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The Wisconsin State Journal

Sunday, April 9, 1939

The Rambler

TREES

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree

A tree whose hungry mouth is pressed
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;

A tree that looks to God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;

A tree that may in summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair,

Upon whose bosom snow has lain,
Who intimately lives with rain.

Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.

IT fond of quoting this gem by Joyce Kilmer. I love to think that he wrote it in the wooded fastnesses of the ensilen and bluffs around Prairie du Chien, where he went annually to a Catholic retreat—for Joyce Kilmer was a devoted Christian gentleman. Anyway, the poem fits today's theme so perfectly that I do not apologize for repeating it again.

* * *

Perhaps you've forgotten all about Arbor day. I'm not conscious of having heard it mentioned in the last ten or fifteen years. But some of us elders remember when Arbor day was one of the big school events of the year. Regular classes were suspended, and the teacher would organize the children to plant trees around the school grounds. It was done much more pretentiously then, because at that time the value of playgrounds had not been fully sensed. I remember the old La Crescent schoolhouse about which still stand trees that my class helped to plant upwards of fifty years ago.

And so I was somewhat electrified last week when the Dane County Sportsmen's league made a very ambitious proposal for the restoration of Arbor day. A program to plant 30,000 trees in Dane county, largely adjacent to schools, was set up, and an effort will be made to have the first planting occur on Arbor day, May 7.

The proposal was suggested in a contribution to The Wisconsin State Journal by J. R. Lange, President Kniseley of the league immediately seized upon it, and Mr. Lange has been made chairman for the occasion.

Perhaps the significance of the event can best be understood by reading the following list of names of conservationists who attended the league meeting in an afternoon of the state senate on Tuesday, and enthusiastically indorsed the project:

Art Kniseley, president, Dane County Sportsmen's league.
Col. J. W. Jackson, Madison and Wisconsin Foundation.
R. V. Hurley, Dane county agent.
T. S. Thompson, county superintendent of schools (western district).
Prof. Aldo Leopold, Prof. agr. economics, University of Wisconsin.
William J. P. Aberg, director, Izaak Walton League.
Ralph Chaney, conservation dept.
Leslie Stumpf, conservation dept.
F. C. Wilson, supt. of cooperative forestry.
Ernest Swift, deputy director, conservation dept.
J. R. Lange, chairman, Dane County Sportsmen's league.

Arbor day came as the response of our western prairie states to the disadvantages of a treeless country. It first appeared in Nebraska in 1872. The afterward famous J. Sterling Morton was state secretary of agriculture. So well did his project of tree planting prosper, that in 1874 Gov. R. W. Furnas sanctioned it as a state project by official proclamation, and in 1885 the legislature made it a legal holiday in Nebraska.

The movement swept across the United States, was adopted in one form or another in almost every state. The dates varied, because the practical planting time differed in different states. In the north, April and May were common, while in the south December, January, and February prevailed.

I don't know what happened to Arbor day, why its significance has long been on the decline until now in most places it receives, if anything, but a passing mention. But I have an idea about that.

It seems to me probable that when reforestation came, following the denuding of our northern timber lands, the vast scale of this mass government planting seemed to remove the necessity for Arbor day. That might easily have been a psychological effect. The restoration of cut-over pine lands loomed large in all conservation programs, and absorbed public interest.

But really, that should not have been the case. Reforestation, for instance, doesn't plant a tree in Dane county. This is true generally throughout the more thickly settled sections of the farming west. Much planting has been done along country roads, but the age of the trees will tell you that most of it was accomplished back in the good old days when Arbor day was still a red letter on the calendar.

Dane county is losing its trees. It is losing its game birds. There is much reason to plant for ornamentation and precipitation, but one of the greatest needs is cover for game birds. And this is one of the aspects of tree culture that the Dane county sportsmen expect to achieve. For instance, an investigation which Prof. Aldo Leopold had made by CCC boys at the arboretum recently disclosed the presence there of sixteen pairs of wood cock.

How long since anybody has seen a wood cock around here before the coming of the arboretum?

I wonder if the schools will take up Arbor day again with all the zest they used to give it. There seems no reason why they should not, and if they do, it seems to me that in a period of four to five years, the 178 rural schools in Dane county will have set up for themselves a living monument that will be appreciated and enjoyed by their descendants many years to come.

It would indeed be something to remember, I had almost said to crow about, if this revival of Arbor day in Dane county should spread across the country until again we celebrate it as an annual event of major significance.

* * *

And in the meantime, save the trees. This was a beautiful wooded section. It is pretty well thinned out. Many trees in public parks are being lost for want of tree culture. Frequently somen are seen chopping down old monarchs of the forest for commercial reasons, without sufficient justification. Every school reader ought to contain that little poem we used to find in the pages of school readers:

"Woodman, spare that tree,
Touch not a single bough;
In youth it sheltered me,
And I'll protect it now."

