

Hoosier Vagabond

By Ernie Pyle

CINCINNATI, Oct. 12.—Dr. Gustav Eckstein is a strange piece of pedagogy. He teaches physiology at the University of Cincinnati. But he is also a playwright, an author of books, a pal of celebrities, a wide traveler, and above all a sensitive friend of birds and animals.



I had heard of Dr. Eckstein on previous visits here. I had heard of his canaries, and his heteroskelter laboratory, and his friendships with the great of the theater. I had expected to find a tall, gaunt man in his 60s, high-collared, absent-minded, hazy and gentle and homesy.

But Dr. Eckstein is none of those, except gentle. He is somewhere around 45, but actually about 35. He has a thick hair has no formation at all; it just darts up like grass.

He wears a suit of coarse corduroy, and his coat is turned up all around, giving him a Bohemian look. His personality is vital; he talks animatedly and with persuasion. He is short, and there is laughter around his eyes.

A Hard Worker

He is a fiend for work, and his actions are fast and impulsive. He practically lives in his big one-room laboratory. Sometimes he works there all night—sitting at his desk, under a shaded floor lamp, with all his canaries asleep in the shadows above. He keeps an apartment, but spends little time in it. He is not married.

Dr. Eckstein was born in Cincinnati. His father was a dentist, and still is. Young Eckstein became a dentist, too, and practiced for seven years. He liked dentistry, because he enjoys working with his fingers. But when he got able to go to medical school, he taught here in the University while taking his medical work. He loves to teach. He has been teaching here for almost 20 years. He has been in this very room 16 years.

He has had one play, "Christmas Eve," produced in New York. He still thinks it was a good play, but unfortunately the audience didn't.

Recently he has been taking homing pigeons to New York with him, and turning them loose to fly home. Some people say that Dr. Eckstein goes to symphony concerts with a pigeon on his shoulder, but I could find no truth in that. He used, however, to drive his car with a macaw sitting on his shoulder.

His car, incidentally, is a 10-year-old four-cylinder Ford coupe. It passed 100,000 miles on the Fourth of July. And, except for one trip to Dayton, every mile of that has been driven right here in town. He says the car sounds like a garbage can, but he loves it.

Dr. Eckstein got interested in birds quite naturally, through the experiments in nervous behavior that any physiologist performs. But, unlike most others, his interest grew into a personal thing between him and the birds.

Canaries Have Moods

He has 30 canaries flying around loose in his laboratory in the Medical College. There is a screen door into the hall, and it is always locked. He has one canary more than 20 years old. Each of the 30 is named, and Dr. Eckstein says they are just as much individuals to him as 30 human beings. They have such names as Babe Ruth, California, He and Five Weeks Old.

Dr. Eckstein says canaries have moods, the same as people. "There are certainly tides in the affairs of birds," he says. I asked him if his own mood seemed to react on the canaries, and he said no, they weren't that smart.

Dr. Eckstein's office is a sight to see. There are his laboratory tanks and basins down on the middle, and along the sides are book shelves, and on the wall are pictures of such people as Katharine Cornell, Lynn Fontanne and Alexander Woolcott.

Dr. Eckstein writes at a bare desk, on a noiseless portable sitting on top of the Cincinnati telephone book to make it higher. In the center of the room is an old grand piano. At his left sits his girl secretary, with canaries and mice playing around her feet.

Dr. Eckstein has written half a dozen books and several plays. I have not read any of them, but certainly intend to. One of his books, "Canary," received a pumping from Alexander Woolcott next in volume to that old commentator's espousal of "Goodbye Mr. Chips."

Inside Indianapolis (And "Our Town")

PROFILE OF THE WEEK: Lee Burns, self-made architect. His firm is one of the best known in the state and he personally is rated extremely high in his field, which is domestic architecture—houses. He has built some of the show places of Indianapolis.

Just about 68, he is 5 feet, 10 inches tall and weighs about 150. He has a sandy complexion and his hair is getting a bit thin on top. Dignified and scholarly in appearance, he has a very elegant old-school manner, accented slightly by his tinted spectacles. Sedate and slow moving, he will stand on a downtown street corner until there's not a car in sight before he will cross. He is fastidious about everything, from his clothing and language to his approach to people—except for one thing. His hair. He likes them old and hangs on to them as long as he can.

