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NEW HORNS—OLD DILEMMA!



"As I See It"

By JOHN J. HALUSKA
 STATE SENATOR

Now that the World Series is a matter of record, it proves, once again, that the American public, on the whole, is in deep sympathy with the "under-dog." The New York Giants, as we know by this time, performed a near miracle by putting themselves into the World Series; one swish of the bat netted them three runs and sent the Brooklyn Dodgers into baseball oblivion as never before. It only goes to prove that nothing is certain in our travel through life.

Now, our minds turn to politics and, although there has been a great deal of spathy in the present County election, we will see things getting hotter as the candidates go down the home stretch to wind up their campaigns.

Thus far, the campaign has been very clean. Both Democratic and Republican candidates have carried their candidacies on a very high plane. Would it not be grand to see the campaign close in that manner?

Nothing is more deplorable to the American public, than last minute filthy literature and last minute radio accusations and we trust that that day is over when any such candidates who conduct themselves in such manner will be condoned by the American public.

Fortunately for Cambria County, it must be said that the present County Officials who are now serving at the Court House, both Democrats and Republicans, have conducted their offices in a very honorable manner. They have been conscientious and sincere public servants and no scandal, of any kind, could be laid at their doorstep and, on the whole, are entitled to deep consideration by the voting public.

County Commissioners Thomas Owens and Pat Farrell must be commended on the conduct of their offices and should be returned to their respective positions with an overwhelming vote. As to the Minority Commissioner, both Davis and Appel have been good citizens and, it appears to us, that Ernest Apel will probably get the nod.

County Controller Michael C. Charynek, Prothonary Joseph Dolan, Register of Wills Michael J. Hartnett, Clerk of Courts Joseph C. Wess and Coroner Joseph Govekar, have done a marvelous job and who could ask more of any public servant? District Attorney Samuel R. DiFrancesco has made quite a record for himself, as a "first-termer"; he has

The "D.A." Comments

By Samuel R. DiFrancesco
 District Attorney, Cambria County

GETTING AWAY WITH MURDER

Unless a case is improperly investigated and inefficiently prosecuted, a defendant can escape justice only because of three reasons: First, because he is truly innocent; secondly, because the available evidence against him is insufficient legally to sustain a conviction; and thirdly, because the jury, for some unknown reason, has acquitted. The same procedure applies to the defendant in the case of a crime where the evidence is sufficient for a conviction.

When the latter occurs, there are those who cry out: "He got away with murder!"

The District Attorney has done his duty when he has efficiently produced the available evidence, and the judge has done his duty when he has fairly conducted the trial and instructed the jury. It is in that the often unpleasant duty of the jury to deliberate and render a verdict in accordance with the law and the evidence of the case. When a juror is unprepared to acquit a defendant appears to escape from justice, it is the jury who is responsible and not the Court nor the District Attorney.

A jury is composed of 12 people. What considerations may sway its aggregate judgment are quite often unpredictable. A unanimous verdict is required, it is possible for a person of a domineering or influential personality to control the verdict by imposing his will on the less aggressive and more timid members. There is also involved the question of reasonable doubt. Under our American system of jurisprudence, a defendant is presumed to be innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

The reasonable doubt often the hesitant juror an avenue of escape from the unpleasant duty to convict a fellow man. However, a reasonable doubt should not be imaginary. It must arise fairly from the evidence. It should not be one that has been conjured by the mind to escape the unpleasant duty to convict. When this happens and a defendant escapes justice, the familiar cry is evoked that "he got away with murder."

Too often the blame is unfairly imposed upon the Court and the District Attorney rather than upon the jury whose province it is to acquit or convict.

In a previous article entitled "Shorter Trial Lists" we pointed out that one of the reasons for less trials and more guilty pleas is due to the efficient investigation and preparation of the cases by the District Attorney's office.

We are proud of our record. We have prepared and presented our cases efficiently. Nevertheless, there will always be those

who will criticize our record because in some cases there have been acquittals. It is to these critics and to those who might be affected by such unfair propaganda that this article is directed. It is to them that we say: The duty of the District Attorney is to prosecute, but it is the duty of the jury to acquit or convict.

We can safely say that there has been on major crime in Cambria County which has not received a full, complete, and vigorous investigation of the District Attorney and his staff.

In such instances, we have thrown the full force of the office and its facilities into the investigation. This happened, for example, in the case involving the mutilated and charred body of a murdered woman. This case had the earmarks of a perfect crime, but it was broken and solved by the county days and two nights of concerted and determined investigation by the District Attorney's Office and the State Police.

In the more recent homicide which occurred in Deser, Pa., a confession was obtained within 24 hours from the commission of the crime. In fact, the District Attorney personally upon the scene of the crime within a few hours after the shooting.

