

ANOTHER RAY OF LIGHT — GONE!

An Editorial

With the December 22nd issue of the Belmont Dispatch bearing the information: Vol. 10 — Number 25 — FINAL, in its "Mast-head", another "Weekly Institution" ceased operations after a life-span of 78 years.

Thus, it is with deep regret that we note the passing of another small town weekly newspaper in our area — especially, since Cliff and Rosemary Grastorf, owners and publishers, have been friends of ours for many years.

The owners of the Dispatch have taken this step only after an exhaustive study of the factors involved over a period of several years. According to "Cliff", the newspaper has been losing money for the past few years and cited lack of advertising as the direct cause.

We don't know whether there was any concerted effort made by the businessmen and residents of Belmont to try to retain its "Voice" or not — but it certainly seems as if a Community as large as Belmont could have made an all out effort to prevent this from happening.

We wonder if the members of the Community realize how big a loss they have suffered? To us, a Village without a Newspaper, is like an Ocean Liner without a rudder! It can keep moving, but soon, vicious currents, and local storms will more than likely have it gliding aimlessly about, or perhaps even in circles.

Other Newspapers in the surrounding area certainly aren't going to be very interested in taking up any fight for the rights of the local Citizens of a Newspaperless Village. After all — haven't they clearly demonstrated their apathy in supporting their "late-deceased", "Home Town" Newspaper!

It is true that other papers will endeavor to carry certain news items that are sent in by their local Correspondents — but only when they have the available space for this — and at their convenience. After all, Newspapers have to take care of their advertising, as well as guard their circulation, — for this is their very "bread and butter". Any Newspaper must be a paying business — and its death sentence comes as a result of the costs of operation, and the lack of sufficient and compensating revenue.

According to the Editor of the "Clymer Independent":

"A Newspaper — any Newspaper — daily or weekly — is not just pages of type — but a living creation founded on the concepts of freedom and justice. 'Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free' (John 8:32).

Like any living substance, the newspaper must have nourishment in order to survive. The loss of a newspaper in the community is just as bad, if not worse, than the death of a leading citizen. For new leaders come forth — but seldom is a new paper born."

Actually, the Weekly Newspaper is a rather unique institution in its self. It is a journal of the life of the community, recording the activities of the school, the churches, the government, the people in general, and telling the community what is going on. (At least what we dare — or is fit to print). It also endeavors to help its readers know and understand the value of the material it prints through editorial comments. And, whether the readers agree or disagree — at least it is stimulating thought and discussion among the public.

Thus, the Andover News joins with the other members of the "Fourth Estate" in the feeling of deep regret over the loss of the Belmont Dispatch, and any other newspaper that is forced to suspend publication.

That such a good publication had to come to an end because of spiraling costs and public apathy are the very facts that threaten every Newspaper in this country — large or small.

This becomes a reality to the general public — only after their local Newspaper — IS NO MORE!

THE ANDOVER NEWS

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FROM OUR FILES

50 YEARS AGO

Jan. 19, 1917

J. H. Backus, Publisher

Mrs. William Tucker, 76, died at her home in Elm Valley, Jan. 10th. Five children survive.

Dr. J. S. Stearns of Port Allegany, Pa., has been in Andover for a few days this week. He came to celebrate with his brother, E. F. Stearns, their birthdays, both coming on the same day, Jan. 15th.

Mr. and Mrs. Park Rogers were in Buffalo Monday night in attendance at Melrose Rebekah Lodge and guests at the home of Mrs. Matilda Becker, Conductor of the State Assembly.

Past District Deputy C. W. Williams was in Alfred to assist in installing the newly elected officers of Alfred Lodge I.O.O.F. Jan. 11th.

Mr. and Mrs. Elwin Livermore have been passing the week in Wellsville with their daughter, Mrs. Allen Corwin.

Miss Mildred Baker of Hartsville has been visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Baker this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Morse Baker of Hornell were guests of Andover friends from Monday until Wednesday.

Clayton Mead of Hornell was the guest of Andover relatives and friends the first of the week.

Mrs. Katherine Pardon returned Saturday to her home in New York City after several weeks stay in Andover. Mrs. Pardon was accompanied by her mother, Mrs. James McGinty who will remain in the city.

Mrs. A. A. Porter returned to her home in Cleveland, Ohio Wednesday after several weeks visit with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Frisbey.

40 YEARS AGO

Jan. 21, 1927

J. H. Backus & Son, Publishers

Newly installed officers of the various fraternal societies in Andover for the coming year are: — Andover Lodge No. 558 F. & A. M., R. D. Mingus, W. Master; Anna W. McArthur, Chapter O.E.S., Florence McFetridge, W. Matron; Andover Lodge No. 706, Leo DeRemer, Noble Grand; Rebekah Lodge, Emma Church, Noble Grand; Andover Grange, Harold Green, Master; American Legion, Leo S. Snyder, Commander; Legion Auxiliary, Anna Richardson, President; Edward Seaman Relief Corp., Fannie Backus, President; WCTU, Lelia Livermore, President; West Greenwood Grange, Will Pease, Master.

Mr. and Mrs. John Williams are the parents of a son, born, Wednesday, January 19th.

Mrs. Carl V. Clarke of Independence is spending a few days with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Verne Howe of North Bingham.

Mrs. Ada Jones of Whitesville is a guest this week of her sister, Mrs. Esther Bassett of Independence.

Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Rogers and daughter, Louise, were Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Pease and family. Mrs. Rogers and Louise remained until Monday night.

