

War Always Spawns Progeny Of International Problems

One of West Germany's most powerful veterans' organizations recently elected former Field Marshal Albert Kesselring as its president. Kesselring, generally credited with being a brilliant military tactician was commander-in-chief of German forces in Italy, and, in the last days of the war on the Western Front, he succeeded Field Marshal Rüdiger.

The most interesting factor in this case is that Kesselring is now serving a life-time prison sentence. He was sentenced to a life term by British War Crimes Court in Vienna in 1947, on charges of having permitted the massacre of Italian civilians during World War II.

ORIGINALY, he was sentenced to be hanged, but the death sentence was commuted to life imprisonment and the former Marshal is now a prisoner at the town of Werger. The German veterans organization declared: "The hour has come for our people to declare that the decency of German soldiers is beyond

question, and to reject all attacks on their character as unjust slanders."

THIS IS HISTORY repeating itself, in almost every detail, for the same public reaction followed in Germany after World War I.

As the Allies relinquish more and more controls in Germany, the German people will once again become independent and, perhaps, anti-Allied and, in the end, the United States and Great Britain and other long-time allies will be confronted with a free and powerful German nation.

About all the United States can do is to hope that the Russian threat proves so serious that the Germans will turn to the West, in preference to the Communists.

THE REALIZATION remains, however, that wars do not solve major conflicts in relations between nations and that, at best, they only suppress open antagonisms for just a short period of years.

Elton R. Eaton

Many Michigan human beings last week lost a tried and true friend when Elton R. Eaton, who edited and published the nearby Plymouth Mail for nearly a score of years, passed on suddenly. In that list we include ourselves. For 30 years he and this editor were friends, both on a purely personal basis and on the level of newsmen.

Many a fight against political bossism in Michigan found Elton along with other editors slugging against entrenched predatory interests. The word of Elton R.

Eaton, when given, was more to be trusted than a government bond.

WE COULD WRITE several columns about him . . . but that is not necessary. We who knew him know that his epitaph was written in the good acts he performed for his community, state and nation.

We'll all miss him, of course, but we shall remember him as one who earned an honorable niche within the sphere of his companionship and influence.

Washington's Pattern

Our first President, George Washington, proved himself a patriot of the first order. He refused to serve more than two terms, holding that to do so would drift the office into too long a tenure . . . which he and his contemporaries believed to be hurtful to the spirit of a free self-government.

When Major L'Enfant was designing the city of Washington, he placed the

Capitol buildings near where the Washington monument now stands.

George Washington directed that the Capitol buildings be placed on the hill and the White House below. He felt that even physically the symbol of Congress should be elevated above the residence of the Chief Executive.

How times change concepts!

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

• The world's most expensive public official is a chap named Harry S. Truman. Won't it be wonderful, during the four years after he leaves his job next January, to read how the federal budget is being decreased from time to time (barring all-out war, of course)? It also will be interesting to observe the antics of Mister Truman, private taxpayer.

• What a lot of time and money would be saved if Adlai and Ike simply got together and said to each other: "As a person I like you; as a candidate for office I think you are a tiny bit o.k., but your political approaches to the solution of our problems are screwy. Having said this, why not go fishin' and let the voters make up their own minds on their choices for President?"

We hope that Washington reporters will keep a close watch on Secretary of State Dean Acheson when he leaves his job next January. He probably will return to his big law partnership—wonder if again this legal firm will take on Soviet Russia as a client.

In their efforts to win and hold the affections of a man, two Detroit women fought. How foolish . . . over a mere man!

Universities and colleges are presumed to emphasize, or at least pay homage to the inference, that honesty in all things is a good plan to follow. While they may endeavor to apply the rule in the classroom, most certainly evidence exists that many of them pay little attention to it on the gridiron . . . or don't they really subsidize good players?

• "I just think it's wonderful to be able, in this great free and glorious land, to sacrifice for others," exclaimed the lady as she stepped from her limousine and thence into the beauty parlor. "After all, everybody is human. Our public officials are doing such a splendid job in taking away our money and giving it to the deserving ones . . . and I . . . I, you see, still have gobs of the stuff and our wonderful laws won't allow evil officials to take it all away . . . will they?"

The Birmingham Eccentric

Published every Thursday, at Birmingham, Mich., in the Eccentric Building, 220-222 North Woodward Avenue. Telephone: Midwest 4-1100

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

The Eccentric is a member of the National Editorial Association, Michigan Press Association and University Press Club

National Advertising Representatives
Weekly Newspaper Representatives, Inc.
1518 Grandview, 920 Broadway
DETROIT 26, MICH. NEW YORK 10, N.Y.

The Eccentric will publish contributed material providing it has news value. Suggestions are welcomed. Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation, which may appear in the columns of The Eccentric will be gladly corrected if brought to the publisher's attention.

So They Say . . .

CURTIS E. LE MAY, General, Strategic Air Commander:

"The Soviet Air Force surpasses the air forces of the free nations in numbers and approaches them in quality."