He is left-handed in almost everything. The possessor of a quaint, dry humor that's refreshing, he likes to chant snatches from Gilbert and Sullivan operas, such as "Oh, a policeman's lot is not a happy one," etc.

Self-Made Bridge Player

DEEPLY INTERESTED in Indiana history, he has been chairman of the Indiana Historical Society's executive committee ever since 1925 and his "Early Architects and Builders of Indiana" has been one of the Society's best-selling publications.

He is exceptionally well read, has a fine library at his home, 4205 Washington Blvd., which includes a lot of first editions. He has all, or almost all, of the James Whitcomb Riley first editions. He is a constant reader of newspapers and on trips he buys newspapers at every town he passes through. He is fond of football and basketball, especially Butler basketball. He has been a member of Butler's

board of trustees for many years. Fond of bridge, he will not take it seriously, but plays only for the fun of it. For 15 years he has played with Chicago's Bobman, Ed Harris, Herbert Foltz and Frank McKibbin and their despair is that he has no use for bridge conventions and plays his own game.

Sticks to Colonial

HE WAS BORN in Bloomfield in 1872. His father was Judge Harrison Burns, author of Burns Revised Statutes. After college, Lee went to work for Bowen-Merrill as a lawbook salesman, traveling all over the country. There is hardly a town of consequence he doesn't remember from the hotel viewpoint of 40 years ago. He was a crackerjack salesman and later managed a literary magazine. He served as a private in the Spanish-American War, although he did not get to Cuba.

He found his forte when he went into the building business. He put up a lot of houses and he was long before he was confining himself to architecture. His work has been characterized by his extreme good taste and his shunning of the sensational. He is passionately devoted to colonial architecture, and in a large part of his extensive architectural library is devoted to books on Georgian and other types of colonial building styles.

The War on Plantain

HIS IDEA OF a grand vacation trip is inspecting new houses and he carries a camera along to take pictures of those he likes particularly well.

He has served as president of the Contemporary Club and the Literary Club and he was a member of the state and federal George Rogers Clark commissions.

For a number of years he has spent every spare moment in the summer digging weeds out of his lawn and friends say that if he ever gives up architecture he will probably devote all his time to the extermination of dandelions and plantain. Especially plantain.

Washington

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON, Oct. 12.—Administration officials seem to be uninterested in repealing the Johnson Act, which forbids loans to nations with unpaid war debts.

Some agitation for a change was carried on a few months ago but, receiving no Administration encouragement, it died out. Recently Senator King of Utah has reopened the issue by proposing that the Johnson Act be wiped out in order to aid Great Britain.

While the British no doubt would welcome such action if only as further evidence of American desire to give aid, there appears to be no need of it at this time. That is the view of some in the Administration who are most zealous in favor of helping Britain. They feel that to raise the question now would needlessly stir up division among the American people.

Some of them feel that if the time comes when Britain is hard pressed, it would be better to meet outright grants than to go through the meaningless formality of again lending money which we know is not any more likely to be repaid than were the loans made during the first World War. To make loans that later become defaults only breeds hard feelings on both sides. The money doesn't come back anyway.

British Buying Doubled

Britain is purchasing enormous quantities of goods—accounting for more than half of our exports now. In August we shipped to Britain some 125 million dollars in goods, more than double the shipments of the spring months. In addition we are selling large quantities of goods to other parts of the empire—which in all is taking about four times as much as Latin America. The quantities are rising rapidly—and may reach as much as three billion dollars in the next year.

When the war began, the British Empire had in the United States resources, easily convertible to use for purchases, amounting to perhaps five billion dol-

lars, so the Federal Reserve Board estimated. These assets included negotiable securities, dollar balances and cash. In addition to these direct resources are heavy holdings in American industrial enterprises, amounting to perhaps \$1,500,000,000. From empire countries gold amounting to \$3,500,000,000 came in during the first year of the war, although some of this is actually owned by conquered Allied Governments. The Empire is mining about \$750,000,000 of gold a year, most of which is being shipped here.

