

Courier Comments.....

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

Potsdam puts its Best Face Forward with New Parks, Signs, Street Lights

Our village is certainly putting its best face forward these days. From the attractive little park on Market St. between Slavin and Hyman's Furniture and Herbert's Men's Shop to the brand new signs at the Civic Center, it's looking very nice.

Much thanks should go to the Mayor's Beautification Committee which has followed through so excellently on the beautification plans mapped this Spring. The final project — the Rotary Park mentioned above — is a particularly welcome addition to the downtown area. How many times has one arranged a time to meet a friend and had to wait on one foot or another in front of Kinney's? Now you can sit on the bench in the park and watch the people!

We see too that Clarkson has planted gardens on Main St. beside Lewis House and between Old Main and Lewis House. They are edged with chips of Potsdam sandstone and are most attractive.

Other flowers have added greatly to the village this summer: the petunias and geraniums on the bridges, thanks to the Potsdam Garden Club, and those at the "Welcome to Potsdam" signs on routes from Norwood, Canton, Winthrop and Hannawa, planted by the Zonta Club. We're also enjoying the flower boxes downtown and by the Civic Center, which were installed by the Beautification Committee. This committee, headed by Julia Anderson, is also responsible for the flowers in Potsdam's other parks — Ives, Anderson, Cubley and on Raymond St.

The new signs at the Civic Center were badly needed. No longer will people come into the library hunting the town clerk. Those who've lived here a long time know those buildings so well that they forget that newcomers might have problems finding the right door at the Civic Center. The new signs are certainly welcome.

Niagara Mohawk is also doing its part to make Potsdam put its best face forward with the new street lights. The old lights were nostalgic but these new ones provide much needed brightness.

The summer is a traditional time to get organized for a busy fall and our village is no exception to this. The flowers, signs and lights have expressed our welcome to our summer visitors. They will do much to make our onslaught of students and faculty feel at home this fall.

Ting-a-ling at 3:01 Sunday morning

Where will you be at 3:01 this Sunday morning? Asleep? Driving? At a party?

Forty New York Telephone Co. men won't be doing any of those things at that hour. They'll be poised at their jobs at the phone company office on Market St. to put into effect the new Direct Distance Dialing.

This new telephone service will be bringing our area up to date with most of the other parts of the United States. Even Ogdensburg has had this service for over three years and the convenience of placing your own long distance calls will do much to aid the business and the colleges who conduct much of their business over the phone.

A great deal of work has gone into this changeover. More than 200,000 lines of cable have been put into the central office, over 72 million feet of wire has been laid underground throughout the area, and entirely new systems of central phoning have been put in at the colleges.

Our own Jack Hayes, who is area manager for the N. Y. Telephone Co., has been the overall coordinator for this job and deserves a lot of credit. Also up for kudos is Potsdamite Fred Stone who is the plant manager and who will be supervising the "cutover" for the new dialing system on Sunday morning.

Since late last Fall the phone company has been gearing itself to direct dialing. The new addition has been built to the phone co. office on Market St. and the business office moved to the east side of the street, all business phones were given their new numbers a month ago, and local residences received information and new numbers this week. The new phone books are being distributed right now.

The new system is being put into effect in Potsdam, Canton, Norwood, Norfolk, Massena, Madrid and Waddington.

There's just one problem. It's going to make it so very easy to make long distance calls now. You might feel like talking to your friends in Indianapolis and they'll be just eleven digits away by phone!

Don't do this at 3:01 a.m. Sunday, though. Wait until say, 3:30 a.m. when the changeover's all ready to use. Maybe 9 a.m. would be better — when your friends are awake!

Welcome to Direct Distance Dialing!

Newspapers Happy over News Access Bill

President Johnson has signed a bill that should open doors, previously closed, to public information. This is law that should allow Americans far deeper insight into the operation of their national government, should reveal errors in judgment and deed, and should, in some cases, lay bare wrong doing.

"Democracy works best" said President Johnson in signing the freedom of information bill, "when the people have all of the information that the security of the nation permits."

