

poppy, which the native people call the "devils flower".

Sadly, the Times piece also notes that in nearby Prince Georges' county here in the Washington area, we have witnessed 42 persons who died last year from heroin overdoses. What's happening abroad, also has consequences here at home.

From the front lines in the high Colombian Andes the news isn't any better. The CNP without high performance helicopters needed to reach the opium poppy fields with enough troops to secure the area for later aerial eradication is seeing more and more poppy. In 1997, according to some Colombian sources we may have had a 1/3 increase in Colombian opium growth, and at best we are only eradicating 1/3 of the small but ever growing and valuable poppy crop. All this means hard times and more overdose deaths in our communities from deadly Colombian heroin.

Mr. Speaker, I request that the Washington Times article dated 10/12/98 I referenced be included at this point in the RECORD:

[From the Washington Times, Oct. 12, 1998]

**COCAINE CARTELS TAKE ON NEW PRODUCT—  
HEROIN**

**SOUTH AMERICAN SUPPLIERS ECLIPSE ASIA IN  
BURGEONING U.S. MARKET**

(By Jerry Seper)

South America's cocaine cartels have moved into a lucrative new market, becoming the dominant force in supplying heroin to a rapidly expanding clientele of eager U.S. buyers—many as young as 15 years old.

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration details in a new report that the agency calls a "dramatic shift" over the past four years as South American drug traffickers have wrested control of the U.S. heroin market from once-dominant smugglers in Southeast Asia.

About 75 percent of the heroin seized in 1997 throughout the United States originated in South America, and the numbers are expected to rise for 1998. By contrast, 97 percent of the heroin seized in the United States in 1991 came from dealers in Southeast or Southwest Asia, which now accounts for only about 5 percent of the heroin shipped each year into this country.

Most of the increase comes from smugglers in Colombia, with the drug being shipped clandestinely to buyers throughout the country, particularly in Boston; New York; Newark, N.J.; Philadelphia; and Baltimore—a region known as "Heroin Alley."

DEA Administrator Thomas A. Constantine said Colombian cartel leaders, working with Mexican-based drug traffickers, have made management decisions over the past four years aimed at increasing their share of the U.S. heroin market.

"The situation we face today, one of high rates of trauma in our hospital emergency rooms and high mortality rates among heroin users, was brought about by strategic management decisions made by both Colombian- and Mexican-based trafficking organizations to increase their respective shares of the lucrative U.S. heroin market," Mr. Constantine said.

Of the more than 6 tons of heroin produced in 1997 in Colombia, virtually the entire stock was delivered to buyers in the United States. Colombia, which already supplies about 80 percent of the world's cocaine, has become both a grower and processor of opium poppies in Bolivia and Peru, which are then refined in jungle labs under the protection of highly paid left-wing guerrillas.

Colombia's new president, Andres Pastrana, has vowed to step up his country's

fight against drugs—a promise in sharp contrast to efforts by his predecessor, Ernesto Samper, who accepted \$6 million from drug smugglers to help finance his 1994 election campaign.

"Traffickers today know no national boundaries and will utilize the latest technologies and delivery systems to enhance their illicit activities," Mr. Constantine said, noting that Colombian-based smugglers drew on the expertise of drug chemists in Southwest and Southeast Asia to produce the higher-quality product flooding the East Coast.

Mr. Constantine said Mexican drug traffickers are working with Colombian chemists to increase the purity level of Mexican-produced heroin to "expand their markets in the United States."

The DEA report said there are two general U.S. heroin markets:

- One centered on the East Coast, supplying a high-purity, white powder heroin that can be snorted as well as injected.

- One in the West, specializing in injectable-quality heroin, primarily Mexican black tar.

The Office of National Drug Control Policy has estimated that 810,000 hard-core drug addicts are involved in the use of heroin as their principal drug of choice, and that the high-quality South American product has spawned a new breed of users—those more amenable to snorting rather than injecting the drug.

