

71% Failed to Stand Guard At the Ballot Box April 5

It is customary for a newspaper editor to comment, at various intervals, upon the civic health of the community he lives in.

To be sure, a majority of the 3,371 voters who did go to the polls selected three out of nine candidates for city commission.

They overwhelmingly approved — and we heartily concur with their action—a \$225,000 bond issue for the erection of two new fire stations.

INSOFAR AS THE ELECTION is concerned, those who voted performed their American right to decide upon who shall govern them locally, and also determined how they freely felt about the other propositions on the ballot.

We May Lose Again at Geneva

At the forthcoming Geneva Conference, efforts will be made by the Soviet to Red China a seat in the United Nations organization.

Was Pearl Harbor 'Planned'?

A former Rear Admiral in the United States Navy has just written a book about the Japanese "sneak attack" on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

Four Michigan State College professors are going to Brazil this spring to help that country set up its first school of business administration.

Good old Harvard University led the nation's endowed educational centers for the amount of gifts it received during 1953.

Postmaster-General Summerfield proudly states that Canada has no deficit in its postal service, as we have in the United States.

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the evils of totalitarianism that now confront the free world as they are today.

TO BE SURE, A NUMBER of our citizens may honestly have overlooked the fact that April 5 was Birmingham's annual election day.

But even so, to many of these people there was available the right to cast an absent voter's ballot.

To be sure, Americans have the right, if they wish, to remain away from the polls on election day.

Trying to figure out why so many of our eligible voters didn't vote, we come up with this thought: because it was a local election, with no great and grave problems of national security or internal security or international coloring, they just consciously or unconsciously thought: "Oh, this is just a Birmingham election.

Whether vote or don't, it won't result in any injury to myself, my family, my home, or my community. I'm willing to trust the actions of those who do vote, anyway.

Something to think about seriously, don't you agree? . . . for only when we in free America, like the sentries who guard an encampment against a foreign foe, stand our own individual sentry duty at the ballot box can we insure continuing freedom for ourselves and our posterity.

Our form of free and secret voting has been fought for and defended against tyranny for many centuries. Is there really any honest excuse why each of us, during our own life-time, should abandon "guard duty" in civic affairs?

Agreeing with you, we can say: "No! there is not!"

recognize Red China. But in the international game and how of things, the U.S.A. may find itself doing what it knows is wrong. We've done it before . . . many times. But if we do, just mark it down that the Communist ideology has scored another triumph against freedom.

ment records) that FDR personally wanted our nation to get into the war at that time, so that we could join with Great Britain and other free nations against the forces of Hitler, Mussolini, and Hirohito.

No doubt there will be much pro and con discussion about the Rear Admiral's book.

We shall await the verdict of history for the most reliable answer.

A St. Louis (Mo.) man, 48 years ago when he had no money, was given a year's free hospital treatment. Now, able to pay, he sought to do so—but the hospital records had been destroyed.

Some of these days the Velde Congressional Committee (on Un-American Affairs), will visit Michigan, to investigate people who are Communists or are friendly to Communism.

So They Say...

James Ramsey Ullman, author: "Each victory we win begets a new challenge."

True D. Morse, Under Secretary of Agriculture: "The year ahead will be profitable for farmers."

Dr. Marshall T. Steel, Dallas (Tex.) Methodist pastor: "Too many preachers are interested in getting a better opportunity in another church instead of developing the opportunity they now have in the church they are serving."



HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

BY ALICE E. MORGAN

Thumbing through some trade magazines a short time ago, we came across one article called "The Meaning of Easter."

In our own experience, we have found that Easter means different things to different people.

To some it means one of the most tragic and most glorious religious festivals of the entire church year.

It's a chance for mother to herd the whole family into a store and get them all dressed up. She uses the excuse that last year's clothes aren't in style, are shabby and in some cases outgrown.

OTHERS THINK of Easter purely as a fashion highlight of the year. This is proven by the number of persons who keep cash registers ringing in clothing stores at this time of year.

A lot of the youngsters think of Easter as a wonderful time of year—there isn't any school for several days.

THE WEATHER is warming up, ice, snow, and sleet are melting, roller skates, hinks in the woods, these are the things that can be done during spring vacation—Easter vacation.

Many a housewife decides that this Easter season is ideal for housecleaning. There are no time schedules to keep because the children are home all day.

A lot of the youngsters think of Easter as a wonderful time of year—there isn't any school for several days.

Happenings of Long Ago

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

50 YEARS AGO April 15, 1904 "A new painter has arrived, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Cassius Carter and ought to be in the business helping daddy cash out pretty soon. Mother and son doing fine."

"If reports are true there is a good chance of a humane society in our midst, and in the absence of such would it not be well for the officers of the law to step in? Persons who abuse animals are not safe neighbors."

"Driving eastward on Brown street last Sunday at a good gait R. Peterson, our florist, met with an accident. His horse's legs struck the stone crosswalk at Woodward avenue, it fell and out spilled Rhinhardt, who lay as if dead. Mrs. Camp and Mrs. Shaw acted the Red Cross nurse and with water brought him out of a faint."

"News of the burning of the Cadillac Automobile Works, Detroit, created quite a shock in our village Wednesday noon as many Birmingham Boys work there."

