

A CAMPAIGN TO OUTLAW HUNTING?

An Editorial

This is the century when the incredible takes only a little longer. We have seen it in many ways. Now we may be witnessing it again.

Apparently there is now underway a concerted drive by anti-gun forces to prohibit hunting. Outright suggestions of it appeared recently in widely separated communities. The seed-planting of the thought has been noticeable for a year or more.

The fact that one American in 10 enjoys hunting and that safety experts regard hunting as one of the safer sports will mean little or nothing if a propaganda steamroller gets moving against it.

In pointing out this possibility, this newspaper risks the usual criticisms from anti-gun spokesmen and "don't believers" that it is being an alarmist and that it excites gun owners unduly. Sorry, but if we find a situation that is alarming, we intend to point the finger to it. We must.

To show how rapidly the attitude toward firearms in general has changed under the anti-gun publicity barrage, who, a year ago, would have believed that officials in ruggedly individual "hunting" States such as Iowa and South Carolina would recommend firearms registration on one form or another? Yet they have.

So it should hardly be surprising to encounter demands that hunting be outlawed as a dangerous, unnecessary sport.

The Detroit Daily Press urged that hunting be prohibited in these unrealistic words:

"Even those hunters who consider themselves 'sportsmen' have no legitimate need to maintain guns at home. Hunting and shooting clubs, could be licensed and supervised with guns maintained on the premises. As for hunting in the woods or mountains, we think this barbaric practice should be outlawed as well. The day is past when men must hunt for their game. That's what we have butcher shops for."

About the same time, the Asbury Park (N. J.) Free Press came to this remarkable conclusion:

"The yearly death and accident rate among hunters and innocent civilians indicates that hunting should be outlawed."

The Asbury Park publication did not, of course, reveal to its readers what the rate actually is. But we shall remove the blindfold.

On Page 72 of the latest edition of "Accident Facts", published by the National Safety Council, outdoor accidents include hunting as follows:

"Firearms—900 (deaths) 0.5 (rate per 100,000 population)."

Just above this rate that the Asbury Park paper didn't divulge is the rate for drownings, exclusive of boat and home accidents. It makes an interesting contrast:

"Drowning—4,400 (deaths) 2.3 (rate of 100,000 population)."

In short, drowning killed nearly 5 times as many persons as hunting accidents, but one could hardly expect a seashore resort newspaper to publish that.

Happily for the Asbury Park editorialist that all of us who like to hunt and swim, neither drowning nor hunting accident rates have increased. Both of these healthy outdoor sports would appear to be far safer than lounging around the home. The rate of deaths from falls at home is on record as 6.1 per 100,000—12 times the hunting rate.

We hope, therefore that the professional pessimists, whether editorializing in Asbury Park, Detroit or elsewhere, will quit worrying their readers half to death over hunting accidents. Otherwise we may have to point out the risk that people take when they stay home and read the newspapers.



50 YEARS AGO

March 15, 1918

J. H. Backus, Publisher

Homer Mallory, 81, died Thursday, February 28. A daughter survives. Funeral was held Sunday with Rev. Chas. Collins officiating.

Miss Reva Clarke of Andover and Letta Foster Thompson of Bennetts Creek, were united in marriage at the Methodist Parsonage in Canistota by Rev. M. J. Hill, Tuesday, March 12th.

Mrs. C. R. Thompson, 75, died Tuesday March 5th at her home on Voorhees Hill. Her husband, three daughters and a sister survive. Funeral services were held Friday with Rev. Chas. Collins officiating.

Miss Estella F. Day of Andover and Leon Cook of Alfred, were united in marriage Sunday, February 24th by Rev. V. L. Eggleston.

Mrs. Augusta Coats has purchased the McCormick property on West Center Street and will move into same.

Miss Cecile Heard has secured a position as stenographer with the A. J. Deer Co., of Hornell.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles D. Earley are the parents of twins Orville Burdick and Olive Louise, born Tuesday, March 12th.

M. E. Baker of Roulette, Pa., and Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Baker of Tip Top spent Tuesday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Dell Clair of East Valley.

Mrs. C. S. Rennells and children of Friendship, are visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Baker of Tip Top.

On Saturday evening, March 9th, Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Bundy were greatly surprised when fifty of their friends gathered at their home to celebrate with them the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage.

Mrs. W. F. O'Connell entertained at her home Monday evening in honor of the seventy-third birthday of her great aunt, Mrs. Julia Joyce.

Mrs. Ida Baker is visiting her daughter, Mrs. William Perkins and family of Little Genesee.

