THE MIDLAND JOURNAL

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY MORNING BY

EWING BROS.

RISING SUN CECIL COUNTY MARYLAND

Entered as Second Class Matter at Post Office in Rising Sun, Maryland Under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879

INDEPENDENT IN POLITICS AND ALL OTHER SUBJECTS

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION

ONE YEAR, IN ADVANCE	$1.50
SIX MONTHS	$1.00
THREE MONTHS	.50

SINGLE COPY, 3 CENTS

ADVERTISING RATES FURNISHED ON APPLICATION

Foreign Advertising Representative THE AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION | Foreign Advertising Representative THE AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION

FRIDAY, SEPT. 8, 1939

BACK TO SCHOOL

This week the public schools of our county reopened, and the impression gained by the ordinary observer was that Shakespear's picture of "the whining school-boy, with his satchel and shining face, creeping like a snail unwillingly to school," might very readily be revised. For, in the main, young American seemed rather glad to get back to the old school.

Vacation days have been long enough; old companions are calling; there is curiosity about the new room, or the new teacher. Certainly nothing specialily rebellious or even reluctant is to be noted in our young student's demeanor as, spic and span, he joins the throngs that respond to the bell.

The story of the public school is a veritable American epic. What would the founders of the Nation think of this colossal and splendid development? George Washington's first teacher was an old slave named Hobby. The Father of his country probably learned to read from one of the old-fashioned hornbooks, which consisted of a scrap of parchment nailed to a block of wood and covered with a sheet of transparent horn. Imagine the youthful George looking in on a modern schoolroom so marvelous in furnishings and equipment.

More than a hundred years ago, and born in the same year, 1837, Horace Mann and Henry Barnard began the work that lifted the little pioneer schools of the United States from proverty and insignificance to their present position of honor. Surely men of this stamp should be memorialized in painting and statuary, at least equally with generals on prancing horses, or soldiers carrying guns.

Years ago, a United State Ambassador, Joseph Choate, declared before the professors of a British university, "Education has been the chief industry of the United States." The exaggeration is a pardonable one, in view of the facts. In that essential "industry" the public school is and has been a major, vital, indispensable factor.

As for Johnnie in his new suit, on his way to see his new teacher—why, as he skips along the street, we doff our hats, click our heels, and salute him as the hope of democracy.

CAN WE KEEP OUT OF WAR

Strong is the hope of the American people that we will not again become involved in a European war. Not so strong, judging by standard public opinion polls, is the faith that we will be able to keep neutral. A very considerable segment of the population believes that we would eventually go to the aid of the European democracies if they were forced to wage war against the dictatorships—at least, if the war went on for some length of time and the dictatorships seemed to have the advantage.

And so the United States is preparing for war—and this preparedness does not only involve the largest military expenditures in our peace-time history. Also involved is a plan for "M Day" (Mobilization Day), prepared largely by military officials, which, on the outbreak of hostilities, would have an immediate and drastic effect on every individual and every business in the land.

It seems to be generally agreed that Congress' worst sin of omission was its failure to amend the National Labor Relations Act.

No Act, in spite of its occasional good points, has done more to promote industrial strife, to encourage labor racketeering, and to damage the interests of the honest working man, union members or non-union member.

Business continues to look up in many lines. Nothing comparable to a boom is in evidence, but the slow and steady improvement that set in some time back is continuing. General forecast is that there will be a substantial fall upturn. Important factor is a change in feeling on the part of some industrial leaders.

It costs $9 every minute thruout the year for our Comptroller of Currency to supervise our five thousand national banks.

The City of New York gives away a hundred free emergency lunches in its municipal schools—in just one minute.

A CURE FOR "BACK-SEAT DRIVING"

J. E. Jones

At last something is being done about the "back-seat driver."

Dr. Andrew H. Ryan, of Chicago, who has been conducting tests for many months, suggests that "back-seat driving" may be the result of faulty vision of passengers caused by the distortions of ordinary laminated window glass known as safety sheet when used in automobiles. Sheet glass distortion produces much the same effect as the refractive errors of vision caused by astigmatism, he says.

