

NOW THAT "SPRING HAS SPRUNG" — BEWARE OF THE "CON ARTISTS" An Editorial

Have you received a phone call recently that went something like this: "Are you planning on painting or roofing your house in the near future — etc"?

While the proverbial young man's fancy in Spring turns to thoughts of love and baseball, the perennial swindler delights in fanciful schemes and questionable door-to-door practices to catch the consumer unaware. Attorney General Louis J. Lefkowitz warns.

The Attorney General said this week has brought complaints of schemes and practices designed to separate the consumer from his hard earned money. He said the records of the Bureau of Consumers Frauds and Protection of his office show that unscrupulous itinerant pitchmen, who are not to be confused with representatives of reputable sales companies, invade suburbia each spring, equipped with every gimmick and dodge in the book.

Their wares range from portable items which can be demonstrated in the home to shrubbery and top soil which may turn out to contain chemicals harmful to plant and animal life.

He noted that a number of suburbanites have complained of being "trimmed" by so-called "tree surgeons" who charge exorbitant prices of up to \$2,000. Investigations have revealed that in some cases, itinerant tree surgeons did not obtain necessary permits required for tree removal, instead had the home owners obtain the permits, thereby placing the entire liability of an accident or property damage on the home owner.

The Current "favorite" on the gyp parade is the "bait" and "switch" game with one of its stated purposes: to get the "consumer's blood" in the sale of home improvements. This is done by using the name of prominent firms and conducting a "bait" advertising campaign designed to "switch" customers from cheap advertised merchandise to more expensive products.

Attorney General Louis J. Lefkowitz said he has drawn up the following rules to aid in protecting consumers from being the victims of unscrupulous sales practices.

1. Ask to see the credentials of any sales representative who calls at your door.
2. Check the sales price of services or merchandise with your local merchant.
3. Ask if the sales price includes installation and delivery. If you want these services included, tell the salesman to write a statement to that effect in the contract, specifying in detail the type of service and the period during which it will be performed.
4. In the case of home improvements, never sign a statement that the work is complete until it actually is. If you sign such a statement before the work is finished, as a general rule you will have to make full payment whether or not the contractor fulfills his agreement.
5. Check the reputation of the salesman and his company with your local Chamber of Commerce or Better Business Bureau.
6. Never permit merchandise to be left with you "on approval". The salesman may not return and you will find yourself receiving a bill for an article which you do not want.
7. Remember that the legitimate salesman, who represents the vast majority of resident and door-to-door sales representatives, invites your investigation.
8. If you feel you have been victimized by an unfair or fraudulent sales practice, report the fact to the Bureau of Consumer Frauds and Protection of the Attorney General's Office.



50 YEARS AGO

March 20, 1925

J. H. Backus, Publisher

Church purchased Land for Park The Andover Presbyterian Church, at a congregational meeting, on March 12, purchased the residence property known as the Amy J. Adams property joining the present church property in the rear of Dyke Street. The idea of purchasing the property is to remove the building and transform it into a beautiful park which will not only add to the beauty of the church property but will be a great convenience for use in the near future for a place to hold the Annual Harvest Home Picnic and out-of-door church services, picnics and etc. The building, now on the property, will be removed by the Adams Estate immediately. It has been suggested that a fine grove will be set out on this property in the spring. Each family of the church will be given the opportunity to plant a tree as a memorial to the oldest member of their family who is or has been a member of the Andover Presbyterian Church and the tree will bear the name of the person so honored. It is now planned to hold a Congregational Meeting and a Tree Planting Day early in May when the trees will be planted. It is expected that quite large trees several years old will be selected so that it will not take long before the property will be shaded and a most beautiful park is connected with the church and a most enjoyable place will have been made for picnics and church and community functions.

Andover Chamber of Commerce has arranged to hold a Rally Day March 26 which is dedicated to advancement of Andover and all her interest. E. W. Fitzgerald of Olean Chamber of Commerce, will be the guest speaker. The Andover Merchants are holding Special Sales.

Village Election in Andover Tuesday turned out to be a right royal battle with the ballots. The Union Ticket headed by C. H. Watson, Jr., scored a decided victory. Mr. Watson being elected by a vote of 369 to 203 for Jess Northrup of the Independent Ticket. Fay E. Boyd was elected Village Trustee over Charles Caple by a vote of 344 to 222. A. D. Fuller was unanimously chosen as Village Treasurer as the Independent Ticket did not nominate a candidate for Village Treasurer. The Proposition to allow Sunday Baseball playing was carried with a vote of 383 yeases and 236 nos.

Mrs. Leo Snyder entertained the Entire Nous Club Thursday evening.

Andover farmers are not reporting a very good Maple Sugar Season.

Marian, one of the little twin daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Trowbridge has been quite seriously ill the past week.

The office of Village Collector is being abolished in many surrounding villages with the village clerk doing the work as it is done in Andover.

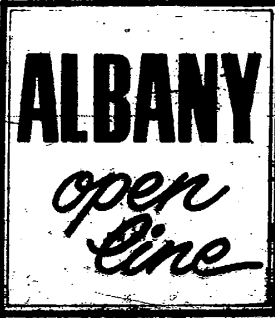
Baker Brothers and Boyd finished the interior of their store in the Post Office Block and expect to move their hardware store there in the near future.

A number of Andover people enjoyed the concert given at the Lyceum, Tuesday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Trowbridge entertained at Five Hundred with a party of young people attending Tuesday evening. About eighteen were present.

Dewey Northrup, the new Manager of the local Dairyman's League Plant, has moved his family from Wyalusing Pa. to Andover and is now living in the P. J. Dougherty residence on Chestnut Street. James Wentworth went to Wyalusing, Saturday, returning with their household goods. This day.

