

## NOW THAT "SPRING HAS SPRUNG" — BEWARE OF THE "CON ARTISTS"

An Editorial

While the proverbial young man's fancy in Spring turns to thoughts of love and baseball, the perennial swindler delights in fanciful schemes and questionable door-to-door practices, to catch the consumer unaware, Attorney General Louis J. Lefkowitz warned.

The Attorney General said this week has brought complaints of schemes and practices designed to separate the consumer from his hard earned money. He said the records of the Bureau of Consumers Frauds and Protection of his office show that unscrupulous itinerant pitchmen, who are not to be confused with representatives of reputable sales companies, invade suburbia each spring, equipped with every gimmick and dodge in the book.

Their wares range from portable items which can be demonstrated in the home to shrubbery and top soil which may turn out to contain chemicals harmful to plant and animal life.

He noted that a number of suburbanites have complained of being "trimmed" by so-called "tree surgeons" who charge exorbitant prices of up to \$2,000. Investigations have revealed that in some cases, itinerant tree surgeons did not obtain necessary permits required for tree removal, instead had the home owners obtain the permits, thereby placing the entire liability for an accident or property damage on the home owner.

The Current "favorite" on the gyp parade is the "bait" and "switch" game with one of its stated purposes: to get the "consumer's blood" in the sale of home improvements. This is done by using the name of prominent firms and conducting a "bait" advertising campaign designed to "switch" customers from cheap advertised merchandise to more expensive products.

Attorney General Louis J. Lefkowitz said he has drawn up the following rules to aid in protecting consumers from being the victims of unscrupulous sales practices.

1. Ask to see the credentials of any sales representative who calls at your door.
2. Check the sales price of services or merchandise with your local merchant.
3. Ask if the sales price includes installation and delivery. If you want these services included, tell the salesman to write a statement to that effect in the contract, specifying in detail the type of service and the period during which it will be performed.
4. In the case of home improvements, never sign a statement that the work is complete until it actually is. If you sign such a statement before the work is finished, as a general rule you will have to make full payment whether or not the contractor fulfills his agreement.
5. Check the reputation of the salesman and his company with your local Chamber of Commerce or Better Business Bureau.
6. Never permit merchandise to be left with you "on approval". The salesman may not return and you will find yourself receiving a bill for an article which you do not want.
7. Remember that the legitimate salesman, who represents the vast majority of resident and door-to-door sales representatives, invites your investigation.
8. If you feel you have been victimized by an unfair or fraudulent sales practice, report the fact to the Bureau of Consumer Frauds and Protection of the Attorney General's Office, 80 Centre Street, New York 13, Cortland 7-9800.



### 50 YEARS AGO

March 16, 1923

J. H. Backus, Publisher

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Herman of Rochambeau Avenue, are parents of a daughter, born Wednesday, March 14th.

A baby boy was born March 12 to Mr. and Mrs. Howard Kemp at their home on the F. J. Raufenbarth farm, east of the village.

The A. O. Tucker residence corner of East Greenwood Street and East Avenue, has been sold to F. L. Bloss. The consideration was \$3,500.00 in cash.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Robinson of Alfred, are parents of a daughter, Betty Ann, who arrived Tuesday evening.

The Joseph McDonough farm one mile west of Andover, was recently sold to James Fuller of Scio, who has taken possession.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Langworthy of Railroad Valley, have decided to make their future home in Plainfield, New Jersey. Elba O'Dell of Almond will work the Langworthy farm at Railroad Valley.

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Appier moved this week from South Hill to their new home on Chestnut Street in Andover.

Paul Caple of Elm Valley, has accepted a position in the Swain Hardware Store in Hornell and commenced work there Monday.

Park Burdick was happily surprised last Friday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Mead of Elm Valley, by his Sunday School Class, the "Busy Bees". The party was a pre-birthday affair. A delicious supper was served by Mrs. Mead and a pleasant time reported by all present.

Ed Wilcox is spending several days with his sister, Mrs. Flora Bess.

Mrs. D. W. Driscoll is spending the week with her sister, Mrs. Alex Bessette of Whitesville.

Miss Nina Seelye of Andover, and Lynn R. Babcock of Wellsville were united in marriage Saturday, March 10th by the Rev. Wilson of Wellsville.

Robert Mings has purchased the draying business, horses and tools belonging to Roy Nichols, and took possession Monday.

Mrs. Gertrude Hazard McKinch of Andover, and O. Leigh Smith of Wellsville, were united in marriage Thursday, March 15 by the Rev. W. L. Greene at the home of the brides' sister, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Stebbins of Greenwood St.

Messrs. Porter Richardson and Leo Snyder were in Canaseraga Monday on business.

Ralph Burgett went to Perry Wednesday to visit his mother, Mrs. Carrie Burgett.

