

## Courier Comments....

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

### Potsdam Volunteer Firemen Inspire Confidence & Pride In Their Ability

Potsdam's Volunteer Firemen turned out last Saturday evening for their annual Review and Test Run, with Mayor George Anderson and the Village Board present to observe the various demonstrations, and a most impressive sight they made.

Probably there is no other local agency, unless it be the police department, which gives residents such a feeling of confidence and security as do the volunteer firemen. Just to know that they are available helps citizens to sleep better at night; when you add to this the sight of the equipment and a demonstration of how they handle it, then civic pride and appreciation are added to the feeling of general well-being.

There are 48 volunteer firemen, all unpaid, and all giving as generously of their time and skill as though they were highly paid employees. We should remember, in connection with this phase of the village fire department operations, to mention the important part played by the countless local employers who uncomplainingly release the firemen at the first blast of the siren, with no pay 'docking' and no questions asked. In a way, they too are unpaid members of Potsdam's fire-fighting team.

The local Fire Department employs three and one-half paid drivers for the trucks. There are an aerial ladder truck, a Seagrave pumper, a GMC tanker, and an equipment truck which looks like a bread truck and carries whatever isn't fitted into the others.

Our Firemen don't just dress up and parade for this annual Review before the Board and the residents. When the fire chief pulls the alarm at No. 21, they take off from the Fire Station in companies, in a comradely contest to determine which company can make the best time as they draw water from the river down on Water Street with the suction hoses on the side of the trucks. They also give a hook and ladder demonstration with the aerial ladder truck.

Company No. 1, driving the new Pumper, came in first in two minutes and eight seconds; No. 3 with the Seagrave Pumper and No. 2 with Engine No. 3, were clocked at two minutes 11 seconds and two minutes 15 seconds, respectively. And this is the official score, in spite of the fact that a member of the third place team persuaded the Courier-Freeman photographer to take a picture of his company, instead of the actual winners — even firemen have to have their fun!

Our firemen took third place for the best appearing department without band, at the annual convention in Clayton this year. Last year at West Carthage they captured the second prize for best marching outfit without band. Maybe we should do something about a band to accompany them to their next competition? It's a thought, anyway.

Meantime, the Courier-Freeman salutes the Potsdam Volunteer Fire Department.

### Traffic Congestion Near Post Office Scored

We would suggest that the village planners give serious consideration to the traffic problems around the area of the Post Office which threaten to become even more severe with the opening of the Marine Midland Trust Company office directly across the street. The corner of Elm and Union Streets has always been a busy one, but with our increased population, the use of the post office has caused even more problems in that area, and especially narrow and inadequate Union Street has in itself become a traffic hazard for several reasons.

We were glad to see that "No Parking" signs were placed across from the church on Union, where cars had been parked by patrons of the movie theatre around the corner and also by college men picking up their dates at the sorority house on the corner of Union and Main. This problem has been eliminated, and now we have another suggestion which would help the traffic flow on both Union and Elm Streets in front of the post office.

Several years ago, the post office department placed a "drive-up" mail box on Union Street right on the side of the post office. There is no denying that this is a handy way to mail, but it has also caused a traffic hazard when cars going south toward Main Street and Union cut to the left so that the driver can stop by the mailbox and deposit his mail. This has happened on numerous occasions, and it is particularly dangerous at night, when a driver of a car coming north on Union towards Elm becomes confused when he sees the lights of a car coming in the opposite direction directly in front of him.

As a result of all this several dangerous situations arise. We have seen cars heading toward Elm on Union cut to the opposite lane to get around a car parked by the "drive in" mailbox, and narrowly miss a car coming from the opposite direction in the same lane. We have also observed a car parked by the mailbox pull back into its right lane with a car coming directly in back of it, and another near-collision is narrowly avoided.

Our solution to this and other problems is to move the present "drive-up" mail box into the post office parking lot in back of the building, which is easily accessible from Union Street. The "drive-in box" could then be placed in a specially-marked lane at the rear of the lot away from the loading platform. Cars would drive into the lot and follow the lane to the box, mail would be deposited, and the cars would turn around the box and out onto Union again.

