, who would not rest nor allow mother to do so until she had had a summer vacation.

13 years ago JULY 27, 1937
A survey of the field of football candidates at the University of Michigan has revealed that Harold Watt is almost the certain making the team this year. Watt made such a splendid record last year on a second-string team that there is little or no question of his bid this season.

14 years ago JULY 27, 1936
Dr. Dwight B. Ireland has appeared to all local residents who have extra rooms in their homes to contact him at once. There will be several new teachers in Birmingham this fall and living quarters must be provided for them.

15 years ago JULY 27, 1935
The street department of Birmingham is slowly getting in line for an extensive street repaving program. Several pieces of badly needed equipment have already been procured, but city officials report that it is almost impossible to get oil for treating the roads. This is one item which will be the year while when the work starts here and the most difficult to get.

16 years ago JULY 27, 1934
With temperatures standing at 104 degrees here for the past few days there have been remarkably few cases of heat prostration reported locally. Weather reports say a break may be expected this weekend, which will be welcomed by all.

17 years ago JULY 27, 1933
The sixth and last unit of the Cranbrook business school will open its doors next fall, according to the trustees. They expect that Kingswood school for girls will be ready for use at that time and are preparing to admit 179 students.

18 years ago JULY 27, 1932
The village commission has voted \$125 to help defray the expenses of the annual conference of police chiefs which John P. Hackett will address in Duntich, Minn., Aug. 4, 5, 6, and 7.

19 years ago JULY 27, 1931
Final figures released by the United States bureau of census show that Oakland county has more than double the number of its residents since the last census in 1920.

20 years ago JULY 27, 1930
Glenn L. Careaker, at the Coliseum, advised a farm ground fire which threatened to destroy a large field of oats. Birmingham and Keego Harbor fire departments responded to the call but were not needed.

21 years ago JULY 27, 1929
The Navy's giant Constitution can fly from New York to the Panama Canal in only eight hours.

Years Are So Short

BY BEATRICE McDONALD

She walks across the floor on roller skates.
My newly polished floor!
The furniture, my jardiniere, the doors!
Oh dear, oh dear!
Yet in another year,
Oh two she will be quite grown up.
Much too sedate.
To roller skate.
Years sped so fast;
And after childhood time is past,
When they have grown and gone away,
One long in rushing in.
To have them vauhin in.
And out again;
To know the tumult and the din
That is a part of childhood play.
And find some more
Scratches across the polished floor.

ARE OUR ALLIES 'FAIR-WEATHER FRIENDS'?
It's a well known fact that it takes a family tragedy to find out who your real friends are.
Too many of them are the "fair-weather" variety. When their families have found to their regret that they are not "fair-weather" friends, they are through.

It seems that today the United States is finding out just who its real friends are among the "fair-weather" variety of the world.

The United States has elected to be the first to take a military stand against Communism in this area. We are now in the Korean war with men and machines. The nation is preparing to go on a war economy again if the situation should demand.

Meanwhile, the other so-called allies of the U. S. have, to be sure, taken steps to aid this nation. But the total effect of the response has been disappointing.

Great Britain has offered to send her Pacific Fleet, Korea after the war.

France, Austria, Netherlands and Canada have offered some navy and air units.

An ambulance unit has been offered by Sweden. Norway has promised a few ships, Denmark, Sweden, Japan, Thailand, and copper from Chile.

But no badly-needed ground troops, no large numbers of air defenses in Korea have pledged by any of our allies.

But now that we are in a war, I believe we shouldn't stop still we march "victoriously through the streets of Moscow."

A great many of the other people are in agreement on this point.

So the communistic menace has been creeping upon us from freedom-loving democracies. But now the battle has been joined.

IN WHATEVER GUISE, democracy and communism are truly shedding blood over which it is to triumph. Now that it's started, let's hope and pray we also are the ones who shed blood.

My next door neighbor is an ex-navy man. He served in the Pacific and spent three months in prison after the war.

"Just seven days after the second atom bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, I was taken to the United States by the Russians," he said.

"You only had to mention that word 'Russian' to get a soldier to tap his foot and say, 'I'm not a sympathizer and the Russian would shoot and kill the unfortunate Orienta at point-blank range,'" he explained.