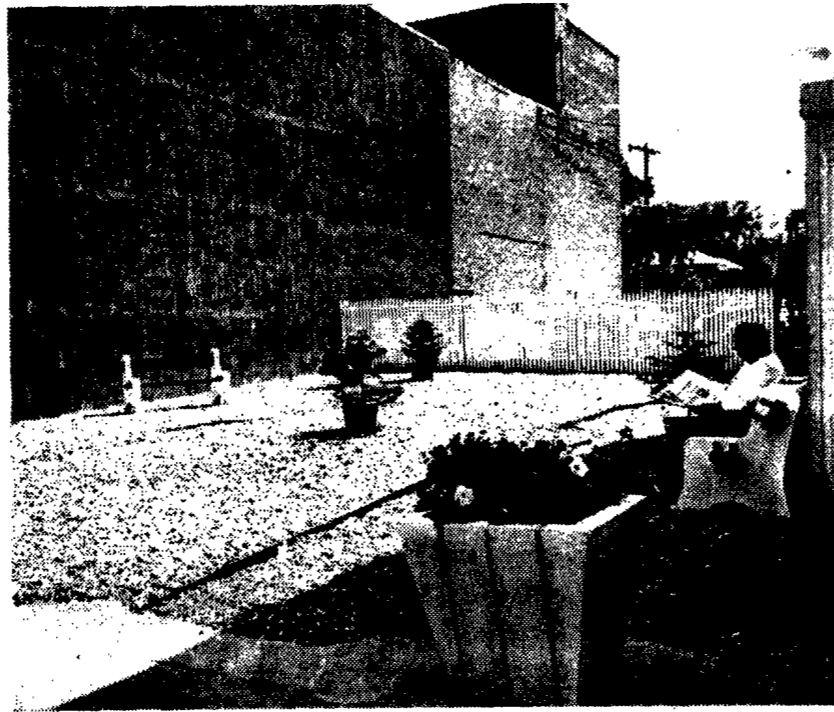
This new law resulted from a 10-year fight waged by Rep. John E. Moss, Democrat, California. Mr. Moss is chairman of the Freedom of Information sub-committee of the House Committee on Governmental Information. Mr. Moss faced resistance from members of Congress and executive department leaders in three administrations — Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson — who appeared to feel that no news is better news than full news.

Newspapermen and others hope that this new law will stop the slow but steady encroachment of news sources and the erection of barriers to reporting that has marked most of the 20-year post World War II period.

Under the guise of national security, officials have been withholding an increasing amount of news. Much that has had to do with government finance, including information on government contracts, has been kept secret. Investigative material has been suppressed, even though the investigation may have been completed for months. The activities of regulatory bodies, including the votes of members on key public issues, has been declared out of bounds.

All newspapermen are aware that often government activity dealing with national defense, with delicate international issues, with men on special assignments must be kept under restriction. But they have become deeply concerned about denial of clearly proven incidents, of misinformation, of outright falsehood.

Responsible newspapermen are not interested in prying or in gossip. They want, however, access to news that is clearly in the public's interest to know, to information that ensures efficient and effective government, to activities that keep public officials under the scrutiny of the people. It is self-evident that truth flourishes in the light of day and is obscured by darkness.



ROTARY PARK ON MARKET ST.—A handy place to meet friends or just rest from shopping is the new Rotary park on the east side of Market St. Financed by a \$300 grant from the Potsdam Rotary Club and designed by the Mayor's Beautification Committee, it is a most welcome addition to the downtown area. Benches, flowers and neat gravel paths make it very attractive. Above, a local resident takes his ease. —Picture by Laird Chaffee.

Kaleidoscope

Firearms Legislation poses NNY Dilemma

By Betsy Mahony
Following Monday's Texas massacre, North Country sportsmen are again faced with the dilemma of firearms legislation, a bill pending in the senate judiciary committee after approval last May by the senate juvenile delinquency subcommittee. While no immediate action is foreseen, due mainly to opposition wishing to exempt rifles from new controls — controls on over-the-counter and mail-order sales, Whitman's spree has revitalized interest in Senator Dodd's (D. Conn.) bill.

As a stranger in this neck of the woods, it's difficult to put myself in the position of the north country hunter; in our home a gun would have been as foreign as an A-Bomb suspended from the living room ceiling. Ten months in St. Lawrence County, however has given me some inkling into northern New York "thought patterns," and the sticky-wicket over firearms control, while taking many different faces, seems to boil down to one native characteristic: preservation of individuality.

