

# Sam Adams Led The Rebels

Continued from Page 6

ern world's first orchestra leader of revolution. He knew that voters are moved by their emotion rather than by logic.

"A master of propaganda, he realized that the general run of people prefer drama and ritual, both older than reason, to a well-thought out exposition."

AGITATION and destruction were the dual geniuses of Adams who confused issues by describing England's taxation policy as a conspiracy of oppression by Massachusetts Governor Bernard and Justice Hutchinson instead of being the brain-child of King George's ministry.

The conspiracy explanation gave colonists a "visible hate figure" and avoided the necessity of testing their loyalty to the crown before 1770.

During 1765, Adams called out the mobs to stir opposition to the Quating Act. In 1767, the Townsont Acts were passed to stop colonial smuggling and British commissioners seized the "Liberty", a sloop owned by Hancock. But, the commissioners were attacked by the mob and forced to seek refuge aboard the British frigate the Romney in the Atlantic.

In 1770, reconciliation between crown and colonies seemed possible until the infamous "Boston Massacre" in March, 1770.

"Here, Sam Adams, fertile organizer of resistance and advocate of separatism, saw that the struggle was now reaching a crucial stage," writes Churchill.

"This 'massacre' was just the sort of incident Adams had hoped for." The incident was played up in the Boston papers and Sam revitalized his Committees of Correspondence to spread the word with letters to 75 colonial towns.

Thereafter, Adams staged anniversary celebrations of the massacre with street dramas reenacting the events according to Sam's script. The last massacre observance was held in 1784 when July Fourth was declared a national holiday.

(For verification of how minor an incident the Boston Massacre actually was, readers may wish to refer to a book entitled "The Boston Massacre" written by Hiller B. Zobel and published in 1970.)

Adams managed the Boston Tea Party after Parliament passed a bill in 1774 closing the port of Boston. It was, in part, sympathy for Bostonians which prompted the other colonies to form the first Continental Congress in 1774.

At this point, the arrest of Adams and Hancock was ordered and troops attempting this move were met by the "embattled farmers" on the hill at Concord.

THERE HAVE been many individuals since Sam Adams who have provided leadership, with more legal techniques employed, to help correct inconsistencies between life in America and how life should be led as defined in the Declaration and legally required in the U.S. Constitution.

There is still an inconsistency between the way we Americans live and the way we declare we ought to. A leader someday will step forth again to make latent grievances patent and passive causes dynamic.

The future clash between our ideals and practices is also inevitable. The question is whether our next prophet will be one using illegal means or will be able to inspire all Americans to become committed to the doctrine of equality.

That commitment, however, must first be fostered by each citizen acquiring a better understanding of what the Declaration of Independence intends our nation to be and what the Constitution requires it to be, and, at least accept that which is required.



JODI ROOVER, 2½ last July, enjoys a ride on the carousel during last year's Southfield Fair at Southfield High, 10 Mile at Lahser. This year's Fair will begin Friday, June 30, in the evening and end with fireworks on the evening of July 5.

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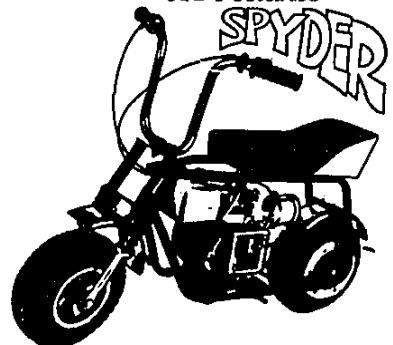
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