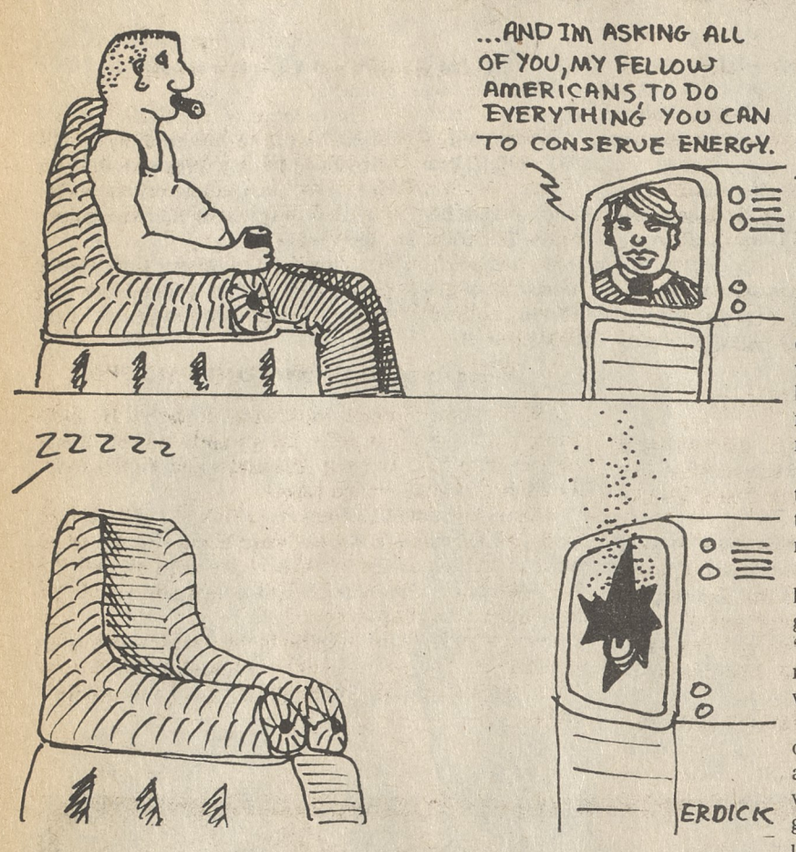
Comment/Opinion



BURNHAM

Don't have the needed instincts

by L.D. Burnham

Dressed in a long black trench coat, masked behind a pair of wraparound sunglasses, crowned by a hat with brim sweeping across my forehead, I discreetly position myself by the peaches.

I watch, casting furtive glances through my "shades." When I feel the coast is clear, I'll make my move across the aisle to the lettuce.

I realize I am in great danger. I have slipped past the security guard posted by the sign reading "male adults not permitted in market unless accompanied by woman or small child."

I know the sign is there for my own protection, but then I'm an adventurous guy. The kind of guy who warms to the challenge of going to the grocery store alone, unprotected and blatantly male. I like to think that's the kind of courage that made this country what it is today.

"Ramming speed!" I hear.

Curses! Drat! I'm paralyzed that split second too long. I'm encumbered by my disguise. I'm standing flatfooted in the middle of the produce aisle in the path of an oncoming shopping cart.

Standing in the front of the cart is a fierce looking 4-year-old, with sharp, tiny teeth bared, one arm outstretched waving a return-for-deposit sprite bottle. On his head rests a cap of lettuce leaves devilishly adorned by two bananas on the sides looking every bit the miniature victual Viking.

His mother pushes forward with relentless venom, her coupons clenched between her teeth, and I find myself lodged painfully in the vegetable bin between the Romaine lettuce and the radishes.

I curse my misfortune. I thought I was so good. I thought my years as a bachelor had trained me well enought in the moves, the deceptions needed to survive in the three-for-a-dollar world of low, low prices.

There's obviously more to it than just science and observation. There must be some raw animal drive needed to get good at food shopping. After all, in the animal world it is often the female of the species that hunts for food. Could it be that I just don't have the needed instincts?