Records show increasing numbers of young people are becoming involved—particularly in Philadelphia, St. Louis and New Orleans, where about 12 percent of those arrested were between 15 and 20.

Locally, both Montgomery and Prince George's counties have seen the number of addicts entering rehabilitation centers double and triple in recent years, averaging about 500 a year. Prince William County treated about 70 persons for heroin use from July 1997 to June 1998. The total for that period has not yet been tallied for comparably sized Howard County, but authorities expect it to exceed 250.

Last year, heroin overdoses killed 42 persons in Prince George's County.

The DEA has tracked the increasing dominance of South American heroin since 1993 and, according to the report, has found that the purity of the product appears to be its draw. While the national average purity of all heroin is about 38 percent, South American heroin—of that confiscated in New York, Boston, Newark, Baltimore and Philadelphia—registers between 70 and 80 percent pure.

In 1996, Baltimore led the nation in hospital emergency room admissions for heroin overdoses and was second only to San Francisco last year. Of the 401 persons who died of heroin overdoses in Maryland in 1997, 252 fatalities occurred in Baltimore.

The DEA has said that in Baltimore 40,000 addicts pay dealers an estimated \$2 million a day for heroin. In the District, there are an estimated 17,000 heroin users, although crack cocaine and marijuana continue to be the drugs of choice.

Mr. Constantine said the agency plans to increase manpower levels and spending totals over the next several years for domestic and international heroin enforcement. He said information collected in hospital emergency rooms, police departments, courts, schools, treatment programs and "on the street" shows that heroin consumption in the United States is rising.

"For years, we've seen a hardcore older population of approximately 600,000 heroin addicts," Mr. Constantine said. "Today, we are seeing 11th- and 12th-graders turning to heroin. These 'initiates' are, in all likeli-

hood, at the outset of a long, downward spiral into hard-core addiction or death."

About 14 percent of the heroin seized last year in the United States came from Mexico. Virtually all of it was headed for buyers in Dallas; Houston; Denver; Phoenix; San Diego; Los Angeles; San Francisco; Portland, Ore.; Seattle; St. Louis; and Chicago.

Despite Mexico's continuing involvement in the drug trade, the Clinton administration certified that country this year as a full partner in the war on drugs—meaning it keeps its eligibility for U.S. aid.

The certification came on a recommendation from the State Department. Colombia was among four countries that were decertified, but it continues to enjoy an exemption from the aid cuts. The administration has said that Colombia, along with Cambodia, Pakistan and Paraguay, are too important to U.S. national security to punish.

Southeast Asian traffickers, mainly in Burma, Laos and Thailand, have been squeezed out of the business by South American smugglers, who have seized the market by offering a higher quality heroin at lower prices—even arranging for easy payments.

"Asian groups traditionally demand either sizable down payments or cash on delivery," said Mr. Constantine, noting that Colombia distributors "often provide drugs on consignment or offer credit.

"Given their reputation for strict enforcement of drug deals, few buyers dare risk renegeing on a drug deal with criminal organizations operating from Latin America," he said.

**BOB OWEN: THE LAST OF THE  
COUNTRY BANKERS**

**HON. JOHN S. TANNER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 13, 1998*

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, the McKenzie Banner's Chuck Ross tells the story of Bob Owen and what Bob has meant to the town of Gleason as well as anyone could.

I have known Bob Owen since the late 1970's when I served in the Tennessee General Assembly. Bob is the Bank of Gleason without question and his service to the community is what makes Gleason and the surrounding communities such good places to raise a family.

As we celebrate Bob Owen Day in Gleason, I want to add my thanks and appreciation to Bob for everything he has done to improve the quality of life for those who live and work in and around Gleason.

Printed below is a copy of a story published in The McKenzie Banner on October 7th, and written by Chuck Ross.

