

4 COURIER-FREEMAN, POTSDAM, N. Y., Thursday, June 17, 1965

Courier Comments.....

"Give Them Light With Which To See And Stimulus To Reflect."

Appalling Lack Of Interest Seen In Low Attendance At School Meet

On Tuesday night of this week the two central schools in Potsdam township, Potsdam Central and Norwood-Norfolk Central, each held annual school meetings in the respective schools. The combined budgets totaled approximately two and one-half million dollars.

In Potsdam, where the school enrollment is about 2,785 and the number of eligible voters could logically be presumed to at least equal this figure, slightly more than 50 persons appeared at the meeting and 46 ballots were cast for the record budget of \$2,055,960.

At Norwood-Norfolk, with a school enrollment of some 1,806 students, the figures were even more unbelievable. Thirty-six votes were counted for the \$1,331,700 budget, with one dissenter and one blank ballot.

Obviously, the school budget has to be approved—which may be one reason for the appallingly low percentage of qualified voters who turned out for the meeting. Never-the-less, the local annual school meeting is one of the last remaining strongholds for expressing individual opinions or questioning items which are not understood. If this privilege were to be taken from us, we suspect there would be such a hue and cry as would make the very Adirondacks echo and re-echo.

The lack of interest in duly elected members of the Board of Education is even more difficult to comprehend. These are the people who form the liaison between the parents and the school administration, the ones who formulate and carry out educational policies. True, it's easy to shrug one's shoulders and say, "What difference does it make? They'll do what they want or what the State dictates anyway."

But is it truly either democratic or responsible citizenship to unceremoniously cast this burden on such a very small percentage of the district voters? Of course, there is one thing to be said for the voter who didn't attend school meetings: he can always say that HE had nothing to do with electing the Board members, and furthermore, he usually feels quite free to criticize the actions of this body.

Of course, there's also the factor of 'no contest' to be taken into consideration. As one person was heard to remark at the Potsdam meeting Tuesday evening, it does seem rather pointless to spend so much time marking and casting and counting ballots when only one name appears for the position.

Probably the reason for this disinclination to run for School Board office can be traced to the fact that school business has become big business almost overnight, requiring that a great deal of time be given to meetings etc. Since such an organization requires a considerable amount of business acumen and education, as well as time, it is no wonder that few qualified persons seek the posts.

For those civic-minded people who are willing to serve on Boards of Education and who conscientiously perform this difficult duty to the best of their ability, we would take this opportunity to say "thank you". We take pleasure in particularly commending Dr. Prescott and Dr. Barrington, both of whom have accepted a second—five-year term. — E. S. D.

GOP Begins Drive To Rebuild

The North Country GOP has begun its drive to rebuild after the debacle it suffered in the 1964 election.

The 5-county convention in Plattsburgh recently made it clear that the GOP is out to rebuild its image in the North Country.

The GOP convention met and selected Ronald B. Stafford, a Clinton County attorney, to oppose Democratic incumbent State Senator John Quinn this fall.

So Quinn, also a Clinton County man, is facing a real fight to hold on to the seat.

Under the new reapportionment plan, the 48th Senatorial District which he represents includes Clinton, Essex, Hamilton and St. Lawrence counties. Most of these had long been regarded as safe GOP territory until last year when many Democrats swept into office.

The reapportionment plan drawn by the Republican Legislature in lame duck session last year was gerrymandered to favor Republican candidates.

By lumping together the five counties, usually Republican, the GOP figured to make a strong comeback this year.

This still remains to be seen but it does indicate that Quinn will have to fight hard to win reelection. He does have one big advantage, he's the incumbent.

With two "eager beaver" candidates fighting it out, the public has a chance to demand that each clearly outline his position on major issues.

People will have a chance to ask questions, to evaluate the answers and make their decision on the issues.

This is all to the good. And it should make for an invigorating and interesting State Senatorial campaign. PLATTSBURGH PRESS-REPUBLICAN.

Congratulations To The Jaycees

The State Jaycee Teenage Safe Driving Contest held in this village last week end is one more indication that more and more groups are discovering what our little village has to offer.