EDDIE RICKENBACKER, Captain, World War I ace:

"If World War III were to break out, it will cost us \$1,000,000,000,000 to win it physically."

BERTRAND RUSSELL, British philosopher:

"What prevents many Americans from being happy is that they act too much on principle, and not enough on impulse."

New Signals?



Happenings of Long Ago

Bite 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
September 5, 1902
Our fellow townsman, T. A. Ward, after 25 years on the road with uniform success, has retired and gone into the oil producing business with Duff brothers of Cleveland. We bespeak him good luck in his new field.

The Misses Anna Parks and Tillie Walker passed a very pleasant day recently with their old friend Mrs. Roberts. The way those ladies visited would make a "pink tea" turn green with envy.

Mrs. Kate Major Sperry of New York City was a welcome guest of Mrs. Dr. C. M. Raynolds for a short time last week. Mrs. Sperry was one of our most successful school teachers for twelve years and since then her lines have fallen into very pleasant places.

Clyde Douglas, Marvin Locke, Tom Shepard, read Prof. Hooper took a pleasure trip to Buffalo, N. Y., last week and enjoyed the sights and sounds of this teeming Eastern city.

A hospital tent will be operated at the Michigan State Fair by the ladies of Pontiac's hospital association. A physician will be in constant attendance to offer assistance to any who feel faint or ill.

20 YEARS AGO
September 8, 1932
For the first time in the history of the Birmingham health department, a summer season ends without the report of one child having contracted a contagious disease. Dr. W. Lloyd Kemp, in making the report, said it was a most unusual incident.

Birmingham voters declared themselves in favor of becoming a city by a 213-200 vote Tuesday. After the certification of votes by commissioners, a Charter Commission will have 90 days in which to prepare a city charter for voting at the March 13 election.

Harland Smith, 9, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Smith, is being congratulated by his many friends, who now consider him an expert photographer. The lad is probably the youngest citizen in town to take several successful

pictures of the solar eclipse last week.

The Rev. Henry S. Evans of the United Presbyterian church has resigned his station here to accept the call from the First United Presbyterian church at Latrobe, Pa. He will preach his last sermon here on Sept. 25.

An increase of 12.5 per cent in bond circulation has been reported by Mrs. Nancy B. Thomas, head of the Baldwin public library. She said 8,938 books were passed out to library patrons during the month of August.

5 YEARS AGO
September 11, 1947
Public reaction to the establishment of a Chamber of Commerce office in Birmingham will be sought at a meeting slated for Wednesday evening. Members of the Merchants association are asking Birmingham businessmen and employers to attend and express their opinions on the subject.

School officials are asking mothers to send the youngsters off to school each morning, minus the family pouch. The dogs that roam around the school buildings to wait for their young masters: Since they are not very friendly, some pretty young fights are started which have proven very disturbing to class work.

Mrs. Cecil Charleston, formerly of the USIS office in Detroit, has been named chairman of the Community House placement bureau for the coming year. She will replace Mrs. Lucy H. Bean who has headed the local work since March.

Enrollment in the Birmingham schools has been placed at 136 over last year's figures, to bring the present total to 2,860. Dr. Dwight B. Ireland, superintendent, said the largest increase was among elementary school children.

In an effort to eliminate traffic hazards, Birmingham will open a program of painting street intersections with directional lines. This will apply, especially, to Maple and Woodward, scenes of the greatest difficulty in town.

HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

BY ALICE E. MORGAN

A reference to farming in one of The Eccentric's editorials last week brought back memories of a childhood spent, not on a farm, but right slap-dab in the middle of some wonderful farms.

Those farms were wonderful! They could always find a place for a youngster to "hook a ride"—on the wagon, dice, hiller, corn cutter, reaper and binder, stone boat—or, best of all—on the broad back of a farm horse.

A new world opened up for that youngster, even though the horse looked back and forth, between rows of corn or potatoes. It didn't take much imagination to turn that farm horse and corn field into a soft-footed western pony being ridden through a dense forest, leading a wagon train to its destination!

Every farm had some special nooks around the barns, too, where kids found hidden nests and tiny kittens. Wileye-eyed calves were always around, ready to drink or an extra handful of bran.

THE "SPARE"
The "spare" horse was usually in the barn and the orchard was close by. It was very satisfactory to be able to get a little bit of apple out of an outstretched palm and hear those huge teeth crunch through it.

At milking time there were usually two or three barn cats tagging a farmer around waiting for the farmer around waiting for the stream of milk the hired man would shoot in its direction as he milked a friendly cow.

There was a warm animal smell about the place in winter, and the soft rustlings of cows and horses as they poked their noses deep into the hay, looking for choice morsels.

In the cow barn there was the tangy odor of milking, and, and sometimes the sharp smell of a molasses barrel.

AND OF course, there were haymows.

These were grand places to spend a rainy afternoon. They supplied caves for games, slides, jumping pits, and when the rain drumming on the roof filled one's head with the perfect place for a nap. This was especially true right after the mow had been filled with the first sweet cutting.

