

editorials & commentary

Like It Or Not

Like it or not, New York State has a new drinking age law. As of Dec. 4, one must be 19 to drink legally in this state.

Arguments, pro and con, over the new legislation, will persist long after the current crop of 18-year-olds, suddenly disenfranchised, turns 19.

But some unanswered questions remain. Will the new law really curb highway fatalities involving young drinking drivers? Maybe so, but a drunk driver is a drunk driver is a drunk driver, so to speak, and any drunk driver, regardless of age, is dangerous.

Will the 18-year-olds, particularly those on college campuses, knuckle under to the new regulations? Some certainly will, but as one area tavern owner said, it may become a question of the 19-year-olds buying booze for the 18-year-olds

instead of the 18-year-olds buying for the 17-year-olds.

Will this change eventually lead to still another new drinking law, this time with an age limit of 21?

One state assemblyman, Mel Zimmer of Syracuse, is already talking about such legislation, but he predicted that it will be several years before legislators will consider another change.

Only one fact remains clear and unalterable—the drinking driver, whatever his age, doesn't belong on the road. If the new law helps keep the young drinking driver off the road, that's good. But it might be even better if lawmakers stopped attempting to legislate morality and concentrated instead on untangling the state's court system to free prosecutors and judges to handle those charged with drinking driver offenses.

First Anniversary

Editor's note: The following editorial is reprinted from the Courier and Freeman of Dec. 9, 1942, one year after Pearl Harbor.

Monday was the first anniversary of Pearl Harbor. The whole weekend was dedicated to solemn memorial for those who died at that time and those who have died since. It was dedicated for our survival during the first critical year of the war and to rededication of all our resources and to the many values which are at stake in this war. It was a year ago December 7 that the unprovoked attack of ruthless enemies burst upon our Hawaiian base. The story of what happened is revealed on this first anniversary. It was a deplorable happening; the worst in all history, yet it might have been more serious.

Let us then, honor and remember the men and women who have already given their lives in this struggle. Let it be a thanksgiving in prayer for the nation's survival, for its rebound and its growing strength in arms and deeds. Let us clearly think over what has been accomplished in the one year we have been in the war and to what lies ahead in terms of "Work, Fight and Sacrifice." Let us therefore rededicate the nation's strength, its time, its wealth and its very life to preserving a concept of life more precious

than individual life itself; to work, fight and sacrifice for all that is contained in the Constitution so well grounded for our nation.

At the first anniversary, these words "Remember Pearl Harbor — Work, Fight and Sacrifice" must surely bring to every man and woman a realization that this is a war that touches us all personally and intimately. They bring to us the feeling that, although slow to anger, our nation must proceed with unswerving purpose to the accomplishment of the task in hand, the gaining of the victory which will be ours.

With every recognition for what has been accomplished this first year, let us be understanding if victory seems slow on the horizon. Let us remember that there are really two separate wars to be won before there will again be peace. There is the war in Europe and the war in the Far East. There is still much to be done before we are in a position for the all-out strike. We are at great distances from both war areas. We must go there in millions and have provisions and equipment for our millions there before us. It is a gigantic task ahead. In a real sense this first anniversary is a stronger realization to "Work, Fight and Sacrifice."

WINTER: Hypothermia Can Be Fatal

C. Everett Koop, M.D., surgeon general of the U.S. Public Health Service, has warned older Americans and their families to be on guard in the cold months ahead against accidental hypothermia, a condition in which the body's internal temperature drops to 95 degrees F. or lower. Hypothermia can be fatal if not detected and treated promptly.

"Again this winter," Dr. Koop said, "cold outdoor temperatures may mean that many elderly Americans will be exposed to indoor temperatures so low that they pose a threat to their health. Even mildly cold temperatures of 60 degrees to 65 degrees can be dangerous."

People respond differently to extremes of heat and cold, depending on their age and health. The elderly are particularly vulnerable to cold, especially those who have diseases that limit activity, mental awareness or circulation. Those who are taking certain types of drugs, such as phenothiazines, that are used to treat anxiety, agitation and nausea.

