

To read the *American* is to get not only a sense of the community, but of the man who stands behind the paper as well. It reflects Russ Wiggins' enthusiasm for ideas, his diversity of interests, and his deeply rooted, abiding care for the future of Ellsworth, the State and the country. He has been able to bring out not just the news of Ellsworth and Hancock County, but also convey the sensibilities and nature of a special region.

Perhaps it is the fact that Russ Wiggins saw and experienced so much of the world, from serving as executive editor of the *Washington Post* to U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, that he continually shows that the rural, coastal setting of down east Maine is anything but circumscribed. We are fortunate indeed that he has let us see that dynamic world through his eyes.

It has been a great pleasure for me to have been acquainted with Russ Wiggins in recent years, so I want to take this opportunity to wish him continued health and good fortune in the years ahead.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the *Time* magazine article appear after my remarks.

[From *Time* magazine, Jan. 18, 1988]

IN MAINE: A TOWN AND ITS PAPER

(By Ted Gup)

Some years back, James Russell Wiggins, editor of the *Ellsworth American* in Maine, wanted to prove to readers how pitifully slow was the U.S. Postal Service. So he proposed a race: he sent letters to a nearby village, one through the Postal Service and others by oxcart, canoe and bicycle. At the pedals was a local celebrity, writer E.B. White. The Postal Service lost every race, and Wiggins gloated on the front page.

That was big news. Big news elsewhere, though, often doesn't seem quite so pressing in Ellsworth. The October stockmarket crash got one sentence last fall; the blueberry industry, a mainstay of the region, got a five-part series. But nothing is read more closely than the court page, a list of everyone caught speeding or driving tipsy or lobs-tering without a license. "I want to see if any of my buddies are in there," says Carmen Griffin, a waitress at the Pineland Diner on Main Street.

It may be a yawn in Portland, Me., but in Ellsworth, it's front-page news when there's a bumper crop of scallops or the cops seize a pet snake (the headline: Police Put Permit-less Pet Python in Pen).

When Editor Wiggins, 84, wanted to tell his readers, many of whom live by and from the sea, what was happening in the America's Cup race, the weekly sent a reporter to Australia. The story was relayed by satellite to Washington, wired to an Ellsworth bank and then walked across Main Street by the bank's vice president.

That's how things have always been done in Ellsworth, one neighbor counting on another. Ellsworth is the shire town of Hancock County, some two-thirds up the Main coast, and gateway to the summer resorts of Bar Harbor. For more than 200 years, the town has hugged the Union River, which spills out into Union River Bay and eventually the bold Atlantic.

The town was named for Oliver Ellsworth, an early Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Folks here are friendly. They can't help themselves. But Down Easters draw a line between outsiders—"people from away"—and locals. You can be born in Hancock County and still not be judged a local if your parents were "from away." They say, "A cat can have her kittens in the oven and call them biscuits. Doesn't make it so."

Ellsworth has reason to be wary of outsiders, who come here seeking tranquility and disturb what tranquility there is. They clog streets, drive up land prices and bring with them some anxieties they hoped to escape. And they talk funny.

Not since the fire of 1933 swept down Main Street, consuming 130 buildings, has the character of the town and the region been so threatened. "We're getting a little class," says Victoria Smallidge, owner of the Pineland Diner, who moved here in 1970. Call it what you will, some locals are uneasy about a diner that offers a wine list and tenderloin with béarnaise sauce but holds mashed potatoes and meat loaf in contempt.

American reporters discuss stories that straddle two worlds: a log-sawing contest in Brooklin, Me., and drug-awareness week at nearby Bucksport High. These days lawyers and real estate agents seem to outnumber clergymen and clam diggers. Even the lilting Down East accent, once spoken as if it were passing over a dip on a backwoods road, is losing its curls.

The *American* began publishing in 1850. There were 5,000 townspeople then, and the paper's slogan was "Americans can govern America without the help of foppish influence." There are now just over 5,000 souls in Ellsworth, and they still bristle at outsiders' arriving in Peugeots with ideas for their town. But change is certain.