In view of these figures, experts doubt if British resources are likely to be strained in the near future. That is the opinion of, for instance, National City Bank economists. So, as it is working out, the assets which Britain did not use to pay off her first World War debt are being used now to finance her purchases for the second World War, and apparently that system will continue for some time.

Credit No Problem Now

Even when strain develops, there are numerous measures by which we could ease the stringency without repealing the Johnson Act. The terms of the Johnson Act specifically exempt Government corporations from the prohibitions. Thus there is nothing in the act to prevent the Export-Import Bank, the RFC or the Commodity Credit Corp. from making direct loans to Britain.

It is likely that one of the first steps to be taken when the pressures seem to warrant will be to use the Commodity Credit Corp. for the purpose of advancing farm commodities to Britain on credit, although there might be some hitch because the Neutrality Act forbids credits to belligerents. However, these matters seem some distance in the future. They are among a number of bridges that will have to be crossed and which we must reach when we need them.

Britain's need at this time is not for credit—she has the wherewithal. Her need is for things. The strain is not upon credit resources at all but upon our production facilities. Production is the key and everything else is being elbowed aside in order to concentrate all attention on that.

My Day

By Eleanor Roosevelt

HYDE PARK, Friday.—Autumn colors seen from a plane are quite extraordinary. It is like seeing a brilliant and beautiful old abussun rug spread out beneath you. Yesterday, during part of our trip to Syracuse, the land was obliterated by ground fog, so we drifted a little to the west.

However, we arrived on time and I was glad to see some old friends on the dock to greet me.

We drove to an NYA pottery making project, where the young people are really learning pottery in a way which will make them valuable to the commercial pottery companies in the neighborhood. These companies have been most co-operative in helping the NYA set up this project, which produces plates, cups, saucers, tea sets and pitchers to be used in resident projects throughout the country.

From there we motored to the Onondaga Reservation, where the young people have built a community house which will contain a library, recreation room and craft room for girls. There is also a kitchen where the girls may take courses in home management. An old Indian chief greeted me here and pre-

sented me with a lovely Indian basket and leather pouch. Most interesting is the close co-operation achieved here between the unions and the NYA. They have provided the skilled labor and have undertaken to evaluate the work of the NYA boys, and later will guide them in the work they are capable of undertaking in the future.

I was also very pleased to see, before I left, my old friend, Mr. Leo Casey, who drove down to the yacht landing for a few minutes chat. Our next stop was in Cooperstown, N. Y., and I am most enthusiastic about the NYA rural center at Hartwick Seminary. I have never seen boys and girls more enthusiastic about their work, and I think the young man in charge deserves great credit for the spirit of those working with him. They are acquiring pride in what they do, and an understanding of the dignity of labor.

From there we went to Utica, where a small resident project is operating in a really delightful house. The boys run it themselves, as they do all resident projects. Their work is in connection with aviation and will shortly expand so more boys can be accommodated in this center.

We were back in Hyde Park before dark. I had a happy feeling of having seen young America in the process of training for greater usefulness, in a life which may be difficult, but which is still full of hope.

The BIGGEST JOB on EARTH

(Fifth of a Series)

By Ludwell Denny

WASHINGTON, Oct. 12.—Despite the President's dictatorial domestic power in an emergency, it is commonly assumed that Congress at least has an over-balancing check on the Executive in foreign affairs.

Does not the Constitution give Congress the sole right to declare war, the Senate the right to ratify treaties and confirm diplomatic appointments, and the House the power of initiating appropriations necessary for foreign adventures and war-making?

These much-advertised checks exist—on paper. On the record, however, they have rarely been effective in a crisis.

There are many reasons. One is the undefined Commander-in-Chief powers in the Constitution. Another reason is that a President cannot conduct foreign relations without creating situations and trends that largely determine eventual peace or war. Congress then must recognize an accomplished and irrefragable fact.

