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What really does make Cyrus Eaton tick?

By **LOTTA DEMPSEY**
Star staff writer

DEEP COVE, N.S.—History will write him big.

He's one of the biggest backstage technicians in this sombre, holocaust-triggered drama of the 20th century.

If there is to be a 21st, Cleveland magnate Cyrus Stephen Eaton could even be monumentalized as a soft-spoken intellectual who at times single-handedly kept the East-West global sound track from going dead. He might be rated a member of a tiny guild which forestalled the black-out of the human race.

Increasingly, as Viet Nam, Africa, the Middle East spew total-destructive poison on the air, there is awareness that the world's two most powerful nations must be made to seek antidote together, before it is too late.

What manner of man is the 83-year-old Canadian-born capitalist? Who is this multi-millionaire friend of U.S. presidents and senators, giant in the world of steel, railroads, banking, international finance; yet close confidant of Russian leaders like Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin, Deputy Premier Dmitri Polyansky, Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko, Nikita Khrushchov?

Was that razor mentality, which took him from rags to vast riches twice in a lifetime, lost its edge?

These are questions for which I sought answers during a weekend with Cyrus

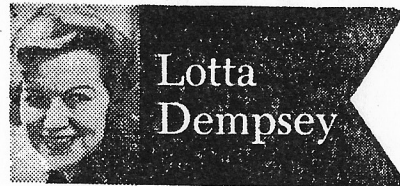
and Anne Eaton at their Canadian country place here in Blandford County, on beautiful Deep Cove by the Atlantic.

Long hours

There were no other guests, so we talked our way through long hours from morning till night.

I listened to him range from assessment of Soviet brass and aims through his favorite literature. (He is an authority on 17th century France) from ancient philosophy to present-day Nova Scotian economy.

On a picnic we cruised the lovely misted waters of Deep Cove Bay to Big and Little Tancook Islands; climbed up and down wharves as he talked with fishermen and boys cleaning their catch in the boats; came ashore to visit small spotless farmhouses where everybody knows him.



Lotta Dempsey

I watched his love of every great tree or small rose briar bush.

Tall, blue-eyed and white-haired, Cyrus Eaton has the appearance and courtly manner of a gentleman of the old school.

In sharp contrast, his perceptions and ideas web out to encompass rapidly changing global images and the shape of new centuries.

His insights have been distilled from a long lifetime in the highest echelons of international business and finance, one of the best-stocked and most scholarly minds of our time and a first-hand knowledge of the Soviet enigma possessed by few Americans.

He has studied the pattern of Russian affairs deeply since long before the Revolution.

"I am convinced the Russian leaders are men not so dedicated to ideology today as to upbuilding their own country," said the man who is as puzzling to many as Marshall McLuhan, and one

day may be held as prophetic.

"Mr. Kosygin is an economist and industrialist. He is well aware of the importance of the economic program of his country.

"When Leonid Brezhnev (secretary-general of the Communist party) came to Canada recently it was to study wheat, oats and rye in the prairies with the possibility of improving crops at home.

A good man

"Nikolai Podgorný (president of the Soviet Union) is an able, attractive man with an understanding of people and ability to get along. He would be a good man anywhere in the world in public life."

A n a s t a s Mikoyan, he pointed out, is still a power in government (he has just retired from the cabinet) and has weathered more regimes than most democratic politicians. He worked closely with Lord Beaverbrook during World War II

He rates Gromyko, whom he has known intimately for 20 years, as "probably the most experienced man in continuous office as head of foreign relations in any of the nations today." In all major countries, he points out, Gromyko has kept the office longest.

"I know these men. They are interested in the prosperity and strength of their own country—not stirring up revolution."

It was time, he went on, for the West to make "far-reaching arrangements to meet men of moderation."

"President Johnson holds the fate of the world in his hands," he says gravely. "I am hoping he is working sincerely toward some kind of understanding with the Soviets."

He adds firmly. "One fantasy the American people had better get rid of is that there will be a violent falling out in the Soviet bloc.

"When the chips are down, Russia and China will stay together, no matter what the differences."

When international dialogue between East and West was breaking down and use of nuclear power for weaponry brought the world to such a "horrendous possibility," knowledgeable men were shocked

into action.

Eaton entered the picture and began to pour unlimited time, energy and money into his one-man's battle for some solution.

The financier had long been a trustee of the University of Chicago where he made close friends with many prominent atomic physicists.

His friends

When his friends Albert Einstein and Lord Bertrand Russell issued their historic appeal to scientists of the world to sit down together to work out ways of controlling nuclear energy to assure the survival of humanity, Eaton stepped forward and offered to make the meeting possible.

At the first Pugwash Conference of July, 1957, 20 distinguished scientists, including three Nobel Prize winners, met at the Thinkers' Lodge in a comfortable but simple setting.

The scientists came from 12 of the most concerned countries including Soviet Russia and Red China.

"The discourse, followed by people around the world, came as a stunning surprise to millions of Americans," Eaton said.

Mr. and Mrs. Eaton and I continued our conversation uninterrupted at meals, through a sunny morning by windows of the modest residence overlooking sloping green lawns to the sea, and at night by the glow of a log fire.

Then, folding away the tweeds, slicker suit and rubber boots I had been lent for our hardy outings, I was driven across country to Mr. Eaton's birthplace, Pugwash.

There I joined the 12th Thinkers' Conference — a conclave which he instigated and sponsors—for two days.

The thinkers

I shared sessions, accommodation, breakfast, lunch, dinner and evening chats with 20 distinguished educators and their wives from seven leading American colleges and universities, discussing Islamic civilization.

The whole experience was like attending seminars at a world university in an idyllic country by the sea—and staying at the home of the dean emeritus after class.