

Editorials

Mental retardation education

The Association for Retarded Citizens of Indiana is joining ARC units nationwide in an awareness campaign about mental retardation. Through the month of March, they will be intensifying their efforts toward educating the public on the more than six million adults and children with mental retardation in the USA.

ARC is also campaigning for prevention and educating future generations on what can be done to prevent mental retardation in their children.

We feel a need to inform our readers about facts on mental retardation as provided by ARC. Those facts follow:

One of every 10 Americans has a family member who is mentally retarded.

In the United States about 3 percent of the population will be identified as mentally retarded at some point in their lives. Mental retardation is four times more common than rheumatic fever, nine times more prevalent than cerebral palsy and affects 15 times more people than blindness.

Any condition that hinders or interferes with intellectual development before or during birth or in the early childhood years can be the cause of mental retardation. Although more than 250 causes are known, these account for only one-fourth of all identified causes.

A growing number of people with mental retardation are now living in group homes and receiving community-based services. The population of state institutions is decreasing at a rate of 5,000-6,000 per year. The number of residents in all state institutions has decreased from a peak of 194,650 in 1967 to 117,160 in 1982, a 40 percent drop.

About 89 percent of children and adults with mental retardation are mildly retarded and in many respects, quite similar to people without retardation. They differ primarily in rate and degree of intellectual development.

Mental retardation cuts across the lines of race, educational, social and economic background. It can occur in anyone. In fact, hereditary components are known to account for only a fraction of the cases of retardation.

Our American heritage

What many forget about America these days is that this nation was originally founded by individuals with strong religious faith and a similar determination to enjoy the freedom to worship as they pleased.

The predominating early American heritage, then, was one of religious faith combined with hard work by people with enough initiative to emigrate to a new country to escape discrimination, or persecution.

That spirit has lasted to this day in many parts of America. And, of course, the heritage was not without shortcomings. The Puritan influence in New England was good in ways but narrow-minded and itself at times persecutive. But, overall, that spirit built the greatest industrial nation in the world and the world's leading Democratic society.

In more recent decades more stress has been laid on individual license to do almost anything, and on permissiveness of society in general to allow individuals to do almost anything, than on the old-time faith-moral standards-hard work ethic.

Where to draw the line is today the constant business of the courts, and public officials, in some cases. It is a difficult task, and as militant rights groups and individuals demand more and more license, the issues often become controversial. But it can be said that society in general, or the majority, or put another way, the general welfare, should sometimes prevail over extremist individual freedom demands.

What others say —

Loss of revenue sharing

After years of wondering how long the gift horse could last, we now know that revenue sharing is dead — the victim of hard fiscal times in Washington. Its death came as no surprise. In many ways, it's a wonder it lasted as long as it did.

Vermonters have always greeted the buoyant "Hi, I'm here to help" attitude of government with appropriate skepticism. Revenue sharing, when it first arrived in 1973, was free and easy money, given without strings (other than an annoying audit now and again), that many municipalities saw as ideal for tax relief purposes. Almost from the beginning, however, there were warnings from those whose advice we trusted telling us not to rely on revenue sharing, not to build it into the tax base, not to grow so comfortable with the gift that we stopped thinking of it as a gift.

We never squandered the money. We bought new trucks, new graders, new equipment with those funds. We painted the town hall and had the land records redone. We used the money for things that we needed, that we might have put off if we had had to use tax moneys for them. But we couldn't help ourselves — we got used to the idea that the money would be there, and even though we didn't pay salaries or maintain highways with revenue sharing funds, we did develop bad spending habits because revenue sharing was there. We did develop a revenue sharing addiction, and now we must face withdrawal.

Government is best at beginning new programs. Perhaps because it seldom has to face up to the opposite experience, government seldom handles endings well, especially the ending of programs as generous and as discretionary as revenue sharing. So it should come as little surprise to see mayors and managers raising the specter of fiscal apocalypse as they decry the end of revenue sharing. Without this money, they say, we will soon see starving people trudging homeless in the ice and snow.

Hyperbole aside, the end of revenue sharing will be traumatic to many Vermont communities, who rightfully suspect they will not find much eagerness on the part of taxpayers to raise property taxes to make up the difference. Whether the state should soon establish its own revenue sharing system to adequately fund the necessary services provided by municipal government is a separate question, however.

