

Don't panic

Don't go off the deep end. Wait until ALL the facts are in.

Fears surrounding the alleged health hazards connected to seeping dioxins and other chemicals from Love Canal's buried residue, may now have touched North Tonawanda from the Wheatfield dump site off Nash Road.

At the same time, the American Medical Association reports there is no conclusive statistical or scientific proof that persons exposed to dioxins suffer from it. No acceptable minimum human standards have been set by which to measure dioxins' effects, the AMA says.

The AMA blames the media for alarming the public about dioxins.

On the other hand, the Agent Orange Victims of Western New York organization states in a pamphlet to Vietnam veterans, "Chances are every

member of the American armed forces in Vietnam was exposed to this potent herbicide (Agent Orange) which contains dioxin (TCDD) the deadliest man-made chemical ever assembled."

These are two divergent views about dioxin -- and we're told there are numerous kinds of dioxins.

On the national front, our state senators and representative, equally as confused as the rest of us are over conflicting reports, have asked for retesting at the Love Canal site to determine once again whether that area may be safe for rehabilitation. A previous federal Environmental Protection Agency report said it was. They also are seeking tests at the Nash Road site.

On the state level, state Attorney Gen. Robert Abrams also has ordered testing of the Nash Road dump site. Records indicate a contractor for build-

ing the LaSalle Expressway (which cuts through the south end of the Love Canal area) obtained permission to dump materials removed from that Love Canal terminus at the Nash Road site, which may drain into the North Tonawanda Forbes Street area.

This has sent Wheatfield and North Tonawanda officials scurrying into 15-year-old records to determine "who's to blame."

Our main concern is for the Forbes Street residents in North Tonawanda whose back yards were flooded 15 years ago with "gook" seeping from the Nash Road dump whenever there was a heavy rainfall.

We urge these homeowners not to hit the panic button until all the facts are in and they are satisfied with tests and re-tests of whatever it was that inundated their property and whether the seepage really was or is harmful to their health.

Tonawanda History

Tonawanda's Canal Street grocers

By Jane R. Penrose
History columnist

Tonawanda's Richard Garrity, former canal boatman, remembers the 12-Mile Grocery located on the canal in the village of Pendleton, three miles east of the 9-Mile Grocery.

The 7-Mile Grocery was at Pickard's Bridge and the 3-Mile Grocery -- at Bush's Bridge.

A canal boatman coming out of Lockport, heading for Tonawanda, might have stopped at any one of them to stock up on provisions for himself and his family, who probably lived on board, as well as for his mules or horses who towed the vessel along the towpath from one end of New York State to the other.

Nor was there a scarcity of grocery stores within Tonawanda once the boats passed the village limits. An 1892 Tonawanda Directory shows a total of eight stores located on the canal who specialized in "groceries and provisions."

They ranged from the store of Henry Carney and Sons on East South Canal Street (today's East Niagara Street), near the Erie Railroad tracks, to that of John Weitzman, located on South Canal Street near Kohler.

In the heart of the village in 1892, on busy North Canal Street approximately where the parking lot east of the Driftwood Lounge is located today, was the grocery store of Charles M. Campbell.

Campbell had settled in Tonawanda soon after the Civil War. Having fought in many battles, including Vicksburg, he had pursued a gentler occupation here.

In 1892, a few doors west of Campbell's on North Canal Street was another grocery, that of Christoph Schwinger & Co.

Alone, Schwinger had come to the Tonawandas from Germany a half century before at the age of 16, joining an older brother who had preceded him 12 years before.

In 1892, Schwinger's son-in-law William Warren was in charge of the grocery, while Schwinger was busy with his many other enterprises, including the vice-presidency of a bank he had co-founded a decade before.

The grocery of William Godard was located somewhere on the site of Colonial Ford today. In later years, Godard was described as one of Tonawanda's "pioneer merchants."

Many boatmen and their families

came through Tonawanda during the canal season, and there was more than enough business for grocery stores on both sides of the canal.

Across the canal from Campbell was the grocery of William H. Hardleben. Located a few doors east of Seymour, it was on the site where the general store of Urial Driggs, literally one of Tonawanda's earliest settlers, had been located in the early 1850's and probably earlier.

West of Seymour on South Canal Street in 1892 was the grocery store of Frederick C. Diedrich. The son of Frederick Diedrich who had come from Germany in 1862 and had engaged in the milk business in Tonawanda, the junior Diedrich established his grocery in 1889 and specialized in "a full line of groceries and fresh and smoked meats," according to an advertisement of that time.