A good many people worked very hard to secure the contest for Potsdam and none of them were more interested or 'pulled more strings' than Courier Editor Mike Knapp. We at the Courier hope that he enjoys reading about this project, so dear to his heart, while he is hospitalized in Cleveland.

It's a well known fact that, once a high-level event is lured to our area, there is a better than even chance that it will return again and again. So we will all look forward to another Jaycee Rodeo—maybe a national one, knowing Mike and Dave Satterlee! (Staff writer).



PROUD WINNER — Seen here are John Story of Massena, director of the New York State Independent Insurance Companies, who presented awards at the banquet held for contestants in the National Safe Driving Contest held here in Potsdam last week end as he presents an award to a proud winner along with Verner Ingram, the principal speaker, who discussed his perceptions rela-

tive to the Junior Chamber of Commerce Safe Driving Program. Winners from local competitions held in their own home towns gathered at the State University parking lot last Saturday to compete for the coveted honor of representing New York State in the National competition later this summer in Washington, D. C.

Vast Difference In Civil Rights Attitudes In Cities, Small Towns

(Editor's Note: Courier Editor Michael Knapp is spending a portion of the summer at his home in Cleveland, Ohio for medical treatment. While there he is supplying the paper with a series of "editorial features" on subjects of interest to our readers, but related to an area other than our own—namely Cleveland and the mid-west. His first contribution is a two-part series on Civil Rights activity in that city, and a comparison and some unique observations on Civil Rights activities in a big city and a small town such as Potsdam.)

By Michael L. Knapp

Cleveland, O. — Those who spend or have spent some time in a large city soon learn that there is a vast difference in both attitudes and procedure concerning the touchy issue of Civil Rights between the small town and the metropolitan area. Civil or human rights activity in the Village of Potsdam began in earnest last March with the monetary contributions of hundreds to the Selma, Alabama campaign, and continued for several months thereafter under the auspices of the Potsdam Human Rights Committee.

However, the sympathetic activities of these well-meaning people in Potsdam, N. Y. can not really even be considered a "drop in the bucket" in the total picture of this serious and somewhat frightening problem called "Civil Rights." This latter is not said in the way of criticism, but one is struck with how little knowledge or comprehension most folks in rural areas apparently have about the effect and concern which this intensive Civil Rights movement can have in the large city.

In the three short weeks in which this writer has been in Cleveland, the pover and seriousness of both the pros and cons of the various civil rights movements here has left a marked impression and a great deal of concern. Tucked away in the northern-most part of liberal New York State, Potsdam can have its civil rights activities and opinions in comparative calm with prejudiced views hidden in recesses of many peoples' minds. No motivating force exists in a community such as Potsdam to bring these deep-seated views to the front, on the one hand; and no so-called "Negro problem" is found in the community of Cleveland. But in the big cities...

It doesn't work the same way. People have opinions on the burning issue of our times civil rights; and they express those opinions—pro and con; and they take actions on those opinions—pro and con. A Negro population of well over 100,000 in a community of less than a million is restless—like groups of Negroes throughout the country. Cleveland is considered a Northern City—although large elements of "immigrants" from West

Virginia, Kentucky, and other "border states" also live here. Negroes come and go freely; vote in profusion with nothing to stop them; eat at all lunch-counters and restaurants; ride all public transportation, etc. There is little "outward" sign of hostility. But like most big cities in the North, all is not rosy. The Negroes live in a large area of the East Side, much of it slums, some of the "older" section which used to belong to minority groups such as Jews, Italians, and Poles. Now the "whites" have moved away.