"The ability to judge distance, as measured by the standard depth perception test for aviators, was greatly impaired when a piece of safety sheet glass was placed in the subject's line of vision," Dr. Ryan explains. "The average error when looking through moving safety glass was only 2.75 centimeters; the average error through safety sheet held in a stationary position, 14.63 centimeters, an increase of 432 per cent. This shows that passengers looking through side windows of saftey sheet cannot clearly distinguish the proximity of objects outside the car, a factor which unquestionably contributes to the prevalence of the back-seat driver." Resulting from Dr. Ryan's investigations, it has just been announced that a new, stronger safety plate glass will be used in the 1940 General Motors cars. And though it may not eradicate entirely the "back-seat driver" plague, there are promised other very worthwhile benefits.

These are evidenced by findings of the noted physiologist, which disclose that looking through safety sheet glass as compared to safety plate causes motorists 62 per cent greater eye fatigue; 140 per cent more headaches; 100 per cent increase in eye discomforts of various descriptions; and a 17 per cent increase in the symptoms of tiredness and sleepiness; and a 13 per cent decrease in reading of road signs.

Dr. Ryan's experiments and their results—a cooperative effort on the part of the Fisher Body Division of General Motors and Libbey-Owens-Ford Glass Company—"mark another forward steps by two distinct factors in the automobile industry, working together to increase both the pleasure and security of modern motoring," the New York Times comments editorially. "This is the kind of industrial cooperation which has brought American leadership."

* * * *

The Dies Investigation

The House Committee on un-American activities has undertaken an investigation of enemies within our gates. But, unfortunately, it is doing a very poor job. There is the silliest lot of testimony being heard, and the greatest amount of controversy over trivial things. Important matters are aired for a day or two and then the investigation goes into a dribble of words which compete with Little Orphan Annie.

Surely there are enough anti-American movements being supported by European and Asiatic groups that should be traced to their origin and punished. That would appear to be the real responsibility of the Dies Committee to the people of the country.

* * * *

The Labor Board

Many unfavorable court decisions appear to have been responsible for modifying some of the policies of the Nation Labor Relations Board, that have been denounced as discrimination by the A. F. of L.—unfair by employers.

Henry Ford refuses to obey an order of the Board to re-employ a number of men on the grounds that the decision of the Board denies him, and the Ford company, the right to state their views to employes and the public. Ford's position is that this is an abridgement of free speech.

Well informed authorities believe that the Board will lose in the higher Courte.

Modern version: Let me live in a house by the side of the road and sell rugs, crockery, cider and hot dogs to man.

The United States imports 50 pounds of cashew nuts—every time a minute goes by.

WAGES OF WORKERS OVER 65 YEARS OF AGE

More than 2,756 men and women in Maryland who reached age 65 during the 1937, 1938, and 1939, after working for sometime in jobs covered by old-age insurance provisions, have received lump-sum payments from the Social Security Board. Despite the fact that they have already received such lump-sum payments, some of them can claim monthly benefits under the amended Social Security Act. Others not entitled to monthly benefits, by continuing to work, may become eligible later on. This statement was made today by Luther Becker, manager of the field office of the Social Security Board, who said that every effort is being made to inform workers 65 years of age or over that they still have a chance to qualify for monthly benefits. In no case will such benefits amount to less than $10 per month; and once qualified, these older insured workers may receive regular benefit payments every month for the rest of their lives.

Special consideration for older men and women is manifested in the provision which enables a worker to extend his wage record beyond his 65th birthday and thereby add a little each month to his retirement benefits.

"In other words," said Mr. Becker "the clause in the original law which excluded a worker after age 65 has been cancelled. Under the revised act, a worker may continue adding to his wage record, year after year, as long as he keeps his job with an industrial or commercial concern. Now (beginning January 1, 1939) commercial and industrial workers, even though they are 65 years old and have received lump-sum payments, are permitted to re-enter the system and again avail themselves of the financial protection of Government old-age insurance."

In explaining changes in the act regarding elderly workers, Mr. Becker used this illustration: An insured worker who reached age 65 January 1, 1938, filed claim for payment of benefits; received his one check from the Social Security Board; kept his same job through 1938; and continues in such employment this year and next. His wages during 1937, 1938 and 1940 will be credited to his social security account, but his employment during 1938 (after he reached age 65) will not count toward monthly benefits because at that time employment after age 65 was not covered by old-age insurance. A clause in the new law makes it possible for him to receive credit for wages paid to him in covered employment after January 1, 1939, whether he works one month or twenty years after his 65th birthday. And the longer he works the greater his retirement benefits will become.