Oh, I've studied. I've watched, I've observed. I've watched as real professional shoppers cuddle cukes. I've seen them craddling cantaloupes. From my studies, it seems the most useful shopping skill is the squeeze. The produce section is where the first rate squeezing takes place. A first class squeezer is a person to admire.

These are the people who obviously attend training schools. There they learn the fine art of speed squeezing, the ability to run their hands up a fruit bin and select exactly two pounds of peaches of assorted degrees of ripeness. They also develop the crunching power needed to test the firmness of lettuce. There are tales of women who can crush bowling balls with their bare hands.

More intriguing than those possessing the raw power are those of the Far Eastern Transcendental Produce School. These true believers attempt to communicate with the food before they buy it through tentative fingertips and solemn prayer. Lightly touching the tomatoes, they attempt to drift into the psyche of the tomato spirit.

Directly opposed to these are the mashers, who leave behind them a tragic trail of thin red wrappers filled with tomato juice that used to be tomatoes. These are the same folk who brutally press bread loaves between their palms in the name of testing freshness, the same folk who mercilessly pinch grapes and the arms of their small children who beg endlessly for more cookies and candy.

But these observations are all pointless. There's just too much to be learned. How do you keep the squasibles off the bottom of the cart and not wind up with them at the bottom of the bag?

How do you block off the meat counter with a cart while you go about picking chicken? How do you learn to wield a shopping cart as an offensive weapon?

So I've given up. I've developed new goals. After all, what's so great about being able to get through a supermarket? I'll give up my dreams of being able to fill up a cart and leave with a bill of under $40 and attack something more sensible--like trying to sneak 11 items through the 10 item express aisle.

(Continued from P. 1)

Fuel oil?

The owner said he did not expect any shortage during this winter.

He is adding new customers and operates on open account, budget terms or cash.

Like the others, he said that his price per gallon was in line with other suppliers in the area.

He also said that in his opinion, if the government would stay out of it, prices would level off and the situation remain constant.

"The government is destroying free enterprise--the small business man no longer stands much of a chance," he said.

His company is on an automatic keep-filled program to his customers based on a degree day program.

All the dealers were in accord--that they received only a day or less notice on a price increase from their supplier. They also were in accord that their price per gallon of oil was in line with the others but the prices quoted varied from 75.9 to 80.0 cents per gallon, a five cent range in price.

The dealers also agreed that they believed it was going to be difficult for many people, especially those on fixed incomes, to be able to pay for adequate heating oil to maintain even a 65 degree room temperature.

ONLY YESTERDAY

Water Company warns customers to boil water

50 years ago-Aug. 17, 1929

Drought forces Dallas-Shavertown Water Company to warn customers to boil water for household use.

Local interest in prothonotary race grows as "Dummy Candidates" file petition to oppose G. Harold Wagner of Dallas.

Ann Czulegar of Dallas appointed to teach at Noxen High School.

Kunkle to give benefit dance to raise funds for Dr. Henry M. Laing Fire Company.

New Boy Scout troop is being organized at Glen View Terrace under the supervision of the P.M. Church of that place. James Noble will be scoutmaster.

Now playing at local theatre-"Beau Broadway", Lew Cody, Himmler Theatre.

A total of $185,752.90 will be reeived by Back Mountain High Schools from the state.

Dallas and Luzerne to play final game of their three-game series with each team having won one game.

Anniversary-Mr. and Mrs. Eli Parrish, 63 years.

You could get-Mayonnaise 9 cents jar; butter 52 cents lb.; farm bread 10 cents loaf; canned milk 3 cans 25 cents; Swansdown cake flour 31 cents; Post bran flakes 12 cents pkg.

40 years ago-Aug. 18,1939

Local schools announce opening dates of school during next two weeks.

A. C. Devens, Dallas miller, was the sole bidder when assets of the Dutch Mountain Clay Products Company were put up at auction at the Lopez plant by P. Whitby, receiver.

