

No Suspenders, Please

Several readers commented on the recent Perspective about strange laws that are still being carried on the books of state governments. My source is a series of broadcasts on a Cleveland radio station, WBAC. The station does not give the source of its information. A review of the laws it cites proves to be entertaining, if not enlightening, and causes one to wonder: What were these people thinking?

How about Arizona? In Tucson, it is illegal for women to wear pants. In Globe, it is illegal to play cards in the street with a Native American. In Glendale, it is illegal to drive a car in reverse. In Nogales, it is illegal to wear suspenders.

Then there is Colorado. In Durango, it is illegal to go out in public dressed in clothing “unbecoming” one’s sex. In Logan County, it is illegal for a man to kiss a woman while she is asleep. In Pueblo, it is illegal to let a dandelion grow within city limits.

Check out Florida. In Miami, it is illegal for a man to wear any kind of strapless gown. Unmarried women who parachute on Sundays may be jailed. In Sarasota, it is illegal to sing while wearing a bathing suit.

Connecticut has some baffling ordinances. In Hartford, it is illegal to educate a dog. It is illegal to dispose of used razor blades. In New Britain, the speed limit for fire trucks is 25 miles per hour, even when going to a fire. In Hartford, it is illegal for a man to kiss his wife on Sunday.

Here comes Georgia. All males in the state between the ages of 16 and 50 are required to work on public roads. In Columbus, it is illegal to sit on one’s porch in an indecent position. In Quitman, it is illegal for a chicken to cross a road. It is illegal to change the clothes on a storefront mannequin unless the shades are down.

Evidently, the incidents that led to the passage of these laws must have been heavy on the minds of legislators at the time. That’s enough for now. We’ll take a look at statutes in other states a little later.

--Beecher Hunter