

Secretary Of Alpena C of C Answers Jim Allyn

A recent Timber Cruiser article starts off with a question, "Have you ever thought of leaving Alpena?"

What young person has not at some time or other thought of leaving his hometown to try to make his fortune in the world?

The article continues with the statement, "A town with polluted air and dehydrated people." The 'dehydrated people' part of this statement, I do not understand. If certain people are dehydrated, it is because they are either ill or they have not consumed enough liquids.

The article continues, "What if a storm should come?" O.K. - what if a storm should come? Storms can come to any community, and if one does, you either survive or perish.

The article goes on, "Oh, you say that you like this town surrounded by wild life and beautiful forests, you like the people here, they are your friends." This is probably true of most people. It is also possible that some people do not like this kind of environment. This is one of our privileges in the United States.

The question, "Would you like your Alpena friends better than friends in Berlin, Rome or London, and are your friends dearer and closer than you would find in other lands?" My reaction to this is, that a friend is a friend no matter where he is. A friend in Alpena probably would be no closer to you, or dearer than the same kind of a friend in any other part of the world.

The statement that says, "You can make no comparisons or contrasts because your minds are stagnant." Most certainly you cannot make comparisons with other communities until you have visited them. So if you are dissatisfied with your hometown it is a good idea to travel to other communities and make comparisons. No one is in a better position to know this than myself. People

have gone away and come back much happier with their home community than they were before they took such a trip.

The writer makes the statement, "Drive your car, carry your books, sleep at home, play on weekends and dream your great dreams," as if these activities were wrong. Many citizens of faraway places would like to have a car to drive, many do not have books to carry, and many do not have a home to sleep in. And what is wrong with the 'great dreams'? Columbus, Thomas Edison, Henry Ford, Dr. Sweitzer, Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln all had great dreams. They also did something to make these dreams become realities.

It is also possible that people who seek too much security during their lifetime are liable to be trapped by their desire to be secure. Today, college age people will probably have to decide between security and freedom during their lifetime.

We quote a story that appeared in the October issue of 'The American Agency Bulletin' that was told in 1913, by the Honorable Stephen Pace, then Congressman from the 12th Georgia District. Quote-

"Years ago" the Congressman said, "in a great horse-shoe bend down the river, there lived a drove of wild hogs. Where they came from no one knew, but they survived floods, fire, freezes, droughts and hunters. The greatest compliment a man could pay to a dog was to say that he had fought the hogs in Horse-Shoe Bend and returned alive. Occasionally a pig was killed either by dogs or a gun - a conversation piece for years to come.

"Finally a one-gallused man came by the country store on the river road, and asked the whereabouts of these wild hogs. He drove a one-horse wagon, had an axe, some quilts, a lantern, some corn and a single barrel shot gun. He was a slender, slow moving patient man - he chewed his tobacco deliberately and spat very seldom.

"Several months later

he came back to the same store and asked for help to bring out the wild hogs. He stated he had them all in a pen over in the swamp.

"Bewildered farmers, dubious hunters and the store-keepers all gathered in the heart of Horse-Shoe Bend to view the captive hogs.

"It was all very simple, said the one-gallus man, 'First I put out some corn. For three weeks they would not eat it. Then some of the young ones grabbed an ear and ran off in the thicket. Soon they were all eating it, then I commenced building a pen around the corn, a little higher each day. When I noticed that they were all waiting for me to bring the corn and had stopped grubbing for acorns and roots I built the trap door. Naturally, said the patient man, 'they raised quite a ruckus when they seen they was trapped, but I can pen any animal on the face of the earth if I can jist get him to depend on me for a free hand-out'".

We have had patient men in our central government in Washington for years. They are using our own dollars instead of corn. I still think about the trap door and the slender, stooped man who chewed his tobacco deliberately and spat very seldom.- Unquote.

The happiest people are those who realize that everyone owes something to the community in which they live.

A real 'aware' young person might well make a career out of developing a way to economically eliminate industrial dusts, noises, odors, smoke etc. This is one of our Country's needs today. We should all keep in mind that Alpena Industry pays 54% of our taxes. Industry also creates the industrial payroll, (which is the basis of any community's economy) that helps the property owners to pay their taxes.

This is why Alpena can support the fine educational system, modern hospital and other City services that we take for granted.

Service payrolls are also created by the needs of the industrial workers. These annual payrolls which include a department store, \$211,000, a bakery, \$166,000, a bottling company,



\$63,000. You can go on and on to the professional people, contractors. All of their income stems from the original dollar brought in by a Community's industry.

Careless talk can lose an

industry or keep a new one from locating in a community.

May we suggest that every citizen be a booster for their area.

STANLEY GODFREY, Secretary Alpena Chamber of Commerce

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