The legitimate justification for additional state funding of municipal services is the exhaustion of the property tax as a funding mechanism. Few would argue with that conclusion, although there are many opinions on what should constitute appropriate limits on government spending in general. Federal revenue sharing was a sugar plum. There is no justification for demanding that the state design its own sugar plum to replace the one lost at the federal level.

If state revenue sharing does come to pass, it must be based on real need. It must be calculated in a manner which reflects the electorate's best judgment on how their tax dollars should be spent. We cannot afford to forget the lessons of federal revenue sharing: that money coming from someplace else, even if it once belonged to us, is never treated with the same respect or the same sense of responsibility as money we raise ourselves for our own specific purposes. Like tax refund checks, it seems like found money, like other people's money, and it spoils us by making us forget it is temporary and unreliable.

— THE VERMONT STANDARD
VERMONT SECRETARY OF STATE JAMES H. DOUGLAS



Build a better life

Tony is:

As one of the more than 6 million Americans with mental retardation, he wants the same things you do... a happy, productive life... to make friends... to prove himself.

Every day, people like Tony take part in programs of education and job

training, neighborhood living and self-development, proving that persons with mental retardation can contribute to our communities.

That's why the Association for Retarded Citizens asks for your support. Help build better lives.

Help build the arc

Association for Retarded Citizens

Court news

Circuit Court

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

Complaint On Note

Peoples State Bank versus Ronnie and Deanna L. Poe, Prairie St., Leesburg. The plaintiff is seeking judgment against the defendants for the foreclosure of real estate to satisfy judgment in the amount of \$20,104.08 plus interest, attorney's fees and all costs of action.

Complaint On Note

ITT Financial Services versus Jay C. Smith, r 2 box 513, Syracuse. The plaintiff is seeking judgment against the defendant for the sum of \$1,917.29 plus interest, attorney's fees and all costs of action.

Complaint On Note

State Bank of Syracuse versus Leroy E. Konkle, r 2 box 29, Ligonier. The plaintiff is seeking judgment against the defendant for the sum of \$4,520.62 plus interest, attorney's fees and all costs of action, for a past due promissory note.

County Court

The following persons have been assessed fines and have paid those fines in Kosciusko County Court, Judge James Jarrett presiding:

Speeding — Deborah D. Dull, 35, Syracuse, \$65

Marriage Dissolutions

The following couples have filed for marriage dissolutions in Kosciusko Superior and Circuit Courts:

Richcreek — Daniel L.

Richcreek, r 2 box 262, Milford, and Janet S. Richcreek, r 2 box 260, Milford. The couple was married April 8, 1983, and separated Jan. 6, 1986. There are no minor children.

Garnier — James R. Garnier,

301 John St., Syracuse, and Denise L. Garner, no address given. The couple was married July 20, 1974, and separated Aug. 17, 1985. There are two minor children.

Mickem — Harold A. Mickem,

r 2 box 460, Syracuse, and Kristy L. Mickem, r 2 box 460, Syracuse. The couple was married Oct. 2, 1981, and separated Jan. 10, 1986. There is one minor child.

Marriage Licenses

The following couples have applied for marriage licenses in the office of Kosciusko County Clerk Jeanne Weirick:

Vankirk-Shatzer

Todd A. Vankirk, 20, r 1 box 45, Pierceton, and Samantha Sue Webster, 19, r 1 box 234, North Webster

Baker-Erb

James R. Baker, 57, P.O. Box 64 Syracuse, and Jamie F. Erb, 35, P.O. Box 523 Syracuse

costs of action for a promissory note, Dec. 3, 1984.

Superior Court

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

Complaint

Sea Nymph, Inc. versus Boat Basin at Maple Bay, Inc., doing business as Maple Bay Marina, Lakewood, N.Y. The plaintiff is seeking judgment against the defendant for the sum of \$15,774.12 plus prejudgment interest, attorney's fees and all costs of action, for a check returned for non-sufficient funds.

Complaint On Note

State Bank of Syracuse versus Leroy E. Konkle, r 2 box 29, Ligonier. The plaintiff is seeking judgment against the defendant for the sum of \$4,520.62 plus interest, attorney's fees and all costs of action, for a past due promissory note.

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"CRUZIN AROUND 'CUSE"

HIGH SCHOOL students from this area, and throughout the Midwest for that matter, have made "educational pilgrimages" to Washington, D. C., and to New York City for a good many years.

