EDITORIALS

Happy Birthday

Next week, Tuesday, July 4, the United States of America will be observing its 196th birthday. In observance of this day, we will not wave the flag or utter patriotic slogans, but instead we shall let the nation speak for herself.

"I was born on July 4, 1776, and the Declaration of Independence is my birth certificate. The bloodlines of the world run in my veins, because I offered freedom to the oppressed. I am many things, and many people, I am a nation.

"I am 200,000,000 living souls – and the ghost of millions who have lived and died for me.

"I am Nathan Hale and Paul Revere. I stood at Lexington and Concord and fired the shot heard round the world. I am Washington, Jefferson and Patrick Henry. I am John Paul Jones, the Green Mountain Boys and Davy Crockett. I am Lee and Grant and Abe Lincoln.

"I am the Brooklyn Bridge, the sand plains of northern Michigan and the granite hills of Vermont and the forests and gently flowing rivers and streams of northern New York. I am the coalfields of West Virginia and the fertile prairies of Kansas. I am Independence Hall, a county courthouse, the Monitor and the Merrimac.

"I am big. I sprawl from Lake Superior to the Gulf . . . my arms reach out to embrace Alaska and Hawaii . . . 3 million square miles throbbing with industry. I am more than 3 million farms. I am forest, field, mountain and desert. I am sleepy villages and cities that never sleep.

"You can look at me and see Ben Franklin walking down the streets of Philadelphia with his breadloaf under his arm. You can see Betsy Ross with her needle. You can see the lights of Christmas, and hear the strains of "Auld Lang Syne as the calendar turns.

"I am Babe Ruth and the World Series. I am 130,000 schools and colleges, and 326,000 churches where my people worship God as they think best. I am a ballot dropped in a box, the roar of a crowd in a stadium and the voice of a choir in a cathedral. I am an editorial in a newspaper and a letter to a Congressman.

"I am Eli Whitney and Stephen Foster. I am Tom Edison, Albert Einstein, Jonas Salk, John Brown, Martin Luther King, Robert Kennedy and Billy Graham. I am Horace Greeley, Will Rogers and the Wright brothers. I am George Washington Carver, Daniel Webster and Ralph Nader.

"I am Longfellow, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Walt Whitman and Thomas Paine.

"Yes, I am a nation, and these are the things that I am. I was conceived in freedom and, God willing, in freedom I will spend the rest of my days.

"May I possess always the integrity, the courage, and the strength to keep myself unshackled, to remain a citadel of freedom and a beacon of help to the world.

"And though my ensign is often tattered and spat upon may it continue to fly and may I continue to be a home for and tolerant of those who think I am despicable, for they are a part of me too." – Michael J. Blair

Merchants of hate . . .

Recently, we were appalled by a story that had been circulated about the country by certain opponents of Senator George McGovern, the leading contender for the Democratic presidential nomination. We are speaking, of course, of the story apparently fabricated by the right wing extremist John Birch Society and furthered by New Hampshire newspaper king, William Loeb, about Senator McGovern being reprimanded for cowardice during World War II.

We are long familiar with the merchants of hate of the John Birch Society; they have shown themselves at their ugliest worst too many times. We recall the reference made to Dwight Eisenhower's lack of patriotism and such other vilification.

This newspaper and its editor are not fond of the candidacy of Senator McGovern, but this sort of vicious attack is altogether out of line and has no place whatever in American politics – or, perhaps we should say it should not have a place. There are those among the merchants of hate who obviously feel otherwise.

This sort of attack is all too common in the United States. During the 1960 Democratic National Convention, where John F. Kennedy was nominated for the Presidency, the forces behind candidate Lyndon B. Johnson suggested that JFK was "diseased and not fit to be President of the United States." In 1964, similar merchants of hate came up with the equally ridiculous story that Senator Barry Goldwater was too emotionally unstable to be President.

Locally, we see the same thing happening on a smaller scale with disgusting frequency. We were recently told by a former candidate for public office that a story was once circulated about him to the effect that he had stolen money from a civic organization's sports fund, a complete lie.