In an effort to restore interest in the renovation of Rice Cemetery on Huntsville Street, Daddow Isaacs Post 672, American Legion will hold a rededication flag-raising service there Sunday afternoon at 3 p.m.

Now playing at local theatres-"Young Mr. Lincoln", Henry Fonda, Marjorie Weaver, Himmler Theatre.

Engaged-June Williams to Victor L. Stephens.

Deaths-William Kelly, Dallas; Howard Armstrong, Orange.

Dallas Arrows defeat Vernon 10-7 to tie up their semi-final series for the Bi-County Baseball League.

L.T. "Red" Schwartz of Shavertown has announced his candidacy for Kingston Township School Director.

Lehman High School Band will have an important place on the program at the Pomona Grange picnic at Benton Park.

You could get-Chuck Roast 17 cents lb.; smoked bacon 17 cents lb.; frankfurters 16 cents lb.; butter 2 lbs. 53 cents; coffee 27 cents lb.; cream cheese 21 cents lb.; mayonnaise 33 cents qt.; raisin bread 2 lg. loaves 15 cents; Elberta Freestone peaches 6 lbs. 25 cents; red malaga grapes 2 lbs. 15 cents; sweet corn 19 cents doz.; home grown tomatoes 3 lbs. 10 cents; sweet potatoes 5 cents lb.

30 years ago-Aug. 19, 1949

The biggest battle for power in the Back Mountain political ring this year will be in Dallas Township where a dozen factors have created confusion especially in the school director, tax collector and supervisor races.

The program for the fourth annual field day of Tunkhannock Artificial Breeding Cooperative will begin at 10:30 a.m., Aug. 23.

WSCS of Trucksville Methodist Church will sponsor a Flower and Hobby Show at Trucksville Fire Hall, Aug. 26.

A tall, naked middle-aged man frightened youngsters playing in the high-weeded plots along upper Carverton Road on Monday.

Now playing at local theatres-"The Champion", Kirk Douglas, Marilyn Maxwell, Shaver Theatre; "San Francisco", Clark Gable, Jeanette McDonald, Himmler; "Foreign Correspondent", Joel McCrea, Lorraine Day, Star-Lite theatre; "Magic Town", James Stewart, Jane Wyman, Sandy Beach Drive In; "Saboteur", Priscilla Lane, Robert Cummings, Dallas Outdoor.

Engaged-Lois V. Sickler to David Perry Jr.; Ruth Louise Yeust to Roy Sommers.

Married-Florence L. Jackson and John Greenly; Helen Gardner and Robert Moore; Ann Lois Williams and Richard McCarty.

Birthday-Mrs. Asenith Davis, 81 years.

Deaths-Sherman Warden, Shavertown; Homer Major, Huntsville.

You could get-Hams 69 cents lb.; hamburg 49 cents lb.; cranberry sauce 2 lb. cans 35 cents; rye bread 15 cents loaf; sharp cheddar cheese 65 cents lb.; margarine 2 lbs. 43 cents; coffee 53 cents lb.; peanut butter 34 cents jar; Calif. oranges 25 cents doz.; Bartlett pears 3 lbs. 29 cents; egg plant 10 cents lb.

20 years ago-Aug. 20, 1959

Lake-Lehman five-way jointure will get State funds for building before Dallas Schools, if directors vote Sept. 8 to pick up the project number assigned to Lake Township for an addition to its building in 1952.

The $13,000 gift given Jonathan R. Davis Fire Company by Albert G. Davis, former Idetown boy, now of Millburn, N.J., enabled the Idetown company to purchase a brand new fire truck and pumper.

Lehman neighbors turned out by the dozen last Tuesday night to assist in the search for seven-year-old Donald Spencer who was reported missing.

Centermoreland Church Auction raises $4,500 for remodeling the building.

Wesley Himmler of Dallas has patented an invention which will prevent the suffocation of children in household refrigerators.

Dallas Dairymen team has entered the Schautz Tournament in Scranton and will meet the Schautz All-Stars Tuesday evening.