In 1892, about 100 feet east of Bouck on South Canal Street, was the grocery business of Louis Gruen, where one day in November three beets weighing a total of 62 (and one-quarter) pounds were on display in his window.

Unable to resist a pun, good or bad, the Tonawanda Herald felt compelled to ask, "Did you ever see the beet?"

Next to Gruen's grocery, in the same building, was his hardware establishment, which had been a saloon until 1884.

VETERANS GUIDE

Q. I am a veteran-student receiving educational assistance. Also, I am in receipt of compensation for a service connected disability. Am I eligible for the work study program administered by the Veterans Administration?

A. If you are receiving education benefits as a full-time student under either Chapter 34 (G.I. Bill) or Chapter 31 (Vocational Rehabilitation), you may file an application for the V.A. Work Study Program. Preference will be given to those having a 30% or more service connected disability.

Q. How much will the Veterans Administration pay if I become enrolled in a correspondence course?

A. The current reimbursement rate for newly enrolled trainees

under Chapter 34 (G.I. Bill) or Chapter 35 (Dependents Educational Assistance) is 55%. Those enrolled under Chapter 32 (Veterans Educational Assistance Program) will receive 100% reimbursement.

Q. I receive improved pension, will there be a cost of living increase this year?

A. The cost of living adjustment will be effective 12/1/83 and reflected in the 1/1/84 check.

Q. I have a five year limited convertible term insurance policy through the Veterans Administration which I have been told cannot be renewed after age 50. Is this correct?

A. Yes. Once the five term period in effect on your fiftieth birthday expires, the policy cannot be renewed. Your only option for continued coverage is to convert to a permanent plan of insurance prior to the policy's expiration.

Your 'hotline'

If you have a comment about accuracy, fairness or adequacy of news coverage, call the managing editor at 693-1000 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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"WELL HOW ARE PEOPLE SUPPOSED TO READ A LITTLE SIGN LIKE THAT WHEN THEY'RE GOING 85?"



Letters



UMPIRE'S WIFE REPLIES

This is a reply to the question of why a coach is also allowed to be chief umpire of the National Little League of North Tonawanda:

The National Little is extremely short-handed and has been as most of the positions are on a voluntary basis. This was felt even more this year as a minor league team had to be disbanded because no one stepped forward to coach it. This means that people have had to double up on their duties.

I would also like to comment on the pre-called pitches and recalled umpires decisions to suit himself.

All people (umpires included) can make mistakes even knowing the rules of a game.

Any coach can appeal an umpire's decision. The coaches have rule books that can be used at any time during a game if he or she feels a wrong call was made.

No coach/chief umpire can intimidate an umpire as they know the rules as well as he.

The umpires were told at the beginning of the season that when the chief umpire steps on the field as a coach of his team he is only a coach and nothing else!

I happen to be the chief umpire's wife and for the 2 years that he has held this position I have seen and heard alot but this takes the prize.

My husband has always been for his KIDS (team and umpires) and never once had he intimidated or used his position for his own record. His team this year is doing so well because he has been working with most of these boys and girls for four years. Winning or losing has never been his aim but teaching fair play and sportsmanship has been. Each year he has sent home a letter to his team parents to this effect.

I think he deserves a lot of credit and not a slap in the face.

Linda Barberio
Chief Umpire's Wife
Proud of it!
North Tonawanda

RETIREEES FRAISED

Two dedicated faculty members from the North Tonawanda Senior High School are retiring this year. Yolanda Pykosz, who teaches English, and Elizabeth Foels, who teaches German, are going to be missed by students and faculty alike. They are truly outstanding teachers.

Yolanda Pykosz is an amazing lady, who has never compromised her educational standards in order to reach her students. One of her former students once said to me, "Mrs. Pykosz is the best teacher and has the most knowledge of all my teachers at NTHS". We who have worked with Yolanda, will truly miss her gracious manner.

Ask the Experts

her sincere interest in each of us, and her warm, friendly smile.

"Libby" Foels has opened another language and culture to her German students in a way that made learning fun and easy. She has always been able to help her students grow and strive to reach their capabilities. She has a unique wit and she shares her students' and friends' concerns. Libby has been a bright light in the day of her fellow faculty members, which will be missed.

I wish these two fine teachers and friends a future that is all they desire. They deserve the best as that is what they have given to North Tonawanda. Our young people's lives have truly been enriched by being exposed to such quality people as Yolanda Pykosz and Libby Foels.

Winona C. Stonebraker
North Tonawanda

NEWS THANKED

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, administration and the employees of DeGraff Memorial Hospital, I would like to thank the Tonawanda News for its excellent coverage of "Spring Into Health", the health fair for the public held Saturday, April 16, 1983 at the Summit Park Mall.