Merchants of hate seem to be everywhere. Usually, their fabrications and lies do not stand up under the light of day, which was the fate of those about Senator McGovern and the late President Eisenhower. Others, however, are not so easily defeated. Those told on a smaller scale in a whispering campaign are sometimes never heard by the individual who is the target, but the damage they do to the individual sometimes can never be repaired.

Favorite attacks of the merchants of hate, who are unable to come up with anything true about those they wish to destory, include completely false tales about the individual's mental stability, sex life and honesty. Like in the case of Goldwater, when it was suggested that he was emotionally unfit to be President the stigma remained with him throughout the campaign. Rumors never completely ceased about the "diseased" John F. Kennedy. And how many public officials or figures have been damaged beyond repair by lies about illicit sexual affairs, perversions, etc.?

There should be no place in American society for the merchants of hate. They are the lowest, most vile creatures known to decent men. Wherever they are, they should be seen for what they are and exposed for what they are.

Our country, our state and our county has enough problems as it is, without such filth peddlers. – Michael J. Blair

Room with a view

On the outskirts of Rome, under the warm, sunny skies there's a room with a view. As a matter of fact, there are many rooms, but the view is anything but bright.

In one of the rooms there's a 24 year old girl from the United States. She had been in Rome for three days when she was arrested for possession of drugs. She wasn't carrying anything, but it was found by the police in an apartment she was visiting.

This young woman will wait in her cell six to ten months for trial. It's the law. She doesn't have a chance for bail. There is none. No one can get her out. That's the law, too. And if she's found guilty she faces a minimum of three years and a heavy fine.

In that same prison, there are other United States citizens, arrested on drug charges, and the view is the same for them.

In Spain, there's a veteran from Michigan and a second grade teacher from New York, both serving time. Overseas, you can add up a total of more than 1,000 Americans who have been arrested, tried and found guilty on drug charges.

For some of them, it was a collision course. Here, in the States, they smoked grass. Others used chemicals. Still others were engaged in trafficking. For some, it was a dare; something they hadn't done before. So, why not? And, for the most part, most of them thought that in Europe, the Far East or south of our border, the laws weren't tough. Or even if they were, the enforcement wasn't as rigid as it is here.

They were wrong. Drug laws overseas are tough. And they're enforced. To the letter. This is by no means an indictment of their judicial system. We can't, and shouldn't, expect them to be the same as they are in this country.

If you're traveling to a foreign country this summer, be sure you know the laws of that country. Understand their interpretation and rights you have as a citizen of this country, and how those rights apply overseas.

To see Europe and the heritage and history that preceded us is a rare and special opportunity. It shouldn't be abused.

Above all, be sure that you end up in a room with the right kind of view.

At The Movies . . .

This week at the Town Hall Theatre – Friday through Monday, June 30 – July 3 – "The Cowboys." John Wayne and 11 young boys star in "The Cowboys," which depicts an ardous 400-mile cattle drive across some of the roughest country in the West. The exciting feature is a Mark Rydell film in Technicolor and Panavision from a screenplay by Irving Ravetch and Harriet Frank, Jr., and William Dale Jennings. A most delightful film, with John Wayne at his best. Rated GP. One show each night at 8 p.m., feature at 8:15 p.m.

Like Now

by Terry Oakes

By winning the New York primary, Senator George McGovern has increased his delegate strength to about 1,300 of the 1,509 needed to be nominated at the Democratic Convention next month in Miami Beach. This puts McGovern far ahead of second place Hubert Humphrey, who has 383 delegates; George Wallace with 371; and Muskie at 228. With only a handful of delegates remaining to be chosen, the big question now is: can George McGovern acquire 200 more votes and win nomination?

Many political experts feel that it is too late to stop the Senator from South Dakota. According to them, McGovern has the nomination sewed up and now must concentrate on the November election. On the other hand, there are those who say that McGovern can never be nominated by the Democratic Party. In their opinion, the South Dakotan's radical positions on great issues of the day would bring havoc to the party. The Democrats would be so deeply wounded and divided that they would go down to a defeat in November that would be catastrophic in proportions, not unlike the Goldwater defeat in 1964. These same political observers point out that before the primary in New York, Senator McGovern had garnered only 30% of the total number of votes cast in Democratic primaries this year. To them, it is highly improbable that the Democratic Convention would nominate a man who would be so disasterous to the future of the party.

