

Editorial

A time for thanks

No, this is not an early Thanksgiving editorial. But then, there is no law on the books that says we must wait until November to give thanks. The week of October 4-10 is a fitting week to be thankful that we are Americans and to be thankful for the opportunities we have.

This is National Newspaper Week. It's National Fire Prevention Week. It's National 4-H Week. And, it's Mental Illness Awareness Week.

Any one of these weeks could stand alone in an editorial. All are worthy of commentary. All touch the lives of the people of the Lakeland area. All could come under the blanket of the National Newspaper Week theme — "People Serving People."

The *Mail-Journal*, under the leadership of publishers Della and Arch Baumgartner, has a staff of people who serve the people of the Lakeland area. Staff members work many hours each week getting the facts to keep the people informed. We print meetings and sports events. Tax rates. Club events. Business and industry reports. Obituaries. Hospital notes. Births. School events. Accidents. Editorials (our opinion). Letters to the editor (your opinion). Police reports. Weddings and engagements. Old news and photos. Photos of day to day happenings. Ads and classifieds. Public service announcements. And, much more. We try our best to keep the community informed.

Even if you don't (heaven forbid) read *The Mail-Journal*, you should hold an appreciation for the press and the freedom that the First Amendment give us. In many countries around the world, there is no such thing as a free press. Their papers may contain government controlled news and editorials but they never contain letters to the editor, unless of course, the letters carry the same opinion as those of the government.

"A free press and free society cannot endure without each other," said Anton J. Kaiser, Kiwanis International President. "Freedom of the press protects our right as citizens to be informed, to know what is happening and to act on that knowledge. Control of the press is the first goal of governments that seek to limit the liberties of their citizens. 'People Serving People' is an apt motto, because our 1,700 daily and 7,500 weekly newspapers help to banish the darkness of ignorance with information we need to govern ourselves."

—0—

WE MUST always be thankful for the men who serve on the fire departments in the Lakeland communities. The Milford, North Webster and Syracuse Fire Departments are all manned by volunteers. Without them the communities would be strapped with higher taxes needed to staff full time crews or would suffer astronomical losses each time a fire broke out. Bucket brigades and neighbors helping neighbors to fight fires just doesn't work in this day and age. It takes modern equipment and people who know how to use it to fight a fire successfully and to keep damages at a minimum.

Area firemen, who volunteer, spend hours training with the equipment they have. They often attend meetings to keep abreast of new methods and new equipment available.

While town and township funds provide for equipment and operational expenses, most area departments go a step farther and hold fund-raisers, like the chicken barbecue held at Milford last Sunday and the free family photo offered recently by the Syracuse firemen. Proceeds are used for new equipment for the departments. The North Webster firemen recently took delivery of a new fire truck which was purchased with funds raised last year.

When you see a volunteer fireman this week tell him how much you appreciate the work he and the entire department are doing for the community.

—0—

ADULTS WHO work with 4-H'ers should also be thanked for the long hours they put in to help the young people learn. This program gives youngsters many hours of practice in many different fields and helps them to learn as they grow. The 4-H pledge tells it all: "I pledge my head to clearer thinking, my heart to greater loyalty, my hands to greater service and my health to better living for my club, my community, my country and my world."

They put in long hours working on projects which are judged at county fair time. But, during this time they also have fun as they learn under the direction of a qualified leader.

The county extension agent for 4-H and youth, Ron Hoyt, said in a recent interview, "The best recruiters we have are 4-H members themselves. We estimate that we are reaching about eight percent of potential members in Kosciusko County with 38 active clubs. There is obviously room to grow."

A "Say Yes to 4-H" campaign was started last year. Hoyt said, "The 'Say Yes' campaign gives us a tool to present 4-H and review our position in the community. 'Say Yes' is a very positive program for Indiana, which is the first state in the country to undertake such a state-wide campaign."

In the opinion of this editor, young people who are not in 4-H might do well to "Say No to Drugs," and to "Say Yes to 4-H." As an ex-4-H'er, I can testify that it is a good program and deserves the support of the entire community.

