



Ingenuity, along with thrift and hard work, was a trait acquired by our grandparents and great-grandparents. They had respect for the fellow who would fix up and fix over things around the house and barn to serve useful purposes. This type of ingenuity was born of necessity, and the furniture, tools and equipment designed by our ancestors were for practical purposes.

We wonder what our forefathers would think of the ingenuity some folks show today in fixing up and fixing over the things they had around the house and barn. Perhaps they'd admire it, but we're more inclined to believe that they would be horrified to see what has happened to their butter bowls, wood boxes, coal scuttles and wagon wheels.

We must say this for today's collectors and converters of antiques — they are ingenious in their own way. It takes a considerable amount of imagination for instance to make a lamp out of a gun stock or a milk can, a chandelier out of a flax wheel, a magazine rack out of a tin wash boiler.

When in doubt of what to do with some so-called antique out of the barn, cellar, kitchen or attic, the converter has three obvious choices: Can it be a magazine holder? Can it be fixed up as a lamp? Or can it be made into a planter?

Completely stumped, and there's still an answer—a conversation piece. Candle molds and foot warmers, oxer yokes and iron shoe forms—they can be displayed in the living room of all

places. The tools and equipment from the barn, the farm shop and the milk house have been moved into the front room, as have the kitchen utensils our great-grandparents used.

Imagine the shock and amazement of our great-grandparents to find a living room furnished like this: Dry sink for a bar, bedroom commode for a side table, cobbler's bench for a coffee table, brass kettle used for boiling maple syrup for a waste basket, sadirons for door stops, baby's cradle for magazines, bone dishes for ash trays, wash bowls and pitchers for flowers, tin milk pan (well, stained of course) for knitting, milking stool for foot stool, butter crocks and iron kettles for planters, everything from oil lamps and jugs to coffee mills and charms for lamps; and up on the wall a couple of spurious ancestors, oil paintings that came from some unknown attic.

Out in the yard they'd see a cutter sitting on the grass, with flowers planted in it probably, the driveway lined with wagon wheels, a wagon seat on the porch, and sleigh bells hung by the front door for a door bell.

Don't get the idea that we dislike antiques. We greatly admire them. We are somewhat amused and sometimes horrified though at the way some of the items our grandparents had are used today.

As for ingenuity, it isn't limited to the antique. What of the modern tractor tires, nicely painted white, and planted to petunias in the front lawn?

Interesting World

by Abby Berg

OF GUNS, RIOTING AND GOVERNMENT SPENDING

Would you believe \$20,556 to study the blood group of Zlotnik Pigs in Poland? Or \$70,000,000 to study the perspiration problem of Aborigines in Australia? (More about this later.)

Laugh, but these incredible figures are true—and merely a sample of some brilliant utilization of our tax dollars.

Guns for the homefolks are another source of government munificence, unwittingly sponsored by the taxpayer. I suppose, an offshoot is the bloodier rioting now characterizing racial insurrection in a spreading number of metropolitan areas.

The gruesome fact is the American public has in effect subsidized most of the gun deaths resulting from the Newark riots, the worst since Watts. (At press time, Detroit had not yet exploded.) And it is indirectly responsible for the hundreds who were wounded by bullets. As usual, the innocent suffered the brunt of the savagery.

Wild shots accounted for many killings and critical injuries. (A white Newark resident phoned during the writing of this column to say he had been lying on the floor in his project apartment, during the rioting, when bullets whizzed over his head.)

At the height of the Black Power war against "Whitey" while the city was literally under siege by surprisingly well-armed "troops" and snipers aimed rifles from windows and rooftops. New Jersey Governor Richard Hughes bitterly criticized the federal government's "irresponsible firearms policy."

"Much of the blood running in the streets," he charged in a televised report, "is due to the easy availability of guns to anybody who has the price."