At highest risk are the relatively small number of aged persons who, for unknown reasons, can neither feel cold nor shiver and thus cannot produce body heat when they need it.

Anyone who suspects hypothermia in a person of any age should get emergency medical help at once,

Koop said. Signs of hypothermia to watch for are an unusual change in appearance or behavior during cold weather; slow, sometimes irregular heartbeat; slurred speech; shallow, very slow breathing; sluggishness; and confusion.

Dr. Koop offered these suggestions: While waiting for medical care, wrap the victim in a warm blanket, give him or her small quantities of warm food and non-alcoholic drink if the victim is alert; use hot water bottles or electric heating pads on the abdomen. However, never set an electric blanket or pad at high temperature. Do not rub the body. Do not place the victim in hot water as rapid reheating of the body is dangerous.

From Our Files

Nov. 24, 1937 — At the Rialto: "This Way Please" with Charles "Buddy" Rogers, Betty Grable, Ned Sparks, Fibber McGee and Molly.

Nov. 24, 1937 — Boarder wanted; comfortable, pleasant, country home, board and room \$6 per week.

Dec. 15, 1937 — Clarkson offers to buy No. 8 School. Will pay \$2,500 and use property for laboratory purposes.

Dec. 15, 1937 — Cigars and Nervousness. "You're nervous," said the doctor. "Quite right," admitted the patient, "that's why I sent for you." "The only thing for you to do," explained the doctor, "is to give up smoking entirely." "I don't smoke at all," answered the patient. "Ah!" Said the doctor. "Then the thing for you to do is to smoke a good cigar or a pipe occasionally. It has a very soothing effect." It's easy to prescribe when you know how.

STARK, June 10, 1898 — W.W. Reynolds has the wall finished for his new hotel. P.X. Blake is passing

around the cigars; it is a boy, Kenneth McDonald draws the milk from his place to the South Colton butter factory, also the milk from others along the way. W.E. Huggard's house has been nearly full of guests for the past two weeks. W.E. Huggard attended the Christian Endeavor at Colton.

SINCLAIR CORNERS, June 10, 1898 — Our pathmaster, Freeman Spears, with a large body of men has greatly improved the road in the past week. The assessors of this town passed through here Monday, taking dinner at George Hamlin's. David Hamlin, wife and daughter, Lora visited relatives in Madrid last week.

June 10, 1898 — Edith Duffy closed a very successful term of school here last Friday. Much credit is given the teacher for her ability to teach.

MASSENA SPRINGS, June 10, 1898 — The whole town is rejoicing over resumption of work on the canal by the T.A. Gillispie Co. of Pittsburg, they being the lowest bidder of 30 firms. There are quite a number of boarders here now drinking spring water and taking baths. The U.S. Army of Inva-

sion is now fighting on Cuban soil.

June 29, 1898 — At Clarkson Tech the first graduating class receives diplomas with honors.

WEST POTSDAM, June 29, 1898 — No preaching in the church here Sunday on account of the minister receiving a bad kick in the face the day before. The spiritualists have bills out for a grand social held July 1 in the evening; those that wish can have a dance at Simmon's Hall. Coffee and lemonade will be served on the lawn. They invite all to come and have a good time. Mike Regan had a cow get in a well here Monday morning but living so near the factory he got help in time to save it.

LAKE OZONIA, June 29, 1898 — Fernwood Hall will open under new management. Some new cottages are being built, one of them by Prof. Streibert of Ohio. Lake Ozonia ranks as one of the most beautiful and healthful places in the Adirondacks and can be reached from here by a drive of three or four hours over a good road.

compiled by Earl Pattison



1942 FIRE — These two photos show the aftermath of a disastrous December 1942 fire which destroyed Kinney Drugs downtown Potsdam store. (photos loaned by Robert McGill)



Volunteers Working To 'Dress Up' Village

Despite the lack of snow, usually the most abundant holiday decoration, the Potsdam Chamber of Commerce, other area merchants and numerous volunteer groups are working to dress up the community in Christmas fashion during the next two weeks.

