

The Birmingham Eccentric

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Civil Defense—What to Do?

"I would put up a bomb shelter; but if I did, mine would be the only one in the neighborhood, and I'm afraid people might think me ridiculous and laugh at me."

Unfortunately, this is the attitude of many people when it comes to bomb shelters and civil defense. They see the need and the wisdom but hesitate to be the first to act.

What it takes is someone with the conviction that bomb shelters—and other measures of preparedness—are more important to preservation of life than anyone's opinion.

SO, WHAT are we trying to do, start a scare campaign? Not at all.

If some country fired an atom bomb at us tomorrow, we would be insufficiently prepared to protect ourselves. Common sense, we believe, tells us that this possibility, together with current international crises and our lack of preparedness, creates a sense of urgency.

It is, then, through this sense of urgency that we would explore the problem.

THERE IS STILL, so much to be decided: Who has responsibility for civil defense?

How much authority do governmental bodies have? Where is the line of responsibility drawn between city or township governments and school districts?

What about libraries, post offices, business and industrial establishments?

What can one community do by itself? Who is responsible to initiate action toward cooperation between one community and another?

Strong, Free Press Assured

Every year American newspapers set aside a week to call attention to their purposes and services and to remind themselves and their readers of their obligation to the public.

The Birmingham Eccentric welcomes the opportunity, and invites the public to join it, in observing this year's National Newspaper Week, Oct. 15-22.

The theme this year is "Your Newspaper—Heritage of Truth; Frontier of Freedom."

American newspapers, weeklies and dailies alike, are committed to truth and are always on guard to protect freedom.

They are committed to truth by tradition, by the very nature of their existence, by the faith placed in them by the reading public.

They protect freedom by reporting and interpreting accurately and fairly, by editorially attracting attention to the good and bad of government.

PURPOSES OF THE Birmingham Eccentric—indeed of all American newspapers—are to inform and interpret, entertain and amuse, serve as a medium of advertising and serve as a public forum.

Through the years, The Eccentric has dedicated itself to reporting and giving

Who is to build bomb shelters and who is to share them?

Who is to assume responsibility for children cut off from their parents during an attack?

WE DON'T HAVE the answers to these questions, and we don't believe anyone else has.

But, certainly, steps can be taken now to learn the answers.

For instance, the Birmingham City Commission can do as Commissioner Robert Page has suggested—appoint a citizens advisory committee to study the problem and make recommendations.

Other groups can do likewise. A coordinator would then be needed to efficiently and effectively organize whatever programs were recommended, to avoid confusion and duplication.

It might be wise for governmental officials, school administrators, business and industrial leaders to ponder these points and to initiate action now.

CERTAINLY, INDIVIDUALS can begin now to store supplies and to determine what to do about a bomb shelter.

To wait for someone else to act first is foolish and could be fatal.

And certainly, everyone can familiarize himself today with established warning signals and other procedures that already are in force.

In Birmingham, informational pamphlets are available in the office of the assistant city manager in the municipal building.

How does that old adage go? "Let a word to the wise be sufficient."

meaning to local events. It has strived to interpret local news so that intelligent, sound decisions might be made.

It rededicates itself to this task in the years ahead.

NEWSPAPERS ARE quick to point to both the strengths and faults of their profession. This is wise because it affords them a chance to recognize both and to take positive action to improve upon them.

They are unique because they do take the time and effort to look at themselves, to see what they are doing and not doing, to see where they are headed, to both laud and criticize themselves.

They are unique in that they do NOT exempt their own profession from their words of criticism.

Newspapers realize that there is always room for improvement, so they are always on the search for ways of improvement.

The Birmingham Eccentric realizes the importance and value of progress; therefore, it constantly looks for progress in itself as well as in the communities it serves.

It is adherence to self-appraisal, well-established and long-recognized purposes and to high integrity that assures for the American public a strong and free press.

