

# Criticizes American People's Apathy Towards War in Korea

By GEO. H. L. BURDICK, JR.

**Editor's Note:**—This is the fourth of a series of articles, written from the Korean battlefield by Geo. H. L. Burdick, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. George L. Burdick, 685 Pierce.

"Ours is not to reason why; ours is but to do or die."

I came across these immortal words over the door of a military office while I was in Seoul.

These words were not new to me, for I had seen and heard them many times before when I was a growing youngster among the civilian clan. Never before had I given them much thought—they didn't fit in with the pattern of environment I was in.

Now I was awakened with a new realization of their meaning. We, the boys who have dreamed up to go fighting, are far from

lucky. You be the hero. Save America.

Last war it was different—civilian and soldier alike bore the burden. They, the soldiers, could feel that their entire nation was behind them, dedicated to the job to which he was dedicated. But today the men in Korea cannot feel the sense of identification with his own nation. They are alone when they go forth to meet the enemy.

What keeps them going? The strong determination not to let their fellows down. If there is one thing that distinguishes men in battle, it is team spirit. This is the bond of loyalty between fighting men who suffer, fear and die together.

IT IS COSTING you at home high taxes for this little "police action" over here. You may think your money is being wasted on taxes. Do you ever stop to think about the lives these lads are wasting over here—their own? The tour of duty in Korea will never be regarded by any GI who has served over here as a "dreamer's holiday." It is a shattering experience which will linger in their scrap book of memories for the duration of their lives.

It has been said that experience is the best teacher. Here on this war-torn land mass, the battle ground of the world, a lesson is being earned as well as learned—the hard way.

But for their uniform, these young men seem no different from

the young men on every Main street in the U. S. A. But there is a difference—in their hearts and minds.

THESE BOYS' expressions have changed as have their thoughts since they touched the soil of this chaotic life. No longer do they appear jumpy or scared. Sure, deep down that emotional flutter still tickles every now and then. But decision and determination have replaced that flutter. They want to get home. To them, this time they are serving is a period of stagnation. They have set in their minds that when they are vaulted into the position of leaders of free democracy it

will be free; free of war and upheaval.

THESE LADS are not only battling a fierce foe but also are living in the worst possible conditions. The elements, bad weather and unpleasant terrain have been a tremendous handicap to them. Korea, to a tourist, would be like a person who hadn't seen an egg in six months and upon cracking one found nothing.

A scale topographical contour of Korea would remind one of an irregular cordon road. The low level valleys are scattered with makeshift towns and mountain peaks with a pattern of rice paddies. The battle scarred hills and mountains loom as austere shrines to what has taken place here.

The dead are buried in a multitude of mounds on the barren slopes. The simple white crosses on top of them fill you with a lasting memory. It seems as if they are standing guard over the deserted bunkers and shell holes surrounded by twisted equipment and debris. This is the stillness of death. This is Korea.

WAKE UP Americans—start to reason why! Don't be afraid, it is ours to do or die. You have a commission. New members only praying but fighting for the day they can come marching home. Get behind them. Give a little blood to help save their lives. They are giving theirs to save yours.

Sacrifice an evening of comfort

and get out and vote. Give us some leaders who will pilot our boat from the eddy of war to the pier of peace. One of the biggest moral boosters over here is mail. So don't put that letter. I am sure if you could see the smile of gratification it brings, you wouldn't.

THE OTHER day I overheard conversation between a group of GIs and a Korean boy. They were telling him what it was like back home in the United States. I think if you could see the smile of gratification it brings, you wouldn't.

Due to the progress of TV, this recent election campaign has revealed to more people than ever the personalities and hypocrisy of some of the candidates. Perhaps next time there will be more voters left themselves to be filled with disgust.

75TH YEAR—NO. 35

## An Editorial

### Schools Must Keep Up With Population Hike

Because so many people decided the Birmingham area would be a fine community in which to live—and have followed up their thoughts with purchases of new homes, the Birmingham school district for the second time in three years will be asked next Monday by the board of education for permission to borrow more money for school district building expansion purposes.

To meet educational needs of our mushrooming population, school voters in the fall of 1949 approved a \$3,100,000 bond issue which provided a new high school, a new elementary school and additions to two other grade schools.

