

# How A Yellow Press Turned On Redcoats

By EMORY DANIELS

The church grounds were not the only hotbeds of sedition in colonial Boston; there were a lot of inflammatory words being set in type for the local newspapers.

Last week's article examined the inflammatory sermons, political debates on church lawns, and the use of church bells to attract a mob.

BUT SEDITIOUS was also played in the editorial room and print shops of New England newspapers, particularly in the offices of the Boston Gazette.

According to tradition, the Gazette's columns were not only used to spread revolutionary doctrine, but its offices were appropriated as a dressing room for the "Indians" who unloaded the tea.

The Gazette was started in 1719 by the Boston postmaster William Brooker. In those days, postal patronage included publishing a local paper. During the Gazette's history five postmasters served as publishers.

The first printers to assume ownership of the Gazette were Benjamin Edes and John Gill.

ENACTMENT of the Stamp Act in 1765 marked the opening of an era dominated by political discussion.

The Stamp Act provided that all newspapers had to be printed on stamped paper. The stamped paper carried a tax of 1 penny for each copy of the two-page edition and a tax of two shillings for each advertisement.

It wasn't the Stamp Act that radicalized Edes and Gills because the act was ignored and the Gazette never paid the

July 4, 1970, will be the 194th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. The Farmington Enterprise & Observer is offering a series of articles examining how Boston contributed to that declaration during the eight years preceding 1776. Today we look at the contributions of the Boston Gazette, one of which may have been use of its offices as a dressing room for the "Indians" who gained fame as dock-workers on the Boston harbor.)

tax. Edes was a politician and member of the Sons of Liberty group which John Adams labeled the "Loyal Nine."

The Gazette "news" columns were filled with political articles written by a group of Boston radicals and helped prepare the minds of readers for the idea of independence.

Reporters were drawn from the Caucus Club which included such men as Sam and John Adams, Joseph Warren, Josiah Quincy, Thomas Cushman, Samuel Cooper, James Otis and John Hancock.

Sam Adams used pen names, at least a dozen. Frank Luther Mott, noted historian of American journalism, notes: "Through his writings in the Gazette and his talent for political organization and propaganda, Sam Adams doubtless did more than any other individual to bring independence forward as a practical measure."

JOHN ADAMS, later in life, was probably referring to the Gazette when he wrote:

"The printers are hot indiscreet men and they are under the influence of others as hot, rash and unjudicious as themselves, very often."

But before independence was gained, prudish John was among those gracing the Gazette office. Bob Adamses, Otis and others were quite

familiar with the pen, type stick and composing stone. Every Saturday night the Adamses and Otis went to the Queen Street print shop and helped Edes and Gill set type.

With editorial staff of such prominence, the Gazette flourished and soon reached the record-breaking circulation of 2,000. (During the Revolutionary War, the Gazette was driven out of Boston. Edes and Gill, when no longer needed by the radicals, both died in poverty.)

BUT DURING its prime, the Gazette was used.

The Gazette published the Virginia Resolves, an argument written by Patrick Henry that Virginia had the right of self-government and self-taxation.

Gill once published an attack on John Mein, publisher of the Boston Chronicle which had Tory leanings. Gill described Mein as a Jacobite. The greatest insult of the day, and Mein responded by giving Gill a physical thrashing. Otis also was beaten for an article he wrote for the Gazette.

MOTT IS ONE of the historians who makes the claim that the Indians participating in the Boston Tea Party changed into their costumes in the Gazette's printshop.

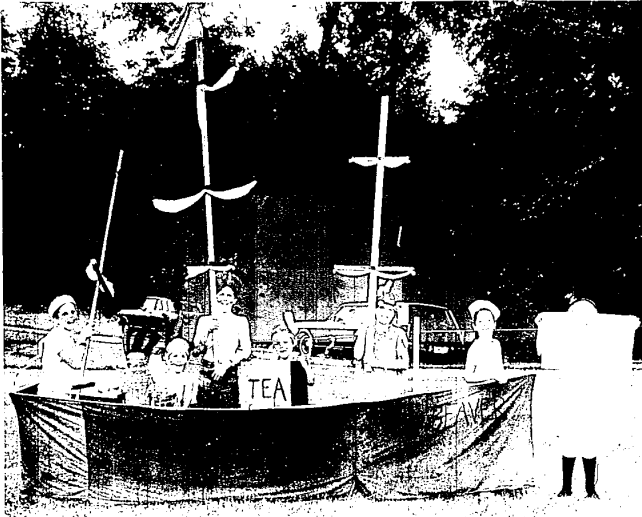
Another historian, however,

writes the Indians either dressed in Edes' blouse or at the Green Dragon. The Green Dragon was the meeting place for St. Andrew's Lodge of the Boston Masons.

