

Courier Comments....

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

Improved Airport would attract Employment, Transient Dollars

We were glad to hear this week that an application had been made by the village to the Federal Aviation Agency for federal funds to develop the airport. As Potsdam continues to grow, the need arises more and more for an improved airport to serve our present and future needs.

Since Federal funds are only available for improvement if an airport is owned by a municipality, it is only logical that the village of Potsdam should operate the airport. The development of Damon Field, which is owned by Clarkson College and operated by Potsdam Airways, Inc., has been under discussion for several years now. Following the drawing up and acceptance by Clarkson College of a study on the feasibility of an expansion plan for the airport, the college under its then president, Dr. William L. Whitson, informed the village board that the college would be willing to turn the field over to the village for development.

An airport committee, consisting of Richard Kukuk, former president of the chamber of commerce; Malcolm T. Rodger, Felix Shelly, Ernest Moore and Thomas E. Place, was appointed by the village board to make a survey, and from this survey it was determined that improvements could be made for general aviation. The committee recommended a surfaced strip and communication facilities.

If the airport is improved for general aviation, the community will realize many benefits. An airport means employment. The airplane is the tool of modern business, and industry locates where it can use this tool.

A local airport means emergency protection. Air ambulances, medical supplies, and emergency materials are hours or days closer when there is a nearby airport.

Finally, an airport brings transient dollars. Stopovers by air travelers — whether on business or pleasure — bring new money into a community. The dollar which flows into your community as a result of a good airport become the dollars of every resident. They become dollars in taxes to provide streets and sewers, protection and playgrounds. They become dollars to help a community grow.

Medicaid Deductible Clause helps Somewhat

The deductible clause, inserted in New York State's Medicaid law, is a helpful step, but it fails to eliminate the No. 1 weakness in the program — the over-generosity that allows a family of four with a gross income of \$7,500 to get its hospital, medical, dental and drug bills paid. It also does nothing about retroactive payments, another glaring weakness. The deductible, however, will keep a tighter thumb on the chisel who seeks to put a tube of toothpaste on his medicare-financed bill and the hypochondriac who hustles to the doctor's office with a cracked lip.

The deductible should save New York State taxpayers money. Although the formula is complicated, the amendments, roughly speaking, will require individuals or families with incomes greater than \$4,500 per year to pay one percent of their medical bills before medicare starts to operate. This means that the family of four with gross income of \$7,500 would have to pay the first \$75 of their medical bills before the state steps in. Under Title 19 of the Social Security Amendments of 1965, deductibles are possible only on medical bills and not on hospital expenses. No one can estimate the financial impact of the deductible because no one knows how much medicare will cost. National insurance specialists have estimated that New York's program may reach a total of \$1.8 billion annually.

Unfortunately, the value of the deductible will be diluted by rising medical expenditures. A new, 60-page state report, completed June 27, prepared by the Division of the Budget in consultation with the State Medical Society, calls for an increase in governmental payments to doctors of at least \$8 million annually. If the physicians get more, inevitably there will be raises for all services — dentists, optometrists, drugs and the rest. The new schedule brings medical payments slightly above Blue Shield and other private medical insurance plans. Previously, they have been substantially lower, a situation irking to many physicians who have argued with some justification that they should not have to take less for treatment of the indigent than for regular patients. Treatment of a fracture, for example, under the new schedule will be \$200 instead of the previous fee of \$133.

Enactment of deductible clauses did not come easily. Governor Rockefeller opposed the idea with the argument that medicare should have a full year's trial before change. Many Democrats in the State Legislature resisted reform in part because they felt medicare was hurting the governor and the Republicans in a key political year. The deductible feature should be the start not the end of revision. The law should be tightened, both in Washington and Albany, so it is not a handout to millions but help to those who can demonstrate need — Ogdensburg Journal.

Grab your Trailer — the Camping's Great!

Our hot summer so far this year has been enjoyed by nearly everybody except those without air-conditioned offices but those people who've liked it the best are the campers.

Nearly every street now in Potsdam has a camper trailer parked on it, witness of the increased interest in this new type of living in the outdoors.

Today's campers live in luxury, although fairly costly, in their tidy camper trailers which can be easily taken to the camp sites — and then presto you have icebox, stove, shower, bureau drawers and comfortable beds.