"The Right to Bear Arms," tried truism stated in the Bill of Rights, is a constitutional

guarantee; you folks don't cotton much to any tampering, skirting with, or elastic interpretation of the constitution. And a creditable feature individuality is in an age of mass-orientation.

Some six to eight years ago, a similar crisis arose between you and legislation requiring all persons obtaining a hunting license to submit to the National Rifle Association Safety Test, an inconvenience heralded by much ado and now carried out with as much "inconvenience" as a driver's test.

Yet, further legislation, whether it be banning inter-state over-the-counter and mail-order sale of concealable firearm or restrictions requiring an affidavit to procure rifles and shot guns, infringe, you feel, on your "Right to Bear Arms." Furthermore, how effective could such controls be, you ask, which brings us back to the idea of prohibition, "The Great Experiment" and its effectiveness. The difference lies here, not in prohibition of firearms, but in regulating the purchase thereof.

I see myself smack in the middle, brought up in an area where the only sportsmen were weekend hunters stalking each other in the Catskill Alps and the only citizens bearing arms for self-protection were Brinks truck drivers, our law enforcement agency, and perhaps, bookies cleaning up on the daily double at Saratoga.

And here I am living in Potsdam, heartland of hunters knowledgeable in their sport, and more important, dedicated to the ideals of individualism. What will come out of the Senate's judiciary committee will undoubtedly raise Cain; a tricky situation, indeed, one in which gladly the decision is not mine.

Best to enroll in Medicare before reach 65

When do I enroll in Medicare if I'm going to be 65 in the near future or later years? This is a question the Ogdensburg social security office receives quite often, said John P. Moulton, district manager.

Persons who are not yet 65 will have seven months in which to enroll for Medicare. These seven months are the three months before the month they are 65, the month in which they are 65, and the three months after the month in which they are 65.

The medical insurance part of the health insurance program becomes effective on different dates depending on when the application is filed in the seven month period. It is a definite advantage to file in the three month period before the month of reaching age 65. The medical insurance is then effective with the first day of the month of your 65th birthday. If you apply in the month you are 65 or in the following three months, your medical insurance protection will not begin immediately, although you will have hospital insurance as soon as you apply.

A person who is not yet 65, but who is working or has worked under social security and has not filed an application, should get in touch with the social security office in the three months before he is 65. In this way you become entitled to the health insurance benefits, even though, because of your work, you may not receive a monthly benefit. Don't worry about your additional earnings; these will be automatically included in figuring your benefit rate.

The Social Security Administration has always urged those persons who have not filed for benefits to get in touch with them three months before they are 65. Now with Medicare it is more important to do so, said Moulton.

For further information phone, write, or call at the social security office, 306 Catherine St., Ogdensburg. The phone is 393-0880. The office is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday thru Thursday and from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Fridays.

Bankers notice savings outflow

Average total demand deposits for all commercial banks in New York State showed an increase as of June 30 of \$2.2 billion over the previous month-end while time and savings deposits declined by 128 million according to estimates prepared by New York State Bankers Association.

On June 30, total demand deposits held by the state's commercial banks amounted to \$37,268 million; an increase of \$2,192 million over the May 31 total of \$35,066 million.

The total of time and savings deposits in the same banks amounted to \$27,779 million; a decrease of \$128 million from the previous month's total of \$27,907 million.

"Obviously, the counter attraction of higher returns from other areas of investment and not the action of commercial banks is causing the outflow of savings deposits," said Thomas E. Place, President, St. Lawrence County Bankers Association and Assistant Vice President, St. Lawrence National Bank, Potsdam, in commenting on the report.

"Considering these reported results it is difficult to justify current Congressional pressure to impose interest rate ceilings on certificates of deposit issued by commercial banks.

"Bank depositors have the right to employ their savings as see fit. They are entitled to seek a better return on their funds. The arbitrary freezing of rates is not the solution nor will it alter depositors' decisions. Legislation will not change human nature." He concluded.

Exposition News

Six young "scientists of tomorrow" will be honored by the Expo in its annual High School Science Exhibition in the State Exhibits Center.

The six high school science students whose completed projects were judged best at the State Science Congress will be the guests of the Expo to display and explain their prizewinning projects.

Purpose of the exhibit is to increase student interest in science courses and to recognize the vital importance of increased science training of American youth.

