

Eric Sevareid

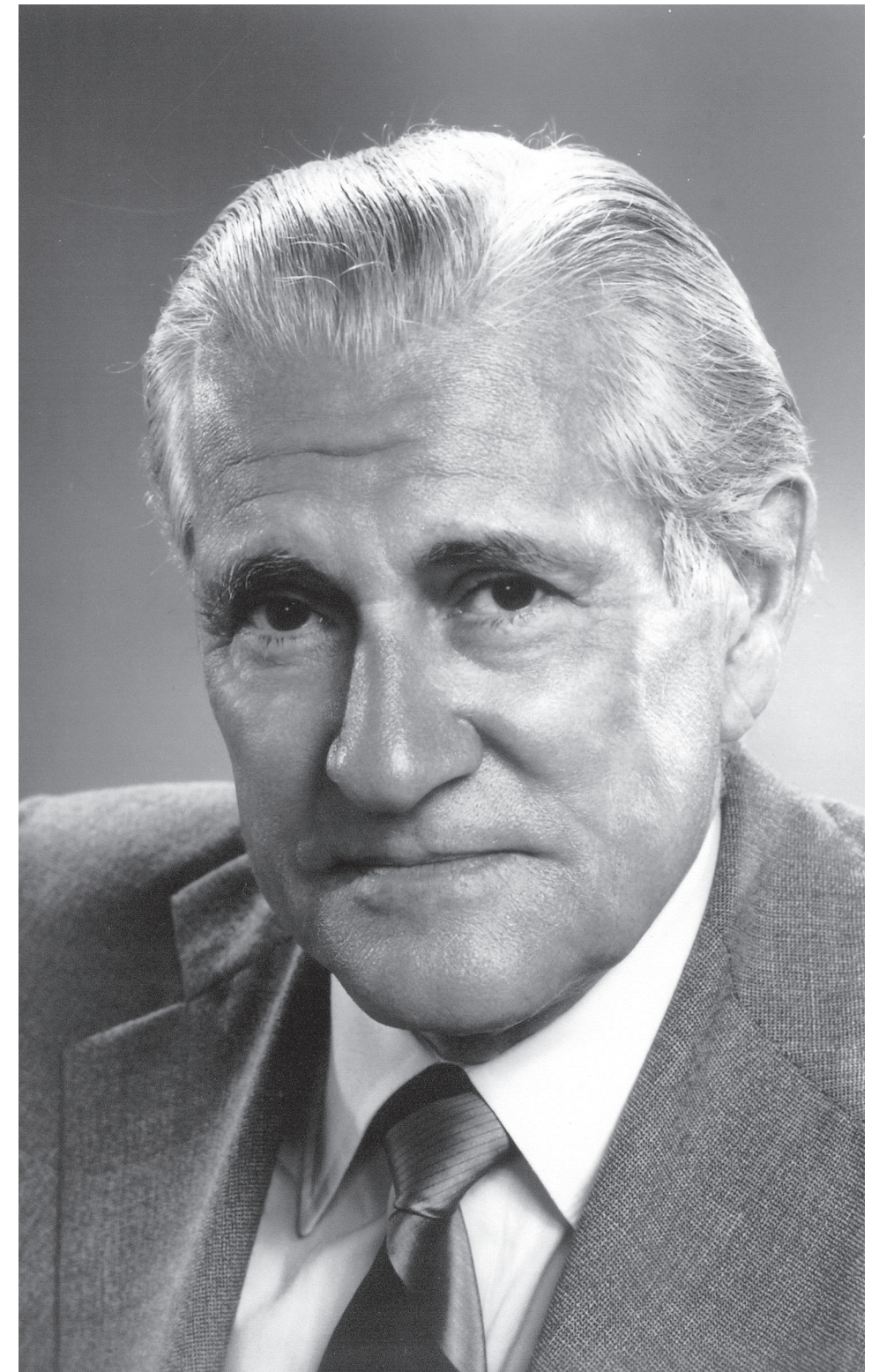
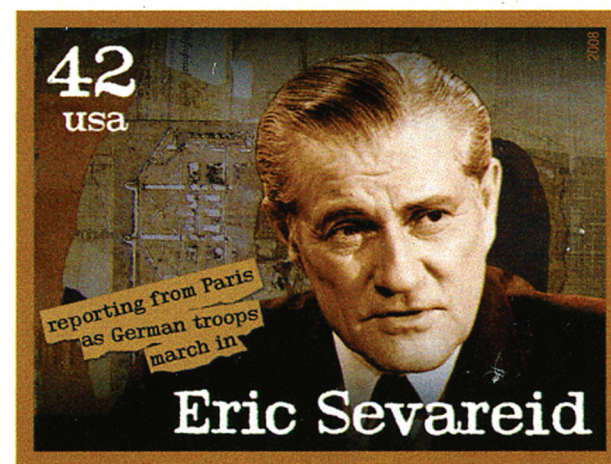
Journalist (1912 – 1992)

Sevareid was a child of the American Plains, born in Velva, North Dakota and moving to Minneapolis when Eric was 13. He graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1935. When Sevareid was 17, he and his friend Walter Port canoed 2,250 miles from Fort Snelling up the Minnesota River, down the Red River, across Lake Winnipeg to Hudson Bay. *Canoeing With the Cree*, his extraordinary account of this trip, has fascinated Minnестоans for 75 years. A 1946 memoir, which also covered the journey, was *Not So Wild A Dream*, which still in print.

Sevareid worked for the *Minneapolis Journal* and the *Paris Herald Tribune* (later *The International Herald Tribune*) before joining CBS. Sevareid's work during World War II, with EDWARD R. MURROW as one of the original "Murrow's Boys," was at the forefront of broadcasting. He was the first to report on the fall of France and the French surrender to Nazi Germany in 1940. Shortly afterward, he joined Murrow to report on the Battle of Britain. Later Sevareid would refer to these early years, working with Murrow, in fond terms. Covering the Burmese-China theater during the war, a plane Sevareid was on developed engine trouble and he was briefly lost after parachuting to safety. Later he reported on Tito's partisans from Yugoslavia.

In 1946, he reported on the founding of the UN and then penned *Not So Wild a Dream*, which went through 11 printings. He also served as the head of the CBS Washington bureau from 1946–1954 and became one of the early critics of Sen. Joseph McCarthy's anti-Communism tactics. It was during the early 1950s that Sevareid caught the attention of the FBI in their paranoid attempts to identify and root out American Communists. Specifically, the bureau's interest revolved around the March 8, 1953 broadcast of the program in which Sevareid interviewed HAROLD STASSEN, then Director for Mutual Security.

Sevareid wound up the 1950s as CBS's roving European Correspondent from 1959–1961. He contributed stories to *CBS Reports* during this time and served as moderator on a number of CBS series. Sevareid also appeared in or on CBS coverage of every presidential election from 1948 until 1976, the year before his retirement. One of Sevareid's biggest scoops from this period was his 1965 interview with ADLAI STEVENSON, shortly before Stevenson's death. Oddly enough, the interview was not broadcast over CBS but instead appeared in *Look* magazine. Sevareid died of stomach cancer on July 9, 1992.



Courtesy of PHILIP SCHEFFLER