



# Seufert Law Offices, PA

*We'll Get You Through It*

## From the Captain's Log Old Friends



Some old and dear friends of mine asked me to join them for a cookout the other weekend. Some now live in northern ME (north of nowhere), others in NH, others in MA, others in FL. The Maine contingent hosted so it was quite a travel up there, but I had not visited them in over 20-years, so it was time. Although we exchange texts, phone calls and Christmas Cards, you certainly don't want to be the one to say "I wished I had just visited more often". We were all kids when our respective parents became neighbors and friends back in MA and both family's kids were born pretty close, so we all progressed through the public schools together and hung out after school as well.

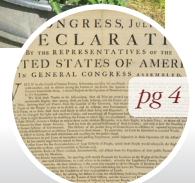
On the road by 8:30 am would get me to nowhere ME before the noon cookout start. After passing north of "we're a long way from home Toto" I binged a left off I-95 at Waterville and onto some country roads for a while until I made it to their farm in Solon Maine. I have to say, while the trip was long, the countryside was beautiful. They own over a 100-acres and used to raise bison for meat, but have since given that up in their retirement years. Now they grow organic garlic, over 500 plants and very tasty.

After getting there we started to mingle and chat, how the over 60+ years had taken its toll on us, as well as taken away many family members on both sides. But here we were, still standing. And we remembered back to stuff that we did that would be frowned upon today, all our parents shoeing us out of the house at 7:00 am and told not to return until the 6:00 pm steam whistle that the local factory blew each night, signaling for all the kids in the community to go to their homes, child abuse in these days but hurt us none. There was a river in the community where we would fish all day, or use empty howitzer shell boxes from the local armory to float like canoes down the river, until they flipped over and you had to swim, no life jackets required, child abuse today. During the winter the river was frozen, in most places, so we skated and played ice hockey until our feet blistered, no helmets, little gear, some broke teeth and bones in the process, child abuse today. We had full-fledged BB air rifle fights throughout the community, my older brother was known to have a high-powered pellet gun that he would pump up to its maximum power and let it rip into the "enemy" and they would return live fire. A few nearly lost eyes, many had wounds, I think if our respective parents knew as they bought us the air guns, but it made us tougher, child abuse today. And all the 1st, or 2nd, cars that we crashed, some Firebirds, Camaros, Chevelle's - but back then they were \$500 runners, now \$50K collectibles.

Not to say that all of this was politically correct, but in the 60's and 70's - not really a big deal as times were different, and a lot simpler. ●



## July 2024 News





# That Temporary Home Away From Home

Vacation home rentals are big business. Approximately 60 million Americans took the plunge in 2022, and with online rental platforms such as Airbnb, Vrbo, and Booking.com, the numbers continue to rise. Many find the cost efficiency, added amenities, and extra space of vacation home rentals more enticing than hotels and inns.

While most vacationers have a blast in their temporary abodes, negligence on the part of a property owner and/or management company can lead to injury and put a damper on things. Property owners have an obligation to maintain a reasonably safe home for guests, but some fall short.

The most common vacation rental injuries include slip-and-falls, pool injuries, fires, defective staircases and handrails, and collapsed decks. In the more “exotic” category, events such as a tree branch breaking that supported a rope swing and swinger; bed bugs inflicting skin damage and hitching a ride home with guests; and someone tripping over the lip between a carpeted room and tiled hallway have been known to happen.

If you are injured while vacationing in a rental home ...

- Seek medical help for your injuries, even seemingly minor ones. Some injuries are immediately obvious; others might only surface after several days or more. Seeking medical treatment will officially put you on record and can only help a personal injury claim.
- Gather as much evidence as possible: photos, videos, eyewitness contact info, etc.
- Preserve any waiver you may have been required to sign prior to renting. Many of them are not enforceable.
- Most importantly, if you have been injured as a result of negligence, contact our firm to attain fair compensation for your injuries. ●

# Road Debris, Flying Objects, Trouble



July 2024 Notable Dates

July 4  
Independence  
Day

July 7  
Build a Scarecrow Day

July 13  
French Fries Day

July 16  
Fresh Spinach Day

July 21  
Ice Cream Day

July 24  
Tell a Joke Day

July 30  
Cheesecake  
Day

Driving behind a large truck on the highway can be unsettling. Your ability to see what's ahead is cut off, and the truck driver might not be able to see you if you pass. And when following directly behind or adjacent to a large flatbed tractor-trailer hauling a load, objects sometimes fly off the truck (dump trucks and pickups too), which can be terrifying ... and lethal.

On the sigh-of-relief side, the object misses everyone and winds up on the side of the road. On the tragic side, a 1994 incident in Wisconsin killed six young children. The minivan in which they were occupants ran over a chunk of metal that fell from a truck, puncturing the gas tank and igniting an inferno.

A study released by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety reported that from 2011–2014, roughly 39,000 injuries and 500 deaths were attributed to road debris. Incidents included vehicles that were directly struck by flying objects; ran over objects lying on the road; or drivers swerving to avoid an object, resulting in a crash.

The most common types of roadway debris include unsecured cargo falling onto a roadway or vehicle; tools, truck tire treads, or other truck parts; and trailers that detach. AAA reports that roadway debris incidents have ballooned 40% since 2001.

Personal injury claims involving trucks can be complex. The truck driver, trucking company, shipping company, or maintenance company — or some combination thereof — may be liable. Throw in obstinate insurance companies and the possibility a truck driver might not have been aware of what happened and continued driving ... it's a handful. •

Seufert Law Offices, PA  
Attorneys At Law



59 Central Street, Franklin, NH 03235  
(603) 934-9837  
www.seufertlaw.com

Protect Your Family, Protect Your Rights



Old Friends  
SEE PAGE ONE

This publication is intended to educate the general public about personal injury, medical malpractice, and other issues. It is for information purposes only and is not intended to be legal advice. Prior to acting on any information contained here, you should seek and retain competent counsel. The information in this newsletter may be freely copied and distributed as long as the newsletter is copied in its entirety.

# ‘Well, I Do Declare!’

Our country’s independence was actually declared on July 2, 1776. The Committee of Five — Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Robert Sherman, Robert Livingston, and Ben Franklin — had been charged with drafting the Declaration of Independence. After declaring independence, it took Congress two days to agree to some edits before the history-making document was ready for public consumption on July 4.

Once Congress approved the document, they hired John Dunlap, a printer living in Philadelphia, to print 200 copies, known as “Dunlap Broadside.” Only 26 known copies remain, three of which reside in British repositories, ironically. In 1989, a patron at an Adamstown, Pa., flea market purchased a framed painting for \$4. Tucked behind the painting was a Dunlap Broadside, which later sold at auction for a whopping \$8.1 million. A nice return on investment.

George Washington received a copy in New York City on July 9, 1776. He read it publicly, the crowd got fired up, and they proceeded to topple a statue of King George III, the metal of which was later melted and fashioned into musket balls to fire at King George’s troops.

Robert Livingston, one of the Committee of Five, never signed the Declaration. He was recalled by his state, New York, before he was able to apply his John Hancock to it (pun intended). A historic missed opportunity!

Prior to World War II, the Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution were housed in the Library of Congress. However, two weeks after the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, they were whisked away by military escort to Fort Knox, Kentucky, for safekeeping until the end of the war. They now reside at the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

Perhaps if we remembered our roots there would be less political divisiveness today – maybe. ●

