

# Comment/Opinion

## If it's summer, this must be Tobacco Road

by L.D. Burnham

The song of the katydids accompanies the undulating waves of heat rising from the asphalt. Half-naked, sweat-streaked children play in the dust.

Nearby, the lean-tos, the makeshift homes. The cooks sweat over an open fire as they prepare the noon meal. The weary walk the worn path to the outhouse.

These are a transient people. Migratory, they move to the prime locations in the summertime. They drink; they spend their year's earnings and more; they pack and leave. The swirling dust is their epitaph.

Who are these nomads? They are the vacationers, the campers. A National Geographic nightmare decked out in hats, cameras hung from their necks, begging ragamuffins whining from their shirt tails. These are the tourists, the walking souvenir showrooms.

Each family member has a role to play while on vacation. Each vacationing family is a nation unto itself and each member plays the part of a government agency.

Dad represents the executive

branch. He portrays the I-make-sure-my-family-has-fun attitude. He walks with hand in pocket, ready to spend at a moment's notice. It's the same hand he keeps in a cast the rest of the year so he won't have to part with a dollar. But for one week it's "Sodas for everyone?" every five minutes. The Great Provider.

Mom represents the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. No matter how liberated, she plays the "little woman" role. Up at dawn to make the family breakfast, she sacrifices everything for her brood. She makes sure the kids get a hot, nourishing hot dog at least once a day, and not too much junk, of course.

"I think the kids should rest now, Howard," she says. This is the signal that she's exhausted.

And then the children; the war department. Pushy, moody, obnoxious, filled with want, desire, and greed, the kids make the vacation industry the financial success that it is.

Children should not be allowed on vacations. Under the age of six they have no appreciation of what a vacation is or where they are. They naturally grow bored and spend the

week crying.

Between the ages of seven and ten they want to buy everything they see.

Between the ages of 11 and 13 they want to eat everything they see.

Between the ages of 14 and 15 they want to go out with everything they see. And who wants to be with the old man and the old lady?

By sixteen they should be working and going on their own vacations. Besides all that, adults act like idiots on vacations and children shouldn't be allowed to see them. It sets a bad example.

The entire venture seems to center on traveling 500 miles to drink cokes buy a dozen ashtrays with writing on them, and steal a couple of momogrammed motel towels. What kind of value system is that?

And vacations raise some tough family issues. Should one travel with the family dog? Should one hit the trail with a young child, say a two-year-old? Experience has brought light upon these questions. Consider the facts.

You can leave the dog with a neighbor. Most neighbors turn away two-year-olds.

You can leave the dog in a kennel. Most kennels turn away two-year-olds.

The dog whines when it is hungry, lonely, or has to use the tree. The two-year-old whines all the time.

The dog doesn't need diapers. The two-year-old tinkles more than bells on a cat on fire.

The dog can't be taken into a restaurant. The two-year-old can. The dog, however, can't throw a plate of strawberry covered pancakes at the waitress. The two-year-old considers the result a work of art.

The dog has to eat from a bowl on the floor. The two-year-old doesn't need the bowl.

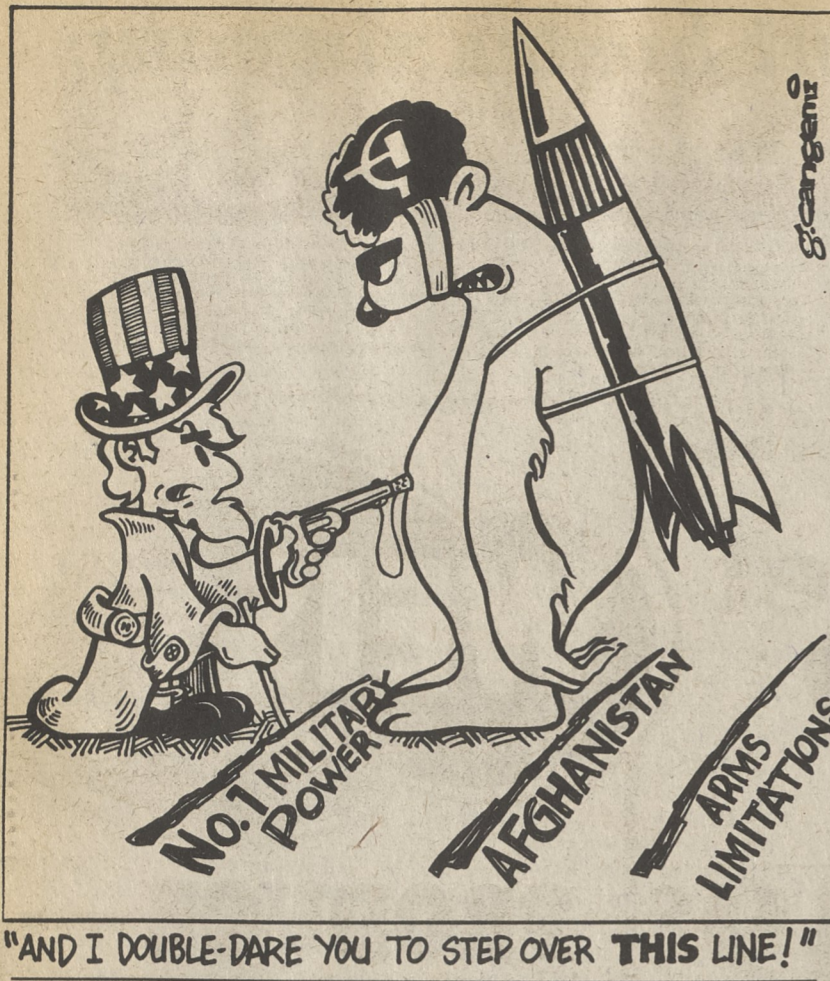
Both like to scratch in the dirt. The dog never eats what he scratches.