With more trailers, there has to be more camp sites, and the area around Potsdam is certainly no exception to this.

The past few weeks we have discovered a new camp site, run by Niagara Mohawk on Route 56 about 4 miles north of Sevey's Corners. This is the Parmeter Site, located on the Carey Reservoir. The first established camp site on Niagara Mohawk property, and just opened, it has 16 sites suitable for trailers or tents. Swimming is not allowed but there is a boat launching ramp. Reservations must be made for this site with the Niagara Mohawk office, 56 Market St., and the cost is \$1.50 a day. There is a one week limit.

Campers also have a number of other attractive sites to choose these fine weekends. Coles Creek Park in Waddington, Moses St. Park in Massena, Eel Weir near Ogdensburg, Lake Meecham, Cranberry Lake State Park, Forked Lake and Fish Creek have excellent facilities. Many have electricity and hot showers.

Camping by trailer or tent today is the least expensive way of vacationing and traveling and it's good to see so many facilities being opened in our area and cross-country.



THIS ONE'S ON THE HOUSE — Recognize the men? and what were they drinking? This is one of the Potsdam Museum's unidentified photographs currently on view at the museum in its "Pictures of the Past" exhibit. Possibly this is the Albion Hotel bar around the turn of the century. If you know anyone pictured, drop in at the museum today between 1 and 5 p.m. The museum is also open Monday evenings 7 to 9 p.m. and Tuesdays 10 to 12 noon and 2 to 4 p.m. The special exhibit includes photos of Potsdam people and scenes ranging from the 1870's to around 1910.

Albany Column

Rain Shortage May Impair Crops; Rocky acts on Water Resources Bill

THE FARMERS' ACRES
By Edward S. Foster, Executive Secretary New York Farm Bureau

Little do we miss the well till it goes dry. While I haven't heard of many wells going dry in 1966, it is obvious that many are shaking in their shoes lest they have such bad experiences. For the fifth year in succession much of New York State, as of July 19, has had little rainfall except in early spring when cool weather helped conserve moisture and stimulated growth of grass and hay.

Fortunately the first hay crop, under boiling weather, has been good and harvested rapidly. The cost of sweat has been high, ranging up to 100 degrees in some parts. First cutting has been a godsend for dairymen, many of whom have had to pay high prices to maintain their herds the past four years. It is hoped that rain will arrive to yield second and perhaps third cuttings of alfalfa.

The prolonged lack of rainfall has impaired many crops other than hay, especially corn which had a very cold beginning followed by a long period of very high temperature with inadequate moisture.

Dr. Frank Pearson of Cornell University used to say you can predict the corn crop in the corn belt by the amount of rain in August. Let us hope for plenty of rain in August to help make up the deficiency in July.

This leads me to legislative matters, many of which are in the hands of Governor Rockefeller following adjournment of the Legislature sine die (meaning indefinitely) on July 5. Actually, the end came July 6 at 3:10 a. m. Bills left in the Governor's hands on adjournment require action in 30 days including Saturdays and Sundays. The period will end at midnight August 4.

Water Resources
One bill on which the Governor acted quickly continues the "Temporary Commission on Water Resources." Farm Bureau is very appreciative of this action and the strong leadership Senator Frank Van Lare of Rochester has devoted to this Commission.

A high percentage of farmers and others during recent years have come to appreciate the significance of water—its conservation, the potential of irrigation, and capture of runoff water.

Duration of Legislature 1966
The session of 1966 broke the duration record except that of 1911 when legislators received very little pay. Prior to 1965 and '66, sessions have usually adjourned in late March or early April. This was the pattern for many years—less than half the time consumed in 1965 and '66.

The years of '65 and '66 have been highly political years with Democrats in control of both houses in '65; in '66 Democrats controlled the Assembly and Republicans the Senate. The long duration in '65 resulted to a large degree from the inability of Democrats to agree on Speaker of the Assembly, which finally was broken by Republican votes.