—0—

AND, WE should all be aware of the mentally ill and give thanks for the help that has come into being. Years ago, those with mental illnesses were locked away, never to see the light of day again. Today, they are being helped and many are leading normal lives in their communities. Today, some people who would have been shut away years ago can find help at places like the Bowen Center and from the Kosciusko County Mental Health Association. For this, we should all be thankful.

Mental illness is no fun, but it's just that, an illness that quite often can be cured with the proper treatment.



Court news

Circuit Court

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

Complaint To

Foreclose Mortgage

The Federal Land Bank of Louisville vs George F. Sheets and Patricia A. Sheets, r 2, box 131, Milford. Petitioners seek \$1,235,576.26 with interest from September 1, 1987, attorney fees of \$1,500, title expenses, real estate taxes incurred or paid, insurance premiums and all other costs and expenses paid or incurred to protect mortgage lien. (2) That plaintiff's mortgage be declared first lien on aforesaid real estate. (3) Foreclosure of mortgage against each of the defendants. (4) That real estate be sold at expiration of three months from date of filing, to pay the debts due plaintiff, plus costs. (5) That proceeds from sale be applied first to costs of this sale; next to payment of plaintiff's claim and mortgage and including attorney fees, title expense, real estate taxes incurred or paid and hazard insurance premiums paid or incurred by plaintiff; then to the clerk of court for payment to entitled parties. (6) That it receive all other just and proper relief in the premises.

Complaint To

Quiet Title

Roger Crouse vs John Palmer Jr. and Betty Marie Palmer, P.O. Box 413, Milford; and Lisa Ann Olivio and Juan G. Olivio, 311 W. Fourth St., Milford; First National Bank of Warsaw; defendants and all unknown heirs; devisees; at legatees; widowers; widows; successors; administrators; executors; personal representatives; guardians; trustees; receivers; grantees; and lessees of the defendants and those claiming from under or through them, known or unknown. Plaintiff seeks his title be quiet against all persons and claims of any and all defendants, for the costs of the action and all further and proper relief.

County Court

Failure To Yield — Timothy E. Swango, 17, Milford, \$60.

Speeding — Larry E. Haviland, 43, Syracuse, \$65; Jeffrey S. Shields, 16, Syracuse, \$65; Tamara A. Hadley 28, Leesburg, \$65; Sarah Mitchell, 24, North Webster, \$80; Jan Biehl, 31, North Webster, \$80; Robert Cassidy, 40, Syracuse, \$65; William D. Dilts, 30, North Webster, \$80.

After Sunset: No Valid Light — Howard E. Johnson, 59, Leesburg, \$60.

No License in Possession — David R. Penn, North Webster, \$60; Allison L. Kuipers, 24, Syracuse, \$60.

Hunting Teal W/O Consent — William J. Bockman, 33, North Webster, \$128. D.N.R. Replace fee \$125. Firearm confiscated.

Public Intoxication — Irene Lucille Losee, no age given, Milford, \$175.

O.W.I. — Michele M. Trommel, no age given, Syracuse, \$303.

Driver's license restricted 180 days, K.C.J. six days; Richard Koschnik, Milford, \$303. Driver's license restricted 180 days, K.C.J. six days.

Goshen Division

The following fines plus court costs have levied and paid in Elkhart County Court, Goshen Division:

Expired plate — Mary J. Brewer, 30, Syracuse, \$54.

Small Claims

The following judgments have been awarded in Small Claims Division, Kosciusko County Court, Judge James Jarrett presiding:

Cyndi Heckaman vs Leon Vance and Lindy Vance. Judgment for plaintiff \$174.03 plus costs.

E. Lee Bazini vs Richard Wagner. Judgment for plaintiff \$130 plus costs.

E. Lee Bazini vs Ron Ousley. Judgment for plaintiff \$230 plus costs.

United Telephone Co. of Ind., Inc. vs Jacalyn Norris. Judgment for plaintiff \$1,819.45 plus costs.

Carl Clevenger vs Don Newcomer. Judgment for plaintiff \$61.30 plus costs.

Barbara Ault vs Larry Bartley and Shelli Bartley. Judgment for plaintiff \$150 plus costs.

Kevin L. Denlinger, Rainbow Property Management, Inc. vs Randy Walgamuth and Sandy Walgamuth. Judgment for plaintiff \$1,060 plus costs.