Cleveland is known as the City of Suburbs, with over 60 suburbs surrounding the metropolitan nucleus, some as

large as Lakewood with a population of over 100,000, and others like Pepper Pike. Some Negroes—the lucky ones with fairly decent jobs—may live in Lakewood, in the "older sections." Probably none live in Pepper Pike or Sheffield Lake. Now one Negro family lives in the Lake Erie suburb of Bay Village (home of the infamous Dr. Sam Sheppard), in a home it acquired through the Veterans Administration, which must supply homes to any who desire them—no racial or religious considerations withstanding. It is reported that "niggers" are unhappy. "Negroes come and go in Cleveland as they like, but (See Civil Rights, Page 9)

From The Book Shelf



Potsdam Public Library

Natalia Greer

Summer Time Means Camping and Water Fun — If you want to try something new this summer; I would like to mention some books that may have great appeal: FLOHERTY, John J. & McGrady, Mike — "Skiing - Diving Adventure" — The story of those who go beneath the sea for sport, treasure and knowledge; Bartlett, Tommy. — "Bartlett's guide to Water Skiing" — "Techniques of water skiing; equipment needed and how to handle your boat".

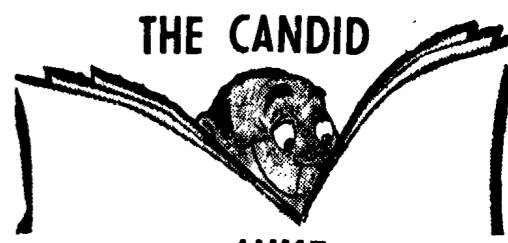
Also, Rustrum, Calvin. — "North American Canoe Country". The complete guide to canoeing; techniques; routes; outfitting and equipment. Survival information in case the craft is lost.

Sports Illustrated. — "Book of Diving". Body control and proper position. Stress on board action.

Lineaweaver, Marion. — "The first book of sailing". Written for the younger reader but a marvelous introduction to sailing terms and techniques are listed.

Miracle, Leonard. — "Complete book of camping". Planning the trip; equipment selection; wilderness cooking; guide to campground and many pointers on living in the woods. First aid points.

Mason, Bernard S. — "The Junior book of camping and woodcraft". For the younger reader again but valuable information for any camping novice can be acquired here as to tent tricks; cooking; and fire-making and equipment to take. Especially good for the Brownie and Cub scout children.



MIKE

By Mike Knapp

Doctor Save My Child
Before plunging into this week's topic "Doctor Save My Child", I think a short explanation is due for last week's column which may have baffled those who are not accustomed to the "Knapp sense of humor." In my jocular way I was trying to say that I have left the Courier for a brief period of time to come here to Cleveland, Ohio, where my family resides, to receive treatment for a back ailment which has plagued me for some time now, and also to start the long road back to the same world of being able to touch my toes, see my feet standing up, and walking through a door frontways—if you know what I mean. This is all a slow process, especially the latter, but I expect to be back at the old desk later this summer. Enough said.

Last week we left off after my "triumphant arrival" at the Cleveland Airport. Well, after a brief reunion with my folks, I began the long search to receive the "expert medical attention" I came here for. And let me say this. Anyone who has ever complained about the medical situation in Potsdam or that area should take a second look at what happens elsewhere—especially in the big cities, and they might appreciate more what they have.

At least you can usually talk with a doctor in Potsdam, or make an appointment to see one. But in the city... Well, let me give you a personal illustration. It took me only a few phone calls and unsuccessful attempts to even talk with a doctor to realize that I had to take a different approach.

"Specialists"
Of course, you must realize that all doctors today are "specialists"; and this seems particularly true in Cleveland! Now if Doctor X specializes in warts of the left ear, that's it! He's not even concerned with warts of the right ear. That's someone else's department. The fact is he never studied the medical or surgical techniques of warts of the right ear—only the left! And furthermore, you might have to go to two different hospitals some 20 or 30 miles apart if you are unfortunately afflicted with warts of both ears, since a hospital on the East Side may be the only one the doctor specializing in right ear warts practices in, while the other doctor only uses a hospital on the other side of town!

Once you've decided which specialist to call, then you have a real problem to figure out what approach to use to talk to the answering service who may, if you're lucky, connect you with the receptionist in the outer lobby of the doctor's office or—more likely—clinic; and she, in turn—if you're clever—may be convinced to let you speak with the doctor's nurse. But if you get this far, you've had it. To get beyond this white fortress of medical knowledge and feminine hostility to speak with "the great one" himself is high on impossible.