It was Sam Adams who gave the signal for the Tea Party. Adams had called for a meeting in the Old South Church and after giving the signal war-whops filled the church.

Cries of "to Griffin Wharf!" were heard and John Hancock cried: "Let every man do what is right in his own eyes." The plan had been all pre-arranged, of course, in the Green Dragon which Paul Revere frequented as a member of Boston's Masonic Lodge.

Revere was a mason by trade and was among the Sons of Liberty members familiar with the Gazette's offices. In fact, Revere did a number of engravings for Edes and Gill including a highly accurate, propaganda engraving of the Boston Massacre.



COSTUME PARTY — Children living in Kendallwood and Colony Park in Farmington Township restaged the Boston Tea Party for the subdivision's 1966 July Fourth observance. Most know about dumping of tea in the Bos-

ton harbor, but few are aware the Indians probably changed into their costumes in the offices of one of that city's leading newspapers.

## Readers Write

# Questions Radical Contribution

EDITOR: To you "Vocal Minority" I address my words. You criticized Mrs. Hemforth's letter. I am sure that if you had Mrs. Hemforth as

your fifth-grade teacher, you would have a different attitude and you would not hide behind such pseudo-signature as "vocal minority." She is one of those rare individuals whose influence will be felt throughout her student's lives. She has compassion and respect for each student as an individual. She makes learning exciting and she opens up great vistas of thought for these impressionable minds.

IN THE RECENT Kent affair and various student disturbances, I have heard and read of the students comparing themselves to the patriots of the pre-Revolutionary War years.

It is true that Samuel Adams, John Hancock and Paul Revere earned a place in American history—they earned the questionable distinction of being instigators of revolutionary thought. They deliberately incited the dock workers and laborers to start what resulted in the Boston Massacre.

But where were the patriots when the stones were being hurled? History discloses them

in the shadows while the rocks fell their victims and Americans lay dead on the cobblestone street.

THE AMERICAN Revolution may have been incited by radicals, as today some American youth are attempting to make change through dissension, violence and even revolution.

However, there never would have been a United States of America if there hadn't been men such as Gen. Washington who, despite all of the obstacles, led this country from its status of captive colony to infant nation.

Look to your history from the beginning of "recorded time," "Vocal Minority," and heed the time-honored lessons it tells. Be cautious of racialism and make change with constructive action.

MRS. SHIRLEY BOSTON  
Farmington

**Most Survive**  
The majority of patients survive their first heart attack and return to productive activity, says the Michigan Heart Association

## Defends YMCA, Horses' Right To Walk in Parade

EDITOR: This letter is written in response to Mrs. S. Sroka's letter regarding the John Birch Society not being allowed to participate in the Memorial Day Parade.

In her letter she states, "Horses, dogs and Indian tribes from the YMCA were allowed in the parade and a good patriotic American organization like the John Birch Society was kept out."

This sentence seems to project the idea that horses, dogs and Indian tribes, from the YMCA must have something the matter with them, and Mrs. Sroka is having trouble getting used to the fact that they were allowed to march in the parade.

I ask you, Mrs. Sroka, "Do you have any idea what kind of an organization the YMCA Indian Guides are?" For your information it is a program whereby fathers and sons work and play together, where fathers

take an active interest in their boys' YMCA stands for Young Men's Christian Association.

I for one am happy to see that the Indian Guides were "allowed" in the Memorial Day Parade. I think these "Indian tribes" are an addition to our community. Incidentally, I think it was OK for horses dogs to be in the parade too.

MRS. JEANETTA VESSEY  
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