

THE GOUVERNEUR TRIBUNE-PRESS

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Experience is a hard teacher

Experience is sometimes a hard teacher. Not so long ago, the public and pollution control enforcement authorities thought nothing of forcing the doors of a plant to close if it could not comply with certain arbitrary deadlines. Until recently, no one stopped to think about the loss of jobs involved. The crusade against pollution was all that counted. This kind of legalist mob attack on productive enterprise helps no one, and it is not confined merely to the field of pollution control. It strikes in every area of economic activity with consumerism being another good example.

In the name of consumerism, crusades have been mounted against many facets of the U.S. marketing system. How often do we hear attacks on promotion and advertising which are the lifeblood of the mass-production, mass-distribution system by which we all live. For many years, a favorite pastime of antifire-market agitators has been proposal of laws to curb or cripple the trading stamp business — one of the

oldest forms of promotion in existence. Again, enthusiasm for the crusade blinds the crusaders to the end result of their handiwork. Trading stamp companies, aside from their contribution to a healthy, high-volume marketing mechanism, are major sources of employment, either directly or indirectly, in countless communities throughout the nation.

The Newport, Tennessee, Plain Talk reviews what a single trading stamp company means to the state of Tennessee. Businesses in Tennessee, it reports, sell \$48 million in merchandise a year — more than \$48 million since 1960 — to this one stamp company for distribution to its redemption centers throughout the nation. The Tennessee paper lists dozens of Tennessee firms that manufacture products for the trading stamp company. With unemployment a serious problem in the United States, it is incumbent upon everyone to look with skepticism upon the activities of job-killing crusaders — whether it be in the field of environment or consumer protection.

Sometimes you wonder

Sometimes one wonders whether it pays to be honest. One night recently in a near-by town, in Jefferson County I accidentally backed into another car, denting a door and tearing off a strip of chrome, (\$81 worth of damage.)

It was nearly midnight and there was no one in sight. As this particular village does not have any police department where I could report the incident, I went to the door of the nearest lighted house and asked if the car belonged to anyone there. The occupants didn't own the car and didn't know who did.

When I returned to the car there was still no one in sight. As I wanted to do the right thing, I put the piece of chrome on the front seat of the car, together with a note giving my name, address and telephone number. Still there was no one in sight. So, not knowing whether the owner would be back, or had parked for the night, I took the car license number and went home.

The next day about 10 a.m. I called the State Police at Canton to report the accident. The "chewing-out" I received really shook me up. I was told I was lucky if there wasn't a warrant out for my arrest — hit and run. Yes, I hit, but I didn't run! In fact, I sincerely thought I was one of the "good guys" because I left my name and address. I then called the Watertown State Police (I hadn't before because I wanted to save a toll call). The trooper on duty there told me the station had not had a report of the accident. He checked out the license plate and gave me the name and address of the owner of the vehicle I had hit. He also told me that if the owner wanted to press charges and there were damages of a certain amount, I could be arrested.

I then called the owner who was extremely understanding. He helped rebuild my battered ego

by telling me how nice he thought I was to leave my name and telephone number.

I don't mind saying that I was frightened when I talked to the first trooper. I had visions of jail cells and loss of license as well as the disgrace of being arrested. Apparently I was lucky — I had hit the car of a nice guy.

There have been several cases which I personally can attest to, where men had been issued their second or third ticket for driving while intoxicated. They paid a lawyer and the charges were reduced to parking on the pavement, or perhaps crossing a double solid-line. They paid a \$10 fine and went merrily on their way — to drink and drive again.

So, I'm back to my opening line — sometimes one wonders whether it pays to be honest. Now, having recovered from my first fright, and able to consider the question with what, I hope, is a little common sense, I realize with awe what we'd be in for if everyone answered with a "no". Briefly, without honesty, decency, the desire to do the right thing — who'd want to or even could live that way?

But, when every paper tells us that crime is increasing, that police are not only distrusted but even, although unreasonably yet contemptuously called "pigs", surely this is the time when citizens who do the right thing and respect their police should be shown mutual respect and given understanding treatment.