Richard L. Goshert vs Ronnie Graves and Linda D. Graves.

"CRUZIN' AROUND 'CUSE"

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This week's column was written by Jeanne Gardiner, an employee of the State Bank of Syracuse and current President of the Syracuse-Wawasee Chamber of Commerce.)

By JEANNE GARDINER

HELLO. WE meet again. Arch and Della are off to Portland to a newspaper convention. When Arch asked me to do this column, he gently cautioned me to restrain myself from talking you to death about my favorite projects, so . . . here's a "Little of This 'n That."

LUNCHING WITH a friend the other day, I discovered that we both were caught in some sort of non-motivated time warp. Not fun nor funny. When I asked what he did to get out of his rut, the response was, "I don't know — just keep moving, I guess."

One man's way, but I began wondering how others handled themselves under similar circumstances — and so, thanks, Skev, for this survey idea.

Calling upon some of the people whose opinions I respect, each was asked two questions: 1) How do you move yourself off dead center when you get into a rut? and 2) How do you ward off stress? Here are their answers.

Moving Off Dead Center

Bill Beemer, owner of Beemer Enterprises, Inc.: Be an eternal optimist! Always see the up side. You'll never go anywhere if you always look at the down side.

In sales, you lose more business than you get. Setbacks are more frequent and you have to constantly overcome that problem. Don't look back at things that have happened — you must keep looking ahead. I have had tremendous losses and have overcome them by moving ahead and thinking positively.

Mavis Vanderveer, retired Wawasee Community School Corp. teacher: Haven't been in a rut for so long, can't remember. Just stay busy. (Her husband, Rick, retired NIPSCO exec., adds, "Get your ass in gear! Get it at it!" Then Mavis continues, "I don't relate to ruts too well.")

Jim Caskey, President of State Bank of Syracuse: Hard work and more effort seems to solve it for me.

Kip Schumm, advertising manager, The Papers Incorporated: Dig in and get after something. I change pace and go at things from a different angle.

Jim Evans, Vice President of Augsburger's Super Valu: I think about what would happen if I didn't do anything — the dire consequences of inaction. Then I make myself do something.

Ward Off Stress

Beemer: I unwind by driving and travelling — one on one. I can think clearly without interference — clear, fresh thoughts.

Vanderveer: Haven't suffered stress since I quit teaching. Stress is associated with a job. There's none in retirement, if you plan for it. Rick interjects: Except that the days are only 24 hours long. Mavis continues, "We just stay so busy."

Caskey: Exercise. I walk and golf.

Schumm: I work in my yard — in my flowers.

Evans: I read. After the kids are put to bed and I have a quiet time.

Survey Summary:

To move yourself out of a rut, 1. Maintain Positive Thoughts; 2. Take Action. To ward off stress try, 1. Physical Activity; 2. A Change of Pace.

As for myself, I find that a rut sometimes is very comfortable — but not for any length of time. Sometimes one needs to coast and catch a breath before forging ahead into new territory. The key here, I believe is "new". Doing the same old thing in the same old way is damaging to creativity. While reinventing the wheel is a waste of time, revamping it can be an exciting challenge. And so, when projects become "flat", I stir them up and develop something "new" from the old, or move on to something totally different.

Stress? I beat the heck out of a tennis ball while frolicking with my friends on the tennis court! Physical activities do worlds of good in straightening up my mental outlook.



SPEAKING OF a change of pace . . . After years of being left on the beach while husband, Duane, and sons, Rennie and Mike, toured the ocean bottom in their scuba gear, I finally got up the nerve to join them — what a beautiful world! There is a special color, form, sound and feel when drifting along a reef 50-100 feet down.

My first day of diving after being officially PADI certified, we were in Cozumel, Mexico and the fellas decided we'd try a night dive. For a novice, diving in broad daylight is scary enough — but night? We anchored the boat onto Palancar Reef, geared up (with the addition of glow tubes tied to our tanks) and clutching flashlights, we went down the anchor line into the darkness. At night the reefs have a completely different look. The colors are brighter and the night life goes into action — shrimp and lobster creep out of their hiding places in the coral's crevices, and sea anemones open and wave gently in the current.

