



A SCOUT IS REVERENT!

An Editorial

The tragic increase in juvenile delinquency has become a national problem of the utmost importance — and a solution is beset on every hand with complexities and difficulties.

This fact alone gives high significance to "Boy Scout Month", which is being observed during the month of February.

A head of the National Scouting organization says: "The Boy Scouts of America for over 60 years has enjoyed success and public acclaim for its part in the training of American youth in character, values, citizenship, skills and attitudes, as well as physical fitness. Over these years we have grown and flourished because each of us involved has had a deep conviction of the worth of Scouting to boys and to America because we resolved to act upon our convictions".

All manner of activities will mark this month. Churches of every denomination will develop the theme in their service. Newspapers, Radio and TV will give this month the notice it so richly deserves. Schools and civic groups will participate. Patriotic organizations will play their important part. The goal is to bring home to everyone — American principles and ideals which are eternal and which the Scouts are pledged to sustain.

Beyond these — the hope is that the publicity and notice created will encourage more and more boys to join their local Boy Scout Organization, and additionally, will lead their elders to do whatever they can to advance the work and the ideals that Scouting stands for. — Rarely does a Boy Scout become delinquent!

Here, locally, "Boy Scout Month" was highlighted Sunday, February 9th, with a "Go To Church Sunday" when the Scouts attended the Church of their choice in their Scout uniforms.

This 12th point of the Scout Law, — A Scout is Reverent, — recognizes the place in religion in one's life. A part of Scouting is to live a worthy, religious life.

Let's also give a great deal of credit to the grown-ups, both men and women, that donate their time and energy for this worthwhile cause.

In all of our years association with the Scout Program we firmly believe that it is a wonderful program and deserves the support of everyone that has any spare time or spare money that can be devoted to it.

With the high ideals and practices in the Scout Program, it is one of the biggest single factors that successfully helps combat Juvenile Delinquency!

Let's do everything we can to make the Scout Program a big success here in Andover!

"Inside The State Capital"

By James L. Emery

"MENACE ON THE STREETS — BLAME THE COURTS"

2/3/75 — Many residents of our State have become increasingly alarmed at what appears to be an unusually high rate of violent crimes and killings which have taken place in the past few months. There can be no doubt that this is true and that we should be concerned — alarmed, in fact. We had an unfortunate example of this not long ago in Olean, and as of Jan. 29, five New York City policemen had been murdered in the line of duty in the past several months.

All of this has prompted some individuals to once again sound the alarm call for new laws from the Legislature to deal with this problem, especially in the area of gun control. Well, this matter has been argued for years, and it is the opinion of many that stiffer gun control laws are not necessarily the answer to the problem. Certainly, we must make every effort to see that lethal weapons are kept from the hands of those persons who would misuse them. But note I said 'lethal weapons' and, if you stop to think about it, that can include anything from a gun to a sharp object.

In fact, the halting of the insane and senseless killing spree which still appears rampant in our state and nation cannot just depend on "more legislation" from Albany. Too often well-meaning people find it easy to turn to the Legislature when they might better look to our courts and the shortcomings found in the judicial system of this state. The best deterrent to crime is still a stiff enough penalty to make people think twice before they commit one — especially one involving injury or death.

The New York Times published a very revealing report recently which said, in the bluntest terms, that eight out of 10 defendants who are accused of homicide in New York City and who plead guilty to a reduced charge are freed on probation or receive a prison term of less than 10 years. More shocking is the fact that even those who receive a term of 10 years are eligible for parole in three years.

The situation which now prevails in many of our courts admittedly with overcrowded calendars — cannot be allowed to continue. "Plea bargaining" is a judicial process which has its place, but according to the Times report, is obviously being misused and abused in the courts of this State especially in New York City. What this means, of course, is that people who have committed violent crimes for which they were originally charged with murder, are free and out on the streets again many times within three years! And that is where the real problem lies with the crime rate. There simply must be an overhauling of our court structure.

On a more pleasant note, I was privileged to meet last week with the New York State Travel and Vacation Association in Albany. It was a good time to have a chat with Conrad Tunney, longtime Executive Director of the Finger Lakes Association and Chester Haak of Livonia, also associated with the Finger Lakes group.

It is interesting to note that tourism brought in about \$400,000,000 in New York State last year and we spent barely a million dollars on tourist promotion while places such as Puerto Rico spent over \$4 million on such promotion. I agree with those who insist that we simply must beef up our tourist promotion in this state if we are to continue to compete with other vacation areas around the nation and the world. This is money, of course, which will bring a large return for both the State coffers and for area business and industry.

Meanwhile, it is always a pleasure to be in contact with the Finger Lakes Association which is the oldest such tourist association in the nation and the largest in New York State. It has a membership of some 1500, and most of these are persons in the private sector of our community who are doing their best to promote jobs on a local level and business through tourism.

ALBANY

open line

by Alex Rankin

1/27/75 — It was billed as the first "work week" of the 1975 session of the state Legislature.

"Our next full working day is Monday," announced Republican Senator Majority Leader Warren M. Anderson of Binghamton with an absolutely straight face after adjourning a 20-minute session on Tuesday. That was it for the week.

