

ON THE LINE
Bob Considine

The death of Eddie Rickenbacker at 82 breaks the ranks of the Big Four of commercial aviation. The surviving fathers of the multibillion dollar industry are Juan Trippe of Pan Am, 74; C.R. Smith of American, 73; and Pat Patterson of United, 73.

They no longer dominate the companies they shaped, nor did Rickenbacker rule over Eastern during the last decade of his memorable life. But none of their successors have ever made a major decision without first looking over his shoulder to see if his formidable predecessor/patron was watching.

Edward Vernon Rickenbacker was born in Columbus, O., never got around to much formal education, served as an apprentice tombstone sculptor, turned out to be a natural mechanic, studied mechanical engineering and drafting by mail with the International Correspondence School, and became a daredevil race driver on dangerous dirt tracks and at Indianapolis Speedway, which he eventually controlled. Rick was in England training a British Sunbeam team when the U.S. entered World War I. He enlisted with the rank of sergeant and was shipped to France as one of Gen. John J. Pershing's staff drivers.

One day, shin deep in mud while fixing a flat, he looked up at a passing French fighter plane and decided he was in the wrong end of the war business. He arranged a transfer, flew combat after only 17 hours of flight training, wound up as captain/commander of the 94th Aero Squadron, became the leading American ace with 26 kills, and came home as the No. 1 American war hero, his chest aglow with the Congressional Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross with nine oak leaves, Croix de Guerre, with four, and the Medal of Merit.

He brought all that flair and

fame to aviation in 1929 after several ups and downs in the auto industry, including the rise and fall of the Rickenbacker car, which introduced four-wheel brakes and balloon tires. He sold air travel, particularly on Eastern's New York to Miami route, with great skill and charm. His survival of a pre-War crash at Atlanta and 24 days in a rubber raft in the Pacific during World War II were considered pluses in commercial flight. They encouraged new business; not all crashes were automatically fatal.

After the Pacific experience, Rickenbacker added a deeply religious note to his already ingrained conservatism. His Christmas greetings to thousands of friends gave testimony to his deep faith that the Almighty would prevail over evils afflicting America — which he generally listed as Communism, radical youth organizations, errant politicians, and the disruption of U.S. family life.

He had long maintained a running duel with President Roosevelt, labor, the Civil Aeronautics Board — for crowding his once-exclusive routes with lively competitors, and in time he stretched his anti-Rooseveltian feelings to including the Kennedys.

But he never forgot to run a good tight corporate ship. He believed that the pilot was its absolute master, and must know his trade to the nth degree. Eastern was often the last airline to make new instrumentation standard equipment, particularly if designed to lighten the pilot's job.

President Eisenhower, a great admirer, made Rick a reserve general in the Air Force. But Rick was not the kind of man who liked to pull his rank. He preferred to be remembered and called Captain or, better still, Cap. He was one hell of a man, Cap.

Church Leadership Undermined By Government, Dr. Blake Says

New York [RNS] — Nixon Administration attacks have resulted in a weakening of the leadership of the so-called "main line" Protestant churches, Dr. Eugene Carson Blake said in a sermon at the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church.

Speaking of his own denomination in particular, Dr. Blake said rank and file members of the United Presbyterian Church had been persuaded that they had had "questionable" leadership in the past.

Dr. Blake, who served as general secretary, World Council of Churches, from 1966 until his retirement last year, previously served as chief executive officer of the United Presbyterian Church.

Referring to United Presbyterian response to the "barbaric" bombing of North Vietnam during the Christmas season last year, Dr. Blake said that "some pastors did well."

"But our Church in general," he continued, "was unable to be an effective force for peace because too many Presbyterians had been persuaded that Vietnam was political and the Church shouldn't get involved."

Conflict between Dr. Blake and the White House became open in 1972 when his request on behalf of himself and several other Protestant leaders for an appointment with President Nixon was refused. They wanted to discuss their concerns regarding American bombing, and when the appointment was refused, Dr. Blake issued a public protest against what he charged was the intentional bombing of North Vietnamese dikes.

The White House answered through Father John McLaughlin, SJ, a Nixon aide who accused Dr. Blake of "uncritical opinionating."

In his sermon, Dr. Blake

alluded to the recent revelation that his name had been on one of the lists of White House enemies turned over to the Senate Watergate committee by former White House counsel John Dean.

Dr. Blake's was the first name on a list produced by Dean himself on Sept. 14, 1971. The words "per request" followed the name.

