

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

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GEORGE R. AVERILL, Editor and Publisher; FRED WEAVER, Business Manager; GEORGE W. AVERILL, Managing Editor; HAROLD P. BURGER, Advertising Manager

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American Youth Faces New Life

The full impact of American participation in two world wars, with the constant necessity of accepting something like world leadership, will be felt in full force by coming generations of young Americans.

The decision to maintain armed forces to the number of three million men means that the youth of America will have to give two years of their lives to military training.

Military experts think that at least one million persons must make a permanent career of the armed services.

This means, they calculate, that one million or more of our young men will be called to the colors each year.

It would be a mistake to consider that the two years will be lost to those who serve their country.

In a number of cases, it is quite probable that the training will add at least an equal number of years to the life expectancy of the individual.

Certainly our experience with previous drafts has disclosed an amazing number of unfit American youngsters who need some kind of physical training to bring them up to par.

In connection with the operation of any universal military training program, it is essential there be no favoritism.

Young men of every community must be taken without exception. There must be no exemptions because of political or other "pull".

In fact, the only way in which the American people will support such a drastic reorganization of youthful lives is for the onerous burden of service to rest equally and impartially upon all alike.

Must Fight for Civilization

No newspaper editor need apologize for expatiating upon the issues involving the United States as it faces the present world situation and its relation with Soviet Russia.

There may be important matters for the editorial mind, such as the outcome of Saturday's football game, the innumerable weeks set aside for observing and honoring various and sundry things, and such other slush, but war threatens not only our liberties and the lives of our young men, but even the normal procedure of making a living.

Outcome of the present struggle in Korea and its final settlement will have a direct influence on the lives of every citizen in the United States and even of the world. It challenges every person to fight for his idea of civilization.

Surely, such matters are of such grave importance to the welfare of the world at large that no one should ever tire of reading about them.

On the Road to Socialism

The U.S. Public Health Service will provide \$114,206,100 this year for public health services, hospital construction and studies of water pollution.

The money will be paid out in grants to the states, with those of smaller economic resources receiving larger sums than the wealthier states.

This is another step on the road to socialism. Nevertheless, don't hold your breath until the states reject the money on the ground that they believe in individual initiative and private enterprise.

From Our Point of View

Considerable nation-wide controversy exists regarding the causes of current increases in juvenile delinquency. Many reasons are given, chief of which is the home.

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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.

50 YEARS AGO, 1900. W. W. Good announces that he will carry grades of oil on his wagon hereafter. He also handles lubricating oil for all purposes either in large or small quantity.

The exercises held at the M. E. Church Sunday evening last in observance of Temperance Day were of a very interesting character and had a large attendance in attendance.

Jerome Schuyler of Pontiac has a curiosity in the shape of a three-legged chicken. We have examined the bird and find it is no fake, it actually has three legs. About one year old the Plymouth rock rooster is fine in health and very happy.

Miss Maude Berry was a guest of William and Miss May Ballen in Detroit last week. William accompanied them to the University Theatre last Friday evening and an enjoyable evening was enjoyed.

John Barron returned to his home at Howell Tuesday last. Sunday he was flying up to Detroit. To say his young man enjoyed himself is fully true. His many close friends were delighted to see him.

The annual meeting and election of the Birmingham City Board of Health was held at the annual luncheon in the Community House Tuesday.

Oliver Cornwell has been elected high priest of the Birmingham chapter of the B. O. E. F. He succeeded Harry Mudge in office. The local chapter was reported to have a current active membership of 200.

The welfare committee in Birmingham has established zones throughout the village for the purpose of aiding the unemployed. Each section will be thoroughly covered by volunteer workers in an effort to find part-time employment for the heads of needy families.

The Consumer Power company this week announces that as soon as materials are available they will lay a 14-inch cast iron gas main system in the business area of Woodward. Although the present main, installed in 1929, is over 20 years old, several serious breaks have already been noted.

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: In one of the editions of the Birmingham Eccentric it stated that off-street parking plan would like by cost over a million dollars and who is going to pay it if adopted? Well, can't you guess? The taxpayers, of course.

Should they finance it with revenue bonds, and pledge the income from the street parking to pay the operating expenses from the general fund, when I am told they are planning on such a big bond issue.

Remember, it is going to take a lot of nickels to pay the interest principal on such a big bond issue. I for one, would hate to see the City of Birmingham going to off-street parking business. You just can't force people to park in parking lots.

THEY WILL GO where there is free parking like the new Jacobson store and Packard who are furnishing their own parking lots for the benefit and convenience of their customers and are paid and the C. F. Smith will soon have their free parking lots also.

Think, should the City under take this big project of off-street parking, very soon they will have another white elephant on their hands like the new bridge. MRS. WILLIAM J. MCKINNEY, 211 East Broadway.

To the Editor: Attached a copy of a letter I have written to Mayor Bruce G. Booth and members of the city commission. I will appreciate your publishing this in full in the People's Column of the Eccentric in the issue of Nov. 30.

If you asked the question, "What does a newspaper editor do?" you would find ten persons would answer, "Why, it's his job to find the news and write it up, and print it for his readers."

That answer is true, as far as it goes. But there is another aspect to a newspaper editor's job that few persons, outside of the editor himself, actually realize, and it is a very important function.

The editor must protect his readers from having to wade through story material which is of value to only a very small fraction of his readers.