**BOB OWEN: THE LAST OF THE COUNTRY  
BANKERS**

(By Chuck Ross)

It has been said many times that a trip of a thousand miles begins with a single step. In this instance, a distinguished banking career began by default. The wartime army called him for induction, yet turned him down on three occasions. As a young high school graduate, shortly after the great depression and right in the middle of a world war, he could not find employment. Then a helpful uncle got him a job as the lowest man on a small banking staff, the first step in a career that has spanned 54 years.

Robert Hiron "Bob" Owen was born on February 19, 1927, in the Old Union Community in Henry County Tennessee, the third of

four children born to the union of Robert Owen and Katie Highfill Owen. Both parents had migrated to this area from North Carolina.

The first of the children was James Flemming, who died as an infant. The second was Mary Elizabeth Owen Travillian who lives in Gleason. Bob's younger brother Oscar lives in McKenzie.

Owen said his middle name is unusual, and not many people refer to it when using his name. His mother said she once saw the name in a book, and liked the sound of it. Only his sister still calls him Bob Hiron—when she is mad at him.

Bob's father worked a small farm of 67 acres. The family's property consisted of three or four old cows, a team of mules, and the farm on which they lived. The elder Owen died in 1939 when Bob was only 12 years old, leaving his mother to do odd jobs in order to raise the children.

Few jobs were available for women in those days, so she worked as a seamstress, and took in washing and ironing in order to provide for her young family. The only material possession the family had was the small farm, but they made a go of it because, as Bob said, "Mom worked hard and provided plenty of love."

When work was caught up on their farm, he remembers that the family worked on the farms of neighbors for fifty cents a day, carrying their lunches to the field in a tin bucket.

He started school at four and one half years of age, in the Liberty Four area in Henry County's New York Community, beginning early because retention of teachers at that time depended upon having a minimum number of pupils in the classes.

His first years of school were spent in a one-room facility which housed all eight grades of elementary school, with a single teacher for all grades.

After completion of the elementary grades, he began high school at Henry Station, but changed schools after two weeks. At that time, a school bus route began which transported students from his area to Cottage Grove. He graduated from Cottage Grove High School in 1944.

When he graduated high school, he had very little success in finding work. With World War II in full swing, all young men who were of draft age could expect to receive a summons from Uncle Sam to join in the defense of our country, and nobody wanted to hire a man who would probably be absent from the job within a matter of weeks.

He knew there was very little change that he could enroll in college, because his family did not have the means to pay the costs, and there were no loans and grants available at that time.

Bob tried to get a job at Wolf Creek Arsenal (now Milan Arsenal) but they were not interested because of his draft status. He wound up doing odd jobs he could find until he indeed received his invitation from the Army.

He was registered in Henry County, and was sent to Fort Oglethorpe Georgia for induction. As part of his physical examination, it was determined he was not qualified because of a hearing problem, and his draft classification was changed to 4F and he was sent back home. Subsequently, he was recalled on two other occasions, and was rejected both times because of his hearing.

Mr. Owen said that, although he had not originally volunteered, it was embarrassing not to be in service. Every able-bodied man of his age was off fighting the war, and he was forced to stay at home.

Then along came the Korean Conflict, and despite being married and within six months of being too old for military service, he re-

ceived another call from his government. This time, he boarded a bus along with 52 other younger inductees, bound for the Veterans Hospital in Memphis. This time, he was one of the few to pass the physical examination.

In 1952, he was sent to Fort Jackson, South Carolina for 16 weeks of basic and infantry training, and was assigned to army finance. He served for a time at Fort Jackson, and later in Japan, Okinawa, and Formosa, converting money and making sure the troops were paid. Having served a two year hitch, he came home based on an accumulation of service points.

After high school and prior to military service, Bob had spent quite a lot of time in trying to locate employment. Finally he had been able to find a company that would hire him. Irish Gates, who ran a sawmill near the Como Community, agreed to give him a job.