The six students who will participate are: Angelo Longo of Madonna High School, Niagara Falls; Mary L. Silworth, Amityville Memorial High School, Amityville; Arie J. van der Jagt, Franklin Academy and Prattburg Central School, Bath; Bonnie J. Zimmer, Newark Valley Central School, Newark; Ronald Garson, Herricks Senior High School, New Hyde Park, and Mark Lichtenstein, Herricks Senior High School, Roseton.

Javits says it is only fair to say there are no quick or easy policy solutions in our current economic outlook.

Albany Column

State Constitutional Convention to change Pattern of Government

By Joseph R. Shaw, President Associated Industries of New York State, Inc., Albany

New York voters on November 8 will elect three delegates from each senatorial district to represent them at the New York State Constitutional Convention opening in April, and, in addition, they will elect 15 delegates at large. These delegates, who will convene April 4 at the State Capitol, will make recommendations concerning New York State's fundamental law, and these recommendations — if approved by the voters — will determine the shape and form and powers of New York State government for possibly generations to come.

Albany business observers are deeply concerned these days over the seeming lack of public interest and public understanding in the issues that will be confronted by the constitutional convention, which is the first held since 1898.

Already, however, it is apparent that one of the biggest problems before the constitutional convention will be the relationship of local governments everywhere in the state to the entire state. In turn, this is part of a bigger, modern problem which is the overall relationship of the federal government to the state and to the local communities themselves.

Increasingly, it is pointed out that demands for services on local government are increasing and so are the problems of localities.

One of the biggest problems faced by the constitutional delegates will be the attempt to find an answer to the question of "How much home rule?" This question involves intimate relationships at the local level with respect to such problems as the local real estate tax and local non-property taxes. It involves such important considerations as the present constitutional tax limit and the constitutional debt limit. It takes in the integration or non-integration of school expense at the local level into the overall needs of localities. It includes, too, the question of local real estate tax exemptions, which in some communities are vexing.

The problem of service-providing districts like water supply, sewage disposal, fire protection and other special services is another. Tied in with the broader problem of the relationship of localities to state government is the question of urban renewal and the question of public authorities.

As the state faces the problem of putting into the constitution the "one man — one vote" principle enunciated by the U. S. Supreme Court, some localities also face the problem of local reapportionment and representation as between, for example, boards of supervisors and municipalities.

Another area of local concern will be the question of regional cooperation among localities in seeking an extremely broad base for public works improvements as in water supply and sewage.

The constitutional convention, in addition, must take a look at the Judicial Department of the state and its

powers, and also review the State Legislature and its powers, along with the far flung Executive Department, from the Governor's powers down. There has already been some discussion as to longer terms for senators and assemblymen. A proposal also has been advanced seeking consideration of a unicameral type of legislature.

Fundamental law with respect to social legislation such as housing, slum clearance and urban renewal are in the picture. There will be serious

questions raised about economic development and labor relations for both private and government segments of the economy. There will be proposals to reduce the voting age, and others will affect literacy and property requirements.

No matter what you do or where you live in New York State, the constitutional convention and its deliberations will affect you. Citizens will need to pay increasing attention to the issues as they develop!

Javits condemns Administration's Delay in controlling "Recession"

by Esther Van Wagoner Tufty Washington Post correspondent

Washington — Senator Jacob Javits (R. N. Y.), who frequently goes along with liberal administration policies, has dared to mention out loud the word "recession" because of the White House's "unwillingness or inability to stop the present drift in economic policy."

The New York Republican

We Get Letters

Hometown News Boon to newsmen

Editor's note: The following "thank you" note was attached to a military mailbox article sent us from a local boy serving in South East Asia. A/C Daniel Vallance, has recently been awarded his third stripe; his promotion appears under military mailbox.

July 22, 1966
Korat
Thailand

Dear Sirs:
I would like to take this opportunity to thank the editor and personnel of the Courier and Freeman for the time and space it has relinquished to the Corpsmen, Seamen, and Airmen of the Armed Forces of the United States. This gives a higher and much needed moral that the GI needs in this far away area of the world.

I only regret that I cannot say what my heart feels for the U. S. when one is stationed in the Arm Pit of the World. Why mankind is fighting here, I cannot say, but only hope that it will end as it started.

Again I thank you for your time and energy.

Sincerely yours,
Danny Vallance