Some city officials say the population may double in five years. Many fear the region is losing its identity. It is the *American* that is helping to preserve that identity, holding itself up as a mirror of community interests, passions and humor in uncertain times. "It's the one continuity we have in our lives, besides the seasons," says Jack Raymond, a reader from Bar Harbor.

Wiggins and the *American* seem an unlikely pair. He never went to college and didn't take over the *American* until late in life. Before that he was executive editor of the *Washington Post*, then U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations. A great-grandfather, he holds eight honorary degrees, reads up to five books a week and recites Chaucer from memory. He belts out incendiary editorials, writes a sometimes syrupy nature poem and, until recently, had a paper route. He hasn't drawn a salary in two decades.

The former Ambassador still holds public office—of a sort. He's Brooklin's appointed fence viewer. He is supposed to settle boundary disputes, but none every arise. Wiggins is a robust man with snow white hair, eyebrows that arch in incredulity and strong hands beginning to gnarl like briar. In his spare time, he strolls his saltwater farm on Carlton Cove or sails the *Amity*, his sloop. "I picked the name out of the air," he says. "I threatened to name it *Lolita*, an old man's darling, but my wife didn't care for that."

"J. Russell? He's an American original," says Ellsworth's city manager, Herbert Gildorf. "For this place and this time, it's probably the best fit between a newspaper and a community I've ever seen, and I don't have any reason to blow the guy's horn 'cause he's harpooned me a couple of times."

Folks are proud of the *American*, and why not? It may be the finest—albeit quirkiest—weekly in the nation. "It's a real good pay-pa," says Don Walls as he lowers a 100-lb. crate of lobsters from a wharf in Southwest Harbor; the *American* ran a photograph of Walls six-year-old son Travis, winner of the fishing derby. "Meant a lot to me and the boy," he says.

Some think Wiggins is a curmudgeon. He grabs onto every subject like a pit bull. He's been railing against the lottery for years. "It's a fraud on the public," he steams. Maybe, but he hasn't even won over his per-

sonal secretary, Rose Lee Carlsie, who buys five dollars' worth of lottery tickets every week. When the Maine legislature amended the state constitution, Wiggins wrote an editorial saying the change was "as clumsily executed as a double heart-bypass by a band of butchers wielding a chain saw."

"Like that one, did you?" he asks. Some folks say he's too liberal. Wiggins laughs: "My children and grandchildren are always telling me what a reactionary old bastard I am." He enjoys citing the saying that a newspaper should "comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable. But Wiggins can be a softly too. His reporters remember his weeping when a Christmas caroler from a home for wayward boys put his arms around him. Then there is the Wiggins who laughs until he tears.

He passes on the latest story from his friend and sailing partner, Walter-Cronkite, that is. Greeting visitors to his 1802 Federal house are life-size cutout figures of Frank and Ed, the yokels from the *Bartles & Jaymes* ad. "I want you to meet a couple of friends of mine—Frank and Ed," he tells an unwary visitor. He admits to two vices, Scotch old-fashions and raspberry sherbet. After he wrote a column about the scarcity of the latter, merchants started stocking it.

On his farm, Wiggins walks among his mallard ducks, chickens, geese and a Norfolk terrier named Red that once belonged to the late White. The elders among the geese—Arthur, the old gander, and Jesebel, the goose—are often featured in Wiggins' Aesop-like bimonthly column.

Once a "mover and a shaker," he steered the *Washington Post's* coverage of every crisis from the Berlin Wall to the Viet Nam War. No more. "You can't flatter yourself in the belief that you can leverage the world from the perimeter of Ellsworth, Me.," he says. "But I enjoy rural life a lot better than I do big cities. I'm at home in this environment." Happiness, he says, is an old age shared with Ben Franklin's three faithful friends: "an old wife, an old dog and ready money."

ALARMING RISE IN ANTI-SEMITISM NOTED

HON. MARIO BIAGGI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 1988

Mr. BIAGGI. Mr. Speaker, as one member who since 1981 has been sponsoring legislation to impose swift and certain penalties on those convicted of hate crimes, I wish to again urge that final congressional action be completed on legislation passed by this House which would be an important first step forward, H.R. 3258 which I was proud to cosponsor.

