

Decide Nothing Dishonest In Loan of 2 Tables, 2 Chairs

Future Requests Must Be Presented to Board

Cambria Co. officials have decided there was nothing underhanded or dishonest about the transfer of county property to a democratic club in Johnstown.

Nevertheless it was agreed that the transfer was somewhat irregular and that a new policy will be in effect in the future.

The policy change came about Friday when the three commissioners delved into Republican accusations that county furniture was improperly taken from the Courthouse and hauled to the Young Men's Democratic Club.

Henceforth, it was decided, any loans of furniture or other county property must be submitted to the board of commissioners for approval.

Prior to reaching this decision, commissioners agreed that the loan of the furniture had gone through proper channels.

Involved in the deal are two desks and two chairs, removed from the courthouse basement and hauled in a county-owned truck to the Democratic Club on the morning of July 27.

Commissioners Pat Farrell and Thomas A. Owens first learned of the incident Thursday night when they returned from the Philadelphia convention of the State Association of Co. Commissioners.

Cyrus W. Davis, who returned from the convention Tuesday, had stated he would move that the commissioners ask the district attorney to make an investigation.

On Friday, Davis stated he was satisfied with the way the furniture got to Johnstown. He said it was his intention to ask an investigation only if there had been evidence that the property had been stolen.

Explanation of the transfer was made by Maurice A. Springer, chief clerk in the commissioners' office, and Thomas E. Delvin, the courthouse custodian.

Delvin said he had been asked by members of the Johnstown Democratic Committee whether the county had any old furniture that could be used in club quarters.

Delvin stated he relayed the request to Springer, who gave him permission to lend the furniture if there was any that was not needed in the courthouse.

Delvin's explanation was corroborated by Springer. Delvin said he had intended to make some arrangements for the desks and chairs to be transported when he learned that Archie Krug, an employee of the county highway crew, was going to Johnstown to get materials for some construction job. Delvin then asked him to take the furniture to Johnstown since he was going there anyway.

These arrangements were made several days before the actual hauling took place, Delvin said. Delvin was not present the day the furniture was removed, but said he previously advised Mr. Krug not to take it to Johnstown before 9 a. m. because the club wouldn't be open.

Commissioner Farrell pointed out that he considered this explanation satisfactory. He said that county property has been loaned in the past and that the normal procedure was for the details to be handled by the chief clerk.

"I think if you would check the records for the past 10 years," Farrell said, "there will be no records of county furniture or chairs being loaned. But it was done before and always handled by the chief clerk."

"Such publicity as this has received is demoralizing to the public," he said. "The public is entitled to know what happened.

Until Friday morning, Owens and Farrell knew nothing of the incident except what they had read in the papers on Thursday evening. At the outset of Friday's meeting Commissioner Davis moved that commissioners take whatever action "is necessary in view of publicity it has been given in the newspapers."

Later, after hearing Springer

and Delvin, Davis said, "I am satisfied that the permission was given by Mr. Springer."

Commissioners Owens and Farrell both said they would go along with any further investigation requested.

Said Owens: "If an investigation is wanted I will go along wholeheartedly with the Republican member (Mr. Davis)." This same attitude was expressed several times by Farrell.

Commissioners Owens and Farrell at first were inclined to favor a policy that from now on "nothing will be loaned to anyone."

However they reconsidered this. Farrell pointed out that there undoubtedly will be occasions in the future when some group or individual will want to borrow something for an entirely worthy cause. He felt that if the county has old furniture that is not being used, it would be too strict to refuse everyone. But everyone did agree that in the future all such matters must be presented to the board of commissioners for approval.

Check-Off List For Home Safety Will Prevent Household Mishaps

Most parents, when they read or hear of a household accident, make a safety-check of possible hazards around their own home. The wisest of them, however, make such inspections a routine part of their duties.

Dr. Joseph H. Kenyon, Director of Good Housekeeping magazine's Baby Center, suggests a safety-check-off list in this month's issue. Under the heading: "How can home accidents be avoided," she writes:

"Check all electrical appliances and lamps for short circuits; replace defective sockets and old, brittle insulation. Install window guards, and place gates on cellar and attic stairways. Keep toys and other articles in their proper place, where no one will stumble over them. Fill in all unused and open wells, deep holes or old cyclone cellars on your property. Keep gasoline and other flammable fluids away from the house and properly protected. Containers for sharp knives and a cabinet for medicines and dangerous poisons—insecticides, cleaners, etc.—should be installed high on the wall, beyond a child's reach.

Heating and kitchen stoves and fireplaces should be guarded; handles of utensils on the stove should be turned away from the outside edge, so they're not a temptation to small hands. Do not place radios in the bathroom, and make it impossible for anyone to use the phone while in the bath tub."

Dr. Kenyon also writes about first aid and answers questions about removal of small splinters, treatment of sunburn and convulsions and other medical matters in the same issue.

—The first iron warship of the U. S. today lies anchored in the mud of Misery Bay at Erie, Pa.

2,027 Pints Blood Donated In District

Since the beginning of the Regional Blood Center program on June 15, 2,027 pints of blood have been collected. Dr. H. B. Anderson, technical director, told coordinating committee members last Thursday.

The figures include collections through Aug. 15, he said. Of the total, 1,823 pints have been distributed to area hospitals, where 1,379 were used as whole blood. That not every collection is transfused, he said.

The center has 444 pints available for separation at the present time.

Occasion for Dr. Anderson's report was a meeting of the program coordinating committee in the Johnstown YMCA. Representatives from all the district Red Cross chapters participating attended.

