

America Can Repeat Mistakes Of The Past

For the past few editions a series of articles on the history of the era preceding the American Revolution has appeared in this newspaper.

The surface reason for devoting the space to this series was to promote the Fourth of July observance being staged in Kendallwood [] and Colony Park subdivisions in Farmington Township.

Part of the observance is a parade with children from both subdivisions donning the costumes of Colonial America and entering floats depicting scenes from the American past.

Each year, the parade has a different theme and children entering in the parade must first make trips to the library and read up on their history in order to have a prize-winning entry.

It's good for kids to learn about American history and the Kendallwood parade is an excellent learning laboratory because it motivates the young to dig into our past and learn about the contributors to independence.

A SECOND REASON for printing the series is because I think adults ought to take a keen interest in our history also.

If this writer's interpretation of history seemed contro-

'Common Sense' until six months before the Declaration of Independence was signed.

John Dickinson of Philadelphia stirred the populace up with his "Farmer's Letters" but his writings were not the stuff to lead to gun-fire. Patrick Henry of Virginia was a bloody orator whose words could result in gun-fire, but they didn't.

The blood was shed first in Boston and then in Lexington—the home territory of Sam Adams and finally in Lexington and John Hancock. Hancock furnished the money, James Otis and Joseph Warren delivered the fiery speeches, and Paul Revere did the engravings which the Boston Gazette used as the mouthpiece.

But the head of the radicals was definitely Sam Adams. Sam ran the political machines, controlled the mob, and worked behind the scenes for practically every act of violence committed in Boston for the 10 years before the war.

After 1776, our list of heroes includes such noble men as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Ben Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, John Adams, etc. But there had to be a war before these men could come into prominence. And it was dirty old Sam who sparked the war.

HISTORY HAS RECORDED

ley Carmichael, Jerry Rubin and the late George Lincoln Rockwell—radicals so devoted to their cause they are willing to violate the law to accomplish their end.

The lesson our nation must learn today is there is a difference between dissent and criminal violence. The gap separating the two is not only the law but also morality.

We cannot condone burning of buildings, breaking of windows, rock throwing, or sniper fire. Sam Adams escaped punishment because King George was miles away and it took weeks to cross the Atlantic.

But, today, we must prosecute those bent on destruction. But equally important, we must condone and encourage dissent. America is not what it should be and never will be if citizens limit their protests to passive means of writing letters to congressmen or editors.

If America is to fulfill the promises and hopes of 1776, there must be demonstrations, pickets, sign-carriers, sit-down strikes, and criticism. The voice of protest must be loud and continuous or it will not be heard and Americans will continue drifting through prosperity and ignoring our nation's shortcomings.

SOME FRUITS of dissent have already been realized. Civil Rights legislation of the 1960s would not have been written if Dr. Martin Luther King had not organized protest marches throughout the nation.

The public sentiment today against the Vietnam War can be attributed to the massive anti-war demonstrations during the past two years. These demonstrations were vocal but peaceful and the change in public opinion occurred because dissent was proper.

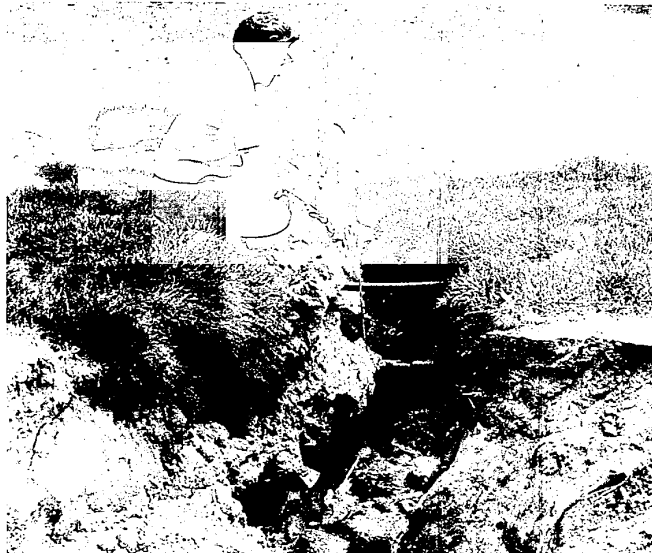
But the peace movement turned sour because the Sam Adams of today became leaders and violence resulted. That violence has prompted the present reactionary mood of our country and produced the hard-hats in New York whose behavior is just as despicable as the actions of the Browns and Carmichaels.