In addition the report released yesterday by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith makes this an even more compelling cause. Their report makes the disturbing conclusion that anti-Semitic incidents in the United States increased 12 percent in 1987 reversing a 5-year downward trend according to this morning's *New York Times*.

The total number of incidents for 1987 was 1,018 a staggering rate of more than two a day for the whole year. These incidents of anti-Semitic incidents include two types: vandalism against Jewish institutions and property and harassment threats and assaults against Jews and Jewish property. Typically acts of

vandalism outnumber the harassment and threat type of incidents and 1987 was no exception. There were 694 acts of vandalism and 324 harassments, threats and assaults.

Tragically, New York State again led the States with 207 incidents. New York also led with acts of harassment, threats and assaults.

It is important to note that an increased number of State legislatures, 29 in all have adopted stricter laws aimed at curbing religious or ethnic vandalism. Yet there remains to this date no Federal legislation to deal with the problem of religious and ethnic violence.

H.R. 2538 proposes a graduated series of penalties for those who commit these heinous acts against religious persons and or property. This would include life imprisonment for any such incident that results in death.

There are far too many acts of violence and vandalism occurring against people of all religions. Just two nights ago, Cardinal O'Connor of the Archdiocese of New York had his personal residence broken into by a knife wielding individual who threatened one of the cardinal's housekeepers. It was the second forced entry into the residence in the past year. We read about too many religious buildings being defaced. We even hear too much about desecration of cemeteries.

It is time to act and we must do so. It is tragic that these acts occur but they do. We cannot ignore them because our inaction will only encourage more such acts in the future.

At this time I wish to insert an article from the New York Times highlighting the B'nai B'rith report.

[From the New York Times, Jan. 27, 1988]

REPORT SHOWS 12 PERCENT RISE IN ANTI-SEMITIC INCIDENTS

Anti-Semitic incidents in the United States increased 12 percent in 1987, reversing a five-year downward trend, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith reported yesterday.

At the league's New York headquarters, its national director, Abraham H. Foxman, called the results "disturbing." He said that, paradoxically, the increase had come in a period of vigorous local law enforcement and statutory efforts against crimes of bias as well as a recent Federal crackdown on hate groups.

The 1,018 reported incidents in 1987 and the percentage of increase from 1986, however, were less than those of 1981, the last year the annual audit found a significant increase in anti-Semitism in this country.

In 1981, there were 1,324 reported incidents. That was the third year in a row that the number of incidents was more than double the previous year's.

694 VANDALISM INCIDENTS

The league divided the incidents into two types: vandalism against Jewish institutions and property, and harassment, threats and assaults against Jews and Jewish property. Historically, incidents of vandalism have largely outnumbered harassments, threats and assaults and that was the case last year.

The number of incidents of vandalism last year was 694, ranging from swastika daubings to arson and pipe bombings. This was an increase of 17 percent over the 594 incidents reported in 1986. The sharp increase, the audit said, largely reflected a 121 percent increase in such incidents in California.

The audit found some of the more serious vandalism was carried out by members of a neo-Nazi hate group who call themselves the Skinheads. The group's activity last year, particularly in California, the audit said, brought the number of anti-Semitic in-

cidents attributable to organized hate groups to 20. In recent years, no more than one or two vandalism incidents have been attributed to such groups.

The number of harassments, threats and assaults was 324 last year, a 4 percent increase over the 312 such incidents reported in 1986. These included 16 assaults last year, compared with 11 the year before. Most of the harassments and threats came in the form of hate mail and telephone calls.

NEW YORK'S BREAKDOWN

New York, the state with the highest Jewish population, led the nation with 207 vandalism incidents, up from 186 in 1986. Of the 91 incidents reported last year in New York City, Brooklyn had the most, with 37, followed by Manhattan, with 27.

Outside the city, Nassau County had the most in the state, followed by Suffolk County, with 41. The remaining 55 counties in the state had a combined total of 15 incidents.

California had the second highest number of vandalism incidents, 137, up from 62 in 1986.

Florida was third, with 64, followed by New Jersey, with 43. The 1987 totals for both states, however, were down from 1986. Connecticut was ranked 20th, with 6 incidents, one more than the year before.