AND NEXT MONDAY, Nov. 17, school district voters will be asked to keep up their educational standards for elementary school children by approving a \$3,300,000 bond issue to provide two new elementary schools, five school sites, and additions to six present grade schools.

The 1949 bond issue is requiring a debt levy of \$6.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, as equalized. The proposed new bond issue would require \$4.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, as equalized, this is a total of \$11 per \$1,000, as equalized. Each is set up for repayment over a 17-year period.

Every existing classroom in the school district is being fully utilized. Each September school opening will see increasing numbers of children entering school for the first time.

THE FACTS UNDERLYING the necessity for the proposed bond issue have been prominently publicized by The Birmingham Eccentric in a series of 11 special articles prepared by School Supt. Dwight B. Ireland on behalf of the board of education.

To maintain the Birmingham school district's present educational facilities, as well as give entering school children the same educational opportunities as their older brothers and sisters, The Eccentric endorses the proposed bond issue and urges school district voters to approve it at the special election next Monday, Nov. 17.

By G. R. A.

**THIS AND THAT**

GIVEN ENOUGH TIME, THE PEOPLE DECIDE

Let us briefly view the recent national election from the standpoint of strict non-partisanship. In that light, does it not prove that the technique of self-government, as embodied in the U. S. Constitution, provides our nation with one of the most fundamental of all freedoms: choosing our public officials?

By this we simply mean that, so long as we have the right to vote the "in" out, and the "out" in, we are on the way to freedom's ultimate goal, "a better life."

For has not this election proved that the vast majority of our citizens were dissatisfied with the manner in which the New Deal has operated affairs... for at least the past 16 years?

WAS IT NOT equally true, in 1932, that the vast majority of citizens were dissatisfied with Republican rule, climaxed in the depression days during Herbert Hoover's administration?

Even though the depression, world-wide in nature, was not created by the Republicans at all; perhaps the worst that can be said of Hoover was that he failed to utilize the power of the federal

government to soften that depression. Franklin D. Roosevelt ran on the promise of less taxes, fewer federal controls. Yet he was not long in office when he turned in the opposite direction, and laid the foundation for the Welfare State.

Harry S. Truman, a man of far less intelligence than FDR, "fell in with too many thieves." His administration could not handle his arrogant petulant and admit he was wrong.

THESE AND numerous other decisions during his administration caused the downfall of his political party... even though Adlai E. Stevenson valiantly fought to hurdle these barriers. Of course, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower was a name and personality close to the hearts and the confidence of most Americans. The path before him and his Republican Congress was very easy one. Indeed, it is littered with tremendous domestic and international problems. That he may lead us to surmount most of the perils is the hope of every good American, regardless of political party.

LET US REPEAT, however, the greatest and most glorious achievement of these United States: though citizens will suffer long at the hands of their rulers, allow them the quadrilateral opportunity to use the ballot and will make the ultimate best choice; they will change their leaders... and that, of course, is the very genius of the American way of civic life.

And it is that way of life that each of us should want to keep!

**Recovering from Wounds Received in Korean Zone**

Mrs. Charles Dunkel, 1901 Haynes, has been notified that her brother, Pvt. John W. Smith, has been wounded while serving in Korea.

Mrs. Dunkel said Tuesday that the latest information she had received stated that Pvt. Smith was hospitalized in Japan and making good recovery from wounds in the neck and shoulder.

# The Birmingham Eccentric

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1952



DESIGNER FREDERICKS BESIDE MEMORIAL. U. S. Seal on limestone slab. (Eccentric Staff Photo)

## Rotary Presents Peace Memorial To Birmingham

A peace memorial, consisting of a large block of white Indiana limestone upon which is mounted a bronze seal of the United States, was presented Tuesday afternoon to the city and to high school students by the Birmingham Rotary club.

The presentation was made in Nov. 11 Armistice Day observances at the east end of the plaza at the main entrance to the new high school, where the memorial was constructed.

Designed by Birmingham's internationally known sculptor, Marshall Fredericks, on behalf of his fellow Rotarians, the ceremonies Tuesday afternoon culminated a year and a half's efforts by the club to obtain such a memorial for the city.

