

The Big Lie Works In Russia; All Life Colored by Fantasy

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Washington — The Russian people are the unwitting victims of the biggest fairy tale of all time.

It is a fantasy that must be lived with every waking moment and from which there is no escape. It colors every aspect of human life in the Soviet Union and smother truth by its all-pervasive presence.

Spread with military efficiency by Soviet newspapers, magazines, books, radio, television and platform lecturers, the essential ingredients of Russian Communist propaganda are these:

1—Stalin is a combination of god and father; communism is the only form of government under which freedom is possible; Russia is a land of milk and honey while the capitalist countries—particularly the United States—are tottering on the brink of economic, cultural and moral collapse.

2—Western democracies, led by Wall Street-dominated United States, are wolves slaving for a chance to wreck Russia and slaughter her people.

3—Russia wants only peace and all her activities are toward that end, but the true Bolshevik knows that capitalist imperialists may force Russia to fight a war—and in that global conflict workers all over the world will rise and overthrow their capitalist masters.

This fiction, in endless variation, is hammered into the minds of 200 million Russians every hour of every day by the Soviet internal propaganda system, which one student has called "one of the most formidable instruments in the shaming of the mind of modern man."

Retention is the keynote. Masters of the Kremlin appear to be trying to plant their ideas so deeply in the subconscious of the people that they can never be rooted out.

Like the dogs of the Russian psycholoist Pavlov, who were trained to drool hungrily at the sound of a bell, the Russian people are being conditioned to respond with hate and fear at the sound of the words "American" or "United States."

American who want to woo the Russians or appraise their attitude toward the free world, must first understand the way their minds are controlled.

The only effective way to do this while there is an "Iron curtain" is to enter the never-ending land of Russian newspapers, radio and other means of communication. To that end, reams of translations of Russian home-consumption propaganda material, obtained from official or undisclosed sources were studied in the preparation of this series of articles.

An American observer soon realizes that because the Soviet Politburo is in complete control of information, Communist propagandists can do much further in indoctrinating the Russian people than they can in their efforts to sway and confuse the outside world.

tural and industrial deficiencies may be, she has developed effective means of seeing that her people are kept thoroughly ignorant of their comparative merits. She has developed a high degree of literacy among the people, and a huge web of newspapers and radio stations exists to spread the Kremlin's words.

One American recently back from Moscow said this about the Soviet radi: "It seems you are never out of earshot of a loudspeaker. They are in stations, public buildings, apartment houses, stores—everywhere. The propaganda flow is constant. What's more, most of the loudspeakers are not controlled by the listeners, so there is no opportunity to turn them off—or time to the 'Voice of America!'"

The Russians proudly report that "radio has penetrated into the most distant corners of the vast Soviet state... Soviet broadcasting is called upon to serve as one of the principal means for the Communist education of the working people and of developing the culture of the Soviet people."

Only an estimated four million radio sets are available in the USSR, compared to approximately 100 million in the United States. However, the Soviet technique of using many speakers connected to one set and group listening brings radio to many more people than the Russian figures indicate.

Russia's most important propaganda agencies are her newspapers. "Pravda"—whose title, ironically, means "Truth"—is the official voice of the Communist Party and the government. Its birthday, May 5, is "Bolshevik Press Day."

Second among the newspapers is "Izvestia." Then there are "Trud," the labor paper; "Kommunisticheskaya Pravda," the youth paper; and many, many others. The Russians report:

"There are 7,700 newspapers and 1,400 magazines published in the principle languages of the soviets of working people's deputies, organizations of the Communist Party, women's and youth organizations, trade unions, cooperative, sports and scientific societies and other organizations of the working people."

"The circulation of all news-papers published in the USSR total more than 33,500,000." By contrast, in the United States—circulation of daily papers, all, is about 55 million. Again it must be remembered, however, that the Soviet system of group use vastly extends the influence of Russia's printed material.

Literature, motion pictures, drama, even ballet, are also enlisted in the spread of the Kremlin's fairy tale. All are in the straitjacket of Communist conformity.

Russia's growing television industry—with stations in three cities and an estimated 60,000 sets in the Moscow area—is a fertile new field for the Communist "information" experts.

(In the United States, there are now 108 television broadcasting stations, a coast-to-coast coaxial cable network, and more than 15-million TV receivers in the hands of the public.)

