

# Editorial

## Don't forget to do your job

This editorial is directed to the residents of the town of Syracuse because questionnaires will be mailed to them. It does, however, apply to the people of Milford and North Webster, too. We all need to become part of a team. A team of people working together for the well-being of the Lakeland area.

The Syracuse Park Board is trying to develop a park and recreation master plan to be used for the next five years. It will provide information which will be helpful to the board and will make Syracuse eligible to use state funding grants for worthwhile projects.

As suggested in "The Positive Side," planned teamwork and shared glory does help to insure success in reaching goals. In an attempt to reach its goals, the Syracuse Park Board is trying to "share the glory," so to speak. Park board members are seeking input to see what the community wants.

Last week, the park board held a public meeting for input. Another such meeting will also be held on November 24.

In the meantime, a questionnaire is being mailed to residents of Syracuse and Turkey Creek Township. These should be filled in and returned as soon as possible. Information received will be discussed at the November 24 meeting.

We feel persons receiving these questionnaires should consider them important. Everyone should take the time to fill them out and return them as soon as possible. After all, it's your tax dollars that fund the parks. The questionnaires are one way that the taxpayers can, and will, have a say on what is going on in their community. To ignore filling out such a form is to ignore one of the basic freedoms in America.

Please don't toss that form in the trash. Fill it out and return it. It's your job.

## Thanks Tom

Thanks Tom Gilbert. Thanks for all those years of dedicated work you gave to the town of Syracuse. You went above and beyond and now you deserve the honors that are being sent your way.

Tom Gilbert was recognized recently at a surprise retirement/farewell dinner at the Syracuse Fire Station. He has retired from his duties as dispatcher for the Syracuse police, fire and emergency medical services after serving the town for 36 years.

In a Profile on Gilbert in 1985, then MJ reporter Tom Broderick wrote, "Tom Gilbert is the perfect example of a public servant." All we can say to that is "Amen."

Gilbert started his public service career with the Syracuse Street Department. Then he worked as a police officer for a number of years. Later, he became a dispatcher. He did all three jobs with a special skill and determination. He is that type of person. He cares and he wanted to help. He will be missed.

On October 17, Tom Gilbert and his wife, Ginny, will move to Florida to enjoy their retirement years in the sunshine. We join others in wishing them the very best. It's a retirement well-earned.

## History

A proper understanding of history is necessary if citizens in a self-governing country pass intelligent judgment on the issues.

An understanding of history is not obtained with a passing grade on a compulsory course, or on a TV show. It takes personal interest and a desire to understand past conduct of human beings to make study productive.

Nor can one understand a past epoch in history by reading the work of a single writer, or by watching fictionalized television.

Just as no one would expect to get a balanced picture of a political campaign from one candidate, or fervid speeches of supporters, it's impossible to correctly appraise past events by a single work.

It's necessary to read and understand the theories expounded by a number of intelligent and fair-minded authors.

The experience of former generations can only be valuable if accurately reported, and intelligently studied.

## What others say —

### All of us together

Community newspapers in this year of the Bicentennial of our Constitution conclude their annual National Newspaper Association convention in Portland, Oregon, October 3 — a good kick-off for National Newspaper Week, October 4-10.

The idea of a free press is a uniquely American concept. But the concept of a free press is not an end in itself. Rather it is a means toward the maintenance of a free society, the right of each of us to be informed of what's going on, whether in Washington, at the state capitol or here on Main Street.

There are more than 8,000 newspapers in the United States, many like this one, others larger, others smaller. National Newspaper Week calls attention to the fact that all of us are committed to bringing you accurate, timely information so you can cope with the challenges of living, at all levels, especially in this community.

In our papers, we not only bring you news of what has or is happening, but also what is available in the marketplaces of the community, in goods, services, homes, jobs. Our public notices help alert you to actions of local governments and boards.

And, in our letters column, you have the freedom to express your ideas, and to disagree with us. This dialogue, too, is uniquely American.

Observing National Newspaper Week is not just a time for a self-praising observance of this paper. It takes many people to bring you this paper regularly: not just the more apparent members of the staff, the publisher, editor and news staff. To bring you a free, responsible newspaper is also the commitment of our circulation staff members who make sure you get your paper on time, our advertising people who bring you information on the latest buys and services in the area, our production staff members who set the type, build the pages, make the plates, run the presses, and address and bundle the papers.

And a free press requires your support too.

All of us together must ensure a strong, free press, because without it, we cannot have a strong, free society. This is not a matter for a one-week observance. Nor is it a matter for only those of us who are in the newspaper business because freedom of the press in a free society is everyone's freedom.

— RICHARD A. NAFSINGER, PRESIDENT  
NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

## The Positive Side



"Planned teamwork and shared glory, will help insure success in reaching your goals."