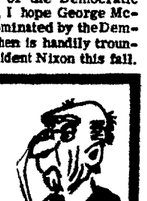
If George McGovern should not receive the nomination next month, who will? There is no answer to this complex question. But the possibilities are many and varied.

It is almost safe to assume that the convention hall will not turn to Hubert Humphrey. He represents too much of the past and has already lost once to Richard Nixon in 1968. It is equally safe to count out George Wallace. Even if his views were acceptable to the Democratic party, it is hard to imagine a man waging an effective Presidential campaign from a wheelchair. This brings us to Edmund Muskie. A deadlocked convention hall could very possibly see in the Maine Senator a force for unity and settle on him for the nominee. Evidently, Muskie himself views this theory as a strong possibility because in recent weeks he has revived his lagging campaign and even put in an appearance in this state just before the primary.

As in any Presidential election year, one cannot overlook the possibility of a Kennedy candidacy. Senator Edward Kennedy has declared his non-candidacy often enough to lead some people to believe that should McGovern be denied the party title, his backers would turn to Kennedy who has always been their natural leader. And it would be presumptuous to exclude Wilbur Mills and Scoop Jackson from any political forecasting. In the event of an extremely long, deadlocked convention, these two dark horses are very powerful and stand a good chance for nominations.

Whatever the outdome of the National Convention in July, the Democratic nominee must unite the party if he is to defeat Mr. Nixon in November. Otherwise the Democrats will go down as Goldwater brought the Republicans down in '64. Perhaps if McGovern did lose in November, it would put an end to the liberal faction of the Democratic party. If so, I hope George McGovern is nominated by the Democrats and then is handily trounced by President Nixon this fall.

Dear Uncle Elmer



Dear Uncle Elmer: Don't you think that if Senator Kennedy runs for Vice-President it will help to bridge the generation gap? Wilton

Dear Wilton: Not necessarily, the Senator has had difficulty bridging in the past. Uncle Elmer

Dear Uncle Elmer: Will 50 outside toilets be sufficient for the rock festival?

Dear Tony: Probably. No doubt many will take their own pot. Uncle Elmer

Dear Uncle Elmer: Well, with New York's primary in his pocket, Senator McGovern is just a few steps away from the nomination. Oslow

Dear Oslow: That's right, and when he gets it he will be a few steps from defeat in November. Uncle Elmer

Dear Uncle Elmer: My wife is always buying new dresses. I just can't believe how high some of the prices are. Delbert

Dear Delbert: I can't believe how high some of the hems are. Uncle Elmer

Dear Uncle Elmer: What is your opinion of the SALT arms treaty? Ken

Dear Ken: Okay, I guess. I just hope we don't get SALT and peppered, too. Uncle Elmer

Dear Uncle Elmer: I am helping the authorities prepare the necessary signs and posters for the rock festival. Can you offer any suggestions? Watson

Dear Watson: Yes, I can. How about "Keep Off The Grass"? Uncle Elmer

Quotable Quotes

"What's the good of a home if you are never in it?" Walter Weedon Grossman

"If a man did not feel like becoming a socialist at twenty, he had no heart, and if he did not turn into a conservative at forty, he had no mind." – George Bernard Shaw

"For he who fights and runs away may live to fight another day; but he who is in battle slain can never rise and fight again." – Oliver Goldsmith

"All the world over, I will back the masses against the classes." – William Ewart Gladstone

"Wisdom denotes the pursuing of the best ends by the best means." – Francis Hutcheson

FROM OUR READERS . . .

Editor, Journal and Republican:

I would like to set the record straight on two points in Rev. Salmon's recent letter. With respect to parental permission for students to view the movie in question, he states "As it turned out, parental approval was required . . .". This permission was twice denied parents in the district by Board action. At the very last minute the Board took a telephone poll and reversed itself. There was barely enough time to reproduce forms and get them into the students hands the day before the showing. This indicates, I think, that because of pressures, or whatever, the Board felt the need to re-examine its position. It was not, as Rev. Salmon seems to imply, that if was a foregone conclusion and in the works all along.

