

Constitution Week Noted by Chapter

Nihanawate Chapter, DAR, reminds area residents that next week, Sept. 17-23, is Constitution Week in the Village of Potsdam and throughout the country. The chapter asks that everyone display the flag and think even more about the rights and privileges guaranteed them under the constitution the next week.

Proclamations have been issued by Potsdam Supervisor Francis G. Healey and Mayor George E. Anderson.

The proclamation issued by Mayor Anderson reads, in part: "Whereas it is the privilege and duty of the American people to commemorate the adoption of the constitution... I hereby urge all citizens to express gratitude for the privilege of American citizenship in our republic."

Supervisor Healey's proclamation stated: "Our Constitution did not spring forth in a single moment (but through) the long struggle for freedom, equality, and recognition of the dignity of man. Therefore, I call upon all citizens to display the flag of the United States."

Patriotic grace cards will be distributed to restaurants in Potsdam, Canton and Massena during Constitution Week, provided by the local chapter.

Accuses

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school at his disposal, and is at the mercy of the local Board of Education. No entry. Rulings, you know. We cannot open Pandora's box, in effect. We might have chaos. For everybody? We are talking of allegedly five children in Potsdam at the present time, who were refused admission to Lawrence Avenue School.

Four of these children allegedly had one year of kindergarten, and were refused admission to grade one. One child, who apparently presented a precedent in the area, had had one full year of nursery (five half days) in a private, state accredited (full grade) school, and was refused admission to kindergarten.

Five cases out of 1,300 children enrolled at Lawrence Ave. School. Less than one third of one percent.

And the superintendent of Schools for Potsdam cannot see fit to make a ruling concerning preschool, underage children who have had accredited private schooling. The impression given is that the whole area might be affected, like a plague. Highly unlikely, in view of the ratio of children in Potsdam schools from metropolitan areas, and the exorbitant costs of private schooling.

We stand now at one third of one percent in 1967, at the height of both parent college-graduate ratio, and the height of inflation for the country.

What likelihood is there that the situation will ever raise insurmountable difficulties for the Potsdam Board of Education?

As a rational human being, and a parent, I suggest that, like Vietnam, welfare, and taxes, the problem will not go away. It will persist and cause sour community relations. A child is penalized because his parents move to Potsdam.

Potsdam is a lovely village. However, it is not exactly the Paris of Upstate New York. If a parent elects to move here, contribute to the education of our important young men and women, add to the economy of the area, why should his children suffer a setback and a heartbreak a setback and a heartbreak?

Potsdam is not a lumber town. It is not a mining town. It is a college town, and that is its raison d'etre.

Consequently, it will continue to draw from across the country college faculty and administrative members, some of whose children will inevitably have had private, state-accredited schooling. Their voice is insignificant. But the principle involved is not. It never is.

When will the Potsdam Board of Education accommodate them, and move from the 19th into the 20th century? Like the parents of the college students here, which parents, in effect, make this town, we paid good money and have brought "preschooled" preschoolers.

Are we supposed to put them to bed when school opens for others less encouraged and exposed, with no prior school association, and tell them, instead of a fairy tale, we're sorry we brought them to the backwoods. Did we bring them

to the backwoods? We didn't think so, until we attempted to register them in school.

The situation might be explicable to the child whose parents departed for th missions in Asia, but it is not explicable to the child whose parents departed for the mis-New York. He is just a chronological dud.

As part of that one third of one percent, I would have a reasonable, logical and impartial response to the supposed "horde" of parents who would challenge a reasonable school board ruling, applicable in September 1967, and in future were I superintendent of Schools for Potsdam district:

"If your child is underage, bring evidence of a full year of private, state-accredited and formal schooling, not available at his level or his continuing level in Potsdam."

"He will be allowed to enter school for a specified time as an auditor, on a trial basis. Pending the decision of his teacher and the school principal, he will be either removed after the specified time, or formally accepted into his grade."

This means that the time and interests of the respective teacher and the principal are protected; the Potsdam Board of Education shows some respect for the interests of the child and his previous teachers (professional colleagues of those teachers in Potsdam to whom the child is being denied exposure); 99.17 percent of the parents will have no cause for complaint regarding preferential treatment; the other one third of one percent of parents involved know they are not receiving preferential treatment; and the parents directly involved can carry on teaching and administering without cursing the day they elected to come to this community.

Sincerely,
Patricia, George Mihalik
25 Pleasant St.
Potsdam, New York
For Andrew, age 4
years 6 months, a robust, rejected kindergarten, whose father's taxes helped pay for Headstart in Harlem as well as in Potsdam.

Keenan

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ernor Rockefeller has appointed Dr. Richard G. Folsom, president of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, as chairman of a special 17 man committee to "define the future power requirements of the State" and other aspects of the power problem along with the highly controversial question of the place of public power. Associated Industries President Joseph R. Shaw has accepted appointment to the committee.