It would operate in much the same fashion as the drive-in teller service of banks. We have seen this set-up in other small post-offices, and it works well, but we have never seen a "drive-up" box actually on the street. There could even be two "drive-up" boxes in the set-up we are proposing—one on each side of the lane, so that either the driver or the person next to him could deposit the mail.

We feel that this system would accomplish several important things. (1) It would obviously eliminate the dangerous and illegal maneuvers which many drivers practice now of crossing into the opposite lane on Union Street to deposit their mail; (2) It might persuade more people to use this system rather than parking and double-parking their cars on Elm Street in front of the post office just to deposit mail in the box there, which has been a habit used for years by many today; and (3) It would help establish a pattern of traffic flow on Union and at the intersection of Union and Elm which would at least be a temporary measure until a more suitable traffic structure can be established there. It is obvious to most people that Union Street is presently inadequate to handle the traffic it receives in both directions, and the placing the "drive-in" mail box on the street curb has not helped the situation. We hope our suggestions will be considered by the proper authorities.



ALL SET AND READY TO GO — to Philmont Scout Range in New Mexico on Saturday are these Boy Scouts who are members of Potsdam's Troop 15. They will spend three weeks traveling out and back to the ranch and

touring spots of interest in the vicinity of the range. Seen in this picture are David Baker, Kelly Brant, David Culey, Bob Elliott, Bruce Penrose, Jon Gillaspie, Jeff Donorums, Robert Dieter and Dennis Mathiasen.

### Eight Local Scouts To Leave For Philmont Range Saturday

Eight Potsdam Boy Scouts from Troop 15 in Potsdam along with Bruce Penrose of Troop 43 in West Potsdam and John Perry formerly of Potsdam and now of New Jersey,

will enjoy a three-week scouting expedition to Philmont Scout Range and Philmont, N. M., next month.

Those Scouts from Potsdam are Jon Gillaspie, David Baker, Kelly Brant, David Culey, Jeff Donorums, Bob Elliott, Robert Dieter and Dennis Mathiasen. Joining them will be approximately 30 people from St. Lawrence and Jefferson County Councils.

The group plans to leave by bus from Camp Drum on July 3, spending nights at Air Force bases along the way.

While at Philmont, the Boy Scouts will herd cattle, hike, camp out, go horseback riding and tour nearby mines before leaving for home on July 23.

David Baker and Jon Gillaspie are two of the four patrol leaders who will have charge of about seven or eight boys in a group and will report to the tour masters.

Last week end the Scouts spent at Camp Portaferry at Harrisville in a training session in which they checked equipment and methods in a general drill for the trip.

### SBA Grants 2 Potsdam Loans

WASHINGTON BRIEFS  
Esther Van Wagoner Tufty

Washington — Congressman Robert McEwen (R. N. Y.) has been notified by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare of the approval of a \$600,000 grant by the Public Health Service under the Hill Burton act for the construction of a new 65 bed general hospital at Saranac Lake to replace the 51 bed "unsuitable facility. The President of the Board of Directors is Richard Basile. The total cost of the hospital will be \$2,130,000.

Contracts with 26 states, including New York, to establish and operate counseling and referral services for Armed Forces medical rejects has been announced by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. With the \$313,111 fund, the state health department will examine records of men rejected for military service for medical reasons, counsel these men on health needs, and refer them to health resources for appropriate services.

The Small Business Administration is making nearly three times as many business loans of under \$25,000 as it did a year ago, SBA administrator Eugene P. Foley reports. Some 69 were approved in New York state just during April. Included: two in St. Lawrence County — A. W. Fitzgerald, wholesaler, Cattle dealer (\$85,000), Potsdam; Mark LaFontaine Inc., Building Supplies (\$85,000), Potsdam.

Senator Jacob Javits (R. N. Y.) has again requested Congressman Wright Patman, Chairman of the Joint Economic committee, to hold hearings on the economic outlook and the issues raised by Chairman Martin of the Federal Reserve Board in his June 1 speech, which raised some fears in the business community.