Fines Supersedes the Yardarm

Smuggling is an ancient crime.

The smuggling of today has been of a more genteel character. "Jack" Benny and George Burns, Hollywood and radio artists, have come within the pale of the law because they attempted to escape government customs tolls.

Both Benny and Burns have escaped prison sentences but they must contribute heavily to the United States treasury. Benny assessed a fine of $10,000 and for a year will have a suspended prison sentence haunting his career. Burns paid $17,700.

The value of the goods smuggled to Benny through the agency of professional smuggler was less than $2,400 while Burns claims the articles he received with an escaped duty were worth about $700.

Both Benny and Burns have probably decided that smuggling does not pay. They have also received advertising that they do not relish. They stand before the public as men of large means who are willing to stoop to clandestine and illegal routes to escape the payment of rightly assessed government tolls.

Little sympathy will be given by the people to Benny and Burns because of their sentences. The public rightly believes that men so richly paid as entertainers through the contributions of the public must have small minds indeed to be led into the crime of smuggling.

Some Progressives, not of the Socialistic stripe, are strong in their demands that if former Gov. La Follette does not run again for a fourth term as governor, the candidate should be Congressman Merlin Hull of Black River Falls. They say that Congressman Hull can obtain the support of the farmers of the state.

'A Momentous Change in American Thinking'

U. S. Sentiment for British, French Aid Increases After Hitler's New Seizures

Growth of American Sentiment Favoring Aid to Britain and France in Case of War

The above chart shows the steady increase in American sentiment for sending food and war supplies to Britain and France in case of a war, as indicated in three nation-wide Institute surveys—the first just before the Munich agreement last September. All three surveys show strong opposition to sending American troops abroad.

But Public Is Still Against Sending American Troops Abroad

Where does American public opinion stand today as Europe faces the most ominous summer since 1914? The following exclusive survey, conducted for The Wisconsin State Journal and 85 other American newspapers, shows the trend in the future of Czechoslovakia and Memel on the public's willingness to aid Britain and France.

* * *

By DR. GEORGE GALLUP
Director, American Institute of Public Opinion
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If a new major war breaks out in Europe in the next few weeks, at a number of careful observers fear, the American people would be immediately confronted with momentous questions.

Should we sell food supplies to Britain and France? Should we sell them airplanes and other war materials? Should we send our army and navy abroad to fight on the side of our former allies?

Just actually what the public would do is something that cannot be answered at this time. Much would depend on the circumstances here and abroad. But the American Institute of Public Opinion has completed a nation-wide study which shows how the American people stand today on these vital questions—before any point of crisis has been reached or any shots fired.

In a scientific cross-section study of several thousand men and women in all parts of the United States and all walks of life the Institute finds that:

1. **More than four Americans in every five (82 per cent) are in favor of selling food supplies to Britain and France in case war comes.**

2. **Two persons in every three (66 per cent) are in favor of selling them war planes and other war materials—items which are now banned under this country's neutrality legislation.**

3. **But an overwhelming number of Americans (84 per cent) are opposed to sending the army and navy abroad to help our former allies.**

There are no important party differences on these vital questions, and no major differences in the various sections of the country.

It is important to note, however, that while the sentiment for sending foodstuffs and war materials to Britain and France has increased materially since Chancellor Hitler's annexation of Czechoslovakia and Memel last month, there has been no increasing disposition to send American troops abroad.

The discovery and frank realization of what the average American's reactions might be in case of a war involving Britain and France against Germany and Italy may go a long way toward clarifying this country's position.

American sympathy for Britain and France in case of war has been clearly indicated in previous Institute surveys. But as far as just two days before Hitler announced that he had taken Czechoslovakia under his "protection", the Institute reported 52 per cent of the voters in favor of sending war supplies to the English and French in the event of a showdown.

But today's survey shows how that sentiment has increased following the seizure of Czechoslovakia (March 14), the annexation of Memel (March 21) and the presentation of Italian demands to France.

Note how the willingness to help England and France has actually been rising since the Munich Agreement last September:

Favoring Help to Britain and France

	Before Last To-Munich	Month day	
Sell Food?	57%	76%	82%
Sell Arms?	34	55	66
Send Troops?	5	17	16

It is significant fact that there is little or no indension on the way the average American answers these questions today. The Institute found that only one person in 20, on the average, was undecided as to what the United States should do.

It is also noteworthy that the Institute has found an average of only one person in a hundred favoring Germany and Italy in the event of war.

