

Courier Comments....

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

Housing Problem Needs Village Board Action

Following The Courier and Freeman's editorial on the housing situation in Potsdam, there seems to be unanimous agreement that the market is extremely inflated, because of the shortage of homes.

Since the Potsdam Village Board is most directly responsible for the welfare of the village, we urge its members to have an open and frank discussion on the problem at Monday night's meeting.

Preferrably, we would like to see Mayor George E. Anderson appoint a special commission to study what can be done to alleviate the shortage of homes. The commission should be charged to report its findings no later than Feb. 1, in order that some positive steps can be taken by next summer.

As we have said before, there are no easy solutions to the problem which plagues this rapidly expanding community. However, it is never going to get better if it does not have the concern of the Potsdam Village Board.

Citizenship Day

Citizenship Day on Sept. 17 has special meaning for the League of Women Voters as well as for all who are citizens of the United States. For League members, observation of the day coincides with the kickoff of a concerted drive to enlist new members in an organization geared to produce good citizens.

Its founders in 1920 believed that training is a prerequisite to good citizenship; today its leaders are no less dedicated to developing active citizenship among women whose gallant forebears finally won the right to vote in 1920.

"Every privilege carries with it responsibility," declared League leaders in the twenties, "and since good citizenship is not only a privilege but a duty, its obligation is doubled."

The words may seem old fashioned. The concept is not. As vital today as almost a half century ago, the spirit of liberty is a hallmark of the citizen who cares, the citizen who works to transmit patriotic fervor into constructive activity. The League of Women Voters' campaign is a drive for new recruits to what Dr. George Gallup has termed the "greatest civic army of all times."

How does the League of Women Voters help produce good citizens and from them create trained citizens?

A good citizen votes. The League helps him make his vote count the way he wants it to by providing him with nonpartisan information on candidates and ballot issues and holding meetings at which all candidates for office are given the opportunity to speak.

A good citizen knows what is going on. League members take go-see trips to city hall and the state legislature and make Know Your Local Government studies. There are League "observers" at meetings of the city council, the school board, and other boards and commissions making public decisions. League members do basic research on government problems and share their findings with their fellow members and the public at large.

A good citizen's horizon extends beyond his town and his state. The League is a national organization and its members can work with citizens over the country on problems commanding nationwide attention coupled with local concern. By pooling their resources, they can maintain League research teams in the nation's capital to keep them abreast of latest developments in fields chosen for particular focus. When members have decided their stand on an issue, they know there are knowledgeable allies all over the country with whom to cooperate on a course of action.

A good citizen lets his views be known. A good citizen doesn't just study a problem; he discusses it with others, he makes up his mind what should be done about it and disseminates his views. League members do too. They let the law makers know what they think by talking to them and by influencing public opinion which, in turn, has impact on the law makers.

The by-products of League efforts are not confined to members only: the Voters Guides, the surveys, the town government studies, the analysis of legislation, the publications on issues are available to everyone.

On the other hand, the training acquired through producing the Voters Guide, making the survey, observing the city council, testifying before the state legislature, writing the publication, participation in the selection, study, discussion, and consensus on an issue, is reserved for the member herself. It is citizenship training of the highest order. It is training available to every woman citizen in the 1,237 communities in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia where the League of Women Voters is organized. (Contributed by the Potsdam-Canton Unit of the League of Women Voters.)

Mrs. Miriam Anderson

Mrs. Miriam Anderson is in the enviable position of not having to run for election this fall.

She was assured of the Republican nomination because of her party affiliation, but the Democratic endorsement probably came as a surprise.

We are certainly glad that both parties recognized her ability. She has done an outstanding job in the office, which she has held for only three years.

Courier & Freeman

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We Get Letters...

Accuses School of Discrimination

Dear Sir:

A minuscule sector of Potsdam parents experienced, in the form of discrimination, a major setback in the education of their children with school registration last week. This discrimination would not normally rate attention in this day and age since it is not discrimination against race, color, or creed. It is

discrimination against private enterprise.

