

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 helterskelter 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 lonely.

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

He wears a suit of coarse corduroy, and his coat collar 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 slave 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 he went 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.

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 gallant old-school manner accented slightly by his tinted spectacles.

Stately 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 hats. 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

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 goes into his 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 at 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 cages down the middle, and along the sides are book shelves, and on the walls 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 "Goodby Mr. Chips."

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 Christopher Coleman, 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 it wasn't 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 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

THIS 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.

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.

The scientific approach to the task of assessing real property will place the assessed valuations of real property for the entire state upon 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 Koennig, secretary of the Tax Board; Orville Shock and John Rothrock, members for the Tax Board; Howard Friend of the State Chamber of Commerce; Frank W. Moore, executive secretary of the State Real Estate Association; Anson Thomas, of the Indian Farm Bureau; Ivan Coopider, 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.

Sent 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 people in charge deserves great credit for the spirit in which they do, and an understanding of the pride in what they do.

From there we went to Utica, where a small residential project is operating in a really delightful house. The boys run it themselves, as they do all residential 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 Americans in the process of training for greater usefulness, in a life which may be difficult, but which is still full of hope.

By Eleanor Roosevelt

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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 make 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 defaulted 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 it shipped to Britain some 125 million dollars in goods, more than double the shipments of the long 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 dollars.

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 aubusson 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 be 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 residential 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.

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The BIGGEST JOB on EARTH

PRESIDENT CAN ORDER FLEET TO FAR EAST WAR ZONE

(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 power 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 irreparable fact, whether Congress or the country likes it or not.

Congressional confirmation and appropriate confirmation and "checks" when Presidents use their own private Colonels, ships, and better still, use the trans-oceanic telephone; and when they spend money without authorization, if the President calls it an "executive agreement" (which 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 Chinese independence.

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 there.

That is the specific Roosevelt pledge. And certainly 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-Germanian alliance, may determine (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 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.

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.

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