Adding fuel to Gov. Hughes' indictment, on June 13, just 3 months before the Newark violence erupted, Congress voted a \$2,300,000 subsidy to the National Rifle Association. And once again, despite pleas by Pres. Johnson, gov't leaders, the House failed to pass legislation for strict control of firearms. Why? The Pentagon, which insists that the citizenry must be trained in the use of arms, and the powerful NRA lobby whose vague rationale is that "the subsidy is needed for our defense forces," are behind the Congressional madness.

Ironically, though the vast majority fear widespread circulation of weapons, in the aggregate, it's the majority who financially support the 800,000-member NRA, which has net list assets of \$10,800,000!

The byproduct of U. S. pampering of gun clubs (the Pentagon also bends them rifles and provides free ammunition) is the laissez-faire, "Sacred Cow" attitude of the House toward clamping down on indiscriminate sales of weapons through mail-order outlets and retail stores. Pressure from gun-oriented sections and prominent individuals is also a leading anti-legislation factor.

Generally speaking, the right to petition for special consideration is an integral concept of our Democracy EXCEPT when the self-interest of one group is antagonistic to the desire and welfare of the rest of the country. (Why, for instance, should so much aid be siphoned off to prosperous gun clubs while youth recreation centers go begging?)

This principle is carefully overlooked by lawmakers and the BILLION-DOLLAR Lobbying Industry. At last conservative count, there were 39 known lobbyists for every 10 Congressmen—all angling for favors that ultimately prey on the life, limb, health and/or pocket of John Doe.

In view of the tremendous scope of lobbying operations—often disguised under euphemistic innocent titles, the true intent and even existence of which is frequently hidden from the public—the situation boils down to taxation without representation.

Thomas Jefferson once wrote: "The great security against corruption in government is to make the continuance of an administration depend on their keeping public expense to a minimum. Constant public control over tax-enactments is a restraint from which an honest government ought not to wish, nor a corrupt one to be permitted to be free." But how devoted to minimum spending is the Administration? And how much control can we the people exercise over tax-enactments that are stealthily pushed through under the Capitol Hill dome?

The following items, unpublished from comparatively recent Congressional Records and other civilized sources, were deciphered "sleeper" sources, by a wide-

awake correspondent in the political vineyards. They should provide some eye-popping answers:

To Investigate Mating Calls of Toads in Central America, \$20,254.

For Films of Eskimo Culture, \$103,000.

Odor Measuring Machine for Turkey, \$29,361.

To Improve Fayoumi and Dandarawa Fowls of Egypt, \$181,762.

Biological Study of Vinegar Flies in Columbia, \$31,452.

LUXURY YACHT FOR TITO, \$2,000,000.

Dry Cleaning Plant for Bedouins, \$17,264.

Machine for Making Potato Chips in Morocco, \$37,314.

To Build Tennis Courts in Montgomery County near Washington, D. C. (an area that boasts a median income of \$17,000), \$157,720.

For 1,000 TV Sets (sent to country without electricity), \$400,000.

To University of Havana to Study Radar and Electronics, \$2,500,000.

The Mississippi Penitentiary for NOT Planting Cotton, \$71,137.

To Penal Institute of Arkansas for NOT Planting Rice, \$22,000.

To Lobby McNeil for NOT Planting Cotton, \$10,378.

EXTRA WIVES FOR KENYA OFFICIALS, \$32,450.

To Travelers Aid of Los Angeles for Migrants Lost on the Freeway, \$202,978.

To Complete Study of Experimental Analysis of Violin Variations, \$5,000.

To Man at University of California to Study History of Comic Books, \$8,769.

Etc., Etc., Etc.

President Johnson is calling for a 6% (plus) increase in taxes, but a quick look at even this partial list should convince him that the first order of business is a decrease in bizarre government spending.