We all know what increasing welfare measures and subsidies and advancing socialisms mean. Only last week the St. Lawrence County taxpayers were made aware of the likelihood of either an increased real estate assessment, or a sales tax, as an antidote to the exorbitant costs of the

state-financed Medicaid. We take many things for granted, including our public school system. No parent is penalized by the Potsdam Board of Education with a tuition statement of \$500, or \$800, or \$1,000 for a child. Were this the case, the schools would be rapidly emptied and the teachers and administrators without salaries.

The State rules that a child must be admitted to kindergarten if he is five years of age by December 1. The State rules that a child must be admitted to Grade 1 if he is six years of age by December 1, or has had one year of kindergarten in a state school. Other than establishing these primary resolutions, the State is a consultant service to, rather than a governing body over, the various school districts. These districts exercise autonomy, then under the jurisdiction of the local boards of education, any flexibility in their rulings being at their discretion.

A certain sector of Americans has enjoyed flexibility in the education of its preschoolers by sending them, at the 3 and 4 year old level, to private, tuition charging schools. These are accredited by the respective state and usually comprise, in addition to nursery and kindergarten, grades one through eight. They have a full program, special teachers at each level, and admission by selection, this giving a teacher the privilege of determining whether a child is capable of work at her prescribed level (an admission privilege a teacher in a state school does not enjoy).

In some states, notably Connecticut and the Washington, D.C., dormitory areas of Maryland and Virginia, children have been in nursery and kindergarten in private schools for many years, not to mention their introduction, in several states, into the very successful Montessori System. (How would the Potsdam Board of Education deal with transfers from the Albany area Montessori Method School, established last year after area research, demand, and support?) Children have gone from Montessori kindergarten into grades 2 and 3 without difficulty in the Public School System in Connecticut. Let this be looked upon with skepticism, it is to be remembered that the State of Connecticut has enjoyed one of the highest standards in public school education of any state in the Union from the inception of its Public School System.

The pedagogues in states with very limited experience in formal early schooling, such as New York, are wont to say these children will suffer consequences of "social years."

Is this question relative? Who is to assume what size or degree of maturity any 4-year-old will have at 14? Or 5-year-old at 12? Or 3-year-old at 16? There is a little matter of genetics and environment to change and alter all children in no conceivable, predetermined manner.

In any case, who is to say who is "socially maladjusted"—the 20 15-year-olds going out of high school, or the 80 18-year-olds going out of high school?

Perhaps we refuse to admit that our facilities are too strained, our space too limited, our taxpayers too overburdened to accommodate preschoolers across-the-board in the public school system. In any case, there are parents in metropolitan areas who, because of the private school facilities available, send their young preschoolers to private schools, often at great personal sacrifice. Private education even when free is the prerogative of the wealthy—it conforms quite naturally to the personal ideals and standards of the educated, professional group.

This group may be called old-fashioned Yankee in approach. If it wants something the state does not provide for free, it will pay for it. (If location and facilities do not preclude it, it will frequently continue to pay for private education even when free public education is available.)

The typical autoworker who earns \$7,800 is now striking for more largesse.

Yet a young professor (like the young physician, lawyer, accountant, writer, or researcher) earning this kind of money sends his three- or four-year-old to a private, tuition-charging school, at a cost of from \$300 to \$1,000, often not counting transportation.

Then this individual moves to Potsdam to become part of the SUCP or Clarkson complex. He has an underage (by one day or six months) preschooler child, no private education (See Accuses Page 22)

ASSEMBLYMAN ED KEENAN



reports from Albany

Since many of you spent a part of your Labor Day weekend fretting in traffic jams, this is an appropriate time to again talk about transportation. Those of you who have been out in the traffic know that we have a transportation problem in our state, or to put it mildly, a transportation crisis.

