

THOUGHTS OF A COUNTRY EDITOR!

An Editorial

How many of you readers have ever stopped to wonder why the Editor of a weekly country Newspaper writes an Editorial?

Is it for huge financial gain? Very seldom—for most weekly Editors are among the lowest paid group in most business professions.

Is it just an easy way to fill up space? Decidedly not! Most Editorials take several long hours of thought, concentration, and the collection of facts.

Why then?

Recently we attended the New York Press Convention at Cooperstown, N. Y. (at least the last part of it), and discussed the Editorial situation with several people.

Most of them expressed the same thought, although in many and various words and ideas. They felt that people have the right to know what is going on around them locally and on the national front also. Through Editorial comment people are often motivated into correcting or improving conditions whereby every one can reap the benefits. If nothing else—at least they will stop to think about the situation, whether they agree or disagree.

The following are some of the thoughts expressed by various Editors:

In Interest of Good Citizenship

The editor of a country weekly or smaller city daily newspaper is in a unique position in his community. He knows personally a large proportion of his subscribers and a subscriber can find him in his office and cross verbal swords with him.

A conscientious country editor is clothed with a heavy responsibility. He not only records the local news, social events and political happenings of his community, but he should discuss national and international issues which have a direct bearing on the lives and livelihood of his readers. This is often a discouraging and unappreciated job but if his paper is worth reading he has to accept the burden. He is in the position of a teacher. How well each translates his ideas to his audience determines his standing in his profession.

It is certainly true that the smaller paper must place emphasis on local happenings. But it is unfortunate for a community if an editor feels obligated to move entirely in that direction.

The home town paper is read from the first to the last page because it contains a review of community activities found nowhere else, regardless of competition from radios, television and big city papers. With this background and the respect accorded its comment, the small town paper, in the interest of good citizenship and the dignity of the press must express opinions, whatever they may be, on international and national affairs that can affect directly every citizen down to his job or business, the property he owns and the taxes he pays.

Local editors and school teachers are largely responsible for the thinking that will protect the United States from domestic and foreign influences that would destroy the freedom we enjoy.

Canton, N. C. Enterprise: "We have freedom of the press and we must keep that right. In freedom, though, there is a duty. It is the duty of the press to keep people informed—in the long run—a free press is better than a muzzled one. It has to remain that way no matter how distasteful some news events are handled."

Odessa, Wash., Record: "How many of us realize the vast returns we get from helping develop a strong community? Communities flourish because the people living there keep faith. People have not hesitated to make their initial investments. They invest in a home, in a business, in friendships, in living conditions. There are those who are short sighted and fail to see that a community needs keeping up just as surely as does a home."

The above are but a few of the comments that we have at our fingertips.

From time to time in the future we will bring national comments to your attention that we believe are worthy of thought and in the meantime, if you good readers have any suggestions, bringing them around and we will be glad to discuss them or air them according to our beliefs.

Turning Back
The Pages
of Andover History(Taken from the Files of
The Andover News)

50 YEARS AGO

Sept. 12, 1913

J. H. Backus, Publisher

Jesse C. Greene has purchased the C. W. Rogers property on Pleasant Ave.

Frost left its mark on corn fields and gardens Tuesday night.

Lewis Dunning and Miss Grace Potter were united in marriage by Rev. Randall, Tuesday. They will live in Andover.

Celia Riley is attending the training class at Wellsville High School.

Miss Bell Rice started Monday for Rudolph, Ohio, where she plans to spend the winter.

Comrades U. W. Stratton, J. C. Greene, D. D. Remington, J. P. Remington, C. F. Davis, and Newell Baker are attending the Annual Reunion of the 85th Regiment, N. Y. Volunteers, being held in Friendship.

Miss Nellie Diffin left Monday for Geneseo where she will attend Normal School.

Miss Agnes Randall left the first of the week to resume her school duties at Irvington, N. J.

40 YEARS AGO

Sept. 7, 1923

J. H. Backus & Son, Publishers

Miss Veronica Hyland has graduated from the National University Law School at Washington, D. C., and has also passed the bar examination in the District of Columbia.

Mrs. Pheobe Rennells, 67, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Ralph Coats, September 2nd. Two daughters, a brother and three sisters survive.

Dr. Clarence Hardy is visiting his grandmother, Mrs. Georgianna Hardy.

Arthur Wagner is home for the week from his work at the Morron Plant in Elmira.

Leo Snyder and Miss Melva Jobson were united in marriage Wednesday at the Presbyterian Church.

Miss Cymbeline Hammell left Thursday for Washington, D. C., to enter nurses training at the George Washington University.

Miss Cyrella Dunnigan entered nurses training at the St. James Mercy Hospital September 1st.

Sheridan Witter entered the Bryant-Stratton Business School in Buffalo, Monday.

Fred Mulholland and Carl Dawson left Tuesday for Syracuse where they will take a course in embalming.

30 YEARS AGO

Sept. 8, 1933

J. H. Backus & Son, Publishers

Mrs. Laura Bowan, 83, died Sunday, September 3rd. Funeral services were held Wednesday with burial in Hillside Cemetery.

Andover Grange was awarded First Prize at Angelica Fair for their production of the play "Waitin' For Sun-up" directed by Mrs. Hervey Thorne.

Miss Mary Doran of Olean, Mrs. Kathryn Doran of Canisteo and Mr. and Mrs. Martin O'Donnell of Elmira were Labor Day guests of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dean.

Miss Agnes Fisher left Tuesday for Vorheesville where she will teach the coming year.

Mrs. Ralph Bennett and four children of Cincinnati are visiting her aunt, Mrs. Hattie Eggleston.

Mr. and Mrs. Rex Starr and son of Campbell were Labor Day guests at the home of his sister, Mrs. J. J. Oakes.

Miss Annette Clifford of Great Kills, Miss Gretchen Trenble of Portville and Miss Mary Jo Russ of Canadaigua arrived in Andover Sunday to resume their duties in Andover High School.

Emmett Dawson returned to his school duties at Depew Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Luther Hyde, son and daughter, left Tuesday for their home in Philadelphia after passing a few weeks at the home of his mother, Mrs. Louise Jobson.

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ASSOCIATION

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