

RESPONSIBILITY! WHERE DOES IT START? WHERE DOES IT END? An Editorial

Am I my Brothers keeper? As a Newspaper Editor -- to whom are we responsible? After a lot of soul searching -- the only logical answer seems to be: 1. To our conscience, and 2. To our readers.

And, after once coming to this answer as a solution to one of the "horns of the dilemma", the other question is: to what extent -- with the only obvious or logical answer apparent to us being: when the Life, Limb, or property of any of the members of our community or our subscribers -- or their families are threatened!

Thus, after wrestling "the horns of the dilemma" -- as well as the head of the beast -- into the ground, we have conditioned our spirit and mind to face up to the subject no matter how unpleasant it may be or what possible threats, reprisals, and adverse conditions that may ensue as a result.

What we are leading up to -- is the safety of YOUR children while in school! Not our children -- but -- YOURS!

Are they safe at school? Could it be possible that their very LIFE might be in danger during school hours? Are they being properly supervised during their Physical Education program? Who is responsible -- and to what extent -- during this phase of the curriculum?

Acting as a "Judge and Jury" is the farthest thing from our mind or intention -- BUT -- if we ignore an incident where a young man's life was almost snuffed out Friday afternoon at school -- then we might be considered responsible for any fatality that might result in the future!

We were very much in favor of the new addition to the Andover Central School which included the swimming pool, supported it, and voted for it -- and are paying the additional school tax without complaining.

We firmly believe that swimming is good exercise -- and that every child should learn how to swim -- as early as possible in their childhood. However, any swimming program should be competently supervised AT ALL TIMES! And, there is ABSOLUTELY no room for the horse-play that has evidently been going on for some time in our local school swimming pool.

Especially when it reaches the point where the bigger and older students, including seniors, gang up on younger and smaller lads and hold them under water until a lad was almost drowned!

What kind of sport can this be considered? Or is this supposed to be part of the training? Do you want your child -- or children -- to be tortured in this manner to the point where they may develop such a fear of the water that they even dread going near the pool -- and try to have their schedules changed -- or think up reasons why they should be excused from swimming entirely?

Have you parents ever done any swimming? And have you ever had a narrow escape from drowning as a result of a boating accident -- or through your own carelessness or poor judgement?

We have -- and the experience is still vivid in our mind, despite the fact that it happened at Long Point in Conesus Lake when we were only around 12 years old. This incident was due to our own poor judgement in diving and swimming to the bottom in the lake where the water was 30 feet deep. We can still remember starting to breathe just before hitting the surface -- and how tortured our lungs felt!

We shudder to think how we would feel to have three different lads take turns holding us under the water until we lost consciousness -- and then have to be dragged from the pool, given artificial respiration, and then have to have oxygen administered -- with our life dangling by a thread by perhaps 7 to 9 seconds.

Don't you think that it is high time to correct this situation -- especially after a warning like this -- and BEFORE a fatality results?

FROM OUR FILES

50 YEARS AGO

March 23, 1917

J. H. Backus, Publisher

E. A. Mullen will load veals at Andover Tuesday, March 20th and will pay 11c for 140 pound calves.

Miss Mayme Dean returned to her duties in Tonawanda Friday. Robert Dean accompanied her for a few days of sight-seeing in Buffalo and vicinity.

Michael Dougherty went to Wilkesbury, Wednesday to visit relatives.

Mrs. Mabel Ordway and daughter and Arthur Taft of Jasper were visiting their grandmother, Mrs. Eliza Cooper from Friday until Tuesday.

Miss Irene Blakeslee of Alfred, was a weekend guest at the home of Mrs. LaRue Crandall.

Leon I. Bloss and son, Lawrence went to Sayre, Pa., Saturday and purchased the Mead Ice Cream and Confectionery Parlors. Mr. Bloss will move to Sayre immediately.

Three Andover boys graduated from the New York State School of Agriculture at Alfred this week. They are: Harry Boyd, who has accepted a position as head herdsman for E. A. Powell of Syracuse; Harland Robinson, will go to Arcade, N. Y., as dairy demonstrator April 1st; and Richard Williams will begin April 1st as a dairy demonstrator between Canisteo and Jasper.

Warren D. Burrows, 25, of Beach Hill, died Tuesday, March 20th.

E. F. Earlev went to Hammond-sport Tuesday to visit his daughter, Mrs. Herbert Walton.

A. R. Baker has gone to Wallace to look after Baker Bros. New Hardware, recently purchased.

Mrs. Isabelle Feeley of Hornell was a guest at the home of her brother, Mr. and Mrs. John Burns from Saturday until Monday.

W. E. Chase and Mrs. Emily Cole were in Rousesville, Pa., Wednesday to attend the funeral of the late A. L. Corwin.

40 YEARS AGO

March 25, 1927

J. H. Backus & Son, Publishers

Mrs. Clifford Frost and daughter Elizabeth, spent several days last week with her sister, Mrs. Flay Pease.

Miss Eloise Green of Genesee spent the week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. V. Green of Tip Top.

