



## **A Circular for the McCroskey Township**

April 22nd, 2025 (Earth Day)

Issue #13

### **Why Don't You Mow Your Lawn?**

#### **To let the dandelions grow!**

City folk often do not respect the ecosystem. They treat the dandelion like a pesky weed, something that prevents them from “keeping up appearances.” Evidently, the well-manicured lawn is the standard of good property management, and the lovely dandelion is the step-child of flowers.

Our bees and pollinators are dying. Scientists tell us that it is a crisis that threatens the food chain. The lowly dandelion is the first food source for them in the spring. Until other vegetation and flowers emerge, it is a generous source of nectar for these amazing creatures

If I run livestock on pasture, they eat the dandelions, too, before the bees benefit from their appearance. I need them to pollinate my gardens, so I let my lawn become a field of dandelions to give them an early foodsource.

I think the sea of yellow flowers in the spring is a cheerful reminder that winter is behind us. Besides, dandelion root is a great tonic for the liver, which I have mixed in with my morning coffee in the past.

(The taproot of a dandelion can get as big as a carrot. Dry it, dice it, then grind it in your coffee grinder.)

So, don't mow the lawn just yet.

### **Why So Many Bills From the Legislature?**

#### **Over 800 bills, 160 of them passed! The highest in six years**

If you have been following my reports, you know that a few years ago the Governor set a deadline for all state agencies to be “upgraded” and conform to his Executive Order #2022-04 “On All Hazards Prevention and Mitigation.” The deadline was 2025.

The Executive Order brings most state agencies under the purview of Idaho's Office of Emergency Management (OEA), our state version of FEMA. It is military and headed by the Governor's Adjutant General.

Do you see why I complain? Why does a civilian role for state services have to be supervised by Idaho's military? Isn't that the very definition of martial law?

Virtually every bill that was passed had a “state of emergency” clause and failed to include a “severability clause.” That is “proof in the pudding” that something is not right.

### **Agricultural Exemption Zones**

The County Commissioners “kicked the can” on a mandated county implementation of this bill. But they cannot do that for much longer. That, along with an emergency “czar” for local coordination with Idaho's OEM, tells me that these “agricultural exemption zones” serve a different purpose than protecting farmers: the goal is state control.

More next month.

## **Help Me Find the “Grandfather’s Clause”**

(As published in the St. Maries’ Gazette-Record)

*I was wondering if the St. Maries City Council could help me find the “grandfather clause” they keep talking about. I never knew that my grandpappy might be in the Constitution. I always thought it was the same for everybody, but it sure would be nice to know if my grandpappy is in there somewhere.*

*You know what I’m talking about? The clause says “If my grandpappy didn’t have to obey a law, then I don’t have to either.” Yeah, that one.*

*I hear lawyers and judges and bureaucrats talk about it all the time, but I can’t seem to find it. Maybe they have a secret constitution the rest of us don’t have. If they do, I think that it is unfair for them to have grandpappies in the Constitution when the rest of us don’t get to.*

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## **On Dealing With Transients & Vagrants**

When we first moved to the area in 1999, we moved a camper to the middle of a wheat field. It took several months before our doublewide could be delivered. In the meantime, we built a shed (yes that ugly one that we will soon be hiding behind a much nicer shop).

### ***The McCroskey Agrarian***

1435 Desmet Rd.  
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Area residents first called us “the Squatters.” Later, we were just described as “the place by the dumpsters.” There used to be county dumpsters in the turn-out on our west 20 (which we will soon have to gate to prevent unauthorized dumping).

So, “transients” and “vagrants” are not necessarily sinister. A lot of times they are homeless people down on their luck and trying to make a new start.

On the other hand, they can be dangerous. Some years ago, the “House of the Sisters” in DeSmet was burned to the ground. It was ruled an arson and presumably, it was set by a transient who died in the fire.

Very often, such people have mental problems which makes them unpredictable. So, we can be nice and helpful, but we also must be watchful. If you see someone new to the area, it is not out of line to pay attention and keep your neighbors informed.

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**Next Issue: More on AG Zones, The Cattle Market, and Comfrey**

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*If you missed the previous newsletters, you can find them at [savebenewahcounty.com](http://savebenewahcounty.com).* James Stivers,  
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