Those who oppose the idea of sending food and war materials to England and France in case of war usually base their opposition on these reasons:

(1) They think the United States should remain neutral in every possible way.

(2) They believe that aiding the French and English would eventually draw us into war, or

(3) They resent the fact that these countries have ignored their World war debts to this country.

The Institute's surveys show what a momentous change has taken place in American thinking in a relatively short period of time—a change comparable in some ways to the epoch-making change in the British government this past week to guarantee assistance to Poland in the event of war which may be in the way of German expansion.

It is just 22 years this week since our entrance into the World war, and for many years subsequently the predominant attitude of the American people has been against any sort of aid to European countries that might conceivably involve the United States.

Two years ago congress voted to continue the neutrality act with its clean-cut prohibitions against sending war supplies or other contraband to either side in any new war that might arise.

Today's survey shows that the majority of voters are now in favor of doing exactly what the present Neutrality Act forbids, a fact which is important in view of the current discussion of the act in Washington.

The chief reasons for the change in American opinion are indicated in a careful study of the comments:

1. Americans have come to regard Nazism and Fascism as threats to the security of "the other democracies."

2. They fear that if Germany and Italy should succeed in defeating Britain and France, the axis would then be turned against the United States.

3. They are willing to sell goods to Britain and France because of the stimulus of war-trading to clogged business and employment channels in the United States. This reason is given by about one person in five who favor sending aid.

The first two reasons are given by about three out of five. A typical expression is that of a Lynchburg, Va., auto salesman, who comments that **"I don't see how the democracies could win without some help from us—and if they lost it would only be a matter of time until we'd be engaged in a war with the totalitarian governments ourselves."**

The survey reveals that there are no significant differences between Democrats and Republicans on the question of what America's role should be in case a party foise at this time.

Favoring Help to Britain and France

	DEMOCRATS	REPUBLICANS
Sell Food?	85%	80%
Sell Arms?	70	65
Send Troops?	18	12

In all sections of the country the south shows the greatest inclination to send material assistance and the highest vote (24 per cent) for sending troops.

This is the best available picture of the way Chancellor Hitler's moves have affected the average American's thinking.

What would have been the picture in 1914?

Unfortunately that question can never be answered in the same objective way, but future Institute surveys will show the trend of opinion in this country, measure the impact of new European moves and keep the American public informed of its own aggregate verdicts.

Yesterdays

50 Years Ago Today
(April 9, 1889)

A debate arose today over a senate bill making the penalty of decoying women of whatever character away from home for immoral purposes, or for aiding such villainy, imprisonment from one to five years.

* * *

DAYLIGHT ROBBERY. Between the hours of 11 and 12 this morning a stranger entered the restaurant of William B. Stellberg, 335 W. Johnson st., and purloined therefrom nearly $100 in cash.

* * *

25 Years Ago Today
(April 9, 1914)

Within the next few days the Madison Cement Stave Silo co. will be incorporated and will be located on Winnebago st. in the Wakely addition. The corporation will have a capital stock of $10,000.

* * *

When the new county board of supervisors meets, there will be 24 new faces on it.

10 Years Ago Today
(April 9, 1929)

Dist. Atty. Fred E. Risser today started a John Doe hearing before Superior Judge S. R. Schoen to determine whether any fraud was committed in the first ward aldermanic election.

* * *

$500,000 Orthopedic Hospital Approved. 'Experiment' Charge Fails to Halt Bill in the Assembly.

FRED E. RISSER

Third Term Only Bar for Garner, Says FDR's Son

FORT WORTH, Tex.—(U.P.)—Elliott Roosevelt told his father, the president, Saturday that unless he decides to run for a third term, Vice President John Garner, a native Texan, probably would get the democratic nomination.

The rangy soft-spoken second son of the president obviously injected his remarks toward his father Friday night in a semi-weekly radio broadcast over his Texas state network.

He said that the "nation will expect" President Roosevelt in our political future. It will be up to the voters to decide whether to send the left road toward a more radical liberalism, whether we swing down the right toward conservatism, or whether we continue down the middle of the road between the fence rows that likely will mark the democratic party line."

The reference to Garner as a presidential possibility was the second in as many weeks by Roosevelt.

