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**Letters to the Editor**

### State of working Illinois

I was glad to see that our city is going to be represented at the Challenge and Opportunity Forum to be conducted by the University of Illinois. It will be nice to find out what a small town can do to get on our feet after we have lost so much industry. It would have been nice if this sort of thing could have taken place 30-40 years ago, before most of the industry in this town was either shut down or down sized. That is water under the bridge, and we need new ideas to continue on.

As a people, we have always adapted to jobs available at a particular time. When our nation was discovered,

over 90 percent of the people were farmers. They not only raised vegetables to be stored in root cellars, but grew crops to feed livestock, and milled some to make bread. They raised farm animals, some of which they butchered and stored either smoked or salted, hunted wildlife and fished for sustenance. Most tasks the farmer and his family did for themselves (thus the term Jack of All trades/Master of none applied to them). They made their own furniture, clothes and most everything they needed. Their children attended a one room school in the middle of a section of land and this

See LETTER on other side

### Briefly

#### Town Hall meeting

The City of Hoopeston will host a Town Hall Meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 25 at St. Anthony's Parish Hall to provide a report on the outcomes of the Hoopeston Visioning process. The high priority goal areas (infrastructure, housing, business retention and expansion, and downtown revitalization) will be discussed in detail at this meeting. You will have the opportunity to provide input into the process and sign up to be involved on a committee or volunteer for various projects.

#### Tiny Tots

"Awesome Owls" is the theme of this week's Tiny Tots story program at the Hoopeston Public Library children's room.

Tiny Tots is for children ages 1-4 who are accompanied by an adult.

#### Scouting signup

Daisy, Brownie and Girl Scout signup will be held from 6-8 p.m. Tuesday at the Girl Scout Little House in McFerren Park.

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**Letter** continued from other side

was for all elementary students. When they graduated, they attended high school in the city. Those who had special talents (blacksmiths, grocery store keepers, doctors, etc.) were often paid by the barter system.

This is the way it was from the 16th century until the early 20th century. When mass immigration took place in late 1800/early 1900, many of them sat at Ellis Island without jobs. That is when Ford, Carnegie, Dupont, and other capitalists began building big industrial companies and these immigrants were put to work. Some of these people were our ancestors.

During the 1800s and 1900s, a mechanical revolution redefined the way things were done on the farm and in industry. First there was a decline in the numbers of farmers needed to produce crops needed in our country and what was sold to foreign countries. The bushels of a crop that could be grown on each acre kept increasing because of better seeds, customized chemicals and increased knowledge of the best farming methods. Because there were fewer people actually farming, machinery was developed that could plant, cultivate, and harvest more acres in

less time. This contributed to fewer farms that were bigger, and farmers had much more overhead (seed, fertilizer, animal feed, expensive equipment, etc.) that necessitated they become good financial managers in order to succeed.

Right after WWII, many servicemen went to school to become leaders in our industries and factories. That began the production revolution. Slowly, the big capitalist began selling off stock in their family owned companies, and the primary stockholders became the employees. Then many workers became eligible to retire (retirement benefits unions helped them attain), and these companies were not prepared for this inevitable event. They were in a bind. They had to find cheaper labor with no benefits. Unfortunately, it was overseas. That is basically why most of our factories have closed down or cut back on the workers needed in this country, and why when you buy merchandise at the store it has made in China, Japan, Mexico, India, etc. stamped on it. That is also why, when you make a call to a company in the USA for assistance, you need an interpreter to explain to

you what the person on the other end is saying.

For many years W. Edwards Deming and many other economists tried to educate the leaders of big industrial companies on the proper way to run their businesses economically, but these managers were stubborn, and ran the companies their way. I remember one line a personnel manager once told me, "We must agree to disagree." Who was he trying to kid? They did not care if they got it right or not! That is why today, CEOs make so much money, with golden parachutes, and costly benefits, while they try to get you to work for minimum wage. What have they actually done to earn that kind of money? At least the Capitalists of the past had some compassion for the workers.

So that is where we are at right now. In 1993, Peter Drucker wrote a book called "Post Capitalist Society". A lot of what he forecast over 10 years ago has come to fruition already. I wish every American had a chance to read and understand what this economist had to say about our future.

In a nutshell he sees us entering a period of time that could be called the knowledge or information revolution. Gone are the times that we can succeed by just sweating and bowing our necks. I can remember doing both playing football in high school, baling hay on the farm, and lifting tin plate at the can. We are entering a phase of time that is going to require our children to bow what is between their ears, if they are going to succeed. I hope all of them receive the knowledge they are going to need to survive what the future has in store for them.

It is important that if parents want to help their children to succeed, that they must encourage them to get the most that they can out of school. They need to work with their kids, the teachers and administrators, to ensure that their kids are on the right path. Teachers cannot do it alone, parents must help them. Don't let your child down.

How does one measure his success in life? Many

**Weather**



Thunderstorms likely today and tonight. High 84, low 60. Tomorrow, mostly cloudy. High 75, low 55.

For current weather conditions, call Hoopeston Weather Service, (217) 283-6221.

people believe that awards, certificates of accomplishments, and trophies are the true measure of ones success. No matter what deed I have accomplished, if I let my kids down, how can I consider myself successful? Some of the greatest achievements a person can ever attain, are unknown except to one's self.

Good luck to the forum.

Tom Evans  
Hoopeston

**All are welcome at  
Hubbard Trail**  
**Sunday thru Wednesday \$8 buckets of beer**  
**Thursday is LADIES night-\$2 Bacardi drinks**  
**Friday is \$1.50 beers and 2 for \$5 Bombs**  
**Saturday-**  
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**Classifieds**

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**CHILDCARE**

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**HELP WANTED**

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**MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE**

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**Thursday, September 27    Friday, September 28**  
**9 a.m.-4 p.m. each day**  
**Hoopeston Hospital Lobby**  
*Unger's will have a nice selection of affordable  
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