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

Winning 99 out of a total of 144 delegate seats for the Con-Con convention augurs well for the return of greater support by Michigan voters for the Republican Party. It is to be hoped, however, that the 99 Republican delegates will refrain from "playing partisan politics" as they lend their efforts to shape a new Constitution for Michigan. The same goes for the 45 Democrat delegates. After all, putting together a new Constitution that will win support later at the polls is no easy assignment. If the new Constitution is lop-sided in its partisanship, it certainly will be defeated at the polls.

Birmingham Public School District voters, come next November, will have the opportunity to show their loyalty to the cause of education. At that time they will be asked to vote only an added two and six-tenths mills to provide more classrooms and also improve the quality of the teaching and the curriculum. Plenty of information on the subject is to be given the voters prior to the election date, say Board of Education members.

Michigan's State Boxing Commissioner is opposed to women wrestlers. "Women are wonderful in satin and lace, in the kitchen making a cake, carrying a basket in the market, even running on the tennis court—but in a wrestling ring, no, absolutely not!" sez he. (To which most males, we opine, will agree.)

If you have any informed and intelligent convictions regarding how you think your Congressmen and Senators should act in this present world stress, now is the time to let them know! The death of UN Secretary General Hammarskjold leaves that world body without the proper officer to carry on. (Just another evidence of how lacking in substantial foundation this organization is.) Soviet leaders will move heaven and earth to grasp outright domination of this body—thus never during "peacetime" (?) has the free world been in more danger. (Will the free nations find it necessary and wise to pull out of the UN, should the Communists actually win control? As free men and women, we'd better do some serious thinking on this question.)

Foundation Stones



PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Dr. Kemp Inspired Confidence, Respect

To the Editor:

I was privileged to learn of the death of Dr. Lloyd Kemp of Birmingham. I don't know of any other person in the professional field in whom I had greater confidence and respect.

My son was his patient 20 years ago. To a young couple with their first child the attitude and understanding of their pediatrician means a great deal. To us he was the finest diagnostician and physician we could have had.

He was more than this, though. Something I could not define gave me the feeling that here was a strength of character which got across to others and gave them a certain strength, too, just by association.

There was a time when the baby had grown out of childhood and I

called on Dr. Kemp for help for my husband. He sent me to just the right person, also a splendid doctor, for which I shall be forever grateful.

When I learned Dr. Kemp was also a musician, I thought it gave me part of the clue to his particular magnetic personality. Everyone can look back and find certain peoples' influence in their lives.

Dr. Kemp certainly left his impression on my life, and from such infrequent and casual occasions, too; but sometimes these are the most remembered and lasting.

PATRICIA ANDERSON, 25380 Evergreen, Southfield

Anti-Communist School Coverage Earns Praises

To the Editor:

The members, officers and board of directors of Education for American Freedom, Inc., wish to thank you and your staff for the excellent news coverage given our five-day anti-Communist school "Counter-attack," held the last week in August.

We feel that the school was a great success as people from all 48 states and 10 foreign countries had an interested citizen in attendance. Various communities from Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Canada also had representatives at the school.

Again, thank you for your assistance. WILLIAM W. NEUBECKER, JR., President, E.A.F.

Thanks Police For Response To Emergency

To the Editor:

I would like to express my gratitude to the Birmingham Police Department for their quick response to my emergency illness call on Sept. 27.

Sergeant Jack Kalbfleisch, the patrolman that arrived at my house, is to be especially commended for the competent way he handled the situation.

Upon the arrival of the ambulance, he very gently and tactfully explained to my children why it was necessary to take their mother to the hospital.

FURTHERMORE, my neighbors later explained to me, he refused to leave the children in their care until he had them well assured and calm.

Since so many of us neglect to give our policemen the deserving "pat on the back" once in awhile, but are only too quick to criticize, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank Sergeant Kalbfleisch for the "extra" time and thoughtfulness he extended to my children when they needed it.

