

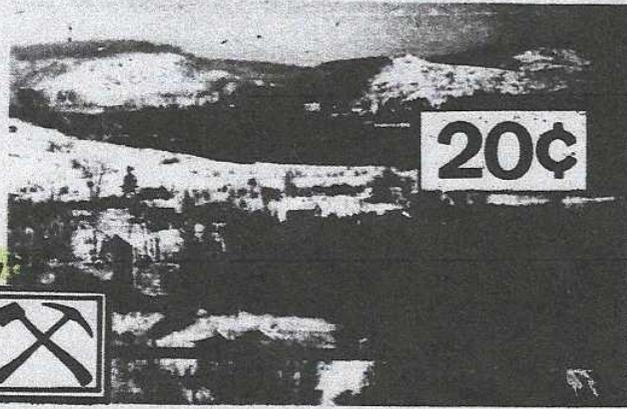
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IN THIS ISSUE.

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112 E. LONGYEAR STREET
BESSEMER, MICHIGAN 49911



VOL. 3/NO. 37 FOR WEEK ENDING FRI. JAN. 14, 1977
DOWNTOWN BESSEMER
49911

PICK & AXE



LIBERTY & JUSTICE FOR ALL

the second in a series of twelve articles on equal justice
by Mike Cowdery and Pat Kitzman

DOES YOUR CHILD have access to the same kind of justice as does the son or daughter of a sheriff, judge, or lawyer? Are lawyers and their families entitled to special consideration under the law, in much the same way as you might qualify for a special discount on a chaise lounge because you happened to have an uncle in the furniture business? Who is responsible for administering justice — and how do you know that they are not holding hands, so to speak, with the criminal who committed a serious crime against you or a member of your family?

THESE are some of the frustrating questions that too many American citizens are forced to ask when they discover, much to their dismay and horror, that equal justice is just a couple of words that sound pretty when spoken together.

INSCRIBED ABOVE THE DOORS of the United States Supreme Court building in Washington, D.C., are the words: Equal Justice Under Law. Each day in our public schools innocent and unsuspecting children pay lip service to the existence of "liberty and justice for all" in their pledge of allegiance to the flag.

THROUGHOUT THE NATION the idea of equal justice is preached and cited as though it were a reality, but it is no more a reality in Washington, D.C. than it is in Houghton or Bessemer. The national news is filled with presidential pardons and privileged heiresses who, because of their power and influence, receive special treatment under the law. On the local scene we have no way of knowing how many times a prosecuting attorney failed to authorize a warrant, or how many times a judge may have kept criminal acts out of the public eye as a special favor to some fellow member of the bar association. The front pages of America may be filled with names and faces of justice brokers from Washington and Lansing, but the fact is that rural communities such as those in Michigan's Upper Peninsula are far better pickings for wheelers and dealers of justice. The reason for this, of course, is that the local lawyers know each other so much more intimately, and can keep closer tabs on what the others are doing, and to whom.

Whether or not we are, as the ancients have told us, a government of, by, and for the people, we are not prepared to dispute at this point. But it is a glaring fact that we do live in a land which is governed by laws which are of, by, and for the legal profession.

Nowhere is this more frustratingly obvious than in the case of a 15 year old boy who claimed that a prominent Ontonagon attorney had sexually molested him. The case was stifled and shut up behind closed doors, and five

—continued on back page—

CITY FACES TOUGH CONTROVERSY

BESSEMER — There was a half hour of cussing and hollering at city hall last night as the council met to decide the fate of four city employees who had refused to go to work and fix a water leak during the city's recent water crisis.

According to Ed Lundgren, the senior man on the council, the men had been drunk from diligent attendance to their Christmas party, and refused to go to work because they didn't want to hurt themselves or anyone else by operating equipment in that condition. This view was shared by Councilman Perlich, who also shared the table with Lundgren.

At the other table were Mayor Maccani and Councilman Richard Matrella, who asked that the men be outright fired for "treason against the city" and "insubordination." "Insubordination!" shouted Perlich. "Where the hell do you think your are — in the army?"

The arguments ranged far and wide but centered primarily on the night of the refusal by the four men and the following morning when the leak was repaired by citizen volunteers. Councilman Matrella, in one of the more heated moments of the discussion, told Perlich that the reason he did not know what was going on that night was because he had been home "watching his pretty face on television." Perlich, who had been featured, along with Rick Sofio, on WLUC TV news that night, responded, "Listen! Don't get

personal you goddam black banana!"

Maccani said, "If these guys get away with this, you might as well hand the keys of the city over to the employees."

When it became clear that there would be a 2-2 vote on the question of firing the employees, both Matrella and Perlich made overtures toward a compromise. When the two men's ideas of compromise were aired, however, Matrella wanted the men "canned" and Perlich wanted to give them a "warning" first, and next time "maybe a three day lay-off then."

