

THOUGHTS OF A COUNTRY EDITOR!

An Editorial

How many of you readers have ever stopped to wonder why the Editor of a weekly country Newspaper writes an Editorial?

Is it for huge financial gain? Very seldom — for most weekly Editors are among the lowest paid group in most business professions.

Is it just an easy way to fill up space? Decidedly not! Most Editorials take several long hours of thought, concentration, and the collection of facts.

Why then? Over the past few years we have discussed the Editorial situation with many weekly Newspaper Editors.

Most of them expressed the same thought, although in many and various words and ideas. They felt that

people have the right to know what is going on around them locally and on the national front also. Through Editorial comment people are often motivated into correcting or improving conditions whereby every one can reap the benefits. If nothing else — at least they will stop to think about the situation, whether they agree or disagree.

The following are some of the thoughts expressed by various Editors:

In Interest of Good Citizenship

The editor of a country weekly or smaller city daily newspaper is in a unique position in his community. He knows personally a large proportion of his subscribers and a subscriber can find him in his office and cross verbal swords with him.

A conscientious country editor is clothed with a heavy responsibility. He not only records the local news, social events and political happenings of his community, but he should discuss national and international issues which have a direct bearing on the lives and livelihood of his readers. This is often a discouraging and unappreciated job but if his paper is worth reading he has to accept the burden. He is in the position of a teacher. How well each translates his ideas to his audience determines his standing in his profession.

It is certainly true that the smaller paper must place emphasis on local happenings. But it is unfortunate for a community if an editor feels obligated to move entirely in that direction.

The home town paper is read from the first to the last page because it contains a review of community activities found nowhere else, regardless of competition from radios, television and big city papers. With this background and the respect accorded its comment the small town paper, in the interest of good citizenship and the dignity of the press must express opinions, whatever they may be, on international and national affairs that can affect directly every citizen down to his job or business, the property he owns and the taxes he pays.

Local editors and school teachers are largely responsible for the thinking that will protect the United States from domestic and foreign influences that would destroy the freedom we enjoy.

How many of us realize the vast returns we get from helping develop a strong community? Communities flourish because the people living there keep faith. People have not hesitated to make their initial investments. They invest in a home, in a business, in friendships, in living conditions. There are those who are short sighted and fail to see that a community needs keeping up just as surely as does a home.

We have freedom of the press and we must keep that right. In freedom, though, there is a duty. It is the duty of the press to keep people informed — in the long run — a free press is better than a muzzled one — Let's all help keep it that way!



50 YEARS AGO

April 18, 1919

J. H. Backus, Publisher

Lewis F. Slocum, 73, died at his home in West Union Monday, April 7th. His wife, a son and two daughters survive. Interment was in Whites Corners Cemetery.

Red Alaska Salmon is selling for 17c per lb., in brine, this week at C. W. Williams, Groceries, Crockery and Feed.

A general hospital has been opened at Friendship by Miss Dona Dodson of that place.

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Crowner are the parents of a ten pound daughter, born at their home in Elm Valley, Wednesday.

A. O. Kemp shipped better than \$5,000 worth of Pure Maple Syrup Monday from this station. It was shipped to St. Johnsbury, Vt.

Bernard Murray, Jr., of Greenwood Hill, visited his sister, Mrs. Ed McAndrews and family of South Hill from Friday until Sunday.

Mrs. Gerald Stein of Lancaster, was the guest of her sister, Mrs. E. Coats and family of South Hill the first of the week.

Floyd Tuller left Sunday for Depew, where he will take up his work in the silk mill there.

Mrs. Wilma Preston of Hornell, is a guest at the home of Dr. and Mrs. John Common this week.

Mrs. James P. Cannon and daughter, Elizabeth, are spending a few days visiting in Buffalo.

Mrs. Ralph Rogers of Buffalo is visiting at the home of her sister-in-law, Mrs. Edith Snyder.

Mr. and Mrs. George Brown of Corning were week-end visitors of Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Scribner.

Miss Julia Raukenbarth is home from her school duties at Lynbrook, N. J., for the Easter vacation.

Misses Bessie and Leah Slocum of Hornell, were Sunday guests at the home of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. David Slocum.

Mrs. Jobson and daughter, Miss Melva, arrived in Andover Tuesday from Philadelphia, where they have been spending the winter.

Miss Nell Walsh returned to Hornell Sunday, after spending a few days with her mother, Mrs. Owen Walsh, who is seriously ill.

Miss Mary Smith is home for the Easter vacation from her school duties at Painted Post. She is the guest of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Smith.

Mrs. Dan Witter, Mrs. F. L. Hann, Mrs. Lee Trowbridge and Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Backus, motored to Bolivar Wednesday to attend the Rebekah District Meeting.

40 YEARS AGO

April 19, 1929

J. H. Backus & Son, Publishers

Levan H. Thompson, 65, died Friday, April 12th at the St. James Mercy Hospital. Mr. Thompson resided most of his life on Chestnut Street caring for his mother, Mrs. Billings Hall.

William N. Rice of Andover I.O.O.F. Lodge No. 786, was recommended as District Deputy Grand Master for the coming year at a meeting held in Whitesville, Tuesday.

Lewis M. Kenyon, 29, died Tuesday, April 16. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Cass Kenyon and a sister, Mrs. John Elster, survive. Interment was in Valley Brook Cemetery.

Comrade William McDonough passed his 90th birthday Monday, April 15th. Sunday a family dinner was held at his home on Dyke Street in honor of the event.

Dr. S. B. Scott has moved his office and residence from the Smith property on Main Street to the Joseph Lynch property on Center Street.

Ralph Gram of Cuba, has taken a position as radio announcer with Station WKBW in Buffalo, being one of the staff of four connected with the station.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Mead are the parents of a daughter, Dorothy Ella, born April 12th.