Out in the fields were wonderful places to play. Corn shocks stood tall, like closely built Indian villages, and a wonderful cold drink. It tasted so much better than out of a cup or glass back at the house.

There were springs, too, where a little girl could flop down on her tummy and get a wonderful cold drink. It tasted so much better than out of a cup or glass back at the house.

THERE WERE the woods, favoring summer pastures for stock, and treasure troves for kids. Blueberries, black caps, wild raspberries and various kinds of nuts.

Winter time brought the fascination of animal tracks and spring the annual "boiling off" of maple syrup.

No, judged by many of today's standards, those farms in northern New York were pretty crude—in fact they were almost pioneer places. They had milking machines, tractors and related crops to a degree, but not to the degree that spoiled the farm for the kids! Cow chens, horses—all for were nets. The farmers were all my pals, and the farms, for miles around, supplied my "second home". I'm so glad they weren't scientific farmers!

ONE THING OR ANOTHER

By George Wm. Averill

If you asked the wise business man to spend \$25 to repair a \$10 office machine, he'd say he would rather buy a new one and save money. Yet the next moment he would spend \$300 with a doctor to repair a machine whose actual value was only about 98 cents—the human body.

If you can't seem to rid your yard of dandelions, about the best thing you can do is to develop a taste for dandelion greens.

If Michigan follows the growing lead of several other states, fishermen may not have to worry about the legal length of the fish they catch.

For Missouri, Nebraska, Minnesota, Wyoming, and a certain states in the South already have abandoned length limits.

North Dakota even forbids the fisherman from throwing back the little ones.

BEHIND THIS TREND is the fact that fishing methods employed by sportsmen are inefficient. That is, a hook, line and worm or fly has no marked effect on the control of the fish population.

Fish themselves exercise most of the control by the number of fish eggs which are not hatched. The habit of the big fish to eat the smaller ones.

Only exception to the trend is trout fishing. Trout thrives only in cold water, where natural production never is high.

It wastes time and money, requires floor of filing space. Everything must be written down and duplicate record copies kept. Nothing can proceed until these duplicate copies have been checked up the next move is absolutely 118 percent in order.

How much time and money could be saved if everyone were honest and trustworthy?

Some weeks ago I believe I read that the Republican Party had nominated someone to carry the GOP presidential banner in this 1952 election year.

I think the name was "Mike" or "Ike" or something similar because I've heard him and read some of his strong GOP-slashing comments.

But this guy "Mike", where is he? Is the Democratic regime so silly-white that it can't be commented on in pretty strong words? Or is it "Ike"? Anyway, why doesn't he "sound off"?

Law enforcement agencies in many states are watching the experiment in Michigan where the highways are being patrolled by unmarked police cars in an effort to determine whether the plain vehicles are more effective than the familiar marked police cruisers.

Three out of five highway accidents involve acts of traffic regulations. Thus it becomes important to apprehend those who

deliberately disregard these regulations. The theory is that if these deliberate violators are detected, arrested and punished, they will become safer drivers and quite possibly avoid causing or being involved in a serious accident.

Of the five local police cars, Former Michigan State Police Commissioner Donald Leonard has said that police in plain vehicles catch more times as many traffic violators as those in cars plainly marked as police vehicles.

Birmingham's police department figures seem to bear out Leonard's statement and the state-wide test. Only one is marked "police". Another has a warning light on the roof just over the center of the windshield. The other three merely have the familiar red-lighted "police" signal mounted on the hood near the right fender.

Birmingham police find that the plainly marked cruiser catches comparatively few violators when compared to the unmarked cars.

While I do not believe it would be a good idea to remove markings from all police cars—because there are occasions when it is good to see one on the road—the use of unidentified cars seems to be having a good effect.

The plainly marked police car serves as the policeman in uniform. The unidentified vehicle is the plainclothes man.

Police departments need both to operate effectively.

CUSTOM MADE SEAT COVERS

Exclusively Tailored To Your Taste

Convertible and Catalina Repairs

Ace Seat Cover Co.

381 S. Saginaw, Pontiac

Ph. FE 5-6889

Is Your Daughter or Son Going to College?

Are their personal belongings insured?

Hugh C. White

217 Pierce St.
Opposite Municipal Bldg.
Birmingham, Mich.

HUGH C. WHITE
MULTIPLE LINE INSURANCE AGENCY

Bill Roberts

Telephone Midwest 4-3610

Oh, Oh!
DID ANYONE TURN OFF THE WATER HEATER?



FORGET ABOUT FORGETTING...
with an Automatic ELECTRIC Water Heater

Electric water heaters are worry-free . . . work-free . . . as well as clean . . . dependable . . . thrifty . . . carefree . . . and durable. Why not take a minute to look into the many conveniences of an automatic electric water heater? Ask your appliance dealer or neighborhood Edison office for complete details.

SEE YOUR DEALER or Detroit Edison