Allocations of nearly \$10 million in recreation grants-in-aid for which states may apply under the Land and Water Conservation Fund act have been announced by Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall. Available for New York: \$801,610.

### The Old Timer



"A man's conscience and not his mattress has most to do with his sleep."

Washington Sidelights  
Esther Van Wagoner Tufty  
Washington — The happiest, gayest, and youngest official guests seen in the White House for some time were the 60 boys and 60 girls who were chosen from 700,000 top high school students around the country to be forever known as "Presidential scholars."

Some were jittery and others admittedly "scared pink" but all were thrilled to be chosen to receive the Presidential medal and to enjoy a White House supper party with plenty of entertainment.

The big East room was jammed with these brightest-of-bright teen agers who jumped up and down to see famous people as they whispered excitedly to each other. The celebrities ranged from space star John Glenn to TV star David McCallum of "The Man from U.N.C.L.E.". Some girls sought out tiny white-haired poetess Marianne Moore and the boys gathered around the nation's top college basketball star Bill Bradley of Princeton.

One lad said "I can hardly wait to hear "Hail to the Chief" but he had to wait 30 minutes for the entrance of the delayed President, who gave a short talk, which brought laughter when he said maybe parents should be getting some medals.

There was no laughing chat and the room was still when the President said he believed "every man created in the image of God has something to say in his time and has the right to be heard by his contemporaries without prejudice or without misconception."

Four "Presidential Scholars" came from New York State: Charles Bohlen, son of U. S. Ambassador to France and Mrs. Charles Bohlen; Stanley Eleff and Martha Sherwood from Brooklyn; and Dimeon Taylor of Larchmont.

The 80 year old dean of the 12 women in Congress, Frances Bolton (R. O.) told this story at a members-only party honoring the lady legislators given by the Women's National Press Club.

"When the Lord created the world He put man on it to run things and then He came back

to find man had even put the trees in the wrong places. So He added woman and gave her two things: pain and laughter. The pain so she would understand creation and laughter to stand the pain—and the man." Part of the entertainment at the party came out of the surprise, fun-provoking questions asked each congresswoman. New York State's only congresswoman, Edna Kelly, was asked: "Which is more challenging: Washington or political parties?" Her answer: "I must confess I don't go to any fashionable Washington affairs, but I wouldn't be in Washington if I didn't like political parties!"

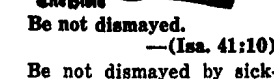
The newswomen sang a song "Hello, Maggie" done to the tune of "Hello, Dolly" to honor Senator Margaret Chase Smith of Maine. It was sung first at a club dinner when she was enrolled in the GOP Presidential primaries.

The housewives champion, Esther Peterson, the President's Special Assistant for Consumer Affairs, is convinced, and can prove it... that "the poor pay more."

Its not a case of widespread explanation of the poor, she says, except by marginal retailers in poor neighborhoods where chain stores do not exist. Rather the poor pay more because they lack the cash to buy economical quantities or can not travel around to do comparison shopping for values.

Often, Mrs. Peterson has discovered, the illiterate, the poor, the fraud-nots are susceptible to have-nots and deceptive practices.

One remedy: cooperate with the War-on-Poverty program in expanding consumer education and services to the poor.



Be not dismayed. —(Isa. 41:10)  
Be not dismayed by sickness or ill health; God will heal. Do not believe anything is impossible or incurable with God. Set your faith to work, bring life and power to your prayers by believing in life. Overcome your fearful concern with your fervent faith God can be trusted. God will heal!

### SENATOR JACOB K. JAVITS (R. N. Y.)

reports

### FROM WASHINGTON

This nation has begun all-out wars against poverty, crime and racial injustice and is committed to putting a man on the moon, but some of the home problems that critically affect our people still remain unsolved.

For large areas of the Northeast, one such problem is the lack of water which is now reaching emergency dimensions. The Interior Department has said that the current drought — especially in southeastern New York and northern New Jersey — has surpassed in severity and duration the previous drought record established between 1929 and 1932.