Definition

The federal alcohol administration defines beer as a malt beverage produced by bottom fermentation possessing the characteristic flavor and aroma distinctive of beer and containing not less than one-half of 1 per cent of alcohol by volume. The administration defines ale as a malt beverage produced by top fermentation, possessing the characteristic flavor and aroma of ale, having an original gravity of not less than 13.50 balling, containing not less than 5 per cent of alcohol by volume and of light color.

Force Defined

A force is something which causes the velocity of a body to change in the direction in which the force is directed. A force applied to a motionless body causes it to start moving. Applied to a moving body, it speeds it up, slows it down, or changes its direction. Until it is subjected to a force a motionless body will remain motionless and a moving body will continue to move at unvarying speed to the end of space.

America's 'Discovery'

America in all probability was "discovered" a great many times before European history made any definite record of the fact. A Norse sea captain, one Herjulfson, was blown out of his course while taking a load of colonists to Greenland in 986 A. D., and sighted the coasts of Newfoundland and Labrador. He did not land, but his story moved Leif Erickson to investigate, and Leif, in 1001 A. D., visited Nova Scotia, New England and probably lands farther south. But none of the discoveries really "took" until that of Columbus, October 12, 1492.

THE COST OF DISTRIBUTION

If prices are to be lowered, it must be done in the field of distribution. That is the gist of a sweeping study of retail costs by the Twentieth-Century Fund—a study which took two years to prepare, and has recently been published.

The fund found that out of every dollar spent for finished goods in 1929—the year in which sales were largest—59 cents represented the cost of distribution.

And in many specific cases distributing costs are always excessively high. In many instances they are not. But it does mean that increased efficiency and economy in distribution is the key to easing the average family's budget problem.

High Cost Cuts Into Dope Use

Waning Trade of Peddlers Is Announced by U. S. Special Agents.

WASHINGTON. — The peddler's price for narcotics is up; and federal agents see signs that their tightening grip is cutting off the traffic in habit-forming drugs.

High prices for illicit drugs, said Narcotics Commissioner Harry J. Anslinger, indicate the effectiveness of agents in stopping the supply.

Shortly after April raids in Kansas City resulted in 58 indictments, he related, narcotics became so scarce on the West coast that robberies of drug stores and forgery of doctors' prescriptions increased. Anslinger declared:

"Our prosecution in Kansas City appears to have cut off an important source of supply for the distributors. The price of morphine in San Francisco has more than doubled. The dealers and their customers must be desperate if they are resorting to robbery and forgery."

Arrests East, Too.

Another sign of the tighter blockade on narcotics, he asserted, was the attempt of oriental producers to slip narcotics into America on the East coast. Thus they sought to get around thousands of guards watching the West coast.

An arrest in Norfolk, Va., disclosed an attempt to ship opium in barrels of vegetable oil via Seattle to Norfolk. The treasury's narcotics informants, scattered around the world, had tipped off the shipment. When the barrels reached Norfolk, they were put under a fluroscope. Like an X-ray it showed the secret containers inside.

About 10,000 coast guardsmen and 750 customs agents work with the 250 narcotics agents in the treasury's fight against the evil.

Japs Use More Dope.

Meanwhile, a world-wide survey showed, Anslinger said, that while the law's effectiveness against the narcotics traffic had increased in most nations, widespread drug-addiction was reported among Japanese soldiers in conquered portions of China.

This was the information Anslinger brought back from a meeting of the opium advisory committee of the league of nations. For diplomatic reasons, the federal men will not give their own opinions of Japan's part in the narcotics problem. But the league group, which Japan boycotted this year, has charged the oriental nation with promoting narcotics distribution among the Chinese to weaken their resistance.

Business Head Keeps at His Job in 91st Year

CHARDON, OHIO. — Arthur L. Johnson, 91, believed to be the oldest active business man in this section, still is going strong, working at his office desk every day.

When Johnson was 66, the age many men decide to sit back and watch the world, he opened an office and warehouse for sale of fertilizer and farm machinery.

He never has worn glasses. He is hale and hearty, his face unwrinkled. He looks only about 60.

"The old man with the scythe hasn't seemed to be able to make any inroads on me," Johnson said. "Perhaps it's because I keep continually active."

The biggest laugh he has had in years was occasioned when an insurance agent tried to write him a policy, believing he was about 60.

