

LETTERS

Thanks for well-wishes from friends

Editor:
Gary R. Cooper, formerly of Chase wants to thank the many friends, neighbors and relatives who are sending him cards. He would also like to thank the Jack-

son Township Volunteer Fire Dept. for the fruit basket and the members who are sending him cards. His address is still Heritage House Hospice, V.N.A., 80 E. Northampton Street, Wilkes-Barre

Pa 18701.
He would enjoy company. Visiting is anytime, morning, noon or night.
Dorothy Cooper
Jackson Township



POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

FUN AT 'ANYTHING GOES' PARTY

Under the umbrella at the Valley Swim and Tennis Club's "Anything Goes" luncheon were, from left, seated; Judy Schall, Louise Moore, Pat Rosenthal, Elaine Russin, Nancy Brown. Standing; Barbara Robins, Marylou Rehring, Marianne Matysczak, Anita Muhlbauer, Sandy Piccone. The day included a buffet picnic lunch and music from Cole Porter's "Anything Goes." Louise Moore and Barbara Robins were co-chairpersons for the event.

Mainstream



John William Johnson

Dusting himself off, Da Vinci smiles broadly. He turns from the countertop he's been sanding.

"What do you get when you cross the Godfather with a lawyer," he grins.

I shrug. He begins laughing even before telling me. "An offer you can't understand."

Splinters, behind a beard covered in saw dust, guffaws with laughter.

Sanding again, Da Vinci adds: "I read that most jokes actually start in prison."

I nod. "But many jokes are created and repeated primarily as socially acceptable attempts to find others with whom to vent common frustrations. Lawyer jokes are just one such example."

"Yeah, that's right," agrees Splinters. "And there are good reasons for that—I mean about lawyers."

He ticks them off on splinter scared fingers:

—Most of our Congress are lawyers—they make the laws, and then making money using the law.

—Lawyers (and the greed that ambulance chasing lawyers create and then feed) are the main reason we pay such high insurance premiums."

—Lawyers routinely manipulate the system in causing known criminals to walk the street."

"So, I wonder, "should we, as Shakespeare suggests, kill all the lawyers?"

"Hardly," Da Vinci interrupts, "but we can certainly do something about ourselves being so greedy; and using lawyers to implement that greed."

"Aw...why do we need lawyers in the first place?" Splinters grumbles. He turns to me and asks again with raised eyebrows.

I explain that lawyers have become the cornerstone of our economic system, the vast majority of lawyers being engaged in business and property law.

Why we tell lawyer jokes

"The rest of them work to protect citizens against the heavy hand of government at all levels," I add. "And since most Americans want to continue owning private property and functioning in the free enterprise system, and also want protection under law from government, then we're stuck with lawyers to afford us those privileges."

"Yes," Da Vinci, interrupts again, "But I was listening to the radio on the way to New York recently, and we don't need what I heard there—lawyers with come-on advertisements suggesting if you sign up with XYZ law firm they will not rest until you receive a large cash award...there was a time when that sort of stuff was illegal." He shakes his head slowly.

Splinters, scratching his beard, nods toward Da Vinci. "Yeah, you're right...the single most important thing we can do is look in the mirror. We are the most law suit happy society on the planet. Everywhere you look, someone is suing someone about something."

I cite some examples: Parents sue balloon manufacturer because balloon breaks and frightens child. Parents sue school district because child is not permitted to go on school trip as punishment for being disrespect-

ful. "Where is it written that life is fair?" Da Vinci asks. "And it will become no more fair by looking to the legal system as a part of the economic system in providing money to us. It only then becomes fair for the lawyers who get rich bending the rules, torturing common sense and chasing the ambulances."

I clear my throat. "Don't tell me," Splinters grins. "You're going to quote some dead guy...right?"

Smiling, I nod. "To quote English jurist Lord Moulton: 'The measure of civilization is the degree of its obedience to the unenforceable'"

"A quote from a moldy guy named Moulton," Splinters laughs.

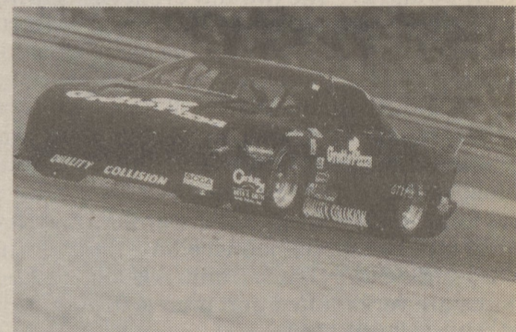
"Yes, but if you agree with him," I smile, "then the reality is that this nation is rapidly becoming uncivilized, roaming the courtrooms of America in search of legal firewood with which to burn the bonds of honor, integrity and mutual respect, the very fibers of which a free nation, intending to remain so, depends."

Splinters shakes his head, laughing as he returns to work. "Uncivilized," he mumbles. "Yeah, uncivilized."

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RELIGIOUS SERVICES

BACK MOUNTAIN HARVEST ASSEMBLY - 340 Carverton Rd., Trucksville. 696-1128. Pastor, Daniel S. Miller. Sunday School for all ages, 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Wed., 7 p.m. "Out of Bounds" youth service. Midweek home groups; call for days and times. Weekday prayer 6:30-7:30 a.m. Visitors welcome.

DALLAS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - 4 Parsonage St., Dallas. 675-0122. Rev. Michael A. Bealla, Pastor. Morning Worship 9:30 a.m.

SHAVERTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - 163 N. Pioneer Ave., Shavertown. 675-3616. Pastors: Rev. Douglas and Janet Bryant Clark. Music Dir., John Vaida. SATURDAY: 5:30 p.m.; Chapel Service; SUNDAY: 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Worship Services. Visitors expected. PHONE-A-PRAYER 675-4666.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - 196 N. Main St., Shavertown. Summer Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.; Cry Room and Nursery available. Rev. Robert K. Bohm, Interim Pastor. Phone 675-3859. Everyone Welcome.

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