THRUWAY INCOME UP

A record number of travelers helped boost income to an all-time high during the first half of the year on the state thruway. Operating income for that period totaled \$37,453,701, compared with \$35,930,648 in the same span a year ago. The thruway authority said a surge in passenger car traffic during June, obviously motorists bound for Expo 67 in Montreal, contributed to the new records.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

August 8, 1887—

The Corporation

We would suggest to the Board of Trustees the propriety of holding stated meetings at least as often as once a month to attend to the business of the Corporation. One meeting a year done very well, perhaps, 50 years ago, but it is not sufficient in this fast age of the world. Also, to the President of the Board, that he see to it that the officers elected qualify within the time prescribed by the Charter, and that all officers discharge their duties according to the requirements of said instrument, or in default thereof, proceedings be instituted against them for their neglect or contumacy. Otherwise, we may as well dispense with our Charter and a Board of officers and the expense incident to incorporation.

A HALF CENTURY BACK

August 8, 1917—

Arthur C. Valentine suffered a fractured skull when the engine which he was adjusting at the water company pumping station exploded and he was struck by a piece of metal.

THIRTY YEARS AGO

August 11, 1937—

"A battle that had been smouldering for four years and flaming for several months reached a decision today at Hudson Falls when at a special meeting of the Washington county board of supervisors a majority of the members lined up in opposition to the veteran county superintendent of highways, Orson C. Richards of Hudson Falls, and named Francis L. Brown, young Whitehall engineer, to the position which Mr. Richards has held for 26 years and some odd months." The Journal reported. The supervisors split 9 to 8 on the appointment of Brown, who was first on a civil service list for the position.

The Harkness building on Main street, occupied for some 30 years or more by the Greenway postoffice, was sold at auction for \$4,700 to James G. Wilson. The sale was to settle the estate of the late William Harkness.

A third session was held by the public service commission on the petition of the Greenwich Union Water Works company to construct a new reservoir as a source of water supply. Members of the village board attended the hearing to oppose the project.

TWENTY YEARS AGO

August 6, 1947—

Two of the three contests in the Republican caucus in the town of Greenwich were unusually close the previous Saturday. Leland R. Robertson was renominated as candidate for supervisor. He received 268 votes while Guy A. Barber, his opponent, polled 266. Russell W. Barber won the councilman candidacy with a plurality of only seven votes. He received 257 votes to 250 for Walter S. Karnaghan. Neal Caswell was named candidate for superintendent of highways in the three-way battle. Caswell with 306 votes paled more than both his candidates together. Claude

Gillis, who sought the nomination, received 127 votes and Burdette T. Buckley had 99 votes.

G. Norwood and Norman W. Allen of Easton entered into an agreement with the Washington county soil conservation district covering the use of their caterpillar D-4 bulldozer by the district. The bulldozer would be used to establish soil conservation measures on the farms of cooperators with the district.

Deaths: John Maynard, Hartford.

JUST A YEAR AGO

August 11, 1936—

Adjusted weighted voting on the board of supervisors did not meet the court's approval for re-appointment. This was the decision handed down by Supreme Court Justice Michael Sweeney of Saratoga Springs. The supervisors had ten days to prepare another plan or plans and submit it to the court.

Mrs. Quinn

Reports on

Flag Project

August 5, 1967

The Editor

Dear Sir:

The Grange project to promote the displaying the flag more has made some progress.

In rural areas some farm families have erected flag poles or holders where flags are hung daily. This is encouraging. The red, white and blue speaks of the many freedoms we in America have.

The folks who spend the summer in our area are splendid cooperators. Camps and trailers with flags flying add so much to our beautiful landscape.

Recently a tourist from the West coast said he had bought food for his family or gasoline for his car unless a flag was flying from the service station or restaurant. He explained that he was trying to have his sons and daughter learn what the flag should mean to them.

Throughout the country business places have been urged to display the flag every day. Those who have done so are forming a patriotic habit.

It is discouraging to note that our youth seem to show so little respect for our flag. For years the Flag Salutes has been a part of the teaching in our schools. We hope that this has not failed to impress our boys and girls.