Many striking decorations can be viewed, particularly around the Civic Center, including the traditional lighted star high atop the Presbyterian Church. The Lions Club will be placing a large Christmas tree in the Ives Park intersection and the Boy Scouts have donated 30 wreaths to

be erected along Market Street. Other decorations will be made through funds donated by the Zonta, Rotary, American Legion and Delta Chi Delta organizations.

The chamber will continue its efforts throughout 1983 to replenish Potsdam's supply of commercial holiday decorations. Any organization, merchant or business wishing to contribute to this effort by donation or sponsorship of a fund-raising activity is asked to contact the Potsdam Chamber of Commerce.

To provide an additional source of

decorations, the chamber is sponsoring a "Deck the Halls" contest for area businesses. Banks, stores, restaurants, etc. have been asked to join in the holiday spirit by decorating the outside of their establishments. Ballots and boxes decorated by the Lawrence Avenue Elementary and students have been placed in various locations throughout the area. Area residents are encouraged to support their businesses by registering their choice for the most impressive outside or store front decoration no later than Dec. 15.

VOTE FOR THE MOST IMPRESSIVE HOLIDAY DECORATION!!!!

I THINK THE MOST IMPRESSIVE OUTSIDE OR STOREFRONT DECORATION IN THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE "DECK THE HALLS" CONTEST IS:

Name _____

Phone _____

No Place For Compassion?

CANTON — "Compassion" has no place in the county legislature's discussions of sales of tax delinquent properties, a state agency has ruled.

Real estate acquired by the county through delinquent taxes cannot be sold back to the former owner for less than the highest bid, the State Board of Equalization and Assessment has ruled.

St. Lawrence County Attorney Charles Palm has distributed an opinion from the state agency to legislators which shows that any efforts by legislators to sell properties to anyone for less than their highest bid price would be illegal.

Last month, Norwood Legislator Ernest LaBaff urged the county legislature to show "compassion" to county residents who fall upon hard economic times and lose their homes or property.

LaBaff said the county legislature should find a way to sell the property back to the former owners for the amount of taxes they owe, rather than putting it up for sale by the highest bidder.

The county takes a tax sale deed to property after its falls delinquent more than three years in a row and the taxpayer makes no full year payment during that period.

price for any property it sells. Even though the law places no restrictions on the county board, and requires no bidding, the county has an "implicit obligation" to "sell the property for the highest possible price, a New York court case ruled.

Numerous court cases have repeatedly held that a county board of supervisors can not choose to sell a property to anyone for less than the highest bid.

Milk Tax Explained

NEW YORK — Numerous questions from dairy farmers and handlers concerning the authority for the 50-cent dairy collection plan drew comment last week from Market Administrator Thomas A. Wilson. The Order No. 2 Administrator stated that handlers do not need an individual producer authorization to deduct the 50 cents per hundredweight. The necessary authority is contained in Section 101 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1982 and the regulations published in the Nov. 30, 1982 Federal Register.

Wilson explained that the 50 cents, a deduction required by statute, has first priority on money due producers. Therefore, it supercedes all other producer requests or assignments and must be made whether or not there are sufficient funds to meet the producers' other obligations.

The dairy collection plan covers all producers marketing milk commercially.

Letters

Lung Association Urges Action On Acid Rain

To the Editor: As secretary of the board of the American Lung Association of Central New York, I have been working towards trying to alleviate the acid rain crisis we are currently facing not only because of the damage to our environment but because of its potential hazard to the respiratory system and related lung diseases.

The board of directors of the lung association has taken a very strong position on acid rain and the responsibility of our congressional representatives to do something about it. The Environmental Protection Agency has reported that acid rain is more widespread than previously thought, having found high acid levels in the waters throughout the East Coast.

What more can our representatives want than the evidence that has already been offered? (The leaching of toxic metals from soil, killing of fish and other forms of wildlife, the damage to crops and vegetation, etc.) We urge Congress prompt and strong action on the Clean Air Act and the issue of acid rain.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Charles M. Connelly,
Secretary,
American Lung Association
of Central New York

Courier & Freeman.
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