

THE COST OF A KID'S "B-B" GUN! An Editorial

How many parents have been confronted with the problem of whether to buy their son a "B-B" gun or not?

Did you buy it for him, teach him how to use it, then explain the necessary precautions to be taken when firing it? Is he old enough to legally own one? Did you supervise his use of it, and was it a joint decision between both parents? Do you realize how far it will shoot, how powerful it is, and how much damage it can do?

Perhaps you didn't go along with the idea that just because Joe Doakes had one it was reason enough to buy your lad one. So if you refused to buy one, more than likely you were considered a "mean old ogre" and were "downright unreasonable." Did it bother your conscience after you had said no? If it did — relax — be thankful you had strength of character enough to deny your son something you thought was too dangerous for him to play with, for more than likely it could easily have cost you a lot more money and grief than the initial 9 or 10 dollar air-gun!

Do you think that we are being over-dramatic, unfair, or unjust, to think that our local lads would do anything wrong? Are we being old-fashioned when we think that a "B-B" gun should be taken in the country—or at least a safe distance from damageable property—before it is fired? That it shouldn't be in the hands of any youth under 16—unless under direct supervision?

We don't believe so—and feel that most parents would agree with us, if they could have seen the damage done in a short time with 1 air-rifle! That is—at least if one is of the opinion that we have the right to own, maintain, protect, or defend one's own personal property.

How would you like to have the windshield in your almost new auto cracked in two places by B-B's, as well as have spots pecked into the paint on the side of the car, because someone under 16 wasn't paying any attention to where they were shooting?

How would you like to have 11 windows broken in your home or business building—"just for the fun of it?"

Isn't a property owner being more than fair if he merely asks that the damage be repaired and the windows replaced? After all he would have every right to prefer charges and more than likely both the lad and his parents would end up in Family Court.

Who is to blame? The parent who gives the lad the money to buy the gun—the store that sells the gun to a lad under sixteen—the parents that fail to supervise when it is being shot—or the boy that buys it and then does the actual damage?

The first thing—it is against the law for anyone under 16 to buy or own an air-rifle (or B-B gun). Thus both the parents and the storekeeper are guilty of a misdemeanor when the gun is purchased. According to Section 1897 subdivision 3 of the penal law, the lad is also guilty of juvenile delinquency.

Secondly, a modern "B-B" gun or air-rifle, whether powered by a spring or compressed air, is a lot more powerful and capable of doing much more damage than the old models of "yesteryear." Besides doing more property damage, they are also capable of putting an eye out or inflicting other painful personal damage to a playmate or some other innocent child or bystander that might be nearby.

In this recent "B-B" gun incident the cost of the damages will more than likely run more than ten-fold the actual cost of the purchase price—and this was done in just half a day.

This is the material cost alone—let alone the hard feelings involved—the time and trouble of replacing the windows—as well as the unpleasantness for everyone concerned.

Thus, what was the TOTAL cost of 1 "B-B" gun—and was it worth it?

THE ANDOVER NEWS

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**Turning Back
The Pages
of Andover History**(Taken from the Files of
The Andover News)**50 YEARS AGO**

August 15, 1913

J. H. Backus, Publisher

Thomas M. Comstock, 68, was found dead in bed Sunday morning. His wife, two daughters, three brothers and four sisters survive.

Timothy, 13-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Hyland, died Saturday morning from injuries when he was kicked by a horse.

George Robinson has accepted a teaching position in the Spencer High School for the coming year.

M. J. Frezier, Earl Bassett, Leo Snyder and Porter Richardson were in Wellsville Monday to attend the ball game between the Cuban Giants and the Pullmans of Buffalo.

Archie Bloss, Robert Brundage, Mose Frezier and Claire Backus were in Wellsville Friday to play with the Wellsville base ball team against the Bloomer-Girls.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Mosher of Crawford, N. J., and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mosher of Ithaca were week-end guests of their mother, Mrs. Flora Mosher and other relatives.

Fay Bloss of Elkhart, Ind., is vacationing at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bloss.

Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Baker left Monday to spend some time at their cottage at Calender, Canada.

40 YEARS AGO

August 10, 1923

J. H. Backus & Son, Publishers

Mr. and Mrs. W. F. O'Connell and daughters; Postmaster and Mrs. John Common and son; Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Baker and Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Fuller enjoyed a weiner roast at Richtmyers Park near Almond Wednesday night.

Clifford Burdick and family, in company with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. G. Burdick of Tip Top and brother, Dr. Elwood Burdick visited relatives at Portville Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Backus, Mr. and Mrs. Claire C. Backus and daughters, and Mrs. Addie Coleman attended the Allegany-Cattaraugus Publicers picnic at Cuba Lake Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Smith and children who have been visiting their parents here, returned to Altoona, Pa., Sunday.

John Gillen has returned to his home in Chicago after visiting at the home of his sister, Mr. and Mrs. John Mitchell.

Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Brown, Miss Kate Joyce and Leroy Jordan returned Wednesday from several days motor trip to Cleveland and vicinity.

Miss Betty Hurst left Wednesday for Olean where she will enter the Mountain Clinic Nurses Training School.

Mrs. James Dunigan and son, Gerald returned Saturday after a week's visit with relatives and friends in Buffalo.

30 YEARS AGO

August 11, 1933

J. H. Backus & Son, Publishers

The Board of Education held its organization meeting Friday evening as follows: B. B. Hann, President; E. D. Baker, Secretary; John E. Cannon, Treasurer and George H. Beebe, Janitor.