Fighting and abusing people, who deserve help and advice, does not improve our police situation. It just adds to the growing distrust and disrespect for those whose service, so often courageous, we need today more than ever.

Betty Carney

Sled decorating contest winners are announced

Decorated sleds and children filed onto local school playgrounds Thursday for the Winter Carnival sled decorating contest. Winners, judged for originality and creative use of materials, were as follows:

East Side School: age 2-5, first place, Heather Hills and Karen Nelson; age 6-8, first, Connie Cavellero; second, Scott Jones; age 9-12, first, Pam LaMar and Dixie Sipher, second, Diane Orford and Joan Johnston; honorable mention, Zoay Turnbull.

West Side School: age 6-8, first, Betty and Susy Foster, second, Vicky and Edward Thompson; age 9-11 first, Arthur Kinney, second, Stewart Gates.

St. James School: age 6-8 first place, Leslie Blair, second, Linda Ritchie, third, Brownlyn Rotundo; age 9-11 first, Martha Norton.

Mrs. Ellen Tretjen expressed her thanks to our hardworking judges for their time and ingenuity.



AS SEEN FROM OUR OFFICE WINDOW at the height of Friday's storm. About 16 inches of snow fell and gusty winds made for near zero visibility. Schools were closed as were many local businesses.

Senator Barclay co-sponsoring parking ticket controversy bill

Senator H. Douglas Barclay, representing St. Lawrence, Jefferson and Oswego Counties, has announced his co-sponsorship of a law directed at the recent New York City parking ticket controversy. Recently numerous north country residents have been receiving erroneous parking tickets from the Parking Violations Bureau of the City of New York. Letter of explanation to the bureau have been disregarded and continued violation notices issued.

The proposed legislation would protect north country residents from future harassment on erroneous parking tickets issued in New York City and other municipalities having an administrative parking bureau.

"We will not only oblige the parking bureau to answer inquiries by certified mail," Senator Barclay commented, "but also, impose stricter identification procedures on the issuance of the parking summons itself."

The proposed Senate legislation would correct the procedural and administrative laxity inherent in the current New York City system. There would be imposed stricter

qualifications upon hearing examiners, more accurate records must be retained, and it would be mandatory that all certified mail containing a legitimate inquiry concerning a parking violation be answered within a reasonable period of time or all parking charges would be automatically dismissed.

It further requires that a parking summons accurately identify a car by color, make, model, body type and plate number in addition to the current minimum referral to the license plate number.

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor, In response to local expressions of opinion regarding the privilege or duty exercised in showing respect for the flag of the United States of America, it may be interesting to know the origin of our present "Pledge of Allegiance" which is usually recited each time a salute to our national flag is rendered. The following story appeared in the official publication of American Gold Star Mothers Inc., edition of September, 1971:

"WHO WROTE THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE?" "Ask who wrote the Star Spangled Banner, and most people will say it was Francis Scott Key. Ask who wrote the Declaration of Independence, and most will reply that it was Thomas Jefferson. But ask who wrote the Pledge of Allegiance, and few people know. This is really not surprising for it was not until 1939 that even the historians were sure who the real author was. The Pledge first appeared in the September 8, 1892 edition of the Youth's Companion as part of the official program for school children throughout the nation to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the discovery of America. The Pledge was first recited at the Dedication of the World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago in October, 1892."

Two members of the staff of the Youth's Companion were James Bellamy and James Upham. For 47 years the family of each of these men claimed the authorship of the Pledge and held evidence to substantiate their claims. Finally, in 1939, a committee was appointed to weigh carefully the conflicting evidence. This committee unanimously decided in favor of James Bellamy. Unfortunately, Mr. Bellamy, an ordained Baptist minister, had died eight years previously. On December 28, 1945, the Congress of the United States of America finally officially recognized James Bellamy as the author of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States."

Eula M. McCormick A Gold Star Mother

To the Editor, I wonder when all of this bigotry and dissension in Gouverneur is going to end and people will accept each other as members of a free country, a country which was founded on the belief in personal freedom of the individual. Or is it against the law to express your own beliefs? It is not. As long as you do not break the law, or preach overthrow of the US government.