In announcing the committee, the Governor pointed out that these men will serve without compensation. The Governor stated "the continuing economic growth of New York and the well-being of our citizens is significantly related to the availability of ample power economically produced." This is a step in the right direction for settling the great power question which became a political football. St. Lawrence County needs power now in order to attract big industries that may be interested in locating here.

The Constitutional Convention recently approved, subject to final procedures, a larger Senate which would be 60 instead of the present 57. It left the Assembly unchanged at 150 members and resisted efforts to increase the terms of legislators to four years so that they remain at two years.

However, if the proposal approved recently at the Constitutional Convention is ratified by the voters, the highly sensitive area of legislative reapportionment would be removed from the hands of the legislators and given to a redistricting commission of bipartisan nature. The commission would have five members, four named by leaders of the majority and minority parties in the Legislature and one by the Court of Appeals. It would have the mission of drawing new legislative and congressional districts for this State after each Federal decennial census.

What this really means is that the balance of political power in this State could quickly shift subject only to the Court of Appeals' reversal upon a challenge to a commission re-districting plan.

The Legislature, if the people did approve, would lose the right to draw its own districts, which it has had since the first Constitution was adopted in 1777. At the present time the Legislature has divided control. The Senate with a Republican majority and the Assembly with a Democratic majority. This issue will have enormous consequences for all if it is frozen into the Constitution.

Convention

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to study them. These materials, along with a limited number of speakers, can be obtained by writing: New York State Constitutional Convention, Public Information Office, Room 4-G, State Capitol, Albany, New York.

Last week, we described the vote that will offer the new State Constitution to the voters. This modern, statewide, full voter participation vote will be a far cry from the State's first Constitutional vote. In 1777, three young attorneys were mainly responsible for drafting New York's Constitution. They were chased by the British from town to town up the Hudson Valley, finally completing their important work outside of Kingston. They assembled a few local farmers, read them their finished draft, apparently had a show of hands, and New York had a Constitution.

Next week...the first ideas of what the new Constitution will be like.

Soccer

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dam's Mike Belardi should be a defensive bulwark in his senior campaign. Belardi will get help from senior Jim Walls of Theresa and junior Jim Conkling, both of whom gained valuable experience in 1966.

Potsdam lost two-time all-State University Conference goalie Barry Machius by graduation, but injuries hampered his effectiveness last season while opening the door for his replacement, Wes Bradley, to gain varsity experience. Bradley, a sophomore from Canton, has outstanding potential and should give the Bears solid support in the nets.

Freshmen and several members of last year's B team will fill remaining berths on the Bears' squad. Their ability to provide needed depth and how quickly they gain experience will go a long way toward determining Potsdam's chances against a difficult schedule.

With perennial powers Cortland and New Paltz to be met in away contests following the home opener against the rugged Larries, the Bears will get all the competition they can handle.

Rev. Caldwell

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carried a bible topped with lavender orchids.

Mrs. Marie Perkins was her sister's matron of honor. She wore a blue floor length gown and carried a petite colonial bouquet of white stephanotis and pink carnations.

The bridesmaids, Judy Crossman of Potsdam and Charlene Gary of Rochester, wore blue floor length gowns and carried pink bibles with pink poms and white carnations. Miss Ann Marie Varney was flower girl. She wore a pink floor length gown and carried white and pink poms.

Robert Bradley of Fulton was his brother's best man. Ushers were Michael Durham and Gary Sweet, both of Potsdam. Larry Charleston of Potsdam carried the ring.

For her daughter's wedding, Mrs. Shattuck wore a green two-piece lace outfit with white accessories. She wore a white orchid corsage.

Mrs. Bradley was attired in a beige two-piece lace dress with brown accessories. She wore a yellow glamilia corsage.

Following a reception at the Ponderosa Restaurant, the couple left for a wedding trip in Florida. The new Mrs. Bradley wore a white two-piece suit with green accessories and a green glamilia corsage.

The bride is a graduate of Potsdam Central School and studied at the School of Cosmetology in Potsdam.

The groom is a graduate of Potsdam Central School and is in the U.S. Navy.

The couple will live in Florida.

Out of - towns guests came from Canada, Rochester, Sy-

Bruins

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at Pittsburg (Kan.) State College.

The schedule - Sept. 26, at Plattsburgh; 30, at Oneonta;

Oct. 3, Clarkson; 7, LeMoyne Invitational at Syracuse; 14, Oswego-Plattsburgh; 17, at Utica; 21, State University Conference championships at New Paltz; 25, R.I.T.-LeMoyne at Syracuse; 28, Albany State Invitational at Albany.

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