However, as long as crime exists, there will be some acquittals. In fact, last week, there were two acquittals in murder cases in Somerset County. That is why we have trials and trial juries. Not all defendants are guilty and unfortunately, not all guilty defendants are convicted.

Too often when such persons escape from justice, an unfair criticism is voiced against the district attorney, who has faithfully and conscientiously administered the law.

In one murder case, the testimony was taken down stenographically and by wire recorder within 24 hours from the commission of the alleged crime. This testimony was produced at the trial in what was considered one of the best prepared and prosecuted cases by your District Attorney's administration. The verdict of not guilty caused the trial judge to publicly reprimand the jury.

In another case, a young man was charged with sodomy. He was caught in the act by the City Police and gave the officers a signed confession. Despite this evidence, a verdict of not guilty was rendered.

Cases such as these evoke the cry that "he got away with murder." The fault, however, did not lie with the trial judge and the district attorney. They had performed their respective duties efficiently and well. The cases were carefully prepared and clearly presented. The responsibility of the verdict, however, rested solely with the jury.

We therefore assert confidently that never in the history of your county has there been greater efficiency in the administration of criminal law. The crime average in Cambria County and particularly in Johnstown is much below the national average.

On May 22, 1951, a press release from New York appeared in the "Johnstown Tribune" in which it was stated that:

"On the basis of statistics from Police Departments in more than 1,000 cities across the country, fewer crimes were committed in proportion to population, than in most communities."

The figures, eyed this year with more interest because of the Defaulter Investigation, were released by the Federal Bureau of

Investigation in its Uniform Crime Report.

Johnstown's Police Report shows a total of 529 offenses handled during 1950, or a rate of 344 crimes per 100,000 population.

This was better than the general national record of 1,513 crimes per 100,000. It was under the average for cities of 25,000 in size—1,822 per 100,000—and under the rate for cities of Johnstown's size (50,000 to 100,000 population)—1,574 per 100,000.

This release is significant. It substantiates the fact that the efficient administration of criminal law in Cambria County has proven to be a deterrent of crime. Less crime and shorter trial lists do not result accidentally. They came about by giving the people conscientious service, even beyond the call of duty, in a revitalized, progressive and efficient District Attorney's Office.

they stand a very good chance of becoming a candidate for Korea.

In conclusion we may express the hope that the Senator's influence shall continue to prevail and be felt in the formation of local policy.

Officers of the Teenage Club:
 Dave Albricht, President,
 Joan Cavallucci, Secretary.

DRYS GAIN 14 TOWNS

A total of 50 of the 108 municipalities which held local option elections at the 1951 July primaries in Pennsylvania on the question of granting retail liquor licenses voted dry and 49 voted wet. There was a net gain of 14 municipalities in the dry column as a result of the 1951 election.

—This week is National Fire Prevention Week. Do your part!

High Speeds Fatal

A pretty good argument that speed is the cause of most accidents, especially those of a fatal nature, is demonstrated in the comparison of accidents made by the state authorities between the Turnpike and the Lincoln and William Penn Highways, the three most-traveled routes in the state. During 1950, the turnpike, which allows speeds up to 70 miles an hour, had the most fatal accidents, 59, chiefly because when a wreck does occur on the high-speed highway the car occupants receive fatal injuries.

On the William Penn Highway, where speed is restricted to 50 miles and to 35 miles an hour in many places, the deaths had year numbered 58. On the Lincoln Highway where lower speeds are required, the number of deaths was 48. In both cases however, the number of non-fatal accidents was much higher than on the super-highway. All of which means that fast speeds on the super-highway make most of the accidents fatal ones.

Running On A Record

Officials who are serving you in an official capacity can be judged by their actions, their qualifications, their ability, because they have had ample time to display these various aptitudes, or otherwise, as the case may be. When an election comes along, your present-time officials can't seek re-election on promises of what they will do if re-elected; rather must they be judged by what they have done in the past, and solicit your support on a basis of a continuance of that record—and intelligent voters will judge them accordingly.

And so your county commissioners, the majority members now in the last year of their first term of office, place their entire campaign platform for the future on what has been accomplished in the past. And there certainly have been many things which have been constructive, sound and progressive administration during these past three and one-half years. The best criterion of the entire present board of commissioners has been one of harmony, in the best interests of the taxpayers, and of the absence of petty partisanship bickering.

Pat Farrell and Thomas A. Owens, the former a well-known ex-sheriff and Johnstown insurance man, and the latter a former member of the State Legislature and Editor of the Union Press-Courier, have been the majority members of the board. Democrats, Cyrus W. Davis, Republican, the minority member, a former corner and sheriff with probably the widest acquaintance of and Cambria County, has won the admiration of his colleagues for his steadfast thought of fairness and avoidance of holding animosities when the majority members saw differently upon some few occasions.