Johnson, who was a farmer until he opened his present business, is looking forward to his regular activity nine years hence—when he starts his 100th year.

Campus Paddles Made To Pay College Expenses

CEDAR FALLS, IOWA.—Norris Pritchard worked part of his way through Iowa State Teachers college with paddles, and now his brother James is carrying on.

When he started to school four years ago, Norris hit upon the idea of making and selling fancy paddles to fraternity and sorority members. He also made Greek letter sport pins. His lathing tools and other equipment cost $35.

The business prospered and when James entered college he joined the enterprise. Last year they sold 110 paddles and 150 sport pins, enough to pay about half of their college expenses.

With Norris graduating, James plans to continue the business next year.

College Graduate Proves Study Pays in Dividends

CLARKSDALE, MISS. — When George M. Harris, Winona, Miss., was graduated from college he told his father:

"Don't give me a $1,000 automobile—just give me that Hereford bull over there."

His statement has the tang of Grimm's Fairy Tales, but young Harris knew what he was doing. He had studied animal husbandry.

His bull, Milky Way Anxiety GIII by name, carried off the first prize ribbon at the Northwest Mississippi Fair and Horse show.

ALMANAC

"Elbow grease gives the best polish."

SEPTEMBER

10—Gen. Burnside occupied the city of Nashville, 1863.

11—1,200 lives lost in hurricane in British Honduras, 1931.

12—The steamer "Central America" sunk, 1857.

13—Patent was issued to Goodwin for sensitized film, 1898.

14—Benjamin Franklin was appointed minister to France, 1778.

15—The first war tanks were used by the British, 1916.

16—James J. Hill, American railroad builder, born, 1838.

Cabinet Makers' Work From Cradle to Coffin

The scope covered by the work of Chester county, Pa., cabinet makers was literally from the cradle to the coffin. The daybooks are filled with orders for these two articles, which with that other symbol of man's recumbency, the bed, seems to have been the most popular furniture of the day. In between, of course, were the various articles which a man used and from which he drew a large measure of comfort during his earthly existence, writes David Stockwell in "American Collector." There were chairs, tables for dining and other purposes, chests of drawers for storing his clothes, desks for his accounts and letters, tall clocks to measure the passing of time, and sundry items that filled the home of the Eighteenth and early Nineteenth centuries. All these were made, and made well, by the cabinet makers of Chester county.

According to the records, however, it was late in the Eighteenth century before any craftsman of this section actually styled himself cabinet maker. The reason is not far to seek if one remembers that Chester county had no large centers of population at the time.

There was no courthouse in Goshen and the town of West Chester was not only unincorporated, but consisted of a little group of houses at a crossroads known as Turk's Head. Through the hills and hollows of the county, every township, hamlet or tiny cluster of houses had its own group of artisans. These were a cobbler, a tailor, a potter, a wheelwright, a joyner, a whitesmith, a blacksmith, and possibly, if the farmers were prosperous enough, a silversmith and a cabinet maker.

Washington Still a Forest When First Congress Met

Washington still was just a forest on the Potomac "some place between the mouths of the Eastern Branch and the Connogocheague." The United States was a government on paper. It had a Constitution, freshly ratified, writes Robert C. Albright in the Washington Post. It lacked a President, a legislature and a judiciary, all duly provided in aforesaid document.

In New York a small group of perplexed gentlemen impatiently were trying to muster a quorum for the first congress under that Constitution. The quorum wouldn't muster. It looked as though it never would. It was in fact, March 4, 1789, a sizeable span back across the arc of years that have since linked 75 congresses in unbroken progression and cemented a loose confederation into a power among nations.

But the gray dawn of that day in 1789 was not an auspicious start for a daring young government. Faint words penned into a faded old journal tell the story of that first meeting of the first congress.

"The number not being sufficient to constitute a quorum, they adjourned from day to day—"

Out of 22 elected senators only 8 were present. Of 59 representatives but 14 were on hand. From "day to day" stretched into weeks. It was 27 days before the house could count a quorum. It was another six days before the senate could proceed.