Whether Congress or the country likes it or not. Congressional confirmation and appropriation become ineffective "checks" when Presidents use their own private Colonel Houses, or better still, use the trans-oceanic telephone, and when they spend money without authorization. As for treaty ratification, if the President calls it an "executive agreement" (as leaves it as an unwritten understanding), Congress has no check.

HERE is the way it has operated: By extending or withholding his favor, he has virtual life-or-death power over certain Latin American governments. He can keep alive a foreign government at war as China today. Theodore Roosevelt in a deal with Japan revoked United States recognition of Korean independence.

Examples of executive agreements more important than most treaties: The 1917 Lansing-Ishii Agreement recognizing Japan's bobbles, including the Orient, which Harding reversed, and F. D. R. is continuing to reverse. Theodore Roosevelt's application, in the Dominican Republic, of provisions of a protectorate treaty after the Senate refused to ratify. The 1905 Roosevelt-Japanese secret agreement.

Some of these single-handed executive agreements make foreign alliances: The Japanese-American alliance, the White House decision to send or not to send our fleet to British waters in the Far East, in defiance of the new Japanese-German-Italian alliance, may determine war or peace.

The record shows, therefore, that the Presidency is a constitutional dictatorship in any self-proclaimed emergency both in domestic and foreign affairs, even to the ultimate degree of pledging war and making war.



President Roosevelt with Prime Minister W. L. Mackenzie King

HE HAS COMMITTED NATION TO DEFENSE OF CANADA

Anglo-American alliance of 1905. Our present far-reaching alliance with Canada, and our presumptive alliance with Britain (terms unknown).

The President can send expeditionary forces, and fight wars overseas without a Congressional declaration of war or consultation. For many years this was almost a habit in Caribbean countries. Wilson waged undeclared war in Siberia.

The President can even conquer foreign territory and rule it through his own agents or with native puppets—as in the past in Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and Nicaragua. Or he can do it with a phony revolution, as T. R. took Panama from Colombia.

AND he can act when Congress has tried to stop him—as when Wilson armed merchant ships, and (so Congressmen contend) when F. D. R. traded destroyers to Britain.

When President Polk sent troops into disputed territory, the Mexican War resulted almost automatically. William McKinley sent the battleship Maine to Havana, when he knew this "unfriendly" act might precipitate a Spanish-American War. It did.

Franklin Roosevelt's single-handed commitment to Canada will put us into war with Germany, if Hitler is foolish enough to attack our neighbor or a British Government which retreats before that is the specific Roosevelt pledge. And certainly the White



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torney General reminded the Senate:

"You are aware, of course, that the executive has powers not enumerated in the statutes—powers not derived by statutory grants, but from the Constitution. It is universally recognized that the Constitutional duties of the executive carry with them the constitutional powers necessary for their proper performance."

"These constitutional powers have never been specifically defined and, in fact, cannot be, since their extent and limitations are largely dependent upon conditions and circumstances."

Unlimited and undefined powers are dictatorial. This is not only theory but historic fact. Lincoln (not Congress) freed the slaves. He increased the Army and Navy beyond the legal limits. He suspended writs of habeas corpus and declared martial law. He spent millions of dollars without appropriations.

This was Lincoln's justification: "I felt that measures, otherwise unconstitutional, might become lawful by becoming indispensable to the preservation of the Constitution through the preservation of the nation." Woodrow Wilson, as a generation still living cannot forget, in a war crisis assumed even greater dictatorial powers than Lincoln.

NEXT—"Dictatorship" and the Third Term.

PROPERTY TAX RULES LISTED

New Manual Intended to Standardize Assessments In State.

Meeting quietly at regular intervals is a small group of State Tax Board officials and taxpayers' representatives which is working out details for a new assessment manual to standardize real property assessments throughout the state.

The manual is to be ready for distribution to county assessors at their December meeting here. The manual will provide assessors with a uniform system of assessing real property. The assessors also will be provided with cards on which they must list the measurements and location of the property in accordance with rules set out in the manual.

This scientific approach to the task of assessing real property will place the assessed valuations of real property for the entire state upon a standard basis, tax board officials point out.

