

Editorials

The year-end review

Most newspapers publish some type of year-end review; be it photo sections like ours or a listing of chronological events. Have you ever wondered why?

We never really thought much about it, it's just something that's always done, until we read an editorial in the Avon-Danville Gazette last year. The editors of that paper offered the following suggestions:

1. Just to see what kept us busy all year.
2. This is a traditional slow-news time of the year and we need something to fill the pages.
3. It gives us an excuse to be reflective and meditative.
4. A last opportunity to implant some events in our minds so we will remember them despite the aging process which erases some memory blanks.
5. Because everybody is in the holiday mood, and we have to justify spending our time at the office in order to get out of all the chaos at home.
6. Some readers expect it.
7. Finally, to convince ourselves that nothing really changes and that history does repeat itself. That the world is not much better off, or worse off, only to the degree that the characters change."

As we worked on The M-J's photo pages for this issue we pondered over these reasons and would have to cut our list after the first four and then add number six. It's fun to reflect back to see what we've done during the past year and it is a traditional slow-news time when boards have finished most of their work for the year, clubs will not meet again for another week or so, school is out for the holidays, etc. We like to be reflective and it's fun to print summer photos when we have snow on the ground . . . it reminds us of the fact that the temperatures will someday once again make it above the 32 degree mark. Memories need to be jogged and some readers do expect to find a review of some kind or another in this issue.

It's here ... enjoy!

Resolutions

At the beginning of a new year Americans make resolutions. Some greet the process with cynicism, knowing most resolutions will be broken, some after only a few days of 1986 have passed.

But resolutions often signify that the maker is striving to better himself or herself. In that sense, they're an indication of an active mind, good intentions.

New Year's resolutions, then, whether kept or not, are a plan for better things in the future. That's what life is all about — hope and effort for betterment.

What others say —

We don't boo! How about you?

I've always thought of athletic contests and sportsmanship as going hand-in-hand but maybe I've been wrong.

I love sports — have always attended as many games of our local school and our high school as possible (except maybe football which I just can't seem to understand).

And as I grew up at Wakarusa School — elementary and high school — I knew what sportsmanship meant. We didn't boo; we didn't swear at the referees; we applauded a good play by the other team; we didn't scream uncontrollably when the other team was shooting a free throw; we didn't act like maniacs during and after the contests.

No one said we were perfect but I believe the folks in this area will verify that this community always had the best sportsmanship around — that was until just recently. People commented that they liked to play against Wakarusa teams and then against NorthWood teams as the players and fans were so courteous.

I know we weren't perfect. Yes, we got angry when bad calls were made and disappointed when we did something wrong . . . and yes, we did yell sometimes when we should not have done this.

But games were fun — isn't that what they are meant to be — we watched the games, we cheered with our cheerleaders, we encouraged our players, and we congratulated the other team on a good game — win or lose.

Now, however, that has changed. Our motto used to be — and rightly so — We don't boo! How about you? Maybe our motto now is "Boo all you want" and start early so your children will learn by the time they reach middle school to be unsportsmanlike.

I can hardly believe now that when I go to a game — any game — even as low as sixth grade how the parents actually cuss out the referees and the youngsters "blow their tops" at any call — good or bad.

Isn't the sports scene supposed to be one of learning. Shouldn't all kids at that age who want to be allowed to play in every game. How can they learn if the only goal is to WIN? I, personally, would like to see every kid play and every kid learn something.

Certainly it's nice to win. But no one will win if only a few ever get the opportunity to play and those few get angry whenever something does not go exactly as they plan.

Coaches and teachers and parents should try to encourage all children at this young age to keep trying. They'll make mistakes; help them to correct the mistakes without anger. And set an example. If parents get angry whenever a bad call or any call is made that goes against their child, then the child cannot learn right from wrong. He will follow that example and get angry himself, thereby ruining his learning capabilities.

Of course, if we learn in sixth grade or before that the solution to every sports problem is to throw up our hands, or scream, or walk off the floor, that will continue into high school and beyond. And what happens when in your place of employment you pull these childish tantrums?

Parents, teachers, all of us — it's our responsibility to take the bull by the horns. Let's set a good example for our children. Let's allow them ALL to play. Let's allow them ALL to make their own mistakes. Let's not get angry at them or at the referees ALL the time. Let's let them grow up to be good, responsible adults who work out their problems rather than just plain getting mad.

And, please, let's bring the pride in sports and sportsmanship back to this community . . . Let's once again make other schools glad to play against Wakarusa or NorthWood.

Let's once again bring back the old slogan with pride . . . "We don't boo! How about you?"

— THE WAKARUSA TRIBUNE



A lone fireman is shown fighting one of the many fires which destroyed property in the Lakeland area in 1985.

Court news

Superior Court

The following complaints have been filed in Kosciusko Superior Court, Judge Robert Burner presiding:

Complaint For Injunction And Suit On Account

Enchanted Hills Community Association, Inc. versus James R. Lupke, Sr., P.O. Box 545 Syracuse. The plaintiff is seeking judgment against the defendant for an injunction to remove a pickup truck, trash and refuse from Lots 44 and 45 at Enchanted Hills Subdivision, and enjoining defendant from any further use of said property.

The plaintiff is further seeking delinquent dues, maintenance, attorney's fees and all costs of this action.

City Court

The following fines have been levied and paid in the Goshen City Court:

Speeding — Steven E. Flory, 25, Syracuse, \$52.50; Paul D. Reimer, 34, Syracuse, \$47.50

Failure to use headlights when required — Michael W. Brian, 22, Milford, \$38.50

Improper turn at intersection — Tony K. Vanover, 17, Syracuse, \$42.50

Circuit Court

The following complaints have been filed in Kosciusko Circuit Court, Judge Richard Sand presiding:

Complaint

Prescotch, a company of Gerlach Industries, Inc., versus Classic Formed Products, P.O. Box 356 Syracuse. The plaintiff is seeking judgment against the defendant for the sum of \$15,723.60 plus interest, at

Second class postage paid at 103 E. Main Street, Syracuse, Indiana 46367 and at additional entry offices.

Subscription: \$15 per year in Kosciusko County; \$21 outside county.

POSTMASTERS: Send change of address forms to The Mail-Journal, P.O. Box 188, Milford, Indiana 46542

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