MRS. JOHN KALE, 1515 Cheltenham, Birmingham

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO

Oct. 13, 1911. Some excellent specimens of Baldwin apples, large potatoes and splendid corn are on exhibit in C. J. Shan's window.

They are the products of the Lone Oak farm of which Harry Russel is proprietor.

Thomas H. Cobb succeeded after all others had failed in buying the old Poppleton store with 30 feet frontage on Woodward Ave. The deal was closed last week and will be an important event in the growth of Birmingham.

Cobb at one sold 26 feet of his holdings to C. J. Cristy of Detroit, an auto man, who will at once erect a garage, one modern in every respect. It will have a pavement brick front. Unless sold, the corner some day will hold a bank building for the First State Savings Bank.

An old resident of Birmingham was in town recently and was surprised and delighted at the many new homes lately erected on Oak Grove addition which comprises the old Poppleton homestead and the Willets. He says, "A great building boom in Birmingham."

30 YEARS AGO

Oct. 8, 1931. Examples of the work of approximately 50 Oakland County painters, sculptors and handicrafts

workers will go on display in the Community House here today in the first exhibit ever held exclusively for Oakland County artists. The exhibit, which is being sponsored by the Oakland County Federation of Women's Clubs, will continue through Wednesday.

Various phases of character and physical training work sponsored by the Birmingham YMCA were narrated, accompanied by motion pictures when Harold F. Klein, chairman of the boys' work committee presided at the Monday noon program at the local Rotary Club. C. F. Morse Cooke, principal of the Adams Grade School gave a review of the numerous activities of the "Y," pointing out its help to many Birmingham area boys.

Students from many sections of Michigan and from several outside states are enrolled this year at Cranbrook School and the new Kingswood School. Three states and one foreign country are represented in the enrollment at Kingswood while new students to the boys' school were drawn from four different states.

15 YEARS AGO

Oct. 10, 1946. Property owners on E. Lincoln Avenue and the south end of Ann

Talk of the Towns

Betty Chinn, deputy clerk of Beverly Hills, was in a story telling much this week.

She and husband Harold, daughters, Nancy, 18, and Susan, 14, and son Jeff, 6, took a trip this past summer to Virginia.

Always composed Harold announced when they came to a smooth stretch of tumpike that he guessed it was time Nancy took her turn at the wheel.

Now Nancy—as the story goes—was thrilled by the opportunity. Not only was she getting the cherished privilege of piloting the car but also she would be in the front seat—away from the exuberant Jeff.

The quintet stopped at one of the expressway exits, disembarked and stretched their legs.

Came take-off time and one by one they climbed back into the car.

Bubbling Nan zipped behind the wheel with Sue and Mom settled in the front seat.

Car in gear, Nan drove proudly out the exit... only to hear a faint "wait for me" in the background.

Yes, always composed Harold was left behind—

standing alone with his bottle of pop.

A Franklin friend was driving by the new north-west quadrant parking lot recently when it dawned on her that the Bloomfield Art Association and Republican headquarters were gone.

The awakening brought back a memory of her house hunting search in 1939.

The real estate agent, who was doing the driving during that search, explained that he wanted to stop briefly at a home that was scheduled for wrecking the following week.

It was one of the many that gave way to the parking lot now located behind the local branch of Detroit Edison.

The owner had given him the key so that he could pick up some papers left in the house. The salesman parked his car at the site, got out and strolled up the walk, head bent as he sorted through a chain of keys.

Without glancing up, he mounted the steps and reached out to put the key in the lock.

All of a sudden, he jolted with surprise. He was standing on the top step to a lot full of air. The wreckers hadn't waited.

Suburban Sidelights

By HANK HOGAN

After much investigation I found out that the Junior League is not a continuation of the Little League Baseball organization. The revelation was more startling when I met the people now playing for the Junior League.

The heads of the committee for their forthcoming Follies which will be held in the Birmingham Theatre on November 15 and 16, held a promotional luncheon the other day.