His mother did not like the idea of him working at the sawmill because it was somewhat dangerous, and just plain hard work, but he was determined to have a job and that was the only one available. In expressing her concern regarding this job, his mother told him it would be hard work, and informed him that the new guys got the toughest and dirtiest jobs. But she also informed him that "We didn't raise any quitters!"

He worked carrying slabs cut off the logs as lumber was processed. After two months, the sawmill closed down, and he again found himself unemployed, but not too sorry because he indeed found it to be hard work.

On August 13, 1944, Bob got a break which proved to be a turning point in his life. His uncle, Bennie Oliver, found that the Bank of Gleason was going to hire somebody to work in the bank, and helped him get an interview. He was signed on as the lowest of the three employees at the bank—for a trial period of six months. Those six months turned out to be more than 54 years.

He had grown up in Henry County and didn't know anybody in Gleason, and didn't even know how much he would be paid until he received his first paycheck after 30 days, when he found he would receive a whopping 50 dollars a month. He didn't really like the job, but was afraid to quit because nothing else was available, so he continued to work six days a week from 8 o'clock until 4 o'clock, including sweeping the floor, building a coal fire in the stove every morning, and doing all the tasks assigned to the junior employee.

After a while the Gleason community began to "grow on him," and the job turned out to be better than he thought. As he proved himself to his employer regarding his ability, he began to move up in the bank. Owen then established a self-imposed objective of becoming a bank officer by the time he was 21 years old.

He was appointed Assistant Cashier, which afforded him officer status, in January 1947, just a month before his 20th birthday. In 1950, he received his appointment as Cashier, and became Vice President in 1951. In 1954, he was appointed Executive Vice President and was elected to the bank's board of directors. He was elected President and Chief Executive Officer of the Bank of Gleason in 1965; and was advanced to his current position as Chairman of the Board in 1993.

When he returned from his tour of duty with the Army, he attended Bethel College for a while, not pursuing a degree, but working on courses that would help him do a better job in the banking business. He is also a graduate of the Tennessee School of Banking at Vanderbilt University.

When asked, he agreed that people in the community refer to him as "the last of the country bankers." He went on to explain that there is a great deal of difference be-

tween country and city banks. People in the country are very loyal to the bank with which they do business.

Owen said, "We're in the retail money business. We work hard to give people the service they're so entitled to. We never lose sight that service to our customers is really what it's all about." He continued, "Over the years the community could not have been nicer to me, what with me being an outsider!"

The greatest changes he has noted in 54 years in the banking business are "air-conditioning and computers—in that order!"

He noted that he began working at the bank when it had three employees. They now have 28 employees between the main bank in Gleason and the satellite facility in McKenzie. When he started, the total assets of the bank were about one half million dollars. Today, their assets total 82 million dollars.

In 1947, Bob Owen married Darreen Shaw, from the Tumbling Creek Community. At that time, she worked at Salant and Salant, a shirt factory in Paris. After they married, she went to work at Martin Manufacturing Company, which manufactured army shirts.

Prior to his entry into military service, the Owen family started an insurance agency, the Owen Insurance Company, which was pretty much a "moonlighting" operation necessary to let them make enough to support the family. While he was in the Army, Darreen operated the business, and continued to do so until, as he so aptly put it, "we got in the boy business."

Their first son, Robert Shaw Owen, was born in 1955; Alan came along in 1958; and Eric was born in 1960. Robert received a degree in agriculture from the University of Tennessee. Martin, and Eric completed a double-major degree in chemistry and math at Bethel College. Robert and Eric now have a farming partnership in the county, farming more than 2,000 acres.

Alan Owen completed a business administration degree at Bethel College. He worked part-time at the Bank of Gleason during his college years, and is now a Senior Vice President of the bank.

Their sons gave Bob and Darreen seven wonderful grandchildren; Robert Blaine; Kody; Megan; Ericka; Ellen; Samuel; and James. Darreen passed away in November 1989.