The dog can be safely restrained on a leash. The two-year-old can't be safely restrained in any way. Both frighten away strangers.

The dog likes drinks but never asks for them.

To liberally paraphrase Twain: If you feed a starving dog he will never bite you. This is the principal difference between the dog and the two-year-old.

Happy motoring.



## Pa. Action Line

**PENNSYLVANIA ACTION LINE** looks forward to receiving your questions about Pennsylvania Government. Preference is given to matters of greatest statewide application, and questions may be sent by mail to: "PAL," 2717 N. Front St., Harrisburg, PA 17110. "PAL" cannot accept phone inquiries or acknowledge individual letters.

**QUESTION:** As a retired person, I own no car and do my shopping in the downtown areas I can reach by public transportation. But a lot of stores have moved to suburban malls that can be reached only by car. Is state government doing anything to reverse this trend? -- Mrs. L.P., Kingston.

**ANSWER:** The general feeling among lawmakers is that the problems of ailing downtown shopping areas are best solved locally, rather than by programs headquartered in Harrisburg, and several things have been done to make the task easier for local governments.

Senate Bill 188, for example, became law in April of this year. It gives municipalities more authority than they previously had for creation of agencies for coordinating the improvement of downtown business districts.

Subsidies granted to public transportation systems also make it easier for people to get into downtown districts and back home again. The increased traffic should prompt businessmen to open stores to serve that increased number of potential buyers.

More important than any of those factors, perhaps, is the rising cost of motor fuel. It's getting more and more expensive to drive to a shopping mall, and that fact should help downtown businesses.

**QUESTION:** I'm a widow, with a daughter due to graduate from high school next June. If I remarry, will the income of my new husband be considered in deciding whether my daughter is eligible for state aid for college costs? --Mrs. R.E., Somerset

**ANSWER:** Yes, it will. The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency has not in the past considered the income of stepparents in determining eligibility for grants of state funds, but under new rules which became effective on July 28th will do so.

The application form will also be

more complicated than it has been, because the federal income tax forms no longer produce a "net" income for a family; the standard deduction and exemptions are now built into the tax tables. So it will be necessary to list other family members and certain other deductible expenses on the PHEAA application form.

**QUESTION:** How long is it likely to take to get the State Superior Court increased in size from seven to 15 members, as now authorized? -- J.B.R., Lewistown.

**ANSWER:** That's hard to say. The Senate, which must approve judicial appointments made by the Governor, expects to get a list of those appointments before the November 4 elections. Gov. Thornburgh said on July 29th that he then had no specific persons in mind for the court, but was awaiting recommendations from the Statewide Judicial Nominating Committee, and expected to be making his nominations to the Senate soon after it reconvenes in September.

In the past, the Governor has had trouble getting his nominees approved by the Senate. That boy's willingness to confirm his appointments to Superior Court will depend partly on who they are, and also on relations between Senate and Governor when the nominations are made.

**QUESTION:** I read that Bell Telephone has submitted a stack of documents five feet high to justify its request for permission to increase its charges. Does anyone in Harrisburg really read all that stuff? --H.D.W., Pottstown.

**ANSWER:** To a surprising extent, yes. While it isn't likely that every word in a long document will be read and considered--not even the editor of a newspaper has time to read every part of every edition produced--the documents submitted to the Public Utility Commission all fall under scrutiny.

That scrutiny then leads to questions. As one measure of the depth of the PUC inquiries, the rate increase currently being sought by Pennsylvania Power and Light is subject to 26 days of hearing before an Administrative Law Judge, who will make recommendations to the five Commissioners. And if all questions are not answered in those 26 days, more hearings will be scheduled.

