

Editorials

Parking meters now village antiques

With almost all area towns having removed their parking meters, maybe it's time we did the same here at Syracuse.

The meters have outlived their usefulness and are now considered antiques of a bygone era.

What to do with them? Well, they could be auctioned off to the highest bidders. Some cities have done this and captured a little extra revenue.

At one time parking meters were in vogue, and won cash-poor cities much-needed extra revenues with which to meet ongoing expenses.

Some cities — Goshen is a real good example — used the meter money to provide free off-street parking. Many consider this a real influence in keeping the Goshen downtown business district alive.

Warsaw has solved the parking problem by removing the meters and instituting two-hour parking. Actually, this plan has worked splendidly and opened up downtown parking, according to Mayor H. Dale Tucker.

At any rate, parking meters are anathema to the times. They have driven shoppers to the suburbs and to shopping centers by the numbers. More than that, they have become a despised handicap to any economic growth of downtown businesses.

We would agree with those who say, as long as the police are not policing the meters anyway, perhaps we should remove them.

'Oklahoma' — fit or unfit?

Following the review of the Wawasee High School play "Oklahoma" last week this newspaper received a telephone call from an irate citizen who objected to the fact the reviewer said, "I greatly noticed in the dancers there were some who seemed unenthusiastic about what they were doing. Also in my opinion I feel the directors should have found other words to replace the use of the obscene language, especially with the impressionable children in the audience."

The Mail-Journal editor and publishers stand firm behind the reviewer. She was doing her job. What kind of review is it when only the good is told and not the bad? Does a teacher give every student in his class an A just because they show up? Those who deserve it receive the top grades, those who do not, receive lower grades. It is a learning process. That is the reason behind play reviews. It is hoped by mentioning the weak spots the young actors can profit and learn and the next presentation can benefit.

Overlooked by the caller was the fact the reviewer noted the standing ovation was "well deserved," and the paragraph stating the writer was, "... impressed with the musical and what was done with the limited facilities the school has. The staff who worked with those involved in the presentation should be commended on a job well done ... the characters were well chosen for their parts and learned their parts well."

Overtones of self-righteousness came up in a number of local conversations following the presentation of "Oklahoma" and the "hells" and "damns" which were sprinkled into the script.

Should the high school drama class use such language on the local stage?

At the risk of being accused of looking down our noses and ignoring the realities of life, we would have to come down on the side of eliminating such a play from our high school cultural level or at least eliminating this type of language.

"Why?" you might ask, when we see it in our living room almost daily via the television tube. And these are the realities, but such barroom language need not come from the high school stage.

We might opt that smoking marijuana is also a reality, but we don't want it demonstrated in a high school play.

In this issue we've chosen to play the devil's advocate and say "cut it out." "Oklahoma" is considered a classic, to be sure, but let's hold off a while longer. OK?

We aren't the moral arbiters of the community, that's for sure, and we recognize our necks are out a country mile. Let's hear it out there — What's your opinion? Should such language be allowed or not?

Farewell, Marcella ... well done

The ongoing battle Marcella Bayh had with cancer and her recent death from the disease that has plagued millions, has drawn attention to the powerful influence a woman can be.

She has received plaudits from the White House and from the national media for her work in recent years with the National Cancer Society. Indeed, her efforts in behalf of that group won her the first Hubert H. Humphrey Inspiration Award.

When she was stricken several years ago with cancer, she virtually divorced herself from her husband's political career and carved a career for herself — in speaking out to cancer victims. She was a real inspiration and hope.

Anyone who knew this mite of a woman was taken with her beauty, charm and absolute command of the podium. She was a forceful speaker, and can be considered an inspiration behind her husband's brilliant political career. Birch knew that and gave her full credit.

She spoke in behalf of her husband right here in Kosciusko County on more than one occasion. First, you noticed her smile, then her beauty, then her compelling conviction in her subject as it swept across her audience. Finally, her voice lowered and you could hear a pin drop. Senator Bayh, a long time friend of the publishers of this paper, wouldn't mind if we expressed our real feelings and said, "Wow, what a woman!"

We join the many thousands who have tried to put the real Marcella Bayh on paper and say, "Farewell, Marcella ... well done."

What others say —

Remove the temptation

The familiar saying, "don't tempt fate," is excellent advice for motorists. Although many drivers take measures to keep their vehicles from being stolen, they unwittingly tempt thieves by leaving valuable articles where they can be seen by potential criminals.