Henry Noll's
Sunday Thoughts

Every bit of old paper deposited in uptown city waste boxes on street corners does its bit towards filling up Lake Monona shore which, when completed, will be parked and named Law in honor of Mayor Law. All paper and refuse picked up in the center of the city from homes, business houses and street waste boxes are dumped along the lake shore. For years efforts have been made to get rid of the unsightly boathouses so that the lakeshore might be beautified. Finally, the city succeeded in eliminating the boat sharks. For the last three years refuse and dirt have been dumped along the shore. Several complaints have been made of the present unsightly condition of the shore. If the park commission is successful in its efforts to get WPA assistance part of this condition will be eliminated this season. The park department plans to grade and seed that part of the filled-in portion between S. Blair and S. Hancock st. and plant trees along the right of way of the Chicago and North Western road. It is also proposed to plant trees along the contemplated driveway which will be built through the parkway. The lakeshore is filled in up to S. Butler st. but no planting will be done between Butler and Hancock because dump wagons must continue to use Hancock st. to reach the lake shore. It is also the plan of the park department to establish a playground in the section to be improved this year. This playfield will be for the benefit of the children of the third ward and adjoining sections. At present the shore is being filled to a width of 120 feet. In later years the city will fill out further a under state law it has the authority to utilize 200 feet of shore for park purposes, and department officials would be pleased to have citizens cooperate by dumping all other refuse in the dumpy waste boxes instead of throwing them on the streets. Each Sunday morning bits of papers are scattered all over portions of the business district. In some foreign countries fines are imposed on persons caught throwing papers and refuse on sidewalks. Every citizen should help keep the city clean as a matter of civic pride.

* * *

Milton Breivogel, resident engineer for Ladislas Segue, city planner, has been the target of several citizens at meetings being held in all sections of the city for a discussion of the proposed zoning ordinance. At a recent meeting he was told to go back to "Cincinnati where you come from and not tell us what to do." In the first place Mr. Breivogel did not come from Cincinnati. He is a native of Two Rivers, Wis. Before Mr. Segue employed him as resident engineer he was engaged in similar work at Racine. In the second place Mr. Breivogel is working under the direction of Mr. Segue. The hearings are being conducted by the city planning commission to acquaint citizens with the provisions of the ordinance. Mr. Segue is employed by the Wisconsin centennial trustees out of funds left over from the centennial celebration in 1936. The city's share of the unspent fund was $2,500 and the common council gave its approval to use the money for making a comprehensive survey of the city and adjacent suburban area. With all the opposition that has developed against the proposed zoning ordinance, indications are it will be a long time before the aldermen will be ready to take final action on it.

* * *

On the east side and in other sections of the city staid many homes and other buildings which were erected by Fred Hanson who died last Monday. After Fred had built a number of houses in the eastern part of the city his friends called the district "Hansonville." When Fred came to this country from his old home in Denmark he went to work on the Will Terrell—ller farm on the Oregon rd. In later years this immigrant boy became one of the leading contractors of the city. Fred was fond of horses and during the days of the Madison Driving club he always entered a horse in the ice races on Lake Mendota. Fred served the club as president at one time. Among other members of the organization were Marshall Parkinson, Al. Pellar, Dr. H. E. Purcell, the late Ralph Richardson. The club held its meetings in the former Bismarck restaurant on King st.

* * *

"Fred was lots of fun and a mighty good fellow," said one of his old friends the other day.

* * *

Frank Fleckenstein, who died recently, was a member of one of Madison's early families. His parents were pioneer settlers of Brooks addition which was then part of the old fifth ward. Frank was for many years a faithful member of the custodian staff of the postoffice, but had been retired for some time. Frank was born on the site of the Wisconsin General hospital 70 years ago. Before Frank joined the postoffice force he operated a wagon shop on E. Main and S. Butler sts.

* * *

Older members of Bethel Lutheran church recall that their old edifice is now serving the African Methodist Episcopal church on E. Dayton st. When the present church was erected at N. Hamilton and N. Butler sts. the old one was sold to the A. M. E church and moved off the lot. Bethel congregation now has place for a new edifice at Wisconsin ave. and W. Gorham st., one of the finest corners in that section of the city and on Church row. Other churches located on the avenue are the First Unitarian, Christ Presbyterian, First Evangelical, First Methodist Episcopal, and First Church of Christ, Scientist. Right around the corner from the avenue on W. Johnson st., stands the Memorial Reformed church. One block off, at N. Carroll and W. Dayton sts., is the First Baptist church.

* * *

We received a card from Adolph Metz, old Madison boy, who is now enjoying a South American cruise aboard the Swedish-American line liner, Gripsholm. The card was mailed at Punt Arenas, Chile, the southern-most city of the world, and 2,210 miles from the south pole.

March Morning

The countryside of March is gray—
Sketched in soft lead pencil;
The fences, barns, and stacks of hay
Are weathered to a wasp's-nest gray;
Bare trees are limned by stencil.

Pussywillos burgeon in the thaw;
The earth wears a pale gray cloak.
A solitary wing brings a lonely caw,
The river gurgles in the last spring thaw,
And the air is as soft as smoke.

M. M.

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