On discovering how far apart they were even on a compromise, the meeting went completely berzerk and Perlich moved for adjournment.

It was fortunate that during the first fifteen minutes of the meeting they hired Bob Duray to head up the city crew, they voted to pay some claims, and they accepted Calhoun's resignation from the water department. Else they wouldn't have gotten anything done...

THE STORY does not end here. Matrella has vowed to walk the city with a position in hand if necessary to see that justice is done. For the moment, at least, the morale has fallen to rock bottom, and the tension between city workers and city council has mounted to an all time high. There's no telling where this controversy will lead the city of Bessemer, but one thing's for sure: It isn't over yet...

NO BUSINESS LIKE SNOW BUSINESS

ABUNDANT SNOW and excellent skiing conditions gave Big Snow Country its biggest-by-far skiing holiday since the very beginnings of Big Powderhorn and Indianhead Mountain ski resorts nearly two decades ago. Motels and inns were jam-packed for fifty miles, with some skiers commuting 100 miles or more daily to get to and from the Big Snow Country slopes.

ABOUT 8,000 skiers per day are frolicking on the Big Powderhorn and Indianhead slopes, and several thousand more can be found on the slopes at Whitecap Mtns and the Porkies. These figures increase by about 20 - 30% on weekends.

INDIANHEAD manager Paul Karow said that they are getting a lot of people who seem to be coming on the spur of the moment, with a lot of skiers who normally ski Colorado discovering Big Snow Country for the first time. He admitted that the current season is the best he's ever seen. He said they're running 20% ahead of the best year they've ever had.

LOUIE GHELLER of Big Powderhorn agreed that this season surpassed all others so far, and said that snow conditions were better than ever.

TOM SUMMERS, manager of Big Powderhorn Lodging Association, says that the phone never stops ringing, the people never stop coming, and the snow never stops fall-

ing. It seems that Big Snow Country's ski industry has discovered the best of all possible worlds, and, with nearly 100 inches of snow on the ground and a good 20 inch base, it's all downhill from here — barring any unforeseeable contingency like an extended January thaw, or a warm rain.

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Page Archives of
The Post-Standard

Bessemer Pick And Axe, January 14, 1977, Pg. 1, Bessemer, Michigan, US

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PLAN NOW TO ENROLL AT GOGEBIC COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Accredited by North Central Association. Official Registration and class scheduling for all Day Students will be held at the National Guard Armory in Ironwood on January 10-11 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Second semester classes start Wednesday, January 12. Sophomores, re-entries, Mon. Jan. 10 at 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Freshmen and new students, Mon., Jan. 10, 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. and Tuesday, Jan. 11, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The last day to register for classes is January 21.

EVENING CLASSES in Ironwood, Ontonagon, Ewen, Bergland, White Pine and Iron River begin January 12.

For further information contact Dean of Students, Gogebic Community College, Ironwood, Ph. (800) 932-4231.

THE GOGEBIC CHAPTER OF A.A. & ALANON will resume their meetings this Friday evening at 7:30 at the First Presbyterian Church on Aurora Street in Ironwood.

THE GOLDEN AGE CLUB will meet Jan. 12 at 2 P.M. at the Fairview Club Room. Lunch Commitree will be Florence Shaw, Ann Whitburn, and Pearl Thomasini.

WOMEN'S PART

by Dorothy T. Samuel

IN THE 14th CENTURY young Queen Jadwiga of Poland was the first ruler ever to suggest mediation in international disputes in place of the traditional rush to horse. When World War I was heating up all across Europe only an international conference of women refused to cancel its meetings although it had delegates from opposite sides of the war fence. They came to talk about suffrage and they left to wage peace. From that meeting, Jane Addams and women from various European countries carried proposals for peace to our president and all of the crowned heads of Europe. More recently, in the Middle-East, Arab and Jewish women have met together to celebrate the common bonds of sisterhood and their prime concern for peace and life — even while the men were mounting new attacks and terror.

Now women in Ireland are demanding an end to the horrible fighting that has made Ireland sheer hell for any normal human living. This is the second time Irish women have joined hands to say it must end — at least the second time that managed to reach the newspapers. This time a Catholic mother saw an I.R.A. driver shot through the heart by a British soldier. The dead man's car went out of control, striking a woman pedestrian and killing her three children.

Betty Williams, sickened by the sight, decided she no longer could sit out the bloodshed with the womanly thought that it was all "men's business". She began to knock on doors and get signatures to a peace petition throughout the neighborhood. Shortly a hundred women were ringing doorbells. The next day two hundred women marched in the streets and happened to pass by the

home of an aunt of the slain children. That aunt immediately joined the demonstration.

