

**THE CONTROVERSIAL GUN ISSUE!**

An Editorial

"The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed"! Is this just a personal opinion—or that of a few hunters and sportsmen? **Absolutely Not!** The Second Amendment to the Constitution of the United States flatly states this basic right!

At least 35 State Constitutions have similar guarantees. Actually, our rights pre-date the Constitution. Ancient common law holds that a man may arm himself and fight to defend his castle and its inhabitants and contents!

For many years anti-gun groups have tried to have laws passed regulating strict control over the sale and possession of firearms. The assassination of President Kennedy with a rifle has given these people a lot more fuel to add to their flames. (The fact that he was killed by a man, and the weapon was only a tool, is ignored). As a matter of record, more than 300 gun control bills have been proposed to state legislatures and congress since that dark day!

Who are these people that are trying to torpedo the Second Amendment? According to National Wildlife—these people are mostly law enforcement officials and other well-meaning people, although there is a sprinkling of subversives, disarmament crackpots, and super-protectionists among them.

Because big cities like New York cannot cope with their crime problems, the Johnson Administration is busy trying to remove all guns from the Great Society.

There is not a single reason why a drug addict, a known criminal or a young punk should own a gun. But that is no reason why a farm boy shouldn't be allowed to pot-shot at a woodchuck on his own farm without having to get a permit from the Secretary of the Treasury.

Connecticut's Senator Thomas J. Dodd has introduced S. 1592 in the Senate as a perfect example of how America under reapportionment will suffer for the sins of the cities. Under S. 1592, the Secretary would have the power to impose registration of all firearms. The histories of registration all over the world has been confiscation and the end of recreational shooting.

For more than 300 years, a man with a gun has been an heroic symbol of America—the symbol of the National Guard—a Pilgrim hunting for meat and defending his family with a flintlock—a buckskin-clad man leading the way West with a Kentucky rifle! These pictures come instantly to mind.

These symbols have a deep meaning for all Americans, for our hardy pioneer forefathers used their trusted firearms to win our hostile continent, gain our precious freedom, and defend both from enemies on all sides.

Are we going to sit idly by and let this gross minority rob us of our Constitutional rights?

The headlines in last night's Buffalo Evening News screamed: "Father of 2 Slain"—with the sub-headlines describing that it was done with knife and hammer. Does this mean that we should have all hammers and kitchen knives registered?

Automobiles killed 43,000 persons in 1963—almost ten times more victims than guns. Do we have to get a permit from the Secretary of the Treasury in order to obtain a driver's license?

We believe laws should prohibit sale of firearms to felons, drug addicts, habitual drunkards, juveniles, and mental incompetents and that laws should invoke strict penalties against the possession of firearms by criminals and irresponsible persons.

However, we believe that laws should not grant authority to any jurisdiction, police or otherwise, at any government level, to prohibit the purchase or ownership of firearms by law-abiding and responsible citizens.

**Army Reserve — National Guard Merger**

By Rep. Charles E. Goodell  
The Department of Defense's proposed plan to merge the National Guard and the Army Reserve should be thoroughly investigated by Congress to determine its impact on national security and the defense posture of the United States.

The merger, as proposed, would affect 24,568 National Guardsmen and 23,805 Army reservists in New York State alone. The end result in our State would be a loss of 13,000 men after the Guard and the Reserve were merged.

The National Guard State Adjutants General, at first lukewarm to the idea, were pressured into endorsing the Department of Defense's plan without reference to any authority they felt the Congress might have in this connection. In a private letter, however, the President of the Adjutants General Association said the Association recognized "the Constitutional responsibility of the Congress in this matter."

The plan as proposed by the Department of Defense, is scheduled to go into effect July 1. Its overall effect would be a 150,000-man reduction in the combined strength of the Guard and the Reserve. Surplus or inactivated Reservists not electing to join the Guard would be placed in a Reserve pool, subject to being recalled.