In charge of the gigantic Soviet propaganda operation is the Administration of Agitation and Propaganda—"Agitprop." It is reputed to be one of the biggest employments in the Soviet Union. A study of the fruits of this fantastic machine calls to mind the slogan inscribed on the "Ministry of Truth" building in the totalitarian country of George Orwell's forbidding novel, "Nineteen Eighty-Four":

"War is peace; freedom is slavery; ignorance is strength." (Next: What the Russian people are told about the United States and the rest of the free world.)

... Are You Voting This Year?

"We have a curious condition in the United States today in which apparently 50 percent of the citizens take very little interest in government, or in politics, unless the issues are forcibly brought to their attention. The percentage of voting is extremely low. If we voted as large a proportion of our eligible voters as they did in Great Britain last October, we would vote 86 million people. We have never voted more than 55 million.

"If we can arouse the interest and concern of those who have slept in past elections, if we can bring home to our neighbors the fact that government can be just as honest and healthy and American as baseball, honest representatives of the people will be elected, and the liberty and peace of the people will be maintained. Sen. Robert A. Taft (R-Ohio). Candidate for the Republican presidential nomination.

IN DAYS OF YORE Turning Back the Clock

One Year Ago May 17, 1951

The world premiere Saturday evening of "A Psalm of David" by Norman Dello Joio and the appearance of Robert Shaw as conductor of J. S. Bach's "St. John's Passion" Sunday afternoon are highlights of the 20th annual Spring Festival of the Arts at Potsdam State Teachers College this weekend.

Dedication of a memorial to Potsdam's dead of both World Wars will follow a Memorial Day parade on May 30. The memorial, a stone bearing the names of those who died, will be set across from the civic center on Park St.

A stray pony was taken into custody by the village police Tuesday night after it had been wandering around on private property.

The pony was caught by policeman Charles Hughes who led it to the police station. The pony was locked up overnight in the cell room. Wednesday morning, policeman Mike Spaziale hitched it outside the station and gave the cell room a thorough housecleaning.

10 Years Ago May 13, 1942

"This commencement is not a time for celebration, but rather a time for the solemn dedication of your services to the cause of President John A. Ross Jr., of your country and of humanity," Clarkson College of Technology told graduates in the commencement address Monday.

25 Years Ago May 18, 1927

Trinity Church, Potsdam is understood to be ready to make a strong bid for location here of the head of any new diocese which would be created by the Episcopal Church by taking from the diocese of Albany the northern section of the diocese.

A meeting of the Ku Klux Klan was held in the I.O.O.F. hall in Market Street this village on Thursday evening, last week according to report. Upwards of one hundred fifty men and women were present and heard an address by a Schenectady man. According to rumour one or two other meetings have been held here previously, but this one appeared to be noised abroad to a greater extent than the others.

It is understood that it is the intention to form a permanent organization in this vicinity, or possibly, to expand one already formed. Upwards of a year ago, a Klan gathering was reported to have been held on the South Canton Road and remains of a burned cross were found the next morning.

50 Years Ago May 14, 1902

The band got badly fooled by the company that played here last week under the name of the Rose Sydel Co. The original company is a high grade one, and was filling an engagement in Baltimore last week. The company that appeared here under that name was hardly up to the requirements, and the managers of the band regret greatly that they were deceived into securing such a Potsdam audience.

Oscar Selleck of Parishville, is the owner of a 2 year old bay filly of which he feels justly proud. She is sired by imported French Coach, "Helvetas" owned by Amon Bouck, stands 15 1/2 hands high and weighs ten hundred pounds. She is one of the finest colts ever seen in Parishville, and the owner has a right to feel proud of her.

75 Years Ago May 17, 1877

Golden Wedding.—Anna T. Hopkins and wife of this village passed the 50th anniversary of their wedded life last Thursday. Mr. and Mrs. Hopkins are among the pioneers of our town and are highly esteemed by all who know them. Their children were all with them, we are informed, on the occasion of their golden wedding.



