

AN "EXPERT" SPEAKS ON GUN LAWS

by Charles Lee Howard
(#122-596, Ohio State Penitentiary)

At 26, I have possessed 20 pistols. And, I acquired only one of them in even a semi-legal way. The other 19 were stolen by me, or for me — by my friends.

This may shock those Legislators and other nice people who believe that if you make it harder for a target shooter to buy a pistol, you automatically make it harder for the criminal to get one.

But it's old hat to me and my friends. You see, we are not target shooters, handgun huntsmen, plinkers, or collectors. We don't belong to gun clubs or groups of that sort.

We must have pistols because they are tools of our trade — crime!

We are the ones the anti-gun people want to crack down on by making it hard for old ladies who live alone to buy pistols for self-defense.

I am serving my third felony sentence, writing this from the Ohio State Penitentiary at Columbus. I arrived here Jan. 10, 1966, sentenced to 15 to 55 years on charges of armed robbery and kidnapping.

From inside prison, the anti-gun uproar makes strange reading. It is baffling that people who want to prevent criminals like me from getting hold of guns expect to accomplish this by passing new laws.

Do they forget that the criminal makes a business of breaking laws? No criminal I know — would obey a gun law while committing a crime of equal or greater seriousness.

There must be some things they don't know, these well-intentioned souls who say, "We don't seek to hamper any honest person's enjoyment of firearms; we only want to make it harder for the lawless to get them."

Perhaps they don't know that the statute books of most States are already well stocked with laws supposed to limit a felon's right to acquire a concealable weapon — in some cases, his right to own any gun at all. The laws are there. But they are seldom enforced.

The criminal who wants a gun doesn't have to look very far. He can steal one from a private home, an office, a store, or a car. He can "hit" National Guard armories, gun dealer's stores, gunsmiths' shops and gun factories.

Stolen guns from all manner of sources abound in the underworld. No kind of gun legislation will take them out of circulation. Nor will it stop professional law-breakers from stealing guns as before!

Consider the situation in New York State, where the Sullivan Law makes handgun ownership difficult for the honest citizen and theoretically impossible for the crook. Has it disarmed the New York gangster? Of course not! All it has done is to hamper the citizen in his justifiable attempts to protect himself from them. Every thief I've ever met would prefer robbing an unarmed person to tackling an armed one. I myself, have passed up several lucrative "scores" because I knew the proprietor was armed. Easy money is one thing. Risking a bullet for it is another.

Since criminals, not guns, commit crimes, it strikes this convict that taking away one of the citizen's means of self defense — is not the best way to protect him. Instead of taking away his gun, I would advocate a nationwide program to teach him how to use it safely and accurately.

Such a program would also brief him on when not to try to stop a robbery. Too many people are killed and injured in ill-advised attempts to frustrate a robbery. A live witness is far more valuable than a brave dead one.

The trained witness of a crime should be able to supply police with such information as the bandit's height; approximate weight; hair color; unusual speech patterns; the way he walks; eye color; whether he is right or left-handed; and his weapon.

In court, this is the information that leads to convictions. And convictions attack the root of crime — the guilty man — not the guiltless gun!

THE ANDOVER NEWS

Published weekly by: The News Printing House, Andover, N. Y.
Jeanne Backus Allen and Ralph A. Allen, Owners, Andover, N. Y.
Entered as Second Class Mail Matter at the Post Office at Andover, N. Y., under the Act of Congress, March 3, 1879.
Subscription Price \$3.50 a year



50 YEARS AGO

Feb. 15, 1918

J. H. Backus, Publisher

Mrs. Bridget Rowke, 89, died at her home on Dyke St., Wednesday, February 15th.

Miss Hope Roselene Strait of Andover and Leonard Harvey of Almond were united in marriage Tuesday, February 13th by the Rev. Chas. Collins. They were attended by Ralph and Hazel Burgett.

Misses Mary and Regina Raufenbarth have bought the Dowd Millinery and are in Buffalo this week buying spring goods.

The Smith house owned by F. M. Lee was destroyed by fire Thursday morning. The loss is partially covered by insurance.