"That's the kind of guys they are. Now we've got 'em tangled with them. Let's stick it out to the bitter finish. Every day we back the other, then a day to become stronger."

LOOKING AHEAD

By George S. Benson

'AS FREE MEN WE PROCLAIM'
WITH MIXED emotion—tingling pride and reverent gratitude.
NOW I HAVE experienced a kindred sensation while reading this advertisement that came in my mailbox yesterday. It is a list of the names of 410 people who have pledged themselves gloriously free.

It is interesting to pass along here the example for people in every community in America who want to do something for their country.
All the people who signed it are industrial workers—men and women employees of an industrial concern, a retail store, a factory, a plant at Maple Grove and Detroit.

I'm informed that one of the workers got the idea for the advertisement, discussed it with his fellow workers and found spontaneous response.

The workers themselves wrote the proclamation and paid for it. The company had no part whatsoever in the project.

What a grand thing it is! It is passed along here as an inspiration for every citizen in every community in America who want to do something for their country.

'OUR BELIEF IN A fair day's work for a fair day's pay.'
"Our belief that a man should live within his income and pay his honest debts, and that our government should operate on the same sensible basis.

But we think that under the American Way of Life we already have a higher standard of living than any other governmental system has ever offered—let alone delivered.

We believe that as free men, proud of our achievements and jealous of our rights, there is no credence in the idea of strikes, fellow travelers or communists, who by wild accusations and threats to bring us down to economic slavery."

Readers of the great Declaration of freedom and seeing the scrawled signatures of men like John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and Thomas Jefferson filled me with pride and admiration.

MICHIGAN MIRROR

By Gene Alleman

A POSTCARD TO JOE
You can say that you don't want your boy or your neighbor's boy to have to fight; but you want to send a postcard to Joe to fight if needed and if he doesn't really care he's fighting for us."

But anyway, let's write to Joe. Let's get it off our chests.

Buy your postcard and send it with your honest dues, and your family to do the same. A postcard can only cost one cent.

This may sound silly; but it isn't.

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

The Eccentric welcomes letters for this column. All must be signed, but signatures will be kept confidential upon request. Letters must be limited to 500 words.

To the Editor:
President Truman has asked for 80 million to wage a truth campaign and it looks like all the taxpayers are willing even to pay for the nation.

All the nations need a lot of it. I have just seen a postcard that starts with a whirlwind campaign that the Democrats and Republicans get to the point where they can look a political truth in the face and recognize it.

If the Russians fail to hear and heed the truth we might get it over to other people. I think we ought to be a little more cooperative.

Let's write to Joseph Stalin, Premier of the Union of Soviet Republics, telling him that we're for peace and asking him to cut out the dirty work and join us.

Isn't that a good idea?

EACH OF US writes a postcard to "Premier Joseph Stalin, care of the Russian Embassy, Washington, D. C."

On that postcard we could say something like this:

"Dear Mr. Premier:
"Communist in this country are very bad people."
"So do we—really! Fake peace petitions don't fool us. The way to peace is to have our real friends out of South Korea and built bullying small non-Communist nations."
"We'll get out of South Korea as soon as your gang desists from organizing the Russian atomic bomb if you'll permit constant surveillance of all laboratories and factories which might produce the bomb."
"Don't let your agents mislead us. We have heard President Truman on home affairs; but so far as Korea or any other threat from outside the U. S. we're back of the President all the way."
"Sincerely,
FRED WEAVER"

PROBABLY YOU CAN write a better postcard note than that.

Fortunately the majority of high school seniors do very well. If they did, things would become hopeless fast.

Let's carry the blame a little further and give it right where it belongs—the parents.

If the parents of school-age children would see to it that their offsprings' education, naturally the students themselves can't be expected to do more.

When a reforming student brings home a good report card and is greeted by sarcastic parental remarks such as "life about time" or "why couldn't you do that before?" he may not feel it worth the effort of trying to make any more good marks.

It's much easier to drift with the race of the crowd than to study hard and risk being labeled "a brain"—a particularly damaging title since Saturday school is so common.

So blame the students, blame the parents or blame the environment. But let's leave the teachers alone. It's not entirely their fault.

An Ex-High School Student (June, '47)