Miss Ella Corson of Alfred University was a week-end guest of Miss Viola Smith.

Mrs. Al Brown was called to Philadelphia, Saturday by the illness of Mr. Brown's daughter, Mrs. Edward Strong.

Ella Lanphear Vars, 73, died Sunday, March 20 at her home in Westerly, R. I. Two sons and a daughter survive. Interment was in the family plot in Hillside Cemetery.

Mrs. Ansen Brewster, 74, died Thursday, March 24th at the home of her son, Herman Jackson of Elm Valley. Her husband and a son survive. Interment was in Valley Brook Cemetery.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Nevel are the parents of a son, born Thursday, March 17th.

Mr. and Mrs. Estes Stephens are the parents of a daughter, Marion, born Saturday, March 19th.

Mrs. George Lewis of Port Allegany is spending some time with her daughter, Mrs. R. A. Clarke of Independence.

Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Caffery of West Greenwood have moved to Canisteo.

William Dougherty of Salamanca passed the week-end in Andover with his father, J. J. Dougherty.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Ingraham were week-end guests of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Cook of Alfred Station.

Clifford Vars of Tulsa, Texas, arrived in Andover Tuesday, called here by the death of his mother, Mrs. Ella Vars.

Mr. and Mrs. Cass Cartwright were recent guests for a week of Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Crandall of Nile.

Albany Insight

by Johannes Lourdes

Attack on Health Dangers

So much is happening so fast in the all-important health field that the Joint Legislative Committee on Health and Medicare has become one of the most active committees of the Legislature, where its predecessors were relatively quiet and outside the spotlight. The current committee, headed by State Senator Norman Lent, has just concluded a series of hearings in Albany, Buffalo, New York City and Syracuse on the new proposal for compulsory health insurance, sponsored by Governor Nelson Rockefeller and legislative leaders.

The fate of the plan for this season seems uncertain, both because of the short time left, and in view of stiff opposition from the right, for cost reasons, and from the left, because of contributions required from the insured, many of whom do not have to pay at present.

The proposal is not really new but renewed interest has become attached to it since Medicaid went into effect. There is a fear that many who are now covered by voluntary insurance might drop their policies and rely strictly on Medicaid. This could swell the costs of this controversial program beyond all limits.

New York In Forefront

The Department of Health, headed by Dr. Hollis Ingraham, is the command center of a comprehensive attack on health dangers all over the State. Only recently, Governor Rockefeller sent the Legislature a message in which he claimed that New York State stands in the forefront of the Nation in protecting the health of its people, and said that in recent

years the Legislature has enacted truly landmark legislation in all of the health fields. Now, the Governor urges a program to consolidate those advances.

His program has the following five basic objectives; to insure that enough skilled hands are available to meet the health needs of the people; to communicate to the people the life-saving, disease-fighting knowledge we already possess; to intensify research into the areas of disease where we still know too little; to strengthen and improve the coordination of all the State's health planning activities; and to establish a network of hostels to assist and care for the mentally retarded.

How to Get More Nurses

Much of what the Department of Health is doing, as well as the plans for expansion, can be found outlined in the new Executive Budget. In the important field of health personnel the most critical need seems to be more nurse manpower. The Governor proposes a Nurses Reserve program under which 75,000 fully trained nurses, who are no longer active in the profession, will be canvassed by the Department to determine whether they are interested in returning and what kind of refresher training they might need. It is hoped that 5,000 or more nurses may re-enter an active career in nursing in a relatively short time as a result of this program. Senator Lent has proposed a more far-reaching program, based on hearing revelations of the critical shortage of nurses. He says that some 50,000 nurses must be trained and licensed within the next five years to meet the needs of New York State's hospitals.

The environmental health programs -- water pollution, air pollution, radiation hazards and pesticides -- will attract increased attention in the coming years. The Pure Waters program, recently approved by the legislature, is designed to eliminate pollution in the State's 70,000 miles of waterways and 3.5 million acres of lakes and ponds in six years. The program includes a \$1.7 billion construction program of new sewage treatment plants and interceptor sewers, with the Federal government, the State and localities sharing the cost.

More Research

The relatively new air pollution program is scheduled to be expanded through more research and the addition of five continuous automatic monitoring units.

It is planned in 1967-68 to establish a state-wide network of health information and referral centers. Six centers will be operated on a regional basis by the Department, and it is expected that 20 will be put into operation on a local basis.

Intensified research will be centered on several major diseases.

Chronic respiratory diseases are called the fastest-rising cause of death in this state. Proposed legislation would authorize the admission and treatment of victims of diseases as chronic bronchitis, emphysema and asthma in the three State-operated tuberculosis hospitals.

Arthritis is the number one crippling, now afflicting one million New Yorkers. Plans call for a pilot regional center for research and public education on arthritis.

The leading killer in this State is heart disease. A new Institute for Heart Research will be located at and closely associated with the State's world famous cancer center, Roswell Park Memorial Institute at Buffalo.

A new Birth Defects Institute, a Kidney Disease Institute and a Research Institute on Alcoholism round out the State's plans for a concerted attack on major diseases.

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