When they were in the nation's capital they usually stayed at the famous 300-room Harrington Hotel located at 11th and E Streets, by now a 11-story souvenir of the days when Woodrow Wilson was president and carriages rumbled over the roads of downtown Washington.

The old but fancy hotel, which holds many fond memories for a large number of local students, has a glorious past, and was the subject of a feature article in the Monday, Jan. 13th, issue of the Metro section of *The Washington Post*.

The nostalgic article came to our attention through Nathaniel Crow Fick, whose Lake Wawasee connections date back a long way. Fick resides at 836 S. 24th Street, Arlington, Va.

"Once fur-draped women and tuxedoed men dined in splendor on white linen clothed tables under chandeliers at the Harrington, but now downtown workers and elderly people on fixed incomes drop by the hotel's noisy Kitcheteria for hearty, home-style meals," the article states.

Regulars who meet daily at the Kitcheteria for "specials" like spaghetti and meatballs for \$2.25 or chicken and rice for \$1.85 consist of office workers, department store workers and walk-ins.

One thing that attracted students were the hotel's reasonable rates, down from an average per night of \$88.52 to \$38 to \$5.

What the hotel lacks in elegance it compensates for in hospitality. A telephone operator remains on duty where personal problems are threshed out for patrons, and such items as soap or toilet paper will come to the room on the double with a simple telephone request.

Cashier Rose Migliaccio has worked at the Harrington for 27 years and Guy Puglisi has operated the barber shop for 50 years; bell captain has been on the job 28 years. All this gives the old Harrington part of its charm for repeat customers.

"No one worried about the fate of the Harrington until Robert V. Bryce retired as managing director last year and the original owner died leaving the hotel to a son," *The Post* article noted. Bryce called his hotel the "Traveling Man's Home."

Bryce recalls when the Nixon girls would call the coffee shop for sandwiches and Lyndon Johnson had them fix sandwiches for a White House Rose Garden party. Arthur Godfrey lived there for a time, and Babe Ruth was a regular.

"We tried to run this hotel so it would feel just like your home," Bryce, 80, said. "and I hope it will continue."

Many former local students who stayed there will have fond memories of the home-like attention they received at the Harrington.

ONE OF the very successful but underplayed programs at Wawasee High School is the ongoing driver training program, according to Donn Kesler, vice principal at the school.

Few people know there are 190 students (at least 15 years of age) who are in the program. The program used to be given during the summer months, but is now conducted throughout the day during the school year.

Instructor Rob Hanson conducted the classroom phase of the program during the first nine weeks of the school year, then he and teacher Don Storey and Athletic Director Hal Traviola shared the behind the wheel phase for all 190 students.

The two vehicles used are late model cars: an Oldsmobile and a Cadillac Cimarron, provided by Bruce Petro Olds-Buick-Pontiac-Cadillac and G.M.C. of Warsaw on a lease basis.

The comment has been made that for teaching students to drive a Cadillac the first thing out might be gilding the lily a little, but the lease of the Cadillac — the smallest car in that line — is no more costly to the school corporation than a mid-size car.

IT LOOKS very much like the Syracuse community will have its first bed and breakfast establishment. Bob and Jean Kennedy have returned from a four-year stretch in Alaska where Bob worked in the oil fields on the North Slope to purchase the old homestead on the west side of SR 13 south of Syracuse, from Michael and Roberta King.

The old home, sitting on a little over an acre of ground, has had an assortment of occupants, including the Jack Vankfers, Bruce Freys and Bob Hulleyes. The ground was originally deeded to Samuel Crossen, a co-founder of Syracuse with Henry Ward, in 1838 by President Martin Van Buren. The house and outbuilding were originally built by Rudolph deJardin in 1907 for \$3,500.

Bob Kennedy has taken a job with Pacific Molasses and he and Jean, registered nurse, have begun a long-range job of refurbishing the old dwelling. They are adding a large front porch in keeping with the lines of the house, and have put on a new roof and chimney. They rewired the building, added insulation and a new furnace and are reworking the basement. They have had to change the bathroom facilities and are

Running for state auditor

Bartholomew County Auditor, Ann G. DeVore, has formally announced her candidacy for the Republican nomination for auditor of the State of Indiana.

DeVore, 49, is completing her first term as Bartholomew County Auditor, and she has served in leadership positions in several