

## THE PRICE OF OPINION

An Editorial

We learned at a very young age that any newspaper worth the price of the paper it was printed on was a newspaper which had opinions of its own and was a paper which made these opinions known to the public through its editorials.

Any newspaper which publishes the views of its editor, through the use of editorials, would quickly tell you that the weekly or daily routine would be made easier if its opinions were left unsaid.

We know from years gone by, that by expressing our opinions, ideas, and thoughts through the use of an editorial, and by speaking out in print we do not always win friends and influence people. Many times our views are among the minority, and quite frequently we find ourselves on the other side of the fence from our friends and business associates.

But then, we didn't enter this profession with the thought of winning a popularity contest. We feel there is a responsibility vested in us to set the stage for an open forum about our community.

We have been told, among other things that it takes guts, that nobody in their right mind would go against the grain of the majority, stick their neck out in print, and then stay around to be subjected to the repercussions which are sure to follow. Regardless of our mental evaluation by others, that is exactly what happens every time an editorial is published.

Sometimes the volume is turned to its highest and many times your family, which had no hand in the writing, becomes subjected to the little people who thrive on ridicule.

We constantly run into the person who waits for his supporters to surround him, or until he is half beered up to take exception to something we write. But when he is alone, or sober, he is ready to forget the whole deal. These people fail to realize they have an editorial column of their own right here in the newspaper. It is the "Letters to the Editor" column. It is always open with a standing invitation to our readers to use it.

Hardly a week goes by that we don't have someone or some group suggesting editorial comment for our use. When asked why they don't write a letter to the editor, 99 percent of the answers boil down to this: "We can't afford to get people mad at us, we're in business, or we have to live with these people".

Let us say this: agreement on every subject is not vital for intelligent discussion. Rather, conflict of opinion on an issue often brings forth truth, understanding, and action towards a better community — if those involved have the maturity to remain objective.

The editorials in The Andover News remain our ideas. They are our thoughts. We do not expect agreement on everything we write. But when you see it in print, it is there as a market — place for thought and discussion. But you can bank on one thing — when you read it in an editorial — that's the way we feel!

And, don't forget readers — your Hometown Weekly Newspaper is more vitally interested in what goes on locally — than any other newspaper in the world!

A "Letter To The Editor" must be addressed "To The Editor", either by Name or Title, must be signed personally — in the writer's own true signature (not just typed or stamped by a rubber stamp) although a writer may request that his signature be withheld for personal reasons, must be written in language and with words that are fit to print, and should be typed double-space, and should not contain more than 200 words. (Letters that are written by hand may be accepted providing they are clearly legible.)

## THE ANDOVER NEWS

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## "Inside The State Capital"

By James L. Emery

Several bills passed by the Legislature of interest to consumers have now been signed into law by the Governor.

Consumers should particularly be aware of a new law in New York State effective this month which provides that so-called "fair trade" contracts are illegal and no longer enforceable within New York State.

Repeal of the state's "fair trade" law, the Field-Crawford Act which has been on the books for the past 35 years, should encourage greater competition and result in lower prices on a number of consumer items sold in the state.

Under the old law, manufacturers were permitted to require wholesale and retail outlets handling a product to resell that product only at a fixed price determined by the manufacturer. That meant that the manufacturer could prevent any discounting of the product he sold. This law was passed at the time of the Depression in the belief that it would put an end to price wars and price cutting, stabilize the economic situation and stimulate economic recovery. Over the years, however, that justification has disappeared but the law remained in effect until this month.

Normally, any sort of price fixing arrangement would have been illegal under the state and federal laws against the restraint of trade but the "fair trade" law made an exception for prices fixed directly by a manufacturer for the resale of an item that manufacturer himself produced. Anti-trust laws were interpreted as applying to agreements among several manufacturers to fix prices and did not apply to establishing a set price on their own products.