The dive went smoothly, and it was time to head back to the boat as my air was running low — but where was it? We had neglected to put a light on the anchor line! Kicking along and searching I felt fairly secure, surrounded by three experienced divers, until Duane took my hands and planted them on an upcoring of coral and motioned firmly for me to stay put. The fellas — and the lights — moved away in search of the boat. This nervous novice was using air at an even faster clip at this point. After what seemed an eternity, the lights were back and motioning me to follow. Do you know how beautiful a rope can look, highlighted by several flashlights?!! Gratefully clutching this lifeline, I filled my vest and rose to the surface.

—0—

HI, CAROLE, John, Julie, Edie, Johnny, Willy, George, & cats! My sister and her family receive *The Mail-Journal* in Northfield, Vt. That's quite a widespread readership!

—0—

What's Happening?

SYRACUSE-WAWASEE CHAMBER of Commerce. The chamber, which I currently serve as president, is deeply involved with serving the local business, industry and way of life. Some of the project being pursued are establishment of a 911 Emergency Number for the area; Rural Numbering (which will aid emergency vehicles in locating firms and outlying subdivisions); Storm Warning System for the town and lakes; Beautification (enhancing the visual aspects of the town to residents and visitors alike); Christmas Decorations (thank you for your wonderful response to the circus fundraiser!!!); and planning for Hoosier Celebration '88 (which will build upon some of the successful events from our Sesquicentennial).

The officers and directors are dedicated to learning and growing with the community's needs and taking a leadership role to accomplish meeting those objectives. Your 1987-1988 officers and directors are: Sally Cotton, vice president; Mike Tallon, treasurer; Judy Warner, secretary; Jim Evans, immediate past president; Bill Beemer, Jim Caskey, Ernie Rogers, Bob Troutman and Bob Sanders. Talk to them!

The Voice of the Chamber. We can't speak of the chamber without mentioning with gratitude the person who answers the phone when the chamber number is called. Carol Wallace, of JA Business Service, is more than an answering service. In her dedication to give knowledgeable responses to callers, she began attending all chamber board meetings to learn more about what is going on and to whom certain calls should be referred.

Each month Carol gives a report of the calls made to the chamber line, averaging from 25 in the slow season to 75 during active times. The inquiries range from information on local activities and places to see to how deep the lakes are and where can they get air for their tanks. And, when in doubt, Carol refers the caller to the current president (thanks, Carol!).

THE RETAIL Division is a very active group which works together to provide four promotions each year — Cabin Fever Days in February; Sidewalk Sales in August; Halloween Madness in October; and Christmas Shop Syracuse immediately following Thanksgiving.

The group is currently working towards a second successful Halloween costume parade in conjunction with Halloween Madness this year. Chairmen for the project are Bob Pilcher and Tim Kroh. Retail officers include Donna Conder, president; Bob Pilcher, vice president; Carol Wallace, secretary; and Jeanne Gardiner, treasurer (a banker, right?).

Winter Carnival. YES, there will be a Carnival this coming January! Bud Hursh, Jerry Claybaugh and I are joining forces to streamline the coordinating effort and to get more people involved in this fun-filled weekend for the Syracuse-Wawasee area. Call one of us if you want to help!

—0—

THE ENCHANTED Hills Playhouse Guild is as its originator, Judy Schmahl, puts it, "a Guild without a cause" right now until we learn further playhouse owner Jill Stover's plans for its future. Citing downward spiraling attendance at theaters across the country, Jill told the Guild that low attendance at EHP (possible double-whammyed by the long hot, humid summer) put the theater in a loss situation, in spite of the higher percentage of season ticket sales. According to Stover, the money is in the walk-in sales. She will be re-evaluating the situation, with no definite plans at this time.

Syracuse's Park Board and its task force held an initial meeting with Troyer and Associates, landscape architects, the evening of September 29 to identify issues and concerns of the park system and to prepare a questionnaire for public input. Those present were Pat Brown and Kevin Fry of Troyer; Alan Kitson and Kip Schumm of the park board; and task force members Charlene Knispel, township assessor; Jerry Ganshorn, Image Group; Cindi Nelson, Wawasee High School Student council president; and myself as chamber president. The information gathered was presented at a public meeting

(Continued on page 5)