## COCKLEBURRS AND CORN

by Dick Swank  
Pennsylvania Press Bureau

Gran pa and me went in this store and he left me push the cart while he hunted for these big round crackers that he says he can only get there.

He couldn't find them because they were out so he walked back to where the meat cases are and there was a clerk bending over and he said where do you keep your five pound boxes of hot dogs and she looked at him kind of mean and said we don't have find pound boxes of hot dogs.

We got one pound hot dogs and we got our own kind in two pounds but we don't ever have five pound boxes of hot dogs. And she turned her back on him and he said well, the hell with you, we'll go some place else and get five pound boxes of hot dogs.

And I said what shall I do with the basket, Gran pa? And he said, let her sit. And I didn't even get to push it to the door.

Now that the tabulations are being made--and argued--by the Census people it is time to consider the latest federal exploration of how to do what with further questionnaires. The one most puzzling to small businessmen has been that batch perpetrated by the Environmental Protection Agency in which they ask how much waste goes down the drain in the average workweek.

The most important bundle of papers is to be filled out in quadruplicate and is to record just what chemicals we dispose of. For instance if we develop photographs and the wash water contains chemicals or minerals it is of prime concern as to what percentage of fluid is composed of what when we flush the drain.

Not only are we to answer as nearly as correct but we are to give the measurements and quantities in the metric system. As we have hardly progressed past the point of how many feet are in a rod, the supposition that our mathematical calculations will be anywhere close to efficiency is as useless as asking us the question in the first place.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Hagenbach rebuts meeting comment

As a tax payer and citizen of Jackson Twp., I would like to say a few things about Mr. (John) Filip's assessment "If people do not like their police service they should move."

First of all Mr. Filip, there are people in Jackson Twp. that are afraid and have been intimidated, as the letter stated. If you are a friend of Chief (Don) Jones, you would not know this or may be you just do not want to know this.

Mr. Filip, when people do not like what they get for their tax dollar they begin to ask questions. As to why for instance, they have a police

chief who cannot and will not make an arrest. These people begin to ask why they must pay this man?

He has stated in a local newspaper that he has not been in the magistrate's office for at least a year. Well Mr. Filip, if the facts were known it is more than three (3) years. Now Mr. Filip, if he will not go to the magistrate's office suppose someone commits a felony. Mr. Filip you had better not call this police officer.

He has also stated that he stands on his record. What record is that? Is it that for the last three years he has not made an arrest, or is it that

he has not been in the magistrates office for at least that long? Or is it that revenues totaling \$2300 in 1975 to a total of \$404 in 1979 while all of our neighboring townships and boros. have increased and maybe we are not doing the job as effectively and efficiently as they are or is it that in order to be a politician you have another master to serve, because if you arrest a potential voter you may not get that vote.

Now Mr. Filip, if this man holds this as any sort of record and respects the position he holds, I think he should step down. Mr. Filip this is only the "tip of the

iceberg" as to police protection and tax dollars spent.

If you think people should move because they ask where their tax dollars are going--only because they are afraid to sign their names, then Mr. Filip, I think you should reconsider the statements you made at the meeting of July 4, 1980.

I have the guts and the brains not to mention the undisputed facts. "Can I stay in this country?"

Mr. Robert Hagenbach  
Jackson Twp. resident

## ONLY YESTERDAY

50 years ago-Aug. 15, 1930

Burgess Harry Anderson suspended Police Chief Edward Avery and Officer Elwood Elston due to their failure to report for duty as ordered.

Installation of two new pumps at the Silvus and Spencer wells of Dallas Water Company is responsible for the increase in water supply for consumers.

Dallas Borough has eight miles of streets four of which will be hard-surfaced by fall.

The Community Association of Trucksville will hold its third annual flower show, Aug. 22, in the Woolbert Building, Main St., Trucksville.

Now playing at local theatre--"The Texan", Gary Cooper, Himmler Theatre.

Married-Arthur Clemow and Helen Cooke Winters.

Deaths-Thomas Hughes, Trucksville; Mrs. Ada B. Davis, Mt. Greenwood.

40 years ago-Aug. 16, 1940

Bonnie Baker flusters Main Street when she made her appearance in Jack Hislop's Restaurant with Orrin Tucker and his band while playing an engagement at Fernbrook Park.

Work has started along the 11-mile length of the new \$750,000 streamlined highway from Trucksville to Lutes Corners.

Dallas Township residents request a full-time policeman.

Graydon Mayer and his pals are delighted with the Philippine weapons sent to Mayer by Major John Kirkendall of the U.S. Army Air Corps.

Now playing at local theatres--"Torrid Zone", James Cagney, Himmler Theatre.

Engaged-Grace E. Lindsley to Rev. Herbert D. Oliver; Eleanor Murphy to Francis P. Basta.