It is true that the majority of any board of three members must accept the responsibilities for such a group, and in this connection the Messrs. Farrell and Owens face the issue squarely in seeking a second term in the Commissioners' Office. Assuming the four years ago, they were faced with not only a problem of the county not paying its bills promptly, but with the county owing a considerable amount of money borrowed previously on a short term note. Since that time the bonded indebtedness has been satisfactorily decreased despite the fact that the costs of everything have been constantly increasing. In cooperation with County Controller M. C. Charynek, Jr., bills have been met promptly, the first corrective measure of the new regime.

An open-door policy, the creation of an atmosphere that every visitor is welcome, too, has been a policy not only of the commissioners' office, and all three commissioners, but of all the offices in the courthouse. Folks who have business with the county surely have found them ready and willing to try to solve their problems. Recognition and respect for the employees in the office, regardless of political partisanship, was also given immediate consideration with the thought in mind that the office be conducted on a truly non-partisan basis. Career men were retained. The thought that every cent that was spent belonged to the taxpayers, constantly has been uppermost in the commissioners' administration.

There were, too, so many things that had been neglected for so many years that were corrected as rapidly as conditions permitted. Both the children's home and the county home and hospital presented problems that meant heavy outlays of money. The most glaring of these needs was the provision for a better fire protection for the county's wards. A large portion of the county home buildings are of old construction, the hospital portion being the only fire-proof building. A sprinkler system for protection from the fire hazard was an early improvement, and it, along with other added improvements, at least now leaves the minds of the commissioners a bit more at ease than a holocaust of human lives may not happen.

The children's home buildings, a portion of which was more than a hundred years old, presented the greatest immediate major problem confronting the board, which was unanimous in raising the millage a bit for the year 1950 in order that a new and modern building could be constructed and paid for immediately to properly house the children and also eliminate another fire hazard that, really, was even much worse than that at the county home.

The two matters mentioned above were the greater problems but there have been so many other things that the present board of commissioners have accomplished that they should deserve the consideration of all thinking voters. To mention one in the saving of perhaps several hundred thousand dollars that might have been expended had not a new policy been adopted in regard to payment of road damages.

Hitherto, in most cases, when the state constructed or reconstructed a highway, the county commissioners had been assuming all property damages. For the past four years the commissioners have not done that in a single instance. A contribution is made of some reasonable amount, depending on the importance of the road in question, and sometimes there has been no contribution. The state then assumes the property damages. Not a single road in the county has been lost as a result of this policy.

There are but a very few of the accomplishments of the present board of commissioners, and every office in the Democratic-controlled courthouse has met its own particular obligations in the same spirit and with the same thought of good service. All are candidates for re-election, and District Attorney Samuel R. DiFrancesco, seeking the office of Recorder of Deeds and County Treasurer, stand out a ticket that is in full conformity with the county's best interests. We are sure that the voters will touch on other policies of your county governing bodies.

This, That And The Other

Campaign candidates have a tendency to seek publicity in somewhat thoughtless ways from time to time. We are not even sure if perhaps some of our own poster boys, too, might not occasionally get off the beam. We are referring to the posting of placards on trees along the highways. Seems as if these signs disappear, probably in the highway department's eyes to the artificial scenery. No thinking person blames them, we're sure.

Placards are for two main purposes: Transportation and national defense. They should never be used for anything. Twenty persons were killed because of that, and 25 more hurt recently in Colorado. The stunt boys can't exactly quarrel unless he is doing it in a serious and careful way far from crowds and homes.

With another election coming up next month the old question of why some people don't vote is getting its annual workout. The American Political Science Association has come up with these interesting suggestions for election day. Hold general elections on Tuesdays or Wednesdays instead of the Tuesday common to most states. Open polls earlier and close them later. Pass up outdoor restaurants and hand out more absentee ballots. We suggest an absentee ballot container, supervised by election officials, to be set up in the home to return ballots.

Don't drag politics lively, and a good favor in which to live, is to take the time to be converted by the local club for a national election night. Not only the children but the adult population of the area and neighboring areas will benefit. And we hope keep that in the progressive thought.

NEWS ON THE HOMEMAKING FRONT

By MISS CHRISTINE HAENN
 Assistant Home Economics Representative, Cambria County

Lighting Is Important

One of every individual's most vital and valuable personal resources is eyesight. There is little that can be done about good eyes except protect them and safeguard them as much as possible. By safeguarding eyes we do not mean merely protecting them from the glare of sunlight or from foreign objects. Every homemaker should feel it her duty to help protect her family's eyes by providing adequate lighting in the home.