If you think we have problems now, think what they will be 25 years from now when the population of New York State reaches 24 million, an increase of 6 million over the present population. Think what it will be like 25 years from now when passenger traffic in the air, on the highways and on the rails is 50 percent more than it is now. And toward that end, it could become the transportation catastrophe unless we begin now to not only alleviate the existing traffic jam, but prepare for the coming ones.

Gov. Rockefeller and the New York State Legislature have proposed that we begin now. And toward that end, they have proposed a bond issue of \$2.5 billion to provide money for construction of highways, rapid transit rails and airports. The bond proposal—\$2.5 billion—is a large sum, but the needs are large. New York City is intolerable and a number of other urban areas in the state have smaller, but similar problems. The bond issue will be on the New York State ballot in November and I believe it merits your support and perhaps, in future Labor Day weekends, you'll be able to move about with efficiency to say nothing of less chance of accidents and death on our highways.

Some good news was received this week from Gov. Rockefeller's office concerning the DeKalb Junction to Canton reconstruction on Route 11. The efforts of Ralph Heinzen, editor of the St. Lawrence Plaindealer, Canton; Mayor Smith and Supervisor Smith; Mr. Samuel Agatti, President of the building trades union; James Norton, district engineer, Watertown; Robert Sweet, chief of operations, State Department of Public Works, Albany, together with

the new Canton-Potsdam by-pass which we are all working on presently. The Department of Public Works has been most cooperative in expediting this next project. I was glad to see that Gov. Rockefeller will tie in with

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from the BOOK SHELF



Potsdam Public Library

By Dora Ditano

September again and the Potsdam Public Library extends our welcome to all newcomers. We invite you to come in and register. All our patrons please have a look at our display of useful and attractive reference books which we are featuring this month. Here are some that give practical information.

OCCUPATIONS FOR MEN AND WOMEN AFTER 45 lists placement services, steps in getting a job — part time or full time. Hundreds of jobs are described — a useful list for persons of any age.

THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF U. S. GOVERNMENT BENEFITS will help you find your way to the government assistance you need. To illustrate, aid in developing a campsite, child welfare services, civil service information, guides on how to do business with the F.H.A., housing for the elderly, camping facilities in our national forests, social security for farmers and overaged workers — these are a few of the headings that give helpful information.

THE PUBLIC WELFARE DIRECTORY 1966 tells about services in each state of the union. It answers questions like these: Can a blind person get assistance in this state? Whom do you write to for employment help in another state?

AYER'S DIRECTORY OF NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS 1967 lists the periodicals and their circulations in each state.

Looking for hard-to-get items? Try **THE MAIL ORDER SHOPPING GUIDE** which lists addresses for items all the way from handwoven fabrics to off-beat records.

Antique hunters who travel will find the **1967-68 ANTIQUE YEAR BOOK** valuable. Arranged by countries, it lists addresses and includes maps as aides to finding shops in European cities.

And if you plan a fall trip by car, consult **MUSEUMS DIRECTORY OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA** for details to visit.

LOVEJOY'S VOCATIONAL SCHOOL GUIDE gives data on vocational schools located in particular cities in the United States. University extension courses for home study and a list by states of vocational training centers for the handicapped are given in the back.

Small college catalogs and other guides to four year colleges are kept in a special section in our library. **BARON'S GUIDE TO TWO YEAR COLLEGES** gives tuition, admission requirements etc. **GOING TO COLLEGE? HOW AND WHERE TO GET SCHOLARSHIPS AND LOANS** outlines useful steps you can take to get started in seeking a scholarship.

RESORT RETIREMENT FACILITIES REGISTER 1967 gives data on 19 states. **LOOKING FOR EMPLOYMENT IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES** is a unique reference tool. The chapter, "When Americans live abroad," will interest all who travel out of the country. Our patrons will also enjoy using **ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SPORTS**, **THE COMPLETE BOOK OF THE AMERICAN MUSICAL THEATRE through 1959**, **A NEW DICTIONARY OF BIRDS, WHAT SHALL WE NAME THE BABY?**, **LIVING MUSICIANS**, and **ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN**.