Robert Hiron Owen has served his community for many years. He served as Mayor of Gleason, is past Commander of the Gleason American Legion Post #166, is a 32nd degree mason and a shiner—having received his 50 year pin as a mason recently, is a member of the First Baptist Church in Gleason, and is a charter member and past president of the Gleason Rotary Club.

He also served as President of the Tennessee Bankers Association in 1992-93; presently serves as a Director on the State and Federal Legislative Committee, has served on the Board of the West Tennessee Public Utility District for Benton, Carroll, Weakley, and part of Henry County since 1957—and currently is chair of the Utility District.

Bob has served as a member of the Weakley County Jury Commission for the past 25 years, has been a partner in Finch-Owen Insurance Agency since 1957, and is a former partner of the Gleason Lumber Company. He is presently a partner with Travillian-Owen Farms.

And his community service has been appreciated. He has garnered a list of honors which is much too long to print in this article. A partial list includes the following.

He was appointed Aide-de-Camp on the Governor's Staff by both former Governors Lamar Alexander and Ned McWherter; was

appointed to the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation by Governor McWherter in 1988, and continues to serve in that capacity; he was Grand Marshal of Tatertown Festival in 1978 and 1990; he was named a "Paul Harris Fellow" by the Rotary Club; he received the outstanding citizenship award in 1959, and was named "Boss of the Year" by the local Jaycee Chapter in 1978.

He was honored by local townspeople with a "Bob Owen Day" in his honor. At that time, an annual "Bob Owen College Scholarship" was set up by the Bank of Gleason, to be awarded to a high school senior, based upon their overcoming financial and hardship difficulties.

The Tennessee House of Representatives passed a resolution in his honor, he was made an honorary staff member of the 77th Legislative District of the Tennessee House of Representatives by then State Representative John Tanner.

The Woodmen of the World Life Insurance Society presented him an Honor Plaque for Outstanding Citizenship, and he was named Rotarian of the Year by the Rotary club in 1978 and 1979.

In keeping with his humble nature, Bob Owen, said, "I'm in the banking business by default, because I couldn't find anything else to do."

Regarding his life, he continued, "It's been a great ride, I came from a humble background. My Mom had to be something out of this world. My father died when she was only 47 years old, and she raised three children with the sweat of her brow, and a lot of love."

It may be accurate for the community to refer to him as the last of the country bankers, but Bob Owen is a world-class citizen, who cares deeply for his community and the people he serves.

As was so appropriate by stated by the late Billy O. Williams, Associate Poet Laureate of the State of Tennessee, during a presentation on Bob Owen Day in Gleason:

"He must have done some things just right, as he walked down life's highway,  
'Cause folks have come from all around,  
on this his special day.

Being fair, being honest and being kind,  
has been his life's ongoing.

May the good 'Lord' bless, years of happiness,  
for Robert H. 'Bob' Owen."

#### A TRIBUTE TO GUS A. PEDICONE

### HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 13, 1998*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to utter a few words about Gus Pedicone, a man truly worth honoring. Born and raised in Philadelphia, Mr. Pedicone has been a great leader to his community. His achievements are well worth noting as they demonstrate the positive results that come with hard work and determination.

Perhaps such determination and desire to succeed came about through Gus's early years as a soldier. Serving in both World War II and the Korean conflict, Gus displayed his commitment to serve this community, a commitment that has now spanned over fifty years. Soon after his career as a soldier, Gus entered the political arena, first as a committeeman, then as a Republican Ward Leader for the 26th Ward. At the pinnacle of his political career in 1971, he was even a candidate for United States Congress.

Obtaining degrees from both the Palmer Business School, and the highly esteemed Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania, Mr. Pedicone's business savvy is self-evident. He started his own air freight business in 1965, which became a very successful endeavor. Gus was also on the State Tax Equalization Board for 14 years, and was a recent appointee to the State Board of Automotive Manufacturers. While too often such success is coupled with a loss of community spirit, Gus has proven his loyalty as a member of the Sons of Italy and as a past member of the Lions Club.