The principal speaker, Col. Edward Heller, senior army instructor in the Organized Reserve Corps, pointed out that this was not a war memorial, but a peace memorial, "dedicated not only to local military heroes, but to civilians as well who have assisted during whose term the Rotary memorial was originated, and who few in for this special occasion from his new home in St. Louis, Mo."

COL. HELLER added, "Perhaps this is a new concept of peace—recognition of both military and civilian assistance to our government. For we must remember

that wars today involve both classes of citizens."

He said Armistice Day observances still continue because "it has become a symbol of the desire of free people who still are working for peace."

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REPORTED ESTIMATES of the city's overall percentage have varied from 88 to 91.5%, but the final corrected figure will be considerably higher, according to spokesmen for the Birmingham Republican organization.

The club reports that a check now in progress covering registrants who failed to vote, has closed a high percentage who have died or moved from the city. Elimination of these names from the registration rolls is expected to bring the number of qualified voters who went to the polls in Birmingham close to 95%.

When the city's eight precincts tallied their votes, they found the 11,692 of the city's 12,875 registered voters had waited their turn in line to pull the voting machine lever.

CITY OFFICIALS were astounded. And the result was the same in cities and towns across the country. The people of the United States had finally answered the long-called-for plea to exercise their freedom to vote.

Birmingham Mayor Dean Beier, when questioned about his impressions of the record balloting, said, "It appears that the percentage of votes cast in Birmingham in Tuesday's national election equaled or bettered the record of any city in the nation. I'm very proud of this performance."

He added, "No particular brag to the individual who just voted... he just said he was proud of his record. He should have been doing at every election in the past."

"BUT LOTS of thanks should go to the many men and women who spent endless hours building

up enthusiasm which resulted in the record turnout. These people did more than their share. I think particular credit should go to the League of Women Voters for the fine job it did."

"While congratulating ourselves on our fine showing," Beier continued, "We might also think for a minute about the dismal way we generally make in elections. One third of Tuesday's record vote, 30 per cent of the registered voters is normal for municipal elections. School elections attract even fewer people."

The mayor closed his statement with the question, "How many people will bother to vote in next week's school district election?"

## Vote Monday on School Bonds

**\$3,300,000 Sought by B of E**

Monday, Nov. 17, Birmingham school district residents will be called to the polls again to vote.

This time they will not vote for candidates but will decide whether or not the school district is to build two new schools, additions to six elementary schools and purchase five school sites.

School officials are hoping that the same voters who will be displayed in the school election will be present in the recent presidential election.

Voters will be asked to approve a school bond issue totaling \$3,300,000 and also to increase the millage rate by 4 1/2 mills over a 17-year period.

SHOULD THE school district voters grant the total school debt levy would be 11 mills.

The continued rise in the school district's population has kept the school board hopping to find schools and classrooms enough for the number of children it is being called on to educate.

The new schools would be constructed in the Beverly Hills area and in Troy township on Derby west of Ellettsville.

School additions needed, according to school officials, are at Torrey, Quanton, Barnum, Bloomfield, Village, Franklin and Walnut Lake.

LOOKING TO future developments within the school district, the school board has five proposed school sites that they feel should be purchased now before they no longer are available for purchase.

This coming Monday, Nov. 17, is the date of the election. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m.

Of the two propositions to be voted on, all electors may have on the question of raising the money by a special 4 1/2-mill tax. However, only school district property owners may vote on whether to issue the bonds.

**STRICTLY FRESH**

Presidential candidate visited rival's home town and turned down key to city, explaining he had no time to stop and accept. He wishes otherwise today.

Two Cuban politicians fought a duel over insults. If American politician would that the newspapers would be income tax returns between TV stations.

Man asked St. Louis cops to put him in jail to prevent a pugilist from coming on. They obliged. The calaboose-cure, we call it.

Pair of expert fathers, pacing hospital corridors, took time to catch a burglar in the neighborhood. Anything to relieve the nervous tension, eh, men?

Parisian lady complained "magical" powder bought to keep kubby home was merely a concoction of soda and did not work. Only cured his indignation, eh!

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