The following crime resistance measures may help protect valuables left in automobiles:

- Automobiles should be locked when unattended.
- Door lock buttons with knobs on the end should be replaced with the knobs that are tapered at the end since the latter are hard to pull up with a wire inserted through an opening in the window.
- Valuables should not be left where they can be viewed by someone outside the car. Lock packages, coats, etc., in the trunk or hide such items under the seat.
- Tape decks and citizen band (CB) radios should be mounted out of sight if possible. Consider using a portable rather than permanently-installed antenna so it can be removed when a vehicle is unattended. The antenna can mark the car as a target for CB thieves.
- Tape decks and CB radios should be permanently marked with a unique number traceable to the owner. Motorists should contact local law enforcement for advice as to which number (state driver's license, etc.) should be utilized for this purpose since different numbers are used in different areas of the country. Decals indicating that all property within the vehicle has been marked with a traceable number should also be obtained and affixed to windows on each side of the vehicle. — Carroll County Comet



Syracuse parking meters — they should go!

Court news

COUNTY COURT

The following fines have been assessed in Goshen Court, Loren Collier, judge:

Speeding — Carl Gay, 26, Syracuse, \$55

Operating while intoxicated — Marion Stahl, 54, Leesburg, \$45.50

Expired plates — Carl Gay, 26, Syracuse, \$40

No vehicle inspection — Gary Francis, 23, Syracuse

ELKHART COUNTY COURT

The following fine was assessed in Elkhart County Traffic Court, Goshen Division:

Speeding — Randy J. Strauss, 23, Syracuse, \$37

CITY COURT

The following fines were assessed in Goshen City traffic court:

Disregarding automatic signal — Robert Delafuente, 18, Milford, \$36

Deception — Anna J. Larimer, Syracuse, dismissed

Public intoxication — Charlie E. Baker, 52, Milford, \$3 fine, \$28 cost, ten days jail suspended to return to VA hospital

Speeding — John S. Bryan, 29, Milford, \$36; William L. Donat, 28, Syracuse, \$36; Kevin J. Haines, 16, Milford, \$41

Failure to yield the right of way — Roger A. Lambright, 28, Syracuse, \$32

MARRIAGE LICENSES

The following couples have filed for a marriage license in the office of Kosciusko County clerk, Jean Messmore:

Woodward-Woody

Daryl Woodward, 32, r 1 box 115 North Webster and Debora Mary Wood, 25, r 1 North Webster

Cavender-DeSommer

James DeWayne Cavender, 33, r 2 box 418 Syracuse and Ann Leona DeSommer, 31, r 2 Syracuse

Black-DeLaCruz

Michael Vernon Black, 23, r 1 North Webster and Ester DeLaCruz, 22, r 1 North Webster

List-Woodling

Robert Hans List, 25, r 1 Leesburg and Ida Ann Woodling, 22, r 1 Milford

Eyer-Lantz

Richard Alan Eyer, 24, r 4 Syracuse and Pamela Kay Lantz, 22, r 1 Milford

Golden-Davis

Garry D. Golden, 33, r 1 box 19C, Milford and Sue Ann Davis, 27, r 1 Milford

CIRCUIT COURT

The following claims have been filed in circuit court, Gene Lee, judge:

Vacate

Chore Time Equipment, Inc. and Brock Manufacturing, Inc., Milford vs the town of Milford, Kosciusko County and the citizens of Milford and Kosciusko County. The petitioners ask the court that after conducting the appropriate hearing on said

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'CRUZIN' AROUND 'CUSE'

AMERICAN JOURNALISTS are often accused of slanting the news, but how about Russia's Pravda:

Pravda's editors reported a two-car race in which one car was American, the other Russian. Their report read that the Russian car did extremely well in the race, coming in second, and that the American car, not doing so well, came in next to last.

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SYRACUSE POLICE sergeant Lou Mediano gave up smoking five weeks ago, according to his own testimony, and in fact, has a sign posted behind his desk reading, "Thanks For Not Smoking." Yet there is an ash tray on his desk.

Deputy Bob Houser, however, is quick to point out that the sergeant has taken to chewing Key-smuff, somewhat to the sergeant's embarrassment.

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POSTAL PATRONS are gradually getting used to the "post office on the hill." The easy access of the P.O.'s former location was convenient for coffee-drinkers who frequented the Syracuse Cafe with regularity, but even the grumbling of this set of aging dissidents has subsided considerably in the week and a half and they have been forced to change their postal habits.