Aside from all these accomplishments, Mr. Speaker, Gus Pedicone should be recognized for his legacy as a role model. He is well known throughout the Philadelphia community as a gentleman and a man of his word. Just the other day, I spoke to his Democratic counterpart, the Honorable Ronald Donatucci. Although Mr. Pedicone and Mr. Donatucci spent years opposing each other on election day, Ron had nothing but praise for Gus. All of us can only hope to be so well thought of by our opponents.

Gus Pedicone is a truly remarkable man. His diverse achievements in both the private and public realms give way only to his continuing desire to serve his community as best he can. He has had a positive effect on all aspects of our community for over fifty years, and for this I would like to express my deepest gratitude.

#### IN HONOR OF HERMAN FINK ON HIS 102ND BIRTHDAY

### HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 13, 1998*

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to congratulate Herman Fink of Santa Ana, California, on his 102nd birthday. As a well-known Santa Ana resident, Mr. Fink has lived on the same street (Flower Street) in Santa Ana for 59 years. During that time he has become known as "the Honorary Mayor of Flower Street" to all those who live around him.

An avid world traveler, Mr. Fink has been to the farthest reaches of the world. He has traveled to nearly every land on earth, from Egypt to Australia, from France to South America. He loves to travel and has lived his life as an adventure, seeking out the treasures of discovery and savoring the immense richness of many foreign lands.

Herman Fink was married for 67 years to his wife, Clara. Theirs was a perfect marriage, according to his only daughter, Lorraine Ellison of Garden Grove, California. Many happy years of marriage, a lovely daughter, two granddaughters and two great grandchildren have filled his life with love and joy.

To this day, Mr. Fink lives in his own house in Santa Ana. He is in excellent health and his days are filled with friendship. At his birthday party on September 26, his favorite restaurant beamed with love and friendship. Herman Fink is a man who is loved by many people, a genuine testament to a life well-lived.

#### IN HONOR OF THE COMMUNITY UNITED FOR THE REHABILITATION OF THE ADDICTED 25TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 13, 1998*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the Community United for the Rehabilitation of the Addicted, Inc. (CURA) for their innumerable contributions throughout New Jersey. For years, this agency has been dedicated to the treatment and rehabilitation of Spanish speaking individuals who are addicted to drugs or alcohol. Because of its unique treatment philosophy, the program boasts one of the highest success rates of any similar program in the country.

CURA was established in 1973 in response to the poor success rate of Spanish speaking addicts in other programs. CURA offers long-term residential drug-free rehabilitation programs, outpatient drug-free rehabilitation programs, short-term residential programs for alcoholic addicts who are 18 years or older, an outreach prevention program in surrounding communities for "high risk" youngsters 12-17 years of age, and supplemental services which include vocational evaluation and training, high school equivalency preparation, a health examination, HIV education and prevention, recreational activities and job placement assistance.

I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the outstanding work of the Community United for the Rehabilitation of the Addicted. I would like to commend the CURA staff, Board of Trustees and Chairman Miguel Rivera. I encourage them to continue to serve their communities for many more years to come.

#### WORLD POPULATION AWARENESS WEEK

### HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 13, 1998*

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call World Population Awareness Week 1998 to the attention of my Colleagues. October 24-31 marks the 13th annual celebration of World Population Awareness Week. More than 300 family planning, environmental, educational, community and service organizations in 61 countries are co-sponsoring the week in an effort to raise awareness of the need for universal voluntary family planning.

I call the Governor of Vermont's, the Honorable Howard Dean, proclamation to the attention of my colleagues.

#### WORLD POPULATION AWARENESS WEEK PROCLAMATION—1998

Whereas world population stands today at more than 5.9 billion and increases by more than 80 million per year, with virtually all of this growth in the least developed countries;

Whereas the consequences of rapid population growth are not limited to the developing world but extend to all nations and to all people, including every citizen of the State of Vermont concerned for human dignity,