"The many friends of John Baum of Royal Oak, gave him a generous benefit last Saturday night. He had a horse and it was raffled off bringing him in something like \$125. The lucky man to win was Mr. J. J. Rainey, a tonsorial artist, Mr. John Rainey, who sits up nights wondering what he will do with his elephant."

30 YEARS AGO April 15, 1924 At a banquet to be held in the Masonic Temple Tuesday evening the charter of the Birmingham Exchange Club will be formally presented by Horatio S. Earle, past president of the Detroit Exchange Club and district governor of the National Exchange clubs.

A fire of unknown origin completely destroyed the house and furnishings at the corner of Smith and Cummins avenue in Eco City, belonging to S. A. Verway, a Ford worker. The house was insured for \$3000. There was no insurance on the furnishings which was valued at \$1000.

At her home in Pierce street, Mrs. H. M. Salisbury entertained at a supper party for her small daughter, Betty's fourth birthday. After an afternoon of games the little guests were seated about a table drolled with pink, yellow and daffodils. Included in the party were Mary Conine, Ruth Smith, Barbara Marshall and John Reed.

"The Present Day Club" is the name of the Birmingham school district formed in Eco with eight charter members.

Word of the election of the Birmingham Rotary Club to Rotary International was received this week, making Birmingham the 167th club in the organization.

15 YEARS AGO April 13, 1939 Mayor John F. Mertz, who has served Birmingham as mayor since 1936, was selected for a fourth term, Monday evening at the usual organization meeting of the City Commission.

Injuries resulting from a fall down an elevator shaft on April 5, while he was at work, proved fatal to H. Bounds Gunn, 24 years old, 475 Park street, who died Sunday in St. Joseph's hospital.

Type lice are one of the most destructive 5th column forces acting on the American press today, although they have received little publicity outside newspaper offices. In fact, newspaper legend says this menace to the press has been with it ever since Johann Gutenberg invented movable type six centuries ago. But all newspapermen—from publishers to janitors—have recognized this enemy and have tried pertinaciously to eliminate this force from their composing rooms. These tiny insects can cause the biggest of modern newspaper presses to stop in the middle of their runs. Or the hardest journeyman compositor to come to the verge of tears.

BECAUSE OF THE devastation caused by these small hard-shelled type lice, men on the mechanical side of the American newspaper have developed more patience and perseverance than most other persons. It is only when the nerves of a man become so strained by daily encounters with type lice and he is compelled to gain some sort of emotional release that he loses control of his actions.

Type lice, as a whole class, are a form of crustacean with long, flattened, wingless bodies about a thirty-second of an inch long. Most species are black, a few have gray markings. The lice live in type cases and eat the metal letters, thereby weakening the structure of the characters in the case.

YOU OUGHT TO SEE the way the little devils work. Take the specie Styrmicus Medicarius, for instance. It is found in most Gothic type cases, but it prefers to live among, and eat, the Styrmie Medium type pieces.

The big presses mentioned above were halted because the pressman saw that several lines of type were not printing, and he knew that some of the lines of type had crumbled under the pressure of the press, crumbled because type lice had eaten away most of the metal in the lines.

The compositor was near tears because he had picked up a piece of type which when he was justifying his "stick", the letter had fallen to pieces. The lice had eaten most of the metal and had left a hollow letter.

MANY TIMES I HAVE TAKEN a piece of type at random from a case and upon close inspection, have found small holes or pits scattered over the flank of the type piece. Some pieces I have broken with my fingers, and with only a little pressure because of the countless borings the lice have made in them.

Printers have tried many methods of exterminating these pests, but all powders and liquids have failed. The only definite way of ridding a case of type lice is by submerging the whole case, together with type, in water. The lice leave the type and float on the surface where they may be scooped up and burned.

Another way is to use a piece of metal and squash the lice as they scamper over the case.

I REMEMBER WATCHING a compositor set a line of type for an edition going to press in 15 minutes. Ordinarily, he would set his stick with the least delay and begin another assignment.

But while I was watching him, he carefully set his stick on the floor and picked up a 12-point slug. He began banging the end of it on the case and on the type.

At once I knew he was trying to kill some lice, but when he began to scatter the type on the floor as he attempted to discover other lice, I was surprised.

In a few minutes he was attacking the case and its contents with such fury he was unaware he was flinging type around the composing room.

The production foreman, who had witnessed a number of similar demonstrations, simply went up to the man and told him he better take the rest of the day off. The foreman felt the compositor had better be fishing, or cut the front lawn, or do any other job that would take his mind off these destructive creatures.

SUPPOSE TYPE LICE always shall be a part of a newspaper plant. I wonder, though, why someone hasn't brought this problem before one of the big chemical companies so some of their research experts could be put to work on it.

I know they would receive the entire cooperation of the American press, and if a remedy was discovered, it would add much to the operating harmony of the American newspaper.

Advertisement for Elliott Furniture Company featuring a woman and a kitchen range. Text includes: "My recipe for SPICY RAISIN TORTE...", "always successful in my ELECTRIC RANGE", "Elliott Furniture Company", "Located on East Side of Dixie, 1/2 Mile South of Waterford", "FINEST UPHOLSTERING", "Our thirty years in Pontiac is your guarantee of satisfaction.", "5390 Dixie Highway Phone Orlando 3-2641".