New York City's reservoirs now contain 63% of capacity as compared to almost 86% at this time last year, causing the city and its suburbs severely to restrict the usage of water and even to explore utilizing the water from the Hudson River for public use.

New York's rural areas for the last three years have suffered parched crops and destroyed pasturage. As Federal officials have stated, the most widespread problem resulting from the drought will be dried up supplies for farms and country residents using shallow wells. For the past two years New York, the second largest producer of fluid milk has felt the squeeze of blighted pasturage and resulting increased production costs of milk.

Of course, some Federal programs of an emergency nature have been used to aid New Yorkers. In four counties, farmers were made eligible to receive Farmers Home Administration emergency loans; in 22 counties they were authorized to graze livestock and harvest hay on lands diverted from production; and in 27 counties, farmers were allowed to purchase surplus feed at below the market price.

But these measures are like some modern drugs, they treat the symptoms, but make no claim at being able to cure the disease. A powerful and prosperous nation such as ours — a nation determined to meet and overcome the challenges of poverty and of space — should not allow one of man's most ancient enemies, drought, to win even limited battles.

It is up to the Federal

Government — in conjunction and cooperation with State and local authorities — to wage an all-out war on drought and to win it. Some improved weapons for Federal use against drought in rural areas have been provided by the rural water project loan program of the Farmers Home Administration Act of 1961, which through 1964 made or insured more than \$72 million in loans to finance work in 37 states.

But this is not enough to meet and defeat so large a problem. For this reason, I have co-sponsored and actively supported a bill introduced by my friend and colleague, Senator Aiken of Vermont, to expand the direct and insured loan programs of the Secretary of Agriculture to public and non-profit agencies for development of rural water areas. The bill also expands the eligibility of rural communities to cities and villages that have a population in excess of 5,000.

This legislation is directed at overcoming one of the greatest handicaps to rural development — the shortage of water for thousands of communities for industrial and residential growth — and I will do all I can to work for its passage.

In solving the water shortage problem in the urban areas, I feel that prompt attention must be given to the expansion and acceleration of the saline water conversion program in the Department of the Interior. Last week, I pressed the Department to determine if such a salt water conversion plant could not be constructed on Long Island to help provide fresh water for New York City and its suburbs.

In addition, all levels of government — and New York State is the leader of the nation in this regard — must expand water pollution elimination programs to conserve what water resources we now have. These programs should have support and encouragement of all the people of New York.

### From The Book Shelf



### Potsdam Public Library

Natalia Greer

### GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE

It was my great privilege to attend the first Governor's Conference on Libraries called by Gov. Nelson Rockefeller in Albany June 24-25, 1965. Gov. Rockefeller stated that "The purpose of the statewide conference will be to explore progress and problems in library development in New York State with particular emphasis on the application of data processing techniques and newly developed electronic devices."

The Explosion of Knowledge and Materials is making it more difficult to satisfy the mounting demands of readers and research workers. Prior to this Conference, Commissioner of Education James E. Allen, Jr. appointed a committee in 1960 to study the problems of library service of an advanced nature. The findings of the committee resulted in the Report of the Commissioner's Committee on Reference and Research Library Resources, December 1961.

Stress was placed on these two concepts "First, we must build on existing strengths; there is a need for a total coordinated program which includes all types of libraries, academic, special and public and "Second, there is a need for a plan of sufficient flexibility that it can evolve to meet changing needs and remain sensitive to rapid shifts

in the frontiers of knowledge and modern technology."

Other studies were made in 62 and 63. The Governor's Conference was four years in the planning and the Advisory Committee is most impressive drawing upon some of the best known names in library and educational institutions of N. Y. S.

To mention very briefly but a few of the topics and speakers at the Conference: Dr. Emmanuel Messtene, exec. director of Technology and Society Program at Harvard, discussed the problems of transferring technical knowledge for use to industry, government, and various library networks.

Verner W. Clapp, president of Council on Library Resources, Inc. covered the complex topic of automation and data processing. Harold S. Hacker, director (See Library, Page 21)