Miss Marie Leo of Wellsville and Kenneth Alvord of Andover were united in marriage, August 10th.

Richard Harder and Roger Tuttle leave this Friday for the Century of Progress Exposition at Chicago.

Miss Carolyn Hincer of Elmira is visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Baker.

Mrs. E. J. Atwood and Miss Elizabeth Bassett left Sunday to attend the Century of Progress Exposition in Chicago.

Miss Marion Steadman is passing two weeks with her Aunt, Miss Ruth Robbins of Elmira.

Prof. and Mrs. Leon Cook and

Doctor Quiddity

A Public Service Health Message

MEDICAL
SOCIETY
OF THE
STATE OF
NEW YORKWHEN IT IS THE HEAT
AND THE HUMIDITY AND
THERE'S NO BREEZE...... YOUR HEART
PUMPS MORE BLOOD
TRYING TO KEEP
YOUR BODY TEMPERATURE
NORMAL.SO, TAKE IT EASY
IF YOU HAVE
IMPAIRED HEART
FUNCTIONTHE LAWNMOWING,
GOLFING AND TENNIS
— EXTRA EXERTIONS—
THESE CAN WAIT
FOR A COOLER TIME!

KLAUTE BERGER, M.D.

Erie County Fair

Motor maniacs in an auto thrill show, a 30-lap feature big car race and a 100 car demolition derby are among the grandstand

spectacles the concluding three days of the Erie County Fair at Hamburg. The 122nd annual exposition closes Saturday night, August 24th, with two grandstand performances at 7 P. M. and 9:15 P. M. The first is the final appearance of the 30-act three ring Don Amosco International Showtime Circus, and the second, the demolition derby, a smashing, spine tingling show in which 100 auto drivers will see which will be the last in the running.

Tonight (Thursday, Aug. 22) is the one time performance of The Joie Chitwood Auto Thrill Show, a daring production featuring a rocket blasting, a car and driver into space in a 100 foot arc.

Friday night, August 23rd, the Fair salutes Volunteer Firemen in a two hour competitive parade of firemanic units, bands, drum and bugle corps and marching men and women.

Friday afternoon a special grandstand program will honor Western New York farm families. It will feature the 4-H Baby Beef auction of prize steers raised by farm youngsters. The program will also honor the oldest and youngest farm family present and the farm family coming the greatest distance.

Big cars will roar around the half mile oval Saturday afternoon for a purse of \$3,200, largest ever awarded by the Fair and the biggest prize ever offered drivers of the United Racing Club, sanctioning organization.

Race Director Lou Heller is certain of 35 drivers, the cream of racing, including five champions who seek the 1963 honors. Such outstanding pilots as Red Riegel, Reading, Pa.; Lou Johnson, Wilmington, Del.; Chuck Yost, Elyria, Ohio; Earl Halaquist, Sidney, N. Y.; Bobby Courtwright, Butler, N. J.; Bill Brown, Denville, N. J.; and

daughter of Raleigh, N. C., came Friday for a few weeks stay in Andover.

Mrs. W. A. Youmans and daughters Inez and Edna and Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Youmans and family visited relatives in Galeton and Gaines, Pa., Friday.

The Misses Helen and Elizabeth Folsing, Mrs. Martha Bloss and Miss Martha Turch of Brooklyn left Sunday to attend the Century of Progress Exposition at Chicago.

Merle Hibbard of Petrolia passed Saturday at the home of his sister, Mrs. Wm. Dodge.

Miss Ruth Mingus R.N., of the Bellevue Hospital, New York City, is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mingus.

Dan Daniels of Batavia, N. Y., are already signed for the five event classic. Three 8-lap elimination heats, a 10-lap consolation race and a 30-lap feature will comprise the afternoon card.

All existing track records are expected to be broken in the duel for top honors and the trophy for the winner of the feature event.

Fairgoers are being thrilled by the myriad competitive exhibits of farm, home and industry, the mile-long midway of the James E.

Strates Show, the horseshow in the track infield, bazaar and food fair, water ballets in the Beauty Pool and a host of attractions for young and old alike. Youngsters up to 16 are free at Western New York's greatest family affair.

Layfield Memorial Race

A special 100 lap modern stock car race in memory of the late Dean Layfield will be held at the Angelica Raceway on Friday night, August 23rd. Dean will be remembered as the "King" of all stock drivers of Western New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio. For many years he dominated all the tracks, was well respected by fellow drivers both as a driver and top notch mechanic.

Drivers of late model cars 1954 to 1963 will be competing for a beautiful 36 inch trophy to be presented to the winner by Mrs. Dean Layfield. Last year's winner and present holder of the trophy was the popular DeVere Bliss of Sandusky. To have permanent possession of the trophy a driver must win two years in succession. Bliss will be out there hutting Friday night in hopes of capturing the prize.

The drivers of late model cars of Stateline Speedway, as well as, all other drivers of all tracks have been invited to come to Angelica on this one night to honor a great person.

**Alfred Tech
Alumni Picnic**

Western and Central New York State alumni of the State University Agricultural and Technical Institute at Alfred will hold their annual picnic reunion at Alfred Sunday, September 1.

The outdoor reunion will be held at the Alfred Tech Lodge near Route 244, a mile from the campus of the two year college, beginning at 12 noon.

Vincent Petric, of Almond, general chairman, said that the facilities of the Alfred Tech Lodge and the college's six acre lake would be available for alumni and their families. The college expects a gathering of over 100 to attend the gathering which has been held annually for the past 15 years.

Boost Your Home Town!