Now playing at local theatres-"The Sleeping Beauty", Himmler Theatre; "Don't Give Up the Ship", Jerry Lewis, Forty Fort Theatre; "Some Like It Hot", Marilyn Monroe, Tony Curtis, Jack Lemmon, Luzerne Theatre; "The Wild Heritage", Dallas Outdoor Theatre.

Gosart's Fernbrook team defeats Shavertown to take Little League crown.

Engaged-Margaret Ann Jones to Raymond T. Stroud.

Married-Eleanor Lacomis and Ralph Ell.

Birthdays-Charles Martin, 77 years.

Deaths-Clarence Stoker, Oakdale; Mrs. Harry Redmond, Maple Grove native.

You could get-Round bone roast 69 cents lb.; cut-up chicken legs 47 cents lb.; breasts 53 cents lb.; cracked wheat bread 17 cents loaf; American cheese 2-lb. loaf 89 cents; cream cheese 3-oz. pkg. 11 cents; frozen strawberries 2 pkgs. 35 cents; frozen pineapple juice 2 cans 39 cents; blue plums 2 lbs. 29 cents; green peppers 2 lbs. 15 cents; red radishes 2 cello pkgs. 15 cents.

10 years ago-Aug. 21, 1969

A 60-year-old widow who placed a mobile home on her property in Dallas Township was informed that she would have to move it since an ordinance regulating house trailers in the township and in order to appeal for a variance of the law she must pay the township $25.

Burgler alarm thwarts robbery at the sporting goods store on Route 309 near the junction of Dallas and Kingston Townships.

Dallas and Lake-Lehman Schools announce school will open Sept. 3.

Engaged-Colleen Conaghan to Stephen G. Farrar; Roberta Mary Boyle to John H. Rogers; Anne Mary Motyka to Robert R. Neyhard, Jr.

Enthusiastic crowds gathered for the formal opening of the new Equestrian Center at the end of Machell Avenue, close to Huntsville Dam.

Deaths-Julia Ann Kunkle, Kunkle; Mrs. William T. Jones, Harveys Lake; Mrs. Olive E. Jones, Dallas; Ernest L Fritz, Idetown; Elizabeth B. Long, former resident of Hayfield Farms; Anna Vanfossen Evans, Shavertown; Anna Sudiwak, Chase Road.

George Shupp League opens its 1969-70 season Aug. 25 at Crown Imperial Lanes.

Paul S. Brown joins the faculty at Norwich University, Northfield, Vt.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ransom will observe their 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 25.

Mt. Zion Methodist Church will hold its seventh annual auction on the church grounds Aug. 23.

You could get-Grade A turkeys 39 cents lb.; ½ pork loins 79 cents lb.; tuna fish 12½ oz. can 69 cents; Miracle Whip 46 cents qt. jar; frozen sweet peas 2 pkgs. 39 cents; frozen orange juice 4 cans 89 cents; sandwich bread 2 lvs. 59 cents; coffee 3 lb. bag $1.59; Swiss cheese slices 12-oz. pkg. 59 cents; cantaloupes 3 for 89 cents; nectarines 29 cents lb.

OAK HILL

The big cook-in, with 171 lbs. of meat!

by Bridgette Correale

"You - who are soap opera fans - have I got a surprise for you." Channel 28's 'Young and The Restless' 1 p.m. Monday-Friday, Back Mountain's own A.J. Rebar, is featured as Vince. (He's the good looking one who is assisting Ross with smuggling the girls out of the U.S. into South America - not a nice guy but we forgive his role.)

A.J., the son of Alex and Annette Rebar of Dallas, has had years of experience in the film industry, one when he starred in the science fiction flick "The Incredible Melting Man." A. J. is presently living in a beautiful California home with his talented wife, Claudia Bassett Rebar.

Miniature golf and slumber party were the hi-lights of Sharon Dougherty's 12 birthday, Aug. 9.

If that wasn't enough excitement at the Dougherty's, Kim celebrated her 14 birthday, Saturday, Aug. 11 with another party.