Within a week there was a second march, and this time there were ten thousand women, many of them with babies in carriages and toddlers by the hand. Their banners demanded peace. A third rally will probably take place before this is published, and the protestant women are mobilizing to link up with the Catholic women.

You do not protect homes and families, these women know, by shooting the people you don't like — even if they seem to have more of the good things in life than you do. You protect homes and families by protecting homes and families — that way, at least, children can grow up, while the power-minded broker their power.

Betty Williams has not received universal acclaim for her call to life. She has been threatened and her house fired. She has had to send her own children away to safety. And the Rev. Paisley — that Prince of Anti-Peace — has called a woman's movement for peace "hysterical!" Fighting in the streets, of course, is calm and rational, and unhysterical!

Not all women are peaceable, of course, but by every test and poll devisable, more women are more peaceable than men. Unfortunately, the contemporary press is as little inclined to give serious attention to women's efforts for peace as the history books have been over all the centuries. And contemporary rulers — and international trouble-shooters like Kissinger — neither heed, nor capitalize upon women's initiatives to bring peace to the world.

LIBERTY & JUSTICE FOR ALL

—continued from front page—

years later, the lad was still wondering what had ever happened to his "day in court".

IT ALL BEGAN ON May 4, 1972 when the 15 year old boy and his mother walked into the Houghton County Sheriff's Department and reported that the youngster had been sexually molested by a prominent Ontonagon attorney a week-and-a-half earlier. Lt. Robert J. Raffaelli of the Sheriff's Department took a detailed statement of the incident from the lad, and another statement from his mother.

NOTHING MUCH CAME OF IT for three weeks, until, on May 25, 1972, Lt. Raffaelli and Sheriff Witanen went to Ontonagon and confronted the attorney with the boy's accusation. The attorney admitted having known the 15 year old boy for several years, and having allowed him to drive his car — but beyond that would admit nothing. According to Raffaelli's report of that meeting, when confronted with the accusation the attorney became visibly shaken and "his hands started to shake and his voice became quivery."

Whether it was because he was an attorney, or simply because he was an influential citizen, the accused attorney was afforded far more cordial treatment than is generally accorded the average citizen who has been accused of such a heinous offense. He wasn't asked to go with the police, nor was he extensively pressed or interviewed. He was simply requested to contact the Houghton County

Prosecutor and discuss the matter with him.

Nearly five years later, Houghton County Prosecutor Sterling Schrock cannot recall whether the accused attorney ever did contact him or not. In fact, the Houghton County Prosecutor can't even find the file on the case. It becomes increasingly difficult to tell whether Mr. Schrock is incompetent to handle even the most fundamental aspects of his job or whether he is actually involved in some kind of a cover-up. Furthermore, he said that he isn't sure that even if he found the file he would authorize a warrant in the case. But it isn't for lack of evidence, because he has brought similar cases to court with no more evidence. But the defendants were not attorneys.

ON JUNE 29, 1972 John A. Wilson of the office of the Attorney General of the State of Michigan discussed the complaint with Detective Lt. Schwartzkopf of the State Police and agreed that the 15 year old boy should submit to a lie detector test. According to the accused attorney, he was never asked to take a lie detector test, nor would he consent if he were asked. On June 30 Wilson wrote to Raffaelli advising him of that recommendation.

ON THE MORNING of July 12, 1972, Jon W. Ahola of the Houghton County Sheriff's Department went to the home of the young accuser and received permission in writing from the lad's mother for him to undergo a polygraph examination at the State Police crime lab near Marquette. Another couple of weeks passed, and finally, on

July 24, 1972, Ahola took the youngster to Marquette where he was tested by polygraph expert Detective Sgt. Lowell W. Wilds of the Michigan State Police.

AFTER THE TESTS had been completed Wilds stated in his official capacity that the young man was "being truthful when he claims that [the attorney] took indecent liberties with him."

THAT'S WHERE IT ENDS! The file just stops. Nothing more. Nothing!

THERE'S NO WAY TO TELL whether the accused man made a deal with some of his lawyer peers, whether the prosecuting attorney just let the entire matter drop, whether the Attorney General's office interfered in the case and negotiated some kind of a "deal", or what. Prosecutor Schrock still maintains that he lost his file and never authorized a warrant in the case. The young boy who made the charge nearly five years ago has since grown to manhood. He has now spent one fourth of his life wondering when his case will come up in court. His mother is badly disillusioned about "justice."

AND THE ATTORNEY — the man who was accused of sexually molesting the child — is still a prominent Western Upper Peninsula attorney, exercising power, influence, and control over the lives of the children as well as adults in his community.