

PARENTS — What Are Your Children Doing?

An Editorial

Where are your Children? Whom are they with? What are they doing? What are they thinking about? Are they leaders — or followers? Are they with other children that can be trusted? Do they know the difference between — right — and wrong? Do they have toys and playthings? Do they know how to entertain themselves harmlessly? Have they been taught to respect — as well as keep their "cotton-picking fingers" — off other peoples property?

This is really a big batch of questions — and a lot to think over isn't it? But parents — unless you can answer every one of the above questions favorably — and without any mental reservation — you may be laying yourself wide-open for a lot of trouble and heart-ache. And then too—don't forget the old saying that: "it only takes one bad apple to spoil the whole barrel!"

We realize — and agree — that "boys will be boys" and, that occasionally they will have an accident. They may get hurt, they may hurt someone else — or a window may get broken playing ball unintentionally. Or, they may even play a childish prank on someone else without meaning any harm.

However, the wilful destruction of property, is a "horse of a different color". It should not be excused, condoned — or justified. It is a matter of grave concern — and it should be dealt with — fairly — but sternly!

Whether it is called malicious mischief — or just plain vandalism, no youngster over the age of 10 can say with honesty that he didn't realize what he was doing "if personal property is damaged or destroyed!"

This past week-end, four young lads, under 13 years of age, broke into the State Highway Department barns at the edge of the Village and went on a Vandalistic spree. When they had completed their "little people's 'fun and games'" — the place was a shambles — and an accurate estimate of the damage wrought was — almost \$1,000!

Appalling isn't it? But, the Big Question is: — WHY? What were they THINKING — during this wilful destruction of property?

These children weren't from a "Ghetto" or slum area! They were not from rich homes — but neither were they underprivileged! They could be from almost any average home in our home town.

We don't want to add to the grief, heart-ache, and problems of any parent or child involved in something unpleasant — but instead fervently hope that every parent in Andover will take a closer look "at their own back-yard" — and perhaps prevent something unfortunate in their own household.

We are fully aware that every time we comment on, or report, an incident where the law is broken or our social moral code is violated — we are very apt to be criticized, cussed — and discussed. And usually, by the persons involved as well as their parents, if that happens to be the case.

However, whenever young people have been involved, we have always refrained from using names, with our remarks being of a constructive nature and purely impersonal — since our goal is to prevent others from falling into the same "pitfalls"—if at all possible.

Think how much worse people could feel if we named names with follow-up reports and stories — that are a matter of public record, or grossly exaggerated the facts the way some newspapers are apt to do!

With Andover's coming up, we would hate to see young people in Andover get into serious trouble because of acts of vandalism" under the guise of "pranks" or "treats" — when the actual underlying motive is — self — personal vengeance.

And, it's all up to you — with the co-operation of the children!

THE ANDOVER NEWS

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 ASSOCIATION



50 YEARS AGO

Oct. 26, 1917

J. H. Backus, Publisher

Miss Ruth Taylor opened the East Valley school again Monday after a week's vacation.

Miss Elrene Crandall of Independence is spending a few weeks with Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Brown at Bradford, Pa.

Everything on South Hill is at a stand-still today (October 24th) while the snow storm rages.

Mrs. Harrington of Voorhees Hill was a week-end guest of her daughter, Mrs. Herman Dean of South Hill.

After a three weeks vacation for potato digging, Miss Nora McAndrew reopened her school on Pingrey Hill Monday.

E. D. Baker was a business visitor in Wallace, N. Y., several days this week.

Miss Bessie Slocum was a guest of Olean friends Saturday and Sunday.

Harold S. Brainard is home from Camp Dix, arriving last Friday.

Rev. V. L. Eggleston returned Friday from a week's visit in New York City.

Mrs. Elizabeth Owen of North Evans, N. Y., has been visiting Mrs. Jennie Owen this week.

Mrs. Alice Rogers is at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Appier on Call Hill this week.