Dr. Blake recalled that in 1970 he sent an open letter to then United Nations Secretary General U Thant asking him to take some initiative against the tendency of many governments to "act politically against their own citizens in the name of law and order."

"Now three years later I find myself publicly listed as an enemy of my own government," he said.

Dr. Blake said he did not know who had made the request that he be placed on the list. But he said "the whole company of main line Protestant leadership has been shut out of the White House and our leadership attacked publicly."

Dr. Blake criticized American foreign aid policy as directed too largely in support of military dictatorship and designed to prolong the American standard of living while the "poor nations are getting poorer." He also charged that current domestic policies of the U.S. government were oriented to favor the wealthy against the poor.

American policy in regard to many parts of Asia, Dr. Blake asserted, has "no ideological or moral integrity." And he criticized American support for the military dictatorship of Brazil.

"I realize many of you are not happy with what I've been saying," Dr. Blake acknowledged to the congregation. "Some of you believe that the church should stay out of politics."

"That is, of course, the position of all the totalitarian countries of both left and right," he said. "But in our best American tradition, the churches must be kept free to witness to right and wrong, however unpopular that witness may be."

Voter Registration Underway in Area

Voter registration is being conducted every day this week at the Baden Street Neighborhood Development Office, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Today, Aug. 1, registration is also being done at Long Ridge Mall, 6-9 p.m.; Central Coleman Youth Development, 2:30-5:30 p.m.; Rite-Aid Drugs, Bulls Head Plaza, noon to 3 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 2, registration will be held at Midtown Mall, noon to 9 p.m.; J. M. Fields, Henrietta, 6-9 p.m.; Aero's Market, 1-5 p.m.; Big N, Brock-

port, 6-9 p.m.; Rite-Aid Drugs, Bulls Head Plaza, noon to 3 p.m.

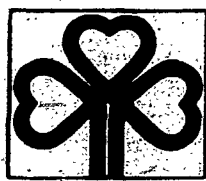
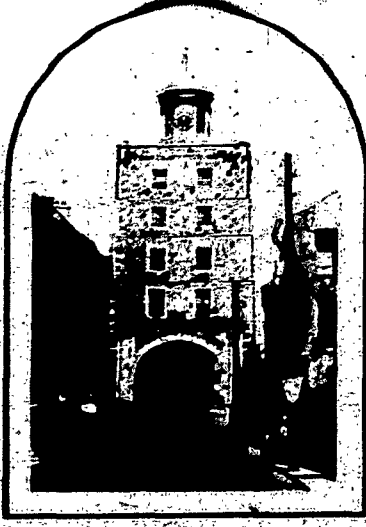
Friday, Aug. 3, registration will be conducted at Amal's Market, noon to 6 p.m.

On Saturday, Aug. 4, registration will be held at Midtown Mall 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Star Market, Jefferson Road, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.; Long Ridge Mall, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.; J. M. Fields, Henrietta, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; First Street Playground, noon to 6 p.m.; Big N, Brockport 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

COURIER-JOURNAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

TOUR



Ireland

"Cead Mile Failte"

or a Hundred Thousand Welcomes is a greeting that awaits us when we arrive at Ireland and you will find the hospitality of the Irish is as traditional as their good humor. The welcome sign is everywhere — a smile, a wave and a nod of a head for everyone.

Our tour takes us to many scenic and interesting places — the celebrated lakes of Killarney, Blarney Castle with its "Stone of Eloquence", the Ring of Kerry with its breathtaking vistas of sea and mountains and, of course, Dublin fair city with its many art galleries, cathedrals, public buildings and shops — and there is entertainment included, Irish style, of course — the cabaret night "Siamsa Mor", the famous Tailors' Guild Hall program and the world popular Medieval Banquet.

The tour is an all inclusive one and has been especially prepared for Courier Journal readers — you will have a private motorcoach, choice hotel accommodations with all meals and a friendly knowledgeable Irish guide who will be with you all the time. Your Spiritual Director is the Reverend Paul Cuddy, the Courier's popular escort, for a recent trip to the Holy Land and we know his friendly and helpful leadership will add immeasurably to your travel enjoyment.



Father Paul Cuddy
Tour Director

OCTOBER
7th to 15th

\$ 575 per person
All Inclusive

Send for Your Brochure TODAY

COURIER-JOURNAL TOURS
67 Chestnut Street
Rochester, N.Y. 14604

Please send brochure for the Tour of Ireland.

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

TELEPHONE