There are many cases, in this town and all over the country, where established clubs can violate the very things they preach against. For example Drugs. Now everyone knows that alcohol is classified as a narcotic. Yet it is served in most of the clubs, and no one seems to complain about it. There is a bylaw at the "Purple Toad" that states no Drugs Allowed. Are all the members of all of these clubs patriotic? Did all of them volunteer for the armed forces? It's a fact that the Elks Club will not allow any negro members. Is this patriotism?

Isn't it time for people to be really honest with themselves? Just the fact that you belong to a club does not make you right in everything you do or say. You cannot speak for everyone in the community. I am a veteran of the Korean war, honorably discharged. I do not agree with Mr. Flounders. I salute the flag I always will. In quoting a phrase from long ago, I think the words still apply today. "I may not agree with what you say, but I defend your right to say it."

I think the "Purple Toad" deserves the same support and recognition in the community that the other clubs are now enjoying.

It is possible that in not saluting the flag Mr. Flounders is spite of hurting himself and probably losing his job just may have been trying to make a few waves like getting people to wonder why so much value is put on one thing while others are allowed to be

ignored like — Liberty, Equality, Justice For All.

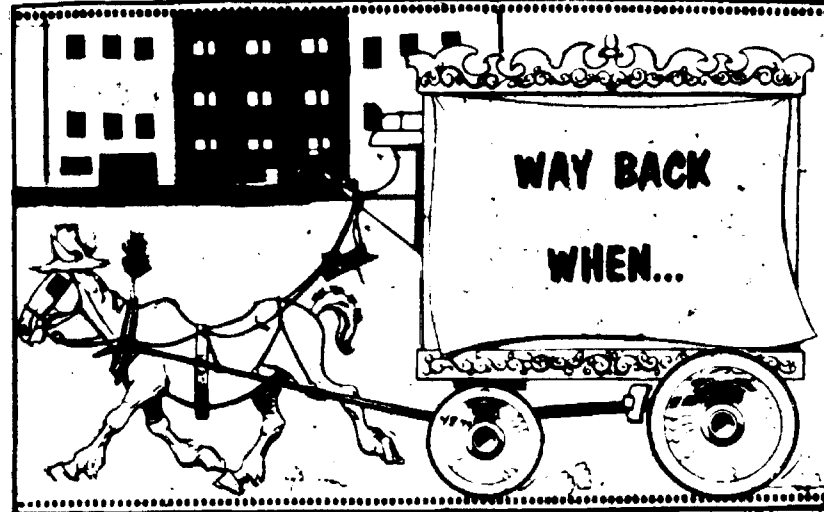
The letter on what happened shows that it did bother a lot of people. It got some of us mad enough to think about it, and express our opinions as free individuals.

Tom Sherry 55 Rock Island St. Gouverneur, N.Y.

139 snowmobiles entered in parade

The Winter Carnival Snowmobile Parade was held Sunday at 2 p.m. with 139 snowmobiles, representing six clubs, participating.

Don Compo, parade marshal, announced the prizes as follows: Most presentable club, Roadrunners, 10 snowmobiles; best precision performance club, Antwerp Snowmobile Club, Inc., 59 snowmobiles; club with highest percentage of sleds completing, a three way tie.



10 YEARS AGO TRIBUNE PRESS FEB. 7, 1962

—Joseph F. McAllister, president of the Bank of Gouverneur, was elected chairman of the Edward John Noble Hospital Board of Trustees at the annual meeting. He will succeed William H. Foster, chairman for two years.

—Rocco Canale, Watertown, former All-American grid star with Boston College and later a player with the Philadelphia Eagles professional team, will be toastmaster Feb. 17 when the New York Giants Sam Huff makes a speaking engagement here.

—The Gouverneur Wildcats defeated Malone in basketball on Jan. 23. They will meet Tupper Lake in a game at the local gym tonight.

25 YEARS AGO TRIBUNE PRESS FEB. 5, 1947

—Consolidation of the Noble Foundation Home on Depot Street with the VanDuzee hospital and operation of the home by the hospital association was approved by the directors of the Stephen B. VanDuzee hospital Association Monday evening.