E. A. Richardson is on a business trip including Rochester, Buffalo and Dunkirk this week.

E. D. Baker was a visitor in Cohocton Tuesday and Wednesday looking after property interests.

Mrs. Effa Meredith passed the week-end at the home of her brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Coats.

Mrs. Betsy Clarke of Alfred Station, visited Miss Alice Clarke Tuesday and Wednesday.

Mrs. C. L. Earley spent Saturday and Sunday guest of her daughter, Louise Earley of Alfred.

Nine lives were lost Wednesday night when the Allegany County's beautiful farm home buildings at Angelica were burned to the ground.

### 40 YEARS AGO

March 24, 1933

J. H. Backus & Son, Publishers

In the Village Election held Tuesday, E. A. Mullen was elected Mayor; Guy Harder Trustee and John Oakes, Trustee.

Word has been received that Charles B. Driscoll of Seattle, Wash., died March 10th at the age of 47. Mr. Driscoll was a former Andover resident and a graduate of Andover High School.

Miss Mary O'Boyle of this village, has signed a contract with Alfred High School as instructor for the coming year.

# ALBANY

*Open Line*

by Alex Rankin

The time for dealing with Gov. Rockefeller's \$8.9 billion budget is almost at hand.

Reliable sources in the Legislature say the leaders of both houses are trying to lop \$200 million off the spending plan for the new fiscal year beginning April 1 — enough to eliminate the 2.5 per cent state income tax surcharge and restore tax credits.

The hot dog tax will probably stay. The reason? Intense lobbying for it by local governments, who would see their own revenues shrink if the tax were dropped.

The screams of anger from New York City and the cries of joy from the state's horse racing track interests are being heard over the off-track betting solution offered by Republican Senate Majority Leader Warren M. Anderson of Binghamton.

Anderson's proposal would, it appears, seriously cut into the revenues produced by off-track betting and provide a bigger income for the tracks.

The Senator would reduce the state's share of the action at the tracks, and restrict the action at OTB parlors to so-called "exotic" bets — those on three or more horses — while leaving the rest of the action at the tracks. The straight \$2 bettor would have to go to the track to place a bet (unless he wants to use his bookie) on a horse or on the daily double.

Anderson also wants to open all

the tracks on Sunday and continue the policy of allowing 18-year-olds to bet.

He would also have the state take over all OTB operations under a single super-agency.

At an Albany hearing the other day, State Social Services Commissioner Abe Lavine said he is seeking legislation that would allow persons under the age of 16 to purchase contraceptive devices and the setting up of full family planning services in local district offices.

Other bills he wants include a law that would require welfare recipients to show proof they are actually seeking work and legislation giving local districts wide latitude in setting up investigatory machinery in establishing paternity and enforcing child support payment orders.

Republicans and Democrats will work together on at least one bill this year. Democratic Assembly Minority Leader Stanley Steingut says he will co-sponsor a bill announced recently by Republican Assembly Speaker Perry B. Duryea, Jr., to set up a sports authority in the state to help localities improve or set up sports facilities. The authority would have the power to issue up to \$350 million in bonds to pay for the facilities, which would be proposed by local governments.

of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Ryckman of Brockport.

Miss Lydia Jackson of Rochester was a Tuesday guest at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Jackson.

### 30 YEARS AGO

March 18, 1943

Cliff C. Backus, Publisher

William H. Traster, 57, died at his home on North Main Street, Saturday, March 13. His wife and a sister survive. Interment was in Hornell.

The Servicemens pictures published this week in the Andover News are: Corporal Richard Coats, son of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Coats and Private Rex Linza, both of Andover.

In Tuesday's Village Election Earl J. Allen was elected Mayor and Hazel S. Atwood and John Dolan, Trustees.

Private Richard McAndrew came home Wednesday from Fort Benning, Ga., and is enjoying a ten-day furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward McAndrew, Pvt. McAndrew has received his wings as a qualified Paratrooper.

Private Edward Dean of Pine Camp, New York, spent from Thursday until Monday with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Dean of Barney Street.

Private Joseph Manroe of Fort Lewis, Washington, is enjoying a short furlough with his mother and other relatives in Andover.

The congregation of the Andover Baptist Church held a farewell dinner Friday night, honoring their pastor, Rev. and Mrs. Lloyd Tebo and Mr. and Mrs. Vivian Sweet, both of whom are moving from Andover this week. Rev. and Mrs. Tebo left Tuesday for Athens, N. Y., and Mr. and Mrs. Sweet are moving to Wellsville.

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Mullen entertained at a family dinner Sunday, March 6 in honor of her father, John Caward's 89th birthday.

Mrs. Hervey Thorne returned Monday from Cuba, where she had spent several days during the illness and death of her sister, Mrs. F. L. Scott.

Mrs. Frank Holmes is spending this week in Belfast with her daughter, Mrs. Gordon Cartwright, Mr. Cartwright having entered the service of his country on Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Green and Cleon Pease went to Greenville.

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