George Mingus has accepted a position with Harry Graves of Stanbards in his garage. Mr. Mingus began work Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Menzo Burdick and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Carr were in Whitesville Friday in attendance at the funeral of their brother, George Burdick, whose death occurred at the home of his daughter, Mrs. LeRoy Davis of Davis Hill.

Mrs. Nettie Larcum of Cleveland, Ohio is the guest of her sister, Mrs. Jefferson Brewster and will stay with her this winter.

Miss Martha Langworthy of Plainfield, N. J., is at the home of her uncle, Mr. and Mrs. N. M. Lanphear of Railroad Valley, where she expects to remain for some time.

Mrs. Lillie Seeley of Whitesville is spending some time with her sister, Mrs. James Wallace.

Albany Insight

by Johannes Lousen

Background on Condon-Wadlin

A new law regulating the relations between public employees and their employers is high on the priority list of the State Legislature this year. Legislators of both parties seem to feel that they would be derelict in their duties if they do not this year come up with new legislation to replace the ill-fated Condon-Wadlin law which has proved to be unworkable. Although plenty of situations have arisen to which it should apply its provisions are so stringent that authorities have never wanted to invoke it.

The Condon-Wadlin law is close to its twentieth birthday. It was signed by Governor Thomas Dewey on March 27, 1947. Its background was the labor strife of the first post-World War II year, when strikes and threatened strikes were many and not limited to workers on private payrolls. In late 1946 and early 1947 several teacher strikes were threatened, and in the City of Buffalo 2400 teachers, some 80 per cent of the total force, went on strike February 24 forcing 80 schools to close. This strike lasted until March 3rd and was, along with a threatened New York City Transport Workers Union strike, given major credit for creating the climate for enacting the stern Condon-Wadlin law. It passed the Senate by 35 votes to 16, with the Republicans voting in the affirmative, the Democrats against. The Assembly vote was 92 Republicans in favor, 50 against most of them Democrats, but including 14 Republicans.

What The Law Says

The law provides that a public employee who goes on strike can be reemployed only on these conditions:

"(a) his compensation shall in

30 YEARS AGO

Jan. 15, 1937

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Miss Lavina Osborn of Elm Valley and Henry A. Shields of Elgin, Ill., were united in marriage Friday, January 8th.

A Carillon of 35 bells cast during the 17th and 18th centuries has been purchased thru an alumni committee and will be installed at Alfred University as a memorial to President Emeritus and Mrs. Boothe C. Davis.

The following will preside over Andover's Fraternal Orders for the coming year: — Andover Lodge No. 558 F. & A. M. Harry Smith, Master; Anna W. McArthur Chapter, Jennie Smith, Matron; Andover Grange, Earl Schoonover, Master; Andover Lodge No. 786 I.O.O.F., W. W. Jones, Noble Grand; Rebekah, Hazel Burgett, Noble Grand; American Legion, Ralph Burgett, Commander; American Legion Auxiliary, Hazel Burgett, President; Edward Seaman Relief Corp., Laura Witter, President.

Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Warfield have moved from their home on Greenwood Street, to a farm at Friendship.

Mrs. Nettie Baker spent the week-end at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Earl Nye of Elm Valley.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Updyke are visiting Mr. and Mrs. Fred Phillippson at Tioga this week.

Miss June Rogers of Whitesville spent the past week guest of Miss Rita Burns and other Andover friends.

William Pease in company with Benj. Burger of Greenwood attended a fire insurance directors meeting at Bath Tuesday and Wednesday.

Mrs. Margaret Dean of South Hill is spending the week with her daughter, Miss Mae Dean RN of Ithaca.

Mrs. George Robinson of Alfred spent Tuesday with her sister and husband, Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Hann.

no event exceed that received by him immediately prior to the time of such violation; (b) the compensation of such person shall not be increased until after the expiration of three years from such appointment, employment or re-employment; and (c) such person shall be on probation for a period of five years following such appointment, employment or reemployment, during which period he shall serve without tenure and at the pleasure of the appointing officer or body.

Numerous attempts at modifying the law over the years were unsuccessful. In 1963 penalty provisions were modified for a two-year period, but when no agreement to make the amendments permanent could be reached, the law reverted to its original form in 1965.

The New York City Transit strike in January 1966 gave new impetus to efforts to amend the law which was not invoked even in that tough situation. The legislature had to pass a bill specifically exempting the transit workers from the consequences of their strike or they might have gone on strike a second time.

The Split Legislature

It was widely hoped that the Legislature would have passed a workable and meaningful bill in 1966, which could have protected the public as well as given workers in public employ equitable rights but the Republican-controlled Senate and the Democratic-controlled Assembly could not agree on the content of such legislation. This year it is known that there will be a similar split for the next two years. There is in both parties a strong feeling that a compromise should be sought although it may not be satisfactory to either of the two parties.

Both the Democratic and the Republican versions last year stated that no employee or employee organization shall participate in a strike, work stoppage or slowdown. The Democratic bill, however, provided no penalties for union which call an illegal strike. Both bills recognized the right of employees to form or join in an employee organization.

Beyond that, there are considerable differences between the proposals of the two parties last year. The Democratic one was frequently described as pro-union, whereas the Republicans, while recognizing the rights of employees to organize, put the main emphasis on the protection of the public against work stoppages. One of the main criticisms of the Democratic version was that it did not seem to provide for settlement of disputes, and thus might leave no alternative but strikes in case of prolonged conflict.

In 1966, with an election in the offing, no agreement could be produced. It is widely expected that this year will be no different.

To many legislators, a workable law in this field is one of the most important questions before this session. It will demonstrate perhaps better than anything else whether a split Legislature can work effectively.

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