If the cast of the Follies measures up to the committee heads, I'm sure both nights will be sell-outs. As a matter of fact, I'd like to see some of them as chorus girls.

I did learn at the luncheon that the organization is not a group of society matrons looking for a way to spend their leisure time, but a hard working team committed to develop new programs for the social betterment of our community.

This year the money which they receive for the Follies will go to a mental health project at Pontiac State Hospital. In the past, they have assisted in the development of things like the child guidance program in Oakland County.

Good luck, gals!

CONTINUING ON with baseball, now that Roger Maris has put his 61st ball into orbit, are we going to be plagued with a double set of records? Commissioner Frick announced that Babe Ruth's record had to be broken in 154 games, since this is all the record had to be broken. Maris took 162 games.

If the record books show two classifications for home runs, shouldn't they also do it for singles, doubles, triples and win-lost records for pitchers?

It seems to this suburbanite that the commissioner is being overly sentimental. In the past when rules have been changed slightly in our nation's pastime, we haven't started new record classifications. Why not?

WHEN I DECIDED to pick up a pen and temporarily lay aside my sword, a veteran of the newspaper profession took me aside and told me, among other things, to view every public official with a "cautious suspicion".

This advice troubled me and set me to thinking on how a citizen should view a public official. Rather than a "cautious suspicion", I decided it should be a "consistent criticism". And I might add, not necessarily negative criticism.

The word suspicion implies that one is a wrongdoer who hasn't been caught, but will be. In my contact with public office-holders I have observed that more bad government comes from lack of ability than dishonesty, or other malfeasance.

Suspicion further implies lack of trust. If the people put a man in office that they have to watch every minute, they can only expect to see some of their rights stolen.

Consistent criticism on the other hand should be telling him when he's right or wrong in a given situation. When he knows he must justify his position, he will act more prudently.

Then again if you look at the number of citizens attending city, village and township board meetings, you soon realize that not many people are either "cautiously suspicious" or in a position to be "consistently able to criticize."

By KEN WEAVER City Beat

Russia will never be a military or industrial menace to the world.

Nor will its development of agriculture ever threaten the markets of other countries.

Speaking before a joint meeting of Birmingham service clubs, Michigan Manufacturers Association Secretary John L. Lovett called Russia "a sea nation with a mere handful of 'smart' politicians in control."

That's what Lovett said right here in Birmingham—back in November, 1931. A news story reviewing his address appeared in the Nov. 5, 1931, issue of The Birmingham Eccentric.

RUSSIA IS, of course, threatening the world today, both militarily and industrially. It has registered great technological advances. It has progressed considerably further in space development than has the United States.

In his 1931 Birmingham speech, Lovett called the Russian an "oriental" and said he "lives and thrives upon mysticism and the occult."

He said 80 per cent of Russia's 165,000,000 people "are serfs or peasants of the most illiterate and ignorant type."

Lovett called the women "the real strength of Russia."

Generations would be required, he stated, to educate and bring Russia up to a position of governmental and economic quality with the great powers of the world.

AFTER DISCUSSING Russia's "five-year" plan and the "real menace of the present or any other form of government" (the peasant class), Lovett declared:

"So, never fear that Russia is getting into an immediate position to threaten the security, either military or economic, of the balance of the world."

"Its present government has started the five-year plan only as a means of removing some of Russia's internal disorders."

The present industrial set-up is very inefficient. Personally, I believe that we should recognize Russia's form of government before the world. We should seek to do business with Russia."

LOVETT FORMED HIS opinions after a trip into Russia's interior in the summer of 1931, to study credit conditions for Michigan manufacturers.

Wonder what his reactions would be were he to journey to Russia today? What would he say of Russia's present five-year plan, of its military and industrial power?

If he were to speak in Birmingham today, what would he say of the future? Of the atom bomb and the hydrogen bomb and the space ships and the prospects of bacteriological warfare?

What would he say of doing business with Russia today?