A split legislature in '66 with a gubernatorial election pending in November and a New York City tax problem bedeviling the new Mayor, political contention reached a climax. To illustrate the speed the

legislature can generate — a bill was introduced by the Assembly Rules Committee Saturday July 2 — was reported July 5 and passed in Assembly and Senate under message to the Governor. The bill was signed by the Governor on July 5. Here is what it does: Annual salaries of members of the Legislature elected on or after general election in November 1966, will increase from \$10,000 to \$15,000.

Other Matters
Workmen's Compensation Mandatory: Farmer employers having payroll in excess of \$1,200 during the course of 12 months must carry such insurance on employees. Law effective Oct. 1, 1966. Those having payroll less than \$1,200 are exempt. Farm Bureau wanted this to remain voluntary.

Milk Standardization: Finally, the Senate bill which was sent to Rules Committee in the Assembly was reported and passed June 29 by a vote of 111 for and 3 against.

Am looking forward to the Governor's signature in the best interests of producers and consumers.

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

reports

FROM WASHINGTON

In the wake of rioting and violence in Chicago and Cleveland, we have been hearing much talk deploring living and housing conditions in the ghettos and slums of America.

Now, I thoroughly agree that conditions in the Negro ghettos—many of them in New York — are outrageous and should weigh on the conscience of the nation. I have personal and direct knowledge of these conditions and can say that living conditions in such slums today are even more abusive to human dignity than they were in decades past. Now the families forced to live in slums can see, by switching on a television set, that the nation outside the ghetto is prosperous, and that a short distance away people can be relatively safe in their streets, can have safe and clean housing and recreational facilities. In addition, the enormous growth of Negro populations in the cities adds to the despair and the frustration.

I agree with the sentiments of anybody decrying these conditions, but I fail to see this wholly justifiable indignation reflected in the actions of the Administration.

Yes, much has been done by the Federal Government in the last few years to fight poverty, but it is plainly not enough to do what needs to be done in the ghettos, hence the incendiary dangers, the outbreaks of rioting and of civil disobedience.

At the very least, Congress should make its promises into realities as quickly as the merits require, not as slowly as its procedures permit. For example, the House just this week is getting around to considering the bill to extend the Anti-Poverty Program through June, 1967, and in our Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee the bill is only at the Subcommittee level. The result is that until the bill is enacted and the subsequent appropriations supplemental

bill is also enacted, no new anti-poverty programs can be started and the existing ones can only continue at their present levels under a continuing resolution.

The Congress could have initiated these actions during the first six months of the year instead of waiting to create these delays, especially delays slowing down such crucial aspects of the anti-poverty effort as the summer programs. The same sort of timing has infected other programs primarily aimed at the disadvantaged, such as the Elementary and Secondary Education bill and the Higher Education bill. Congress is very much to blame if, after all the brave words about enacting pioneering anti-poverty legislation, it waits too long to follow through with appropriations!

The Executive Branch and the Congress should also stop watching the budget as if the anti-poverty programs were endlessly negotiable. The Nation cannot wait for carefully thought out, long term research. It needs action quickly, and in sufficient amount to make a dent in a snowballing situation. The Executive Branch should not seek, as it has, to obstruct the Congress in increasing the anti-poverty budget from \$1.75 billion to \$1.9 billion. It should not do it in education, or housing, or hospitals. If a tax increase is needed, as I believe it will be, to finance these increases, we should vote a tax increase, not trim these budgets as if the problem they are designed to meet can wait—it will not!

These suggestions are not a panacea, I know, but they are capable of effecting significant improvement, now.



If anyone has the inclination to insinuate darkly that teachers certainly "have it easy, look at the long summer vacations", I suggest that you might revise your opinions if you would have a look around any of our central schools this summer.

I was somewhat startled myself, even though I knew in a general way that there were several programs in progress at PCS . . . but, even I hadn't realized the broad scale of these projects . . . the parking area has nearly as many cars as in the so-called school year . . . the office force is just as busy . . . Superintendent Kingston and the various principals are on the job daily . . . students walk briskly along the corridors . . . and the playgrounds are alive with all sorts of activities, organized and otherwise.

Our Betsy Mahony spent part of a day with the Head Start classes and last week we had a story and picture spread on this educational venture . . . she's planning to get her teeth into some of the other classes presently in progress . . . and I assume all our readers are following the playground activities publicly, especially the pictures of the Little Leaguers.

