

# Fast Issues

Compiled by Mary Stuttard

5 YEARS AGO

Sept. 19, 1979

The Chamber of Commerce has formed a committee to look into the vandalism problems plaguing the area. Chamber President David Burns said the purpose of the seven-member committee is to address the problem, come up with possible solutions and relay those ideas. The committee is being chaired by Alan Wheeler of Safeguard Business Systems.

James J. Moore, 51 Kellogg St., Clinton, will be installed to his second term as president of the 38,000-member Central Region 5 of the Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA), at a formal breakfast at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 30, during the Union's Regional Conference at the Marriott Inn, East Syracuse.

The Clinton Warriors kicked off their season Saturday with an impressive 28-0 win against New York Mills. Bob Kuenhling was the big runner for the Warriors, scoring two touchdowns on his only two carries of the day.

The women of the Skenandoa 9-Hole Golf Group played a "guess your score" event on Sept. 12. A Flight winner was Lois Mair and Ruth Johnson, second, and Donna Evans, third. B Flight honors went to Virginia Steltenpohl and second place to Phyllis Boynton. Alice Linder won the C Flight followed by Barbara Zogby.

10 YEARS AGO

Sept. 18, 1974

A proposal for a change in Kirkland's Zoning Ordinance will be the subject for a public hearing on Monday, Sept. 30, at the Town Highway garage in Franklin Springs. The change would be for a parcel of land on the south side of Robinson Road from R-2 to Planned Manufacturing to permit, at the outset, Kendall Oil Company to construct a 50-by-90-foot building for office and garage use.

Enrollment figures at Clinton Central Schools were presented to the Board of Education at their September meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 10. The count of students on Sept. 9 showed 2,208 in attendance, 106 fewer than the 1973-74 actual enrollment.

Grace Chapter O.E.S. has completed its plans for a card party and fashion show, which will be held at the Masonic Temple, Williams Street, on Friday, Sept. 20, at 7:30 p.m. General Chairman of the event is Roberta Dawes, who invites the public to attend the affair.

25 YEARS AGO

Sept. 17, 1959

Joan Verminski, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Verminski, 20 College St. and Anne Marie Pryor, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James H. Pryor, Reservoir Road, were graduates from St. Elizabeth's School of Nursing on Sept. 8. Miss Verminski will join the pediatrics and Miss Pryor will be on the medical and surgical staff at St. Elizabeth Hospital.

Clark Mills' Fire Department received the nod on its bid for the old Clinton Fire Department ladder truck on Thursday although the neighboring department was not the higher bidder for the apparatus. The sale price was \$203.

Joseph Pryor was elected as the 1959-60 president of the Clinton Unit of the Future Farmers of America at its first meeting for the current school year at the school last Thursday. The session was held at the Agriculture Department. Assisting the new president in official positions will be James Dougherty, vice president; Ronald McFadden, secretary; Richard Feketa, treasurer; and John Caprak, reporter.

50 YEARS AGO

Sept. 20, 1934

A.J. Danford, Kirkland, is completing preparations for the opening of a restaurant in the Ford Block, North Park Row. Mr. Danford expects to be ready for business next week.

Completely remodeled inside and out, the business founded by the late Peter McCabe, on College Street, is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary. Workmen have been busy for nearly six weeks and have created a fine improvement in the entire McCabe block. Modern show windows have been installed, and an attractive painting scheme has been employed to give the business an up-to-date appearance.

With eight lettermen returning to Clinton High School this month, the outlook for a successful football year has dropped considerably and hopes for a first division rating in the new Upper Valley League are slight. The veterans of last year who are available for the maroon squad of 1934 include: John Clarey, captain; Seward Dawes, John Joseph, Ted Acee, Stephen Remis, Mike Konare, Joe Crane and Walter Congdon. The remaining members of the present list of candidates are composed of: Charles Locke, Lewis Burke, Edward Bentley, Russell Franz, Mike Zuccaro, Stanley Lasek, Carl Miehme, Robert Janyne, William Hitzelberger, Robert Ford, Abeid, Sand, Hinkley, Winslow, Burth and Brown.

75 YEARS AGO

Sept. 18, 1909

The Home Telephone Company has promised to install a gong or bell near their central office to be used to give alarm of fire. At night there has been no way to summon the nightwatchman except to 'phone someone to ring the church bell. This act on the part of the telephone company will be greatly appreciated by all.

On Thursday afternoon at the Ellinwood home was held the annual meeting of Professor A.D. Morill's Bible Class of Stone Church. The following officers were chosen: President, Mrs. Charles H. Ellinwood; first vice president, Miss Anna Hysler; second vice president, Mrs. Edward A. Miller; secretary and treasurer, Miss Willa Nicholas. The following chairmen were chosen: Devotional committee, Mrs. Robbins; membership, Mrs. Newton B. Bryden; social, Mrs. Grace deRegt; visitation, Mrs. Cackett. The chairmen select the members of the various committees. It was voted to hold a banquet on Friday, Oct. 1.

Thomas Bradbury is improving his property on College Street by laying a concrete curbing in front of his block.

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## afterWords

By Gary Meyer

# Playing the sap



(Editor's Note: The author left behind the following message: "Attending to personal business did not allow the time necessary to write a column this week. Sorry. But may I suggest that a good follow-up to last week's piece on cynicism would be an excerpt from the closing speech of cynic hero Sam Spade in "The Maltese Falcon" in which he chooses loyalty to a partner he detested over a woman he may love. Thanks. Gary. P.S. Of course, I will not expect pay for this week.)