Mrs. Benton Earley of Knights Creek Scio, is spending the week at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Earley.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Arnois were visiting relatives in Salamanca Wednesday and Thursday.

40 YEARS AGO

March 16, 1927

J. H. Backus & Son, Publishers

Mrs. Delilah Hardy, 76, died Thursday March 8th. Three daughters, a brother, five half sisters and brothers survive. Funeral services were held Saturday with Rev. Walter L. Greene officiating. Burial was in Maple Wood Cemetery, Alfred.

Mrs. Howard Dean of South Hill was a week-end guest of her parents Mr. and Mrs. J. Danther of Wellsville.

Leo McAndrew of Bradford, Pa., spent Sunday with his mother, Mrs. Eliza McAndrew of Tip Top.

Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Burdick and children of Tip Top were Sunday guests of her sister, Mrs. Travis of Hornell.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Briggs are the parents of a son, born Wednesday, March 7th, at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. Wallace.

Lewis Waters of Independence has purchased his father's farm at Greenwood and moved his family there Monday.

Miss Laura Grossman returned to her work in Wellsville after spending two weeks with her father and brothers on Davis Hill.

Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Herrick and son, John of Buffalo were week-end visitors at the home of her mother, Mrs. A. W. Kaufman.

Miss Thelma Atford left Tuesday morning for Cleveland, Ohio, where she enters a hospital to complete her training for a registered nurse.

Mrs. Nellie Monaghan of Burnis has been visiting at the home of her mother, Mrs. William Diffin for several days.



by Alex Rankin

Anthony J. Travia is again looking for a way to take away the right of voters to vote.

Travia, it will be remembered, wanted last summer to take away the right of taxpayers to vote on state bond issues. That was when he was president of the Democratic-controlled State Constitutional Convention.

Voters didn't buy it. They turned down the Constitution.

Travia is also speaker of the Democratic-controlled Assembly. He has a bill of the Assembly daily calendar which would take away the right of voters to elect Assemblymen in special elections.

By using procedural rules in the Assembly, Travia has managed to keep this bill hanging on the calendar for almost two months.

He's waiting to make a deal with it. Practical politics is involved.

Theoretically Travia's Democrats have a six-vote margin in

the Assembly, fairly comfortable. But, in fact, he has only a four-vote margin.

Two seats in his own stronghold are vacant: that of Dickran Pedell of Brooklyn, 14th AD, who was elected to Congress and the recently deceased Thomas P. Cullen's 14th AD.

Four votes are not too close for comfort. Travia needs those two extra votes.

If Gov. Rockefeller were to call a special election in both districts today, chances are that by the time the machinery had set up, the elections had set the votes counted, the Legislature session would be over. The tests in question are "safe" Democratic seats.

So it wouldn't do Travia any good.

His bill, however, would have vacancies filled by appointment at a joint session of the Legislature, in much the same manner as state Regents are now elected, with the party in power nominating and the joint session rubber stamping.

That would produce two extra votes overnight.

Traditionally state Legislatures have always been elected. There is no circumstance in which, say legal experts, they can come to Albany in any other way. The tradition is as old as the state — as, say, opposed to the tradition of electing U. S. Senators. Not too long ago they were appointed by state legislative bodies.

Travia isn't moving his bill because he can't get the Republican-controlled state Senate to go along with it. He is, however, waiting to make a deal with them for some other piece of legislation.

And Rockefeller, who must negotiate with Travia on other matters, is in the wings sitting on his hands. He hasn't called a special election for the two districts.

For two months the voters of these two districts have gone unrepresented in Albany.

They, in particular, lose both ways. If Travia's bill stays on the calendar they can't vote for the man of their choice. If Travia moves it and it passes, they still can't — their representative will be chosen for them by the Democratic clubhouse.

Best quote of the week from the state Legislature:

"Since when did we sneeze at \$50 million?"

The man who said it, Assembly Majority Leader Moses M. Weinstein said it in a way that clearly implied he and everyone else already knew the answer — never. All this being further proof that once the bureaucrats start something, it grows bigger and bigger.

The quotation came during the debate on the expanded lottery bill, which passed both houses. Lotteries can now be held once a week instead of only once a month, and supermarkets can legally give lottery tickets away like trading stamps.

It will also mean more people to administer the lottery.

State Tax Commissioner Joseph Murphy, who administers the lottery, was on the floor of both houses during debate, supplying information and arguments for those in favor of a bigger lottery.



THE ANDOVER NEWS

Published Weekly by: The News Printing House, Andover, N. Y. J. H. Backus Allen and Ralph A. Allen, Owners, Andover, N. Y. Registered 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