It will do away with the old-time assessor who looked at a piece of property "out of one eye," put down a figure which he guessed at and went on, the manual's sponsors say.

Persons working on the manual are C. R. Benjamin, Tax Board member; Edward Koenemann, secretary of the Tax Board; Orvil Shock and John Johnson, assessors for the Tax Board; Howard Friend, of the State Chamber of Commerce; Frank L. Moore, executive secretary of the State Real Estate Association; Anson Thomas, of the Indiana Farm Bureau; Ivan Cooper, of the Indiana Building and Loan Association; and Frank J. Murray, of the Indiana Taxpayers Federation.

341 Wells Drilled

Three hundred forty-one oil and gas wells were drilled in Indiana during the first nine months of 1940, with over a third of them being dry holes, the State Geology Division reported today.

Sun-Worshipping Family Is Found

ISTANBUL, Turkey, Oct. 12 (U. P.).—A family of sun-worshippers, speaking its own ancient language, has been found living in isolation near the village of Pinarja, European Turkey, within 50 miles of Istanbul, it was reported today.

There are 24 in the family—12 women, six men and six children. Their ancestors were said to have come from Egypt during the reign of the Emperor Fatih, 600 years ago. They dress in white, take cold showers daily and sacrifice oxen on a fiery altar six times a year.

The family was discovered when one of its men, named Rustem, was sentenced to 18 years in prison for murdering a Turkish girl he had kidnapped.

By Ernest K. Lindley

Biographer of President Roosevelt

Confident of Re-Election, Roosevelt Mood Improves

THE President's state of mind has improved greatly within the last two months. He has become calmer, more relaxed, more tolerant of criticism, and generally more agreeable.

Some of his intimates speak of a "new Roosevelt." This is unjust. It would be more accurate to say that his temperament is back to normal. For several months prior to his third nomination, and for a few weeks thereafter, he was manifestly "on edge." His rather grimly defensive mood revealed itself to the public in a series of political bobbles, including the barely credible message which he had Senator Barkley relay to the Democratic National Convention, and his ill-tempered aspersions on the patriotism of John Hanes and other former Administration officials who chose to support

Mr. Lindley

officials who chose to support

the improvement may be ascribed to the simple fact that the President feels confident of his re-election. In the 12 years in which I have observed him, his periods of bad temper have come when he has felt politically insecure. When he is doubtful about his political standing his tendency is to become grim. Some people make their best decisions when they are grimly resolute. But not Franklin D. Roosevelt. He is at his best when he is relaxed and to the superficial eye, carefree. His laugh and his ability to become temporarily engrossed in amusing but minor problems, are his safety-valves. When he can't really laugh, when his jaw gets sternly set, the head of internal steam rises. It spurts out in odd directions, to no good purpose. His judgment is thrown off balance, and he commits political errors which a level-headed amateur would know how to avoid.

HE WAS irritable in the late spring of 1932 when it looked as if his drive for his first Presidential nomination might be stalled. From then until 1937 he was usually in a good mood. He had his irritable hours and days—like other people, he gets tired. But in general he was making a success of his Presidency and there were no prolonged periods of unpleasant grimmings.

The first protracted period during his Presidency in which he was out of sorts was during the latter part of the fight over the Supreme Court bill in 1937. The comedown from his sweeping victory in November, 1936, was sharp. He became angry. The Dutch in him seemed to freeze his judgment. Instead of acclaiming the legal somersaults turned by the Court in upholding New Deal legislation as proof of his success, he kept on fighting.

When Congress adjourned, he went to Hyde Park, but he could not relax. The flareup over the revelation that his first appointee

Queen Is Rated Good Marksman

LONDON, Oct. 12 (U. P.).—Queen Elizabeth, sitting cross-legged like a tailor on an improvised 25-yard rifle range in the grounds of Buckingham Palace, proved the best rifle shot among women members of the royal family.

The range was set up especially for the ladies of the palace, who are being instructed in rifle and revolver shooting in case it should prove necessary. The Duchess of Kent was reported to be a crack marksman with an automatic pistol. The Queen's pistol shooting was also classified as "good."