What's more important, it can be assumed, is larger, more convenient quarters for postal employees to dispatch their responsibilities, and for the growing number of vehicles that come to and leave from the local post office.

Meanwhile, word is that the bank has sold (or verbally agreed to the sale of) the old quarters on South Huntington Street. At this time, when the prospective new owner is out of town, the bank chooses (perhaps wisely) not to reveal the new owner's identity.

We are informed, however, that it is not a retail business, but that the structure will be used as a storage point by its new owner.

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SYRACUSE JUNIOR High principal Robert Hamman has his summer's work all lined up for himself. He'll work with Realtor Dave McGrew (Lakeland Realty) selling real estate in the lakes area.

A native of Remington, Ind., on SR 24, he has a business administration degree from St. Joseph College (1958) at Rensselaer, then took a conversion course for an elementary administrator's degree before coming to Syracuse as junior high principal in 1968.

He passed his state broker's exam at Notre Dame on February 25 following an eight-week course in real estate sales and management at IUSB.

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WE'RE GETTING the nucleus of an English community with Jack and Marjorie Fowler moving to Papakeechee Lake some time ago. They hail from Warrington, near Liverpool, in the northwest section of England, first living in Vandalia, Ill., then moving to the lakes community. Mr. Fowler is associated with the Goshen Rubber Co.

They made immediate friends with Don and Rowena Impey when moving here. Mrs. Impey is a London native, and it was good for them both to mark such things as their Christmases together.

(Note: See the story on Mrs. Impey receiving her U.S. citizenship papers last Tuesday on another page.)

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AS WE hear it: The Lakeland school administration has under consideration the use of a professional bargaining team the next time wage contract negotiations come up with the teachers' union and other school-oriented personnel. Such a professional bargaining group is usually made up of lawyers and tend to be more lenient with taxpayers' dollars.

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BILL HARTMAN, who with his wife Ruth operate the Hartman Donut Shop on South Huntington Street, is hobbling around by means of a pair of crutches, doing his level best to juggle the coffee cups.

Reason: A week ago, while using his metal detector around an old building at the area game preserve, he accidentally stepped on a well-hidden board with an exposed rusty nail. He reports the nail ran an inch into his right foot. And of course he had the usual tetanus shot for lock jaw, etc.

MILFORD MAN ARRESTED Ronald Sloane, 21, of Milford, was arrested by Warsaw police over the week end on a charge of public intoxication. Sloane was held at the jail without bond.

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Meanwhile, wife Ruthie came to the rescue to open up said donut shop in the mornings and to keep the coffee brewing for the day-long turn-over of customers.

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CHARLIE FRUSHOUR turned up the collar on his red sports jacket, hunched his shoulders and thrust his hands deep into his pockets. It was Monday p.m. and it was 42 degrees outside.

He peered over his glasses and said, "It was nothing like this in Tampa yesterday." Charlie was at a Men's National Bowling tournament, where he was a tourney official, and he reported temperatures at 82 degrees.

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MIKE AND Tanya Swihart, residents of South Harrison Street, home from a four-day vacation trip to Hawaii. Mike is an Eby Ford Employee at Goshen and Tanya works in the bookkeeping department at Thornburgs Drug.

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NEIGHBORS ON South Front Street had words of praise for police officer Robert Houser concerning his handling of a difficult situation last Thursday evening when a young couple hit a tree at 606 South Front St.

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RESIDENTS OF the lakes area will have an educational and cultural opportunity Sunday, May 13, when the Choralaires, a vocal group made up of people from throughout the county, will appear at St. Andrew's United Methodist Church.

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EMPLOYEES OF the Counting House Bank at North Webster were informed in a meeting Saturday afternoon that their bank had been sold to a Leiters Ford, Ind., holding company headed by Ed Stanley. Stanley, who is president of the Leiters Ford bank, was introduced to Counting House Bank employees by Tom Prichard, vice president of the bank.

The bank, which has a branch on the north edge of Warsaw, has been headed by J. Homer Shoop for many years, as its president. Television sportscaster Chris Schenkel is chairman of its board of directors.

Mr. Shoop and his bank have been the major influence in forming and continuing the growth of the now-famous Mermaid Festival, and converting the tiny town of North Webster to a historic community with its King Arthur theme.

More details in the sale of the bank could not be learned, but will be