Obviously, the "fair trade" law has allowed some prices to be set at arbitrary and inflated levels and, over the years, states which enacted such laws during the Depression have repealed them to the benefit of consumers.

The Attorney General recently issued a warning that manufacturers should not now attempt to compel distributors to sell their products only at "suggested" prices by threatening a cut-off of their supply. Attempts to do this will now subject a manufacturer to penalties under the New York State antitrust laws and those penalties can be severe. Under an amendment to the Donnelly Act, a violation of that law is a Class E felony and can carry a fine of up to \$100,000 for an individual or imprisonment up to four years or both.

Another new consumer law is intended to give the public fair warning if an item they intend to purchase is being sold in an unassembled condition.

More specifically, the law would require that when an item is offered for sale at retail, is comprised of six or more parts and is not sold already assembled, the container in which the item is sold must bear a notice in at least twelve-point type informing the purchaser that the item is not assembled, listing the tools necessary to assemble the item and any additional parts that may be necessary for assembly or use of the item. The container must also include simple, clear and accurate instructions in English concerning assembly and use.

If an item is sold unassembled but is on display in an already assembled condition, the seller is also required to post a sign near the display indicating that the item must be assembled before use. The same must be done in the case of commercial advertising of items which the purchaser is required to assemble, irrespective of the number of component parts.

This law takes effect as of January 1, 1976.

Finally, the Governor has approved a bill which would ban the sale of self-cleaning or "instant-on" television sets after January 1, 1977. The bill was offered as a means of conserving electricity since the "instant-on" feature requires that a current of electricity run through the television set at all times. The U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission also advises that the "instant-on" feature has been the cause in some cases of fires in television sets.

FROM OUR FILES

## 50 YEARS AGO

August 21, 1925

J. H. Backus, Publisher

George W. Watson died August 17 at his home in Friendship after an illness of a few days. Mr. Watson was the father of Mrs. C. A. Robinson. Burial was in Valley Brook Cemetery.

Hon. Jessie S. Phillips declared in his Harvest Home address, that obedience to the law is the foundation of our American Institutions. He also pictured the advance made during the 49 years since Harvest Home was instituted by the founder Rev. A. C. Titus.

Miss Irene Eck of Holly, Pa., and Raymond Quinn of Andover were united in marriage August 15. Mr. Quinn is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Quinn. They were married at Port Jervis, New Jersey.

C. H. Watson, President of the Village of Andover, asks cooperation to make Andover a clean and beautiful place in which to live.

Mrs. George Babcock received word Monday of the death of her sister-in-law, Mrs. Willard Graves at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Harry Page of Palo Alto, California. She formerly lived in Hellsport and was well known in Andover and vicinity.

Blackberries are ripe — delicious in flavor and also a bumper crop.

Gasoline has taken a two cent drop and according to the dealers another drop may be expected. Let the good work go on.

The traffic census taken last Friday and Saturday from the station corner of Main and Elm Streets totaled Friday, August 14 — 1,050 and Saturday, August 15 — 1,205. The record was taken by Mrs. P. M. Swink and Mrs. J. D. Cheesman.

Chauncey Green Witter, son of Welden and Calista Bantle Witter, was born in Hornell, Dec. 27, 1845 and died August 17, 1925. At the age of 18 he mustered into the Union Army and served with Battery G, 16th N. Y. Heavy Artillery and during the closing year of the Civil War, participated in 15 battles in Virginia and North Carolina. On September 16, 1865 he married Anna Owens who died in 1873. In 1879 he married Elizabeth R. Miller and to them were born three children now living: Archie of Sidney, N. Y., Mrs. Bertha Blauvelt of Shinglehouse, Pa., and Mrs. Gertrude Glace of Coudersport, Pa., and an adopted daughter, Mrs. Francis Jennie Flint of Andover; one brother, Frank of Andover survive out of a family of 14 brothers and sisters. Burial was in Alfred Rural Cemetery.