Jack and Mary Gesmundo have returned from a two-week visit to Michigan, Canada and Niagara Falls.

Aug. 8 a roller skating party headlined Tommy Hession's 10 birthday. Helping celebrate were Michael Luksic, George Correale and Tommy Sult.

Congratulations to Scott and Dailene Burnside who will honor their 14 wedding anniversary, Aug. 21.

Happy birthday to Barbara Hoyson (alias Rempliewicz) who will celebrate a birthday Aug. 13.

Oak Hill is sorry to note that Wendy and John Keefer have returned home to Columbus, Ga.

Congratulations to the Lehman-Jackson Teeners for clinching the 1979 Championship Tuesday evening. Not only do some of the stars like Mike Blejwas, Lou Correale, Allan Michaels, Danny Haefele live in Oak Hill, so does the manager Walter Blejwas and Coach, Bill Michaels.

This win marked Louis' final baseball game in the Teener League this year and Vin sighed a note of relief. I haven't had the heart to tell him that come Saturday, Sept. 1, George begins his soccer career and Sunday, Sept. 2 Adele starts cheering for the Wyoming Valley Junior Football. So much for our Fall weekend schedule.

One more thing regarding Little League Baseball - Congratulations to the teams representing the west side of the river for winning the "Star Of Stars Baseball Game" which was held Monday, Aug. 6 at the Teener field in Hilldale. The West defeated the East 15-6. Representing our area were Lou Correale, Steve Martin, Ron Swingle, Tony Zellen and Don Zimmerman.

You people know how whacking my family from Brooklyn is - how would you feel if coming from a foreign country you spent a week with them.

So was the case when cousins of ours, George and Teresa Amalfitano of Argentina took a detour from Europe to visit. After a seven week tour of Italy, France, Switzerland and Spain, our cousins arrived in New York. Since they speak only Spanish, we thought it was going to be a little rough, but not in our house.

My dad speaks several languages (a self-taught Merchant Marine who has sailed around the world two or three times) helped to translate. After a few days everyone understood everyone.

Not to get off course - my Dad traveled foreign countries and picked-up the language. He lived in Brooklyn for 55 - 60 years and still doesn't speak English. Why? Everybody in Brooklyn speaks Italian fluently - even the dogs barked in Italian!

Now where was I...our cousins could not make it any clearer on how much they loved our craziness. They laughed so much they were crying. You would cry too if ice cubes were dropped down your back - food that was in your plate suddenly disappeared into other plates - your make-up is made up of whip cream from a birthday cake and not to mention where the raw egg was smashed.

Sunday the cousins returned home to Argentina taking with them our love and affection and a promise from all of us to visit in the very near future.

Could you imagine our family flying together for 12 hours. The pilot and crew would probably bail out over the Atlantic.

For years you have heard my stories on food and cooking...wait until you read this. This tops everything!

Thursday evening I cooked 171 pounds of meat. If you're wondering if the whole population of Kualalump was coming to dine - they weren't. Was my family dropping in for the weekend? No. Was the Salvation Army moving their kitchen to Oak Hill. No. Just so happened that one of God's precious gifts to us, (Lou, Adele or George - no one did it) left our freezer door opened and not to take any chances we par cooked 171 pounds of beef, poultry and pork.

We cooked roasts, chickens, cutlets, steak and chop meat for three hours, it took one hour just to wrap and another two hours to clean up.

Dr. Spock would have been real proud of me, when I realized what had happened I was alone so I screamed and hollered all the way from the garage to the kitchen. Made a salami sandwich and planned how I was going to handle it. First I wanted to throw everything against the wall, but then I would have been sorry cause then I had to clean-up. Second, I wanted to close up the house and go to the shore for a year or two. Third, I wanted to go home to my mother!!!

Well I didn't do any of that, instead I asked the children as they returned home who left the freezer door open?" "Not I said the little Angel." The best was when Vin came home. He drove up smiling carrying flowers he often brings. When I told him what happened, he laughed and said "Don't worry about it." All I can say it's a good thing there's one calm parent in this household.

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