Norwood-Norfolk Central is buzzing also . . . I understand they've had some golf instruction there . . . maybe I should wander down some day and get a few hints. They too have several Pee-Wee baseball teams going, and their senior division All-Stars went to Tupper Lake last weekend for the first lap

of their championship play-offs . . .

The Little Leaguer at our house has caused Himself to swell with pride, as he hit a two-bagger to put the Orioles in first place for the second half . . . we couldn't be more excited if he's won the D.S.C.!

What I'm trying to say is that all these programs and others I haven't mentioned don't just "happen" . . . they require the supervision and civic dedication of a great many volunteers, both paid and unpaid . . . sometimes we fail to recognize and acknowledge this type of service, which certainly merits the commendation of the community.

Aren't you all happy that Potsdam's finest (the Police Force, of course . . . who else?) are under a pay scale commensurate with the duties they perform . . . we have been held up as an example to the Ogdensburg City Council which is being petitioned by that city's police force for a more adequate rate of remuneration. Congratulations to Potsdam Mayor George (Ted) Anderson, members of the Village Board and the Administrator for their foresight andness in this department. —E.S.D.

Welfare Districts to set Fees for Medical Assistance Program

Two major rules governing operation of the Medical Assistance for Needy Persons (Medicaid) Program were approved today by the State Board of Social Welfare.

One deals with the establishment of fee schedules for providers of medical services; and the other formally incorporates the deductibility feature of the program, as enacted by the Legislature.

The rule concerning fees authorizes each local public welfare district to establish "adequate" schedules of fees and rates which must be accepted as full payment for services and supplies furnished under the Medical Assistance program.

The basis for such schedules was announced earlier this month by Governor Rockefeller. It was developed by the State Budget Director and covers payments for medical, surgical and anesthesia services provided by physicians. It is based on the Relative Value Scale issued by the State Medical Society, and represents a substantial increase over current fee schedules.

The Board action is in conformity with Federal regulations which limit participation in the Medical Assistance program to physicians and other providers of health care who agree to provide by the "payment in full" proviso.

(The Board noted that proposals have been made in some parts of the State that the welfare district fee schedules be accepted as part payment, with Medical Assistance recipients being billed for additional payment. The Board enactment prohibits such procedure.)

The deductibility rule is effective August first. It embraces provisions established by the Legislature prior to its adjournment earlier this month.

The deductibility feature applies to families having a gross income of \$4,500 or more, and is figured two ways. One way is by a simple computation of one percent of gross income. The other is by a more complicated calculation based on a percentage of net income. Whichever figure is smaller is the amount which must be paid annually by the applicant or in his behalf before Medical Assistance is provided. It does not apply to in-patient hospital care.

Payment of health insurance premiums, whether by the individual or by a third

party in his behalf, such as an employer or a union, are applicable toward the deductible. Payments for Workmen's Compensation coverage or for medical coverage under a liability insurance policy cannot be applied toward the deductible.

Clarifying changes in administrative language also were approved.

Medicaid lists No New Regulations for Ambulance

Social Security District Manager John P. Moulton said today that the medicare law sets no arbitrary standards for ambulance services.

Moulton said recent inquiries have come to his office, mostly from funeral directors who operate ambulance services as a sideline, who were concerned that rigid standards under medicare would increase their operating expenses and make it unfeasible for them to continue the service. He said most inquirers were relieved to discover that State and local requirements they must meet generally match the medicare guidelines.

The guidelines defining standards for ambulance services under medicare are as follows:

- (1) That there be a specially designed and equipped automobile or other vehicle operated by trained personnel for transporting the sick and injured.
 - (2) That it must have customary patient care equipment such as a stretcher, clean linens, first aid supplies, oxygen equipment, etc.
 - (3) That it have adequate safety equipment required by State or local authorities.
 - (4) The ambulance must be operated by personnel specifically trained for ambulance service who have completed the standard and advanced Red Cross First Aid course or have equivalent training.
- Certain ambulance services when medically necessary are paid for under the voluntary medical insurance part of the medicare plan. The service will be paid for in situations where the ambulance is required by the patient's condition and where the patient is transported to the nearest hospital with appropriate facilities; from one hospital to another; or to an extended care facility.