But America is not only reacting to violence but to dissent also. We must react negatively to criminal behavior but must protect and foster the right to dissent.

LET US NOT overlook the fact that Sam Adams would have hung by the neck for treason if England had won the Revolutionary War, and justifiably so. He escaped that infamous death only because the Revolution was successful.

The reason Sam Adams should be condemned in history as a criminal is because he failed to draw the line between proper dissent and criminal acts—such as conspiracy to murder, arson and destruction of property.

If we examine recent events and personalities the same conclusion can and should be drawn. America in the 20th century has its Sam Adams in the likes of Rap Brown, Stok-



STORM DAMAGE — This week's rain washed away much of the sod in the backyard of a home at 36691 Saxony Drive, Chatham Hills, and left a small gorge and an exposed utility line. Mrs. Donald J. Maskell shows the

erosion which was deeper than a yardstick. The area behind her once was sodded lawn. (Observer photo by Fran Evert)

Summer Music Class Will Begin July 8

The Farmington High School department of music reports summer classes in instrumental music will begin July 8 and will continue through Friday, August 21.

All classes will meet in room 105-C of Farmington High School, and will be conducted by George Heller, FHS director of instrumental music.

Summer orchestra will meet on Wednesdays from 7:30 to 9 p.m. in the Farmington district will attend. Summer band will meet on Thursdays from 7:30 to 9 p.m. and all wind and percussion players, grades 10-12, in the district may attend.

String class for beginning and intermediate string play-

ers grades 7-12, will meet on Fridays from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Low brass ensemble, for students in grades 7-12, will meet on Fridays from 1:30 to 3 p.m. The ensemble is for students who play trombone, baritone or tuba.

There is no fee for the instruction.

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Judge Seeks Re-Election In Primary

Probate Judge Norman R. Barnard of Oakland County has announced that he will be a candidate for re-election at the Aug. 4 primary election. Judge Barnard was first appointed probate judge in 1963 and was elected to a full term in 1964.

Judge Barnard was a practicing attorney in Troy for 22 years prior to becoming probate judge. He was an official in the Township of Troy and later in the City of Troy. He was a member of the County Board of Supervisors, and corporation counsel of Oakland County.

Judge Barnard and his wife, Harriet, are longtime residents of Troy. They have three married sons; three children, two boys and a girl at home, and three grandchildren.

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 BY EMORY DANIELS

versal or strained, the writer hopes his readers were motivated to research our past and test the truth of each hypothesis.

There is an old saying that those who refuse to learn from history are condemned to repeat history's mistakes. That is so true it alarms me sometimes that we are not all scholars of American history.

Some feel because we are living in a golden age of technology and science, our nation is immune from the turmoil which ripped the fibre of earlier ages. Some may find it difficult to accept the fact that America of the 1970s is capable of repeating the mistakes of the 1770s. But we are.

One reason history has not given our present age healing ointments for our sores is because what we lightly pass off as history is really an example of nationalistic propaganda. Some "historians" tracing the history of a nation we can all be proud of have glossed over the ugly scenes and painted an unduly bright portrait of our past.

America is a nation of hero worshippers which is good. But some of our heroes should be goats and some men we are conditioned to admire were actually rascals of the worst sort.

IF WE WERE more honest in analyzing our past, American history could point the way through today's turmoil. But, first, we've got to be objective enough to recognize the evil deeds of our heroes as well as their contributions.

A great number of personalities can be learned from reading about the events and personalities in America between 1765 and 1775. This was the Age of Dissent which ended with the Revolutionary War and was not to appear again until 200 years later.

Sam Adams stands tallest among those early contributors to independence. I am prepared to state that if Sam had not been around during the 10 years preceding 1776, our independence would not have been obtained until a century later.

REMEMBER THAT Thomas Paine did not write

The Farmington Observer Newspaper

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 Farmington, Mich.
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Home Delivery Service
 Newsletter per copy, 10¢
 Carrier per copy, 10¢

Phone 474-8737

Published every Wednesday and Weekend

Published by Observer Newspapers, Inc., 271 South Main Street, Plymouth, Michigan 48170 every Sunday, Philip H. Power, Publisher. Entered as Second Class Matter at the U.S. Post Office, Plymouth, Michigan.

Address all mail subscription orders to address Form 3579 to Box 200, Plymouth, Michigan, 48170.

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