Mrs. L. E. Wiles (Mary) born March 16, 1853 in Greenwood, a daughter of Stephen and Harriet Deming Robinson, died at Fillmore August 13. In 1880 she married L. E. Wiles who survives with the following children: Miss Beta Wiles of Cuba, Arthur and Lena Wiles of Fillmore, Charles of Independence, Kansas, Lynn of Buffalo; one brother Charles Robinson and one sister, Mrs. Edward Teasdale of Andover. Burial was in Fillmore.

The News takes pleasure in welcoming Professor Simpson and family to our Village. They are living in the Davis property recently purchased by the School District.

Just 17 more days of play and then the children will have to dust off the old school books and retrace last year's steps to the Red School House on the corner of Center Street and East Avenue.

The Dougherty Family Reunion was held last Sunday, August 18, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. Baker on Pingrey Hill. There

## ASSEMBLYMAN EMERY'S SCHEDULE FOR WEEK OF AUGUST 21st

Friday, August 22nd — School Safety Campaign Kickoff and Awards Luncheon to be held at the Holiday Inn in Genesee — Automobile Club of Rochester. Saturday, August 23rd — Livingston County Republican Family Picnic — Hemlock Lake Park.

ALBANY open line

by Alex Rankin

The other day Gov. Carey announced to all his department heads that there would be a freeze on state spending for the next fiscal year.

Fine, except the next fiscal year doesn't begin until April 1, 1976.

On the other hand, Carey plans to implement a program that could change the way state budgets are shaped — fattened — every year.

At the present time the budget process begins with department heads telling senior officials in the state budget division how much they will need for the coming fiscal year. And the common practice is for the department heads to grossly blast their requests, knowing they will be cut, so they will wind up with what they really wanted in the first place.

Now the governor has announced that he plans to install a "zero base" review in selected state departments.

This review simply assumes that the department in question has never existed before, and asks for a complete justification of every program they have.

The freeze meanwhile, is going to apply to ordinary state employees, but not those at the managerial level.

Carey has signed into law the bill that will ban pay toilets after September 1. In his message with the bill, Carey said pay toilets are "viewed as being a needless tax on human biological functions."

The governor also signed into law a bill increasing the death benefits of volunteer firemen from \$1,000 to \$5,000 and maximum weekly survivor's benefits from \$95 to \$114.

were 38 in attendance. A fine dinner and a most enjoyable day was passed. One of the fine features of the occasion was the fact that the seven daughters of Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Dougherty of this village were in attendance with their parents. Some of the ladies coming from some distance to be present at this occasion.

Foreman P. M. Swink got the surprise of his life recently when he received from Hornell, a "One Man Power Grader" which the State Commissioner of Highways sent to him to use in the repairing of roads in this vicinity. Mr. Swink has the honor of operating the first machine of its kind in this part of the state. With the aid of this new machine the road gang can do about four times as much work than could formerly be done with the two teams and old grader used and at a far less expense as it will average about ten to fifteen miles per hour when in operation.

Thirty-five relatives of the Robinson family held their reunion at the home of C. A. Robinson, on August 12. The next reunion will be held at A. R. Wiles in Fillmore.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Dean and little daughter of Casey, Illinois are visiting Mrs. Margaret Dean and other relatives on South Hill.

John Cannon and family of Mt. Jewett, Pa., are visiting friends at West Greenwood this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Tracy and son, Norman and daughter, Leona returned to their home at Boney Mills, Saturday night after a ten-day visit at Leonington, Merdin and Blevheim, Canada.

Lenford Potter of Independence liberated 4,000 Trout from the New York State Hatchery, Saturday in the streams near Independence.

Married August 12 in Cuba, N. Y., were Mrs. Adeline Curry of Hornell and Edward Plaisted of Greenwood.

Miss Edith Snyder of Belmont and Howard Emily of New York, N. Y., were chiding on Miss Mary Bay-

(Continued on Page 3)