HE MUST KEEP his publication on a sound "bulletin board" for even our community group.

It is reasonable, should be obvious, most of that material already is known to a group's membership and the members themselves are not interested in the routine activities of that organization.

It was only a few years ago that supporters of the system finally began to feel that it was time to begin, in impressive numbers, to fight back. The telling weapon has been the mounting reaction of the truth.

FOR THE PAST two years while touring the country lecturing and conducting our Harding College Freedom Forums, I've observed the mounting reaction of the truth being reached to the American people—farm people and the cities, home owners in small town America, the men and women working in industries and businesses, and the heads of needy families.

Mary Jean Forsyth and Alan Johnson, head of the city manager leading role in the annual B. O. E. F. high school play, "Shafu" in Birmingham, are coming to town tomorrow in the school auditorium.

Miss Fay Anderson, ABRW, Alameda Red Cross, arrived in Detroit Sunday after 18 months overseas duty. Starting with an open house at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Anderson on Sunday she will be held at several social centers during the coming weeks.

Both major parties eye the Michigan record anxiously. The 18,000 invalid ballots they expect will be counted on the day the length of the state. Kelly asks for a "fair, gentlemanly and proper election" which will be held with confidence. Many party leaders don't.

Says the Michigan highway department: "Eighty percent of the accidents are caused by drivers who are careless and how can the state or its agencies control that?"

College presidents look grim over future enrollments. Head of one of the state's largest says next year he expects no draft of new students—a return to all closed campus—or virtually so.

Some inactive reservists are being called ahead of the active. William A. Frank, Pace, secretary of the army, explains it as an attempt to keep active units intact for possible future use.

In Washington plans are underfoot to extend Michigan's national guard summer training to three weeks. Local commanders fear the City/Commission and the Planning Commission to have a hard time in getting them in advance of the meeting, but it seems to me that, in addition to answering questions from the press, the person who presides over the meeting should be willing to answer questions from the press.

"A person may come to the meeting with no question to ask, but after he has had some remarks on the subject of off-street parking, a question or two might be asked and he would like to have it answered. Is he to be denied the answers to these questions? I sincerely hope not."

"IF IT IS decided to permit people to speak and to ask questions at the meeting, perhaps you will consider a time limit, say, of five minutes to each person. It is not intended to accommodate them."

"IS IT NOT true, also, that a person may speak for five minutes in which to speak and then, when his turn comes, finds that a previous speaker has stated very well the substance of what he intended to say? Therefore, he would have nothing to say worth calling upon."

all of his readers. That, of course, does not mean that every reader should be given the same news.

That is the point where he checks to see that the majority of the person who supplied the information to the newspaper.

That is what I mean by "protection of the reader."

Are food courts of concern to you? The U.S. Department of Agriculture says food bills can be cut by 10 percent by cutting down on the amount of food you eat.

THE AWAKENING isn't sufficient widespread to be decisive to halt the leftward trend of the "Leftwing Propaganda."

Since that column was written the continuing stream of facts—concerning the American economic system, and the absence of Leftwing propaganda—has expanded the area of informed public opinion.

A SURVEY MADE four years ago by the painstaking Psychological Corporation revealed that only 15 percent of the American people knew that corporation profits were being used to fund the war.

But the same survey this year found almost twice as many people correctly informed on the profit facts.

That's significant. And yet, these correctly informed people amounted to only 22 percent of the total adult population.

THE RESULTS began to be known in the latter part of the year. The report was made to the editor of "Looking Ahead" on Feb. 15.

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psychology in buying. He suggests that you buy in bulk, and never stop when you are hungry.

Appearances are deceiving. As an example, the dollar-to-day looks just like it did ten years ago.

What are the boards going to do with their misused cigarettes, commercial banks of money, many dog biscuits, flavoured pepper, brittle, etc., etc.?

THE LEFTWINGERS want to eliminate private business ownership, place everything in the hands of the all-powerful State.

Using these and twisted statistics, they are trying to convince the masses of uniformed people that business and corporation profits are exorbitant.

The average profit on all business during the depression and recovery years, 1930-1950, was less than 5% on the sales dollar.

Government statistics show the average corporation profit for the 10-year period 1940-50 was 4 1/2% of each sales dollar, and 1 1/2% for the single year 1949.

Corporation profits in 1949 amounted to 9.1 percent of the national income, while the total national wages and salaries accounted for 63.7 per cent.

OVER THE YEARS, the American economic system, with its profit motive and demand wheel, has proved to be the most workable and most productive system in the world.

Make a resolution today to learn more about profits and their industrial function in our American society.

Three more pilot blood-typing programs aimed at living blood banks are scheduled for Birmingham by the Red Cross.

Michigan hospital service complains that competition from private hospitals in Michigan is making the Blue Cross hospitalization plan.

San. Elmer Porter (R-Blairstown) insists in fighting the state department of administration to have a "housekeeping agency."

One of the gubernatorial candidates in Michigan has a plan to increase in Michigan Bell Telephone Company rates, granted that plan by the Public Service Commission.

Even the weather man catered to the doctors. "Improved Weather," "Normal Temperature" and "Risk" their winds diminishing.

I DID SOME spot checking on doctors for their patients. Some of the old timers went so far as to advise prescriptions.

News copy submitted early necessarily is given preference over late news. The "Gazette" usually gets the speed.