The top four states for vandalism were ranked the same for harassments, threats and assaults.

Mr. Foxman said that, in recent years, 29 state legislatures, including those in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, had adopted stricter laws aimed at curbing religious or ethnic vandalism.

Nonetheless, he said, the 1987 figures reinforced the need for even stricter law enforcement of bias crimes, strengthened security measures for Jewish institutions and greater educational efforts to heighten public concern about such crimes.

A UNIQUE PROPOSAL FOR WORLD COURT

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 27, 1988

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call my colleagues attention to an informative article written by Paul Kerson, a lawyer from Queens County, NY, on the use of the International Court of Justice of the United Nations to resolve international disputes and consequently lower the risk of nuclear war.

So that my colleagues may be able to learn more about this intriguing proposal, I include the article, which appeared in the December 1987 issue of the Queens Bar Bulletin, in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

THE INTERNATIONAL COURTS OF JUSTICE— QUEENS COUNTY STYLE

(By Paul E. Kerson)*

Have you noticed the change that has come over our county in the last five years? The court-appointed translator has become the most indispensable party in the administration of justice!

Item—In a child custody action between a Dominican-American and a Nicaraguan, the issue was whether she married him for his coveted U.S. citizenship.

Item—In a commercial landlord-tenant action between a Korean fruit store tenant and a Syrian discount store landlord, the issue was a \$10,000 water bill. It seems that the Syrian could not successfully explain to the Korean that his refrigerator was using too much water because of a defective valve. Without the able interpreter, bloodshed may have resulted in the courthouse.

Item—The Romanian contractor client fails to show up in court because he could not read his mail. At the court's direction, the defendant shopkeeper, also a Romanian, volunteered to contact the plaintiff to get him in on the adjourned date.

Item—A Hungarian-American wishes to sell a kosher bakery to a Russian. At the closing, the Russian insists that the Hungarian sign a 500 year old religious document in biblical Hebrew declaring joint ventures so the interest on the notes can be divinely forgiven. The creative Queens County practitioner comes up with the English language disclaimer: "This document is signed for religious purposes only and has no civil effect." All parties are satisfied.

Item—A Nigerian gets off the plane at Kennedy Airport with 100 pounds of marijuana in his suitcase. Local counsel is appointed. The District Attorney and the court agree to an E felony plea with voluntary deportation. The Office of Court Administration has no Ibo language interpreter. The United Nations Nigerian mission claims that no one speaking Ibo could possibly have committed such a crime. Columbia University saves the day by sending an Ibo speaking engineering graduate student to translate.

Item—A thoroughly distraught Russian woman gets off the plane at Kennedy screaming to the Port Authority police that her husband has kidnapped their children and hidden them in Queens. The Family Court appoints local counsel for the woman. A Federal Express letter to the Secretary of State (the one in Washington, not Albany) gets the children before the court the next day.

Item—An Indian Sikh priest is given a summons for carrying a ceremonial sword in the Flushing subway station. A wise Queens County Criminal Court judge rules that the interests of society in preventing violence on the subway must be balanced against one's First Amendment right to freedom of worship. A creative judicial solution is suggested: Summons dismissed, but Indian Sikh priests should carry their ceremonial swords encased in lucite in the future.

Item—A local con artist hoodwinks a Greek archbishop into signing over the deed to his church in violation of canon and civil law. The con man then sells the church building to a Korean congregation. The Koreans threaten to evict the Greeks. A respected Queens County Supreme Court justice confides to counsel that this is the most difficult decision he has had to make in 18 years on the bench.

At the trial, no one can speak to anyone, and both Greek and Korean interpreters are needed for justice to be done. Invoking the spirit of Solomon, the judge awards title to the Koreans, but permits the Greek congregation to remain in possession pending appeal.

There is no question that the skill of our local lawyers and judges have defused these incidents, which would have resulted in international tensions had they been exposed to media attention at the time they occurred.

Something incredible is happening right before our very eyes. Our lawyers and judges in this county at this time are adjusting the ancient common law to fit a world

* Paul E. Kerson is co-editor of the Queens Bar Bulletin and President of the Queens County Criminal Courts Bar Association.