

JULY

CONVERSATIONS UNLIMITED - Monday, July 1, 1985

INTRO UP AND UNDER

Hi, everybody. July brings us Independence Day -- The Fourth of July. It's a day for parades and swimming, backyard cookouts and fireworks. Like so many other holidays, it is also a day of celebration whose meaning may be fading from the American consciousness. Not so many years ago, it was customary on Independence Day in small towns, and big cities, to have a central celebration. Someone would recite the preamble to the Declaration of Independence. Children would say the words of the Revolution that were made famous by such poets as Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Remember them? "Here once the embattled farmers stood and fired the shot heard round the world." And, "Listen, my children, and you shall hear of the midnight ride of Paul Revere." Are these words being forgotten? Do Americans understand the significance of the independence they are said to cherish?

I'll be talking about some of these things today with Dr. Ned Landsman, assistant professor of history at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Ned Landsman earned his doctorate at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. His dissertation fellowship was spent at the Philadelphia Center for Early American Studies. His academic background includes editing such publications as "The Papers of William Penn." Dr. Landsman, you have devoted much of your career to understanding that period in American history when the colonies were breaking off from the mother country. Is that an era that is well understood by most Americans?

*He has a new book coming out soon, Scoble 7/15/85 American Colony*

--- MORE ---

INTERVIEW DR. LANDSMAN:

-- Planting the seeds of Revolution:

1650 Navigation Acts

1699 Woolen Act

1732 Hat Act

1733 Molasses Act

1750 Iron Act

1761 Writs of Assistance

1763 Proclamation of 1763 (east of Ohio R.)

1764 Sugar Act

1765 Quartering Act and Stamp Tax

(Stamp Act Congress in NYC declares

Colonists are entitled to rights of all English citizens)

1767 Townshend Act

1770 Townshend Act repeal except for tea

Boston Massacre

1773 Tea Act

1774 Intolerable Acts

First Continental Congress

1775 Outbreak of the Revolutionary War

Ticonderoga, Bunker Hill

Second Continental Congress

1776 Evacuation Day (Patriots Day)

Declaration of Independence

Read preamble of the Declaration

Discuss - who wrote it; what it meant: Colonies, abroad

*Concept of JULY DAY*  
14:00

We'll return in a moment to talk some more about Independence Day, the Fourth of July, and what it means to Americans.

*MORG*

BRIDGE MUSIC UP AND UNDER

Hi. I'm Al Oickle. I'm at the State University of New York at Stony Brook and talking today with Dr. Ned Landsman, assistant professor of history at Stony Brook. We've been talking about the conditions that led the Colonists of the 18th Century to revolt against the mother country, England. What was July 4, 1776, like in Philadelphia, Dr. Landsman. Any fireworks?

INTERVIEW DR. LANDSMAN:

- After July 4, 1776, war went into full force
- Occupation of New York City, Long Island
- Battles in the Colonies
  - British occupy Philadelphia
- The Battle of Saratoga; Burgoyne's surrender 10/17/77
- Help from France, Spain, Holland
- Cornwallis surrenders at Yorktown, Va., 10/19/81
- Treaty of Paris 9/83 - Britain recognizes

independence

- U.S. Constitution adopted 1788
- History and Americans' cultural understanding

29:00

OUTRO