Married-Florence Olive McMichael and John E. Jones; Florence Honeywell and Corey Besteder; Emma Lewis and Matthew Bandish.

You could get-Hams 19c. lb.; fish filets 11c. lb.; butter 2 lbs. 59c.; bread 2 lbs. 15c.; mayonnaise 17c. pint; puffed wheat 1c. pkg.; potatoes 19c. peck; bananas 5c. lb.; tomatoes 4c. lb.; onions 2 lbs. 5c.

30 years ago-Aug. 18, 1950

Daniel Murray Edwards, Irem Temple Country Club bartender for the past three years was killed at 3:30 a.m., Tuesday when his car

crashed into a pole just beyond Rave's Nursery while racing with Anthony Daywood, who was driving a borrowed 1950 Chrysler sedan.

Local draft board 92 prepares for induction of men into the military service.

Paul Warriner injures his legs when he was squeezed between the bumpers of two automobiles as he walked between them in his driveway.

Now playing at local theatres--"Barricade", Dane Clark, Ruth Roman, Shaver Theatre; "Stage Frigate", Jane Wyman, Himmler Theatre; "David Harum", Will Rogers, Dallas Outdoor.

Engaged-Shirley N. Benscoter and Sterling Meade; Lucille Disque and George Bittenbender; Mary Ellen Hill and James Waters.

Anniversary-Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Road, 50 years.

Deaths-Mrs. Annie M. Heistman, Centermoreland.

Fred Eck, cashier of First National Bank, Dallas, will leave for two weeks of school at the School of Banking, University of Wisconsin, Madison.

You could get-Pork Chops 69c. lb.; rib roast 69c. lb.; margarine 35c. lb.; sharp cheese 55c. lb.; flour 42c. 5-lb.; coffee 74 c. lb.; frozen lemonade mix 25c. can; frozen peas and carrots 23c. pkg.; yellow Freestone peaches 2 lbs. 21c.; home-grown sweet corn 35c. doz.

20 years ago-Aug. 18, 1960

Mr. and Mrs. Leo Chase and family were among the Back Mountain people who observed the Echo balloon satellite high in the sky rising in the southeast and setting in the southwest between 9:30 and 9:45 p.m.

Seventy Dallas High School students register for football physicals this morning.

Lehman-Jackson Teeners take the league title by eliminating Dallas 3-1.

The marching units from Westmoreland High School take first place honors at Johnson City.

Now playing at local theatres--"The Bellboy", Jerry Lewis, Dallas Outdoor; "The Apartment", Jack Lemon, Shirley MacLaine, Fred MacMurray, Sandy Beath Theatre; "Pollyanna", Luzerne Theatre.

Engaged-Mabel Barner to Alton Culver; Charlotte A. Traver to Ernest Slocum; Alice Jean Piatt to Joseph Martin; Doris Whipp to Clark Lewis.

Married-Peggy Williams and

## Jitterbug idol flusters Dallas

Michael Dubil, Jr.

Anniversary-Mr. and Mrs. A.E. Fiske, 45 years.

Deaths-Edward Gaynor, Harveys Lake.

You could get-Steaks 79c. lb.; veal roast 69c. lb.; American cheese 2-lb. 89c.; peanut butter 2 jars 69c.; blue cheese dressing 39c. bot.; frozen green beans 3 pkgs. 49c.; frozen strawberries 2 pkgs. 55c.; honeydews 45c. each; lettuce 2 hds. 25c.; green peppers 3/ 10c.

10 years ago-Aug. 20, 1970

4-H to highlight Fall Fair with its "Best of the Project" work for the past year and a fashion show featuring clothes made by the youngsters.

About the time school opens in the Back Mountain area, Dallas Borough's long-awaited recreation park should be ready.

Beer drinking party raid in the Stull section of Noxen Township netted 30 youthful subjects. Charges of contributing to the delinquency of minors will be made upon those

persons in the party over 21 years of age.

Dallas kindergarten begins term on Sept. 8.

East tops West team in this year's Unico game.

Amy Pearsall took first place in pony pleasure over 12.2 astride Highland's Banty at the Idetown Horse Show last weekend.

Married-Deborah Kleiner and Frank Wojchik.

Deaths-Bruce B. Crispell, Harveys Lake; Frank Yaroshchik, Harveys Lake; David J. Weidow, Hunlock Creek.

You could get-Steaks 89c. lb.; spare ribs 49c. lb.; butter 59c. lb.; Vienna bread 33c. loaf; Crisco oil \$2.89 gal.; honeydews 59c. ea.; green peppers 2 lbs. 25c.; sweet corn 49c. doz.; orange or grape drink 3 1/2 gal. bots. \$1.

The price we have to pay for money is paid in liberty. Robert Louis Stevenson

## THE DALLAS POST

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