The second point I would like to correct is that regarding objectivity in the South Lewis drug program. Rev. Salmon seems to think that the program here consists of having policemen in several times a year to expound their views. The good father here did not do his homework. There are many films, sound film strips and text film strips that are used throughout the year by teachers in the district which present several differing viewpoints concerning the drug problem. The police presentation is only one small part of the entire program. It is true that we do not hire drug addicts to present their pitch. But we do attempt to present many viewpoints. Which also points out that in any controversial subject there are usually many points of view, not one or two and that good education mandates that as many sides as possible be presented. – Sincerely, Louis Mihalyi.

Analysis and Comment

"Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. I'm Fred Flapjaw in Philadelphia, and Transcolonial Broadcasting Co. now brings you Both Sides of the News.

"The nation, as you know, has been rocked by the arrest of the brave young Britisher, Maj. John Andre, who seemed to have had some plans to West Point in his boot. There has been a second sensation in the sudden departure from his post of Gen. Benedict Arnold, commander of the West Point garrison.

"We take you now to TBC correspondent Hank Tudor at West Point.

"Thank you, Fred. I have Gen. Washington here. Gen. Washington, what do you think of Gen. Arnold's so-far unexplained —."

"Why, that damned, gold-greedy, double-crossing, back-stabbing poltroon . . ."

"Thank You, General. I'm afraid that's all the time we have. This is Hank Tudor turning you back to Fred Flapjaw."

"Thank You, Hank. We are fortunate to have three of our experts here in the studio – Sam Stiletto, Everette Eyebrow and Dirk Smirk – to analyze Gen. Washington's remarks. Everette?"

"I thought the use of the word 'damned' on such a distinguished soldier as Gen. Arnold indicated that Gen. Washington was overwrought. But, of course, the war – let's say – has not been going well, eh, Sam?"

"Right, Ev. I mean these are dangerous times and cool heads are needed and in the last couple of days – well, one shouldn't use the term 'irrational' concerning Gen. Washington, but . . ."

"Thank you, Sam, Everette and Dirk. And now we take you to Ronald Redcoat at British headquarters in New York, where he has an exclusive interview set up with Gen. Arnold. Ronald?"

"Thanks, Fred. Gen. Arnold, what do you have to say for yourself?"

"Well, I . . . ah . . ."

"Are you saying that you are tired of the slaughter of American boys and took this action in an effort to return them quickly to their loved ones?"

"Yeah, that's it."

"Am I correct that you take the position that instead of fleeing for your life you were really riding for peace?"

"You got it, boy, you got it!"

"This is Ron Redcoat in New York returning you to Fred Flapjaw."

"We have here in our studio Peter Pigeon, the distinguished attorney, who has some grave doubts about the treatment of the handsome and talented young British officer, Maj. Andre. Mr. Pigeon?"

"Justice-loving Americans are hanging their heads in shame, Fred, at the spectacle of a fine youth being stopped on the high road by a group of guerrillas out of uniform. He was searched, without a warrant, questioned without his attorney present, imprisoned without habeas corpus and condemned to death without a jury. We are demanding that Maj. Andre and the papers stolen from him be sent on immediately to Sir. Henry Clinton in New York, together with an indemnity of 10,000 sovereigns in gold."

"Thank you, Peter Pigeon. And now for our final item we go to Windsor Hanover on the campus of Harvard University. Take it, Win."

"Right on, Fred. Well, folks, we're in luck. Just as our camera crew reached the campus we happened on a joint demonstration of the Christians Concerned About Conscription Society, the Hell No We Won't Go Club and the Freedom for What Association. They have just burnt Massachusetts Hall.

"We can't turn the camera on many of the signs, but I can read you some – 'George the Hatchet Man,' 'Washington, the Sneak of Trenton,' 'Down With the Butcher of White Plains,' 'Out! the Virginia Aristocrat.' The crowd has torn up a number of striped flags and is chanting 'Free John Andre' and 'Yea, Arnold!'

"Well, ladies and gentlemen, like them or not here's Young America on the march. Back to you, Fred Flapjaw."

