

West Gives Advice On How To Catch President's Eye

By DICK WEST
Washington—UPI—If some journalism school wants to award me an honorary degree, I am willing to bequeath to it my notes on presidential news conferences. These should be a valuable adjunct to the school's curriculum for they deal with a very practical problem in the newspapering trade—how to get recognized by the President.

Whenever I attend one of President Eisenhower's news conferences, I get in on a guest card which automatically disqualifies me from asking questions. So my interest in this subject is more or less academic.

However, there are some members of the local press corps who have been trying for years to ask the President a question but have never gotten the nod. It is for the benefit of them, their children and their children's children that my research is directed.

Solicits Expert Advice
Before the President's meeting with reporters this week, I solicited the expert advice of three veteran newsmen who have had remarkable success at getting recognized. Let us hear first from Merriam Smith, White House reporter for United Press International.

"It's a matter of clean living, playing the game, being able to shout very well (that's where the clean living comes in), and being able to stand in a half-crouch for 30 minutes," Smith said.

A modest man, Smith is disinclined to talk about his own accomplishments, particularly when no lecture fee is involved. But I feel justified in saying for him that he is one of the best half-crouchers in the business.

I next sought out Clark Mollenhoff, a prize-winning reporter for the Cowles publications, who authorized these quotes:

Forecast Slowdowns
"You have to forecast about when he (the President) is slowing down and then you've got to get up fast and be big like a barn."

It is easy enough for Mollenhoff to be big like a barn. Even in a half-crouch, he towers over the rest of his colleagues and thus has a conspicuous advantage.

Mollenhoff also has a theory that Eisenhower tends to recognize reporters who throw "blooper ball" questions that he can knock out of the park, ignoring those who pitch curves.

He says he himself frequently tosses "soft" questions that the President will swing at but is likely to pop up.

This brings us to Sarah McClendon, who represents a string of newspapers and whose questions often bring the President to the brink of apoplexy. Nevertheless, the President keeps on recognizing her.

Mrs. McClendon says the trick is to lay off the pace awhile and then start jumping up while the President is looking in another direction. This distracts him and causes him to look her way next time.

I would add to these professional opinions my own observation that the President lists to port—that is, he tends to recognize newsmen on his left side. I also have a number of other inside tips on recognition but I have to hold back something in case I get that honorary degree.

Hiker To Ascend Berthoud Pass

Granby, Colo. —UPI—Dr. Barbara Moore, 56, began a 30-mile climb today to 11,314-foot Berthoud Pass on the Continental Divide, her 31st day since leaving the Golden Gate en route to the Atlantic Coast.

Dr. Moore, a London physician who lives on fruits, vegetables and honey, hoped to get well beyond Berthoud Pass before nightfall.

She walked nearly 40 miles Wednesday, not stopping until she was seven miles past Granby.

Dr. Moore was 80 miles west of Denver, on the edge of the Great Plains, when she started out today. She has walked about 1,300 miles from San Francisco.

ACTOR DIES
New York —UPI—Georges Flewitsky, 58, an actor and voice of America announcer, died here Tuesday.

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