The session was made up of such pressing items as speeches for a Brooklyn robber and for a Rockland County man who is 100 years old. No bills were passed.

The Assembly was a little better. There, five routine bills were passed, accompanied by a debate over whether or not Gov. Carey should have abolished the office of the state welfare inspector general. To their credit, a large number of rank-and-file legislators were angry with their leaders for quitting so early after having done nothing.

One of them was the youngest member of the Legislature, Republican Assemblyman John Zagame of Oswego, who described his first week in Albany as a jarring experience.

"I don't think the Legislature works long enough and hard enough," he remarked. "There is a lack of time and attention devoted to details here."

The freshman, who was almost prevented from entering the Assembly chamber by a guard because of his youth, also thinks the state Legislature should be a full-time job.

He is one of only 23 lawmakers who list the Legislature as their full-time occupation. "This job demands a lot of time," he said, "and if \$23,500 isn't enough to get by for a year, then something's wrong."

There were several committee meetings during the two days the lawmakers were in town, and the first time they were open to the public.

Many were attended by the groups of school children from all over the state who tour the capitol during each session.

2/6/75 — The screams of outrage over Gov. Carey's record \$10.8 billion budget can be heard from Montauk, L. I., to Niagara Falls, along with an incredible

in our Great Finger Lakes region.

CEREMONY HAS PARTISAN FLAVOR

2/10/75 — All of us were indeed proud and pleased to attend the ceremonies marking the opening of the Allegany County stretch of the Southern Tier Expressway recently. After so many years of working and waiting it is grand to know that we can now travel clear from Olean to New York City on good expressway. I must comment however, that a number of us were a little disappointed at the partisan flavor of these ceremonies.

In the 10 years in which I have been attending events of this nature this is the first time in my memory that the festivities were presided over by the political chairman of a county. It certainly was proper for Mrs. Joanne Miller, Allegany County Democratic Chairman, to be present for the ceremonies, but it is the normal course of events for the Town Supervisor, Chairman of the county legislative body, or a Mayor or elected official of that nature to preside. This was very unusual and I feel invaded the bi-partisan spirit which has reflected all of the events thus far surrounding the construction of the Southern Tier Expressway.

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\$900 million in new tax hikes that would bite everyone from bowlers to brain surgeons.

But if you can look beyond the outrage, a pertinent fact emerges. The new governor appears to have taken a giant step toward sand-bagging all those veterans in the Legislature.

If you assume — and the current state of the economy is a good indication — that the state is in bad financial trouble — then someone is going to have to take the "blame" for raising taxes to meet the situation.

First Carey announced at the beginning of January that he would ask for a 10-cent a gallon gasoline tax hike. It was all anyone had to talk about, and so almost every legislator in the state had the time to go on record opposing the tax hike.

Then came the budget last week. Some of the tax hikes Carey has proposed are so silly, particularly if the political impact is added in, that it is difficult to imagine the man is serious. Taxing bowlers, haircuts and asking doctors to pay business taxes — which they will promptly pass along to patient — are good examples.

But Carey is deadly serious. He is serious about using these tax hike proposals as expendable bargaining points.

And more importantly, he is laying the groundwork for forcing the Legislature to take some of the credit for digging into the taxpayer's pockets even further than before.

There will be cries to cut all the chauffeurs for department heads and other biggies. But all the chauffeurs in the state don't add up to \$1 million — let alone \$900 million.

The Legislature will be reluctant to cut pet projects. A big part of the budget, various forms of state aid to local governments, is a two-edged sword. If state aid is cut, then local school districts and the governments will merely raise real estate taxes to make up the difference.

Republicans are gleefully flogging the governor today, but they are going to have to take some of the blame in March.

How did Carey have the gall? Well, he probably remembered that even after he promised not to and then did raise taxes year after year, the taxpayers kept right on sending former Gov. Rockefeller back to Albany every few years.

2/7/75 — While the people at home worry about more than \$800 million in tax hikes that might be slapped on them by Gov. Carey the lawmakers the people elected to do their business in Albany have reached new lows.

Now, like a pack of dogs, they are squabbling over furniture.

Democrats, apparently afraid of daylight, entered Republican offices in the plush State Legislative Office Building (SLOB) and made off with all the furniture they wanted.

That wasn't all they did, now

ever. They also ransacked files and took personal property.

Watergate was supposed to have taught government officials about honesty, integrity and burglary.

But obviously the Democrats in the state Legislature were out to lunch when that lesson was on the blackboard.

Republican Assemblyman Hyman Miller of Dewitt, who brought the situation to light in the Assembly chamber, has demanded a full report from the Capitol Police, who are charged with guarding the capitol.

He will probably get a report, but little else.

The fact is that security arrangements to guard against people who, unlike the Democrats, don't have passkeys, in the capitol are a farce.

Once past a superficial checkpoint, anyone, armed with a bomb big enough to fit in a briefcase or even a bulky package, can roam the corridors of the Mall at will at anytime of the day or night.

At the checkpoint the guards don't even bother to verify that you are in fact the person you say you are when you sign a register book.

So much for those who suggest that the capitol police could have done something. The head of that department has, in fact, said the burglaries were legal.

And these are the people we trust with our taxes.

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