

Bernard Baruch Visits Stratford

Baruch: Youth's Okay Sunday Herald

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Normally, I'm not the real serious type and world affairs have always taken a back seat to current school studies and the fate of the Stratford High football team.

Thus, it was with unconcerned emotions that I received an assignment from our Hi Life editor to "get an interview from Bernard M. Baruch during his visit to Stratford."

DAD EXPLAINS

In the first place, I'll admit that I didn't fully realize just how important Mr. Baruch really was in U.S. and world events.

My dad straightened me out on that one in a flash. When he got through explaining Mr. Baruch's position, I felt butterflies in my tummy as the full realization of the importance of this interview penetrated my teen-age head.

What a thrill when I watched the Veteran of Foreign War Auxiliary escort Mr. Baruch to a park bench imported the occasion.

I soon learned that a park bench was associated with the distinguished visitor much in the same manner that bobbysox are with high school girls.

During the formal question and answer period that followed, Mr. Baruch answered all queries with an ease and informality that made it difficult to keep in mind just how famous a man he was and what an authority on world affairs.

Made it easy, that is, for all in the hall except your reporter who couldn't forget that after his talk I had to "get an interview."

During the question period, I was even further excited and,

if possible, a bit more nervous about the coming meeting when, in answer to a remark about Winston Churchill, Mr. Baruch explained how personal a friend he was of Mr. Churchill for the past 35 years!

BARNIE, WINNIE AND BETTY

That did it! I certainly realized now what an assignment I had.

Imagine, Baruch, Churchill and Betty Angeski from Stratford!

The big moment finally came. Mr. Baruch was escorted to a room off the main floor and I made my way to "get my interview."

Just ahead of me, a most important-looking adult newspaperman approached my target and asked something about Gen. Eisenhower.

In an authoritative tone, Mr. Baruch informed him, "You were told that I am not saying anything."

My heart dropped, because surely that included me.

I edged over to the great man and, I suspect, my nervousness must have been apparent when I requested the "answers to my few questions."

INVITATION ACCEPTED

When a relief when the distinguished gentleman broke out in a broad smile and invited me sit alongside him!

Remember, I'm the one that was supposed to ask the questions, but soon discovered that I was answering more than I could ask.

He seemed most interested in what they were teaching in our high school.

In answer to my question concerning his opinion of the youth of today, Mr. Baruch replied, "Nothing's the matter

with them."

"They have had some mighty poor examples to follow, but they'll come through when needed. The youth of today is all right."

Next I asked what he thought we, the youth of today, could do to improve world conditions.

He replied, "The most important thing is to learn to think."

"Schools today aren't teaching as they used to and what they should."

"Much of what you are learning today isn't as useful as what I was taught in my school days."

"The young people fighting in Korea, though, are doing as good a job at their forefathers had ever done in their wars."

At this point, Mr. Baruch again returned to the subject of thinking, and stressed even further the point of learning to think.

"Taught to think - that's the whole thing."

When asked if he thought that a boy of 18 who is considered old enough to fight shouldn't be allowed to vote, the elderly statesman answered with a "No." That's just like saying a man who can run fast is better than another man."

There were ever so many other things I had to ask but I had already taken more than 20 minutes of his time and had perhaps been responsible for delaying his departure.

All of which is a nice way of saying that the lump in my throat wouldn't allow me to ask any more questions.

That's the story of Mr. Bernard Baruch, one of the greatest Americans to ever live, and Betty Angeski, a Stratford High student.



BETTY ANGESKI of Hi Life authors today's biggest scoop - an exclusive interview with Bernard Baruch.

"Schools today aren't teaching as they used to and what they should."



ELDER STATESMAN Bernard Baruch enriches the atmosphere of Stratford with his presence at a meeting of the Ray Goldbach VFW auxiliary post after the ladies on a chance invited him up for a chat. L-R: Mrs. Edmund Lawrence, Mr. Baruch and Mrs. John Allen, auxiliary president.