

From UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE
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BIOGRAPHY -- ROBERT S ALLEN
Co-Author "The Daily Washington Merry-Go-Round"

"Bob" Allen is a short, red-headed, fiery enthusiast, whose object in life is to make people see the political things he sees as he sees them.

He was born in Latonia, Kentucky, in 1898, and started an adventurous career by joining the Pershing cavalry expedition into Mexico to catch Villa in 1916.

He went overseas with the cavalry in the war, got wounded, served in the Army of Occupation, and came back as a boy lieutenant.

He worked his way through the University of Wisconsin and won a scholarship for study abroad. He chose a year at the University of Munich.

While he was in Munich, the Ludendorf-Hitler putsch took place and he reported it for The Christian Science Monitor. This led to a roving Monitor assignment which took him through Central Europe and Italy.

In 1924, he returned to the United States to take an active part in the LaFollette campaign for the presidency. He and old Senator LaFollette became close friends.

In 1925, he joined the Washington bureau of The Christian Science Monitor, became its head in 1929, and in 1931 was dismissed for participating in writing the book, "Washington Merry-Go-Round".

He covered the 1928 presidential campaign from start to finish, including both Democratic and Republican conventions, traveling to California with Hoover for his notification, returning east with him, then joining Smith's swing around the circle, going west again with Hoover, and accompanying Hoover on his South American good will trip.

In 1929, he was sent to Mexico to write a series of articles on the political situation, and in 1930, he went to Europe to write of the situation in each important capital, ending with four weeks in Russia.

In the last presidential campaign, he covered the Roosevelt trips for The Philadelphia Record.

Early in the campaign, he wrote "Why Hoover Faces Defeat", making predictions that seemed rash at the time, but that were borne out by the result.

When, in collaboration with Drew Pearson, he wrote his first book, "Washington Merry-Go-Round", it was published anonymously. Result was that every great Washington correspondent was mentioned as possible author. Rumor spread that it was the combined work of a dozen men. Allen's dismissal by The Christian Science Monitor confirmed his part in its authorship.

In collaborating with Drew Pearson, the general scheme of work is that Allen does most of the actual reporting, digging up facts from almost unequalled news sources, and Pearson does most of the writing.

Allen spent four months in gathering material for the famous chapter on the United States Supreme Court, called "Nine Old Men", in "More Merry-Go-Round".

He lives in Washington and is married. His wife is the famed Ruth Finney, member of the Washington staff of The Scripps-Howard Newspaper Alliance, and authority on labor, finance and water power.

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