



Phone/Fax (217) 283-9348

Register for a

# Letters to the Editor

#### Thanksgiving

We can be thankful for many things this year. The most important thing is the freedom we enjoy while living in this country. Despite any negative things that we dislike in this country, we have the opportunity to voice our opinions and vote for those people for our government who best represent our views. Even if our choice does not win, it is a fair system. These representatives make laws for all of us to





Corner of Fourth Ave. & Orange, Hoopeston

obey, subject to arrest if we break them.

Most all of us have a common thread that makes us unique. Except for the people that lived here (Indian tribes), who are the only original inhabitants of this land, all our ancestors were immigrants from every country in the world who had different languages, cultures and traditions, and who surrendered some of those things to become true American citizens.

Early immigrants were just as destitute as present day immigrants, but all entered our country legally. Their health was checked by doctors and they were treated for any illness they might have. They were not allowed to enter until they were healthy, that they were sponsored by a current citizen, and their safety was guaranteed. There were no anchor babies back then. Immigrants only became citizens when they passed a citizenship exam. Most of them studied English, and they learned and followed our laws. Of course there were neighborhoods of different nationalities, but these people were Americans first and proud of it.

Can you imagine what problems we would have had if they all expected to use only their original language? That would have caused a reenactment of the Tower of Babel. It surely would not have been an America called the United States and what united really stands for. Are we in jeopardy of this very thing possibly happening right here in this country today, like some countries in Eastern Europe? We had one civil war, and one is enough.

Maybe this reasoning was best pointed out by Theodore Roosevelt. Here are his ideas on immigration in 1907:

"In the first place, we should insist that if the immigrant who comes here in good faith becomes, an American and assimilates himself to us, he shall be treated on an equal equality with everyone else, for it is an outrage to discriminate against any such man because of creed or birth place, or origin.

"But this is predicated upon the person's becoming in every facet an American, and nothing but an American... There can be no divided allegiance here. Any man who says he is an American but something else also, isn't an American at all. We have room for but one flag, the American Flag... We have room for but one language here, and that is the English language, and we have room for one sole loyalty, and that is a loyalty to the American people."

Roosevelt did not mention illegal immigrants. What do you suppose he would have advised, if he were around these days? Don't believe he would approve of making felons citizens of this country. What do you think?

There are many legal immigrants who complain they are being profiled, and checked to make sure they are legal citizens. These people should be happy that they live here, and proud to be American citizens, and eager to prove it, just like all of the immigrants did who entered this country through the doors of Ellis Island for over a hundred years. Is it that big a deal to produce identification to prove you are a citizen, if you are really a legal citizen?

People of all nationalities have their identities checked every day, and in this day and age, when terrorism is what it is, it is going to get worse, so we might just as well get used to it. All immigrants that enter this country should be treated exactly the same, which would insure equal justice for all. No one should be allowed to enter this country illegally for any purpose, and if caught should be charged as a felon, which they truly are.

If the 10-15 million illegal immigrants in this country had the same status in their country of origin, they would be in prison, until that country could not afford to keep them, then they would be turned loose on our borders, or they would become members of a drug cartel.

Yes, I have written another article on immigration. This issue is not going to go away, and we must continually fan the fires, so our country is not stolen away from our children and grandchildren. Our government continues to hide their heads in the sand, and only come up for air when it is voting time. We the people that live in the grass roots, must keep a constant vigilance to ensure

### Weather

Chance of flurries today. High 34. Tonight, mostly cloudy. Low 20. Tomorrow, mostly cloudy, chance of snow late. High 32, low 27.

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

what our forefathers have created is preserved and maintained, so that our descendants may live in a united country, made up from peoples from all over the world, that have shed their many ways to become one people who valued the rest of those who lived among them and followed the laws and ways of one people - The American people.

Tom Evans Hoopeston

# **Court Dispositions**



**Greg Martin**, Hoopeston, general nuisance case continued to December 2.

**Jeffrey Coss**, Hoopeston, pleaded not guilty to restraint of dogs by owner or keeper; trial set for December 2.

**Starla Casner**, Rossville, pleaded not guilty to trespassing; trial set for January 6, 2011.

**Ginger Lile**, Mumfordville, Ky., general nuisance case continued to December 2.

**Rafael Resendez**, Hoopeston, pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct, fined \$180; status hearing January 6, 2011.

**Alysia Jennings**, Rossville, pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct, fined \$180; status hearing January 6, 2011.

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