T. G. Burdick and wife of Tip Top are visiting in Waverly and Bath this week. Clifford Burdick is doing the farm work during their absence.

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Dougherty returned from their wedding trip Friday and are located at the Dougherty home on South Hill, where they entertained a large group of people Tuesday evening.

H. P. Garvin is a business caller in Genesee this week.

Mrs. Ella Bundy returned Tuesday from a few days passed with Hornell relatives.

Miss Mary Haugh of Erie, Pa., is a guest at the home of Mr. and Mrs. T. R. Bassett for a few days.

Mrs. W. J. Brown, Mrs. D. W. Driscoll and E. J. McKinney are guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Cable.

Miss Nellie Walsh spent the week-end at her home and has accepted a position at the Cameron Law Office at Hornell.

A. D. Acken who has been a guest at the home of M. A. Crandall, returned to his home, in Poughkeepsie, N. Y., Wednesday.

Miss Reva Clark was home from her school near Canisteo to pass the week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Clarke.

Mrs. Monte Crance and sons, Clayton and Richard are visiting at the home of her sister, Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Root of Port Alleghey, Pa.

40 YEARS AGO

Feb. 17, 1928

J. H. Backus & Son, Publishers

At a second get-together of Andover men Thursday night it was decided to organize a service club which will be called The Community Service Club of Andover. The officers chosen for the ensuing year were: A. R. Baker, President; J. C. Lever, Vice-President; A. D. Fuller, Secretary and John Common Treasurer.

John P. Herrick of Olean has bought the Nelson farm consisting of 100 acres of timber and oil lands, from the Riley Allen estate.

Mrs. Catherine Hurst, 70, died Wednesday, February 8th. Four daughters, a sister and two brothers survive. Interment was in St. John's Cemetery.

Mrs. Phillips of West Greenwood has returned home from New York City where she went as delegate for the West Greenwood Grange.

Mr. and Mrs. Barney Schriener of Wellsville visited their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Slocum of Davis Hill from Saturday until Monday.

Mrs. Ethel Clark of Hartsville visited Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Davis of Davis Hill over the week-end.

Mrs. Leona Davis who has been passing several weeks in Hornell, has returned to her home in Andover.

C. D. Erskines has been visiting a few days at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Frank Slocum.

Mrs. F. J. Raufenbarth is in Elmira visiting at the home of her daughter, Mrs. W. W. Longwell and family.

Mrs. A. R. Baker accompanied Miss Carolyn Hinchey to her home in Elmira Tuesday for a few days visit.

Mr. and Mrs. James P. Cannon left Wednesday for a few days visit in New York City.

Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Murray and little grandson, Roderick Murray have returned to their



by Alex Rankin

The Joint Legislative Committee on Crime lit the fire last week under the State University, the multi-billion dollar taxpayer-supported college system spread out across the state.

But so far, there has been more heat than light.

There were carloads of charges and headlines at the first hearings in New York City, but no new ideas on how to stop the spread of the use of marijuana and LSD by young students.

"Are you aware of the movies you could show students on this?" a senator on the committee asked John Toll, president of the State University College at Stony Brook, L. I.

This drew giggles and rolling eyes from the bearded, long-haired professors and students of Stony Brook in the audience. They were there because the committee had subpoenaed them.

It drew a blank stare from Toll. In fact most of Toll's testimony might be called a blank.

He began by telling the committee he thinks the campus drug problem is the biggest problem he faced last year. He said he talks about it all the time, to the faculty, to the students, at meetings and dinner speeches off the campus.

But when a senator bore in and repeatedly asked Toll for specifics, what he has actually been doing to prevent the spread of narcotics on the campus, he had none. All he had was generalities.

home in Greenwood, after spending the past few days guests of their daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Edward McAndrew and family, also attending the funeral of their cousin, Catherine Hurst.

Henry Bennett is spending a few days guest of his daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Scott of Cuba.

30 YEARS AGO

Feb. 18, 1938

J. H. Backus & Son, Publishers

Mr. and Mrs. Luke Dougherty of Barney St., are the parents of a daughter, Carol Ann, born Thursday, February 10th.