## Court news

### City Court

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

Speeding — Debra E. Schisler, 29, Syracuse, \$63.

Failure to use seat belt — Gregory L. Marchand, 24, Syracuse, \$50.

Desmond Jackson vs Karry Smith. Judgment for plaintiff \$223.24 plus costs.

Dian Adkins vs Cathy Spangle. Judgment for plaintiff \$607.10 plus costs.

Debbie Ruch d/b/a Glen's Wrecker Service vs Bill Miller. Judgment for plaintiff \$92.41 plus costs.

### County Court

The following persons have paid fines and costs in Kosciusko County Court, Judge James Jarette presiding:

Speeding — Bruce M. Routson, 17, Syracuse, \$65; Kelly E. Rogers, 31, Syracuse, \$65; Calvin L. Carr, 23, Syracuse, \$90.

Public intoxication — Perry Scott Corn, 27, Leesburg, \$150; Willie R. Simpson, 25, Syracuse, dismissed.

### County Court Goshen Division

The following fine plus court costs has been levied and paid in Elkhart County Court, Goshen Division:

Speeding — Christopher E. Albright, 18, Syracuse, \$58.

### Small Claims

The following judgments have been awarded in small claims division, Kosciusko County Court, Judge James Jarette presiding:

Joe Pearson vs Joan Harmon. Judgment for plaintiff \$260 plus costs.

Pat Shaske vs Sandy Kiser. Judgment for plaintiff \$3,000 plus costs.

### Circuit Court

The following petition has been filed in Kosciusko Circuit Court, Judge Richard Sand presiding:

#### Complaint On Account

Eby Auto Sales vs Rick Rogers, r 2, box 151, Milford. Plaintiff seeks \$910 and costs and relief.

### Milford home broken into

The rural Milford home of David Benning, located on CR 250E, was broken into early Friday morning at approximately 12:30.

David Guevera, Warsaw, who is in his early 20s, was been charged with theft, a Class D felony and burglary, a Class B felony.

Guevera, driving a Ford station wagon belonging to a relative, ran into a ditch on CR 250E just south of CR 1000N. A neighbor of Benning's reported the incident. Within 10 minutes of that call, Patricia Benning reported a man had entered her home. When Kosciusko County Sheriff's Deputy Jeff Bronsing and Milford Town Marshal David Hobbs arrived, they could see Guevera standing in front of a large window in the living room area.

According to Hobbs, Guevera entered the home through an unlocked garage door where he apparently picked up an ax and continued on through the house. There was evidence that he had gone through desk drawers and other items in the house. When the officers confronted the suspect, he threatened them with the ax. He then took off from the living room with Bronsing going out the back door and Hobbs out the front. Hobbs subdued Guevera at which time Hobbs received a slight back injury.

Police confiscated a number of items from Guevera's auto including guns, machete, television set, and piggy banks. They are still not sure who the items belong to.

Guevera has also been charged with a Class D felony of criminal recklessness in Kosciusko County pending from April of this year. He is also wanted on a warrant for parole violation in Texas. He is still being held in the Kosciusko County Jail.

### Syracuse answers four calls

Syracuse Fire Department responded to four fire calls this past week and assisted the Milford Fire Department on one call.

A fire alarm was received at the home of Louise Rabur, 1 box 169A, Syracuse, on Friday, Oct. 9, at 9:08 p.m. The firemen could find no reason for the alarm at Rabur's home in the Wawasee Spinks Condominiums and returned to the fire station.

The firemen were called again on Monday, Oct. 12, at 1:43 p.m. to Rabur's home. Firemen reported a representative from the alarm company was present and said the alarm in Rabur's apartment went off on its own. After firemen checked the apartment and found no fire, they returned to the station.

A possible overload on an electrical box caused \$500-\$1,000 damage at a home on Bowser Road. Firemen were called to a home owned by Stolikers at 6:55 a.m. Monday. After checking the home for any further fire, REMC was contacted to disconnect power and the owner was advised to contact an electrician.

A car fire at 1:19 p.m. Monday, on SE 13 near Tranter Graphics caused \$75 damage to the vehicle.

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## "CRUZIN' AROUND 'CUSE"

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This week's column has been written by Terry Skaggs. Skaggs works as an account executive for WKAM/WZOW Radio in Goshen. He can be heard Friday nights broadcasting area high school football games on WZOW 97.7 FM.

His wife, Beth, has taught in the Wawasee Schools since 1973. The couple has resided in Syracuse since 1975.)

By TERRY SKAGGS

WELL, LIKE thousands of parents across the country, this fall brought my wife, Beth, and I, great anticipation at the thought of our son, Ryan, starting school. I guess from the very first day you bring that new child home from the hospital you prepare for a few big days, and the first day of school is definitely one of them.