"Thank you, Windsor Hanover. Folks, our time is up. I just want to leave you with one thought. He who ignores the demands of youth is out of touch with the future of America. This is Fred Flapjaw saying good night for Both Sides of the News." – Jenkins Lloyd Jones, The Washington Star

Editor's Note: The above article, "Tailored The News To Fit Views," from The Washington Star was inserted in the Congressional Record by Sen. Hugh Scott, R., Pa., U.S. Senate Minority Leader.

The population explosion is a fallacy created by a society unwilling to face up to its social responsibilities, author and radio and television personality Malcolm Muggeridge told a meeting organized by Pro Fide of Scotland.

"The contemporary superstition on which future historians will fasten with most glee and contumely, I feel sure, is the so-called population explosion."

This notion, he said, has in a short space of time been widely accepted as sacrosanct.

"It is simply not true that our earth is overcrowded: as of now or in the measureable future. On the contrary, the problem of over-production is a much more pressing one."

Muggeridge said that the whole population of the world could, with some discomfort, stand up on the Isle of Wright, which has an area of 147 square miles. The world population is about 3.7 billion.

"Nor is it true that world production of food and other necessities is falling behind population growth. On the contrary, the problem is one of overproduction and distribution."

Commenting on contraceptives, Muggeridge said:

"The depraved bourgeoisie of the West export, along with the pill, their own depravity to their like in the East, producing the same consequences there in the shame of promiscuity and attendant ills as at home. It would seem clear that in this matter Christians face one of the great crises – perhaps the greatest in all their history."

The population explosion, he said, is the creation of a particular group of people who have given it such credulity that it is treated almost religiously.

Earlier, Muggeridge addressed the congregation of St. Thomas Anglican church, Edinburgh. He said that because men are trying to live without God today the affluent technocracies are "being swept along by two disastrous currents of megalomania and erotomania."

Muggeridge's lecture at St. Thomas' was one of a series being presented at the church under the title of "The Christian Answer."

"Erotomania," Muggeridge said, "hangs like a particularly obnoxious form of smog over public entertainment, arts and letters, especially over what we call the media, the whole communications industry. Not even the Corinthians, about whom the Apostle Paul wrote so bluntly, were as obsessed by the erotic as is our society today."

Megalomania is being promoted by credulous scientific minds that seriously entertain the possibility that man can perfect his own self and his institutions, Muggeridge continued.

"From such essays in the creation of heaven on earth we can only cry out to be delivered. In any case, as is already abundantly clear, they contain within themselves the seeds of their own destructions. The deliberate exclusion of any sense of a moral order means that ultimately no order at all – political, economic, social or any other – will be attainable.

"Indeed, order is already breaking down everywhere. The road to the next Dark Ages may well prove to be a motorway with many lanes, finely metalled brilliantly lit and overflowing with enlightened hopes and sentiments."

From the complexities that confront us, he said, one simple point emerges: men are trying to conduct their affairs without any reference to God or to eternity.

The world today, he said, presents a spectacle of breakdown, confusion and despair. This is all more oppressive, he added, because we can look at what is happening on our television screens – "instant doomsday on a tiny screen in our sitting rooms.

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"What's the use of laying down . . . when we can sprightly walk . . . for in a larger sense we know . . . when someone says what's true . . . the Master of all mankind . . . smiles from out the blue . . . God knows that truth is everything . . . in this borrowed life . . . and in the end it will prevail . . . though interims may mean strife . . . so many folks ignore the truth . . . unless it fits their way . . . God knows this and in the end . . . they will have to pay . . . so we'll use the freedom . . . God meant for us all . . . we'll write and say what's in our hearts . . . though it will not please all."

Michael J. Blair . . .

A CLOSER LOOK

Well, New York State's primary election is now past, and as expected, offered few surprises locally.

State-wide, George McGovern, as expected, took the lion's share of the state's Democratic convention delegates, including those from the 30th Congressional District, of which Lewis County is part.