Spade pulled his hand out of hers. He no longer either smiled or grimaced. His wet yellow face was set hard and deeply lined. His eyes burned madly. He said: "Listen. This isn't a damned bit of good. You'll never understand me, but I'll try once more and then we'll give it up. Listen. When a man's partner is killed he's supposed to do something about it. It doesn't make any difference what you thought of him. He was your partner and you're supposed to do something about it. Then it happens we were in the detective business. Well, when one of your organization gets killed it's bad business to let the killer get away with it. It's bad all around - bad for that one organization, bad for every detective everywhere. Third, I'm a detective and expecting me to run criminals down and then let them go free is like asking a dog to catch a rabbit and let it go. It can be done, all right, and sometimes it is done, but it's not the natural thing. The only way I could have let you go was by letting Gutman and Cairo and the kid go. That's -"

"You're not serious," she said. "You don't expect me to think that these things you're saying are sufficient reason for sending me to the -"

"Wait till I'm through and then

you can talk. Fourth, no matter what I wanted to do now it would be absolutely impossible for me to let you go without having myself dragged to the gallows with the others. Next, I've no reason in God's world to think I can trust you and if I did this and got away with it you'd have something on me that you could use whenever you happened to want to. That's five of them. The sixth would be that, since I've also got something on you, I couldn't be sure you wouldn't decide to shoot a hole in me some day. Seventh, I don't even like the idea of thinking that there might be one chance in a hundred that you'd played me for a sucker. And eighth - but that's enough. All those on one side. Maybe some of them are unimportant. I won't argue about that. But look at the number of them. Now on the other side we've got what? All we've got is the fact that maybe you love me and maybe I love you."

"You know," she whispered, "whether you do or not."

"I don't. It's easy enough to be nuts about you." He looked hungrily from her hair to her feet and up to her eyes again. "But I don't know what that amounts to. Does anybody ever? But suppose I do? What of it? Maybe next month I won't. I've been through it before - when it lasted that long. Then what? Then I'll think I played the sap. And if I did it and got sent over then I'd be sure I was the sap. Well, if I send you over I'll be sorry as hell - I'll have some rotten nights - but that'll pass. Listen." He took her by the shoulders and bent her back, leaning over her. "If that doesn't mean anything to you forget it and we'll make it this: I won't because all of me wants to - wants to say to hell with the consequences and do it - and because - God damn you -

you've counted on that with me the same as you counted on that with the others." He took his hands from her shoulders and let them fall to his sides.

She put her hands up to his cheeks and drew his face down again. "Look at me," she said, "and tell me the truth. Would you have done this to me if the falcon had been real and you had been paid your money?"

"What difference does that make now? Don't be too sure I'm as crooked as I'm supposed to be. That kind of reputation might be good business - bringing in high-priced jobs and making it easier to deal with the enemy."

She looked at him, saying nothing.

He moved his shoulders a little and said: "Well, a lot of money would have been at least one more item on the other side of the scales."

She put her face up to his face. Her mouth was slightly open with lips a little thrust out. She whispered: "If you loved me you'd need nothing more on that side."

Spade set the edges of his teeth together and said through them: "I won't play the sap for you."

She put her mouth to his, slowly, her arms around him, and came into his arms. She was in his arms when the door-bell rang.

Spade, left arm around Brigid O'Shaughnessy, opened the corridor-door. Lieutenant Dundy, Detective-sergeant Tom Polhaus, and two other detectives were there.

Spade said: "Hello, Tom. Get them?"

Polhaus said: "Got them." "Swell. Come in. Here's another one for you." Spade pressed the girl forward. "She killed Miles."

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## The Eighties

By William Wallace

# ERA for GOP



At the Republican Party convention there was a school marm-type woman from Iowa whom was I should judge to be in her 60s.

She was thin, gray-haired, plainly dressed and, in spite of her slightness, had a forceful voice and was quite articulate. Her name was Mary Smith.

What impressed me about her was when asked why her party opposed the Equal Rights Amendment, her straightforward answer was one that might throw many people for a loop: she said she was puzzled by Republicans rejecting it.

She said ERA is a solid conservative measure. And because it is a conservative idea, she couldn't comprehend her party's stand.

Who would have thought the women's rights amendment to be a conservative position, as least as the delegates in Dallas defined conservatism?

Yet, on analysis, what can we discover to substantiate Mary Smith's contention that the proposal is conservative?

The submitted amendment says "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex."

To begin with, the amendment would give women more freedom than the statutory-and judge-made laws now given them. They'd have constitutional rights.

Women would have full equality with men and, while this might not seem much to many women who feel and know themselves to be equal, others would find it a sense of relief.

They would come to have new confidence in themselves knowing that they exercise control over their own lives, that they can set their own

goals in life without impediments from male parents or spouses or from any corporate or government bureaucracy.

In a sense, you could argue that women have all this today. After all, who discriminates against women in jobs and housing?

A woman no longer needs a co-signer for a loan or a mortgage. She has her own credit cards. Women today are in high positions in both government and industry.

Women own property in their own right and, in the current mores of our country, husbands and wives are sharing more equally in work as well as in domestic chores.

Certainly this is all true. But, then, if it is already the spirit of the country to treat women equally, why not get on with it and not procrastinate?

People who oppose the amendment raise such objections as there would be unisex public restrooms and women would be subject to the draft and front line combat.

These are not likely because they are contrary to our customs and traditions. ERA does not mean to obliterate gender distinctions but to respect them in all measures of one's public and private life.

Then, looking at the amendment from a conservative viewpoint, you have to say President Reagan and his supporters favor greater freedom for all.

Reagan wants government off our backs, he wants fewer rules and regulations in our lives. He wants people to be less dependent and more responsible. Well, if that's what he supports, that's

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