My wife and I prepared eagerly for that long awaited day by gathering all the necessities a new kindergartener would surely need. We carefully selected a wardrobe befitting a young man destined for such greatness, not forgetting of course, new underwear. My mother always sent me to school in clean underwear, "Never know when you might have to go to the hospital," Mom always said. Made sense to me . . . Along with a wardrobe there was a new bag to carry papers, along with pencils, crayons, a notebook, safety scissors, Elmer's glue, colored markers, modeling clay, and of course who could go to school without new sneakers.

Well, the days of summer counted down as we prepared our son for his first encounter with school. We practiced how he would address his teacher, even had him write it out — Mrs. Huey.

Did you ever wonder why, as a small child, it was ok to address adults by their first name, then as soon as we started school it was necessary to show proper respect with Mr or Mrs.? Then 12 years later when school was out it was ok to go back to first names, unless of course you went to the Army.

Well anyway, Ryan knew how to address Mrs. Huey, he knew the name of his principal, we practiced the alphabet and his counting, and of course we started seeing that he was in bed by 8:30 every night. Well, you know, almost ever night. Well, at least by 9. We practiced with Ryan the list of things provided by the school:

— We made sure he recognized his own name in print.

— He could name all eight basic colors: red, blue, yellow, green, purple, orange, brown and black (well 6 of 8 anyway)

— He could count to 10

— He could tie his shoes (with only a little help)

— He could take off and put on his own coat (he just couldn't do it whenever we were in a hurry)

— He could cut simple shapes with scissors

With the anticipation of school so high all summer, it was hard to concentrate on the important things, like my golf game, the pennant races, and my golf game.

With school just a few weeks away, Beth and I decided to go over the rest of the material provided to us at "Kindergarten Round-Up" the previous spring. We read the WELCOME FROM THE ADMINISTRATION and went on to the ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS to ensure that Ryan did indeed qualify for admission to Syracuse Elementary. We skimmed the sections entitled TOWARD HAPPY LEARNING and A CHILD'S PLAY IS HIS WORK and went right to CHECKLIST FOR PARENTS. It read as follows:

1) Do you carefully supervise your child's TV and insist on an early bedtime? — Yes No

2) Do you provide your child with books and do you read them to him? Do you ask him questions about what you have read? — Yes No

3) Do you plan at least one quiet activity for your child sometime during the day? — Yes No

4) Do you plan family activities such as picnics, trips to the library, museum, and the beach? — Yes No

5) Do you send your child to school in a happy frame of mind each day? — Yes No

Supervised TV, planned activities, museums, picnics, happy frame of mind? Who do they think we are? OZZIE and HARRIET! It was then I realized we might be in a little trouble.

Well the day came, Wednesday, Aug. 26. Everyone woke early and jumped right out of bed. Beth and I reminded Ryan how much fun we had our first day of school although I think he knew we were lying. We had the camera ready to capture the moment and there he went, nonchalantly out the door. Our life certainly had changed forever.

That evening we eagerly solicited detailed explanations of every thought and activity that he experienced that day. It was about then that Ryan informed us that someone had said that his class was special. We told him that we knew that already and he said "no, you don't understand. We're the class of . . . ah . . . ah . . . 2000".

I screamed in horror! The very thought that anyone as young as I could have a child that would lead us into the 21st century. It just wasn't fair. My parents had to contend with regular things such as Elvis, flat tops and butch wax,

mini-skirts and hot pants. The Beatles, hippies, LSD, Marijuana, a man on the moon, and war protests . . . But never did they have to face the realization, as I would, that one of their offspring would lead a generation into a new century.

I mean it wasn't that long ago when the year 2000 seemed so far away. Around the time of my birth, 1951, "Life" magazine had Gene Autry extolling the virtues of B.F. Goodrich tires, Mary Martin was singing and dancing for "Raye" home permanents, Lilli Palmer informed us that "Lucky's are really smooth!". "So round, so firm, so fully packed . . . so free and easy on the draw." I don't know whether they were talking about Lucky Strike or Lilli. Kodak was reminding us that "Your snapshots tell the story best". "The Brownie Hawkeye — \$5.50. Simple and reliable with a modern flourish in design." Heinz had "57 Varieties" and Howard Johnson had 28 reasons for us to stop in his Ice Cream Shops and Restaurants.

The more I read through the old "Lifes" the more I realized how much truth there is to the old saying "The more things change, the more they stay the same." B.F. Goodrich tires, automobiles from Ford and Chevrolet, Swift Premium Meats, Kellogg cereals, appliances from G.E. and Frigidaire . . . Dr. Scholl's, Sealtex, Vaseline, Speed Queen, Haggard, Jantzen, Ritz, Texaco, Sanka, Wilson, DuPont, Johnson's . . . Names from the