We feel that publicity before the fair contributed greatly to its overall success, and hope to make "Spring Into Health" an annual event for DeGraff and surrounding communities.

This is a good opportunity to thank you and your staff for your thorough coverage at DeGraff Memorial Hospital throughout the year. We in the Tonawandas are fortunate to have the News and the services and talents of its people right here in our community.

William D. Barclay
Director

THREAT TO RELIGION

The recent Supreme Court decision denying tax-exempt status to Bob Jones University because it is alleged that it discriminates racially, leaves religion on a scaffold, not knowing what will happen to it next when "public policy" overrides the Constitutional guardian of its liberty.

The First Amendment reads: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..."

Religious rights take precedence over civil rights as defined by courts and public policy. Civil rights cannot be used to deny the full enjoyment and protection of this specific constitutional right entitled the "free exercise of religion," both for the individual and the Christian colleges.

So the Christian takes his charges from his Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ who said, "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."

It is this freedom in Christ which he has a divine warrant to fight for, when even the Supreme Court of their land places the will of the majority or public policy at odds to his desire and will to serve Jesus Christ and have his children educated in schools where he believes that his religious convictions and ideals are maintained for the glory of God.

This is the reason Christians send their children to Bob Jones University, and every Christian should be free to make the same choice without being penalized and persecuted. The date of this decision is May 24, 1983, and it marks the turning point in the loss of religious liberty for the people in the United States of America! May God have mercy.

May the "Year of the Bible" come alive over the land.

Ron Kosko
Tonawanda

WANTS FALLS SONG

Why hasn't someone written a popular song about "Niagara Falls", where lovers come on their honeymoon?

Just about at every ballroom dance they play "New York-New York" or "Or I left my heart in San Francisco", but nothing about Niagara Falls.

Recently there was a letter published in the (May 20, 1983) Tonawanda News about Poland which issued a postage stamp in 1978 of Kazimierz Gzowski with Niagara Falls in the background. It would be fitting if someone could come up with a lively polka of "Niagara Falls".

Herbert C. Force
Niagara Falls, N.Y.

WILD DOG MENACE

What are we going to do about the wild dog problem? I hope something is done before a person is seriously hurt or killed.

We like to ride the bike path. Is it safe?

My son's boyfriend has already been chased by them once. How long can this go on without something being done?

If the problem is they are on Town of Tonawanda property, let's get together and get rid of them. We can't afford to wait. Whatever the cost there could be a life at stake. Let's get rid of these wild dogs!

Jean Dutton
Riverview Resident
Tonawanda

Do you remember?

65 Years Ago-1918

Bert Lewis of Tonawanda, a player for the Baltimore team of the International League, paid a visit to Tonawanda and was congratulated by many friends for his success in baseball. The Baltimore team was in the area for a game with Buffalo.

Real estate dealers in the Tonawandas reported the greatest demand for homes of any in recent years. The demand was mostly for medium-priced homes.

50 Years Ago-1918

Furnaces resumed operation at the Tonawanda Iron Corp., Main Street in Tonawanda, after a suspension of operations lasting almost two years. The company, a subsidiary of the American Radiator Co., employed 125 men. Other blast furnaces throughout the country also were resuming operations due to increased demand for steel in construction.

Rev. Arthur O. Northrup, founder of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, North Tonawanda, resigned as pastor there to accept a call to the Wesleyan Methodist Church, Marley, N.Y., where he had attended Sunday school and services as a boy.

25 Years Ago-1958

Tonawanda City Judge Ruth D.

Vogel announced plans to seek the Democratic and Liberal nominations to run for the remainder of the term of the late City Judge Nelson H. Staley. Judge Vogel was appointed by former Mayor Duffy the previous November after the death of Judge Staley. The appointment was effective until the 1958 general election.

North Tonawanda Police launched an all-out campaign to stop bicycle thefts which had been on the upswing since nice weather began. Police Chief Grimaldi said he had assigned a special squad to investigate the thefts and recover the stolen property.

10 Years Ago-1973

A survey conducted by "Youth Against Cancer" of the Erie County Unit, American Cancer Society, showed that girls were starting to smoke at an earlier age. The number of fathers who smoked was declining slightly, however, the survey concluded.

Donald A. Joseph was elected president of Temple Beth El. Also elected were: vice presidents, Morton Mendelsohn, Martin Rein, Mrs. Paul A. Ross, Dr. Fred Shalwitz and Martin E. Tross, treasurer, Sherman Chodrow, and secretary, Mrs. Richard H. Rosenblatt.