Watch What Water You Drink During Summer Months

"One swallow proved not that summer is near," penned the poet. But one swallow may prove the spring was polluted, announced the Medical Society of Pennsylvania and the Cambria Co. Medical Society.

Clear water may look inviting on a hot day, but thousands of springs and wells are contaminated and may possibly contain disease germs. Springs in Pennsylvania are examined by the State Health Department and when found satisfactory and safe for drinking purposes, they are placarded and labeled as safe. Visitors should not take chances with springs and wells about which they know nothing because typhoid and other water-borne diseases lurk in impure water.

Motorists, out for a day's drive, see a spring or well and assume that because the water looks good, it is fit to drink.

Many people have the foolish idea that running water purifies itself every few miles but this is incorrect, and often running water is more dangerous than still water. Running water continually stirs up solids which will settle in still water.

Disease bacteria are tiny and light and are not likely to settle in running water. Free access to air and sunshine will kill many germs and streams polluted with sewage and other organic matter may eventually clear. Surface drainage carries filth and disease into streams, springs and wells.

So, when you're out drink only from springs publicly placarded as SAFE.

Bath Can Serve Great Variety of Purposes

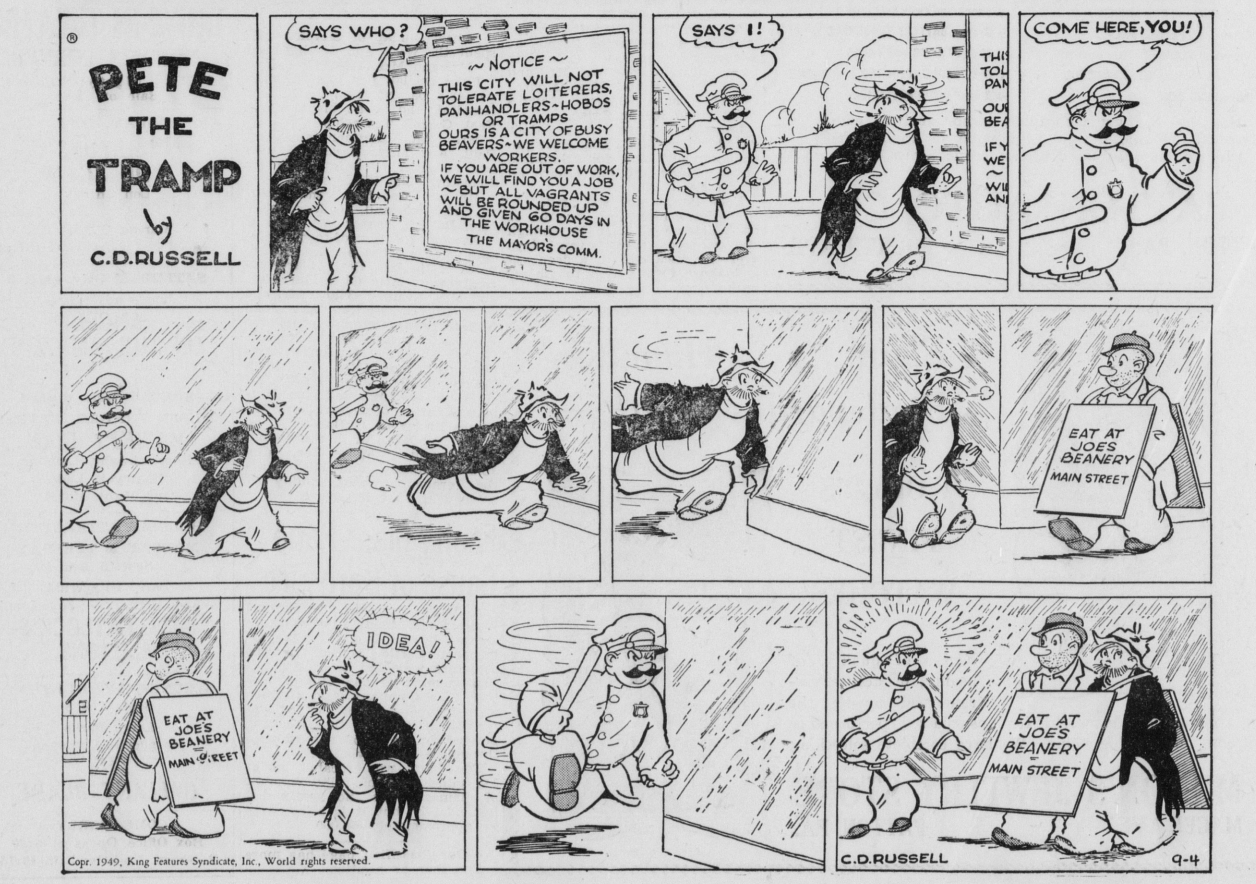
Depending upon how you take it, a bath can be a mere washing, a healthful sedative to the nervous system, or a stimulating bracer.

Take it tepid on a very hot day—a lukewarm bath is far more cooling than a cold plunge. Take it tepid, too, when your nerves are jumpy and you can't sleep. It will relax you. Take it long and hot when your muscles ache from exercise, and quickly—hot or cold—to wake you up.

Provides 'See-Food'

PREPARING for the annual National Seafood Festival to be held September 16-17 at Hampton, Va., lovely Lucy Thornton tries to look like a crab, but her smile proves that she isn't. She will figure prominently in the program honoring King Neptune. (International Sound/Photo)

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