DIVORCE GENE AUSTIN

HOLLYWOOD, Oct. 12 (U. P.).—Hollywood learned today of the Las Vegas, Nev., divorce of Mrs. Agnes Austin, wife of the screen and radio singer, Gene Austin. Mrs. Austin obtained her freedom yesterday on grounds of non-support.

VOTERS SPLIT ON PROPERTY LINES

Owners 53-47 for Wilkie; Non-Owners 67-33 For Roosevelt.

By DR. GEORGE GALLUP

Director, American Institute of Public Opinion

PRINCETON, N. J., Oct. 12.—If voting in a Presidential election were to be limited to owners of property—as Alexander Hamilton and the old Federalist Party once advocated—Wendell L. Wilkie would almost certainly be the next President of the United States, a nationwide survey by the American Institute of Public Opinion indicates today.

As it is, Mr. Wilkie's problem appears to be to increase his popular appeal among the great mass of American voters—numbering approximately half of the total voting population—who do not own homes, property or securities.

These voters, many of them propertyless farmers and plant and factory workers, are about 2 to 1 for the re-election of President Roosevelt, the survey shows.

One in 10 Undecided

Voters were asked which candidate they favored and whether they personally owned homes or other property. The choices of those with opinions in both groups were as follows:

Property owners 47% 53%
Non-owners 67 33

Approximately one person in ten in each group said that he was undecided or without an opinion on the candidates yet.

Ever since 1935 Institute surveys have shown that the Republican Party has its greatest core of strength with voters in the upper income groups, while the Democrats are strongest among voters in the lower income brackets.

Neither Has Monopoly

But while the present survey also underlines the political cleavage between the "haves" and "have-nots," it is interesting to note that neither candidate has anything like a monopoly of the vote in any one property level.

Political observers may be surprised to find that President Roosevelt is receiving as much as 47 per cent of the vote of property owners, and, conversely, that Wendell Wilkie receives one vote out of every three among non-property owners.

U. S. LETS STATE CONTRACT

WASHINGTON, Oct. 12 (U. P.).—The War Department has awarded a \$451,354 contract for the construction of a central heating plant at the Jeffersonville, Ind., quarter-master depot to the C. A. Hooper Co. of Madison, Wis.

'Too Young,' but Fervor Is There

They're too young to be drafted, but Scout High School pupils have planned a Registration Day contribution Wednesday.

The pupils will assemble in the school auditorium Wednesday morning to commemorate the nation's first peace time registration for army duty. Homer L. Chailaux, American Legion National Americanization officer, will speak, a flag will be presented by the Scout High School, and the Rev. R. H. Turley will lead a devotional service. The pupils will sing patriotic songs.

POSEY CANDIDATES FILE ELECTION SUIT

MT. VERNON, Ind., Oct. 12 (U. P.).—Six Republican candidates for county offices had suits on file in Posey Circuit Court today to mandate the county election commission to place their names on the ballot for the November election. The candidates refused to do so, alleging there were irregularities in the petitions signed by 51 per cent of the Republican Central Committee certifying their candidacies. The men were not candidates in the primary. The sole Republican candidate in the primary, Ralph Rowe for sheriff, was not affected by the controversy.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

- 1—What is the nickname of the strait of Bab el Mandeb, which is the gateway from the Red Sea to the Indian Ocean?
- 2—Is Buckingham Palace or St. James's Palace the official London residence of the King of England?
- 3—Has the United States ever issued 2-cent coins?
- 4—Name the largest commercial ship ever built in America?
- 5—Do Americans who enlist in Canadian military forces lose their citizenship?
- 6—The word "roe" designates the eggs of fishes, a deer, or a striped appearance in wood?
- 7—What is the name of the craft of making cloth on a loom?
- 8—In the present order the coinage of U. S. money?

Answers

- 1—"Gate of Tears."
- 2—Buckingham.
- 3—Yes.
- 4—"America."
- 5—No.
- 6—All three.
- 7—Weaving.
- 8—No. Congress must enact coinage laws.

ASK THE TIMES

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