Hearings on the proposal began in the House March 25. To date the Secretary of Defense has not been going on since March 1.

The basis for Congressional authority rests in the Constitutional provision giving Congress the power to "raise and support armies."

Specifically, I urge that the Congress continue its hearings until all ramifications of the proposal have been discussed and authoritative testimony taken.

It should also be made abundantly clear that actions which so drastically affect our national security, such as this, should be left to the Congress to decide, rather than being resolved in the Pentagon alone, however competent our Department of Defense officials are.

If it becomes necessary to defer the July 1 date, I would urge that it be put off so that Congressional action can be completed.

Surely Secretary McNamara should be called upon to testify before the House Committee or Armed Services as promptly as it can be arranged. Much of the testimony to date has been in opposition to the merger and raise very serious questions as to the value of the merger.

There can be no doubt about the authority Congress has here and there is certainly a very real disagreement on the merits. Congress should continue its investigation.

**Two Young Men Named For West Point**

Rep. Charles E. Goodell today named Gregory Brunson of Sinclairville and Zane J. McFadden of Wellsville as his appointees to the U. S. Military Academy at West Point.

The two will commence four years of training this summer. Upon completion of their training, they will receive bachelor of science degrees and commissions as officers in the U. S. Army.

Rep. Goodell said their selection was based on highly competitive testing of applicants from his 38th Congressional District.

Brunson is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter F. Brunson, 10 Maple Ave., Sinclairville. He attends Cassadaga Valley Central School. McFadden, a 1964 graduate of Wellsville High School, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Y. McFadden, 27 Osborne St., Wellsville. He attends the University of Buffalo.

Named by Goodell as first alternates were James L. Ford, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald W. Ford, Little Valley, and Bernard R. Jones, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Jones, Cohocton. Ford attends Little Valley Central School and Jones goes to Avoca Central School.



**50 YEARS AGO**

May 14, 1915

J. H. Backus, Publisher

Mr. and Mrs. George McAndrew entertained a party of relatives last Sunday at their home in the Town of Ward, in honor of the birthday of her father, D. P. Corwin.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Pomeroy welcomed a son, Kenneth Albert, at their home on Elm St., Friday, May 7th.

Miss Margeurite McDonough, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William McDonough of Andover and Walter L. Gilson of Woodville, Ohio, were united in marriage at Toledo, Ohio, recently.

At the Independence School Meeting Tuesday evening, R. A. Clarke was elected trustee. He hired Alta Wager of Whitesville to teach next year.

Mrs. Sarah A. Greggs of Independence passed away Sunday. Funeral services were held Tuesday at the home of her son, Eugene Greggs.

Mrs. William Reed and children of Canistota came Friday for a visit at the home of her father, Calvin Slocum.

Mrs. Dan Witter and children returned home Saturday from a few days visit at the home of their uncle, Jesse Witter and family.

Mrs. E. Gallagher and daughter Kathryn, left Sunday for San Francisco, Calif., for a visit with Mrs. Gallagher's brother.

Mrs. Edith Snyder is visiting at the home of her uncle, William Rogers in Hornell.

**40 YEARS AGO**

May 15, 1925

J. H. Backus & Son, Publishers

Floyd Farwell has rented the Dr. C. W. O'Donnell residence on Church St., and will move his family there in the near future.

Word has been received by Andover relatives that Miss Veronica Hyland has passed successfully the examination to the New York State Bar Association. She previously had been admitted to the District of Columbia Bar.

Miss Genevieve Clark of Wellsville was a week-end guest of Mr. and Mrs. John Lynch.

At the School Meeting held at the School District No. 7, Tuesday evening, May 5th, Earl Schoonover was elected trustee; Fred Conrad, Clerk and Dan Mullen, Collector for the coming year.

Mrs. F. S. Clark arrived home Wednesday from St. Petersburg Fla., where she has been spending the winter.

Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Brundage, who have been passing the winter in Los Angeles, Calif., arrived home Thursday.