Gerald Hyland had the misfortune of falling and injuring his leg while playing at the Lane School last week so that he was unable to attend school for a few days.



by Alan Backus

Please don't let children read this column.

If they find out how 210 grown adults behaved in picking three people to become members of the State Board of Regents, the highest policy makers for education in the state, the ones who govern most of the waking hours of children for nine months of the year, they are liable to see little sense in discipline and reason in their own lives.

The 210 grown adults mentioned above are, that's right, state Legislators Senators and Assemblymen.

The task of naming Regents was marked by pushing, shoving, screaming, childish taunts and cheap politics.

As one Albany commentator put it, the Legislature got away with behavior that wouldn't be tolerated in the smallest village hall in the state.

Behind much of it was Lt. Gov. Mary Anne Krupskak, who refused to recognize that Republicans really run the Senate. She declared the Senate in recess and then went to the Assembly to preside over a joint session of the Legislature, the method used in picking Regents.

The Republican members of the Senate never did go to the Assembly chamber.

The Lt. governor then proceeded to pick a fight with everyone in sight. At one point she sent a sgt.-at-arms to make an assemblyman sit down. A fight nearly erupted. She insisted on being addressed as "Madame President" and so Republicans goaded her by shouting "Mizzzz" at her.

To his credit, State Education Commissioner David Nyquist said he was "distressed" by the manner in which the Regents were picked, but he refused to say that it was "demeaning."

He said that was because there was some important legislation he wanted passed, and he didn't think calling legislators names was the way to get it done.

Too bad the shoe wasn't on the other foot, because legislators seem to delight in name calling these days.

Carlton Greene of Tip Top spent the week-end with Edward Cranall of Independence.

The Christian Endeavor Society of the Andover Baptist Church held a Warm Sugar Social Friday evening at the home of E. W. Baker of Tip Top. About sixty attended and all reported a fine time.

The school children of Davis Hill and their teacher were treated to Warm Sugar at the home of Arling Briggs one day last week.

Miss Mary Casey R.N., was called to Bradford, Pa., Thursday to see her brother Francis at the Bradford Hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Leo Snyder, Mrs. Jessie Hunt, Miss Helen Folsing and Fay Boyd were in attendance at the Fashion Show held in Hornell, Tuesday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Claire C. Backus were guests of Prof. and Mrs. Lloyd Robinson of Alfred at the Theta Gamma Dance Party held in the University Gymnasium Saturday evening.

The Senior Pic Sale was very successful and the Seniors wish to thank all those who helped them.

40 YEARS AGO

March 15, 1935

J. H. Backus & Son, Publishers

The publishers of Allegany County met at Hotel Joyce last Friday evening in a Testimonial Dinner in honor of retiring Editor J. Harvey Backus of the Andover News. A splendid dinner was served in the usually fine manner for which

"Inside The State Capital"

By James L. Emery

I'm sure you have heard of "Saturday Night Specials" in New York City which is a term used in that metropolis for a cheap hand gun. Here in Albany we have a "Tuesday Night Special" which plays in the Assembly Chamber beginning anywhere from 6:00 P. M. on and ending at various times up to 3:30 A. M. Keep in mind that the Assembly normally does not meet on Tuesdays which has been a day set aside for committee meetings and hearings. But for the past 2 months, certain men make their way through and off the floor of the Assembly as a "Tuesday Night Special" and often a "Saturday Night Special." In any event there are more than 100 members of the State of New York. The only high way the State did not have a commission which is required to go into joint session to the Legislature Assembly and not

The day after the Lt. Governor Mary Anne Krupskak was chosen as the representative of the 136th Assembly District and she will not cast my vote. I am sure that in the days ahead the courts will direct that we have a proper joint session and that a new vote be taken. On several occasions Ms. Krupskak was asked whether we were following Assembly rules, Senate rules, joint house rules, Roberts rules, or what? Her reply was, "you will use my rules," made up at the session progressed. Not only did she make the rules but then enforced them at the presiding officer. Shades of Speaker Tomp Travia — but then even he wasn't that bad.

Perhaps the Lt. Governor was upset because I had earlier in the week moved to amend the deficiency budget by deleting the \$15,000 salary increase for the Lt. Governor which raised her pay from \$45,000 to \$60,000 per year. You will recall that during the campaign Ms. Krupskak said she would not accept this raise and that she would turn it back to the State. Comptroller Levitt has stated there are no provisions to accept if she were to do this. I therefore moved to have the item deleted thereby eliminating the problem. Unfortunately the Majority Democrats disagreed and the amendment was defeated.

So, Ms. Krupskak's \$60,000 salary goes on along with a \$16,000 "hulu". Not bad considering that her husband Mr. Edwin Margolis receives \$35,000 from Speaker Stelting at his counsel and another salary from a New York City University reported at \$25,000. One reporter said they are the highest paid duo in State government.

the Hotel Joyce is noted and was thoroughly enjoyed by the County Editors. Following the dinner the company adjourned to the Hotel parlor for a social hour during which Editor Frank LeClere of the Friendship Register and President of the Allegany County Publishers Association presented Editor Backus with a beautiful gold initialed fountain pen on behalf of the organization, which was accepted with deep appreciation in a few remarks from the recipient. Mr. Backus was also presented, by the hostess a beautiful bouquet of red carnations, which had centered the banquet table.

Mr. and Mrs. Martin Seamon of Elmira Heights announced the engagement of their daughter, Edna to Principal Chas. E. Bretsch of Andover High School at a bridge party given in the Heights last Friday evening. Miss Seamon is a member of the Elmira Heights School Faculty.

There will be a St. Patrick's

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