Rev. and Mrs. W. H. Randall of Ripley, N. Y., were visiting their daughter, Miss Mae Randall and their many Andover friends several days this week.

Floyd Davis and family have returned from Birdsall where they were called by the death of her mother, Mrs. Amanda E. Hulbert.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Baker were Sunday guests at the home of their daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Holmes.

40 YEARS AGO

Oct. 28, 1927

J. H. Backus & Son, Publishers

Mrs. Jennie Owen of Independence went to Andover Monday to spend the winter with her daughter, Mrs. Laura Witter.

Mrs. Fannie Slocum is visiting her sister, Mrs. Nora Bassett this week.

Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Densmore of Independence visited Mrs. Altha Stout at Penn Yan from Friday until Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Clarke of Rochester were guests of his father, H. M. Clarke and brothers of Independence the past week.

Mrs. Flay Pease spent a few days last week with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Wallace.

Mrs. M. H. Green of Tin Top is spending some time in Duke Center, guest of her son, Gerald Green.

J. A. O'Leary returned home Tuesday from Unadilla, N. Y., where he has been working this summer.

Mrs. Ila Clarke has been visiting at the home of her sister, Mrs. L. S. Bassett of Independence the past ten days.

E. C. Langworthy was in Rochester Wednesday to participate with the Hornell Trap Shooting Team at a shoot held in that city.

Mrs. Maude Clarke was a guest of Mrs. F. A. Crumb of Alfred Friday and Saturday.

Mrs. B. Doran returned to her home at Friendship Tuesday after a week's visit with her sister Mrs. P. J. Dougherty.

Mr. and Mrs. Leo Snyder left Monday by motor for a two week's visit at the home of Mrs. Snyder's sister, Mr. and Mrs. Luther Hyde of Philadelphia, Pa.

Mr. and Mrs. George Baldwin of Dunkirk, who have been visiting his brother, Clayton and other relatives in Andover, returned home Sunday.

30 YEARS AGO

Oct. 22, 1937

J. H. Backus & Son, Publishers

Mr. and Mrs. Oliver I. Kemp are the parents of a son, Richard Douglas, born Friday, October 15.

Mrs. Marian Woodward and official staff of Allentown, installed the newly elected officers of Andover

Convention Viewpoint

Two of the most widely discussed sections of the proposed Constitution that will be voted on November 7 deal with education and conservation. Every Andover resident has an interest in these two important areas.

Article VIII of the proposed Constitution provides for the conservation and protection of the state's natural resources and scenic beauty. It continues the "forever wild" concept, protecting New York's unique forest preserve. It provides that the public policy of the state shall be to conserve and protect its natural resources and beauty. It also provides for encouragement of the improvement of our agricultural lands.

The article creates a state nature and historical preserve of properties of natural and historical interest. Special mention is given in the article to the problems of air and water pollution.

The ninth article of the proposed document deals with education. It continues the system of free public education below the college level and requires the state legislature to establish and define a system of higher education, encompassing both public and private institutions, by programs which may include grants, free tuition, fellowships and scholarships.

Equality of educational opportunity is guaranteed to all the people of the state and discrimination on reason of race, religion or natural origin in admission to any school, which receives public funds is prohibited.

The article does not include the existing prohibition against direct or indirect aid to denominational schools, but such aid is subject to the first amendment of the United States Constitution which are incorporated in Article I of the proposed Constitution.

The Board of Regents is continued as head of the University of the State of New York.

Because next week will be the last column in this series, we will skip Articles X, XI, and XII this week dealing with taxation, local government and local finance in order to give you a full next week.

The last three articles of the proposed Constitution provide for the defense of the state and for an organized militia, details how the

Rebekah Lodge Wednesday evening. Mrs. Nora Higby was installed Noble Grand.

Mrs. William (Agnes Rhoda) Hammell, 64, died Friday, October 15th. Her husband, two daughters, a son a brother, and a sister survive. Interment was in Valley Brook Cemetery.