For U. S. Government catalogs and the vast store of government pamphlets we will refer you to the State University Library. More about our other reference aids in another column. Please remember that usually one of the librarians in Potsdam, through inter-library cooperation, can supply an answer to your inquiries. Our staff is ready to help.

We Get Letters...

Jaycees Aid Young Men

Dear Sir:

We of the Potsdam Jaycees are proud of the opportunities we offer the young men of Potsdam.

Membership provides them the chance to make a wider range of friends and enables them to become proficient in the fields of public speaking, parliamentary procedure, fiscal planning, administrative leadership and human relations.

Many of the prominent business, professional and civic leaders in the area were former Jaycees. They can recall how their affiliation with the Jaycees helped them in launching their successful careers.

Any young man between the ages of 21 and 35 is eligible to join. In the very near future, we will be calling on persons in this age range to become members. We think it would be a very meaningful and enjoyable experience for you.

Very truly yours,
Harold R. Woods
President
Potsdam Jaycees

We Get Letters...

Madrid Road Curbing To Commuter Disturbing?

Dear Sir:

I would very much appreciate publication of the following:

The pits and the ditches along Madrid Road. Are a real commuter's delight.

In order to arrive to the town hall alive, you really must put up a fight.

The humps and the bumps have turned into ski jumps. As curbing the road has progressed.

The question I ask, is why can't this task be accomplished without such harass?

Although all the curbing has been quite disturbing. To forget a fine job is not right.

Our new parks are stunning, great for picnics and funning. And the flowers are everyone's delight.

Thank you for your time.
Sincerely,
Karen L. Preston
Madrid Road

Convention Viewpoint

The Constitutional Convention, now in its last weeks, is going through a legislative process unfamiliar to most of us in Potsdam.

The Delegates are voting on new sections of the proposed Constitution at the "third reading." This term is not used in our local County or Town government and many local residents are confused by it.

The Constitutional Convention, deemed by political observers to be one of the most important legislative gatherings in our State's history, took great care to adopt rules that would allow the greatest public disclosure of its actions. Each proposed idea—whether it be a completely new concept for State government or a slight change in the present Constitution—must go through three separate readings by the Convention before it is incorporated in the final document which is to be presented to the voters in November. This process has allowed the residents of Potsdam to be constantly aware of the actions of the Convention and given every opportunity to express themselves on the issues.

The first reading took place when a delegate introduced a proposal to be put into the State's election machinery. This column will, in the six weeks between the Convention's adjournment on or about Sept. 26 and Election Day on Nov. 7, outline and explain all major changes in the proposed Constitution. There will also be printed, as required by law, copies of the Constitution and full explanations. These materials will be available in plenty of time for all voters to have an opportunity (See Convention Page 22)

was given a "second reading" and debated at length, after which a vote was taken by the entire body expressing its wishes on the principles embodied in the proposal.

If advanced to third reading, the "idea" or proposal was then sent to the Style and Arrangement Committee to, as the rules provide, "edit, arrange, revise, simplify, consolidate and to take any other action it deems necessary to harmonize and conform such proposition with other provisions of the Constitution." Then the proposition, in its new form is sent to third reading by the committee and debated and voted upon by the delegates for the second and final time.

Finally, the entire Constitution, as it will be presented to the voters for approval this November is certified by the President of the Convention, Anthony J. Travia, and transmitted to New York's Secretary of State to be put into the State's election machinery. This column will, in the six weeks between the Convention's adjournment on or about Sept. 26 and Election Day on Nov. 7, outline and explain all major changes in the proposed Constitution. There will also be printed, as required by law, copies of the Constitution and full explanations. These materials will be available in plenty of time for all voters to have an opportunity (See Convention Page 22)