

OUR READERS SPEAK:

Story on Lynn's store bestirs old memories

To the Editor:

The article in the Potomac News on Feb. 27 brought back many fond memories of the old W. S. Lynn's Store better known as Will Lynn and the Lynn family.

When I was a youngster the Lynn store was located across the street from the present store that was destroyed in the big fire of 1916 that nearly destroyed Occoquan. I used to go to Occoquan with my father when I was a kid and I think this was the first store I was ever in.

I got a thrill out of seeing the old long boats loading lumber, railroad ties and towing pilings from Lynn's wharf down the river. I am the oldest native born, raised and lived all my life in this area (1897). Edson Lynn is older than

me, but sorry to say is now in a nursing home.

I also remember when oyster boats came to Lynn's wharf in season and sold big fresh oyster at 50 cents per bushel.

I played ball with Andy Lynn's grandfather, his sons Carl Lynn, Fred Lynn, and Wallace Lynn, and turkey hunted with Edson. The Lynn boys were good ball players. I don't recall Carl ever hitting a ball of the infield but that it zig zagged so nobody could catch it. Fred was a good pitcher. Wallace played first base. He was so tall, had such long legs and arms that he could keep his right foot on the bag and reach half way to second base with his right arm.

Andy's father used to deliver me over two cords of good oak firewood and put it in the woodshed for \$20. Now this much wood would cost \$200. I used to get my lumber from Andy's father to build my garage, wood shed and tool shops, etc. I would try and get just enough so I would not have any left over. Buddy always said if you run short and I am not here just get what you need and keep account of it. I knew Andy's grandmother (Mary Akers) when she first came here from Manassas to teacher school at Woodbridge, where Cope Ford is now located before she and Carl Lynn were married. I always said Lynn's sporting goods was no better than other stores, but was luckier, I bought one of them old time big fishing reels and a tad polly from Will Lynn in 1923 and caught 558 bass on it that year. I also killed six deer with six shotgun slugs from his store, I still got this old reel and bait, so it must be lucky.

Andy's grandfather used to run the mail and passenger from Woodbridge to Occoquan. In 1919 we had about 2 days rain that turned to ice on the roads. I guess there was several inches of ice on the ground and I was on my way home from trapping and Carl Lynn picked me up about where the Sheel Gas station is on the Occoquan Road and his old Model T Ford started skidding and left the road and hit a tree and wrapped the front axle around a tree.

Andy's great grandfather always told me whenever you come to Occoquan come in to see me, you don't have to buy anything. I painted the present Lynn's store in the early 1930's and was coming down off the roof when my watch chain caught over the top of the ladder and broke the chain and my watch fell all the way down on the concrete walk and did not hurt it. A few days later I dropped it on the bedroom floor and broke it. I saw something while painting Lynn's store that will never be seen in Occoquan again: seven wild turkeys flew back and forth across the river from Fairfax and landed above old Rockledge House. The only turkey you will ever see in Occoquan will be a tame turkey at Christmas time in an oven.

When Andy Lynn's parent lived and run the sawmill on Old Bridge Road, I could hunt all over his property and park my car at his house or mill and be sure it would be safe until I got back. Well, I must close now as I used the last sheet of paper and my pen has about played out. I'll get some more when I get my Social Security check Wednesday.

Good luck with your store.

Carl Eike, Jr.
Woodbridge, Va.

OUR READERS

...s creation roller age

perhaps re-recognize) that drinking can have serious repercussions and is nothing to take for granted, laugh about, or condone. It isn't necessary to go the way of prohibition, but it is necessary to face the realities of alcohol and deal with them.

There's no protection against drunk drivers except to keep them off the roads. But the socialization process which leads to the drunk driver may begin in the stroller. We need to remind ourselves that the young learn this practice of adulthood in the same way they learn many others: through example. Eliminating destructive drinking is as much a problem of the brain as the mouth. Laws can punish; they seldom prevent.

OUR READERS SPEAK:

Time Eve!

challenging unequal treatment under the Equal Protection clause of the 14th Amendment "No State shall...deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

ERA is not the only way...

Lydia V. Weston
Dumfries, Va.

OUR READERS SPEAK:

Many helped make success Town Meeting

To the Editor:

Many students, teachers and community organizations worked very hard to make Town Meeting 76 the success it was. These people are to be commended for their outstanding

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Potomac News
MARCH 8, 1976 P.A-6