Grant Sherwood caught a trout in Dyke Creek Friday which was 24 1/2 inches in length and weighed



by Alex Rankin

Should the voting age be lowered to 18?

A good question — but too bad the people of the state won't be allowed, at least this year, to answer it where it counts, in the ballot box.

Lowering the voting age takes an amendment to the state constitution. Amendments must be passed by two sessions of the Legislature and then put on the statewide ballot for voter approval.

An amendment lowering the voting age to 18 is now in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Recently those in favor of lowering the age tried to get the bill out on the floor of the Senate for a vote by using a "motion to discharge from committee" tactic.

Since Republicans control the Senate, and it was a Democratic motion, it didn't work. The bill stays in the committee room.

The last time the age-18 question got a full airing was in 1967 at the state Constitutional Convention. Many speeches were made, but the reason it was defeated

there was that it possibly could put about one million votes on board for the late Robert F. Kennedy. Republicans, and some Democrats, didn't want that.

And so it was dealt with in Al-

bany style. The Convention voted to give the Legislature the power to lower the voting age. The whole question became academic because the work of the convention was later defeated at the polls.

Republicans advanced two arguments against letting anyone 18 years old vote when the motion came up. They suggested that student rebellions at college show the young are not mature enough to vote, and that persons 18 and younger now get preferential treatment under the law in connection with legal judgments and the youthful offenders act.

Democrats did not object to the younger argument, but insisted young enough to be should also be allowed to vote.

Instead they advanced a far more serious, and concrete argument.

To begin with, student rebellion involves only the smallest part of the college population in this state.

But far more serious is the fact that a large number of persons aged 18 to 21 are married and engaged in the trying business of raising a family.

And even more of them are paying taxes.

3 lbs. and 12% oz.

Mr. and Mrs. Clare Jackson are the parents of a son, born Wednesday, April 17th.

Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Porter and Mrs. W. S. Calhoun were Buffalo visitors from Saturday until Tuesday.

Mrs. Henry Baker has returned from a visit at the home of her daughter, Mrs. C. E. Cleveland of Richburg.

Mrs. C. H. Watson, Sr., returned home from Keamsore, Monday, where she has been for the past week with her daughter, Mrs. J. T. Keller.

Mrs. Michael Dougherty visited her sister, Mrs. Christine Lynch of Hornell this week.

Mrs. White and son of Buffalo are spending the week with her mother, Mrs. Mary Pardon at the Bennett home on Second Street.

Miss Anna Mae French of Purdy Creek, is passing a few days with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Karle and aunt an uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Kaple on Pingrey Hill.

Miss Ruby Crandall and friend of Elmira motored to Andover Saturday and were overnight guests of Mrs. Clara Crandall, who accompanied them to Elmira Sunday for a week's visit.

Miss Nellie Barrett of Buffalo visited her grandmother, Mrs. Mary Barrett over the week-end.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Borden and babe of Rochester, were week-end guests of her parents, Atty and Mrs. C. L. Earley and grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Stephens.

Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Kaple of Andover were week-end guests at the home of her brother, John French and aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Oakes.

30 YEARS AGO

April 21, 1939

J. H. Backus & Son, Publishers

Michael T. Lynch, 86, died Tuesday, April 18. Three sons and two brothers survive. Interment was in St. John's Cemetery.

Miss Doris Langworthy of Alfred and Kenneth VanHorn of North Loup, Neb., were united in marriage Monday, April 3rd.

Mrs. Leon Wahl of Elm Valley, is in Binghamton helping to care for her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ayres, who are ill. Mrs. Effa Burbank is assisting in the Wahl home during her absence.

Mr. and Mrs. Claire Church, Mr. and Mrs. Lytle Church and daughter, Jeanette of Elkland, Pa., were week-end guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Church of Voorhees Hill.

nell this week visiting her sister, Mr. and Mrs. Mattie Baker.

Virginia Muller returned to Genesee Sunday after passing the Easter vacation at her home in State Creek.

Miss Genevieve Clark of Davis Hill, was a visitor in Buffalo over the week-end.

Miss Ruth DeLemmer of Rochester, is passing some time with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John DeRemer.

Mrs. M. T. Garvin and Mrs. Raymond Taft of Pittsburgh, Pa., were week-end guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Dean.

Miss Leah Oakes returned to New York City, Tuesday, after passing a week at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Oakes.

Orville Mesler, who passed his Easter vacation with his mother and sister, Mrs. Pearl Mesler and Mary, returned Saturday to his school duties at Morristown.

Fay E. Boyd was in Cleveland, Ohio, Tuesday and Wednesday, bowling with a Wellsville team in the American Bowling Congress.

Mrs. Anna Moran and Joan Cobb of Wellsville, are spending the week with Mrs. Moran's sister, Mrs. Mary Driscoll.

Mrs. Ellen Casey is the guest of Mrs. Mary Howe in Friendship this week.

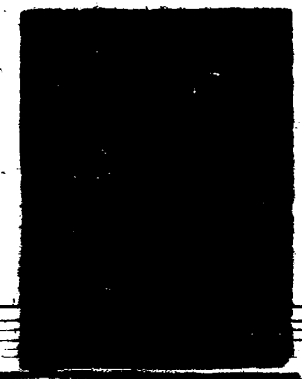
Mr. and Mrs. John Briggs of Alfred, passed the week-end guests of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Emery.

Miss Rose Dawson of Buffalo passed several days at her home in this village.

Bruce McGill of Alfred University, is passing his vacation this week with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. McGill.

Mrs. George Mickle and children returned home Tuesday from Troy where they have been with relatives for several weeks.

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