It has been suggested that if every member of patriotic organizations would fly the flag daily that their effort would be contagious and more and more flags would be seen.

Ella T. Quinn

PURCHASES HOME

Mrs. Sidney Pottier, wife of the actor, has purchased a 236-acre farm, overlooking the Hudson river, about 12 miles north of Hudson in Columbia county. The property contains a private lake, a 17th century two-story frame main house, a secondary house and a large barn. Last month singer Harry Belafonte bought a home in Old Chatham, also in Columbia county.

Foster Home Mother Writes Of Needs and the Rewards

39 Center St.
Fort Edward, N. Y.

To the Editor:

In the local area papers recently there appeared a news item in regards to the foster mothers of Washington County seeking an increase in funds. May I at this time speak up about foster homes and try to tell some of what it involves for I know many citizens have no idea what a foster home is and many entertain false ideas through no fault of their own.

First, a foster home is a home that has been thoroughly investigated by a qualified person from the local County Child Welfare department and if coming up to the standards and qualifications set by the department is then certified by the New York State Child Welfare dept. to care for a foster child in the home.

A foster child is a child who has to be placed in a foster home for one of a multitude of reasons, mainly being the need for parental care for a period of time. There are foster homes that care for only new born babies, many of which are up for adoption. Then there are homes that care for children from 1 on up to 18 at which time they may go on to college or out to work to make a life for themselves. A child is placed to the best advantage in the child, a Catholic child in a Catholic home, etc. whenever possible. When there are many foster homes to choose from it is best for all concerned, the department, the home, and the child with the child's welfare coming first.

Some people may be hostile under the idea of someone investigating their home, but if you stop and think this investigation is for your own good as well as the child you hope to care for. If the shoe were on the other foot and you had to place your child in a home you would want to be sure that that home was the kind of a home you want your child in.

This report also shows the case worker (the person who will be working with you personally in regards to the child) how many children your home can comfortably accommodate with the maximum being six. No, the home doesn't have to be "just so." The main thing is that it is a home where a child is wanted. In some counties there does not have to be a husband in the home but the widow must have an income of her own. Many women find time on their hands and find that going out into the business

world frustrating. For times have changed and past experience limited but their role of homemaker is a valuable asset in becoming a foster mother. It is a wonderful way to fill lonely hours and to be needed for it gives "purpose" to your days and you get paid for it. By saying this I must make it clear it's not a job where the pay is your ultimate reward because although "the money you receive helps cover some of the expenses, your profits come to you in more non-materialistic ways. Foster mothers in Washington County are paid about the lowest in the state. They get \$13 a week, and if you break that down you will find they get less than \$2 a day or about 7 cents an hour for a 24-hour day with no retirement or other benefits, no vacation unless it's between children coming and going. No, you can't take them out as dependents on your income tax. There is a petition for the foster mothers for an increase in funds, pending. I should add that mothers caring for babies under 18 months do get a little more.

By now you must be wondering why would anyone want to take these children. Well, first and obviously you have to, honestly love children, and second perhaps you may wish to contribute your share of help in this troubled world. I feel that many more homes would be open to these children if citizens were more aware of the need for foster homes and there is always a need for them.

What if there were no foster homes, if tomorrow they closed their doors to these children, it would be a catastrophe for many of these children would never have a chance. So if you would have to be sent to institutions which are now overflowing and would cost the taxpayer anywhere from about \$10 and up A DAY for these children, and I doubt you would ever want a child in an institution if you have any idea what institutional life is like.

Oh, there is so much more I could tell you for I have barely covered the subject, but my aim now is only to make you aware of foster homes, the need of them and perhaps to find a home or two. If you have time on your hands, a little love left over and a place you could place a child in your home and heart, why don't you call your local County Child Welfare dept. I have been a foster mother for many years and wish others could share this experience with me.

Mrs. Betty Mitchell

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