Specials this week are: Oranges 2 doz. 55c; Chuck Roast lb. 19c; Pork Chops lb. 23c; Spare Ribs lb. 17c; Weiners lb. 19c; Pork Roast lb. 19c; and Porterhouse, Sirloin and Round Steaks, lb. 29c.

Mrs. Lester Baker of Whitesville spent a few days last week at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Earl Nye of Elm Valley.

Miss Maxine Crandall of Independence entered the Hornell Business School Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Clarke, Mrs. R. A. Clarke, Mrs. Merle Matteson and Mrs. W. L. Greene of Independence are in Ithaca attending the Farm and Home Week.

Mrs. Nora Bassett of Independence has moved to Hallsport to make her home with her daughter, Mr. and Mrs. David Smith.

Mrs. Carrie Davie left for Belvidere Wednesday where she expects to pass some time.

Mrs. William Pease spent Sunday and Monday at the home of her sister, Mr. and Mrs. Norma Joyce of Rexville.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Blackman and family of Hinsdale spent Saturday and Sunday guests of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Nobles of Shovel Hollow.

Mrs. Jay Bunt of Shinglehouse, Pa., visited at the home of her daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Walsh over the week-end.

Mrs. Mildred Rogers of Greenwood Hill is spending a few days at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Pease.

Mr. and Mrs. Emmett Dawson of Depew passed the week-end with his brothers, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Dawson and Harold Dawson.

Mrs. Harry Lynton was in Buffalo from Friday until Monday, where she visited her niece Miss Ruth Slocum at the Buffalo General Hospital and also Mr. and Mrs. Carl S. Burdick.

The specifics are that last month 47 students and non-students living in dorms built by taxpayers were arrested in a raid and charged with the felonious sale of narcotics.

Toll told the committee that an estimated 20 per cent of the more than 5,000 students at Stony Brook have used drugs.

Here is one reason why Toll couldn't come up with specifics:

Last summer the new Narcotics Control Board held a three-day meeting on the use of narcotics by college students. All college administrators from across the state were invited.

Toll told the committee that the acting associate dean of students at Stony Brook had attended the conference, the first of its kind.

But his own dean of students followed him to the witness chair and said no one from Stony Brook had attended the meeting.

Toll thinks narcotics is his major problem. Apparently.

Why is this whole subject important? Why get all lathered up about a little LSD freak-out or a marijuana party on campus?

Here is why:

Thousands of high school students applied to Stony Brook last year for admission. Only a few hundred got in. There wasn't room for more. Stony Brook has a brilliant academic record because it has drawn good teachers and because it draws its students from the top of the pack.

Toll was at great pains to tell the committee that the great majority of students at Stony Brook are hard at work taking advantage of their opportunity. He even invited the committee to come out to the campus and look in on the library. "It's filled every night," he said.

But how about the 20 per cent who are in their dorms gassed out of their brains on marijuana?

So what about the thousands who didn't get in, who could take the place of that 20 per cent and fill the library every night even more?

With thousands on the outside, even the bearded minority should not be tolerated. It's a waste — both to them and to the ones who can't go to Stony Brook and other State University colleges because there is no room for them.



Feb. 14, 1968

Dear Editor,

Recently you published a letter from Mr. Ellis Horsfall, concerning loose pets.

I was one of the parties involved in the unfortunate incident, where Ellis was injured by the dogs. Not to criticize Ellis, but merely to let it be publicly known, I wish to relate what happened.

The other party was well aware of the incident and very much as concerned as I was.

The head of the house hold was, at the time, away on business and I told his wife I would look after Ellis and see that everything was arranged. Although the medical bills were sent to me, the other party paid the bills.

Possibly Ellis misunderstood the arrangements but I want it known that both parties involved accepted the responsibilities.

Thank you,
(name withheld)

It will soon be time to make maple syrup. Landowners who have never tapped trees before can learn how to do it by requesting single free copies of Cornell bulletin E-974 "Production of Maple Sirup and Other Maple Products," from the Mailing Room, Research Park, Ithaca, N. Y. 14850.