Potsdam Preview

- THURSDAY, MAY 15
Racket River Lodge 213, Free and Accepted Masons, meets in the Masonic Temple, Elm St., at 7:45 p.m.
MONDAY, MAY 19
Village Board of Trustees meets in the board room of the civic center at 7:30 p.m.
Frank Barclay Post, American Legion and Auxiliary, meets in the legion room of the civic center at 7:30 p.m.
St. Lawrence Court, Order of Amaranth, meets at 8 p.m. in the Masonic Temple, Canton.
TUESDAY, MAY 20
Potsdam Lions Club meets at the Knotty Pine Lodge at 6:30 p.m.
Excelsior Lodge 548, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, meets in IOOF hall, Market St., at 8 p.m.
Community Concert Association presents the Philadelphia Woodwind quartet in the civic center at 8 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, MAY 21
Potsdam Rotary Club meets at the Potsdam Club at 12:15 p.m.
Red Cross bloodmobile collects blood at the Clarkson Lounge of the civic center from noon until 6 p.m.
FRIDAY, MAY 23
Vega Chapter 98, Order of the Eastern Star, meets in the Masonic Temple, Elm St., at 8 p.m.
SATURDAY, MAY 24
Potsdam Country Club holds its opening party from 9 p.m. until 1 a.m.
MONDAY, MAY 26
Roy D. Graves Post 1194, Veterans of Foreign Wars, meets in the VFW clubhouse at 8 p.m.
TUESDAY, MAY 27
Marsh Woman's Relief Corps 91 meets in the civic center at 2:30 p.m.
Potsdam Lions Club meets at the Knotty Pine Lodge at 6:30 p.m.
Potsdam B's Home Bureau unit meets in the civic center at 7:30 p.m. for a business meeting.
Potsdam High School presents its annual school exhibition at the high school starting at 7:30 p.m.
Knights of Columbus meets in the K of C clubhouse at 8 p.m.
Union Rebekah Lodge 22 meets in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows hall, Market St., at 8 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, MAY 28
Potsdam Rotary Club meets at the Potsdam Club at 12:15 p.m.
Potsdam (Grange meets in the civic center at 8 p.m.
MONDAY, JUNE 2
Village Board of Trustees meets in the board room of the civic center at 7:30 p.m.
TUESDAY, JUNE 3
Potsdam Lions Club meets at the Knotty Pine Lodge at 6:30 p.m.



Food prices as paid by the consumer and farm prices received by the farmer for producing those foods are by no means the same thing and a whole world of economics lies between them. Take the price of a quart bottle of milk: breaking down the bulk wholesale farm price, the farmer gets about 7 1/2 cents out of which he must raise, care and feed his herd, maintain barns and buildings that will meet rigid health inspection, plus the physical labor of milking, twice a day, seven days a week. Meanwhile this quart of milk comes to the doorstep or grocery counter for the price of 23 cents. Nor does this mean that when milk goes up to 24 cents that the farmer gets 8 1/2 cents. Quite often he is still getting the same while faced with drought and higher feed costs, constantly rising costs of implements, repair and man power.

Eggs at the farm are selling at a lower figure than in quite a while, but we notice that a restaurant omelet is still a rare and priceless gem.

The point we are trying to make is that when food prices are thought to be high, the average consumer unconsciously uses the farmer as the whipping boy. Are food costs too high? Now that sounds absurd, but let's look at some figures: 20 years ago we had to spend 24 percent of income for food. Today we only spent 17 percent, and are eating better and more food than in our history. Let's put it another way: today an hour of labor will buy twice as much round steak, or pork chops, two and a half times as much bread, three times as much milk, as in 1914.

Granted that the cost of living or rather let's say our standard of living, is pretty high, and we are enjoying it, but let's be realistic: actually the farmer's improved methods and stepped up production have given us a better table diet than ever before.

Membership programs discovered startling facts. Success is in direct proportion to how good subordinate Grange leadership is. There are literally dozens of splendid prospects in every community in the state who have never been approached. Are you going to let these good Grange prospects go by default? You don't get a crop unless you plow, sow the seed and cultivate. How can you expect to get a strong Grange any differently?

PSTC Festival Returns Again

If Potsdam's biggest business is education—as many loyal local boosters say—the coming weekend with its annual Spring Festival of the Arts is one of the high points of our year.

Once again Potsdam State Teachers College is privileged to have for his sixth performance here famed choral conductor Robert Shaw to lead the Crane Chorus and Orchestra in appearances on Saturday and Sunday.

Another attraction is the return of Norman Dello Joio to the local musical stage. Mr. Dello Joio's "A Psalm of David" received its American premiere last spring at the PSTC festival. The noted American composer will direct excerpts from his opera, "The Triumph of St. Joan." He will also appear as piano soloist in this number.

