

CLARKSBURG NEWS

Farmer Author of Controversial Report



The author of "Whitewash" discusses matters with a pet goose at his Hyattstown farm.

by Mrs. John Beecher

Harold Welsberg, who lives quietly with his wife on a small farm in Hyattstown, Maryland, is a newspaper and magazine writer, a former Senate investigator, and poultry farmer. Mr. Welsberg followed the investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy more closely than most of his fellow Americans and early came to the conclusion that the whole truth was not being told. The Report of the Warren Commission, published in the fall of 1964, confirmed his convictions. Since Mr. Welsberg passionately believes that an informed public is vital to the existence of a free society such as ours, he spent long painstaking months searching the archives of the Commission and analyzing the Report, and in mid-February completed a book, which he called "Whitewash - The Report." It offered "the first critical study based on a close analysis of the 26-volumes themselves." (This is not only Mr. Welsberg's assertion, but is a direct quotation from one of the books on the assassination and investigation which now proliferate, and which apparently have little difficulty finding publishers.)

Last week Mr. Welsberg talked about his efforts to have the book published and how he eventually brought it to the attention of the American public himself.

Mr. Welsberg offered his manuscript to 63 U.S. book publishers and a number of French, English and German publishers, during a 14-month period. Twenty-one refused to read it. Some considered it as many as four times but all eventually declined to publish. In summing up his efforts at publication Mr. Welsberg says in his preface to "Whitewash," "Without exception, all the publishers pronounced the subject matter important, one insisting even the author did not realize how important. Many also expressed the firm conviction the book should, in addition, be profitable. Yet all shunned the profits as much as the honor. In all the author alone has made 103 offers of this book, not counting repeaters." Despite repeated praise and expressions of interest, no publisher accepted the manuscript. Mr. Welsberg felt compelled, therefore, to publish and distribute the book himself.

Mrs. Welsberg typed the book for printing by offset reproduction. The 7 by 10 size chosen for the book originally as a more readable presentation of single space offset work was abandoned in favor of the 6 by 9 size because of the cost involved in printing the larger size. A limited edition of the book was printed in August, 1965, by Merkle Press, Washington, D. C.

After the first printing was available for general distribution on May 9, 1966, Mr. Welsberg set about the difficult job of distribution himself. He left copies at 17 local stores, one of whom obtained a local distributor for the book. An adverse story in May by the Washington Post on all inquiries into the Warren Report created a terrific interest in the book. In the first week of June, 1966, Mr. Welsberg was invited to attend the Book Sellers Association meeting in Washington. He did so, and publishers who had declined to publish the book actually recommended it to distributors, most of whom ordered the book. A second printing had to be made in July 1966; less than

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Boardmans Leave for California

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Boardman and family are off to the San Francisco area. Mr. Boardman, who is with the United States Geological Survey, has been transferred to the Menlo Park Field Center, headquarters of the Earthquake Research Center. This is a particularly sensitive earthquake-prone area because of the San Andreas fault zone.

Mr. Boardman spent part of his youth in California and likes the state. All the Boardmans with Maryland will not be cut as Miss Robin Boardman will stay on at the Peabody Conservatory, where she has been studying voice for several years. Vaya con Dios.

Halloween Party Scheduled

There will be a Halloween party at 7:00 P.M., Monday evening, October 31, at the Clarksburg Elementary School, for children through the elementary school age level. This is an annual party given by the Community Association, and will be organized this year by Mrs. William W. Haythorn. There will be a grand parade of maskers. Prizes will be given to winners in numerous costume categories, and there will be games, and refreshments.

Parents should come to the party with their children and can (and have been known to) dress up if they want to.

ANTIQUÉ SHOP OPENS

Mrs. Mary Daisey has opened a new antique shop on Rt. 355, two miles north of Clarksburg. Mrs. Daisey has nourished a long-time

interest in antiques dating from a period when she worked for Majorie Hendricks at Normandy Farms, then owned by Mrs. Hendricks. She has been a collector since that time and this is her first commercial venture.

Mrs. Daisey is a long-time resident of this area, having lived on a farm near Hyattstown, and is now living on Clarkbrook Road in Clarkbrook Estates. She is the mother of five boys, the youngest three years old, and is the proud grandmother of three.

Mrs. Daisey loves all old things and does not intend to specialize. The shop opened in late September and it already provides much happy hunting for antique lovers. There is a very large collection of carnival glass, as well as pressed glass, cut glass and satin glass; a collection of mother-of-pearl pictures painted on glass; marble top tables, pictures, lamps, clocks, rocking chairs and other furniture. She plans to have more cabinetry for sale as pieces can be restored and moved into place.

Recently Mrs. Daisey purchased the entire furnishings of a collector's home in Rockville. Among many items, she acquired a collection of ten clocks, one of which is a German grandfather clock, one of only three known to be in this country, and two of a rare set of three banjo clocks. She hopes to locate the third in a very large clock collection in California.

Like many antiquarians Mrs. Daisey keeps a number of her best loved pieces at her home. She is currently housing there a Chippendale sofa, an unusual carved sideboard, an old organ, and several of the clock collection. She will show these on appointment, and no doubt will move them to the shop when other acquisitions take their place.

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