Ward M. Whitney officially retired last Saturday, after 20 years and six months as district game protector in Allegany County.

Mrs. Anna Benjamin of South Hill, motored to Canisteo Tuesday, her sister, Mrs. Cora Finch returned home with her for a few days visit.

Mrs. Lester Baker has returned to her home in Whitesville after passing several days with her daughter, Mrs. Earl Nye of Elm Valley.

Mr. and Mrs. Leo Davis and family and Mrs. Mae Davis of Davis Hill were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Briggs of Himrods, N. Y., Wednesday and Thursday of last week.

John Folsing of South Bethlehem, Albany County, was a guest at the home of his brother Michael Folsing from Friday until Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Appier, Miss Nora McAndrew with Mrs. Mary Keough of Wellsville, passed the week-end in Rochester, guests of their cousins, Mr. and Mrs. William Cooney.

Elmer Church of Towanda, Pa., passed the week-end at the home of his brother, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Church.

Mrs. George Bennett and children of Addison visited her sister and family, Mr. and Mrs. Otto Nye from Thursday until Sunday.

Miss Louise Rogers of West Greenwood, spent last week at the home of her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. William Pease and visited with friends.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



October 25, 1967

Dear Editor,

It is perhaps unnecessary to reply to the letter printed October 19, 1967 in your "Letter To The Editor" column. A portion of the letter was based on incomplete information issued by myself in the October 12 Hi Herald page. I hope this is clarified in this week's paper.

The new report card system is the result of the activities of a faculty committee, appointed at a faculty meeting last spring. Their report was unanimously accepted by the faculty and presented to the school board.

This change was requested by the faculty, not to lessen their load, but to give them a better method of evaluating the students and informing the parents of their evaluation.

Under the old five week report card system it was felt that too much instructional time was lost in giving five week, full period, comprehensive tests based on twelve to fifteen class sessions. Unit tests or short daily quizzes proved good evaluative tools.

The use of effort grades and progress reports are an innovation which will enable us to tell the parent WHY the student received the grade he earned.

It would seem that 65 is a somewhat commonly acceptable minimum passing grade in most schools. This is the passing grade established by the New York State Board of Regents in determining acceptable passing grades in their state wide tests. This is also the standards for the New York State Pupil Evaluation Program in determining minimum competency for graduation for high school. Perhaps they too are encouraging a "take it easy" attitude.

One of our strengths as a small school is our concern for academic excellence. It has been and is still the policy for teachers to send report cards with failing grades to the guidance counselor so that the students could discuss their problems. If persistent and frequent failing occur, we have called parents, making suggestions, voicing our concern and seeking their support.

Are our teachers salaries "high"? They will go higher! They may even compete in the future with comparable positions of responsibility and importance in industry.

The assumption that all students must attend a college of some sort to be successful is asinine. Not all students have the desire or ability to go to college. The motto of the State University is: "Let Each Be Come All He Is Capable Of Being", it doesn't say "Send Everyone to College." The Author would have one believe that the vast majority of our population are leading futile, unproductive, unhappy lives. Current figures indicate that about 35 high school graduates per 1,000 are entering college. About 40 percent of these, or roughly 14, will graduate. The others are surely doomed!

We do have our weaknesses and problems. It is ridiculous to think that nearly 40 unique adults could work with nearly 630 students and 1,000 parents without some problems. Whenever the old order changes there are problems. Mistakes will be made. Corrections and adaptations will follow.

Thank you for constructive criticism and questioning — but!

Franklin Russell

Constitution may be amended and contains a "miscellaneous" section.

In this last article, any local government or public corporation is authorized to acquire by purchase, gift or eminent domain such property as may be necessary for economic or community development. In addition, it prohibits gambling in the state, except for the conduct of bingo by non-profit organizations, state-operated lotteries, the proceeds of which are to be applied exclusively for educational purposes, and pari-mutual betting on horse racing.

Boost Your Home Town!