Different tasks require different and varied amounts of light to perform the task in question without eyestrain or fatigue. The amount of light is effected by the bulbs. When purchasing light bulbs consider the type of work that is to be performed because it is not economical to buy six 25 watt bulbs when what you really need is one 100 watt bulb. Also the initial cost and the cost of operation is less for the 100 watt bulb than for several 25 watt bulbs.

The right quality of light is just as important as the right quantity. Exposed, bare, clear glass bulbs are the worst source of glare. Walls, ceilings and shades, if light colored and dull textured, will improve the quantity and the quality of light.

A room should be lighted for general illumination with stronger lights used for general tasks. Scientists tell us that the adjustment necessary for the eyes to change from the well-lighted spot to darkness makes a great strain upon the eye.

Electric outlets are essential if there is to be adequate lighting. It is most satisfactory to have an outlet in every wall space be-

tween two doors. Although this is not the case in every home, it is the homemaker's duty to arrange lamps so that they serve more than one person whenever possible.

When purchasing lamps and selecting lamps, it should be considered whether there will be adequate light or the task to be done and for the general distribution of light throughout the room. Check your lamp selection with the following requirements in mind:

1. Place lamp where it will be used.
2. Height of lamp to be useful.
3. Size of shade to determine area which is to be lighted.
4. Shape of shade. A slant-sided shade will give a greater spread of light than a straight or nearly straight shade.
5. Color of shade. Inside of shade should be white or near white to reflect light.
6. Texture of shade. Transparent shades often produce glare.

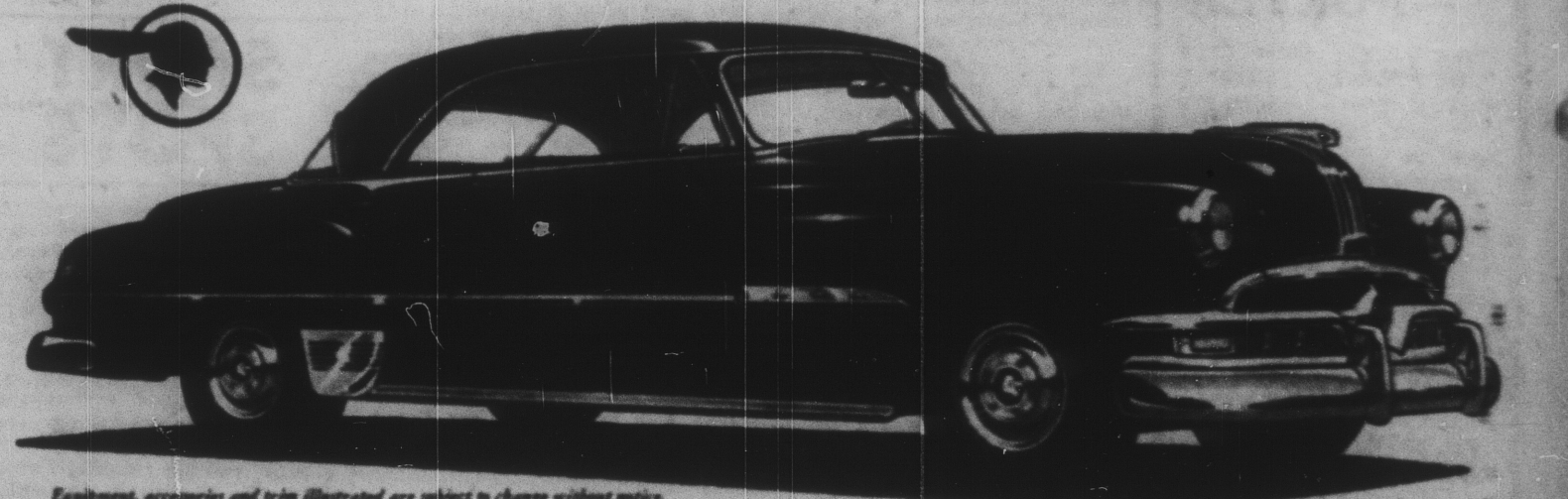
Take time to select your lamps carefully and then take time to care for them.

Blandburg Man Is Fined On Weighbill Charge

Joel Tronell of Blandburg was fined \$100 and costs at a hearing before Justice of the Peace Regina Winslow, Patton, Monday afternoon for violation of the Solid Fuels Law.

Information was made by J. J. Sheehan, state sealer of weight, and D. V. Sheehan, county sealer, Mr. Tronell has a crane for sale and transporting coal in Road-Twp. without a weighmaster's certificate.

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 of Louisville, Kentucky

Member of The Board of Lectureship of The Mother Church,
 The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Massachusetts

at
THE CHURCH EDIFICE
 First Church of Christ, Scientist,
 311 Vine Street, Johnstown, Pennsylvania
 Friday, October 19, 1951, at 8:15 P. M.
ALL ARE WELCOME