Most gratifying to this reporter was, of course, the overwhelming margin of victory Lewis County Republican voters gave to incumbent Congressman Robert C. McEwen, who at this writing seems to have trounced his opponent, Emerson V. Laughland, Watertown, by a ratio of over 6 to 1 in the county. It was a vote of confidence to a man who has represented his people well, and at the same time a sound repudiation of radical left-wing elements which were trying to snare the Congressional seat. Mr. Laughland is now talking of running as an independent, but he should save his time, energy and money. The reputation his policies and statements received in the primary are a good indication of the defeat he could expect as an independent in November.

At the same time, it was rather sad to find that so few of both our Republican and Democratic voters turned out at the polls. Neither the Republicans nor the Democratic primaries seemed to have interested an overwhelming majority of the people. Some of this, of course, was due to a very noticeable lack of campaigning by both the Republicans and the Democrats, the exception, of course, being the effort given the campaign by the McGovern people. But most responsible, however, was apathy, a most unhealthy situation, and particularly so during a Presidential election year.

It was interesting to note that Lewis County's Democratic voters greeted Mr. McGovern's candidacy with something far, far short of enthusiasm.

Even taking into account the minuscule turnout at the polls by the Democratic voters, McGovern's forces were able to garner only about 57 per cent of the vote in Lewis County, which at this writing appears to be the worst showing in the 30th Congressional District for the McGovern delegates. The uncommitted slate, which was at one time pledged to Senator Edmund Muskie of Maine, without any campaign whatsoever was able to come up with about 43 per cent of the vote, which, as I said previously, leaves me with the opinion that Lewis County Democrats are not enthusiastic about McGovern and have preferences elsewhere among the Democratic hopefuls.

A lesson seemed to be learned at the primary polls, that being our state's complete presidential primary system needs a drastic overhauling. To begin with, it is clearly evident that if the state is to have a presidential primary, it should be a head to head contest between the contenders for the nomination and not a contest between delegates, most of whom are completely unknown by most of the voters who go to the polls.

In addition, many ballots were voided due to the fact that the voters found them confusing and improperly voted. One local political pundit, tongue in cheek I trust, said that the McGovern slate did well because a man by the name of Mannix led the slate, a name well known to all TV viewers. If this is the case, and I most certainly hope it's not, then I must speculate on how well the other slate of delegates would have done if the leading slot had been filled by a man named Welby or Ironside.

In any case, it is clearly evident that unless the primary system in New York State is designed to confuse the average voter, then some drastic changes need to be made. Senator McGovern has also criticized our archaic primary setup and on this subject I could hardly agree with him more.

I also found it disappointing how few voters under 21 years of age took advantage of the ballot box to exercise their views on primary day. In one Lowville district, only one voter under the age of 21 voted in either the Republican or Democratic primaries. I am told the same situation existed throughout Lewis County. It was a time when many of the young vocal apostles of change could have done something constructive to help achieve their goals, but instead, they sadly passed the opportunity by.

I trust and hope that they will one day learn, along with some of their parents who also failed to appear at the polls, that the vote is a far more effective instrument of democracy in our country than the gripe.

CHATTING WITH AUNT ABIGAIL

Times ain't what they used to be. I been a hearin a lot lately about that ther rock festival. I don't rightly know jest what it is all about and I's a little confused as to what it is at. Whens I see the word rock I's think about a stone on the beach or a nice big stone in the meadow. You know, one of those nice rocks for sittin and thinkin. So, anyways, my next door neighbor Susan came over and explained everythin to me. She done told me that rock means the kind of popular music that some of these young whippersnappers play. She done brought me some records over so's I could hear what it was like. When I done listened to it, my ol foot started tapping and my heart started the palpitations. I talked to Uncle Elmer later an he an me decided we was a goin to check this here rock festival out. He decided to drive. We's gonna wear some sloppy ol clothes – Uncle Elmer is wearin his paintin duds and I's a wearin my outdoor workin clothes. We's takin our own food and drink in my jug cuz we don't want nothin put in our drinks. I'm all excited about seein all those hippies in one place. I's a little afeared but it'll pass. We's a takin the lawn chairs cuz once I git down it's hard to git up anymore, I figured that with all these supplies an my "granny" clothes an my "granny" glasses we should fit in real nice. Your never to old! But then . . .

At Prayer

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do thereafter; the praise of it endureth forever. – The Book of Common Prayer