On Saturday Mr. Shaw will conduct the Crane group in two numbers which were presented by the chorus in its performance at Carnegie Hall in February. Excerpts of Mr. Dello Joio's opera will also be presented that evening.

On Sunday afternoon Mr. Shaw will conduct Beethoven's "Missa Solemnis," one of the composer's most massive works.

The ambition and the breadth of the program is primarily a tribute to the energy and brilliance of Miss Helen Hosmer, founder and director of the Crane Chorus, and to her assistant director, Brock McElheran. Both have worked hard to forge their students into form for the largest cooperative musical enterprise in the history of the college.

Parking Lot Need Not Diminished

Although the Village Board of Trustees has voted to table indefinitely further discussion of a parking lot between Main and Water St., the need for such a lot has not diminished. In fact, with approaching good weather the need for an offstreet parking lot increases each week.

Most thinking residents of Potsdam recognize a pretty obvious fact there just isn't enough room in the business district to accommodate people from the village and surrounding villages who have made Potsdam a habit for shopping and entertainment.

Something's got to give. People cannot be expected to continue patronizing Potsdam as a shopping center if they must spend at least a half an hour each trip looking for a place to leave their cars.

Some of these people will go to other villages to shop. Others will begin to patronize shopping areas on the edge of the village. One such area is already being considered according to well-informed sources.

Neither of these alternatives will do the village of Potsdam any good. Both will become a drain on the village's prosperity and the value of its property.

Without expert opinion on real property values, we hardly feel free to comment on whether the prices set by the owners of the Water-Main St. lot are out of line at approximately \$70,000. Nor are we certain that the amount of \$36,000 which the villages was advised by three reputedly unbiased appraisers to spend for this same land was high, low, or just right. The fact remains that the village board has tabled the proposition.

Although it is generally agreed that the Main-Water St. area would be ideal as far as location goes, we feel the village board should begin at once to make inquiries into purchasing a lot somewhere else in the business district. We recall that an area at the end of Munson St. was suggested for this purpose by the Planning Commission three years ago.

Realizing that the financing of a parking lot here presents a difficult problem considering the present size of the village's debt, we urge that authorities consider carefully the formation of a parking authority which can pay for the construction of off-street facilities. If all village parking lots were metered—at rates considerably lower than those charged on the streets—the parking authority could be self-amortizing as the law requires.

Lack of parking facilities will squeeze Potsdam much harder in years to come. Delay in working out a solution to the problem cannot help but be dangerous.

Letter to the Editor

To The Editor: I found myself blowing off one night to a group of friends about the People of Potsdam vs. the Civilian Defense Program. That's just the way I think of of the situation, too. The citizens—I used the word loosely—are sure fighting against this thing. I talked so long and hard that finally someone asked "Why not write a letter to the Editor of the Courier?" I don't know whether they were just trying to shut me up, or if they really meant it. It sounded like a good idea to me.

Articles keep appearing in the Courier urging people to volunteer to man our observation post. This entails going to the observation post on the hospital roof, watching for airplanes and making a phone call if you see one. Last week, Mr. James L. Lacey, Potsdam's Civil Defense chairman, stated that he had only 20 persons upon whom he could call to spot. He has orders from the Air Force to man our post 24 hours a day, seven days a week, starting May 17. That's 168 hours. I think he's open for suggestions as to just how that can be done. According to my arithmetic that means, if one person spots alone, the present volunteers will be required to spot a little

more than eight hours a week, or one working day. It all boils down to this—in Potsdam, only 20 people (and the United States Air Force) are interested in the defense of United States. I wonder why?

I can't help but feel that manning our observation post 24 hours a day has been given serious thought by persons who pretty well know what is needed now to prepare for what may happen in the future. I don't feel that the Air Force is requesting this because they have a grudge against the citizens of United States—I feel there must be a good reason for it.

Perhaps someone can tell me what the five thousand and some odd people in Potsdam think about it—no one has satisfactorily answered that yet. Perhaps too many people are skipping the front pages of our newspapers and reading only the funnies. Perhaps the offer to help should be made more attractive, such as coffee and doughnuts will be served every hour on the half hour. Or perhaps no one cares what I think and I'm beating my head against a brick wall when I should be saving my time and energy to spot? E.K.Wac