Harland Robinson arrived in Andover Saturday from Mid West, Wyoming, for several weeks visit with Andover relatives.

President E. D. Baker was in Buffalo Tuesday in attendance at a committee meeting of the New York State Retail Hardware Association.

Mr. and Mrs. F. P. Green of Hammondsport and C. D. Green of Dansville were guests of their sister, Mr. Leona Davis Wednesday.

**30 YEARS AGO**

May 17, 1935

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The home of Charles Moon in Fulmer Valley was completely destroyed by fire early Thursday morning.

William Woodruff is re-opening this week, the West Greenwood Cheese Factory, known as the Murray factory, located between Andover and Greenwood on Route 17.

Rev. and Mrs. R. E. Dronsfield arrived in Andover Monday and are now nicely located in the Presbyterian Manse. Rev. Dronsfield is the new pastor of the Andover Presbyterian Church and will begin his work Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Spicer of Independence entertained their mothers and families Mr. and Mrs. G. D. Spicer, Mrs. Mary Crandall.



May 10, 1965

Port Orford, Oregon

Dear "Red",

Well another week has rolled around and we finally got out of California.

The first of the week we went to Yosemite National Park, 80 miles East of Merced. Don't know how big the park is, but it is wonderful. High rock cliffs on each side, some over 2,000 ft. high and water pouring over the cliffs in several places, with a continuous roar.

Tuesday night we saw the fire fall. They start a huge fire on top of the highest cliff and at 9:30 push it over the side of the cliff. It takes a few minutes for it to fall to the bottom of the canyon, making a beautiful sight.

Monday night was 33° and Wednesday 30° with a 20 m.p.h. wind but we kept warm as we have a gas heater in the trailer.

The floor of the canyon is covered with large pine trees, some being 200' tall.

On leaving Yosemite Thursday, we came to Merced, where we picked up our mail, then headed North to Lodi for the night.

Friday we came over mountainous and curved highways and into the redwood forest. Camped at the famous Richardson's Grove for the night.

On leaving there we came to the Ell River, the one that was so high and damaging in Dec. We came along it for 50-75 miles and you can't believe the damage it did. It washed out the railroad and road and bridges in several places. The railroad is not running yet, so the big trucks have taken over, drawing the lumber and products South. The road was crowded with big semi-trucks, all loaded with 18-20 ft. of lumber.

In places the valley was 1/2 mi. wide and the water had been 4 ft. deep. In one place a man told us that the water had been over 80 ft. deep under that bridge, but only part of the bridge washed away.

Only six lives were lost but the property damage was several million dollars.

There are a lot of large saw mills and the biggest one at Scotia, Calif.

As soon as we got to Eureka, Calif., and saw the Pacific Ocean, Gretchen and Norma insisted on Stopping at the beach for an hour for them to shell. They got a few sand dollars.

We stopped for the week-end at Humbug State Park in Oregon. It is a very well kept park, with running water, electric and showers.

The wind blew awful yesterday and was quite cool. In fact it has been quite cool for the last week.

I have no way of knowing whether you want more of these letters or not. If not you have a waste basket.

If you care to write us send it to R. 3, Punta Gorda, Fla., and it will be forwarded to us along the route.

The 3 Burdicks

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Clarke and Decatur Saturday for dinner.

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Slocum, Fred Slocum and Genevieve Clarke surprised Mrs. Barney Schriener and son, Billy with a birthday supper and cake Friday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Langworthy and family of Alfred Station attended the Seventh Day Baptist Church services and also called on his mother and brother, Mrs. Agnes Langworthy and Edson Langworthy Saturday.

Mrs. Ralph Rogers of Cleveland, Ohio is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. R. Bassett.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Bixby and son of Towanda, Pa., passed on Saturday until Monday with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Bixby.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Dougherty and children of Buffalo called to see his grandmother, Mrs. P. J. Dougherty Mother's Day.

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