—There were three days of ice racing last week in Canton and the Charles Ruderman pacer, Rice Krippe, won both heats of his race for Fred Parks, trainer and driver. Red Cross, owned by Hall Brothers of Gouverneur won both heats of her race.

—Appointment of Mrs. Charles Griffith as school nurse and attendance officer for the Gouverneur schools has been announced by Scott L. Brown, superintendent of schools.

A reception for Rev. Frederick Diviney, new pastor of St. James Church, and a farewell party for Rev. William Argy, assistant pastor who is leaving for new duties at Holy Family Church, Watertown, will be held tonight in St. James Hall.

50 YEARS AGO NORTHERN TRIBUNE FEB. 8, 1922

—A meeting of the Sylvia Lake Association was held Thursday evening having been called by President James Dolan for the purpose of meeting representatives of the Oswegatchie Light and Power Company who had a proposition to submit regarding the lighting of the summer homes at the resort.

—The Presbyterian church at DeKalb was sold last Wednesday at auction for \$350 to Frank Decker, a DeKalb farmer. The church has not been used in some years.

—The members of the Barnes Post Women's Relief Corps will observe Lincoln's Birthday at their regular meeting to be held in Maccabee Hall Feb. 14.

—A number of Gouverneur organizations and individuals are constantly engaged in providing clothing and bedding for the Armenian orphans and others of the sufferers from famine and war in the Near East. Treasurer for this project is Mrs. F. Erwin Cox.

75 YEARS AGO GOUVERNEUR FREE PRESS FEB. 10, 1897

—Collector Butcher has \$1,400 of town taxes to get in.

—I. I. Block has purchased the M. Z. Gates residence on Clinton street, consideration, \$4,000. Possession will be given April 1.

—G. B. Johnston left yesterday for Watertown and Black River on business connected with the firm of Weston, Dean and Aldrich.

—A special writing class is being organized in the village and the law students of the village are trying to organize a club.

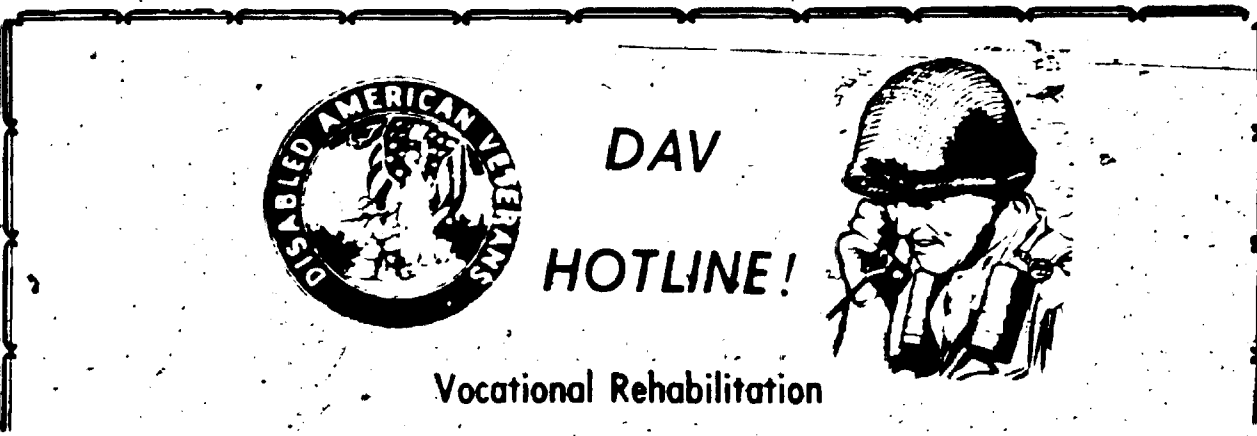
—Hot hash and brown bread will be served by St. Cecilia's Guild at their regular dime supper in Trinity Church basement next Tuesday evening.

100 YEARS AGO GOUVERNEUR TIMES FEB. 10, 1872

—The report circulated by Bill Bowman that Tunis Kipp has offered three cords of slab wood for a vote is said to be untrue, only one cord has been offered.