Canada's Status

Canada, like Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, is a self-governing part of the British empire or Commonwealth of Nations. She pays no taxes to the mother country and is not bound to render her military help in time of war. Her governor-general is appointed by the king on the advice of the Canadian ministry, and has a theoretical veto power over legislation. The supreme judicial authority of the British empire is the judicial committee of the Privy council in London, before which appeals may be brought (in the form of a petition to the crown) from consular courts and courts of vice-admiralty and from the courts of India and every British dominion. India has a limited amount of self-government with two native legislative chambers. Other portions of the empire consist of crown colonies and protectorates.

Young Belgian Bachelors Can Choose Wives Here

"Object: Matrimony." That is the sign which might well be hung over the dinner table in Ecaussines, Belgium, when the young ladies of the town give their annual banquet for bachelors. It occurs every Whit-Monday, usually in May, and its fame has spread far from the little village, which lies about 25 miles south of Brussels. Marriageable gentlemen come from far and near to enjoy the hospitality of the maidens, and during the course of the festival are expected to study their hostesses carefully with a view to what kind of wives they would make.

If the food is to a man's liking, and the young lady who cooked it sufficienty affable and pretty, the chances are that a marriage will follow shortly. Of course, she too must be willing, but since all the girls who take part in the fete are anxious to settle down and raise a family, they are not inclined to be over-finicky. They entertain their guests in various ways with dancing, conversation, and general merriment, but making the most of their ability to keep the masculine palate satisfied with good things to eat.

The food served at the dinner is prepared with all the skill of the finest Belgian cookery. It has been said of the culinary art in Belgium that it is "like the best French cooking, only more of it." Thackeray, writing nearly a century ago, tells of an ordinary Belgian hotel meal which included: "Pea soup, melon, boiled salmon, carp stewed in mushrooms, roast turkey, buttered cauliflower, fillets of venison, roast veal, roast lamb, rice pudding, Gryere cheese, and about 24 kinds of cake." Menus are equally elaborate today, with the addition of dozens of "hors d'oeuvres" to be sampled before the meal proper; and whether or not the bachelors who go to Ecaussines all get wives, they are all sure of a repast fit for royalty.

Streamlining Furnishes Strength Without Weight

Everything is being "streamlined" nowadays, and the automobile was one of the leaders several years ago, yet in the case of the car "strengthlined" would be the more appropriate term.

The smooth lines of the automobile are nice to look at, and carry an easy suggestion of frictionless motion, yet in actual fact, the chief purpose of the gentle curves is to furnish strength without weight. The motive is exactly the same as that behind the stupendous swooping lines of the great steel bridges from Brooklyn to San Francisco bay.

Smoothing the exterior of the automobile has little perceptible effect on air resistance until very high speeds are attained, and several changes would be made in today's car designs if reduction of wind resistance were the primary engineering objective.

On the other hand it would take hundreds of pounds of added reinforcement to make a square-built vehicle as strong and rattleproof as the modern car. Keeping the weight down makes the car more efficient and economical at all speeds.

The Shield-Back Chair

The most graceful furniture produced in England in the late Eighteenth century came from the shops of George Hepplewhite, master craftsman. He improved and perfected the shield-back chair and relied on graceful curved outlines for much of the beauty he put into his furniture. He used mahogany wood and inlaid it with exquisite and rare woods. Hepplewhite also produced oval and heart-shaped backs. Some of these chair backs follow the shape of a Grecian vase, others the lyre shape. Ears of wheat were cleverly carved to form the decorative motif inside the oval frame of chair backs. He used the "Prince of Wales Feathers" as a decorative motif, probably originating it for furniture made by him for the then prince of Wales, who later became King George IV.

French Boat Clubs

Enthusiasm for inland water touring along the rivers and canals of France has developed so rapidly that three of the large boating clubs of France, the Kayak club, the Canoe club and the French Federation for Canoes, have published guides in three languages, giving full information as to each river, and including 32 maps, given free upon request to the French government tourist bureau or through the Touring Club of France, Foreign membership in these boating clubs are available at a very reasonable fee. The most practicable boat for water touring is a folding kayak with fore and aft canvas decks under which are roomy, water-tight compartments for baggage. Open canoes are also popular, which like the kayaks, are often equipped with easy-de-masting sail arrangements.

Trees Used as Landmarks

Primitive man, traveling largely by foot, often found need of signs or markers. Tribes inhabiting forested regions knew that trees could be used as reliable landmarks; hence a system was developed whereby young trees were bent and secured in position so that the direction of the bend indicated the direction of the route.