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# The Publishers' Auxiliary

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## EDITOR of the WEEK



Back in '31 trouble was brewing in Bell county, Ky., with Pineville, the county seat, as focal point.

There was trouble in those southeastern Kentucky mountains where coal is still king. And Herndon J. Evans, publisher of the Pineville Sun, and Courier, was right in the middle of the fighting. Those were the days when "investigating committees"—so called—descended on Bell county like harpies. Turmoil was the keynote. Publicity seekers, some well meaning, came to Bell county to do their part. All of which was prominently read in newspapers throughout the nation.

But Publisher Evans was "on" to the investigators who, according to him, "admitted their belief in Communism and its teachings, and most of them said they were members" of the paw-ty. But—and this shows the spirit of Publisher Evans down through the years to the present day—"Bell county showed the country how to treat Communists 10 years ago and the country today is just awakening to the menace that we recognized and (note) 'treated' almost a decade ago."

Evans admits that he is essentially a Pineville-Kentucky-American-citizen - newspaper - publisher first, and then an American-at-large—a universal American. This outlook on life is not the seemingly narrow one. It is the typical democratic way. When he, and his allies, rid Bell county of the "commies," the investigators, and those of similar breed, such activity was a farseeing one which, today, the nation is now fully cognizant of, and hastily acting upon. Said Evans: "As an editor I felt during the trying times of 1931 that my place was with the people who were trying to stamp out this un-Americanism . . . if we adopted unusual and sometimes harsh methods to drive these radicals from our midst, events since then have easily justified our stand." He further added these significant words: "I think that we made the Kentucky mountains safe for America in that memorable year."

Hobbies? Sure! Plenty of them. There's hunting, fishing, golf, tennis—all of which he tries a little of each during the year.

Typical of him—the publisher who practises and insists that the successful editor must take an active part in every worthwhile community enterprise, who believes that loyalty to the home town and its tradition and customs transcends in importance all outside affairs—Mr. Evans has his desk right near the front door so he can see and talk to everyone who comes in.

A final interesting and convincing candid shot of him is to be found in a not-so-well-known occurrence during Bell county's year of turmoil, 1931. At that time he was correspondent for the Associated Press. His loyalty to Pineville, then fighting the inroads of communism in the mountains, caused him to be relieved of his position with the AP. The AP did not want him to take part in any of its local activities. Publisher Evans, though, loyal as ever to his community, felt that the

more important than any other job. But after it all "blow over" he was back with the AP and has been ever since.—Cliff Lange.

### No Editorial 'We.'

Today this straight-from-the-shoulder spirit, this direct attitude, is noted in his newspaper activities. Each week on the front page of the Sun he writes his editorial col'm, "Between Us." The old editorial "we" has been chucked out, and the informal style, first person singular, substituted.

For 25 of his 45 years Evans has been close by, or in, newspaper work. He worked on the Frankfort (Ky.) high school publication and on the staff of the Frankfort (Ky.) State Journal. He was a charter member of the University of Kentucky's journalism department, formed by Enoch Grehan. During World war I he was trained at Hattiesburg (Miss.) officers training school and graduated with a second lieutenant's rating.

He spent 10 months with the Army of Occupation in Germany, returning to the University of Kentucky in September, '19, and was graduated in June, 21, with a B. A. degree in journalism. Besides traveling for the University of Kentucky organizing alumni clubs, Evans also was with the Associated Press at Frankfort and Louisville, Ky. Before going to Pineville in November, 1923, Evans was state editor of the Louisville Courier-Journal.

Among his many outstanding and notable activities and achievements, he helped in the fight to preserve Cumberland Falls as a state park. He crusaded for better rural schools in the mountains and, as a result of such crusading—it is learned—he lost much business from local political factions during the past 17 years. All this activity did not prevent him from winning distinguished awards for the Sun.

### A Prize-Winning Paper.

In 1928 it won first prize for the best front page in the Kentucky Press association contest. In 1939 it won first prize in the Enoch Grehan memorial award for the best editorial. A recent activity of Evans was his attempt to bring subscribers closer to the Sun by offering a weekly prize to the letter writer who told best just what was on his or her mind, or what was giving him or her an acute pain in the neck. This Sun forum, a democratic way of expression, is another slant on this Kentucky editor-publisher.

Besides his thorough interest in the Sun, Mr. Evans has many other interests which keep him moving from dawn to late night. He has served as president of the Kentucky Press association, and been United States commissioner since 1935. At the present time, Evans is developing a subdivision that the FHA has pronounced the "most beautiful" of its kind in the state of Kentucky. He has taken up photography and supplies the Associated Press and various other picture-gathering agencies spot news pictures.