—Several sleigh loads of Good Templars took their way to the residence of Mr. Robert F. Brown, some five or six miles out of the village on Tuesday eve. last. The sociable was in honor of the return home of Miss Julia Ormiston who spends her vacation with her sister, Mrs. Brown.

—We learn that D. Peck has been renominated supervisor of the town of Fowler.



DAV HOTLINE! Vocational Rehabilitation

After the wounds are healed, diseases treated or injuries repaired and the disabled veteran leaves the hospital he then eagerly prepares to overcome his occupational handicap by pursuing academic, on-the-job or apprenticeship training under one of the many vocational rehabilitation programs administered by Federal, State or combined Federal-State agencies. Whatever program may be necessary, complete rehabilitation is not obtained until gainful employment is the end result. There are so many programs and agencies that it is a common belief that all eligible disabled veterans automatically receive vocational rehabilitation. Information available to us, however, indicates that thousands of eligible disabled veterans are not taking advantage of all available rehabilitative services.

Probably the most widely known and utilized program of vocational rehabilitation for disabled veterans is that administered by the VA pursuant to Chapter 31, Title 38, U.S. Code. To qualify under this law, veterans with service after World War II and before the Korean conflict or after the Korean conflict, must have service-connected disability of 30% or more. Exceptions may be made for disabled veterans who, if they caused a pronounced occupational handicap, the period of training may not exceed four years and a grant of 36 months after discharge. Under certain circumstances special consideration may be accorded a blinded or other seriously disabled veteran who has not previously been rehabilitated or whose service-connected disability has increased to such an extent as to prevent performance of duties in the occupation for which he has previously been trained.

Subsequent to the 1945 law, the training and for two months after rehabilitation. This of course is in addition to payment for disability compensation, tuition, books, supplies, equipment and fees. Disabled veterans who benefit from the VA program are urged to file a VA Form 22-900 application for vocational rehabilitation with the DAV National Service Office.

Many disabled veterans who are the beneficiaries of VA vocational rehabilitation opportunities are unaware that there is another vocational assistance program available to them. This program is for those with non-service-connected disabilities, those with disabilities of less than 30% and those who have handicaps preclude employment without rehabilitation assistance. This program and indeed all disabled veterans regardless of eligibility for VA vocational rehabilitation, may apply for assistance under a partnership program between the Federal Rehabilitation Services Administration and State governments. Every State provides vocational rehabilitation for the disabled through one or more agencies of the State government. This also applies to the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

To qualify you must have a disability which interferes with your ability to pursue a gainful occupation or function as a homemaker. In the case of female disabled veterans, or which threatens continued employment. Both men and women are eligible. An applicant must have a reasonable chance of being able to engage in a suitable occupation after necessary rehabilitation services are provided.

Since State vocational rehabilitation agencies provide the actual services application may be made by phone, letter or in person at the nearest local office of the State rehabilitation agency. An appointment will be made for you with a rehabilitation counselor and a determination as to eligibility will be made by the agency. Your NSO can provide information as to the name of the individual to contact.

There are no charges for rehabilitation counseling. Medical examinations to determine degree of disability or job placement services are provided at no cost. However, if you are unable to pay, you will be asked to do so. If an applicant is unable to share in these costs all of the services will be furnished without cost. Significant inability to pay is never a barrier to vocational rehabilitation.

You might wish to inquire as to what services are provided. These include counseling and guidance through the rehabilitation process, complete medical examination, medical services, prosthetic appliances, prosthetic and orthotic devices, necessary to remove or lessen disability, prosthetic aids such as artificial limbs, braces, hearing aids, eyeglasses and wheelchairs, job training in a vocational school, college or university, rehabilitation facility, or in the home, help with living expenses, board, room, transportation, and other necessary expenses, tools, equipment and forms of placement.

Need on the job—the counselor follows up on each placement to make sure the job is suitable.

This program affords an excellent opportunity for vocational rehabilitation to all disabled veterans, particularly those who are ineligible for Chapter 31 benefits and who hope that we have not done those things towards appropriate investigation and application as to the best way towards a successful occupation.



SLED DECORATING CONTEST WINNERS are shown with the winning entries. Upper left winners at the West Side playground, lower left, East Side and above St. James.

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