Of course, you can lie. You can tell the nurse that you are the Doctor's (a) bookie; (b) psychiatrist; (c) broker; (d) lawyer or (e) Nanny; or you can pretend you're the President of the American Medical Association. Now if you're a woman with a sexy voice you can say you're "Miss Smith of the Community Chest". That's probably the surest way to get to the Doctor, since his nurse—insanely jealous of his wife—will listen in on the other line, and switch on the tape recorder tugged to the phone. (This would all be done on pre-arranged terms with his wife, who is waiting for just such a little "gem" she can save and spring on him after the kids are grown up and she has already served her term as President of the Shaker Club.)

Not to be omitted if you are taking the youngsters to the World's Fair is a good book for them entitled "World's Fairs yesterday, today, tomorrow" by Roberta Fleming Roesch. The book describes some of our early U. S. Fairs and gives information on "What is a World's Fair." A supplement on what to do and see at the N. Y. World Fair is the concluding part of the book. Useful for adults who may have many of their children's questions answered here.

Heights (DAR.)
Miss Pillsbeyer

But as I said, you probably won't have the opportunity to speak with the doctor at all in Cleveland, so you'll have to suffer through Miss Pillsbeyer—his nurse—in a conversation which might go something like this (From personal observation):

Mrs. Knapp: "Hello, I'm Mrs. Paul Knapp of Bay Village. My son, Michael, is home on leave from his job in Northern New York, and he has a very serious and very painful back condition. He'd like to speak with the doctor as soon as possible, please."

Nurse: "What is the telephone number please?" (Number is given.)

"Well, I could have the doctor call back in a month or so. He's very busy most of today and has a meeting of the refreshment committee of the local neighborhood AMA later on. Then he leaves first thing in the morning for a big game safari in Outer Mongolia in search of a rare type of Teesee Fly. But he should be back in three weeks."

Mrs. Knapp: (Stunned) "But my son is in severe pain. When would be the earliest the doctor could see him?"

Nurse: "Well, I think I could squeeze him in at 6 a. m. on August 29."
Mrs. Knapp: (Desperate) "But what am I to do until then? He's flat on his back and can't get up."
Nurse: "Well I'd keep him covered well, and have you tried aspirin?" (A click at the other end)

Footnote: Lest I start receiving nasty letters from doctors and nurses everywhere, I will admit that the above is a slight exaggeration, but a growing problem is developing in what might be termed "public and human relations" between doctors and patients. More and more, comments are being written concerning the "over-protective attitude of the medical profession in some areas. It is a difficult and complicated problem, and one I would not care to become fully involved in with my little knowledge of medicine or the practice of medicine.

However, the issue is becoming prevalent, and I have discovered myself how difficult it is to make an appointment with a doctor in a large city and how difficult it is to get into a hospital unless you are a dire emergency case. Much of this, of course, is not the fault of the medical profession, but the result of a lack of both hospitals and doctors. Also, what has become of the "general practitioner" or "family doctor?" And other questions are being asked. For instance, "Is the American Medical Association really" today's strongest union?" All this makes for interesting discussion and exploration, and in the coming weeks, I hope to delve into these questions—in a serious vein—further. My object is in no way to malign the medical profession or those who are so faithful to its practices, but to see if some of these so-called "relations problems" between doctors and patients really exist; and if they do, why.

Courier & Freeman

George R. Little, General Manager
Michael L. Knapp, Editor
Betty J. Dann, Business Manager



Published every Thursday by the Courier-Freeman Inc., 71 Market St., Potsdam, N. Y. Member of the National Editorial Association, and the Audit Bureau of Circulations. The Association's seal is a mark of approval. Nationality of all news dispatches credited to it or not otherwise credited to this paper.

Subscription rates: Carrier home delivery in Potsdam 80 cents per month. By mail outside Potsdam in the United States and Canada \$3.50 per year. Entered in the post office at Potsdam, N. Y. as second class matter.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including "PI ST", "AP", "1", "F", "4", "S", "19", "S", "COUPON Free", "COUPON Save 50", "COUPON Save 5", "COUPON Save 5", "COUPON Save 5", "COUPON Save 2", "Act Gold Ro", "Chase", "All 3 15c".